

# CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

## Fairfax City's Sundae Bunday

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PHOTO BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Posing with the Easter Bunny at Fairfax City's Sundae Bunday event is Hannah Stafford, 4-1/2.

Hold the Line on Bamboo  
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Tour Fairfax City's  
Historic Gardens  
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# FAIRFAX HISTORY DAY

Saturday, April 23 ★ 10am - 5pm



Historic House Tours ★ Family Activities  
 Music & Dance ★ Domestic and Building Arts  
 Hayrides ★ Food & Kettle Corn  
 19<sup>th</sup> Century Civilian & Military Living History  
 Historic Records Display

## Historic Blenheim

3610 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030 ★ fairfaxva.gov/historyday ★ (703) 591-0560

\$6/Adults \$3/Youth 3-12 Free/2 and under

FREE shuttle from Fairfax High School

3501 Lion Run, Fairfax, VA 22030  
 (No parking at Blenheim site)



## NEWS

# Bamboo Is in County's Crosshairs

Plant might offer privacy along property lines but quickly gets out of control; choosing native plants and trees is safer.



BY MIKE SALMON  
 THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION  
 Golden bamboo can be invasive, the label says.

At Burke Nursery, it's no secret that bamboo is not for everyone. Although they sell two kinds of bamboo plants, everyone seems to know that it's "very invasive," said John Sullivan, a plant expert there in the nursery. His grandfather started with three plants at the house where Sullivan lives, and now it's getting out of hand. "We have to cut it back at least once a year," he said.

The nursery does carry Rufa clumping bamboo and golden bamboo varieties. Rufa claims: "Finally! A bamboo that behaves," or so it says on the label, while Golden is a rapidly growing plant that can be invasive, the label reads. "I don't know how much I'd rely on that," Sullivan said of the labels.

Over on Rolling Road, there is a yard that backs up to the road that is overgrown with bamboo to the point that it's going through the fence out onto the sidewalk. Another case of an invasive species that's not native to Virginia.

Fairfax County stepped in though, and they are trying to control it with the Running Bamboo rule. Virginia Code § 15.2-901.1 that defines "running bamboo" as "any bamboo that is characterized by aggressive spreading behavior, including species in the genus Phyllostachys."

To prevent this, the county recommends maintaining a minimum of 10 feet between the edge of the bamboo and the property right-of-way line. Then residents should go as far as installing a "containment measure," and regularly check it and cut off "rhizomes" which are like roots.

Some county residents are using bamboo as a privacy hedge for screening purposes, and due to the nature of the plant, and how thick a patch can get. "Running bamboo can aggressively take over yards, traveling and spreading as much as 15-foot horizon-

SEE BAMBOO, PAGE 9

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# NEWS

## Fairfax History Day: Saturday, April 23

The area's past comes to life during family-friendly event.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Area residents will be able to step back in time during the third annual Fairfax History Day. It's slated for Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. Admission is \$6, adults, and \$3, children ages 3-12; children 2 and under are free.

This family-friendly event focuses on the entire 19th century, from the construction of the new Fairfax County courthouse in 1800, through the growth of a town and its people. And there'll be activities galore for all ages, including music, hayrides, games, Civil War reenactors and demonstrations of daily life in a bygone era.

Wander the grounds to meet a tavern keeper, a laundress, suffragists, a blacksmith, a Yankee schoolmarm and other historians portraying common jobs of that time. Or chat with a naturalist, doctor, attorney or



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The hayride is always a popular event during Fairfax History Day.

phrenologist – who studied the shapes of people's heads to determine their traits and characteristics.

Attendees may also see an African American, one-room schoolhouse; sign their names with a quill pen to “become a soldier”

in the War of 1812; or even practice their drilling skills with Civil War soldiers.

They can watch camp-cooking demonstrations and learn about the daily lives and food of enslaved people. Attendees can play popular children's games of the past. This

year's Fairfax History Day also features domestic-arts demonstrations of weaving, spinning, needlework, quilting and women's clothing.

People may even bring their own crochet and needlework projects and join a sewing bee. Meanwhile, craftsmen will display their skills at brickmaking and carpentry. The fun will also include wagon rides, food – including freshly popped Kettle Korn, live spirituals and string and brass bands.

In addition, the circa 1859 Historic Blenheim House will be open for timed tours of its first floor, where docents will discuss the newest research and discoveries of its Civil War soldier graffiti, plus the ongoing preservation projects. While there, visit the museum gallery and gift shop inside the Civil War Interpretive Center to buy a souvenir or book to take home. Tour reservations may be made at the entrance tent.

This event is put on by the City of Fairfax Office of Historic Resources and Historic Fairfax City Inc. Proceeds benefit the restoration of the Historic Blenheim

house.

Free parking is available at Fairfax High, 3501 Lion Run, where free CUE Bus shuttles will take visitors to and from the driveway leading to Historic Blenheim. No parking is allowed at the event site.

## Community-Building Skills and Passion for Service

Tara Ruskowski is The Lamb Center's new executive director.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

After serving as The Lamb Center's interim executive director since September 2021, Tara Ruskowski is officially this nonprofit's new executive director. The organization's board of directors unanimously selected her, and she became The Lamb Center's leader on March 30.

“Tara takes the reins as the ministry enters its fourth decade providing fellowship, support and empowerment to people on the margins,” said Lamb Center Board Chair Cathy Liverman. “Her extensive background in nonprofit communications and management, leadership capabilities and deep heart for this



Tara Ruskowski

ministry will ensure that, as The Lamb Center expands, it continues its compassionate outreach to our most vulnerable neighbors.”

From 2018-2020, Ruskowski served as chairperson of The Lamb Center's Board of Directors. During that time, she founded innovative, workforce training and development programs with the City of Fairfax and Fairfax County.

And now, as TLC embarks on further efforts to help the homeless, the Board believes she's the perfect fit for the job. Said Liverman: “Her community-building skills and passion for service make Ruskowski the ideal choice to lead the center as it moves forward with an initiative to build supportive housing.”

Pleased with her new position and looking forward to The Lamb Center's future, Ruskowski said, “While we've seen dramatic growth over the years, The Lamb Center's community ethos is the same. I'm humbled to be working with an amazing team who wake up every morning and pour their hearts and souls into serving our guests.”

Besides her past work with The Lamb Cen-

ter, Ruskowski brings with her decades of experience in community engagement, partnerships and nonprofit management. For more than 20 years, she ran a strategic public affairs and communications practice serving both corporate and nonprofit clients.

She replaced TLC's former executive director, John MacPherson. “John faithfully served The Lamb Center for 12 years,” said TLC spokeswoman Anna Howell. “We appreciate him and all the incredible work he did for us.”

\*\*\*

The Lamb Center is a daytime drop-in shelter for individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness in Fairfax. This ecumenical Christian ministry provides breakfast, lunch, showers, laundry service, Bible study, workforce development and training, AA meetings, and medical and dental services. For more information, go to [www.thelambcenter.org](http://www.thelambcenter.org).



**I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study  
City of Alexandria, Fairfax County and  
Prince George's County, MD**

**Virtual Public Information Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (presentation at 7 p.m.)**  
<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>

**In-person Public Information Meetings**  
All meeting times are 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 19, 2022**  
Oxon Hill High School  
6701 Leyte Drive, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

**Monday, May 23, 2022**  
John R. Lewis High School  
6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022**  
Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center  
1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Learn about and provide input on the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) proposed 11-mile extension of the I-495 Express Lanes from the Springfield interchange (I-95/I-395/I-495) in Fairfax County, Virginia, across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, to the MD 210 interchange in Prince George's County, Maryland. The goals and objectives of this I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study (495 Southside Study) are to evaluate transportation improvements that extend and provide continuity of the Express Lanes system on I-495 (Capital Beltway), provide additional travel choices, reduce congestion, improve travel reliability, improve safety, and provide consistency with local and regional plans.

VDOT will hold a virtual meeting option, as well as three in-person meeting options. All meetings will include the same information.

The virtual public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session. Visit <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside> or call 703-259-3752 for information about how to access and participate in the virtual public information meeting.

The in-person public information meetings will be held on Thursday, May 19, at Oxon Hill High School, Monday, May 23 at John R. Lewis High School, and Wednesday, May 25, at Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center. Each in-person meeting will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a formal presentation beginning at 7 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session. Meeting display boards will be available to review, and project staff will be present to answer questions. In-person meetings will follow current CDC-recommended health measures and guidelines.

VDOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other federal, state and local agencies in Virginia and Maryland, has initiated an Environmental Assessment in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771.

Review study information on the project webpage (<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>), during the virtual and in-person public information meetings, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-3752 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Provide your input by completing a public opinion survey at <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>, and by providing your written comments at one of the meetings or submitting them by June 6, 2022 to Nick Nies, AICP, VDOT 495 Southside Express Lanes Study Project Manager, 9030 Stony Point Parkway, Suite 220, Richmond, VA 23235, or email [495southsideexpresslanes@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:495southsideexpresslanes@vdot.virginia.gov).

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

UPC: 117217

NEWS

# Patriots' Path Leads GMU to Old Town Fairfax

In partnership with George Mason University, Fairfax City's Economic Development Office has just unveiled Patriots' Path. This new, wayfinding and placemaking initiative coincided with GMU's 50th anniversary kickoff, last Monday, April 4.

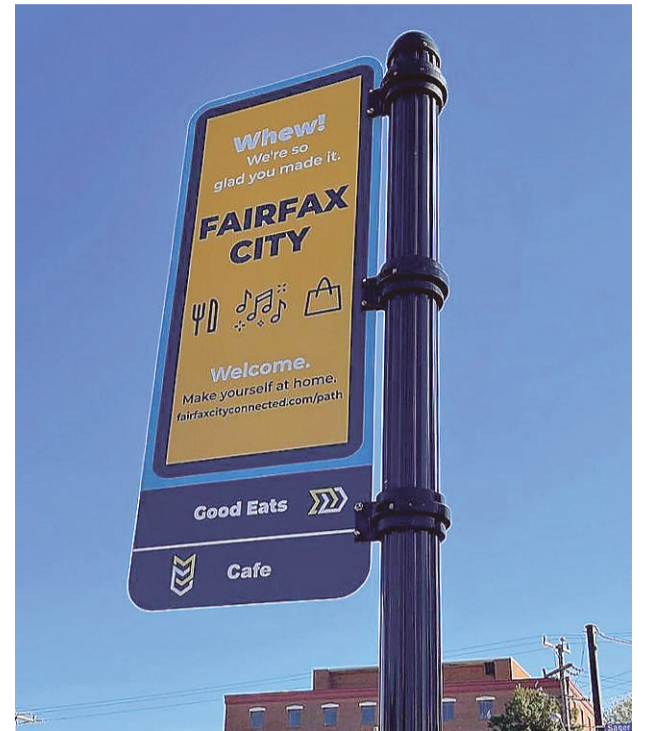
"The main goal of Patriots' Path is to strengthen our city's connection with the University and to highlight the amazing businesses in our Old Town," said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "The Path will guide Mason's community around Old Town. Once students are here in our city – discovering shops, restaurants, parks and music venues – we're confident they'll make Old Town Fairfax their first-choice destination. It's a place that's walkable, bikeable and livable for everyone."

Patriots' Path includes directional aids, sidewalk decals, flutter flags, interior signs on the city's CUE buses, and an interactive map at [fairfaxcityconnected.com/path](http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/path). To bring attention to it in a fun way, the City's Economic Development agencies are promoting a selfie contest through April 17.

They're asking members of the Mason community to snap a creative selfie anywhere along the path, use the hashtag #PatriotsPath and tag @FairfaxCityEDA. Participants will be entered into a raffle to win one of 20 \$50 gift cards to a Fairfax City business identified on the interactive map.

The creative concepts were designed to reinforce Fairfax City as Mason's hometown and to emphasize the close, geographic relationship between the University and the Old Town business community. To do so, Patriots' Path will promote walking, biking and taking public transportation as the most enjoyable and convenient methods for GMU students to get to Old Town.

Fairfax City, with Mason as its partner, seeks to capitalize on the historic and close relationship between the University and the City that traces back to GMU's founding. Through engaging wayfinding signage, Patriots' Path highlights destinations with easy-to-follow directions for members of the Mason community and connects them directly with the downtown businesses.



A wayfinding sign along Patriots' Path in Fairfax City.

The Patriot's Path creatives included welcoming messaging such as, "20-minute walk to date night" and a "3-minute scooter ride to your new favorite Fairfax City shop." There are approximately 25 such messages installed in locations along George Mason Boulevard, University Drive and within the heart of Old Town.

"Patriots' Path creates a real, physical connection between the University and Old Town Fairfax," said Eric Woodall, GMU's associate vice president, brand marketing. "We want our campus community to experience all that Mason's hometown has to offer and to understand that great food, entertainment and shopping are only a short walk from campus."

For more information about Patriots' Path, go to [fairfaxcityconnected.com/path](http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/path) and follow @fairfaxcityeda on social media to see posts from the contest.

## Fundraiser's Art Submissions Due April 24

Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths is inviting the community to get involved in its upcoming Artful Living event. This year's theme is "Connected," and the organization is seeking artwork, sponsors, volunteers to help plan the event and donations of items for the raffle and auction.

Local artists are invited to submit works to be considered for inclusion in this juried art show. Cash prizes will be awarded, and artists will receive a portion from the sale of their work. A wide

variety of media is accepted; professional, amateur and youth artists are welcome.

A fundraiser, Artful Living's proceeds will enable Britepaths to better serve area individuals and families working toward financial self-sufficiency. The event will be held Thursday, May 19, from 7-10 p.m., at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road in Fairfax. But artwork must be submitted before midnight on Sunday, April 24. The form for submissions is at [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org).

## BULLETIN BOARD

### 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 Aceevents.

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 Education. For more information, visit [www.usa.edu](http://www.usa.edu).

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE TK?

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# NEWS

## PRS, One of 50 Best Places to Work

PRS was named for the 12th time to The NonProfit Times national list of 50 Best Places to Work, jumping up 11 spots in the rankings from last year. PRS is a nonprofit that helps individuals who live with serious behavioral health issues or that are in crisis. According to NPT, 2022's 50 Best distinguished themselves in the areas of culture and communication, compensation and benefits, and leadership.

"Employees are our super power and best investment. During a time in history that so many need our services, having quality, committed employees is essential to save and change lives," said Joseph Getch, CEO, PRS.

PRS was ranked 32nd among all nonprofits surveyed and 13th among medium sized employers. PRS has 148 employees that work at its Oakton headquarters and throughout the nation. PRS offers a work environment that fosters teamwork, professional growth, and work-life balance. It's a culture where employees enjoy coming to work, are accountable and can excel in the services they provide. The organization provides supported resources and training for continued

learning and growth, a competitive industry-related salary, and an excellent benefits program.

Created in 2010 by The NonProfit Times — the leading national publication for nonprofit managers — and Best Companies Group, Inc., this nationwide survey and awards program honors the best employers in the nonprofit sector.

### More about PRS

PRS is a nonprofit helping those living with serious mental health issues and anyone who faces life crises achieve independence and self-sufficiency. PRS provides people they serve with skill training and support to help them recover and rebuild their lives through programs such as: Recovery Academy Day Programs and Community Readiness Support Program, Community Support Services, Employment Services, Peer Support Services, Community Housing, Coordinated Specialty Care and CrisisLink—a 24/7 phone, text and chat hotline. [www.prsinc.org](http://www.prsinc.org). For 24/7 support from CrisisLink, call 1-800-273-TALK. For 24/7 chat support, visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat>

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### 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 Accevents. 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.

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

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 nom-

inations 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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# OPINION

## Return to the River

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK



There are many wonderful and interesting places to visit throughout Virginia. Just 40 miles southeast of Fredericksburg, is one of those places, and where a historic and exciting event took place just last week.

Threatened by development today and by Captain John Smith and his men in 1608, the Rappahannock Indians—the descendants of the Indigenous people who repelled and traded with him—have returned to their ancestral river homeland with the acquisition of a 465-acre property on the north sides of the Rappahannock river known as Fones Cliffs. That property will be restored to its original name of Pissacoack, one of many Rappahannock towns that Captain Smith mapped out in his voyage over 400 years ago. It is an important and historic acquisition that was facilitated by a partnership led by the Tribe, and between the Chesapeake Conservancy, the Wilderness Society, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the generous philanthropy of the Angle Family and Walmart's Acres for America program. It enables the tribe's stewardship of some of the most pristine wetlands and river locations on the east coast to view bald eagles—and in the hundreds!

Indeed, I saw two of those gorgeous eagles when I visited the area. I was honored to be a guest of the Rappahannock Tribe as it celebrat-



Rappahannock Tribal Council members and partners.

ed this momentous occasion and commitment to the conservation and preservation of this sacred land, water, and habitat, with a "Return to the River Celebration" and program that included a local drum group, an inspirational welcome by Chief Anne Richardson, speeches from many of the parties to the conservation effort, and the formal announcement of the return of Fones Cliffs to the tribe by the Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo). Without the extensive partnership and purchase of the site, Fones Cliffs may well have ended up as a high-end residential community which would have forever altered the ecosystem and land that would still be recognized by Captain Smith

and the Rappahannock Indians of 400 plus years ago. Now, the tribe has plans to open to the public the opportunity to visit the land, and for its own tribal members, especially the youth, to immerse themselves in tribal culture and traditions: canoeing, hiking, and camping in this wilderness. This wonderful site's preservation is exciting and historic not just for environmental reasons but because it is a recognition of the Rappahannock Tribe's sovereignty as a newly federally recognized tribe (in 2018) and its resilience as a people who can look back 11,000 years as they return to the river.

To learn more, visit the website [rappahannocktribe.org](http://rappahannocktribe.org).

## Ready for Easter and Spring



Bunnies emerge on area lawns in a show of Spring as temperatures lure residents outside to enjoy the brighter days of April. Lawn design by Larry Gould, Burke.



Colorful eggs and flowers in area yards mark the start of Spring and the chance to enjoy more time outdoors in comfortable temperatures. Lawn design by Larry Gould, Burke.



If you thought you saw a giant rabbit, you just might have! Area lawns celebrate Spring. Lawn design by Larry Gould, Burke.

### Let Us Know Your View

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## Purple for Military Kids Day

April 20

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) recognizes all military-connected children in April during the Month of the Military Child. This yearly tradition is part of a national celebration to recognize military children for their resilience, strength, and sacrifices.

April 20, 2022 is designated as Purple Up! For Military Kids Day. FCPS has over 13,500 military-connected youth as part of its student body. These children enrich the school community with their wide-ranging life experiences.

Show support for military children, Purple Up! on April 20. Wear purple as a visible way to show appreciation for military-connected youth. Why purple? Purple symbolizes all branches of the military as a combination of Army green, Marine red, along with Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force and Navy blue.

### Resources for Military Families

More information on supports for Military families: [https://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/resources-military-families?utm\\_campaign+=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/resources-military-families?utm_campaign+=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

The Parent Resource Center (PRC) offers a welcoming and engaging environment for families, educators and community members. The PRC provides access to information and resources to support the success of all students, including those with learning challenges, special needs and disabilities. Military families may be interested in the Military Connected Families padlet, as well as the lending library, webinars and other resources. Contact the PRC for more information

Call 703-204-3941

Email [prc@fcps.edu](mailto:prc@fcps.edu)

## Limited Opportunity to See Washington DC Temple

For the first time in nearly 50 years, the Washington DC Temple will be open for public tours. This is a rare opportunity to come inside this holy building. Visitors will discover how the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints view the Temple as sacred, as a sanctuary from the tumultuous world, and as a place to become more like our Savior.

Visitors will experience the beautiful architecture, art, and a feeling of peace, purpose and hope. Three quarters of a million people visited the original open house in 1974. During that Special Preview Week, the Temple was visited by the First Family, the US Vice President, White House staff, most of the members of US Congress and Supreme Court, Cabinet officers and thousands of state and local government officials, judiciary, international officials and clergy. During the weeks that followed, hundreds of thousands of people from the general public went through the Temple. Soon, for a limited time, people will have the same opportunity. Hundreds of thousands of visitors are expected to visit this iconic location during this open house.

People of all ages, faiths, and no faith are welcome to come inside the Temple between April 28 through June 11, 2022, Mondays-Saturdays (no Sundays) 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Entrance is free and does not require a ticket to enter. A free timed parking ticket (one per vehicle) is needed to park a car. If coming by Metro to the Forest Glen Station, a free shuttle ticket is needed from the station to the Temple. Groups should make special reservations. For information and tickets: [www.dctemple.org](http://www.dctemple.org).

After June 11 the Open House will conclude and the Temple will again be closed to the general public.

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

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](http://www.warner.senate.gov). You may email [academy\\_noms@warner.senate.gov](mailto:academy_noms@warner.senate.gov) with any questions.

### 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
SCOTT	16685	619	BIG STONY CREEK ROAD	BRANCH	3/30/2022
BLAND	3048	604	WALKERS CREEK ROAD	BIG WALKER CREEK #3	3/28/2022
WASHINGTON	19036	616	WALNUT GROVE ROAD	NORDYKE CREEK	3/28/2022
SMYTH	17394	16	B.F. BUCHANAN HIGHWAY	WHITE OAK BRANCH	3/23/2022
WASHINGTON	18891	58	GATE CITY HIGHWAY	BRANCH	3/23/2022
CRAIG	5503	615	CRAIGS CREEK ROAD	MILL CREEK	3/11/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.*

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JK MOVING SERVICES  
Ronit Pithani and Coach Joe Thompson with a robot programmed to help.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JK MOVING SERVICES  
Karen James, who led the coordination of the move for Nova Labs, and Mike Murphy from JK Moving Commercial Services.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JK MOVING SERVICES  
Robots carry JK Moving bins.

# Talk About a Big Moving Day for Nova Labs

## JK Moving Services and robots tackle it.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

It took sixteen 28-foot street trucks, 40 professional movers, and two days to move Nova Labs, Inc., into its new building in Fairfax. Nova Labs is a non-profit shared workshop and education center. After its big move, the multifunctional makerspace is settling into its newly purchased 38,600-square-foot building at 3850 Jermantown Road in the City of Fairfax. According to Derrick Washington, executive director of Nova Labs, the organization relocated from its former Reston facility of 18,000 square feet to the new building in the late winter of 2022.

The big move was complicated, according to Washington. It involved moving not only Nova Labs tools and technology equipment to craft, make prototypes, and fabricate, but the CNC (computer numerical control) machines were heavy. They are computer-controlled and provide a level of efficiency, accuracy, and consistency that a manual process would be impossible to achieve. They were vital to Nova Labs.

Chuck Kuhn is the CEO of JK Moving Services, which was tasked with safely transporting the items from one location to another. Kuhn said that, even though the company is probably the largest mover of laboratories and lab equipment on the east coast, the Nova Labs job was challenging.

"This was heavy stuff. ... It was not what I would call an easy transitional move. It was a bit of a logistics challenge. One day, we sent out six trucks and eighteen men," Kuhn said. They were 28-foot street trucks. "Then we sent out ten trucks and twenty-two men," he said. Kuhn noted that there were many pieces of fabrication equipment, robots, tools, and shop equipment.

But what made a difference, Kuhn said, was that "they are such good people." For instance, youth at Nova Labs STEAM education



MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS  
Safety goggles and ear protectors are in place as Randy Hill prepares a board on the jointer.

manufactured two robots to assist JK Moving Services with the move. "They helped lift and transport some heavy manufacturing equipment," Kuhn said. "The robots were designed to carry almost anything. It could be boxes. It could be equipment. It was pretty impressive."

Kuhn said that JK Moving Services had not performed any robot-assisted moves before this one. "As we tested this technology, we might be able to put it to work on job sites," he said. Kuhn added that the use of robots in moving is interesting. "We're going to electric trucks and autonomous driving, and next thing you know, we will be moving with robots."

According to Washington, the build-out of the new space is ongoing. "With a lot of the build-out that we have been able to do, we've been fortunate to have the support of our makers. This is what they do," Washington said. Nova Labs members are properly aligned to meet Fairfax County permit regulations because they use their own licensing.

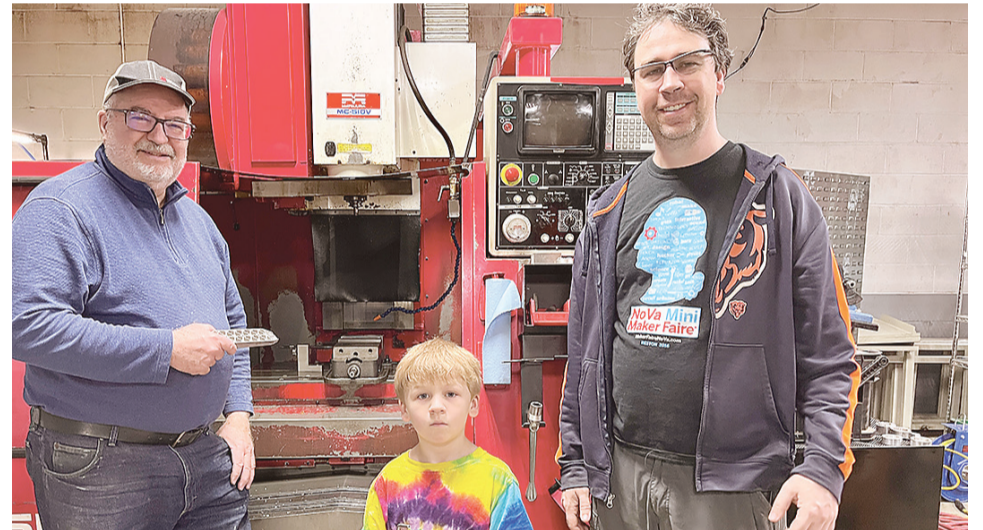


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS  
From left, Paul Bastek shows young Hank Aaron Chase the most impressive machine Nova Labs has, a very precise CNC, a computer-controlled milling machine. Hank's dad, Paul Chase, looks on.



MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS  
Three milling machines, with the first being a Bridgeport, a company that made some of the best American-made milling machines ever.

"Of course, we are adhering to all the codes and bringing in other people," Washington said. Members have also cleaned and stripped the floors. "It's been amazing to see," Washington said. "Nova Labs also has excellent support from its funders and do-

corporate and program sponsors include: Google, Bechtel, Amazon, Vektortek, Veatch Commercial Real Estate, SentryLink, NASA, and many more. To learn more about its membership, programs, and other offerings, go to [www.nova-labs.org](http://www.nova-labs.org)

nors. [They are] incredibly generous individuals who have supported Nova Labs," he added. Classes, workspace, incubator offices, and shops with standard tools and advanced fabrication equipment are currently available on-site, with members having access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Nova Labs develops and implements hands-on, experiential learning and workforce development programs in a vibrant, accepting, and inclusive makerspace. Summer classes for youth and teens are registering now.

JK Moving Services helped underwrite the Nova Labs' move so that the nonprofit could expand its educational makerspace to serve and inspire more people and do good in the community. Nova Labs'

JK Moving Services helped underwrite the Nova Labs' move so that the nonprofit could expand its educational makerspace to serve and inspire more people and do good in the community. Nova Labs'



# EASTER

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



GMU Student Government Assn. members (from left) Jayden Fulford, Celine Apenteng, Paul Wyche and Sebastian Bright manned this booth where children could play a game, get T-shirts to tie dye and grab candy-filled eggs.



Enjoying ice-cream sundaes and coloring are (from left) Linda Bice and daughter Amanda Jones with her twin daughters, Ella and Emma, 5-1/2.

## Ice Cream, Face Painting and the Easter Bunny

**S**undae Sunday, hosted by Fairfax City Parks and Rec, last Sunday, April 10, included children's games, ice-cream sundaes, face painting and photos with the Easter Bunny.



Alexa Mendieta, 9, with her ice-cream sundaes.



GMU senior Amber Logan offered sprinkles, M&Ms and chocolate chips for the sundaes.



Coralí Ramirez and son Aarón Galleguillos, 5, with his Easter basket.

# Bamboo Is in County's Crosshairs

FROM PAGE 2

tally per year as the rhizomes grow underground like tentacles and push up new cane stalks," county information says.

It does jump from yard to yard, and that's when issues start. Frank Anderson, the Chief of Staff for Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw (D-Braddock), has gotten a couple of calls from residents about bamboo. "State law only gives us a few options to address bamboo and it's by no means an option to eliminate the plant, but rather to prevent it from spreading from one property to another," he said.

They say that good fences make good neighbors and controlling bamboo may be part of that. It's a neighbor courtesy thing at first, but if it becomes a bigger issue, the county can step in and "invoice property owners for the cost of the cut if they do not comply after receiving notice of a violation," county bamboo information originally stated. Through further discussion with the Board of Supervisors, the county has moved to avoid the fines for bamboo and instead, issue more outreach and education on how to contain it.

Walkinshaw's focus will be on "educating residents about the invasive nature of

running bamboo and the various methods to prevent it from spreading," it said in his newsletter.

### Impacts on Parkland

According to Patricia Pearl Greenberg, the Invasive Management Area Program Manager at Fairfax County, bamboo spreading to parkland is also getting some attention. Greenberg noted that they have received complaints and recorded over 200 acres of bamboo on county parkland. Bamboo is tough to get rid of. "Successfully removing bamboo is typically much more expensive than management of other invasive plants

because it requires 2-5 years of herbicide treatment for its eradication," Greenberg said.

FCPA's Invasive Management Area program currently receives \$300,000 of funding to remove invasive plants on FCPA property, "but this is a volunteer program and volunteer teams are not usually appropriate for removing bamboo due to the hazards and rigor associated with manual removal," she said. "We are keeping an inventory of all bamboo patches on Fairfax County Park Authority property should there be future

SEE BAMBOO, PAGE 14

# Coalition for TJ Files Emergency Request to Vacate the 4th Circuit Stay

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n April 8, Pacific Legal Foundation, counsel for Coalition for TJ, filed an emergency request in the Supreme Court of the United States in the case Coalition for TJ v. Fairfax County School Board. According to the coalition's lawsuit, the admissions process is designed to reduce the number of Asian American students admitted to TJ, violating their constitutional rights. The case is to vacate the March 31 stay pending an appeal by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (No. 22-1280) by U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton.

Coalition for TJ v. Fairfax County School Board challenged the new admissions plan (2020) for students applying to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ).

"The Fourth Circuit's decision to allow TJ's discriminatory process to continue will cause significant harm to the students who are going through the admissions process for the next school year," said Pacific Legal Foundation attorney Glenn Rope in a statement on April 8. "The district court decision found a clear constitutional violation, and we hope that the Supreme Court will agree that this stay should be vacated, and the discriminatory process halted while the case proceeds."

TJ is an elite magnet school. As the Virginia Governor School for Science and Technology in Northern Virginia, the Virginia Department of Education supports the school. Fairfax County School Board administers the program and TJ serves other school districts, including Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William counties, and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. TJ has been named among the best high schools in the country.

On March 31, 2022, a three-judge panel of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, under the direction of federal Judge Toby Heytens and concurred by Judge Robert King, voted 2-1 to grant a stay pending an appeal to the Fairfax County School Board (the School Board) and Scott Brabrand, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the Fairfax County School Board, against Coalition for TJ. Judge Allison Jones Rushing, the panel's third judge, voted to deny the March 31 motion.

The 4th Circuit order on March 31 did not overturn the U.S. district court's decision by Judge Claude Hilton Feb. 25, 2022 disallowing the new admissions policies. But the or-



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ), located in Alexandria.

der was put on hold while considering the school board's appeal.

The School Board may continue to use the challenged admissions plan for students applying to TJ, according to the March 31 judgment.

Coalition for TJ issued a statement following the 4th Circuit judges' 2-1 decision, stating that "Judge Toby Heytens and Judge Robert Bruce King of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals have made a grave error in allowing Fairfax County Public Schools to continue its illegal admissions process that discriminates against Asian American students applying to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. If the judges' decision stands, we would see Fairfax County Public Schools usher in a second class of students to America's No. 1 public high school through an unconstitutional race-based admissions process."

Judge Heytens filed a concurring opinion for the March 31 vote, writing in part, "I believe the public interest favors a stay given the timing and logistical constraints inherent in repealing the current admissions policy and implementing a new one so close to the end of the current admissions cycle. Thousands of students and their families will be thrown into disarray for the next several months if the district court's order is not stayed."

On Oct. 25, 2021, applications for the TJ Class of 2026 opened with applications due by Dec. 15, 2021. Students should receive notification of their admission status this month, April 2022, according to FCPS.

In her dissenting opinion, Judge Rushing stated, "Everyone — even temporarily frustrated applicants and their families

— ultimately benefits from a public-school admissions process not tainted by unconstitutional discrimination."

According to Judge Heytens, undisputed data presented to the district court demonstrate that a higher percentage of Asian American students were admitted than applied, even under the current plan. He wrote in his opinion, "Taking all this into account, it seems the more prudent course is to allow the current admissions cycle to proceed according to settled expectations and require a change, if any, beginning with the next class."

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology admissions had been questioned for decades because of the demographics of the student body which included only a tiny percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

For example, in 2015, Fairfax County Public Schools said 8 percent of applicants and 1.2 percent of those admitted qualify for free and reduced meals. Of all students in Fairfax County, by comparison, more than 28 percent received free and reduced meals at the time.

Numbers of Black and Latino students were also very low. The admitted class of 2019 was 2.4 percent Hispanic, 1.6 percent Black.

In 2003, nearly 20 years ago, the Fairfax County School Board established a Blue Ribbon panel of experts to study the disparities and make recommendations. But revamped admissions policies made little change in the disparities.

It wasn't until qualitative changes in the admissions process in 2020 that change

was reflected in the makeup of TJ's student body, with students entering in 2021 for the class of 2025. Black students increased from 1.23 percent (2020-21) to 7.09 percent. Hispanic students increased from 3.29 percent (2020-21) to 11.27 percent. The number of economically disadvantaged students [those eligible to receive reduced-price or free meals at school] increased from slightly greater than 0.5 percent (0.62 in 2020-21) to 25.09 percent.

Every middle school in the Fairfax County Public School division was represented at TJ as seats in the Class of 2025 were allocated for the top 1.5 percent of applicants from every middle school's eighth-grade student population. Students from historically under-represented schools increased to 30.73 percent versus 5.56 percent (2020-21).

The Coalition for TJ filed a federal lawsuit against the School Board with the help of the Pacific Legal Foundation, claiming that the School Board's changes were specifically designed to reduce the percentage of Asian American students who enroll at TJ, to equalize the school per Fairfax County's racial demographics.

The New York Times reported that the Pacific Legal Foundation is behind multiple lawsuits that challenge elite public high schools changing their admissions policies to diversify their student body. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/16/us/school-admissions-affirmative-action.html?smid=url-share>

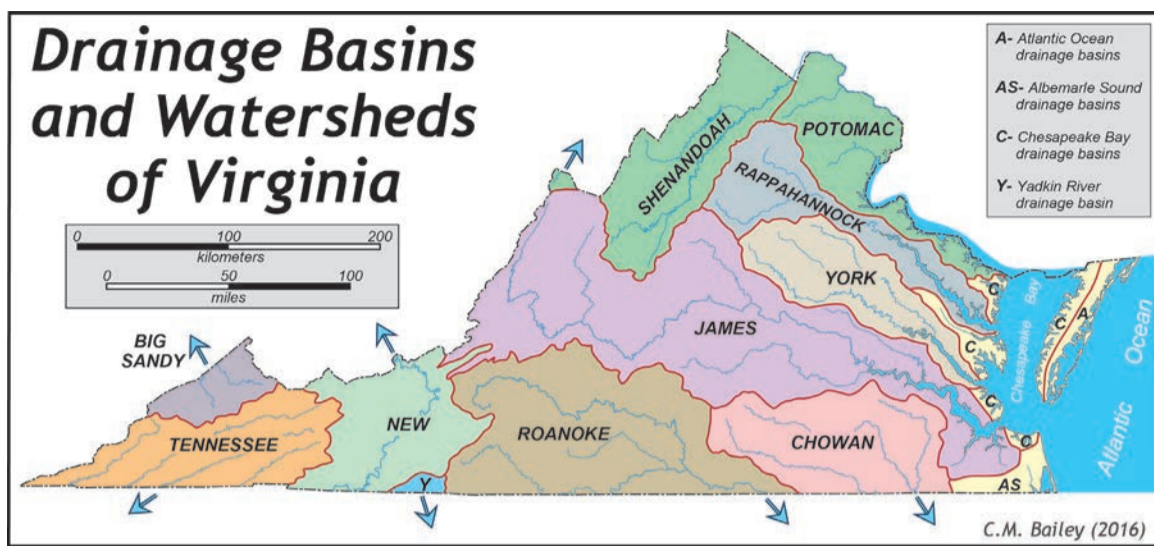
In February, a federal judge struck down the new admissions policy. But late in March, the U.S. Court of Appeals issued a stay, allowing the current applications, already in process for the class of 2026, to move forward under the invalidated admissions process.

The Coalition for TJ filed on April 8, 2022 an emergency request with the U.S. Supreme Court to vacate the Fourth Circuit's stay (March 31, 2022).

According to Pacific Legal Foundation, the Supreme Court is expected to rule on the coalition's emergency request in the coming weeks.

Even if the Supreme Court does not vacate the stay, the Fourth Circuit or Supreme Court could ultimately agree with the district court judge that TJ's revised admissions policy is unlawful, says Pacific Legal in its online statement. Pacific Legal Foundation adds that it expects a Fourth Circuit decision on the school board's appeal around the end of the year.

SCREENSHOT



Virginia's nine watersheds; all of Northern Virginia is within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

## Volunteers Set to Clean-up Watershed

### Park Authority and The Nature Conservancy partner in effort.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

Once again this April and May, as in every year since 2016, the Virginia chapter of The Nature Conservancy is partnering with the Fairfax County Park Authority, to host a large-scale watershed cleanup. The spring cleaning event will remove tires, plastic bottles, cans and other debris from local waterways and surrounding parks, preventing trash from reaching the nation's largest estuary, the Chesapeake Bay. Volunteer opportunities are available across several Fairfax County park locations in April and May.

In 2021, over three workdays, 303 volunteers gave 625 hours of service across 11 Fairfax County parks. In the watershed clean up, volunteers removed two and a half tons of trash along miles of stream, shoreline, roadways and trails. In projects across Virginia last year, 700 volunteers participated in more than 70 Nature Conservancy projects around the state, donating nearly 6,000 hours of their time in over 30 locations — a contribution worth at least \$175,000.

The most common items found each year during the cleanups include plastic bottles and bags, cans, cigarette butts, styrofoam, and glass bottles. The most unusual include toilets, car parts, pipes, and mystery objects. The Nature Conservancy shares that, "Many volunteers express how the cleanup impacted their children and how it "opened their eyes" to some of the environmental challenges we face. We also get a lot of people asking how they can continue to make a difference."

While many of the location slots are already at capacity, those who wish to participate may check here for open volunteer opportunities: <https://www.nature.org/fairfaxcleanup>

Saturday, April 16, 9 - 11 am - Ellanor C. Lawrence Park  
Saturday, April 16, 8:30 - 10:30 am - Riverbend Park, Scott's Run NP

Saturday, April 16, 8 am - 10 am; 10 am - 12 pm - Ossian Hall Park <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ossian-hall-park-fairfax-county-watershed-cleanup-2022-tickets-293533335107>

Saturday, April 23, 9 - 10:30 am - Laurel Hill

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



Past Laurel Hill volunteers shown with a portion of their Earth Day clean-up effort in April 2021.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Volunteers Gerry Strabler and Linsey Wise collect trash from the shoreline of Accotink Lake during the clean-up effort of April 2018.

Wednesday, April 27, 8 - 11 am - Springvale Park <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/springvale-park-fairfax-county-watershed-cleanup-2022-tickets-293547216627>

Saturday, April 30, 9:30 - 11:30 am - Providence RE-Center

Sunday, May 1, 9:30 - 11:30 am - Roundtree Park

Saturday, May 7, 9 - 11 am - Lake Fairfax Park

Sunday, May 8, 9 - 11 am - Lake Accotink Park

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lake-accotink-park-fairfax-county-watershed-cleanup-2022-tickets-293552562617>

The Nature Conservancy operates conservation programs throughout the United States and in more than 70 countries and territories. They describe their mission as, "Guided by science and equity, we find paths to solve climate change and biodiversity loss."

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## Special Connections Calendar 2022

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3/16/2022.....	A+ Camps & Schools
3/23/2022.....	Senior Living
3/30/2022.....	Spring Family Fun
<b>APRIL</b>	
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# HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK



PHOTO BY CLAIRE EDWARDS

Hunting Creek Garden Club member Vicky Alexander works on a garland for one of the tour homes in 2021.



PHOTO BY VICKY ALEXANDER

Hunting Creek Garden Club member Claire Edwards preparing wreath for the garden gates for a home on the 2021 tour.

## 89th Annual Historic Garden Week, April 26 in Old Town

### Springtime tradition offers a glimpse into Virginia's historic homes and gardens.

BY KIM DAVIS

**H**istoric homes with storied pasts embellished with extraordinary floral designs and inspired spring gardens beckon us to Old Town and beyond Saturday, April 23 for the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week annual home and garden tour, a beloved springtime tradition that dates to 1929.

**FAIRFAX, TUESDAY, APRIL 26.** Home and garden enthusiasts eager to explore other tours close by, will discover the history of Fairfax on Tuesday, April 26. This driving tour stops at the countryside estate Mulberry Manor which houses a restored pre-Revolutionary War-era log cabin behind the main house used as a hunting cabin by Lawrence Washington, half-brother to George Washington. Certified as an Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, the verdant garden attracts an abundance of birds and has a "secret garden" with colorful glass orbs and a gazebo housing a statue.

The tour also includes two historic homes in the city of Fairfax of particular interest to Civil War buffs: Historic Blenheim, c. 1859, and The Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House,

built in 1812 by Richard Ratcliffe, the city's founder. This charming brick house is Fairfax city's oldest residence within what was the original six-block town of Providence. One of the last two owners, Kate Waller Barrett, was a prominent social reformer, and her daughter, Kitty Pozer, was the first gardening columnist for *The Washington Post* and numerous gardening magazines.

Also of interest is the Fairfax Railroad Museum. Originally built in 1852, it served as a logistics, communications and medical evacuation base where Clara Barton nursed wounded soldiers during the Civil War. Free admission on tour day to the museum, grounds and 1968 Norfolk Western caboose. Home and Garden tour tickets are \$40 for either 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 to 4 p.m.

#### OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

Presented annually by two local garden clubs, Hunting Creek Garden Club and The Garden Club of Alexandria, each tour requires two-years of planning to bring to fruition. Committees coordinate every detail from the acquisition and histories of homes, special features of each property, marketing, advertising, sponsorships, public relations, hosting and creation of the signature

floral arrangements designed by members. The clubs rotate primary management of the tour annually.

"Throughout the years, we have formed genuine friendships with club members, homeowners and merchants who support the tour," said co-chair Emily Jones, a member of Hunting Creek. It has been such a wonderful, enlightening experience."

"We share a comradery of mutual interest in the history of our community, gardening and floral design as well as the Garden Club of Virginia's mission to celebrate the beauty of the land, conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage," co-chair Jackie Locke said.

Old Town offers an easy walking tour that includes five private homes and gardens nestled along tree-lined streets in the historic district and six nearby iconic public properties, including Mount Vernon, River Farm, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House, Gunston Hall, and Green Spring Gardens.

The beautifully appointed home at 508 South Fairfax offers a glimpse of history within the carriage house once owned by a direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson. A stroll through its inspired garden reveals plantings of spirea, autumn fern, hellebores, peonies and heuchera. A female goddess sculpture from Bali creates a focal point amid ferns and a bronze Peter Beard Nautical sculpture situated on an oak plinth is encircled by perennial geraniums. A cobble-

### Tickets for the Old Town Garden Tour

Tickets for the Old Town tour are \$55 at [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org) and at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street on tour day. Complimentary light refreshments are available at Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 316 S. Royal Street from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

stone and brick alley, brick walls and a private pool add to the garden's charm.

A casual walk past 206 Duke Street provides little hint of its historic past. The original home was built in 1794 by George Coryell whose father was George Washington's guide during the Revolutionary War. The family was said to have rowed Washington across the Delaware River in December 1776 for the surprise attack. Current owners completed a significant renovation in 1998, installing a geothermal heating system located beneath the garden, one of only a handful of homes in Alexandria with this energy-efficient, Earth-friendly method.

In 2012 the owners expanded the family room to provide multiple views into the garden and patio. The garage dates to the early 20th century and is the first known structure in Old Town designed specifically to house an automobile. A beautifully designed outdoor building used to store the home's re-

SEE HOMES AND GARDENS, PAGE 13  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# CALENDAR

## 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. 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](http://www.workhousearts.org).

## APRIL 14-16

**Mason Cabaret - In a Sentimental Mood: The Music of Duke Ellington.** At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Thursday, April 14 at 8 p.m. (free preview); Friday, April

15 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 16 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. A perennial favorite, our Musical Theater ambassadors, The Mason Cabaret, return with a fresh lineup of stellar vocalists offering showstoppers, ballads, and duets from Broadway. Learn More: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/in-a-sentimental-mood-the-music-of-duke-ellington-performed-by-the-mason-cabaret>

## FRIDAY/APRIL 15

**ARTScreen Free Movie.** 7:30 p.m. At Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom", 2020, Rated R. An affectionate tribute to a blues legend told through powerhouse performances. Free Admission includes popcorn, candy and refreshments. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

## FRIDAY/APRIL 15

**Jazzercise at Mott.** At Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Jazzercise Fitness returns to the Mott Community Center in April after a two-year hiatus due to Covid. For more information call 703-909-6449 or visit [www.jazzercise.com](http://www.jazzercise.com).

## FRIDAY/APRIL 15

**Christylez Bacon.** 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Location – W16, McGuireWoods Gallery; Seating – G.A. Row Seating. A Grammy Nominated Progressive Hip-Hop artist, and multi-instrumentalist, multi-tasks between various instruments such as the West African djembe drum, acoustic guitar, and the human beat-box. Visit [workhousearts.org/onstage](http://workhousearts.org/onstage)

## APRIL 15-16

**Mason School of Dance.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. The Mason Dance Company performs a concert of new work created by a collective of emerging Mason choreographers. Learn More: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/spring-new-dances/>

## SATURDAY/APRIL 16

**Nataly Merezchuk.** 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Location – W16, McGuireWoods Gallery; Seating – G.A. Row Seating. From Russia, to Baltimore to the DMV. Influenced by the sounds of Stephane Grappelli and Svend Asmussen, Nataly brings her beautiful classical tone to the world of hot jazz and swing. Visit [workhousearts.org/onstage](http://workhousearts.org/onstage)

## SATURDAY/APRIL 16

**Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Grammy Award-winning composer, conductor, and Mason Artist-in-Residence Maria Schneider conducts Northern Virginia's own Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra for a jazz performance including some of her own original music.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 16

**Country Western Dance.** 6-9:30 p.m. At Accotink Universalist Unitarian Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association. Lessons, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Open dancing, 7:00-9:30 p.m. Music by DJ. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. Cost: \$10 Adults: Under 18 with paying adult: \$5. Website: [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org).

## MONDAY/APRIL 18

**"Music Together."** 10:30-11:15 a.m. At Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Music and movement perfect for preschoolers, but all ages welcome. Part of the City of Fairfax's Funday Monday program. Masks are required regardless of vaccination status. Registration suggested. Limited to 30.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

**Dewberry School of Music Symphonic Band.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Come watch the Symphonic Band present its spring concert, conducted by Professor Mark Camphouse and doctoral student Samantha Clarke. This concert will include traditional wind band repertoire in addition to solo works featuring two student soloists. Learn More: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/symphonic-band/>

## SATURDAY/APRIL 23

**Community Yard Sale.** 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. At King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way. For 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>. Contact the church office at 703-378-7272 or [churchoffice@kofk.org](mailto:churchoffice@kofk.org).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 23

**Children's Consignment Sale.** 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Grace Weekday Preschool, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. Cash only and all sales final. They will require face masks to enter the building.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 23

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Featuring Christopher Zimmerman, music director and conductor and Simone Dinnerstein, piano. The Center for the Arts is proud to co-present a thrilling classical music program by the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) featuring piano virtuoso Simone Dinnerstein, who The Washington Post has praised as "an artist of strikingly original ideas and irrefutable integrity." Learn More: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/fairfax-symphony-orchestra/>

## SUNDAY/APRIL 24

**Mainstreet at Spotlight.** 4-5:30 p.m. At Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Main Street Community Band celebrates the Joy of Spring in a concert as part of the City of Fairfax's Spotlight on the Arts Festival. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxband.org/>

## SUNDAY/APRIL 24

**Burke Historical Society.** 3-5 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library/Virtual, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Cindy Bennett will present "Who was General Braddock and Where is his Gold?" Registration for either in person or Zoom is available here: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/9023190>

# Virginia's Historic Homes and Gardens

FROM PAGE 12

fuse was affectionately the "trash temple" dubbed by the architect.

The stunning garden features evergreens, lacy Japanese maples, sheared hornbeams, and various espaliers, plants such as fruit trees trained to grow flat against a support typically a wall. Bowers of roses on cast iron trellises soften the brick walls and two small ponds add sound and sparkle to this outdoor haven.

A nearby property at 512 Prince Street was once the home of the well-respected first woman mayor of Alexandria, Patsy Ticer. A unique historic feature of the house is a series of archways in the basement thought to have been completed in the late 18th or early 19th century which formed the foundation of a small bridge providing safe access to Prince Street from the original 1783 structure.

The original home of another property located at 508 South Fairfax backed up to an old oyster processing plant. Residences, manufacturing, carpentry shops, dry goods shops and professional offices all shared the early Old Town neighborhood. The current owner frequently finds very old oyster shells in her garden.



**A stunning border garden at 206 Duke Street features daffodils, tulips and grape hyacinth.**

Tickets for the Old Town tour are \$55 at [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org) and at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street on tour day. Complimentary light refreshments are available at Old Presbyterian Meeting



**Garden on Duke Street.**

House, 316 S. Royal Street from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**WINCHESTER, SATURDAY, APRIL 23:** Up for a day trip to the country? No problem, The Little Garden Club of Winchester is hosting a tour the same day as the Old Town

Tour in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. This scenic tour features four sites, three of which served as hospitals during the Civil War. Tickets and information are available at [www.VAGardenWeek.org](http://www.VAGardenWeek.org) and are \$30 in advance and \$40 on tour day.

**LEESBURG:** On Sunday and Monday, April 24 and 25, the Leesburg Garden Club hosts a walking tour featuring charming late 18th through 20th century properties and beautifully restored gardens close to quaint downtown shops and restaurants. Advance tickets: \$40 at [www.VAGardenWeek.org](http://www.VAGardenWeek.org); tour day tickets: \$50 at Town Hall at 25 West Market Street.

The statewide Garden Club of Virginia tour runs from April 23-30 and encompasses 128 private and public homes and gardens, landscapes and historic landmarks throughout the Commonwealth. It is the only statewide tour of its kind in the nation. Proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of nearly 50 Virginia historic public gardens and landscapes and a research fellowship program in landscape architecture. For more information, visit <http://www.vagardenweek.org>.

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**NEWS**

**Bamboo**

FROM PAGE 9

funding avenues and mechanisms dedicated and approved for its control.”

**Building with Bamboo?**

Bamboo does have a place in Northern Virginia as a desirable material for floor flooring. It's cheaper and more durable, said Family Handyman. Bamboo isn't classified as a "wood," but more of a type of grass, they said. The type most often used for flooring is called "Moso" bamboo, from China and other parts of Asia.

There are downsides to the use of bamboo for flooring. Moisture affects it easily and it can never be sanded down and refinished like wood can.

**Plant Native Plants and Trees**

To be safe, it's best to plant native plants and trees, says the nonprofit Plant NOVA Natives, <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/>. Planting native plants and trees benefits the local ecosystem, because native plants, insects and birds evolved together. The spread of invasive plants is connected with declining environmental wellbeing for wildlife; controlling invasive plants and planting natives helps filter stormwater, reduce flooding, and maintain local birds.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

FROM PAGE 7

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](http://www.goldengirls.org) or call Marilyn at 571-261-9163.

**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/healthy-mindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-mindsfairfax) or [www.nami-north-ernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-north-ernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

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Legals

Legals

## Request for Early Input

### Environmental Assessment Proposed Action and Alternatives for the Distribution Center at Fort Belvoir, Virginia

**All Interested Parties:** The U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir, Virginia is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a distribution center at the Fort Belvoir North Area (FBNA) in Springfield, Virginia, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code Section 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations that implement NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions. An EA is used as a planning document to assess environmental impacts, evaluate their significance, develop alternatives and mitigation measures, and allow for agency and public participation (32 CFR 651.20).

The EA is being prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with the **Proposed Action** to build and operate a distribution center at FBNA. The project will modernize logistical operations and address safety, security, and operational concerns specific to the warehouse and its administrative functions. The project is needed to support the delivery and receipt of materials within and across the Washington Metropolitan Area, requiring a site within the National Capital Region to achieve distribution efficiencies.

The **Proposed Action** involves the construction and operation of an approximately 525,000 square foot warehouse and administrative building with associated parking and covered storage at FBNA for approximately 600 personnel. The hours of operation will typically be between 6am and 4pm. The proposed site location is in a forested area surrounded by industrial land use, keeping the same type of activity that already exists within the FBNA fence line.

The EA will also consider a **No Action Alternative**, which would involve no construction and no distribution center. Although the **No Action Alternative** would not meet the purpose and need for the action, CEQ requires the analysis of the **No Action Alternative**, as it also provides a benchmark for enabling decision-makers to compare the magnitude of environmental effects of the **Proposed Action**.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1500-1508, the Army invites you to provide early input on the **Proposed Action** to be considered in our analysis of each alternative in the forthcoming EA. This notice is being distributed to organizations that may have an interest in the project. Information on the **Proposed Action** can be found on the project website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/FBNA/>. Comments on the **Proposed Action** can be submitted through the project website or via email to [FBNA@usace.army.mil](mailto:FBNA@usace.army.mil).

Additionally, once the draft EA is completed, agencies and the public will have an opportunity to review and provide comments during a 30-day public review period, which will be announced in a notice published in local newspapers, the project website shown above, and the Fort Belvoir website at <https://home.army.mil/belvoir/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental-division>. Printed copies of the draft EA will be available in the local libraries: Fort Belvoir Library, Lorton Library, Kingstowne Library, Sherwood Regional Library, and Richard Byrd Library.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. Early input will be accepted for a period of 15 days, beginning on the date of this notice. Should you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact the Fort Belvoir Directorate of Public Works-Environmental Division (DPW-ED) via phone at (703) 806-3193 or (703) 806-0020, during normal working business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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## Going, Going, I Wish They Were Gone

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



All those Charmin and Cottonelle television commercials for “the go”/“down there care.” As my late mother used to say about so many nauseating subjects: “It’s enough already.” I realize toilet paper is a staple, especially during a pandemic, but is it necessary that there are so many television advertisements? They’re appearing so often that I’ve even seen these competing companies/products advertise during the same commercial break. Not exactly back-to-back, but very nearly so. Talk about overkill. If these brands aren’t careful, they’re going to kill the goose that laid ply at their doorstep.

I mean, how much prodding/encouragement do I need every day to assist me with my toilet paper decisions? Not nearly as much as I’m getting, that’s for sure. How many more times must I see that adolescent bear wiggle his butt? And how many more times must I hear about treating “the skin that I don’t see as well as I treat the skin that I do see?” No more, please? I have enough visuals of forearms being wiped to last me a lifetime. I know that toilet paper sales are a huge business with endless repeat customer buys, but I’ve reached my point of no return. As in there’s no more return on their advertising investment in my household. We have been saturated with toilet paper problems/solutions so much so that if I never see another television commercial, funny or not, it will be soon enough for me.

Besides, I’m a grown man. I know what works for me – and what doesn’t. And that awareness most definitely includes toilet paper and all its features and benefits – and innuendos. I may be stubborn or a creature of consumer habit – or merely protective of my privacy, but all this recurring toilet paper market penetration/saturation is becoming too much to bear. I’m not a prude in the least, but I do feel as if there are certain subjects/descriptions which are off limits – or rather should be. However, the recent spate of toilet paper verbal and visual manipulation has crossed the line I never thought needed to be drawn because it was clear to everybody that it already existed. Apparently, the rules of advertising aren’t aware of these lines.

I understand that market share and profit are crucial to a commercial ventures/success/viability. But to invoke a famous question from the 1954 McCarthy hearings: “Where’s your decency?” Gone. That’s where if the frequency and substance of these toilet paper advertisements are allowed to continue. Enough is enough, which for Scott brands is 1000 sheets. For me however, it’s really none of anybody’s business what I do in the privacy of my own bathroom. Whether I use an off-brand, single, double, or triple ply or paper infused with aloe. I’m happy to be left to my own devices. I’ll figure it out and the less the advertisers have to do with it, the better.

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



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