

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

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PHOTO: BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



GMU's Becky Howick by the pop-up farm market inside Dolce Vita.

How To Run A Business

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It's National Library Week

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NEWS

Partial Road Closure for Old Town Hall Repairs

As of this Tuesday, April 5, the right northbound lane of University Drive between Main and North Streets in Fairfax City is closed while Old Town Hall is being repaired. The University Drive parking lot next to Old Town Hall will be closed, as well. These closures will be in place for several months. Drivers are advised to expect delays and consider taking alternate routes.

After one of this historic building's pillars fell off in August 2020, a thorough inspection of the structure revealed that more extensive work needed to be done to Old Town Hall. The project will not only make the 120-year-old facility stronger, but also ADA-compliant.

Barring inclement weather, work is expected to be done by mid-September. According to Andrew Wilson, with the City's Public Works department, the lane and parking-lot closures will enable the construction workers to complete the building repairs some two-and-a-half months faster than they'd be able to otherwise.

National Concert Band of America 47th Season

May 1st, 2022 - An American Journey

The National Concert Band of America will continue its season with a free concert entitled "An American Journey" on Sunday May 1st, at 3 pm, Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria, Va. To be directed by Principal Conductor Adrian Holton, the concert will capture the sounds of what it is like to be an American, from our triumphs to our tragedies.

The concert opens with two pieces by Julie Giroux and Roger Zare about Americans leading the charge in the space race. The band will feature two staples of the wind band repertoire by Samuel Barber and Peter Mennin that are emblematic of the progressive nature of the U.S. Armed Forces during the Second World War and America's post-war, mid-century prosperity.

The program will also feature Frank Ticheli's An American Elegy, written in memory of victims and survivors of the school shooting at Columbine High School in 1999.

This free must-see concert offers snapshots of our American History, particularly in the 20th century. See you on May 1st at 3 p.m.

For more information, please visit the website at www.nationalconcertband.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SHEPHERD'S CENTER SPRING CLASSES

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia will hold Spring classes from April 21 to June 9, 2022. All Classes will be held virtually on Zoom and in person at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Registration: April 4-19, 2022. The Spring 2022 semester schedule includes 40-plus classes with a wide range of subjects -- from a Health and Wellness series to National and World Affairs. The following classes are but a few of the classes to choose from:

- ❖ April 28 - "Sorting Fact from Fiction" - Larry Lipman, AARP
- ❖ May 5 - "Monarch Butterflies - Life Cycle and Migration" - Scott Schroth
- ❖ May 19 - "Whale Watching in Baja" - Paul Wormeli
- ❖ May 26 - "Vienna African American Trailblazers and Liberty Amendments" - Gloria Runyon/Sylvia/DeeDee

Students may attend one or all of

the all spring classes for a \$55 fee and are encouraged to create their own schedule - attend classes all day or attend only one class. For a complete listing of classes or to register, visit the AIL page on the SCNOVA website at [SCNOVA Adventures](http://SCNOVAAdventures.com) in Learning Spring 2022 or call the office at 703-281-0538. Visit www.scnova.org or contact the Office at 703-281-0538.

WALKING/RUNNING PROGRAM

Calling women - need a fun program to start / restart your walking / running program? Check out the Women's Training Program with Reston Runners <https://restonrunners.redpodium.com/2022-womens-training-program>. It is an 8-week program meeting each Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School to complete a 3 mile course by walking, walk/run or running. All coached by a great group of women.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The City of Fairfax Regional Library has now been at 10360 North St. since 2008.



Fairfax Library's Precision Book Cart Drill Team is always a crowd-pleaser in the City's annual, Fourth of July parade.

'A Place Where Everybody Has Access to Information'

Get to know the City of Fairfax Regional Library.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Part of the Fairfax County library system, the City of Fairfax Regional Library has been in its spacious home at 10360 North St., in Fairfax City's downtown, since January 2008. The new building replaced the old facility on Chain Bridge Road.

It's open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., and Thursday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For information about its programs, go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/city-of-fairfax-regional>.

There's a covered, two-level parking deck containing 199 spaces, including five acces-

sible spots. (Vehicle height-limit is 6' 8"). The library, itself, has both stairs and an elevator, plus a large meeting room, two conference rooms and a small-group study room.

And besides offering books for children, teens and adults, there's a large periodical collection and a section dedicated to materials for those learning English. Laura Raymond was the Sunday manager when this library first opened its doors on North Street, and she's now its third branch manager.

She said the biggest changes she's seen here have been in the realm of technology. "Besides books, we have a large collection of eBooks that people can download for free with a library card," said Raymond. "Even the way we check out books is different. People used to have to wait in line to check out, but now we have self-check-out, which kids love."

The library offers 45 internet stations with Microsoft Office, plus wireless access. What's changed, said Raymond, is "the number of people who now bring their own de-

vices – laptops, iPads and cell phones – and use our free Wi-Fi. And this is in addition to using our computers."

As for books in languages other than English, the library initially opened with a Korean-language book collection. But because of demand, it added many books in Spanish and Vietnamese, as well. This library has an active ESL program that includes conversation groups in the evening. A variety of ethnic, cultural events are also held there.

However, said Raymond, "Like all public libraries, our bread-and-butter is comprised of our children's programs centering around early literacy. There are story hours for preschoolers and toddlers, plus a Mother Goose program for babies."

And weather permitting, via "Storytime at Old Town Square," parents and children can even enjoy hearing stories outdoors, in Old Town Square, directly across the street. The library offers some science and crafts activities, too.

"One of the most unique things about this

branch is that we have the Virginia Room," added Raymond. "It's a collection of local history and genealogy materials, including a large photo archive."

And for people wanting to digitize their old photographs, slides or VHS tapes, this library is home to one of two Memory Depot stations in the county library system.

Languages spoken by branch staff include American Sign Language, Arabic, Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Spanish and Urdu. Just call ahead (703-293-6227) to find out when a speaker of a specific language will be available.

"The public library is a leveling plane where everybody has access to books, computers and information," said Raymond. "We have experts on staff to help people navigate it all. And every one of our programs for all ages – from early literacy for preschoolers up to genealogy for seniors – are free."

SEE MORE ABOUT LIBRARIES ON PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

SAR Commemorates National Vietnam War Veterans Day

On Sunday March 27, the Fairfax Resolves, Sergeant Major John Champe and Colonel William Grayson Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution honored the men and women who served and sacrificed during the now, second- longest conflict in United States history.

The commemoration was held at the Fairfax County Vietnam Veterans Memorial outside the historic courthouse in Fairfax City. It honored the 9 million veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed forces from Nov. 1, 1955, to May 15,

1975. That number includes 2.7 million U.S. service members who served in Vietnam, 58,000 who lost their lives, 304,000 who were wounded and 1,253 still missing in action.

Those present paid homage not only to them, but to their comrades present at the event. Compatriots Larry McKinley, Mike Weyler, Ross Schwalm, James Cordes and Jack Sweeney spoke of their own experiences, as well as those of others who served, and the lessons learned because of that war. They said they are "forever indebted to all our Vietnam veterans."



PHOTO COURTESY OF W. FORREST CRAIN

Standing by their chapter wreaths are (from left) Ross Schwalm, president, Colonel William Grayson Chapter; Frederick Barth, president of the George Mason Chapter; Barry Schwoerer, Sergeant Major John Champe II Chapter; Mike Weyler, Governor Virginia Order of the Founders and Patriots of America; David Huxsoll, president, Fairfax Resolves Chapter; and W. Forrest Crain, master of ceremonies.



Thomas Castro with his hands full of pretzels, eggs, cheese and sausage.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Brenda Young bought chocolate chip cookies and pappardelle pasta, radishes and microgreens.



(At left) Sydnee Wright pays for her purchases at checkout, manned by The Depot's Vinati Konda.



GMU's Becky Howick by the pop-up farm market inside Dolce Vita.

What Goes into Being an Entrepreneur?

GMU students learn about business while holding farm markets.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

GMU's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) has an exciting, new program, and it benefits students, food and beverage producers and the local community. Called The Depot, it's headed by CIE Interim Director Becky Howick.

"We're partnering with the City of Fairfax EDA [Economic Development Authority] and have also received support from the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia," she said. "This semester, we're hosting a variety of events providing learning through experience for our Mason students, while creating new revenue channels for Fairfax City restaurants and connecting food and beverage producers with customers."

So far, there have been three events in March, and two more, including a farm-store pop-up and a wine-tasting at Dolce Vita Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar, are set for April 20 and 21, respectively. The first one, held March 17, was a cooking demonstration at Mama Chang, a popular Chinese restaurant in Fairfax.

"It was for members of the community," said Howick. "And it allowed the students to meet the restaurant's owners and see how the event and marketing pieces fit together."

The second and third events, the afternoons of March 22-23, were both retail, farm store pop-ups at Dolce Vita. The EDA put them in touch with the restaurant, and the students participated in every aspect of these farmers-market events. Dolce Vita was the host, but the students contacted the vendors, placed wholesale orders with them and then sold their products at the markets.

"This gives them a sandbox experience to learn, for example, the margins between the wholesale and retail prices," explained Howick. "They get to see if a business is sus-

tainable without putting their own life savings on the line and learning difficult lessons that way."

Each market features a large variety of items, such as coffee from Foundation Coffee Roasters and chocolates from Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates, both City businesses. Other products come from businesses outside the immediate area, such as pasture-raised meat and eggs from Whiffletree Farm in Warrenton.

In each case, students would talk to the vendors to learn about them and their products so they could tell the customers about them and answer any questions. Then they'd place orders and sell the items for the vendors (credit-card sales only) at their farm markets.

"The goal is to let the students see what it's like to put on events, make sales, learn how businesses operate, work with restaurant owners and interact with the public," said Howick. "It's a whole hands-on, entrepreneurial experience. The vendors get the money from our purchases, and we get the proceeds from the retail sales so we'll have enough money to continue with the program and make it a sustainable business model."

Students find out who the customers are, what they're looking for, what are the revenue streams and what the costs are to put on these types of events. They also learn about inventory – how many items to purchase, plus their shelf lives – as well as the importance of accounting and marketing skills.

"They get a realistic look at what goes into being an entrepreneur and how to connect vendors with restaurant owners," said Howick. "For example, Dolce Vita was so pleased with Whiffletree Farm's products that they're going to start using some of them in their dishes."

Besides Foundation Coffee and Cameron's, vendors at the March 23-34 markets included: Rocky Branch, homemade jams and jellies; Shenandoah Valley Family Farms, organic milk and cheese; GMU, microgreens and herbs from its campus greenhouse; True Honey Teas; Nordic Knot, gourmet pretzels; Green Body, T-shirts; Country Village Bakeshop, cookies; and Wadel's Farm Wagon, fresh pasta and sauce, baked goods, barbe-

cue sauce and salsa.

At the March 24 market, customer Brenda Young, headed to the payment area with some chocolate chip cookies, pappardelle pasta, radishes and microgreens. "I came here for the second time, after seeing what they had at the first market," she said. "Mason is growing microgreens, and they're wonderful on salad. I like this market, and Dolce Vita's a great venue for it. I prefer getting local, handmade items, and I'd recommend others come here, too, because it's great to support the community."

Thomas Castro bought some large pretzels, a dozen eggs, cheddar cheese and pork breakfast sausage. "I like farmers markets, and it's handy that there's one here and that it's connected to GMU," he said. "I'm a GMU student and used to have a farm, so I understand the value of these products. They're better than what you can buy in the store. The producers are doing this because they care about their animals, and it's a better way to produce food. And buying their products here is one little thing I can do to help."

Meanwhile, GMU student Sydnee Wright purchased snickerdoodles from Country Village Bakeshop and a basil plant from GMU's greenhouse. "It's nice to be able to come into a place where we're supporting businesses in the local Fairfax area," she said. "They're also entrepreneurs, and at least half the vendors – including True Honey Teas – are Mason alumni, so that's good, too. And part of the proceeds goes toward GMU's Patriot Pantry that helps students with food insecurity."

A member of The Depot student team, freshman Vinati Konda, manned the checkout area. "I really like being able to connect with all these small businesses and find out their stories," she said. "For example, Cameron's employs intellectually and physically

disabled people because, like the store's slogan, they believe 'Everyone Can Work.' And I love seeing how people come in just to support Mason and/or the small businesses."

She's also learning how to interact with customers and cater to their interests. "We're building more of a sense of community between Mason, Northern Virginia businesses and the Fairfax City community," Konda said. "And it's helpful because I'm also learning about how to run a small business – especially the marketing, networking and event coordinating." Any leftover products are sold at campus kiosks to the GMU students, she said.

Crystal Fickers, GMU's CIE program manager, called The Depot a great way for students to obtain firsthand knowledge of the business world and what it takes to be an entrepreneur. "Then when they graduate, they can put it on their resumé," she said. "Or they can even have the confidence to start their own businesses because they've learned each element of doing so."

Upcoming Events

❖ Another farm-store pop-up market will be held Wednesday, April 20, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Dolce Vita, 10824 Fairfax Blvd. in Fairfax City. Open to the public.

❖ A wine tasting is planned for Thursday, April 21, from 6-8 p.m., at Dolce Vita. Wines from Dolce Vita and other local wine producers will be paired with cheeses from Shenandoah Valley Family Farms and artisanal chocolates from Cameron's. Wine experts will be on hand to answer questions, and a Cameron's representative will talk about the chocolate-making process. Tickets are required for the wine tasting, and part of the proceeds will go toward charity. For more information, go to <https://advancement.gmu.edu/ciesipandsmile>.

Governor Signs Bills to Protect Research Dogs & Cats

Area Democrats Boysko and Kory work across aisle for bill passage.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed five animal protection bills into law on Monday, declaring them a bipartisan success story. In addressing lawmakers, animal advocates, and dogs at the signing ceremony, he remarked that all members of the General Assembly voted for the bills; for unanimous passage. “Dogs and cats are protected by Virginia’s cruelty laws and welfare standards, and they will be fully enforced.”

Known as “the beagle bills”, the bills specifically protect the research dog breed of choice, beagles, and cats, bred for medical and scientific research and testing. Previously, research breeders were exempt from many of Virginia’s animal welfare laws. The newly enacted bills will place commercial research breeders under the same requirements as other regulated commercial breeders. The new laws cover cats as well as dogs; and require new record keeping, an opportunity for adoption consideration before euthanasia for unneeded animals, coverage under companion animal



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Governor Glenn Youngkin (seated) signs animal protection bills into law, with Del. Buddy Fowler (R-55th), Del. Rob Bell (R-58th), Sen. Bill Stanley (R-20th), and Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33rd)

cruelty penalties; and prohibition of continued sales if found guilty of a certain number and type of welfare violations, after July 2023. Several of the beagles rescued from a life of research and allowed to be put up for adoption attended the signing ceremony with their new owners or foster parents.

SEE GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL, PAGE 15

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OPINION

The Devilish Details of Tax Cutting

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Cutting taxes is either the theme or a promise of most every political campaign. States that are doing well should give some of the taxpayers' money back to them. States that are struggling should cut taxes to stimulate the economy. Whatever the promise it is important to look behind the numbers to fully understand the impact of cutting taxes.

Virginia is no exception. Leading up to the 2021 election the Commonwealth had been named the best state for business two years in a row with tax policy being a major consideration to receive such a recognition. A "rainy day" fund was in place and additional reserves were being maintained to stave off any dips in revenues. Regardless of these facts, the winning candidate had promised in his campaign several tax cuts if elected. Among those were doubling the standard deduction on



the income tax, eliminating the remaining grocery tax, suspending the gas tax, and providing a tax holiday for small businesses. During the campaign, then-candidate Glenn Youngkin floated the idea of eliminating the income tax. To his credit when he learned that it would wipe out around 70% of the state's general fund and bankrupt state government he quietly dropped that proposal. It's one of those details that must be considered when discussing tax policy and which voters need to carefully examine when they hear a "too good to be true" promise. The General Assembly has not been able to

SEE PLUM, PAGE 7

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lively School Libraries

If you entered a school library today, you might be surprised that it is not the quiet tomb of books you remember from your childhood. An average day includes class visits for primary school read-alouds while caring for live chickens, groups of middle school students playing quiet games of chess and rowdy games of UNO during lunch breaks, and high school students engaging in rigorous inquiry with a wealth of

resources to create high-tech products. School libraries offer a safe space for students to visit during their day. For some the library is a respite from the chaos of the cafeteria, for others it is a second home where they come for a moment to catch their breath or catch up with friends and yes, some still come for the books.

Libraries are the point of inquiry for asking and answering questions, an inclusive place for collabora-

orative learning, exploration, and engagement. Professional librarians teach students how to be digital citizens and navigate the fast changing information resources, as well as curate a collection of books that reflect the diverse identities of their students. School libraries are active engaging places that deserve to be celebrated and recognized for the gems that they are in our communities. This is a far cry from peddling dangerous materials as the book banning supporters

would like you to think occurs in libraries. Librarians pride themselves on the relationships built over years of contact with students and the goal of fostering lifelong learning that prepares students for college, career and community.

This April, please join in celebrating National School Library Month and thank a school librarian for offering our students more than just books in the library.

Caroline Jolly



U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) said he intends to support Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination to the Supreme Court.



On Monday, April 4, Sen. Tim Kaine met with President Joe Biden's Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who would be the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court if confirmed.

Virginia's U.S. Senators Meet with Judge Jackson

On Monday, Virginia's U.S. Senators meet separately with President Joe Biden's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

"I'm really excited to meet the Judge. I have voted for her twice, but a Supreme Court matter is different than any other, and it's the most serious of any of the nominations that we vote for," said Kaine. "What a wonderful opportunity to have a great discussion, and I'm really looking forward to it."

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) said he intends to support

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination to the Supreme Court.

"Judge Jackson is a trailblazer and a highly-qualified jurist. Her wide-ranging endorsements – from conservative jurists, civil rights organizations, law enforcement groups, and through her previous bipartisan Senate confirmations – speak to her sterling credentials," Warner said. "Her confirmation would also take a long overdue step toward making the composition of the Supreme Court better reflect the people it represents by finally including a Black woman."

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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NEWS

Poetry Month in Fairfax County

ArtsFairfax and more than 20 representatives associated with Fairfax arts and culture celebrate National Poetry Month this April when they share the work of contemporary American poets. Beginning with Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive, who reads "Crossing" by Jericho Brown, the ArtsFairfax initiative is part of Poetry Lives Here, a community service project by inaugural Fairfax Poet Laureate, Nicole Tong.

"My goal with Poetry Lives Here was to get people from all walks of life listening to each other while participating in literary arts in a personal way," says Ms. Tong, who created the Twitter account @PoetryLivesHere to further engagement and amplify the voices and cultures of a diverse representation of living poets.

"Nicole's Poetry Lives Here initiative, as well as her overall commitment to the Poet Laureate Program, aligns so perfectly with ArtsFairfax goals to inspire community-wide ex-

change of ideas, stories, and culture throughout the County," adds Linda Sullivan, President & CEO of ArtsFairfax. "Through our Poet Laureate Program, we want to show Fairfax County residents that poetry is just as diverse and vibrant as the communities they represent."

The Fairfax County Poet Laureate Program is designed to raise the visibility of poetry by supporting a leadership role for a local poet to engage new audiences and create opportunities for poetry to be shared throughout the County. The Poet Laureate Program is a two-year appointment that results in a community service project and an original poem inspired by the poet's experience, among other outcomes. Applications for the next Fairfax County Poet Laureate will open this June.

About Poetry Lives Here

As the inaugural Fairfax County Poet Laureate, Nicole Tong created

Poetry Lives Here as a two-pronged approach to enliven local interest in contemporary poetry. In addition to the digital content created in celebration of National Poetry Month, Ms. Tong also partnered with George Mason University MFA poetry students to conduct a residency at the County's Juvenile Detention Center. Together, these initiatives have raised Fairfax community awareness of living American poets and how they reflect the diversity of voices and cultures in this nation.

About ArtsFairfax

ArtsFairfax is the nonprofit designated as the local arts agency for Fairfax County. Dedicated to the belief that arts are essential to a thriving community, the ArtsFairfax mission is to expand support for and access to arts and culture opportunities for Fairfax County's more than 1.2 million residents. By offering informational, financial, and programmatic services, ArtsFairfax promotes the role of arts and culture to deepen social engagement, create a sense of place, and fuel economic growth.

Reader Schedule:

APRIL 1

Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive — "Crossing" by Jericho Brown

WEEK OF APRIL 4

Luisa A. Igloria, Poet Laureate of Virginia — "Creed for the Drowned" by Luisa A. Igloria

Rick Davis, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, George Mason University

— "Emily Dickinson at the Poetry Slam" by Dan Vera

Roseanne A. Brown, New York Times Best-Selling Author — "There are No Unsacred Spaces" by Cynthia Manick

Sarah Scalet, National PTA Arts in Education Fellow — "The Best of It" by Kay Ryan

K. Lee, Dentist — "The Edges of Time" by Kay Ryan

WEEK OF APRIL 11

Allen Lynch, National Museum of the United States Army — "A Hero's Welcome" by Robert Longley

Jessica Finley, Educator — "Night Bloom" by Crystal Williams

Andrew Savoia, Cellist — "Round 3" by Eloisa Amezcua

Jamika L. Helem, Counselor, Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center — "We Host These Variables" by Jasmine Mans

Jessica Wallach, Photographer and Educator — "This is About a Body" by Laureen Summers

WEEK OF APRIL 18

KaNikki Jakarta, City of Alexandria Poet Laureate — "Poised and Posed" by KaNikki Jakarta

Rita Feinstein, Writopia Lab D.C. Regional Manager — "The Lushness of It" by Mary Szybist

Sushmita Mazumdar, Artist, Educator, and Commissioner, Virginia Commission for the Arts

— "Mountain Dew Commercial Disguised as a Love Poem" by Matthew Olzmann

Danielle Badra, Poet and Fairfax County Government Management Analyst and Technical Writer

— "The Phillips Collection" by Danielle Badra

Manuela Quintero Fehr, ArtsFairfax Digital Media and Outreach Manager — "Mambo" by Jaime Manrique

WEEK OF APRIL 25

Jessica Rapisarda, Woodlawn-Pope Leighey Fellow, NOVACC Professor, Poet — "Maker" by Jessica Rapisarda

Trini Rogando, 2022 ArtsFairfax Scholarship Winner, Scholastic Writing Gold Key Awardee

— "First-Gen Poet as Percussion Rehearsal" by Trini Rogando

Linda Sullivan, ArtsFairfax President & CEO — "Two Hands" by Kim Roberts

Shelly Hazel, ArtsFairfax Board Chair — "Toothbrush to the Bicycle Tire" by Sarah Kay

Nicole Tong, Fairfax Poet Laureate — "Theory for the Living" by Nicole Tong

Plum

FROM PAGE 6

agree to a final budget for the next biennium with the issue of taxes being the main hang-up and the Governor not being able to justify his proposals against the details of taxes and where the money goes. Everyone I know opposes a tax on groceries, and that is why the General Assembly cut the grocery tax with the exception of one and a half cents for education and transportation. For many rural areas with a limited tax base, groceries and gasoline were about the only items that could be taxed to provide some funding for their schools and roads. If the decision is made to cut the gas tax the responsible thing to do is to make up the losses to the small localities with state general funds that are currently going to other programs.

Another detail about the proposed gasoline tax

that must be considered is the analysis of the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (<https://itep.org/>) that shows that 30% of the projected savings would likely flow to oil producers rather than motorists. Less than 30% the analysis found would go to Virginia residents, with the remainder going to trucking companies that buy a lot of gas in the state and out-of-state tourists who visit the Commonwealth.

The same organization looked at the proposal to double the standard deduction on the income tax and found that it would not help many Virginia families whose income is already too low to be taxed. Only high-income earners who have the least need for a tax break would benefit from this proposal.

The devil is in the details as is the case in many proposals, and the Governor needs to consider those details and give the General Assembly the opportunity to pass a responsible budget.

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Virginia Room is Fairfax Library System's Research Lab

Many family historical mysteries are uncovered here.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

There was a Russian defector that wrote a book about his journey to the United States, and a local archivist found his book at a thrift store, spurring an investigation that led to the Virginia Room in the main library. She uncovered more about the man. "He died in Springfield, a really bizarre story," said Chris Barbuschak, a research librarian in the Virginia Room who helped uncover the mystery. It was just one of the many historical gems unearthed in this important source on this region's history. "We drill a little deeper," Barbuschak said.



Ean Eschenburg researches family cemeteries for a documentary film.

More recently, a woman came in to find information on her Revolutionary War ancestor, and it was a success. "We were able to find the pension record from 1814," Barbuschak said. "We get all kinds of stories like that."



A view from the front desk shows the overhead directional signs.

All this local history is stored in one form or another in Fairfax County Public Library's Virginia Room, where the county maintains a collection of regional history and genealogy, as well as local and state government information and legal resources. Staff collect the historical records of the people, associations, events and places of Fairfax County, Virginia. There are maps, an extensive photographic archive, manuscript collections, local newspapers, and rare books. Recently they were able to digitize a newspaper called "The Fairfax Herald," and now have issues on microfilm from 1886-1964.

The Virginia Room is an open, second floor room in the library that looks kind of like a loft due

to the fact that it is open to the first floor. There are sections for periodicals, microfilm and historical books. The room is decorated by historical signs hanging on the walls to give a real historic feel for the place, including Thelma's Ice Cream from Great Falls.

Although there is much that the user can access by themselves, going to the front desk and asking a specialist is usually the first step.



Any copies needed require a credit card.



The authentic signs set the mood for historical research.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Restoring the Fairfax Herald is one of the more recent projects.



The first set of files in this drawer is "Myths and Legends," like the Bunyan Bridge for example.

The Virginia Room is on the second floor of The City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street Fairfax, VA, 22030-2514 703-293-6227 option 6 TTY: 711 Send an email to va_room@fairfaxcounty.gov

Celebrating Librarians on Library Week

Pohick' Regional's Unsung Library Heroes.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Pohick Library branch manager, Andrew Pendergrass, says that National Library Week, April 3 - 9, could not have come at a better time this year. With the county's low Covid rate and relaxed restrictions (masks are now optional for patrons and staff), the library is beginning to open its programs again, as one would open the pages of a favorite book. The library also will return to its regular hours again on April 3, reopening on Sundays and Mondays.

This week is "to celebrate our nation's librarians, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support," states the American Library Association (ALA). Our local libraries became an oasis of entertainment and mental enrichment for citizens during the pandemic isolation period. Libraries, like Pohick with its 25 librarians and 12 pages, who sort and resolve books, made major changes to their operations to bring back access to books and other library materials. Libraries also provided a means for students without Wi-Fi access at home to get connected for lessons from closed schools. The efforts of the library system and librarians during those difficult times were a welcome relief to many.

Librarians were some of the unsung heroes of the pandemic response.

The theme for National Library Week 2022, "Connect with Your Library," promotes the idea that libraries are places to get connected to technology by using broadband, computers, and other resources. Libraries also offer opportunities to connect with media, programs, ideas, and classes — in addition to books. Pohick Regional Library, part of the Fairfax County library system, is planning a number of special programs to get connected as they notice higher numbers of customers returning. Says Pendergrass, "April is a special month with more in-person programming and a return of the very popular book sale."

Pendergrass highlights a few of April's upcoming programs. Beginning in the last days of March and carrying over to April 1st and 2nd is the Friends of Pohick Regional Library Book Sale; a popular event returning again after a two year hiatus.

Readers choose from a large selection of gently used books for children and adults.

Pop-up Story Time begins on April 7, 10:30 a.m. Participants enjoy 20 minute of outside relaxation on a blanket or chair while listening to a good story.

To create an opportunity for community sharing, the library's "Food for Fines" has morphed into a "Read N Feed" program after the elimination of overdue book fees. In the new program, throughout April, readers are invited to donate food and supplies and receive a tote bag, while supplies last.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/
THE CONNECTION



Loch Mitchell, 5 years old, Oakton, at the library to study anatomy, takes time out for a video game.



Pohick Regional Library, one of 22 libraries in the Fairfax County system, reopened in 2017 after closure for a two year, \$5 million renovation.



Celebrating Pohick librarians and pages: (seated) Shana Alterman, Atika Asadad, Matt Major, Davia Mertens, Karly Kremposky, Jasbir Kumar, Sara Meserve, Rebecca LaPlante; (back row) Sheila Cui, Kevin Stanton, Robin McEnerney, Jennifer McCullough, Jaana Williams, Andrew Pendergrass, Sunny Carito; (not pictured) JJ Dickinson, Darcee Huber, Beth Lee, Sheila Shoup, Jill Wright, Florence Whipple, Andrew Gentrup, Rene Royston, Bonnie Smith, Rand Alattar, Louise Albert-Yaffe, Melanie Alonzo, Raphaela Eleuterio, Israa Elhiralca, Sharon Hopkins, Nicole To, William To.

The "Make N Take" program for April highlights financial literacy month. Crafters will make and take home paper money after creating their own design and colors. No need to call in the Secret Service as the models used are unlikely to be mistaken for US currency. Another popular program with the younger set, "Read to a Dog," is expected to return soon. Check the library's event calendar for all program return dates and information. <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar>

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were

spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Not unlike the concerns about expanded use of electronic entertainment today, in the 1950's ALA was concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens' organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals ranged from encouraging people to read in their "increasing leisure time," to improving incomes and health, and developing strong and happy family life. With the cooper-

ation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read."

What's the best way to celebrate national Library Week today? ALA urges, "Visit your library!". Whether you're visiting in person or virtually, libraries offer the opportunity to connect with new worlds through access to technology, multimedia content, and educational programs. You are urged to visit to see all they have to offer.

Mount Vernon Rotary Club Recognizes the Work of Sherwood Hall Library

BY MIKE SALMON
THE MOUNT VERNON
GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon Rotary Club recently recognized Sherwood Hall Library for being a significant part of the community for the past 50 years. Since 1972, Sherwood Hall Library has been active in the Mount Vernon community providing opportunities for book clubs, AARP tax support, Tai chi and recently virtual reality experiences through Traveling While Black. During the Covid crisis literally thousands of bags of books were put together and distributed to patrons, providing an essential link to normal life. That program continues.

In 2022 the emphasis is on literacy. Throughout the year, the "library is celebrating literacy in all its forms. Each month, participants enjoy programs, activities, resources and materials for all ages advancing various literacies," the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lyn McKinney, branch manager at Sherwood Hall Library is recognized by William Conley, Mount Vernon Rotary Club member.

club said. In March emphasis has been on sports with financial literacy following in April.

For their efforts, the Mount Vernon Rotary Club presented gift cards for Primo's Restaurant in Belle View to the Sherwood Hall Branch Manager and each member of the Library staff, thanking them for their service in the community.



Palace construction teams Family Lee (foreground) and Family Shope (rear) at work building cat and dog palaces, and a wagon, during Pohick's Pet Palaces program.

Celebrating Library Week with Pet Palaces

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

The American Library Association (ALA) says the best way to celebrate National Library Week, April 3 - 9 is to visit your local library. That's just what several area families did. Together

attending Pohick Regional Library's Pet Palaces Program on April 3rd. Participants were invited to create a small dog, cat, or other small pet house from cardboard boxes and other materials. Librarian Sheila Shoup, who led the program, says it

SEE PET PLACES, PAGE 10

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Celebrating Library Week with Pet Palaces

FROM PAGE 9

morphed from an earlier cat castles program to including small pets of all varieties. Of course, those pets were asked to wait at home to be surprised by delivery of the palaces after the event.

On-hand for animal testing, was therapy dog Max, a Yorkie, with his handler Nan Siemer. Siemer, a teacher, is experienced in child to dog interactions as the leader of Kingstowne Library's past "read with a dog" program. It appeared Max was favorably impressed with all the construction efforts, although it's possible he was influenced by the ready availability of treats during each test. Those humans present were also impressed with the level of creativity and engineering prowess of kids, moms, and dads. This reporter is predicting the ready acceptance of all the palaces when they arrive home, even by those most particular of animals — housecats. What do you say, Lolo, Luna, and Cleo? Hamsters are likely still running the tubes and unavailable for comment.



Therapy dog Max, a Yorkie rescue, with his handler, Nan Siemer, stood paws-ready to test out competed constructions for pet worthiness. Siemer, a teacher, is experienced in child to dog interactions as the leader of Kingstowne Library's past "read with a dog" program.



Stella, 9, and Zeb, 6, home schooled, with their dad, built a palace with hamster-ready tunnels.



Yeji Lee, 7, showed off the creativity born of having two art teachers for parents, Wanji and Mini Lee, Burke.

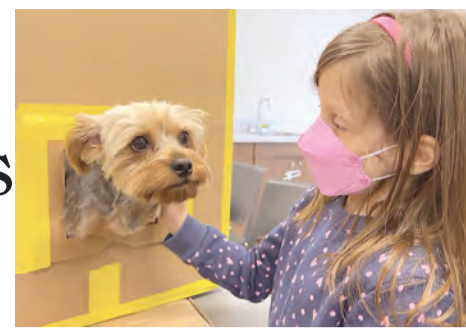
PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Estela Mooney and Max prove Lolo's cat house is a palace that delivers smiles.



Jasmine Jeapes, 5, and her mom Nicole Parr, Burke, made a palace with psychedelic interior wall decorations in their Cleo's cat palace, which will be fitted with an interior cushion for indulging catnip dreams in comfort.



Anna Shope, 7, Nysmith School, working with her parents John and Mary, constructed a cat palace for Luna, complete with awning covered windows, tested by Max.



Estela, 9, Laurel Ridge Elementary, and her mom Rebecca Mooney, Fairfax, engineered a cat house for Lolo, complete with dangling catnip toys.



Max gives the Lee family dog palace, which honored him with his name over the door, a paws up rating.

Friends of the Library

Library branches of the Fairfax County Public Library are aided by their Friends group. These individual groups support, assist and promote library activities for the local community. Every Friends group makes valuable contributions to the entire library, as well as their own branch.

Friends activities vary depending on the needs of the individual community. Most Friends groups hold book sales, and the proceeds are donated back to the library to help the library acquire books and equipment as well as sponsor programs and exhibits beyond the library's operating budget. You can become actively involved or simply have the satisfaction of supporting a worthwhile cause. Consider donating your used books to the library for sale during Friends' book sales.

Learn more about individual Friends groups on their web pages:

Access Services Advisory Group <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-access-services>

Friends of Burke Centre Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-burke-centre>

Friends of Centreville Regional Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-centreville-regional>

Friends of Chantilly Regional Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-chantilly-regional>

Friends of City of Fairfax Regional Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-city-of-fairfax-regional>

Friends of Dolley Madison Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-dolley-madison>

Friends of George Mason Regional Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-george-mason-regional>

Friends of Great Falls Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-great-falls>

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Friends of Lorton Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-lorton>

Friends of Martha Washington Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-martha-washington>

Friends of Oakton Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-oakton>

Friends of Patrick Henry Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-patrick-henry>

Friends of Pohick Regional Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-pohick-regional>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-pohick-regional>

Friends of Reston Regional Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-reston-regional>

Friends of Richard Byrd Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-richard-byrd>

Friends of Sherwood Regional Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>

Friends of Thomas Jefferson Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-thomas-jefferson>

Friends of Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-tysons-pimmit-regional>

Friends of Virginia Room <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-virginia-room>

Friends of Woodrow Wilson Library <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-woodrow-wilson>

If Something Doesn't Seem Right ...

How people may protect themselves from financial crimes.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

During the monthly meetings of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), the guest speakers are often police officers who tell local residents about their jobs. Some also give information about how best to avoid becoming a victim of a crime.

Major Crimes Detective Satoria Reynolds works in the Financial Crimes Section. And at a recent CAC meeting, she discussed various scams and frauds being perpetrated and offered advice to people on how to protect themselves.

Starting with scams considered larceny by false pretense, she said they're accomplished by tricking and deceiving people. "Criminals convince you to pay them money – via gift cards, money orders, bank deposits and wire transfers – using false claims and deception," said Reynolds. "They contact you by phone, computer, email and mail."

She said the elderly can be easy targets because they are more likely to enjoy talking on the phone and less likely to be familiar with technology. However, she added, "I've dealt with tons of people who are extremely educated – and may even suspect they're being scammed – but still allowed a stranger remote access to their computers. The scammer tells them something's wrong with their connection or their computer has a virus, and they believe it. Or something pops up on your computer screen saying, 'You have a virus; call this number.'"

Reynolds said spoofing "makes it appear that someone else is calling you. And if you get suspicious, they'll say, 'I'm a Christian; I'd never do something like that.' Or, 'I made a mistake and I'm afraid my boss will fire me if you don't do this.' They may even make it appear like they've deposited money in your bank account, but they haven't."

There are many common scams. For example, said Reynolds, "You'll get a notice by email or regular mail saying you owe money to the IRS. But you'll have to pay with green dot cards. They'll have you take photos of the cards to prove you bought them – and once they have the numbers, that's all they need."

People are also fooled by a caller saying their grandchild, niece, nephew, etc., is injured, kidnapped

or in trouble and you have to send money. Or someone will call with a phone number that looks legitimate and say they're from the Sheriff's Office. In these cases, said Reynolds, "They'll say you owe money, or they have a warrant for your arrest, but you can settle it by sending them the payment."

Romance scams can originate from dating sites, online purchases or someone claiming to want to be Facebook friends. But, warned Reynolds, "They establish relationships over weeks, months or even years. And once they feel comfortable, they'll say, 'I'm in trouble and need you to send me money.'"

Or people will think they're buying a pet from someone and make a down payment, but the pet never arrives. In another scam, said Reynolds, "The caller will say, 'You won the lottery, but you need to pay taxes or fees on it, in advance, before the money can be released to you.'"

In other scams, criminals divert money from other people's unemployment checks or tax refunds into their own bank accounts. Or, Reynolds said, "People will create ads about a real home for sale – and get the money for it – but it's someone else's house they sold, not theirs."

Credit-card skimming is also a huge problem. It can happen at places such as gas pumps, ATMs, restaurants and grocery stores. "With Bluetooth, criminals can access people's credit-card information from afar, without being seen," said the detective. She then showed slides of skimmer devices, pinhole cameras in them and overlays that can be placed on credit-card readers.

When the victim inserts the credit card into, e.g., an ATM, the magnetic-stripe information is skimmed, while a hidden camera records the PIN number. This information is then transferred to new, counterfeit credit cards so criminals can either sell them online or use that PIN number to make withdrawals for themselves.

And in the case of credit-card fraud, said Reynolds, "Once they have your credit-card numbers, they can use them without having the physical card. Criminals frequently purchase gift cards, money orders or electronics that can be resold."

She also discussed check fraud, which involves stealing checks from the mail, vehicles or homes. Criminals then either alter the

checks or use the victim's name, plus his or her account and routing numbers, to create fake checks.

"With check washing, criminals use a solvent to erase the check's details to allow them to be rewritten, usually to withdraw money from the victim's bank account," said Reynolds. "But if people use a gel pen, instead of a regular pen, the ink is harder to wash off."

She also advised people to use online banking; instead of mailing checks from home, destroy their canceled checks and review their bank statements for any suspicious checks they don't recognize. Reynolds noted, as well, that sometimes, "Criminals will have other people deposit the [fraudulent] check in someone else's bank account, making it difficult for police to know which person did which part of the crime."

Regarding identity theft, she said people should be wary of strangers asking them to verify their personal information. "Then they'll have it to use for their own financial gain," said Reynolds. Most valu-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPD

An example of the inside of a credit-card skimmer at a bank ATM.

able to criminals are the victim's name, Social Security number, birthdate, address, driver's license number, bank-account numbers or cards, passwords, phone numbers and biometric data, such as fingerprints.

Reynolds said people can tell if they're victims by:

- ❖ Looking for unexplained charges, withdrawals or checks on their bank statements;
- ❖ Failing to receive bills/statements; mail may have been stolen or diverted by a fraudulent change of address;
- ❖ Receiving credit cards not applied for;
- ❖ Having a credit card denied; and/or
- ❖ Receiving bills or calls from

debt collectors about things they didn't purchase.

In summary, said Reynolds, "Trust your instincts; if something doesn't seem right, it's probably not. You can Google 'scams related to so-and-so company' before sending them money. Pull on [credit-card readers] to see if a skimmer pops off, and review your credit history to make sure others haven't opened up accounts in your name."

In Fairfax County, she said, financial-crime victims may file their police reports online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/howdoi/financialcrimes>. And, she added, "We can give you a verification letter proving you're a victim and weren't part of the fraud."

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SEE FINANCIAL CRIMES, PAGE 10

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Blast from the Past: Time Capsules

These historical preservation tidbits are popping up everywhere.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In the summer of 1988, a car plowed into the Appomattox Statue at the intersection of Duke Street and Washington Street in Alexandria, unearthing a time capsule, which was picked up by a bystander. Officials eventually recovered the capsule. The statue has since been removed.

Apparently, it's not uncommon these days to have time capsules strategically placed as a history preservation technique but they seem to be more nostalgic than anything.

The statue in Old Town Alexandria was put up on May 24, 1889 and taken down June 2, 2020. This was also the case with a Robert E. Lee statue in Richmond that was also dismantled, but when the time capsule was opened, it didn't contain any earth-shattering material.

Burke is a community rich in history and rich in time capsules as well. The Burke Historical Society noted a few strategically placed capsules that remain uncovered. Officials at the Nativity Catholic School in Burke buried a time capsule in the form of a trash can somewhere on their grounds around 1997-1998. It was supposed to be opened in 20 years, but that date has come and gone and no one can say whether it was opened or not. Another time capsule is in the Burke Centre Library's cornerstone.

Also in Burke, a time capsule was created for Burke School's 75th anniversary in 2015. Part of the celebration back in 2015, included a presentation of items to go in the school's time capsule.

It seems if there's a place rich in history, it's rich in time capsules too and the City of



More than 30 years ago, a car hit this statue, uncovering the time capsule which was taken by a bystander, but eventually recovered by officials.

Fairfax is no different. There is a time capsule in the cornerstone at the City of Fairfax Regional Library and another one in front of the old Fairfax Courthouse that was placed sometime in the 1970s or 80s. There is a brick plaque marking that capsule. Another capsule was unearthed at Westmore School in Fairfax but the contents remain unknown.

Other time capsules around the county include a capsule at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Occoquan, one at Terra Centre Elementary, one at the Congregation Adam Reyim and one for the 100th anniversary of Clifton.

At Terra Centre elementary school, everyone gathered on April 2, 2009 where



In April 2009, a time capsule was supposed to be dug up at Terra Centre Elementary School so the shovels came out but in the end, no capsule could be found.

the time capsule was thought to be buried in 1989, but no time capsule was found, so it still remains at large. Clifton's anniversary was in 2002, and the capsule, which was really a Tupperware box, is supposed to be dug up in 2027.

Time Capsule Central

Time capsules are cool again, according to Matt, at Time Capsule Central. He took the time to make a few YouTube videos describing the creation of a time capsule, and another about the contents. For example, he says the three best materials to use for a capsule are stainless steel, glass and plastic, and goes over the advantages of each.

Inside the time capsule, he puts in coins, historical documents, social elements, etc. and then recommends moisture absorbers like a bag of rice or something to keep the contents from spoiling. In the video, Matt makes a 1000-year time capsule starting with some concrete in a bucket. In goes the capsule, more concrete, and finally he seals the top on with glue and buries it. Now, supposedly, someone in 3015 will dig it up and



At the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Occoquan, Lynne Garvey -Hodge, the Vice Chairperson at the Fairfax County History Commission, digs a hole for the time capsule.

find out all kinds of things.

Putting together a time capsule may be more educational than Matt makes it seem. It's also a chance for people to bring out their creativity and enhance discussions as to what might be of interest to future generations, said Suzanne Levy of the Fairfax Historical Society. "I think a mixture of relics and written word can be very thought provoking," she said.

Blast from the Past is an occasional column that looks into people, places and events in Fairfax County from earlier times. Have an idea that I could look into? Email me at msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com.

— Mike Salmon

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Sen. Mark Warner will host his annual Academy Day on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a virtual event that will be hosted on Accelevents.

The event will offer students, their parents or guardians, and school counselors a comprehensive overview of the United States service academies and their admission processes.

Attendees will have the opportunity to join breakout sessions with representatives from the United States service academies for presentations and an interactive question and answer period. On the main stage, you will hear from representatives from the Virginia congressional delegation about the application procedures for congressional nominations to the academies as well as speakers from the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board, the University of Virginia ROTC programs,

the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the Virginia Military Institute, and the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin University. There will also be time to speak in more detail with many of these representatives at their virtual resource tables.

Information on the nomination process for the service academies is available on the Senator's website at www.warner.senate.gov. You may email academy_noms@warner.senate.gov with any questions.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT COLIN POWELL

Now Thru May 31, 2022. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Colin Powell Elementary School in Centreville has begun kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year. Children must be 5 years of age by September 30, 2022, to qualify for enrollment. Parents may call or email the registrar at 571-522-6008 / Rljohnson2@fcps.edu for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Forms and other information are available online at: <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration>.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT UNION MILL

Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2022-23 school year. If your child will reach his or her 5th birthday on or before September 30, 2022, he or she is eligible to attend kindergarten in the Fairfax County Public School that serves your address. Follow the following steps to register your child:

1. Find your neighborhood school by entering your address at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>
2. Complete a packet of registration forms on the Union Mill Elementary School website or by calling Union Mill's registrar at 703 322 8500.
3. Gather your supporting documents—proof of residence in the Union Mill boundary, a certified copy of your child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate

of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school.

4. Save the date for our virtual Kindergarten Orientation on Tuesday evening, March 1st. We will also have an open house, by invitation only, on March 3rd. Reach out to the school for more information on both. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent.

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS IS HIRING

There are numerous opportunities to join the team at one of Virginia's 41 state parks. Whether you enjoy working outdoors, sharing your educational or historical expertise, or planning events and programs, there are plenty of choices for fun jobs this year. The experience, knowledge and skills that you will gain are unique and valuable. Utilize your technical, historical, educational, organizational, communication or customer service skills while connecting to nature. Daily duties will vary for each job

and there are different needs at each park location. For example, you may have the opportunity to present nature, culture, and history programs for all ages; provide friendly customer service at a park contact station, camp store or visitor center; perform the routine grounds care, maintenance, light construction, and cleaning tasks necessary to operate State Park facilities. Visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/jobs>

SEEKING SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit the website www.goldengirls.org or call Marilyn at 571-261-9163.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

Simone Dinnerstein to Perform with Fairfax Symphony

2021 Grammy-nominated pianist Simone Dinnerstein will be the featured soloist with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra led by Music Director Christopher Zimmerman on Saturday, April 23, 2022 in a special co-presentation with Center for the Arts at George Mason University.

Dinnerstein, known for her distinctive musical voice and her commitment to sharing classical music with everyone, will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488 on a program that also includes Rachmaninoff's rapturous and romantic Symphony No. 2 and the regional premiere of White Heron by composer Robert Carl. Prior to the performance, Dinnerstein and Zimmerman will have a pre-concert talk discussing the evening's repertoire, held at 7:15pm in the Monson Grand Tier of the Center for the Arts.

"It's a pleasure and honor to collaborate with Simone, whose pianism and artistry the orchestra and I always look forward to," said Christopher Zimmerman, music director and conductor of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. "She has a direct and honest emotional connection to the music she plays, as well as an intellectual curiosity, which keep her interpretations fresh and special."

Center for the Arts Director of Program-



PHOTO BY CREDIT LISA-MARIE MAZZUCCO

Pianist Simone Dinnerstein

ming Adrienne Bryant Godwin said: "The Center is proud to be able to collaborate with [FSO] to bring Simone Dinnerstein to our community, sharing her impeccable artistry both from the stage and in the Mason classroom."

Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488 holds particular significance for Dinnerstein. The concerto served as a point of artistic connection between Dinnerstein and the Havana Lyceum Orchestra, with which she performed the piece while visiting Cuba

in 2015, at the invitation of her teacher and esteemed pianist, Solomon Mikowsky.

Following her recording of her album Mozart in Havana, Dinnerstein brought the Havana Lyceum Orchestra from Cuba to the United States for the very first time, raising the funding, booking the concerts, and organizing their housing and transport. Together, she and the orchestra played eleven concerts from Miami to Boston, including with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra at George Mason University.

In addition to Mozart in Havana, Dinnerstein has made twelve albums, all of which topped the Billboard classical charts, with repertoire ranging from Couperin to Glass.

On Friday, April 22 Simone will conduct a masterclass with select students of George Mason University's Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music in the Center for the Arts. Simone has also created a program, Bachpacking, during which she takes a digital keyboard to elementary school classrooms, helping young children get close to the music she loves. While in Fairfax, she will visit with students at FSO partner school, Woodburn Elementary.

Read more about Simone Dinnerstein: <https://www.simonedinnerstein.com/welcome>

CALENDAR

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Poetry Lives Here. Virtual event. ArtsFairfax and more than 20 representatives associated with Fairfax arts and culture celebrate National Poetry Month this April when they share the work of contemporary American poets. Beginning with Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive, who reads "Crossing" by Jericho Brown, the ArtsFairfax initiative is part of Poetry Lives Here, a community service project by inaugural Fairfax Poet Laureate, Nicole Tong. The Fairfax County Poet Laureate Program is designed to raise the visibility of poetry by supporting a leadership role for a local poet to engage new audiences and create opportunities for poetry to be shared throughout the County. The Poet Laureate Program is a two-year appointment that results in a community service project and an original poem inspired by the poet's experience, among other outcomes. Visit the website: <https://artsfairfax.org/poetry-month-2022/>

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Community members are invited to participate in the King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool Community Yard Sale, Saturday, April 23 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. in the church parking lot (4025 Kings Way). For just a \$25 fee, each seller will receive two reserved parking spaces in the lot to set up. Tables can be rented from the church for an additional \$10/table. You need to stay with your items during the sale. Proceeds will

benefit our youth to assist them with upcoming mission trips. Any unsold items must go home with the seller. To reserve your spot, find the signup here: <https://tinyurl.com/yp6fksuh>. Sign up by April 12. Contact the church office at 703-378-7272 or churchoffice@kofk.org.

NOW THRU MAY 1

Apopheia by Zack Rimbaud. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic 2905 District Avenue, #105, Fairfax. Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association is presenting a solo show at Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, its satellite gallery. Painter Zack Rimbaud uses a variety of liquid mediums to discover fresh possibilities in this new work. Rimbaud sees his artistic process as an event, a rhythmic dialogue between the materiality of the medium and himself. Typically, he places his canvas on the floor and applies the first layer spontaneously, laying down large patches of liquid colors through a rapid gestural movement, moving around the canvas, and moving the canvas itself to amplify the effect, and disrupt it as well. He uses a variety of mediums to explore their potential and to venture into new possibilities. Special Events scheduled during the exhibition: Opening Reception: Friday, April 15, 6 - 9 p.m.

NOW THRU APRIL 16

"The Art of Murder." Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W-3 Theater, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In a remote estate in the countryside of Connecticut, Jack

Brooks, one of the most accomplished painters of his generation, awaits the imminent arrival of his art dealer. But the visit is not a standard one, for Jack feels wronged, and he is intending to kill the man. As Jack lays out his intentions for the evening, his wife, Annie, calmly paints. She is reluctant to go along with the plan, until Jack's threat of violence convinces her otherwise. Harried and annoyed, Vincent, Jack's flamboyant art dealer, arrives. Will Jack carry out his plan? Will Annie help him? Or is something else going on?" Visit www.workhousearts.org.

NOW THRU APRIL 10

"Everybody." At GMU Center for the Arts, Harris Theatre, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. Thursday, March 31 and April 7 at 8 p.m.; Friday, April 1 and 8 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 2 and 9 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m. This modern riff on the 15th-century morality play Everyman follows Everybody (chosen from among the cast by lottery at each performance) as they journey through life's greatest mystery—the meaning of living. Visit: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/everybody/>

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 6

Visiting Filmmakers Series. 4:30-7:30 p.m. At Johnson Center Cinema, GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. GMU's Visiting Filmmakers Series welcomes Action Designer (and Mason alum) Joseph Le to campus to screen his latest film, "Marvel's Shang-chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" (2021), followed by a post-screening discussion of his work hosted by College of Visual and

Performing Arts Dean, Rick Davis. Visit the website: <https://vfs.gmu.edu/events/13207>

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

Mason Arts at Home – Visual Voices Lecture with Mario Rossero. 7:30 p.m. Virtual event. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Mario R. Rossero is the Executive Director of the National Art Education Association (NAEA), the leading professional membership organization that champions visual arts, design, and media arts education. He is an experienced art educator with roles as a museum educator, classroom art teacher, and adjunct professor and has held a number of supervision/administration roles in Pittsburgh and Chicago school systems. As Director of Arts for Chicago Public Schools, Mario spearheaded the first strategic arts education plan for the city aimed at increasing equity and access to arts education for all students. Prior to his current role, he was the Senior Vice President of Education for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Registration Link: <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1964720/1912535/>

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Jazz Violin Performance. 8-10 p.m. At Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Sought after performer Nataly Mereshuk brings her beautiful classical tone to the world of hot jazz and swing! Join in an evening of music in the heart of historic Fairfax City. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Workhouse Arts Center Second Saturday Art Walk. 6 - 9 p.m. At 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center has over 60 resident visual artists throughout its artist buildings as well as the Arches Gallery. Each month, the Workhouse Arts Center features individual artists or a group of artists from each building to exhibit a current body of work. During the Second Saturday Art Walk, artists are onsite to speak about their work. All campus studio buildings will be open from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and the artists there will be available to chat about their works and processes. Galleries, gift shop and Lucy Burns Museum are open extended hours. Visit <https://www.workhousearts.org>.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Tabletop (T-TRAK) model trains will be on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Sunday April 10, 2022 from 1-4 p.m. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5 (\$6 for special events); seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

APRIL 10-11

"The Marriage of Figaro." At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

2 p.m. Mozart's beloved four-act comic opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, is the kind of mad and frantic bedroom farce of which guilty (and not-so-guilty) pleasures are made. It is all driven by the music of Mozart at his most spirited and conceived in collaboration with his most entrusted and successful librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte. Full of scheming and wooing, flirting and folly, Figaro's hilarious and absurd twists and turns pile the outrageous on top of the scandalous to joyful effect. This performance proves that art provides happy endings. Sung in Italian with English surtitles. Learn More: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/virginia-opera-the-marriage-of-figaro>

MONDAY/APRIL 11

Kid's Nature Show. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. At Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn how to be kind to, and safe around, pets and wildlife during this helpful and engaging show! Part of Fairfax City's FUNDAY MONDAY program. Registration suggested. Perfect for preschoolers. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Beyond the Notes with Maria Schneider. 4 p.m. At Arlington Campus of GMU, Van Metre Hall, Multi-Purpose Room 125/126, Arlington. Join composer Maria Schneider for an intriguing conversation about her boundary-pushing musical career and arts activism, moderated by George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School Professor and Arts & Entertainment Advocacy Clinic Director Sandra Aistars. Part of Schneider's engagement as a Mason Artist-in-Residence with the Center for the Arts, the event is co-hosted by Mason's Center for Intellectual Property x Innovation Policy (C-IP²) and Arts Management Program. The conversation provides a unique opportunity to hear from Schneider on topics including the complexity of her composition process, the blending of her art and activism, and insights for both musicians and music lovers to understand the significance of copyright protection to an artist's work. Learn More: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/beyond-the-notes-with-maria-schneider/>

MAY 21-22

Girls on the Run Spring Registration. GOTR NOVA will be offering an in-person 10-week curriculum for the Spring 2022 season. Two in-person 5Ks presented by Cigna will be held on May 21st and 22nd in Sterling and Ballston, respectively. Teams will continue to be school and community-based to further our outreach efforts in being accessible to every girl across Northern Virginia. Currently, 105 teams throughout Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William are open for Spring 2022 registration through March 1, 2022. For more information about spring registration and sites for Girls on the Run of NOVA, visit www.gotrnova.org.

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Governor Signs Bills to Protect Research Dogs & Cats

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 5

In past years the hot advocacy for animal legislative action in Virginia was pet shop puppy mill sales. This year the focus of the majority of animal bills moved to protections for research dogs and cats. Members of both parties sponsored bills to address protection of dogs and cats being bred for research. Five of those 11 similar bills survived and received unanimous votes to go to the desk of the Governor, and were signed into law on April 4th.

Many of the aspects of the similar bills sponsored by Democrats were amended into the language of those final signed bills for which Republicans Senator Bill Stanley (R-20th) and Delegate Rob Bell (R-58th) were the Chief Patrons. By working to compromise, Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33rd) became Chief Co-patron to the Stanley bills, and Delegate Kaye Kory (D-38th), Chair of the General Assembly Animal Caucus, became House Patron to three of the bills, assuring that all provisions of the protections were included.

Virginia's only commercial breeder of research grade dogs, Envigo, located in Cumberland, fell afoul of federal inspectors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Over the period of nine months, USDA inspectors found 73 violations of the Animal Welfare Act, nearly half of which were classified as the most serious category. Documented violations included withholding food from lactating females, euthanasia without the required anesthesia, over 300 puppy deaths, injured dogs, and poor housing and sanitary conditions.

Original House bills sought to close the offending Cumberland operation, while Senate bills, after subcommittee amendment, allowed a one-last-chance philosophy. The subcommittee chairman, Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37th) took the position that Virginia should deal with the poor breeder operation rather than chasing them out of the state to become the problem of another.

Envigo's abuses also came under scrutiny of United States Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. In a letter dated March 31, 2022 to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Senators urged "aggressive enforcement actions" and set an April 20 due date for response to a list of questions relat-



Sen. Bill Stanley, Sen. Jennifer Boysko, and PETA representative Daphna Nachminovitch who worked together to bring Envigo violations under scrutiny.



Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25th) one of several legislators who adopted beagles released by Envigo, with Mila.

ed to the case.

Companion animal issues often represent a significant portion of the bills considered by the agriculture committees each session at the state and federal levels. Interest in animal welfare is high, given that 68 percent of American households had a companion animal in 2021, according to the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 12

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.

ONGOING

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. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-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.

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Cause for Concern?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you've read any of my columns, you might be able to guess the answer. In my mind, it's not so much cause for concern as it is a topic for conversation. The topic being the side effects of cancer medicine/treatment. I remember hearing/reading that as it relates to cancer patients, sometimes the side effects of the medicine so severe/so debilitating that the patient must stop the treatment (which I never have). And in stopping what's managing - so to speak, the tumors, the tumors start growing and the cancer starts spreading and then shortening your life. In the past when I've asked my oncologist what would happen to my stable tumors if I were to stop treatment, he unequivocally stated: "I know what will happen. The tumors will grow." And as you might imagine, tumors growing has been my greatest fear.

Per my last series of diagnostic scans in late Dec. and early March, tumors are stable, and life goes on. I had been anxious about these scans because previously we had reduced the dosage of my thyroid cancer medicine down to 10 mg from the initial 24 mg. We had to do this because the side effects from the medicine was adversely affecting my ability to perform my activities of daily living. Walking upstairs or even a modest incline would take my breath away; as would bending over or even standing over the commode. However, this original maximum dose was keeping the tumors stable. Why risk that just so I can breathe easier?

In talking with my oncologist over the years, I've learned - and experienced, that cancer medicine is constantly adjusted and changed your body reacts negatively. The goal, according to my oncologist is to try and find that "sweet spot" as I call it. That's the spot where the minimum amount of medicine tolerated by the patient is doing the maximum good, and of course, when the side effects are the least impactful. Which is where I've been for the past six months or so: reduced dose, less side effects, while still having "stable" results on my quarterly scans.

Recently however, my breathing has become more labored, even while performing less arduous tasks. My wife, Dina, asked me today, after she saw me pull over in the house and sit down to catch my breath, if I thought I should contact my oncologist and tell him of my recent difficulties because it's new-ish and any new symptoms need to be reported to the doctor.

But lowering my dose yet again really scares me. At some point/dosage, the medicine stops being effective. And I'm not sure if one can experiment with a lower dose and if there are complications/disappointments, simply revert to the higher dose and return to the previous abnormal? My oncologist has also said that he can try to keep me from going down, but once down, he can't likely bring me back up. Ergo, my dilemma.

Obviously, it's prudent to keep the oncologist in my loop; he does kind of have my life in the speaker of his stethoscope and should be apprised of all changes in my health. Nevertheless, a reduction in my medicine could be a turning point in the wrong direction, and one quite frankly from which I might never recover.

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



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TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 04/30/22.

**BRAKE PAD
SPECIAL
\$99.95**

BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT
INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TCMC PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 04/30/22.

**TOYOTACARE
PLUS
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MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!

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**THE MORE YOU SPEND,
THE MORE YOU SAVE!**

\$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99
\$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199
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