

# CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station



Fairfax resident Dee White at Braddock Bark with Charlie, a rescue dog that is part Catahoula.

## Braddock Bark

PAGE 3

Beer (and Fun)  
In the Burbs

PAGES 4-5

Have an Adventurous  
StayCation

PAGES 8-9

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

JUNE 16-22, 2022

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



The West Springfield High School Class of 2022, their families, and the All Night Graduation Party committee members gratefully acknowledge the following businesses, organizations, and individuals for their generous donations. With their support, The WSHS ANGP Booster Organization held an alcohol free and drug free All Night Graduation Party on June 1, 2022 at the The St. James Sports, Wellness and Entertainment Complex in Springfield, Virginia. We are thankful for their commitment to the West Springfield High School Class of 2022!

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We'd like to thank everyone at WSHS, including the PTSA, for their support. Thank you to the parents, friends, and relatives of the Classes of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 for volunteering and for supporting our fundraisers. Thank you to the Class of 2021 ANGP for their foundation. Thank you to Jennifer Wockeck for volunteering as our webmaster; the Fairfax County Police for their presence at our party; Boy Scout Troop 1140 for their help setting up; and our Alumni and all who supported our Amazon wish list. Thank you to Layla Hooke and the staff of The St. James for their dedication to hosting a safe and fun event for our Seniors.

## Braddock Bark Dog Outing Went on Without a Howl

It was the first annual dog event for the Braddock District supervisor.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

The first annual Braddock Bark dog event went on at Lake Accotink Park where dog lovers from all over the Springfield area showed up to show off their pets, pets who take on a bigger role than just a pet.

“Dogs are absolutely more than just a pet,” said James R. Walkinshaw (D-Braddock), who called the bond between owners and their dogs a “special relationship.” Volunteer Fairfax, and Friends of Accotink Park also helped out with the event.

“I hope this is an event we can have every year,” he said. Walkinshaw has a little Chihuahua named Chi Chi.

Buggi is a mix of some sort, so when he was adopted from a rescue dog organization, the owner knew there was a spark when she found him. “We went to an adoption event, I turned around and there he was,” she said. Looking at the big brown eyes and wagging tail can do that.

The Bark event was in a remote part of the park, and there were a few food trucks, about 10 tents and dog lovers of all sorts. At the DARE tent, Doberman Assistance Rescue & Education, they were trying to shed the reputation that Doberman Pinschers have gotten through the years, starting in the 1970s with movies like “The Doberman Gang,” where a pack of Dobermans wreaked havoc robbing banks.

“We’re trying to educate people how great family dogs they are,” said Erges Sama who manned the DARE tent. There was also a dog obstacle course where they chase around a



James R. Walkinshaw kicks off the Bark event with volunteer Yasmine Marrero.

mechanical rabbit, similar to a greyhound race that are being phased out around the country.

Every March, Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) has the “Ides of Bark,” event in the Mount Vernon District, and the number of participants grows each year over in that area. Walkinshaw borrowed the idea. “I had a feeling it would be successful here too,” he said.



Erges Sama mans the Doberman tent.



The owner was told “Luke,” was part terrier but it’s not very apparent.



Fairfax resident Dee White at Braddock Bark with Charlie, a rescue dog that is part Catahoula.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

# SUMMER FUN



Axton Brusgard, 3, looks for “treasure” in the sand while dad Lenne watches.



May Tran with Paul Mitchell, the School, braids Nga Ngo’s hair with ribbons.



From left, Mitzi Taylor displays her ocean tattoo of rainbow flip flops done by Alicia Pettit.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left, Libby Copeland and Abby Reid enjoy ice cream cones on a hot day.

## Craft Brews, Music, Food and Family Fun

Fairfax City’s Beer in the ‘Burbs was June 4 in Old Town Square.



From left, Kathleen McGurk and Patrick Smith enjoy barbecued chicken and Caribbean jerk chicken from LuvPlates Soul & Grill.



From left, Randall Henderson of Ono Brewing Co. serves a Manako wheat ale and a Howzit IPA to Enka and George Magsarjalam.



Will Ruberry and Natalie Wrenn with beers from Ono and Chubby Squirrel.



Selling beer, caps and T-shirts are (from left) Chubby Squirrel Brewing Co.’s Andrew Jonas and Boyd Harrison.



The Landsharks performing “Brown-Eyed Girl.”

# SUMMER FUN

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From her mom, Christina Shea's arms, Mackenzie Baker, 1, reaches for the short-rib-topped poutine. Next to them are (from left) Maggie Shea, Christina's sister; Scott Baker, Christina's husband; and Paul Sexton, Maggie's husband.



Manning the Ornerly Beer Co. tent are (from left) Randy Barnette, Mike Moran, and Meg and Shawn Cuthbertson.



Beer in the 'Burbs was held in Old Town Square.

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# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU AUG. 27

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road Lorton. Explore history in different ways with this drop-in summer program. Each Saturday will have a host of different activities around a different theme. Savor history, dig in the dirt, and play games as we learn about the 18th century at Gunston Hall. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/events/summer-saturdays-2/>

## FRIDAY/JUNE 17

City of Fairfax Band. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Mason District Park Amphitheater, located at 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The City of Fairfax Band will perform a pop-style concert of light classical, Broadway, jazz, film and patriotic music. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Raymi Performs. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale. Led by Juan Cayrampoma, this D.C.-based band will bring the haunting sounds and mystic power from the Andes to Fairfax County. Their love and respect for tradition and knowledge shine through their music and the instruments they use. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for concert capacity and inclement weather updates.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Groovy Nate! Music! 10:30-11:15 a.m. At Old Town Square, 10415 North Street, Fairfax. Groovy Nate creates fun and educational shows using exotic musical instruments, comedy, and puppet skits - a la Sesame Street meets Parliament/Funkadelic, meshed with The Electric Company, Kraftwerk, and Dub Reggae! Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

## SATURDAY/JUNE 18

"Father of the Bride." At Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Join the Fairfax Library Foundation for free outdoor movie screenings and food trucks. Refreshments will be available for purchase from on-site food trucks. Food trucks will open one hour prior to each movie. Contact Cheryl Ann Lee at 703-324-8300 or [events@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org](mailto:events@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org).

## SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Bobby Blackhat. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. In W16 Rizer Pavilion. A recording artist, harmonica player, vocalist, songwriter and actor, who is a retired U.S. Coast Guard Commander, brings together the finest blues musicians to perform classic, modern, as well as original blues tunes that will keep your toes tappin', fingers poppin', and hips shakin' all night long. Visit [workhousearts.org/onstage](http://workhousearts.org/onstage)

## SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK Club will display and run N Gauge Model Trains on Father's Day. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older \$5 (\$6 special events); seniors and military, active and retired.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Golf Tourney. 10 a.m. Partner up with a PGA Pro at the Twin Lakes Grand Slam Tournament and Watch Party! Each golfer will be matched with a pro that is playing in the U.S. Open, in a stroke play format, followed by a post-round watch party. Registration is \$100 and includes snacks and refreshments. Please note PGA pros will not be on-site. To register, call 703-255-5390.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Father's Day Golf Tourney. 8 a.m. At Burke Lake Golf Center, Burke. Teams of two, ages seven and up, will compete in an 18-hole scramble format with age three divisions competing



**Bobby Blackhat will appear at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton on Saturday, June 18, 2022.**

for prizes. The cost of registration is \$85 per team. Call 703-323-1641 for registration information.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 19

New Orchestra of Washington. 2 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. At Rizer Pavilion. A one-of-a-kind ensemble, performing as a small chamber orchestra, with flexible instrumentation, so that each program is attractive, inspirational and memorable. Visit [workhousearts.org/onstage](http://workhousearts.org/onstage)

## SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Tom Paxton Performs. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Mason District Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner and folk icon Tom Paxton joins Grammy-winning singer/songwriter duo The DonJuans with Don Henry and Jon Vezner, for an unforgettable night. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for concert capacity and inclement weather updates.

## JUNE 20-24

Mason Jazz Camp. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At George Mason University, Reva and Sid Dewberry School of Music, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Mason Jazz Camp is an inclusive, intensive program, for musicians (instrumental and vocal) of all levels, with a desire to advance their musical artistry and professionalism. The Mason Jazz Camp offers classes in improvisation, jazz theory, ear training, performance practice (big bands and combos), composition, arranging and jazz history. Students have the opportunity to study and participate in master classes and concerts with leading educators and performers in the Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland region. The special guest artist for Summer 2022 is trumpeter, bandleader, composer and educator, Sean Jones! Visit the website: <https://music.gmu.edu/visit-us/mason-jazz-camp/>

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 22

Rock-A-Sonics. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Mason District Park Amphitheater, located at 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. A favorite of the D.C., Maryland and Virginia swing dance community, they will bring their deep playlist and variety of styles and tempos to the stage. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

## JUNE 23-26

Parish Yard Sale. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. At St. Mary of Sorrows Parish Center, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. St. Mary of Sorrows Parish Yard Sale will be full of great treasures in Furniture, Art, Jewelry, Antiques, Household & Garden, Toys, Books, Sports Equipment, Dishes, Holiday and more. Cost: \$10 for Thursday preview; free Friday-Sunday.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 23

Lunafest. 7 p.m. At Angelika Film Center, 2911 District Avenue, Fairfax. A film festival featuring eight short films by, for and about women, and fund-raiser for Girls on the Run of NOVA.

This year's stories are told from a variety of perspectives that champion women and gender nonconforming individuals, highlighting their aspirations, accomplishments, resilience, strength, and connection. Tickets and Information: <https://bit.ly/GOTRNOVALU-NAFEST2022>

## FRIDAY/JUNE 24

Once Upon a Prom. 7-11 p.m. Safe Space NOVA, a local nonprofit organization benefiting LGBTQIA+ youth, is hosting the inclusive prom at The St. James Sports, Wellness and Entertainment Complex, 6805 Industrial Rd. Springfield. This Student Ambassador organized Pride Prom is unique in that it combines Action (LGBTQ+ advocacy), Compassion (mental health providers will be on call for the event and a quiet board game room will be available), Education (local affirming organizations will be on hand sharing information), and Celebration. The event is open to all students (grades 9-12) in Northern Virginia and the surrounding region. High school attendees may bring one invited guest aged 20 and under. Admission includes food, drink, photography, and prom swag. The prom will also include a live DJ, dancing, suspended ropes course, rock climbing, local vendors, trampolines, door prizes, drag shows, and much more. Tickets: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/SafeSpaceNOVA/OnceUponAProm>

## FRIDAY/JUNE 24

Seán Heely Celtic Trio. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Mason District Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. As a champion fiddler, singer, composer and arranger, Heely is a creatively versatile and captivating young artist. He is a U.S. National Scottish Fiddle champion, as well as an award-winning Irish fiddler and singer in the folk and Gaelic traditions of Scotland and Ireland. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Santi Budaya Concert. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale. Stemming from a 200+ year performance arts lineage directly from Java, Indonesia, Santi Budaya preserves the best of Indonesian dance culture with a diverse group of highly trained dancers, musicians and the most lavish costumes seen in the area. Call (703) 324-SHOW (7469) before leaving home for inclement weather updates.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 25

MAD Science Washington. 10:30-11:15 a.m. At Old Town Square, 10415 North Street, Fairfax. Experience foggy dry ice storms and

discover how giant beach balls can float in the air! Kids and adults will be amazed by sizzling, shivering scissors and special bubbly showers!

Website:

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

## SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Bachelor Boys Band. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy a stand-up comedy opening act, followed by a fun concert by the Bachelor Boys Band. All performances are free. The Summer Entertainment Series is sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

## JUNE 25-26

Amateur Radio Field Day. 2-11 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Northern Virginia Ham Radio Operators demonstrate modern capabilities for wireless and emergency communications and the Vienna Wireless Society participates in 2022 National Field Day. Local amateur radio operators ("hams") will join thousands nationwide to show off their amateur-radio and emergency-communications capabilities. The Vienna Wireless Society with members around Northern Virginia will have its Field Day site at Burke Lake Park. Enter the park at the traffic light just south of the Burke Lake Golf Center on Route 123. Look for tents immediately on the left of the road before the park entrance. Visit the website: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/>

## SUNDAY/JUNE 26

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3-4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Mary Rouse will speak about one of the oldest houses in Burke, known as Mulberry Hill (ca. 1790), on today's Windsor Way.

## JUNE 28 TO OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition. At Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### JULY 6-29

Host French Teens. Ten volunteer families are needed to host French students from July 6-29. Enjoy an international experience and help promote international understanding and worldwide friendships. Call Tiffany 484-347-3459. Visit the website: <https://www.smores.com/n2cscd>

### SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA SPRING 2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia continues to offer educational, health and wellness and entertaining programming to our Senior Community. The programming includes Adventures In Learning, Active Wellness Classes, Great Discussions Book Club, Caregivers' Support Group and much more.

The Adventures In Learning program began in April and repeats every Thursday for 8

weeks. There is ongoing AIL programming all year long. Topics this session include Health & Wellness, Arts & Entertainment & Travel as well as World Affairs Past & Present.

The Active Aging and Wellness Program is an Exercise Class to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults. This class is held on Wednesdays (via Zoom) from 10:45-11:45 a.m. for eight week schedules. The cost is \$50/session and you can learn more about it and register on the website.

The Great Decisions Book Club is held the 3rd Friday of every month from February - November. Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. This program is designed by the Foreign Policy Association to bring people together in study groups to discuss, debate and learn about important global challenges of our time.

# NEWS

PHOTOS BY FCPS



Cassandra Ann Allen was awarded the Outstanding Non-school-Based Operational Employee. She is the Transportation Instructor at Forte Center in Springfield.



Frank Sarfo Custodian I at Little Run Elementary School in Fairfax is the winner of the Outstanding School-Based Operation Employee Award.



Rebecca Jo Pollard received the Outstanding Non-school-Based Operational Employee Award. The position is sited in Fairfax.

## FCPS Honors 2022

### Recognizing the achievements in education in a challenging year.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

At its Honors Reception and Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, June 8, Fairfax County Public Schools paid tribute to its employees who excelled in teaching students, leading schools, and providing support throughout the 2021–2022 school year. One of the twelve outstanding award recipients is an FCPS employee at Kilmner Middle School in Vienna. Amy Miller received the Outstanding Principal Award.

The program may be considered the school division's Oscars celebration, recognizing exceptional individuals serving in both instructional and operational roles.

Sponsored by Educate Fairfax, over 730 employees, including 71 finalists and 12 winners in 12 different award categories, were recognized at FCPS Honors, held at George Mason Center for the Arts. Fairfax County Public Schools has nearly 25,000 employees.

"You navigated the unexpected with grace and inspired those around you to do the same," Dr. Scott S. Brabrand, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, said during his opening remarks at the event. "Life is unpredictable, and adaptability is a great asset to have. Instead of focusing on the difficulties, you viewed them as opportunities."

Colleagues, parents, students, and community members could nominate FCPS employees who had to meet certain position-specific requirements. Award liaisons from participating schools and departments collaborated with the employee awards team throughout the selection process.

Cassandra Ann Allen was named the Outstanding Nonschool-Based Operational Employee. She is the

Transportation Instructor at Forte Center in Springfield. "Cassandra is committed to providing responsive, caring, and accurate training. She is thorough, patient and makes certain every trainee has the knowledge to be successful. ... Allen is a leader who is willing to assume any role requested. For instance, she completed training courses to fulfill the administrative assistant and time and attendance processing duties until the post was filled. In addition, she volunteers to lead courses for other Fairfax County agencies and often helps with running coverage at various schools. ... She is always inspiring others to achieve their goals while consistently ready to step up to the plate."

Frank Sarfo Custodian I at Little Run Elementary School in Fairfax is the Outstanding School-Based Operational Employee Award recipient. "The title of custodian does not embody all that Frank is to the Little Run staff, students, and families. Mr. Frank, as he is affectionately known, radiates positivity and has a contagious smile." Sarfo asks students and faculty about their day, interests, and families. If he sees a student crying or having a tough time, he gives a smile, a hug, or says something kind. "His exemplary work effort, joyful presence, and service mindset act as an example for everyone."

Rebecca Jo Pollard is the Project Support Coach at Willow Oaks Administrative Center, Instructional Service in Fairfax. "Described as a systems thinker, one colleague stated: 'Rebecca's skills in seeing the big picture while connecting the underpinning dots is unparalleled. Her strategic thinking, communication, and technical skills have uniquely contributed to FCPS at all leadership levels. ... Pollard's

SEE FCPS HONORS, PAGE 14

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## 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
BEDFORD	2896	755	SIMMONSMILL ROAD/ROUTE 755	BORE AUGER CREEK	5/26/2022
LUNENBURG	11662	671	REEDY CREEK ROAD	BRANCH OF REEDY CREEK	5/25/2022
WISE	19502	1321	INMAN ST.	POWELL RIVER	5/19/2022
WISE	19499	1308	ROUTE 1308	CALLAHAN CREEK	5/19/2022
WISE	19338	78	MAIN ST.	CALLIHAN BRANCH	5/18/2022
LOUDOUN	11255	673	FEATHERBED LANE	MILLTOWN CREEK	5/12/2022
TAZEWELL	24540	460	ROUTE 460 (EBL)	ROUTE 19	5/4/2022
SCOTT	16799	865	MANVILLE RD.	BLACK OAK BRANCH	5/2/2022

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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# SUMMER



Ocean Dunes Water Park at Upton Regional Park in Arlington, which also offers climbing adventures and mini-golf.



She's living life adventurously at the "Go Ape," park in Fairfax Station.



Camping out at Pohick Bay could be in a camper or one of the cabins that are for rent.

## Summer's Here and Possibly Time to Stay Put

Fairfax County has plenty of options for a "stay-cation" this summer.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

With the price of gas nearing \$6 a gallon, the summer vacation at the beach may not happen this year, but no worries. Take a stay-cation here in Northern Virginia and just pretend it's the beach – there are plenty of options around here that keep that beachy vibe humming throughout the summer.

Fairfax County has 420 parks on nearly 25,000 acres of parkland so there's something for everyone, said Judy Pedersen of the Fairfax County Park Authority. "With gas prices as high as they are, and the impacts of inflation hitting families hard, staying local and enjoying our wonderful park system makes lots of sense," Pedersen said.

First stop, a go-kart track in the Dulles Airport area called the Autobahn Indoor Speedway. It offers racers an opportunity for speed at their indoor facility with some karts reaching 50 miles per hour. It's a little more high-tech than the tracks at the beach so be prepared. There are "Junior Karts," with a minimum age of 8 and height re-

quirement of at least 48 inches tall.

For the Pro Karts, the minimum age is 13 and drivers must be at least 56 inches tall. Summer go-kart camps are available for ages 8-15.

Vacations and staycations are all about putt-putt golf too. Got to have the flaming volcanoes and waterfalls, and that's just the ticket at Upton Regional Park or the Treasure Island Mini Golf course at Pohick Bay. Other mini golf courses can be found at the Monster Mini Golf in Chantilly or the Cameron Run Mini Golf in Alexandria. Burke Lake has mini golf, and a frisbee golf course and a par-3 course too.

If that's not enough for the thrill seeker, there are several spots in the area that have obstacle courses and rope climbing. At Upton Park in Arlington, "Climb Upton" has a 90-element vertical adventure located next to the Ocean Dunes Waterpark.

In the South Run Rec Center, there's another climbing course called "Go Ape," with five activities depending on the skill level. There are 70 obstacles at South Run and a 320-foot zip line.



Racers at the Autobahn Indoor Speedway near Dulles rev their engines.

"STAYCATIONS definitely are worth taking this year," said Ali Morris, destination marketing manager at Visit Fairfax. She pointed out a few events scheduled this summer that cater to those staying put this year:

◆ Cirque du Soleil's "KURIOS: A Cabinet of Curiosities" under the Big Top at Tysons from July 29 – September 25.

◆ A beer and wine extravaganza at Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles Hotel through the end of September: Two nights at the hotel, wine tasting at a local vineyard, beer flights at 3 different Chantilly breweries, transportation and food credits, plus a welcome bottle of wine and other gifts at check-in.

◆ Capital One Center in Tysons has a new performing arts center, and the Capital One Hall featuring an elevated outdoor Starr Hill Biergarten + amphitheater and an 18-hole miniature golf course that is 11 stories in the air.

Still longing for the beach, surfing and getting gnarly? The Fairfax Surf Shop has boards, skate stuff and trunks as a preparation for the Reston Surf Course. Surf Reston Stand Up Paddleboarding is right on Lake Audubon in Reston. For those who want to ride a board but not on the water, there are skate parks at Wakefield Park, Lake Fairfax, Van Dyck Park, Herndon Skate Park and Powhatan Springs Skate Park inside the beltway.

**What If It's Raining?**

That's where all eyes turn to the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. This art workshop and gallery is mostly indoors, has plenty of parking and is not far from I-95. The Workhouse Arts Center opened to the public in September 2008, with buildings that were part of the old Lorton prison, and now houses artist studios, dance studios, music rooms, event spaces, movement/exercise studios, theater, gift shop, welcome center, administrative offices and the Lucy Burns Museum, honoring suffragists.

**Summer Eating**

After all that activity, time to grab a bite to eat, and it's all about



You never know what is on display at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

beach munchies at Clare and Don's Beach Shack in Falls Church, or Boardwalk burgers and fries in Kingstowne. At Clare and Don's, dishes range from the Lake Alice Gator Tail (\$9), a bowl of Seafood Chowda (\$8) to the Inner Harbor Crab Cakes (\$28.75)

When evening falls, kick back at the campfire, making s'mores and talking about all the beach fun, and there are several campgrounds in the area for that part of summer fun. At Pohick Bay, there are cabins, tent and camper sites and a spot for wilderness camping as well. Burke Lake also has a campground as does Lake Fairfax where there are cabins too.

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What's wrong in this picture? Unnoticed by most walkers on this pleasant trail in Laurel Hill Park's Central Green area, the invasive plant, Tree of Heaven, is at work excluding native trees on which native insects and birds depend.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Capable of growing from seed, rhizomes, or as shown here from sprouts, Tree of Heaven, has an impressive set of survival adaptations making it very difficult to control.

# Virginia Tech Studies Promising Tree of Heaven Control

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

The Tree of Heaven (TOH) may appear to most as just another pretty tree. With airy frond-like leaves and large bunches of flowers visible on some in the Spring, the tree has become a common sight in many areas of the county. However, area naturalists recognize Tree of Heaven as an insidious invasive tree; one that pushes out native trees and other plants, spreading rapidly, and is very difficult to control. It also hosts an insect pest dangerous to crops, the Spotted Lantern Fly. High on the Virginia Department of Forestry's list of "Least Wanted Invasive Plants," the Tree of Heaven, has long been a difficult target for control and removal. Now a study of a biologic pathogen by Virginia Tech offers hope for a new safe and effective bio-pesticide, where none was previously available.

**TIM SHIVELY**, a Virginia Tech graduate student working on his doctoral degree in plant and environmental sciences who is leading the project, explained the study. He is managing ten locations across the Commonwealth. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved a special exception permit to allow use of the experimental treatment. Three test patches are located in Lorton's Laurel Hill Park. In two, Trees of Heaven were inoculated with spores of the fungal pathogen;



**Tim Shively, Virginia Tech researcher, who is testing a new natural fungal biopesticide and studying restoration of plants after Tree of Heaven control**

the third is a control patch. Cultured in petri dishes in the lab, Shively produced a solution with fungal spores taken from Pennsylvania trees that could be applied with a dropper. Wounds made in the trunk, past the bark into the xylem tissue, ready each tree to receive one to three ml of the solution, based on the tree's diameter. Lorton's trees, inoculated on May 25, should see wilt impact in about 30 days. Sites will be monitored on a monthly schedule to evaluate each Tree of Heaven in the patch area on a one to six scale, healthy to dead. After one year, some sites will receive native plantings, others will be allowed free growth to see if native plants return or their own. If elimination of Tree of Heaven merely clears a spot for other invasive plants, users of the control will need a follow-up landscaping plan.

**THE FUNGUS**, named *Verticillium nonalfalfae*, was discovered naturally killing Tree of Heaven in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia, by causing a vascular wilt disease in the tree. Studies of the fungus to date, suggest that it could be used as a safe and effective biological control agent, where only herbicides or hand-pulling methods were previously available as control methods. Work continues to register the pathogen, using the Pennsylvania tree variant, through the EPA as a bio-pesticide, but is still likely several years away.



One of three test patches in Laurel Hill Park, managed by Virginia Tech, two using fungal control and one control patch

SEE TREE OF HEAVEN, PAGE 11

# Studies Promising Tree of Heaven Control

FROM PAGE 5

Virginia Department of Forestry describes Tree of Heaven, “*Ailanthus altissima* (also known as tree-of-heaven, paradise tree, Chinese sumac, stink tree or just *Ailanthus*) is a native of China. In North America, *Ailanthus* is a non-native invasive plant that is common in disturbed areas, along roadsides and forest edges. Seeds and seedlings are very tolerant of poor soils. They germinate and grow best in full sunlight. Seedlings quickly put down a large taproot and re-sprouting occurs when the main stem is cut, burned or otherwise damaged. *Ailanthus* can dominate an area due to vigorous re-sprouting, root-suckering, and secretion of a chemical from its root system to the surrounding soil that is toxic to some other plants.”

Although young seedlings can be removed, once their strong tap root has developed, pulling is often impossible. Until discovery of the fungus, chemical removal methods were the most effective. Foliar herbicide sprays are used on large dense TOH areas where nearby vegetation can be avoided. Another “hack and squirt” method requires making a downward cut into the tree trunk then squirting herbicide into the cut. A basal bark application, perhaps the easiest, uses a handheld or backpack sprayer to apply an oil soluble herbicide in a continuous

12-inch wide band around the tree base.

A native of China, Tree of Heaven was first introduced to the United States from England to Philadelphia in 1784. In the early 1800s it was often used in town plantings, and along roads and in medians. In the 1850s, it arrived in California with Chinese immigrants. Well into the 20th century, its ease of establishment, fast growth and hearty seed production promoted its use until it became naturalized in 42 states. Based on 2019 data, Virginia’s Department of Forestry says, 51 counties in Virginia have measurable quantities of *Ailanthus* and state-wide volumes are more than 102 million cubic feet.

This volume amount exceeds that of many native tree species. *Ailanthus* is 37th in abundance out of a list of 119 tree species for the Commonwealth. In many areas, they have become so naturalized that eradication is no longer an option, as determined by the Department of Forestry. Fairfax County currently is working on a plan and funding to address Tree of Heaven infestation.

Says Tech’s Shively, “We’re just really excited to kill Tree of Heaven. ... we’ve got our eyes on Spotted Lantern Fly too. Research is showing that Tree of Heaven is pretty important to Spotted Lantern Fly lifecycle. So [we’re] making progress on multiple fronts.”



VIRGINIA DEPT OF FORESTRY

Department of Forestry names Tree of Heaven among “least wanted”

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From left, are owners Scott Tran and Yen and Jenna Nguyen by racks with hundreds of nail-polish colors.



Nail technicians and customers inside Raizun Nail Spa



Participants rejoice after the ribbon cutting. Jenna Nguyen and David Meyer (with scissors, in center) did the honors.



Nail tech Constance Nguyen (no relation to the owners) gives customer Juhei Kim a gel x design on her nails.

# ‘Relaxing and Therapeutic’

## Upscale Raizun Nail Spa opens in Fairfax City.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Sure, it’s easy to find a nail salon in nearly every city. But one look inside Raizun Nail Spa in Fairfax City lets customers know this spacious and upscale business is different from the rest.

“Their salon is absolutely gorgeous,” said Danette Nguyen, the City’s assistant economic development director. “We are so happy they chose to create their magic in Fairfax City. Raizun is a luxurious, modern, nail salon that offers an extensive selection of nail treatments and designs, along with waxing, lash extensions and eyebrow tinting.”

Speaking at the salon’s recent ribbon cutting and grand opening at 9940 Fairfax Blvd. (next to PJ Skidoos), Nguyen said it offers a “relaxing and therapeutic environment where you can get away from the worries of everyday life. Their team is knowledgeable and constantly keeping up with the latest trends in nail designs and methodology.”

She noted, as well, that Raizun’s nail technicians perform safe and sanitary disinfection routines to provide “the most hygienic manicure and pedicure experience. This includes single-use, manicure and pedicure kits that are packed individually to limit the risk of contamination.”

Furthermore, said Nguyen, “It’s small businesses like Raizun Nail Spa that make an impact on the local business community. They help create our city’s unique character and charm, build a sense of community and provide one-of-a-kind products and services.”

The co-owners are husband and wife, Scott Tran and Yen Nguyen (no relation to Danette), and her sisters, Jenna and Vy, and Fairfax Mayor David Meyer called them “right out of the book, ‘Profiles in Courage.’”

He said it’s because they had the “courage, tenacity, focus, intense planning and attention to the bottom line needed to open a new business.”

“Nail spas create jobs and provide a real, tangible service to the customers,” he continued. “Besides making customers feel good about themselves, how they present themselves in public says volumes about who they are professionally, to their clients. We extend to you our best wishes for success, and we’re going to encourage people to become customers.”

Jenna Nguyen then thanked Fairfax City officials, the Economic Development Authority and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce “for helping make this day possible.”

Tran said they decided to locate their salon here because they “like the diversity, Fairfax Boulevard is a major street and it’s convenient to I-495 for people to come and go.” He’s also pleased that, “As the weather’s warmed up, business is going up because people are wanting to show off their fingernails and toenails, on vacations and at events.”

The salon changes its decorations seasonally and, since it’s spring, it’s currently lavishly adorned with cherry-blossom decorations. When people enter, said Tran, they’re surprised with how big it is inside and all the decorations. But, he added, “Our excellent nail technicians are what makes people



Melissa Brown receives a pedicure from Mia Vu.

want to come back.”

Raizun opened with six technicians but has 22 manicure chairs at rows of long tables, so more techs will be hired as the business grows. And the comfortable, high-end, pedicure chairs enable customers to get arm and shoulder massages at the same time their toes are done. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are recommended; call 276-738-3086. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

The salon’s interior was designed by local design star Sucha Khamsuwan of Studio Ideya in Fairfax City. He also designed the interiors of City businesses, Mode on Main by Mara, Sisters Thai, Mara Hair Studio and Fairfax’s new Economic Development Office in Northfax. But Raizun’s decorations also include a money bouquet.

“When we first came to America from Vietnam, in 2006, we dreamed of having a place of our own,” said Jenna. “Our older sister, Vy, made a money bouquet for us to bring us lots of love, fortune and good business.”

Proud of what the salon has to offer, Jenna said, “We specialize in modern, trendy, nail designs and we focus on hygiene and sanitation. We sanitize the area and equipment after each customer.”

“And we also use lots of one-time-use products, such as manicure and pedicure kits,” added Tran. “People don’t have to soak their hands in water. Instead, they put on warmed, one-time-use, collagen gloves with shea butter to soften and hydrate their skin and cuticles. For pedicures, we have different, individually packaged foot scrubs, masks and lotions. And people have told us they really enjoy our big, spacious, pedicure chairs.”

During the grand opening, nail tech Constance Nguyen (no relation to the owners) gave customer Juhei Kim a gel x design on her nails. attaching fake nails with soft gel to extend her nails. “It’s lighter and more breathable than acrylics,” explained Nguyen. “I’m doing French nails and hand-painting daisies on two nails of each hand.”

“I’m going to a wedding soon and needed to get my nails done,” said Kim. “And my mom’s getting a pedicure here, too. It’s my first time here, but I knew from online photos that it was a really nice place. Where I live in Alexandria, there’s no place that does my style of designs. Here, they do more complex and modern ones.”

Meanwhile, in another area of the salon, Fairfax City resident Melissa Brown was getting a pedicure from tech Mia Vu. “I run half marathons, so this was desperately needed,” said Brown. “I like supporting City businesses, and I love this one. The décor is very calming, and everyone’s been super-nice. I’d recommend it to others – if you’re looking for a nice, relaxing atmosphere, come here.”

### FCPS Honors

FROM PAGE 7

focus, determination, and agility supported pandemic efforts. She managed communication resources, so schools and division leaders had critical resources and progress updates. ... Whether supporting the creation and distribution of learning books or supporting the development of the FCPS Virtual Program, Rebecca combined her knowledge of instructional best practices and project management skills to ensure that equitable access to learning was at the center of all decisions."

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  - ❖ Outstanding Elementary New Teacher- Shelby Megan Press Second Grade Teacher Riverside Elementary School in Alexandria
  - ❖ Outstanding Secondary Teacher - Kathleen Jacoby Herndon High School Band Director in Herndon
  - ❖ Outstanding New Secondary Teacher- Matthew Fredericks at Hughes Middle School in Reston
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  - ❖ Outstanding Nonschool-Based Professional Employee: Rebecca Jo Pollard, Project Support Coach Willow Oaks Administrative Center in Fairfax
  - ❖ Outstanding School-Based Operational Employee: Frank Sarfo Custodian I Little Run Elementary School in Fairfax
  - ❖ Outstanding Nonschool-Based Operational Employee: Cassandra Ann Allen, Transportation Instructor Forte Center in Springfield
  - ❖ Outstanding School-Based Leader: Bianca Aiello Director of Student Services, Poe Middle School in Annandale
  - ❖ Outstanding Nonschool-Based Leader: Melissa Russell Director II, Payroll Management Gatehouse Administrative Center in Falls Church
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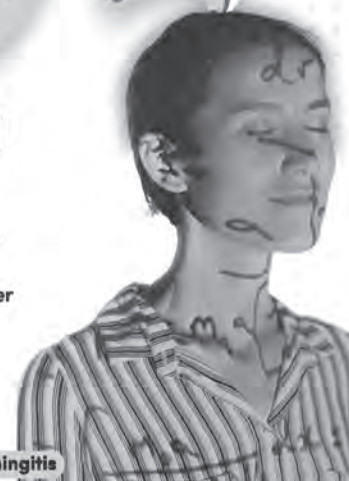
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# COMMUNITY

PHOTOS BY GARY BLACK



James Hedrick of the Old Dominion District, represented the National Capital Area Council, to open the National Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

## Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Minh-Vien Nguyen

### BSA Troop 881, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Springfield, Virginia.

**E**agle Scout Minh-Vien Nguyen is 14 years old, and is in Boy Scout Troop-881, Old Dominion District of the National Capital Area Council. He is being homeschooled and will be a 10th grader in the 2022-2023 school year.

He received the 2nd Dan (2nd degree Black Belt) in Tae Kwon Do in 2019. Currently, he receives training in Mixed Martial Arts.

Two years ago, he created a Youtube channel to give his tutorials in Minecraft.

His channel has 1636 subscribers.

He has been taking piano lessons since five years old.

His mother saw his potential in drawing and put him in a drawing class. Although he says he hates the class, he is excellent at drawing.

He still enjoys building with LEGOs. He aspires to have his own LEGO creation and submit his idea to LEGO.

Also he enjoys watching stand-up comedy and comedy skits.



Phong Nguyen, Scoutmaster Troop-881 and father; Thu-Hang Tran, Troop-881 Committee Chair and mother; Minh-Vien Nguyen, Eagle Scout with Plaque from Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; and Supervisor Pat Herrity, Springfield District.

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## One Small Step for Humankind ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... One Giant Step for Yours Truly. I hope so, anyway. And what am I giant-stepping about? The Entenmann's selection at my local supermarket. After years of disappointment and of suffering in silence concerning the same old-same old choices, I am planning this week to introduce myself to the store's manager to inquire about the possibility of changing the Entenmann's selection to some varieties more to my liking. Specifically adding: the "Marshmallow Iced Devil's Food Cake" and the "Chocolate Chip Iced Cake," and any glazed "Holiday Sprinkled Pop'ems" as well.

To say I speak from experience goes without saying to anybody who knows me. For those of you who don't know me, know this: when it comes to chocolate desserts, I am a maven (Yiddish for expert). I wouldn't say exactly that I've written the book, but I can say I've contributed a few chapters. Thanks to my mother's feeling that her two boys needed to drink eight glasses of milk daily for healthy bones, she (don't call your mother 'she;') I can still hear my father admonishing) deduced that washing down dessert/chocolate with milk would be an excellent/recurring way to reach this goal. And boy was she right. We had dessert multiple times per day: after breakfast, packed with our school lunches, an after-school snack at home, after dinner and finally before bedtime, and always with a glass of milk. Five separate occasions. The product line: Hostess, Drakes, Nabisco; repeat.

And not that I'm the least bit undernourished or deprived by my local supermarket's poor Entenmann's selection. Hardly. If nothing, I'm flexible when it comes to chocolate desserts. However, I have my preferences, and the older I get - and possible even the less healthy I become, I'm going to want/need to treat myself/lift my spirits by eating delectable/desired desserts. Because, at the end of the day (at the beginning too), as I was told many years ago by my publisher after she learned I had been diagnosed with lung cancer: "Kenny, it's all about you." And believe me, upon receiving a "terminal" diagnosis from my oncologist it wasn't much of a stretch to focus on me, myself, and I.

But as time has passed and I have not, I got away from my individual requirements and tried to blend in with whatever choices were available to me. In that time frame, I've purchased a wider variety of desserts, now to include Tasty Cake and Little Debbie to go along with the original big three. But over time, and not able to get over the disappointment in taste and preference of the usual suspects, I expanded my horizons to include Entenmann's products. And with the lack of diversity in my supermarket's Entenmann's' selections (except for the few and far between times when either of my preferences were available), I had become increasingly tolerant - until recently, since my store never has the varieties I crave, so finally, after months of complaining - to my wife, I'm going to get off my couch and try to do something about it.

As I contemplate more than my navel, I am salivating at the prospect of being able to pre-order and in effect, guarantee me that my favorites will be in-store, possibly even with my name on the package and a visible "Not for Resale" warning printed across the cardboard box. What joy this kind of control would bring a cancer patient who only wants to have a "Marshmallow Iced Devil's Food Cake" when I want it, not when it's available - which is never, at least at my local supermarket. This is not exactly a dying man's wish, but it is a wish nonetheless that if I'm going to succumb to my disease, before I die, I would like to have my cake and eat it too.

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

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