

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station



This “groovy” balloon bears the words, “far out” and “flower power,” matching Fairfax City’s Fourth of July parade’s theme, “Peace, Love & the Fourth of July.”

Peace, Love & The Fourth Of July

PAGES 3, 6, 7

Our Awards

PAGE 5

Rollicking, Relevant ‘Footloose’

PAGE 8

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

JULY 6-12, 2023

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

How Not to Buy a Car: Men Arrested after Assault, Robbery

Two men have been arrested for robbery after arranging to sell a car online.

On June 25 police responded to an armed robbery in the 4300 block of Americana Drive in Annapandale. Police found the victim who had sustained multiple lacerations on her head. Officers determined the victim had agreed to meet the suspects in-person via Instagram to purchase a car for cash. The victim was picked-up by a ride-share and driven to the location of the vehicle for the sale.

When she arrived, one of the suspects produced a handgun and repeatedly struck the victim in the head with it. The other suspect assisted in grabbing the victim's purse before both suspects fled in a vehicle. Preliminarily, it is believed that the ride-share driver was not involved. The victim was transported to the hospital and treated for injuries to her head.

Through their investigation, detectives identified and charged a 20-year-old man from Woodbridge, who was charged with robbery, malicious wounding, use of a firearm in the commission of a fel-

ony, and conspiracy to commit robbery. He is being held on no bond. A 23-year-old man from Oakton was also arrested and charged with robbery, malicious wounding, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and conspiracy to commit robbery. He is also being held with no bond. Detectives from the Fugitive Track and Apprehension Squad tracked the two to a location in Lorton. Detectives took both men into custody. Subsequent to the arrests, detectives recovered multiple handguns and additional evidence of the robbery.

Safety Tips When Buying or Selling

- ❖ Do not go to a transaction alone. If you do go alone, make sure a friend or family member is aware of the transaction details.
- ❖ Whenever possible, complete the transaction during daylight hours.
- ❖ Be extra cautious when buying or selling valuable items such as collectible shoes, jewelry and vehicles.

SEE HOW NOT, PAGE 10



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MUSIC FESTIVAL
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NEWS

Scouts, Balloons & Floats on a Festive Fourth

Fairfax City's Fourth of July parade drew a gigantic crowd.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read



The first-place float carried out the parade's theme, "Peace, Love & the Fourth of July."



This "groovy" balloon bears the words, "far out" and "flower power."



Fairfax City police motorcycle officers lead off the parade.



Fairfax City Fire Department Honor Guard.



Fairfax and Woodson high schools' bands marching together.

New Laws Now In Effect

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK



Each year, ahead of July 1st when most laws passed during each year's legislative session go into effect, the exceptional staff at the Division of Legislative Services prepare a valuable publication entitled "In Due Course." This publication highlights the new laws that are most likely to affect the daily lives of Virginia's residents. You can read the complete publication for this year as well as past years online here: http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs_idc.html. I like to provide my constituents with a similar "highlight reel" so they can be well-informed and prepared.

Public Safety

❖ Expanding the "Move Over" law passed in 2019, which requires motorists to slow down or change lanes for emergency vehicles, it is now mandatory for drivers to switch lanes or slow down when they see any vehicle pulled over on the side of the road with flashing hazards. This law comes at the perfect time, with the July 4th holiday this week and millions of Americans hitting the road.

❖ There is now a stricter penalty for making false 9-1-1 calls or texts. These false reports not only waste time and resources for first responders but also create dangerous situations that can result in injury or death for innocent Virginians.

Consumers:

❖ Have you ever signed up for a free trial of a product or streaming service online and then forgotten to cancel it before being charged? Now, any business offering a free trial lasting more than 30 days must notify consumers of

their option to cancel within 30 days of the free trial's end.

Healthcare:

❖ A new law on hospital price transparency is now in effect. Every hospital is now required to make information about standard charges for items and services available on their website. After the passage of federal legislation in 2021 requiring hospital price transparency, fewer than 15% of hospitals had complied as of 2022. This bill creates additional accountability and enforcement on the state level to ensure hospitals comply so that patients no longer have to wonder what treatment will cost.

Labor:

❖ This year, the General Assembly introduced protections for living organ donors. Under this legislation, Virginia employers with 50 or more employees must provide at least 60 business days of unpaid leave to eligible workers who donate one or more of their organs. Additionally, employees who donate bone marrow must receive at least 30 business days of unpaid leave. To be eligible, employees must have been employed at their current job for at least a year and worked at least 1,250 hours during the previous year. This law safeguards donors and encourages more Virginians to give life-saving gifts to those in need.

❖ "The Silenced No More Act," expands the prohibition of the use of confidentiality clauses related to claims of sexual assault in employment agreements to also cover claims of sexual harassment. This law renders any confidentiality agreements that would prevent discussion of past workplace conduct, work events, or em-

ployee-employer null and void.

❖ Virginia employers are now prohibited from using an employee's social security number (or any part of it, such as the last four digits) on any identification badge or access card. This measure protects workers who were at higher risk of identity theft due to this practice.

❖ Virginia has implemented a universal license recognition law, allowing workers in professions requiring licenses or certifications, such as barbers, electricians, and tattoo artists, to utilize an out-of-state license. This is applicable if they have held the license for at least three years, it is up to date, and passing an exam was necessary to obtain the license.

Landlord/Tenant:

❖ A process now exists for tenants to terminate a lease and receive a refund of all rents and deposits paid if the property is uninhabitable at the time of possession due to fire hazards or serious threats to the life, health, or safety of tenants or occupants, such as rodent infestation, lack of heat, absence of running water (hot or cold), electricity, or adequate sewage disposal facilities.

❖ Also in effect is a new rent increase notification. Landlords owning more than four rental dwelling units in Virginia, or having a more than 10% interest in more than four dwelling units, must provide written notice to tenants who have the option to renew a lease or have a lease with an automatic renewal provision of any increase in rent during the subsequent term. This notice must be given at least 60 days prior to the end of the rental term.

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 11

Fund Public Schools and Virginia Budget Impasse

BY DEL. VIVIAN WATTS



Funding public schools is central to the Virginia state budget impasse. While there are other issues – particularly mental health and tax fairness – our public schools are facing serious challenges. The pandemic drove uneven learning losses and classroom discipline lapses, but teacher shortages and lack of essential funding are long-standing.

In the last 15 years, Virginia hasn't kept up with other states. Before the 2008 recession, we had managed to increase state/local per pupil spending to just above the national average. However, since 2008, other states increased total per pupil spending by over 8% on average while Virginia's

K-12 funding per pupil (adjusted for inflation) has fallen.

Raising teacher salaries, funding counselors and other support personnel, and correcting the error made in covering the end of the state food tax are the big ticket items. I spoke to other critical needs in these remarks on the House floor:

"I went to a poor rural school, Maple Grove, through the 8th grade. We had a grade and half in each classroom of 35 or so kids. I had it pretty good in the house my father built. But for Pat Wright, the most awesome slugger on our girl's baseball team, it was different. Pat went home to a shack lit with kerosene lanterns and cardboard on the walls for insulation.

"I also had it pretty good, when I started thinking about boys. I

didn't have to feel self-conscious about being tall because Max and Gary had flunked a grade or two. Max dropped out as soon as he turned 16. Gary died in a drunk driving accident. I was the first in

my family to graduate college.

"I know my childhood reality is shared by others in this Chamber – urban and rural. If you came

SEE WATTS, PAGE 11

Let Us Know Your View

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

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Local Writers Win Virginia Press Association Awards

Connection and Gazette garner awards for work published in 2022.

BY MARY KIMM
THE CONNECTION

Each year the Virginia Press Association holds a competition to select the best published material from newspapers and news sites from across the state. The contest is judged by journalists from outside the commonwealth, for what is one of the largest such competitions in the country.

It has been no small accomplishment just to keep publishing in this economic climate, between the pandemic and the decline in newspaper advertising. But we continue to be called to provide the best journalism we can to the communities we serve. We have great readers. We've been blessed with a group of remarkable writers. We're pleased that we won 15 awards. Many categories are judged as a "body of work," so a group of three or sometimes more stories, as you can see below.

Fairfax County Connection Newspapers

Susan Laume, First Place, General News Writing, Americans Show Love For Ukraine, Injured Ukrainian Soldiers Treated Locally, War Takes Heavy Toll on Ukrainian Women, Injured Ukrainian Soldiers Enjoy a Fishing Adventure, Injured Ukrainian Soldiers Receive Treatment Locally; Judge Comment: "Awesome way to tie compelling local coverage with an international news story" [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W12_General_News_Writing_\(N3\)/First_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_1/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W12_General_News_Writing_(N3)/First_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_1/Attachment_01.pdf)

Susan Laume, Second Place, Breaking News Writing, "Coyote Bites Cause Cautionary Park Closure" [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W02_Breaking_News_Writing_\(N3\)/Second_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W02_Breaking_News_Writing_(N3)/Second_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf)

Bonnie Hobbs, Third Place, General News Writing, "You Can't Imagine Living Without Your Daughter" Remembering Reema and Erin, 15 years after VT tragedy; Doing Good in Her Name, Celeste Peterson honors her child by serving her neighbors; Helping Others to Honor Those Who Were Killed; [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W12_General_News_Writing_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_Northwest_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W12_General_News_Writing_(N3)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_Northwest_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Mike Salmon, Third Place, Health, Science & Environment Writing, Group Opposes Cinder Bed Road Bikeway; Climate Change Study Warns of Coastal Flooding in 2050; Paralyzed Cyclist Gains Freedom for www.connectionnewspapers.com



Ashley Simpson



Bonnie Hobbs



Eden Brown



Glenda Booth



Janet Barnett



Jeanne Theismann



Laurence Foong

Susan Laume, Third Place, Picture Story or Essay; Local Gardeners Can Assist Monarchs Judge Comment: "Photos really tell the story. Good job." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Photography/P06_Picture_Story_or_Essay_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Photography/P06_Picture_Story_or_Essay_(N3)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)



Michael Lee Pope



Mike Salmon



Shirley Ruhe



Susan Laume

Bonnie Hobbs, Alternate, Feature Profile Writing, Fulbright for Valerie Nguyen; Judge Comment: Nice story. Very well-written. [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W11_Feature_Profile_Writing_\(including_News_Obituaries\)__\(N3\)/Alternate_Winner_Fairfax_County_Northwest_Connection_4/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W11_Feature_Profile_Writing_(including_News_Obituaries)__(N3)/Alternate_Winner_Fairfax_County_Northwest_Connection_4/Attachment_01.pdf)

Arlington Connection

Eden Brown, First Place, Feature Writing Portfolio, Old Instruments, New Friends in Arlington; Arlington's USA Team Headed To Finals in Ramadan Tourney; Nightmare on Jackson Street. Judge comment: "Eden Brown is a seasoned, clever writer with a magical pen; well-articulated in all venues; vivid details, word choice and clever titles keep you wanting to read more." See [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W09_Feature_Writing_Portfolio_\(N3\)/First_Place_Arlington_Connection_1/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W09_Feature_Writing_Portfolio_(N3)/First_Place_Arlington_Connection_1/Attachment_01.pdf)

Ashley Simpson, Second Place, Feature Profile Writing: What Makes Ted Run. Judge Comment: "Very inspiring story that not only tells of his accomplishments, but also his motivations. Nicely done." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W11_Feature_Profile_Writing_\(including_News_Obituaries\)__\(N3\)/Second_Place_Arlington_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W11_Feature_Profile_Writing_(including_News_Obituaries)__(N3)/Second_Place_Arlington_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf)

Eden Brown, Second Place; Health, Science & Environment Writing, Arlington Man Who Donated Kidney Will Climb 7 Summits; Glad I Flunked May Home Safety Check; Fishy Story: Thousands of Fish Die In Four Mile Run, Cause Unknown; Judge Comment: "Uses a very readable storytelling format." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_\(N3\)/Second_Place_Arlington_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_(N3)/Second_Place_Arlington_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf)

Shirley Ruhe, Third Place, Combination Picture & Story, Once Part of Segregated Arlington, Now, Jennie Dean Park is

SEE CONNECTION, PAGE 12

CONNECTION

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Susan Laume won first place for General News Writing for extensive coverage of how local people here and overseas are helping in Ukraine. The judge said: "Awesome way to tie compelling local coverage with an international news story"

Near Normal Life; Judge Comment: "Gives good details on topics familiar to readers." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_(N3)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_(N3)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf

FAIRFAX CITY'S FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



This patriotic float honors Fairfax City Schools service members.



VFW Post 8469 members marching.



Cub Scout Pack 882 members riding bikes and scooters.



American Heritage Girls of St. Leo's Catholic School.



Virginia Little League District 10 champs.



Moms hoping for a brighter future in America.



American Legion Post 177, with Cmdr. Jeff White at far left.
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Cub Scout Pack 41 includes girls, too.



Some of the huge crowd watching the parade from Old Town Hall.



The Fairfax Jubilaires singing barbershop harmony.

Woodson High Grad Stars in New Musical

Noah Tajudeen is in Westfield Summer Stage's 'Footloose'.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Shocking changes are in store for a big-city teen who moves to a small, rural town in the 1980s and discovers rock music and dancing have been banned there. So of course, he's going to do all he can to rectify things – and in the process, he just might win the heart of the girl whose father initiated the ban.

That's the premise of Westfield Summer Stage's upcoming rollicking musical, "Footloose." It'll be presented Friday-Saturday, July 14-15 and 21-22, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 16, at 2 p.m., at Westfield High, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Tickets are \$17 at the door (cash or check only) or \$15 in advance via <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/21130/>.

With a cast of 53 and crew of 18, it features students from a multitude of local schools, including Noah Tajudeen, who graduated last month from Woodson High. Directing Westfield Summer Stage for his third time is Greg Stowers, theater teacher at Katherine Johnson Middle School in Fairfax City.

"What's special about this year's show is that it's comprised of veteran summer-stage actors and those who grew up watching it," he said. "And I've yet to see a group of students of this number so adept at singing, dancing and acting."

Stowers, his stage manager and technical director, husband-and-wife Sierra and Jack Lockrem, respectively, are all Fairfax County theater teachers, and some of the actors are their students as well. The Lockrems are also active in City of Fairfax Theatre Co.

"I chose 'Footloose' because people are familiar with the show, and the story's incredibly relevant – because, even today, we're dealing with things like censorship, free expression and whether people should be allowed to be themselves," explained Stowers. "It also shows a town dealing with a tragedy and eventually overcoming it by listening to an outsider's perspective. And it's a huge dance show that shows off the kids' talent."

Scenes take place in various locations around the town, including the church, high school, a diner



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, Noah Tajudeen, Lorali O'Byrne, John Poncy and Noah Kennedy (Ren's best friend, Willard).

and a honky-tonk bar. And, said Stowers, "Our incredible team of parents took my original costume ideas and created over 160 amaz-

song is 'Heaven Help Me,' which I sing. In it, the reverend tells the audience, for the first time, why he's the way he is. He explains he's

around the county and channeled it into one impassioned, fun, summer show. And the audience will also enjoy the energetic and vibrant choreography."

Oakton High's John Poncy plays Ren McCormack. Popular at his high school in Chicago, Ren struggles to adapt and fit in with his new surroundings after moving to Bomont, Texas. "But he's impulsive," said Poncy. "And he knows what he believes in and isn't afraid to speak up for himself and others."

"Footloose" will appeal to people, said Poncy, because it's lighthearted. "It handles some serious topics, but audiences can expect to feel good, have a great time and a

good laugh," he said. "They'll also be impressed with our technical elements, including a stunning set and beautiful costumes."

Portraying Ren's love interest, Ariel Moore, is Lorali O'Byrne, of Vienna's Oakcrest School. Ariel's father, a pastor, encouraged the dancing ban. "Ariel's still grieving her brother and deals with his death by being rebellious and acting out," said O'Byrne.

She said attendees will especially love the singing and dancing in "Footloose's" big, group numbers. "It's a beautiful story – serious but also fun," said O'Byrne. "People will leave feeling excited and will want to get out of their seats and dance because it's such a lively, entertaining show."

"Even today, we're dealing with things like censorship, free expression and whether people should be allowed to be themselves."

— Greg Stowers, Westfield Summer Stage director

ing, intricate outfits."

Tajudeen, who's headed to Duke University in the fall, portrays Rev. Shaw Moore. "He's jaded, deeply hurt and guarded, and he's really protective of his daughter, Ariel, because of his son's death in a car accident," said Tajudeen. "And as a reverend, he wants to protect the town from danger and spiritual intruders such as dancing and frivolity. He has a lot of love; but after losing his son, he has a hard time showing it and has become like a wall."

Tajudeen likes playing him because "I can channel his serious nature into more classical singing in my songs. I get to play someone with a back story, and I have to try to justify his actions so they're earnest and sincere. My favorite

trying to save Ariel, while understanding where she's coming from – and he's asking the Lord for advice."

Calling the talent in "Footloose" remarkable, Tajudeen said, "We took the collective talent from

BULLETIN BOARD

SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF MCLEAN-ARLINGTON-FALLS CHURCH SEEKS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church (SCMAFC), an all-volunteer organization, is seeking additional volunteers to support its mission of providing free transportation to seniors for medical and dental appoint-

ments or run errands to grocery stores and pharmacies.

The Center is an all-volunteer non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] that has been operating since 2006.

The total number of rides provided in 2022 is expected to exceed 2,500, but to fully respond to recent

increases in the number of requests, there is a need for more volunteers to join the current team of 60 volunteer drivers.

For volunteers there is no minimum commitment. Volunteers are free to choose how often and when they drive.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

ENTERTAINMENT

JULY AND AUGUST

Pups in the Pavilion. Wednesdays from 5-7:30 p.m. At Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Reston Town Center Kicks Off "Pups in the Pavilion" this Summer; Pavilion transforms into a leash-free play area during the dog days of summer. Enjoy treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Visit <https://www.restontowncenter.com/>



Pups in the Pavilion takes place in July and August at Reston Town Center on Wednesdays.

FRIDAY/JULY 7

1st Friday Art Walk. 6-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to stop by to see the latest artwork by 12 artists at The Arts of Great Falls Atelier and Loft studios (756 & 766 Walker Road, Great Falls). This event is free and open to the public.

JULY 10-31

Summer Arts Exhibit. 9-5 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Pathway Homes' 11th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit showcases the art, poetry and crafts of Pathway clients who have mental health challenges. Art will be available for sale by Pathway clients. Visit the website: www.pathwayhomes.org

JULY 13-23

Logan Festival of Solo Performance. At 1st Stage in Tysons. This innovative festival will gather celebrated solo performers from across the country for two-weeks of performances, workshops, discussions, and events.

Schedule:
Not My First Pandemic: Thursday, July 13 at 7:30pm, Friday, July 14 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 15 at 2:00pm, Sunday, July 16 at 6:00pm, Saturday, July 22 at 2:00pm, and Sunday, July 23 at 2:00pm
Mr. Yunioshi: Saturday, July 15 at 7:30pm, Sunday, July 16 at 2:00pm, Thursday, July 20 at 7:30pm, Friday, July 21 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 22 at 7:30pm, Sunday, July 23 at 6:00pm
Email the box office at boxoffice@1st-stage.org for reservations.
General admission tickets are \$20 per show and \$10 per show for Students with valid ID. Individual tickets and Festival Passes can be purchased online at www.1stStage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

SATURDAY/JULY 15

Artist Talk Workhouse. 2-4 p.m. At 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join the Workhouse for an Artist Talk featuring Alonzo Davis and Chee Keong Kung discussing the artistic process as a form of exploration and discovery as well as the importance of travel to the development of their work. Admission is free; donations are welcome. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/open-latitudes>

RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER 2023 SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

Saturdays, June 17 – August 5
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
At Reston Town Square Park, Reston
Bring the kids for magic, comedy, puppets, music and lots of laughs. Shows include Rocknoceros, Lohr Family Antics, The Uncle Devin

Show and Turley the Magician. See the full schedule here: Family Fun Entertainment Series. Family Fun Entertainment is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc. Reston Town Center garages offer free parking on Saturdays.

Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory
Sundays, thru August 27
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Reston Town Square Park
Wind down your weekend with classical, jazz and cabaret-style music provided by faculty and students from Shenandoah University's acclaimed music conservatory. This series will run through August 27. Visit Sunday Art in the Park for the complete schedule. Reston Town Center garage parking is free on Sundays. Sunday Art in the Park is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

SATURDAY/JULY 8

The City of Alexandria celebrates its 274th birthday on Saturday, July 8, starting at 6 p.m., with a performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and a grand finale fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Enjoy the big birthday experience including cupcakes, local vendors and live music. Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St.
6 p.m. - Opening Music; 7:30 p.m. - Welcome by NPR's Suraya Mohamed. Announcement by Town Crier, Remarks by Mayor Justin Wilson, Poetry by Alexandria Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam; 8 p.m. - Distribution of birthday cupcakes by members of City Council; 8:30 p.m. - Performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra; 9:30 p.m. - Grand finale fireworks display with Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performing 1812
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Birthday>

JULY 15 & AUGUST 19

Summer Concert Series: Genres. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Join the Summer Concert Series featuring performance artists Keeton on July 15 for a Pop throwback and Delta Spur with Country & Classic Rock on August 19. Enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while dancing and singing along to your favorite tunes!

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT MCLEAN CENTRAL PARK
The Alden in McLean presents its

annual Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park at McLean Central Park. This free outdoor concert series runs now through Sunday, July 30. Performances start at 3 p.m., and the June concerts are designed to be family friendly. McLean Central Park is located at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.

Schedule

Sunday, July 9, 3 p.m. – Czarna Wolgastar: Intergalactic Balkan Surf Jazz Trio
Sunday, July 16, 3 p.m. – Six Pack Rodeo
Sunday, July 23, 3 p.m. – Justin Trawick
Sunday, July 30, 3 p.m. – Philip Bowen
For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit The Alden website: aldentheatre.org.

LAKE ANNE'S PLAZA

CONCERT SERIES

Lake Anne Live! brings Thursday evening concerts to the plaza from now through July 27. The free concerts will feature music and dance from local musicians and dance instructors. The plaza is located at 1609 Washington Plaza North. All concerts are free.

Schedule:

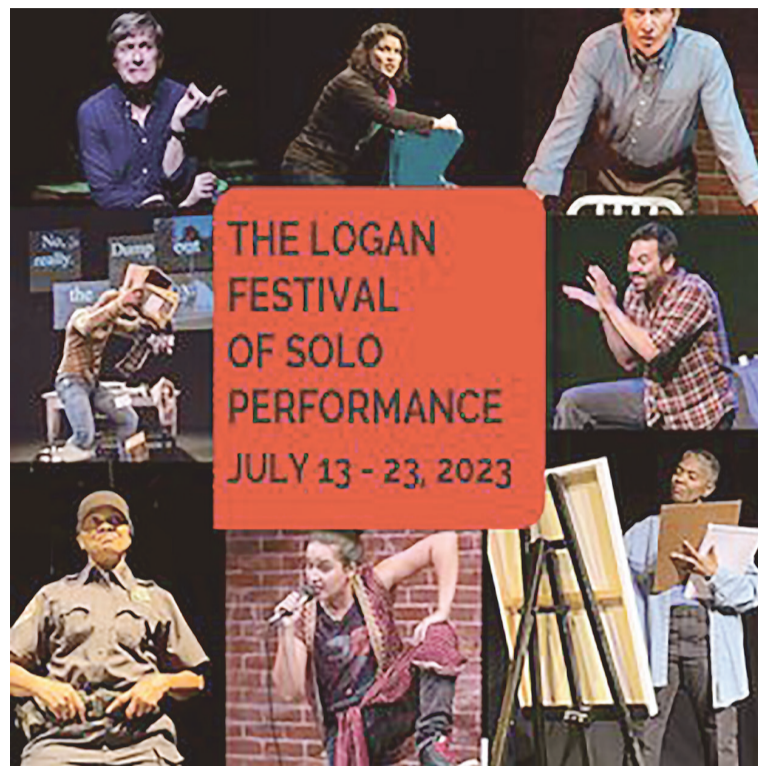
July 6 (6-9 p.m.): Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton
July 13 (7-9 p.m.): To be announced on Lake Anne Plaza's social media pages
July 20 (7-9 p.m.): Concert with the Reston Community Orchestra
July 27 (6-9 p.m.): Salsa and Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton

FREE CONCERT SERIES AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Every Wednesday night from June 28th through August 23rd at 7p.m., Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield District) along with the Fairfax County Park Authority will be hosting the fifth annual Free Concerts in the Park series at Burke Lake Park. The series has expanded to nine shows with pop, rock and R&B music. Peterson's Ice Cream, 2 Silos beer and food trucks will be on site at all concerts. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and/or a lawn chair.

JULY

5 The Nighthawks
12 SoHo Down
19 Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille
26 The Skip Castro Band
AUGUST
2 The English Channel
9 The Road Ducks
16 The Colin Thompson Band
23 Riptide



The Logan Festival of Solo Performance takes place July 13-23, 2023 at 1st Stage in Tysons Corner.

SATURDAY CONCERTS AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton • 7:30 p.m.

JULY
July 8 The Radio Sparks (Modern Rock) This will be a ticketed event if the July 1st Fireworks Festival is postponed to July 8th.
July 15 Project Locrea (World Music)
July 22 Bachelor Boys Band (High Energy Cover Music)
July 29 Bobby Blackhat Band (Traditional/Contemporary Blues)
AUGUST
5 Workhouse Musical Event (Ticketed event. For details visit www.workhousearts.org)
12 Quin Tango (Classical Argentinian Tango Music)
19 Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone (Rock, Blues)
26 The United States Army Field Band Six-String Soldiers (Country)

CONCERTS AT FRYING PAN FARM Thursday Evenings 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. At Park Lawn Near Farmyard

JULY
6 Speidel, Goggin & Lille (Rock)
13 Natyabhoomi School of Dance (Indian Dance and Music)
20 Stacy Brooks Band (Blues)
27 Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen (Bluegrass)
AUGUST
3 Patsy Cline Tribute Band (Country)
10 City of Fairfax Band Alte Kamera-den German Band (Music of Germany)
17 The United States Army Blues Band Swamp Romp (Jazz)

ARTS IN THE PARKS Experience free, fun, family-oriented alternatives to cartoons and video games with performances in parks this summer.

Part of the Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series, Arts in the Parks entertains children, teaches the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduces them to live entertainment in an informal, kid-friendly atmosphere, and forges a connection between kids and parks.

Don't miss memorable shows starring

The Great Zucchini, Marsha and the Positrons, Mr. Lilo Gonzalez, 123 Andres, Groovy Nate, Uncle Devin and Geoff Marsh! Free performances featuring comedy, children's songs, magic, puppets and juggling are hosted at the following locations:
Burke Lake Park Amphitheater (7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station), Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Frying Pan Park Visitor Center Pavilion (2739 West Ox Road, Herndon), Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater (5040 Walney Road, Chantilly), Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Mason District Park Amphitheater (6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale), Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Trinity Centre (5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville), Saturdays in August at 7 p.m. (followed by outdoor movies)
Wakefield Park, in front of the Rec Center, (8100 Braddock Road, Annandale), Saturdays at 10 a.m.
For a complete calendar of summer performances for Arts in the Parks, visit the Summer Entertainment Series Arts in the Parks webpage.

JULY 21-23

South Asian Music Festival. The DC South Asian Arts Council Inc, a non-profit arts organization, unveils the 1st ever DC South Asian Music Festival from July 21-23. From the soul-stirring classical vocal and instrumental masterpieces to the mesmerizing Sufi, Ghazal, and Evergreen Bollywood, it promises to be an unforgettable musical journey. Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, open the festival with their enchanting classical traditions on Friday, July 21. Saturday, July 22 starts with a Singing Competition, a showcase of exceptional local South Asian talent, taking the stage. On Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23, the exceptional performances continue.
Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20906
For full schedule, passes and tickets, visit <https://www.dcsaaci.org>

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16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Announcements

Ms. Sarah Naomi Johnson
(Lake Braddock, 2013) and
Mr. Spencer te Wildt

Were married on July 1st, 2023 in Mt. Vernon, WA; attended by the bride's parents (Ms. Delia Johnson of Burke, VA and Mr. Woodrow Johnson of Arlington, VA) and the groom's parents (Ms. Robin and Mr. Claus te Wildt of Dover, MA).

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NEWS

How Not To Buy a Car

FROM PAGE 2

- ❖ Insist on meeting in a public area like a safe exchange zone or, at minimum, use a well-lit public parking lot with video surveillance.
- ❖ Do not carry large amounts of cash when making a transaction.
- ❖ Several FCPD district stations have safe exchange zones for online purchases.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 5. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

For detailed information or to apply, visit the Center's website <https://scmaf.org/volunteer> or call (703) 506-2199 and leave a message.

PROPOSED STREETScape PROJECT ADDS COLOR TO VIENNA

The Town of Vienna plans to improve the appearance of 81 landscape planters on both sides of Maple Avenue and 46 planters on both sides of Church Street. The conceptual design was presented to the Vienna Town Council during a conference session at Vienna Town Hall on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Soon, the community will get a chance to weigh in on the proposed plan. Residents, business owners and other community members are encouraged to attend an informational session on Thursday, June 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Representatives from the Town's contractor, LSG Landscape Architecture will be on hand to discuss the new landscape design proposed for the Town-owned planters on Maple Avenue and Church Street. The firm's designers will answer questions, gather feedback and identify solutions to address any concerns before starting the work. The new plants are expected to be in place by the end of November. If all goes as planned, the commercial corridor's planters will begin to burst with color next spring.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes and hearts to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Email fcsvanow@gmail.com. Website: www.FCSVA.org. Call 703-817-9890.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Watts

FROM PAGE 4

from that kind of background and you are here, you survived. Why? A big reason I survived was Mrs. Persich, my teacher for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Yes, all 3 years and she taught every subject, even though all she really knew was how to diagram sentences. I survived because even though Mrs Persich didn't know math, she came to know me.

"We have the opportunity to reach kids like those in Maple Grove – kids floundering in circumstances beyond their control, circumstances they were born into. The most crucial opportunity we have before us is negotiating the Budget.

"Our Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) provided a strong assessment of how to begin to fix failing schools: Hire instructional assistants to '(i) help teachers provide small group and individualized instruction necessitated by widening academic needs within classrooms, (ii) help teachers manage challenging student behaviors within classrooms, and (iii) reduce teacher workloads.' In other words, give teachers time to know their students, like Mrs. Persich got to know me. Give our teachers time to use their professional training to awaken the potential for learning that is there but that must be recognized, if there's any hope that it can be touched.

"The House budget only helps schools if they've fallen below five or more accreditation benchmarks – finally throwing a line after they've gone underwater for the fifth time. I hope we will be able to vote for a budget that helps floundering schools long before they miss a fifth benchmark ... before another Gary ends up dead looking for something in a drug high because school didn't open any doors for him.

"I hope we will be able to vote for a bud-

get that recognizes the reality of students like Pat by increasing the At-Risk add-on to funnel extra help based on the number of students needing free and reduced lunch.

"I hope we can vote for a budget that takes another recommendation seriously in JLARC's report, 'Pandemic Impact on K-12 Public Education,' to expand the proven success of the Tiered Support System – a program that provides technical assistance and coaching to reduce disruptive classroom behavior through positive behavior interventions. Not flunk Max, not throw Max out of the classroom, not push Max into the school to prison pipeline.

"In the face of the tragic growth in student mental health problems, Tiered Support was also recommended by the Behavioral Health Commission. It has the capability to reach far more students with positive intervention – but not with token funding. JLARC underscored pleas from teachers throughout Virginia: 'The Covid aftermath on student behavior is real. We need help.'

"Finally, Tiered Support from outside has to be backed up with ongoing support inside school walls. I hope we will be able to vote for a final budget that provides the funding – totally absent in the House budget – to provide a counselor support position for every 1000 students using social workers, psychologists, nurses, or other health and behavioral licensed workers.

"I had the blessing of stability growing up – many, many of today's students do not. If their needs aren't timely identified, problems will get out of control. I hope we will be able to vote for a final budget focused on quality public education for today's Max and Pat and Gary and for the potential of me and of you that is in them. I hope we will be able to show teachers like Mrs Persich who cared about us that we care about them."

spouse to begin the application process while they are still under contract, rather than having to wait until after settlement.

Virginians can now receive a \$300 tax credit when they purchase a lockable fire-arm storage device, incentivizing safe storage and responsible gun ownership.

❖ Lastly, the General Assembly also designates various emblems that are unique or symbolic of Virginia heritage and culture, like the state folk dance (square dancing) or the state spirit, George Washington's rye whiskey produced locally at Mount Vernon. This year, we recognized the Chincoteague Pony as the new official state pony! If you have an opportunity this summer, go visit them on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

subscription rate and a very high open rate. Anyone can sign up to get the newsletter at www.viennava.gov/happenings. The Town of Vienna also took first place in the video documentary category for the "What's Your Story" segment called "The Gravy Lady," featuring Vienna resident Shirley Martin. The video, produced by Sean Metzger, documents the beloved, 97-year-old resident's memories of growing up in Vienna and her continued service to the Vienna community through the American Legion's Post 180 Ladies Auxiliary. The video can be seen online on the Town's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/GravyLady>.

Krizek

FROM PAGE 4

❖ A new law mandates the Virginia Supreme Court to create plain English instructions that explain to defendants how to interpret the Summons for Unlawful Detainer.

Taxes:

❖ The General Assembly simplified the process for disabled veterans or surviving spouses applying for a tax exemption on real property. Before, an applicant had to apply with the locality once they had already purchased a property. Now, a veteran or spouse can apply for the tax exemption prior to purchasing a qualifying dwelling by filing the required documentation along with documentation of the purchase agreement. Essentially, this bill allows a disabled veteran or surviving

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Communicators (NAGC). The awards were announced April 19 at the organization's annual conference in Portland, Oregon. The Town was recognized for excellence in the digital e-newsletter category taking first place for the "Vienna Happenings" weekly e-newsletter. The publication, written by communications specialist Caleb Lester, highlights upcoming events and activities in the Town of Vienna, and Caleb's efforts to update the publication's look and feel were recognized as key factors in a growing

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Centre View

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped 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 in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, 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 omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. 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.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>
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Grateful for "The Dead," But ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Because of circumstances with which I am totally in control – unlike the old black and white television set from the mid-60s when I watched "The Outer Limits," I am writing this column weeks in advance of its publication. And I must confess, as an active cancer patient still undergoing treatment – for an incurable stage of papillary thyroid cancer, I hesitate to make too many commitments for the future, given that my present is not altogether predictable. But a week's vacation in mid-July with my step father-in-law and his wife compels me to write in advance so that I can maintain my presence in the newspaper for the week I'm away and for the week when I return.

The presumptive content now being explained, let me try to balance the known with what I know now that might resonate/be mildly amusing weeks ahead of its public consumption. That's not an insurmountable task as it's hardly brain surgery; nevertheless, since I take my avocation seriously, I will proceed to write something that will stand the test of time and not embarrass me when it finally sees the light of day – in early July (it is now barely mid-June). So, what do I feel now that I will still feel in a month?

I will still be missing my brother, Richard, as I'm sure you regular readers know, but I believe I've subjected you all to my emotional challenges surrounding his death often enough lately so I will refrain from going down that road feeling bad (invoking "The Grateful Dead."). Speaking of "The Dead," I recently saw them live on June 3rd from Jiffy Lube Live (though not actually in person but online with Nugs.com). Nugs is a streaming service where one can buy access to various types of entertainment; at a not-unreasonable price, given the soaring price of attending rock concerts these days. Between the drive, the parking, the cost of the ticket of course – plus all those service fees, the less-than-ideal location of my seat – given how amazingly quick the good seats at fair price are sold, and the traffic exiting the venue, not to mention the hour-long drive home, I thought I would try something I only recently discovered even existed.

Therefore, from the comfort of my home, while avoiding all the inconveniences I've mentioned, I watched "The Dead" in concert while streaming their performance. (As Curly from "The Three Stooges" would say: "What an experience".) Though watching on the computer hardly compared to being present and accounted for, I was able to see more clearly all the performers, and of course, "refresh" myself as often as I liked, and more importantly, visit the bathroom at as many intervals as necessary without any adieu. But I couldn't control the songs (set list performed by the band, 75% of which was great (especially "Cumberland Blues," an all-time favorite of mine). Unfortunately, 25% of their material was boring and disappointing to me, sorry.

This is "The Dead's" final tour after 50-plus years. We're lucky to have any opportunity to see them (Mickey Hart, the drummer is almost 80) and listen to their music live. And it's certainly their prerogative to present their material however they want; they're more than entitled after all these decades. But during the second set (the first set lived up to expectations), I didn't enjoy the 15-minute-plus drum interlude, nor did I enjoy the guitar interlude that followed for another 10 or 15 minutes (presumably to allow band members to rest and recover after nearly two hours performing), and I especially didn't enjoy the Bob Weir cover of "Milestones," a Miles Davis song, another 10 or 15 minutes. I would much rather have heard the songs they're most famous for. A few examples: "Me and My Uncle," "Big River," "Cold, Rain and Snow," "The Music Never Stopped," "Samson and Delilah," "Mexicali Blues," and "China Cat Sunflower," among so many others. But they didn't. They played to their heart's delight, I'm sure. But not completely to mine. Of course, there are few guarantees in life, especially for a terminally ill cancer patient. I certainly understood and understand the miscellaneous things for which I have zero control, cancer being the most prominent. But I still haven't given up hope for a semi normal life. Seeing "The Dead," was but one example. Regardless of the outcome, the evening we shared together, so to speak, was a testament to that hope and will remain a super-positive memory, part of that second set notwithstanding. It was an evening I'll not soon forget, and it will forever bring a smile to my face for as long as I hear their music (Sirius channel #23). I consider myself a "deadhead," and am proud to recount when it all started. It was in the spring of 1973. I pray it continues for many more years yet to come. In fact, I can still hear John Mayer singing "Mississippi Half-Step Uptown Toodleo" as I complete this column.

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

Connection and Gazette Win Awards in 2022

FROM PAGE 5

expanded with larger playground, renovated picnic pavilion, softball and baseball, plus art that honors its history. [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Design_and_Presentation/M01_Combination_Picture_and_Story_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Arlington_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Design_and_Presentation/M01_Combination_Picture_and_Story_(N3)/Third_Place_Arlington_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Ashley Simpson, Third Place, Feature Writing Portfolio. On the Horns of the Dilemma; Best of Both Worlds for Dog Siblings Samson and Mishka; It's Not All About Running for Arlington's 100-Marathon Man. Judge Comment: "Ashley Simpson is a straightforward, to the point writer; she sets up a contrast for a well-argued viewpoint. Her material is relevant with good ideas." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W09_Feature_Writing_Portfolio_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Arlington_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W09_Feature_Writing_Portfolio_(N3)/Third_Place_Arlington_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Shirley Ruhe, Alternate, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Teach Your Kids About Hunger During March Nutrition Month; How to Help Hungry People as Costs Rise; Frozen Hands Cart Home Frozen Turkeys at AFAC Turkey Week, You can help with near record need for food. Judge Comment: "A great entry with a few technical errors. A very competitive category. Kudos to all of the publications with entries in this category for delving into their communities to find topics that are informative, entertaining and valuable to the local community." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W08_Feature_Series_or_Continuing_Story_\(N2,N3\)/Alternate_Winner_Arlington_Connection_4/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W08_Feature_Series_or_Continuing_Story_(N2,N3)/Alternate_Winner_Arlington_Connection_4/Attachment_01.pdf)

In the Alexandria Gazette Packet:

Jeanne Theismann & Janet Barnett, First Place for Combination Picture/Story. 'I Pledge Allegiance' Naturalization ceremony celebrates newest American citizens. See the entry at [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Design_and_Presentation/M01_Combination_Picture_and_Story_\(N4\)/First_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_1/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Design_and_Presentation/M01_Combination_Picture_and_Story_(N4)/First_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_1/Attachment_01.pdf)

Michael Lee Pope, First Place for Business & Financial Writing: Reconsidering Marijuana,

Tax Code Thunderstruck, Up in Smoke: Black market to remain underground for now as lawmakers reject licensing scheme. Judge Comment: "An interesting topic that will surely dominate headlines, especially in agricultural states. Perspectives regarding marijuana have changed dramatically over the years. I like your ledes, as well." See [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W03_Business_and_Financial_Writing_\(N4\)/First_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_1/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W03_Business_and_Financial_Writing_(N4)/First_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_1/Attachment_01.pdf)

Shirley Ruhe and Laurence Foong, Second Place, Informational Graphics, "Follow the Long Faith Journey of a Tomato" Judge Comment: "Photos add pop to a standard map." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Graphics_Illustrations_and_Art/G02_Informational_Graphics_\(N4\)/Second_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_2/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Graphics_Illustrations_and_Art/G02_Informational_Graphics_(N4)/Second_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_2/Attachment_01.pdf)

Jeanne Theismann, Feature Story Writing - Third Place, "Uncommon Valor Survivors mark Iwo Jima 77th anniversary" Judge Comment: "Nicely done. Love the history." See [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W10_Feature_Story_Writing_\(excluding_Obituaries\)__\(N4\)/Third_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W10_Feature_Story_Writing_(excluding_Obituaries)__(N4)/Third_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Mount Vernon Gazette

Glenda Booth, Third Place, Health, Science & Environment Writing. Down the Toilet; Down the Drain. Then What?; The Potomac River Is Healing but Problems Remain; Eagles Are Thriving but Face Challenges. Judge Comment: "Takes reader where they might have never been to deliver impactful information." See [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_\(N4\)/Third_Place_Mount_Vernon_Gazette_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_(N4)/Third_Place_Mount_Vernon_Gazette_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Winners of the 2022 VPA News Contest were announced at the association's 2023 conference and award banquet on May 6, 2023.

The Virginia Press Association has championed the common interests of Virginia newspapers and the ideals of a free press in a democratic society since 1881.



New, additional turn lane from Route 50 west to southbound Waples Mill Road.



The new bicyclist/pedestrian crossing on Route 50 with refuge island.

Route 50/Waples Mill Road Intersection Improved

VDOT improvements to enhance safety and traffic flow, as well as bicyclist/pedestrian accessibility and mobility, are now open at the intersection of Route 50 and Waples Mill Road in Fairfax City. And it was all completed nearly two months ahead of schedule.

Drivers have a new, additional, left-turn lane from westbound Route 50 to southbound Waples Mill, meaning that all four sides of the intersection now have two, left-turn lanes.

And bicyclists and pedestrians have a new crossing, plus a refuge island, along the western side of the intersection across Route 50, providing additional connections to the nearby I-66 Parallel Trail access coming to Waples Mill Road later this sum-

mer.

The improvements were needed because, at the intersection, Route 50 averages 48,000 vehicles/day and Waples Mill averages about 25,000. Construction on this project began in October 2022 and is now substantially done, with minor finishing touches in the coming weeks expected to have minimal impacts.

The \$2.9 million project was financed with local funding and part of the concession fee provided under the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project Comprehensive Agreement. VDOT reminds drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to use caution when traveling in active work zones, be alert to new traffic patterns and limit distractions.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VDOT