

CONNECTION

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Helping hands extended in thanks for military service at the core of Veteran Fishing Adventure; Ed Moore with World War II Veteran Val Dadamio, 100.

Fishing Fleet for Veterans Gets a Lift

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Spirit of Virginia Award for Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

MAY 3-9, 2023

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Join us for a fun day at the Workhouse Arts Center sampling craft beers, cider, wine, and spirits! Enjoy delicious food and lawn games while listening to local bands throughout the day. While on campus, browse the Workhouse galleries, artist studios, gift shop and Lucy Burns Museum.

Saturday, May 20, Noon - 7 pm



workhousearts.org/brewworks

Britepaths Needs Food Donations

The shelves in the Britepaths food pantry are quite bare, and this Fairfax nonprofit has many local families to feed. So it's asking the community to help by donating some much-needed items.

The greatest food needs are: Oatmeal, cooking oil, healthy snacks, pancake mix and syrup, and jam/jelly. Also needed are household/hygiene supplies: Laundry detergent, toilet paper, shampoo/conditioner, soap/body wash, deodorant, shaving razors, paper towels, sponges and cleaning supplies.

Drop off donations at Britepaths' office, 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, in Fairfax, Monday-Friday, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Please call 703-273-8829 or email info@britepaths.org to let them know when you're coming. Or order items via Britepaths' Amazon Wish List at <https://bit.ly/BritepathsFood>.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

IN-PERSON VOTING LOCATIONS FOR 2023 ENDORSEMENT CAUCUS

The Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) is pleased to announce its in-person voting locations for its 2023 Endorsement Caucus. Any Democratic voter who would like to participate in this process and is not a member of FCDC must sign up by May 5th at fairfaxdems.org/caucus. Voting for the caucus will be conducted online from May 13th until May 20th, and at in-person locations on Saturday, May 20th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Participants must sign up by May 5th to be permitted to vote if they are not approved FCDC members.

In-person voting for the 2023 Endorsement Caucus will take place at the following sites:

Reston Association, Conference Room
Address: 12001 Sunrise Valley Dr, Reston, VA 20191

Braddock District Office, Braddock Hall
Address: 9002 Burke Lake Rd, Burke, VA 22015
Gerry Hyland Government Center, Room 221ABC
Address: 8350 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309

Fairfax County Democratic Committee Headquarters

Address: 8500 Executive Park Ave #402, Fairfax, VA 22031

Centreville Regional Library, Meeting Room 1
Address: 14200 St Germain Dr, Centreville, VA 20121

The Fairfax County Democratic Committee encourages all eligible Democratic voters to sign up for and vote in the 2023 Endorsement Caucus. This process will help strengthen the Democratic party and candidates as we campaign ahead of the November elections. Full details about the caucus can be found at fairfaxdems.org/2023endorsement.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 3

Virginia Assembly Report. 10-11:30 a.m. At Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Senator Dave Marsden and Delegates Kaye Kory and Vivian Watts will report on legislative matters considered at the recent session. Website: www.narfe.org/chap

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left are Ellen, Cameron and Jim Graham.



From left are Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Cameron and Ellen Graham, and Suzanne Youngkin at the award ceremony.

Celebrating a Mother's Vision for Her Child

Spirit of Virginia: Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Offering treats made from the finest Callebaut Belgian chocolate, plus delicious baked goods from scratch each day, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates in Fairfax City has earned its loyal following. But more than that, for nearly a decade, this shop in Fairfax Circle has provided meaningful jobs for young adults with intellectual disabilities.

And that's why owners Ellen and Jim Graham began the nonprofit, Every 1 Can Work – operating as Cameron's Coffee and Chocolates – which also employs their daughter, Cameron, after whom the shop is named. Along the way, it also caught the eye of Gov. Glenn Youngkin and First Lady Suzanne Youngkin, who came there April 6 to present it with a Spirit of Virginia award.

This honor recognizes Virginians' stand-out achievements and uncommon contributions in a variety of categories. And within a warm and supportive group environment, Cameron's teaches its employees both work and life skills to help further their independence.

Noting that the award's inspiration came from his wife, Gov. Youngkin said, "The Spirit of Virginia recognizes that, when we go to work for others – and for the greater good – that makes Virginia better. And there's no better place to do that than a chocolate shop."

Thrilled with the honor, Ellen Graham said, "We're delighted they've chosen us to help share our message. And so many of you here today are longtime supporters of us – board members, customers who've come in our doors for nine years, parents and many people who've supported us on so many levels – and I'm grateful to every one of you."

She also expressed gratitude to Fairfax County's schools that "helped provide our



Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates staff with the award and Gov. Youngkin.

workers with the fundamentals that gave them the skills they possess today. For my daughter, in particular, her time spent at the Davis Training Center was invaluable. They ran a culinary program there, and that's where we determined that she loved baking and engaging with people."

But when Cameron was about to graduate, no one would employ her. "People with intellectual disabilities face real challenges getting hired," said Graham. "And often, if they are given a job, it's the same job – all day, every day – whether that's sweeping floors or feeding paper into a shredder. And for our daughter, Jim and I wanted more."

So she considered opening a bakery to make and sell cookies. She and Jim both had business backgrounds and looked all over Virginia to see what kinds of shops other people were running. A friend then directed them to a chocolate shop on Martha's Vineyard.

"We visited the two women who started Chilmark Chocolates and operated it for 33 years, hiring people with intellectual disabilities," said Graham. "And when they retired, no one stepped up to take their place, so those jobs went away. So we decided to start our shop with chocolate and came here to Fairfax."

Chilmark's owners shared their recipes, taught the Grahams how to make chocolates and told them which brand they used. But they discovered people here preferred expensive Belgian chocolate. They were also advised to "never accept that people won't want your product to be better than everyone else's because of who made it – regardless of whether they support your mission."

"That told us we couldn't be just as good as everybody else – we had to be better," said Graham. "So our chocolate is the finest Belgian chocolate you can find, and our

SEE SPIRIT OF VIRGINIA, PAGE 10

HIS TREE DAY

Learning about History and the Environment



Blacksmith Jeff Dunkelberger and son Liam Garvey, 15, make shovels at their coal forge.

A mix of local history and Earth Day activities, Fairfax City's HisTree Day was April 22 at Historic Blenheim.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Kelly Washington represents the Black soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts, Co. B. He's displaying Civil War rifles and books about that unit while chatting with Megan and Boris Zamyatin and children Ethan, 4, and Siena, 7.



From left, Bharath, Patrick, Darya, Alexa, Nivedita and Mita, of Save Soil, raise awareness of soil degradation from modern, agricultural practices.



From left, Mary Driver-Downs, Janet Jaworski and Yvonne Lee, of the Woman's Club of Fairfax, promote monarch-butterfly conservation.



Fairfax City Sustainability Coordinator Stefanie Kupka with a model showing how rain washes yard fertilizer and road salt into the watershed, adversely affecting fish and wildlife.



City arborist Christopher Fleming (center) tells Esther Aslinger about her sycamore-tree seedling, while Parks and Rec employee Tanner Preiss looks on.



Frankie Strazzeri, 6, blows bubbles through a recyclable toilet-paper tube. Behind him is Parks and Rec intern James Seal, who organized the Earth Day vendors.



City Multimodal Transportation Planner Chloe Ritter with information about the free CUE bus, bike-month activities and hiking trails.

HIS TREE DAY

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Michael Strumsky and son Law, 2-1/2, see a sleeping calf at the petting zoo.



Charles Raugh talks about the taproom in the Willcoxon Tavern near the Fairfax courthouse in the 1840s-1860s.



Dean Howarth and Rachel Pelovitz (at right) talk with visitors to their Living Histories of Science booth.



GMU's 8th Green Machine Regiment Band plays "The Sunny Hours Waltz."

CIVIL WAR

BOOKS, RELICS & MEMORABILIA SHOW

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 – 5:00

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New Bridge at Lake Accotink Is an Upgrade for Hikers, Bikers

No getting wet or turning around.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Cyclists, joggers and walkers are now able to get around Lake Accotink without fording the spillway below the dam with the completion of a new bridge that has been under construction for a few years.

"The causeway was falling apart," said one frequent crosser, part of a local group of women who use the trail often. They even joked about having to take their shoes off and tip toe through the water. But not any more with the new pedestrian bridge.

Another woman with her dog "sweetheart," enjoyed staying out of the water. "It's nice," she said.

The Lake Accotink Loop Trail system is currently one of the most heavily used trails in the Park Authority serving communities around Lake Accotink and park visitors from throughout the region. The previous pedestrian and vehicular crossing at the outfall of the Lake Accotink dam flooded frequently, often stranding trail users and tempting them to wade

through swiftly running water. In the last five years, major storms required a total reconstruction of the trail twice, so this project will resolve these issues, enhancing safety and accessibility for park users.

The project consists of approximately 300 linear feet of asphalt trail improvements and 325 feet on an elevated concrete pedestrian crossing over the dam outfall in Lake Accotink Park.

On the southern side of the bridge, the new trail improvements went about 20 feet into the woods before linking with the existing trail which goes around the lake.

The FCPA is planning a formal ribbon cutting for the project in the next few weeks.

Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock) recently highlighted it on his social media feed. "The crossing at the Lake Accotink dam is now open to pedestrian traffic. The ADA accessible crossing now completes the full loop of the Lake Accotink trail, check it out!" he wrote.

In August 2022, the Lake Accotink Park celebrated its 60th anniversary. Since then, there have been debates on dredging the lake to maintain its status as a lake or possibly allowing it to fill in as a wetlands park, but that issue has not been finalized.



Trail walkers are not wading across the spillway anymore.



The new bridge clears the spillway.



Looking north down on the new bridge.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

CONNECTION

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Huntley Meadows Park Celebrates Wetlands Day

Wetlands Awareness Day will be this Sunday, May 7, at Fairfax County Park Authority's wetland sanctuary — Huntley Meadows Park

Sign up online for this fami-

ly-friendly free event.

Celebrate the significance of Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax County Park Authority's premier wetland sanctuary, by discovering the beauty and importance of wet-

lands during this fun event. Bring friends and family to stroll the forested paths and immersive half-mile boardwalk trail to learn about the plants and animals that live in the park. See live raptors, reptiles

and amphibians up close and enjoy interactive displays and activities. Collect a stamp at each station to receive a prize. Rain or shine.

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/huntleymeadowspark>

General Assembly Recognizes Outstanding Efforts

Guinness World Record holder and animal advocate praised.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Guinness World Record Holder Recognized

Surrounded by his Boy Scout troop, Prince of Peace 1145, Sebastian Haworth, was presented with a special recognition at the troop's meeting on May 1. Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) presented the Virginia General Assembly's House Joint Resolution (HJ724) recognizing Haworth's achievement in attaining a Guinness World Record. The West Springfield High School junior built LEGO's 9,090 piece RMS Titanic model, in under nine hours time. His completion beat the previous world record for the model's construction by more than two hours using eight hours, 42 minutes, and 12 seconds. Set in 2022, this record still stands.

Filler-Corn commented on the determination and commitment Haworth demonstrated in what was



PHOTO COURTESY G. LYNCH
Patricia Cake receives her House commendation from Del. David Bulova

a lengthy process from idea to culmination. Saying she enjoys dealing with young people with promise for the future, she added she has had many opportunities to attend Scout ceremonies, but she had never before met a Guinness World Record holder. For more on Haworth's story, see Connection, 5/26/2022, and 1/19/2023 at <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/>

Animal Advocacy Recognition

At a surprise ceremony for her commendation, Patricia A. Cake received her recognition from Del. Dave Bulova on April 26. House Joint Resolution 801 commended Cake's 20 years of work with the Humane Society of Fairfax County. She was described as playing an "instrumental role" in many volunteer aspects of the Society, from event planning and thrift shop sales, to coordinating medical care and feeding of cat colonies, and has herself fostered several abandoned cats or those needing special care after surgery. She was commended by the House, with the Senate concurring, for outstanding service as a member of the Humane Society.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn read the General Assembly's House Joint Resolution commending Sebastian Haworth at his Boy Scout Troop meeting.

NEWS ROUNDUPS

Support to Fully Fund Market Rate Adjustment

Last week, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' Budget Committee indicated their support for a FY 2024 budget package that would fully fund the Market Rate Adjustment for county employees. Thousands of SEIU Virginia 512 members work for Fairfax County.

"The Fairfax Board of Supervisors answering our call to fully fund the MRA at 5.44% is a victory for all County employees, especially those who struggle to get by despite providing valuable services every day," said Tammie Wondong, SEIU Virginia 512 Fairfax County President and 33-year county employee.

"But we are not satisfied; we know lasting change and true pay fairness will only come with a contract. That is our goal and we won't stop until we get it."

As next steps, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors officially marks up the budget on May 2, and adopts the budget on May 9. Click here to see the budget timeline and next steps. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/budget-process-timeline>

Leadership Fairfax Breakfast and Award

Leadership Fairfax will have their annual Board of Supervisors Breakfast on Thursday, May 11, 2023 where guests will hear directly from Chairman Jeffrey McKay and each Supervisor about the challenges and opportunities in all nine districts. Tickets include a full breakfast and the opportunity to connect with fellow community members and leaders.

Leadership Fairfax will present the annual Katherine K. Hanley Award for Public Service to Karla Bruce for her years of outstanding service to Fairfax County. This award is bestowed on a member of the community who exemplifies service above self and has had a positive impact on the County through public service, named for former Board Chair and Secretary of the Commonwealth, Katherine K. Hanley. The 2023 Honoree, Karla Bruce, serves as Chief Equity Officer for Fairfax County and has more than 25 years of experience in service to the community.

Bruce championed the adoption of the One Fairfax Racial and Social Equity Resolution and Policy and provides overall management of the One Fairfax strategic, advising, shaping and helping to direct policy, practice, and strategy to foster equitable opportunity for all Fairfax County residents.

Register online at leadershipfairfax.org/events

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

ter 1159. Visit the website: <http://narfe.org/chapter1159>.

TUESDAY/MAY 9

NARFE Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton). 1 p.m. Meeting – Vienna Community Center – Guest speaker - Peggy James, Executive Director, Vienna Business Association (VBA) and Ice Cream Social. Free. Members and guests welcome. For info, call 703-205-9041.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 10

Historic Fairfax City Annual Meeting. Historic Fairfax City, Inc., will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m., at Historic Blenheim on Old Lee Hwy. It is open to the public.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Lynn Rainville, Ex. Dir. of Institutional History & Museums at Washington & Lee Univ., in Lexington, Va. Dr. Rainville is an Archaeologist, Anthropologist, author, speaker & public lecturer, whose decades-long studies include both The Southern and New England Regions, with a particular focus on Virginians doing extraordinary things in the past. She will speak on: "Virginia's Role in World War I," to include: The Red Cross, Nurses, Sailors, Army Combat Troops, Steelworkers, Shipbuilders, Food Suppliers, Pilots, Stenogra-

phers, Doctors and other civilian roles, as well as noting the 100,000 Draftees, and 3,600 lives lost. Her writings and speaking engagements have been covered in dozens of National Newspapers and on Public Television, and the subject matter run the gamut from Historic Cemeteries, Enslaved Cemeteries, Segregated Schools, Poor Farms, Asylums, Women & Children, to Ordinary Virginians Doing Great Things.. Dr. Rainville was the former Dean of Sweet Briar College, and has taught at UVA., Dartmouth College, Univ. of Michigan, Mary Baldwin College, GMU (as well as for OLLI) & lectured at numerous private organizations. She received her MA and PhD from The University of Michigan. More information can be obtained by contacting Historic Blenheim, and Membership Chair, Linda Baringhaus at: lindamb3510@yahoo.com. Reservations are free and advised.

TOWN OF VIENNA WINS THREE NATIONAL AWARDS

For the second year in a row, the Town of Vienna is getting national recognition with three Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards from the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC). The awards were announced April 19 at the organization's annual conference in Portland, Oregon.

Fishing Boats Retrofitted for Improved Service to Veterans

Veterans Fishing Adventures returns to fleet of four.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Veterans Fishing Adventure rechristened two boats in its fleet on April 29th at Pohick Bay Regional Park's marina. But it's hard to tell if the story starts there or somewhere else. Does it start dockside at Pohick Bay, with a bottle broken on the bow, or on the battlefield in a foreign land, or in a retired Marine's living room as he talks with his daughter over popcorn and a movie? For this telling, we will make a start in the small town of Milton, population 4,482, located along the Salmon Falls River in southeast New Hampshire, and home to the Eastern Boat Works.

Volunteers from Veterans Fishing Adventures in Lorton traveled to the New England town recently to reunite with two of the boats from their fleet after about six months in retrofit. Then they escorted the boats back to Virginia for continued service providing veterans and their families fishing and boating trips on the Potomac and Occoquan rivers. The non-profit organization has offered such trips, without charge, for four years, operating on donations and volunteer help. Although open to all veterans and their families, Veterans Fishing Adventures offers those with physical limitations an opportunity to participate and take their children fishing. With four specially fitted boats in the fleet, Veterans Fishing Adventures makes as many as three trips per week, allowing Veterans with disabilities to enjoy a pastime that most can enjoy without much thought for the logistics.

Veterans Fishing Adventures volunteers, many themselves veterans, were greeted warmly in New Hampshire by Milton residents. First responders with lights flashing gave escort along streets lined by waving town residents on their way to the "reveal" of the two retrofitted boats, including "4 Freedom," a 248 Explorer. Smiles and applause greeted the trailered boat as it moved from behind Eastern Boat Works large manufacturing building for its first viewing after upgrades. Addressing the crowd of well-wishers, boat works owner Greg Hopkins said, "It's not about what you have; it's what you do, and what you do for others, to make every day special. We have

our own challenges, but these people [VFA] showed me that there is no challenge you can't overcome."

He listed the refitting tasks done by Eastern Boat Works crew on "4 Freedom" to include the impressive flag wrapping and new sponsorship decals; a lot of sanding, buffing, painting and waxing; a new motor and impressive electronics, redone interior cabins, and the handicap accessible door for wheelchairs. He added "it's kinda tough when you cut a hole in a boat."

Hopkins joined VFA's founder Ed Moore, Tim Majewski and other volunteers in returning the boats, overland, to Pohick Bay for the rechristening event.

Also on hand were Iraq War veteran Chris Walker, a triple amputee as a result of an IED detonation injury, and World War II veterans Val Dadamio and Henry Miller. During the Iraq War, from 2003-2011, IEDs were used extensively by insurgents against U.S.-led forces causing significant injuries and deaths.

Dadamio and Miller served at the five week long Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 to January 1945. It was Germany's last offensive on the Western Front in World War II; described as the largest and bloodiest single battle fought by the U.S. in that war.

A bagpiper, gathering of first responders, veterans, and others saw the three veterans and some family members on a short cruise on the Pohick Bay near the docks.

SEE VETERANS FISHING. PAGE 10



Helping hands extended in thanks for military service at the core of Veteran Fishing Adventure; Ed Moore with World War II Veteran Val Dadamio.



World War II Veteran Val Dadamio, 100 years old, is all smiles after his cruise of Pohick Bay, with VFA's Ed Moore.



Iraq War Veteran Chris Miller (seated center) breaks a bottle for the boat christening celebration.



Veterans Chris Miller, Val Dadamio and Henry Miller return to dock on Veteran Fishing Adventure's flagship, "Not 4 Gotten".



A large crowd gathers to welcome Veteran's Fishing Adventure boats return to the fleet after retrofit, and to thank honored veterans for their service.



Veteran Fishing Adventure's flotilla passes before the colored water cannon of TowBoatUS.



Fairfax County's rescue fleet now includes an airboat intended for shallow water rescues in the muddy areas of Pohick Bay.



Fishing vessel "4 Freedom," retrofitted with a new motor, wrappings, electronics and a handicap accessible door, returns to service in Pohick Bay and adjacent rivers.



Retrofit details include a new interior as well as new motor and electronics.



Residents of Milton New Hampshire line the route to welcome Veteran Fishing Adventure Veterans and volunteers with their retrofitted boats serviced at Eastern Boat Works.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

PHOTO COURTESY VETERAN FISHING ADVENTURE

PHOTO COURTESY VETERAN FISHING ADVENTURE

Veterans Fishing Adventures Returns to Fleet of Four



Well wishers gather at the boatyard for the reveal of "4 Freedom".

FROM PAGE 8

The flotilla included the VFA fleet, Fairfax County Marine Police boat, and county and private rescue boats, including Fairfax County's newly acquired air boat. Two boats equipped with water cannons provided a red-white-&-blue water arch in celebration of the flotilla parade, fit for a New York Harbor celebration, albeit on a smaller scale.

Returning to dock, well-wishers

formed a long line to thank the three veterans for their service. Miller was asked if he will return for a fishing trip to go for the enormous Blue catfish that inhabit the rivers. He said he is awaiting completion of a rod and reel set accommodated for his prosthetics, "so the fish don't take these arms back to sea with them."



Ed Moore

To see *The Connection's* award winning story on VFA's support of Ukrainian veterans, see <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2022/nov/29/injured-ukrainian-soldiers-enjoy-fishing-adventure>. For a link to VFA organization, see veteransfishingadventure.org.



Retrofitted boats are trailered home to Virginia.

PHOTOS COURTESY VETERAN FISHING ADVENTURE

Spirit of Virginia

FROM PAGE 3

chocolates have to be perfect, or we don't sell them. And our baked goods are baked fresh every day."

The Grahams also decided that, whatever was left over each day, they'd share with the local homeless center, The Lamb Center, which they've done from the start. "For our workers, it meant they saw other people enjoying their products and thrilled to receive them," said Ellen Graham. "It's part of what we do; we always want to engage with the community."

"We also want to be outside as much as we can, engaging with others, so once a week, each one of our teams goes to a grocery store. To wash our cleaning rags, we walk to the local laundromat. So our workers learn life skills, at the same time; they can learn so many things, simply by doing their jobs."

Cameron's currently employs 23 people with intellectual disabilities. And while working there, said Graham, "They grow in different ways, based on where they are as a person. And we need so many more jobs like this to grow and expand our knowledge base."

That way, she continued, "People who are part of our community can be productive members of society – because they want to be, and they need to be fully engaged. So



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Manning the Cameron's Chocolates booth at last Saturday's Taste of Vienna are (from left) Ashley Kolczynski, Tricia Porth and Mary Buan.

we're thrilled that the governor and first lady have given us this opportunity for exposure, and for the community to be made aware of the need for more opportunities like Cameron's."

Speaking next was Chloe, an employee who's been there for six years. "I love doing my work and feeling what I do is best for me," she said. "I get along with my co-workers, I'm proud of my job and I'm enjoying my life. I like talking with different people and being friendly to little kids. People see me smiling and happy."

Cameron, herself, welcomed everyone

to the shop. "I work with my friends, too, and make nonpareils and muffins," she said. "Thank you for the Spirit of Virginia Award."

Calling it a "joyous occasion," Suzanne Youngkin said, "We're thrilled to be here celebrating the intersection of chocolate and love." She also noted how delighted she and her husband were that the shop's employees taught them how to dip pretzels into chocolate before the ceremony.

She said Virginians across the commonwealth possess "ingenuity, resilience, care and compassion," so she and her husband want to "shine a light on organizations and

individuals making positive change" in the lives of others. "We're here today doing just that – celebrating a vision that a mother had for her child, family, community and state," said Youngkin. "We're so proud of Ellen and so grateful."

Next, Gov. Youngkin said everyone he met at Cameron's is "proud of what they do and very good at it. There's dignity in work ... and every single person wants to feel purposeful. I watched the store manager and coaches support each other – and 23 Virginians realizing that what they do every day makes a difference, provides joy and brings a smile to someone's face."

He also mentioned he'd recently signed bills "knocking down barriers" so parents of children with disabilities can more easily access financial support for them. Stressing the importance of creating pathways so all Virginians have the opportunity "to fully realize their God-given talents," Youngkin said, "What I saw here today is this wonderful mixture of empathy, superb skills, aspiration and a real sense of fulfillment. So thank you, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates, for leading and lifting up all Virginians and reminding [us] that everyone can work."

Afterward, Fairfax Economic Development Director Chris Bruno said he was thrilled Cameron's received such a special honor. And City Mayor Catherine Read accurately called it "one of the most beloved businesses in our community."

Cameron's offers coffee, tea, baked goods, hand-dipped chocolate treats, homemade quiche, jams, granola and even dog treats. Catering, including made-to-order cakes, is available via www.Every1CanWork.com.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Hemlock Overlook Park Recognized as Old Growth Forest

Trees are “treasures in our backyard”

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Called “treasures in our backyard” by Fairfax County Board Chairman Jeff McKay, the old growth forest at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park was inducted into the Old-Growth Forest Network on April 17th during a brief ceremony in the forest. The Hemlock Overlook includes the first trees in Fairfax County to be included in the network, raising Virginia’s count to eleven recognized old-growth forests.

The Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN) is the only national network in the United States of protected, old-growth, native forests, where people can experience biodiversity and the beauty of nature. OGFN aims to preserve at least one forest in every county in the U.S. that can sustain a forest. OGFN works to identify forests for the Network, ensure their protection from logging, and inform people of the forest locations. Founded in 2012 by Dr. Joan Maloof, “The national count is 190, across 32 states, and is rapidly growing,” said Jeffrey Wright, Old-Growth Forest Network Board President.

The Hemlock Overlook induction ceremony included unveiling of a permanent sign marking the forest’s location and importance. Additional signs will be added to educate visitors on the history and importance of these ancient forests. McKay said, “Parks are so important for conservation and the protection [of the environment]. Equally important to me, is becoming a strong source of education. We must educate our people not only on the importance of preserving nature, but also our history, how we got to where we are now, and things people can do to stand up for and protect our environment. These things are worth fighting for.”

Old-growth trees like the Eastern hemlocks growing on the banks of Bull Run in Hemlock Overlook Regional Park are exceptionally rare; less than one percent of these original forests are thought to remain in the eastern United States. The trees offer exceptional ecological value, such as providing valuable canopy layers that shelter hundreds of species of birds, insects, and mammals. Old-growth trees also retain more pollution-causing carbon and nitrogen than younger trees, and slow growing hemlocks are especially good at absorbing carbon from the air and holding stream banks in place.

Hemlocks Overlook is a 400 acre woodland along Bull Run in southern Fairfax County, which was acquired by NOVA Parks in 1962. There are stands of old-growth eastern hemlocks along steep slopes adjacent to Bull Run, some as old as 250 years. In addition, there are old-growth sycamore and several old-growth stands of tulip poplars. A large canopy of American beech, white oak, red oak, and mountain laurel predominate. Well maintained trails through the steep topography allow visitors access to the old-growth forest areas (13220 Yates Ford Road, Clifton).

“We are thrilled to be recognizing one of the few old-growth forests in Northern Virginia,” said Cate Magennis Wyatt, Chair of the NOVA Parks Board. “NOVA Parks has been a conservation leader for 64 years. One of the properties saved in its early days was this remarkable stand of hemlock trees that

is several hundred years old.”

Another forest in the OGFN is Glencarlynn Park. Although located in a highly urbanized area, it includes examples of mature, old age natural forests, unique water resources, and a great diversity of native flora. In addition to high native plant diversity, the park includes a number of Champion and Significant Tree specimens. The active floodplain and lower slopes are documented as Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest, with Oak Hickory and Oak Heath forests occupying the drier slopes. The estimated age of the community is 100+ years. It is most likely the second oldest extant growth of natural forest remaining in Arlington, and appears to pre-date the large-scale forest removal associated with the Civil War. The oldest forest remnant is most likely Arlington Woods

within Arlington Cemetery. (301 S Harrison St, Arlington, VA 22204

The celebration of the Hemlock Overlook trees came at a time of year when our nation celebrates Arbor Day; the last Friday in April. The first American Arbor Day occurred on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, Nebraska, when individuals and groups were encouraged to plant trees. On that day an estimated one million plus trees were planted in Nebraska. Planting trees has grown in importance as their benefit in helping to reduce the effects of climate change has become better understood. By absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂), removing and storing the carbon and then releasing the oxygen back into the air, they are helping to deter climate change. For more information on OGFN, see <https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/>



PHOTOS COURTESY NOVA PARKS

NOVA Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority employees and park visitors gather to recognize Hemlock Overlook forest’s age and beauty.



Old-Growth Forest Network board president and Virginia Master Naturalist Jeff Wright, and Mid-Atlantic Regional manager Brian Kane, a landscape architect, celebrate Hemlock Overlook Regional Park’s induction into the Old-Growth Forest Network, by hugging a Hemlock.



NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert; Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay; NOVA Parks Board Chair, Cate Magennis Wyatt; Supervisor, Pat Herryty; and OGFN Board President Jeff Wright, with new educational signage at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park.

CALENDAR

SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Lace up your hiking shoes, grab your camera and enjoy the ephemeral wildflowers that bloom in our parks. Ephemeral flowers are those that bloom temporarily. Their short-lived beauty allows them to grow and reproduce quickly before the canopy of the forest comes alive. Take advantage of the opportunity to get out, during this limited time, to see many of our native ephemeral blooms including bluebells, toad lilies, spring beauties, may apples and more!

Spring Wildflowers Programs

May 6 (Noon to 1 p.m.): Wildflowers Walk and Craft, Burke Lake Park, \$8

May 7 (3 to 4 p.m.): Wonderful Wildflowers, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, \$7

FARMERS MARKETS OPENING AROUND THE COUNTY

The Fairfax County Park Authority hosts 10 markets at locations throughout Fairfax County, where residents can find a variety of fresh and locally grown produce, delicious baked goods, prepared foods and family-friendly market activities, including live musical performances. Check out the full market schedule for the latest times and locations.

WEDNESDAYS

McCutcheon/Mount Vernon

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mccutcheon-mount-vernon>

Open through to Dec. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon

Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane

Oak Marr

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr>

May 3 to Nov. 8, from 8 a.m. to noon
Oak Marr Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road

Wakefield

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield>

May 3 to Oct. 25, from 2 to 6 p.m.
Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road

THURSDAYS

Annandale

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/annandale>

May 4 to Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to noon
Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike

Herndon

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

May 4 to Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., by the Red Caboose

FRIDAYS

McLean

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean>

May 5 to Nov. 17, from 8 a.m. to noon
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road

Kingstowne

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne>

May 5 to Oct. 27, from 3 to 7 p.m.
In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center

SATURDAYS

Burke

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke>

Through Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to noon
VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway

Reston

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/reston>

Through to Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to noon

Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza

SUNDAYS

Lorton

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton>

May 7 to Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd.

For a complete list of park authority market times and locations, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets>. For questions, contact the Community Horticulture Office at 702-642-0128.

NOW THRU JUNE 25

Falls Church Arts All Member Show.

More than 155 artists will be featured in the All Member Show at the Falls Church Arts gallery from April 22 to June 25. To handle the expansive show, the exhibit will be held in two parts this year: submissions from members with last names from A-K will be on view from April 22 to May 21. Submissions from artists with last names from L-Z will be on view from May 27 to June 25. The show features the work of emerging and established member artists from Falls Church Arts and encompasses an extensive range of media from the more traditional watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastel, fused glass, oil, photography, and sculpture to a wide variety of mixed media and printing techniques. The Falls Church Arts gallery is at 700-B West Broad St. (Route 7), Falls Church. Admission is free and the gallery is open Tuesdays-Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Artworks can be viewed online at www.fallschurcharts.org. All pieces can be purchased at the gallery or on the website.

NOW THRU MAY 31

Candytopia Opens. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Candytopia, in partnership with Tysons Corner Center announces the arrival of its sweet interactive concept to the center. It will feature 16,000 square feet with 14 different interactive environments, Instagram-worthy photo opportunities, and delectable tastes of your favorite sweet treats. There is a candy art gallery, a state-of-the-art candy confetti room, complete with confetti-farting pigs, a marshmallow pit filled with a quarter-million marshmallows, as well as DMV-inspired elements throughout the experience. The journey includes candy samples throughout the experience. Visit www.candytopia.com.



"The Pa'akai We Bring" will perform on Sunday, May 6, 2023 in McLean.



The Unruly Theatre Project will perform Friday, May 5, 2023 in McLean.

undercover cops aim to catch the mayor on camera doing the guilty deeds. When the camera catches a bit of unrehearsed hanky-panky and a kilt-wearing, bagpipe-wielding, hit-man stumbles into the fray, comic pandemonium ensues! Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 4

Foreign Language Film. 1 p.m. At The Alden at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden's foreign language movie series is curated by Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern Treff, with more than a little help from audience members! The series has a few surprises thrown in. Schedule subject to change.

MAY 4-6

Mason Film Festival. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. At George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Mason Film Festival is an annual film festival at George Mason University representing the diverse work of Film and Video Studies students, including that of beginning video students, intermediate directing students, and graduating seniors. This year, the festival will span three days beginning on Thursday, May 4, 2023, and ending on Saturday, May 6, 2023. For more information and to register to attend, visit <https://film.gmu.edu/events/mason-film-festival-2023>. The event is free and open to the public. Each attendee (regardless of age) must have their own separate reservation. Seating is extremely limited and is first come, first served. A reservation does not guarantee admission, so make sure you arrive early. Seats cannot be held for people arriving late. If you have any specific accessibility needs, email film@gmu.edu as

THROUGH JULY 27

Senior Slow-Pitch Softball Seasons. 9 a.m. to noon. At Braddock, Wakefield, and Nottaway Softball Fields. Join NoVa Senior Softball, men 50+, women 40+, average age 66. Skill-level assessment. 24 teams, three levels of play. Tuesday/Thursday morning double-headers. Begin Spring Training now. 703-663-7881. Visit the website: www.nvss.org

NOW THRU JUNE 3

"Urinetown." 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom! Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/urinetown>

NOW THRU MAY 7

Mojada by Luis Alfaro. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Mojada, written by Luis Alfaro who takes the chilling ancient Greek tale of Medea and re-imagines it in a Los Angeles Mexican-American immigrant community. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

NOW THRU MAY 7

"Unnecessary Farce." At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. 8 p.m.: Fridays and Saturdays -April 28, 29; May 5, 6; and 2 p.m.: Sundays: April 30, May 7, 2023. "Unnecessary Farce," an award-winning comedy by Paul Slade Smith, combines all the elements of classic farce with a contemporary plot. Two cops. Three crooks. Eight doors. Go! Set in an economy motel, an embezzling small-town mayor is to meet with his female accountant. In the room next door, two inept

CALENDAR



The Taste of Tysons Corner Center will take place on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at Tysons Corner Center.

soon as possible. Visit the website: <https://film.gmu.edu/events/mason-film-festival-2023>

MAY 5 AND 6

Mason School of Dance Spring: Dance Innovations. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. At GMU Harris Theatre, Fairfax. Mason choreographers showcase new works performed by the Mason Dance Company. Tickets: \$15 General Public; \$10 students, faculty/staff, and seniors, \$7 Groups

FRIDAY/MAY 5

Unruly Theatre Project. 7 p.m. At The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Come enjoy a night of laughs on us! (the) Unruly Improv is The Alden's professional teen improv company dedicated to bringing comedic performances to the community. In May 2022, UTP was named 1st place Champions at Improvicon of Northern Virginia!

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Historic Pohick Tours. 1-3 p.m. At Historic Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. During the Colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of our country's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. The Historic Pohick Church Dozent Guild will give free guided tours of the historic colonial church on the first Saturdays of the month between 1:00-3:00 p.m. Call 703-339-6572 or visit the website at <http://www.pohick.org>

SATURDAY/MAY 6

World Pilates Day Celebration with Club Pilates Burke. 1-1:45 p.m. At Club Pilates Burke, 5765 Burke Centre Parkway, Suite S, Burke. Club Pilates Burke will offer a complimentary intro class Saturday, May 6 and Monday, May 8 at 1 PM. Sign up at www.clubpilates.com/potomacriver-running. On Friday, May 5, they are a sponsor of the 2nd annual 5K/1 mile at Burke Lake Park to support the Burke Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department (BVFDRD)

and will be outside Potomac River Running store in Burke on Friday, May 5 from 1:30 - 6 p.m. collecting used running shoes to be recycled and reused for "Get Sneakers" non-profit. On Saturday, May 6 race sign up:

<https://potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2023-bvfrd-fire-drill-5k-1m>

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Spring Farm Day. 10 a.m. to 3 pm. At Frying Pan Farm Park, Herndon. See what life is like on the farm with real sheep shearing and antique farm equipment demonstrations. Get hands-on and try milking cows and goats. Enjoy crafts, games, and get an up-close introduction to the baby farm animals. Admission is \$10 online and \$12 in-person.

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Onstage: Bobby BlackHat. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Bobby BlackHat, Virginia's Blues Ambassador, award winning recording artist, harmonica player, vocalist, songwriter. Bobby BlackHat blends the influences of Chicago, Memphis, Piedmont, and Delta style blues along with a little Gospel into a Toe Tappin', Finger Poppin', Hip Shakin' Blues experience. You Never Know What's Gonna Happen at a Bobby BlackHat Show! Visit the website: <http://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/bobby-blackhat>

SUNDAY/MAY 6

"The Pa'akai We Bring." 4 p.m. Presented by the Alden, McLean Community Center, McLean. This original production introduces young audiences to the Native Hawaiian relationship to pa'akai (salt). Traditionally, pa'akai is food, medicine, a sacrament and a treasured gift. The play follows a family with multiple generations of salt farmers on the island of Kauai, mixing in ancient stories, hula, live music, original songs and plenty of audience participation into a tasty potluck of performance, joyously served up with aloha.

MAY 6 THRU OCT. 28, 2023

Vienna Optimists' Farmers Market. 8 a.m. to noon. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Premiere local vendors feature fresh, seasonal produce, beautiful flowers, hardy plants, sweet and savory treats, free garden advice and free live music. Admission is free.

Each week at the Farmers Market, different talented local musicians perform. Here is May's schedule. On May 6, the Jazz Trotters perform; On May 13, Swingology performs; On May 20, Accotink Rising performs; On May 27, Carter Farm Band performs;

For more information about the Farmers Market or the Optimists, visit <https://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/>

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Taste of Tysons Corner Center. 1-4 p.m. At Tysons Corner Mall, McLean. Indulge in a fun afternoon experiencing the wide array of delicious food and beverage offerings from 40 restaurants at Tysons Corner Center with food sampling, cooking demos, chef appearances, Barrel & Bushel Beer Garden, VIP Tent, live music & entertainment, giveaways, and more!

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Culmore Community Day. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive, Falls Church. Join the Fairfax County Park Authority and a host of county and community partners to celebrate the diverse culture of the Culmore area! Culmore Community Day was created more than 17 years ago by the global Bailey's Crossroads and Culmore area community as a means of building a strong, well-connected, multicultural community. This year's theme is "Safety: A Community Responsibility." In addition to free entertainment, games and activities, the event also features many of Fairfax County's supportive services provided by county agencies and local nonprofits.

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Spring Farm Day. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At

Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, in Herndon. Explore what life is like on an operating farm with real sheep shearing and antique farm equipment demonstrations. Get hands-on and try milking cows and goats. Enjoy crafts, games, and get an up-close introduction to the baby farm animals. One wagon ride included with each paid admission. Registration is \$10 per person for ages 2 and older before May 6. Walk-ins are welcome; \$12 at the door on the day of the event. Call 703-437-9101 or visit Frying Pan Farm Park.

MAY 6-7

"Alice in Wonderland." Presented by the Traveling Players Studio. May 6 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; May 7 at 6 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Performed by Traveling Players students in grades 5-7, the play is a new imagining of Carroll's classic daydream, a perfect spring outing for the whole family! To purchase tickets, and for more information about the show, visit <https://www.travelingplayers.org/performances/>

SUNDAY/MAY 7

"EChaim" Jewish Legacy of Broadway. 2 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, McLean. From the stages of the lower east side to the bright lights of Broadway, "EChaim" is a musical journey that pays tribute to the Jewish legacy of musical theater by exploring and celebrating the unique role of Jewish composers and lyricists. Rooted in history, heritage and tradition, four Jewish performers bring to life the most iconic songs from the stage of past and present and the historical stories that go with them.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Taize Worship Service. 7 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Taizé worship comes to us from the Taizé Community, a Christian community of prayer, music, and hospitality in France. On Sunday evening, May 7, we will gather at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for a time of prayer, Scripture, simple songs, and silence.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Third Annual Tour de Hunter Mill. At Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. There are three routes that all begin and end at Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods. The routes take you through scenic Hunter Mill District. The short and long rides include a pitstop at Frying Pan Farm Park.

Three Routes:

Family Ride: 5.9 miles

Short Ride: 15.5 miles

Long Ride: 29 miles

The fee is \$30, which includes a donation to our Tour de Hunter Mill partner, Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling and the popular Tour de Hunter Mill socks. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/tour-de-hunter-mill>

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Grind Day. 12- 3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Cost is \$10. Register Online.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Wetlands Awareness Day. Noon to 4 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park,

Alexandria. This year's theme for World Migratory Bird Day focuses on the importance of water. Wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, marshes and ponds are essential for feeding, drinking and nesting. Enjoy exploring the beauty of Fairfax County's premier wetland sanctuary at Huntley Meadow Park. There is no cost to participate.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Persian Art & Craft Fair. 2 - 6 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Vienna. Just in time for Mother's Day. Artisans, crafters, local businesses, DJ music, dance, raffles and kids activities. Food, beverages and desserts.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Virginia Psychics Fair 2023. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50), Fairfax. Metaphysical event featuring 44 vendors. Psychic Fair for both those who are serious and for those who are just curious. Event can be a life changing experience or just a fun time. Many of the best psychics, mediums, healers, and readers of all types, along with related arts and crafts vendors from Virginia and the surrounding areas. Besides all types of readings done at tables, there will also be related arts, crafts, books, oils, crystals, sage, herbs, jewelry, gemstones, candles, soaps, smudge items, etc. Visit the website: <https://va-psychic-fair-2023.eventbrite.com>

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Mason Symphony Orchestra Concert. 7 p.m. At GMU's Dewberry School of Music, Fairfax. Tickets: \$20 general public, \$15 seniors, \$5 students. Join the Dewberry School of Music for their spring finale concert featuring the Mason Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Soo Han.

MONDAY/MAY 8

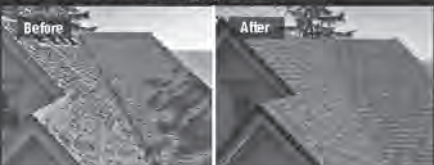
Senior Art and Design Show. 10 a.m. At GMU Gillespie Gallery and School of Art and Design Building, Fairfax. Students graduating with bachelor's degrees in Art and Visual Technology present their final work at the Senior Art & Design Show: Spring 2023 in George Mason University's School of Art. The Senior Art & Design Show spans graphic design, animation, video, performance, drawing, photography, painting, sculpture, fiber, fabric arts, installation, interactive, web-based works, and more. The exhibition opens in the Gillespie Gallery, on Monday, May 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., with additional work on view in spaces throughout the Art and Design Building. The exhibition will be on view through May 13, concluding with a closing reception event on Saturday, May 13, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

TUESDAY/MAY 9

May Studio Series with Mason School of Dance. 7 p.m. At the deLaski Performing Arts Building, A301, Dance Studio, Fairfax. Studio Series is an intimate black-box experience showcasing new dances by George Mason University's School of Dance. Tickets: \$10 General Public.

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Yard Sale

Community Yard Sale

Sat, May 20, 2023

At 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Rain or shine

Dominion High School
 Parking lot 21326 Augusta Dr,
 Sterling, VA, 20164

Buyers No admission Fee.
 Sellers get 2 parking
 lot spaces for \$30.

Contact Cristina.wyche@lcpso.org

Legals

ABC LICENSE

ACC Foods LLC trading as Duk Wo, 9570 Burke Road, UNIT J, Burke, Fairfax County, VA 22015 + 3152. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application - Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Consumed On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Alexander Chin, Owner. Date notice posted at establishment: 5/3/2023. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Capital Flavors Catering Inc. trading as Village Chicken, 6228-G Rolling Road, Springfield, Fairfax County VA 22152 - 2339. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Wine and Beer On and Off Premises and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Scott A. Slater, Owner. Date notice posted at establishment: 4/28/2023. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

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Questions?

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BRIEFS

Double Murder-Suicide in Springfield

Fairfax County police detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau continue to investigate a double murder-suicide after three people were found dead inside a home.

At 3:47 p.m. Thursday, April 27, officers responded to a home in the 8500 block of Wild Spruce Drive, in Springfield. The housekeeper found Meskerem Belachew Solomon, 38, Amanuel Belachew Solomon, 31, and Tiku Berhane Gebreyesus, 47, suffering from apparent gunshot wounds to the upper body in the basement of the residence. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel declared all deceased at the scene. The family nanny and a child were inside the home and were found uninjured.

Preliminarily, detectives believe Tiku shot his wife, Meskerem, and her brother, Amanuel, before shooting himself. A firearm was recovered in the basement. Detectives continue to conduct interviews and review evidence to understand the circumstances that led to the shooting. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will be completing autopsies to confirm the manner and cause of death.

Detectives are asking anyone with information regarding this incident to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), is a credentialing authority. The CALEA Accreditation program seals are reserved for use by those public safety agencies that have demonstrated compliance with CALEA Standards and have been awarded CALEA Accreditation by the Commission. The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) has been accredited with CALEA since 2016.

FCPD will undergo regular assessments with CALEA through policy and procedure

review. Additionally, on-site assessments will be conducted every four years to ensure the department is in continued compliance with CALEA's highest professional standards.

Public Comment Portal: Beginning in 2023, as a way to further the accreditation process' objective of providing agencies with information that supports improvement and fosters professional excellence, CALEA updated their public comment mechanism from call-in sessions and public hearings to a web-based comment portal.

The purpose of this public portal is to receive comments regarding an agency's compliance with CALEA standards, engagement in the service community, delivery of public safety services, and overall candidacy for accredited status.

These comments can be in the form of commendations or concerns.

CALEA is not an investigatory body and subsequently the public portal should not be used to submit information for such purposes. There will be no response other than to acknowledge submissions

If you would like to file a formal complaint, please visit here.

Complaints can be filed with the Fairfax County Police Civilian Review Panel <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/> or the Independent Police Auditor. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policeauditor/>

The link to the CALEA portal can be found here: FCPD CALEA Public Comment Portal.

Fatal Motorcycle Crash on I-66

Virginia State Police is investigating a fatal crash in Fairfax County. The crash occurred April 21, 2023 at 11:25 p.m. on I-66, near the 50 mile marker.

A 2006 Suzuki GSX-R 600 was traveling east on I-66 when it rear-ended a 2003 Honda Odyssey. The impact of the crash caused the motorcyclist to be ejected and thrown into the travel lane. Both the motorcyclist and the motorcycle were then struck by two additional vehicles. The motorcycle caught fire.

The motorcyclist, Jeffrey R. Armstrong, 29, of Sterling, Va., died at the scene. He was wearing a helmet.

No other drivers were injured. Speed is being investigated as a factor in the crash.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning of 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now our horizon is so cloudy. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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Kicking the Bucket - List



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Whether it's literally been true or not, it feels like I've been off the Kenny-with-cancer-go-round for a few months, especially since I've been focused/preoccupied with my brother's death and its impact on me (see lots of previous columns). And if the reason for the break-in-the-cancer action wasn't so horrible, I might have enjoyed the past few months of non-cancer centrality. Because if there's one thing a cancer patient needs are time/life when cancer isn't front and center, but rather back and to the side. These non-cancer moments may be a delusion, but oh, what a feeling!

And therein lies the key to surviving/trying to thrive with cancer. Living like you're living, not "Living like you were dying," as Tim McGraw sang in 2004. Moreover, for me, it's living as if you have something to live for, not just die from. And while you're living, not just dying, let's stop blaming the cancer. God knows (and everyone else knows to) that cancer is a great excuse for not doing a whole host of things. Nevertheless, as much as possible – and it's not always possible, I've tried not to use it as an excuse. If it were used, it's so easy, so acceptable; using it as the ultimate excuse becomes almost narcotic. Once you start using it, it's hard to stop. Although a cancer diagnosis is hardly a privilege, it is an explanation for whatever you don't want to do. Be it household, personal or business. And these decisions are not always intended. The cancer has a way – through its many emotional tentacles – and physical challenges, to control one's subconscious. Without really thinking about it, doing – or not doing, almost is out of your control. And so, you blame the cancer.

But I don't want to. I want to blame me. I want to take responsibility for myself/my actions – or lack thereof. In addition, I don't want to be seen as Kenny-with-cancer. I want to be treated as if I didn't have cancer: for good, bad, or indifferent. Nor do I want to do things/go places/make lists just because I'm diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer. Again, I don't want to live like I'm dying because if I do, I know I'll do whatever I'm doing because I'm dying, and I want/need a certain experience. To me, that would be reinforcing a negative (premature death; although aren't they all?) which is exactly the vibe I don't want in my life. I want normalcy. 'Normalcy,' to me doesn't equate with dying. It equates with living. You just have to work in the cancer stuff as if it's just another variable, not an end-of-life, do-and-die set of insurmountable hurdles. If I've accomplished anything in my 14+ years as a cancer patient, it is that I never (or tried to never) let it get the best of me or have it be the dominant reason for my decisions/choices. I've tried to treat cancer as just another blip on life's radar. Sometimes, it has mattered, and other times, it has not.

Even watching my brother's struggles to survive and then overcome the septic shock that hospitalized him for six-plus weeks didn't adjust my thinking. I was doing exactly – by visiting him every day, what I wanted to do, cancer be damned. The diagnosis was not going to interfere with my responsibility to my brother. And being there every day for a few hours, being in surgical intensive care, medical intensive care, a regular room or in the rehab center adjacent to the hospital, my cancer situation was so far onto the back burner that it was completely out of sight. In fact, it was so far out of my mind that Kenny-with-cancer was replaced by Kenny-whose-brother-was-possibly-dying. And for the nearly three months in total, until his death on Dec. 3rd, I was a complementary player of sorts. I was living to benefit my brother and trying to help him in any way he needed.

And I wouldn't have had it any other way, other than wishing he had survived. I was a cancer patient who for the many moments that transpired during Richard's nearly three-month struggle to survive, did not ever think I needed to be anywhere else because I was "terminal" and needed to check an item off a list. Hardly. My brother was my list. My brother was – despite my cancer diagnosis, the most important consideration in my life and I was going to do everything I could to help him. I did for him everything I would have done regardless of my cancer diagnosis. I was going to treat his situation as normally as possible. I didn't necessarily neglect my own health but rather didn't let it get in the way of my priorities: Richard's recovery. "Cancer sucks," for sure. But septic shock turned out to be worse.

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

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Alpha Beta Alpha Omega Serving the Environment



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Sorority members stretched their muscles and their knowledge of native and invasive plants while prepping the park pollinator garden for the growing season.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

When vice-president and program committee chair Lynbea Toombs of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority's Alpha Beta Alpha Omega chapter calls to say the sisters would like to volunteer, you can expect a large and

enthusiastic group. As part of the sorority's core mission "to be of service to all mankind," the group volunteered for multiple environmental projects in April. They planted trees with Fairfax Relief at Burgundy Park in the Rose Hill area in recognition of Arbor Day. Then the following weekend, they arrived at Laurel Hill Park in Lorton, garden gloves at the ready,

to weed and prepare the park's native plant pollinator garden for the warm season. At Laurel Hill they removed last season's dead stalks, and pulled a mass of invasive plants that had already made claim to the garden.

The local chapter serving Springfield and Lorton is associated with the international group founded on Howard University campus in 1908.



PHOTO COURTESY ALPHA BETA ALPHA OMEGA

Fairfax Relief's Taylor Beach demonstrates tree planting technique for the sorority members before they begin



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Having fun while serving.



Old stalks left in place for winter homes for pollinators were targets for removal to prep for Spring growth.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

A few sorority members keep a service memory.



Thirty members of Alpha Beta Alpha Omega turned out to Laurel Hill Park for service.