

THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

Around National Night Out

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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Children Are Hungry, Bridging the Gap

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Centreville Man Brings Salon to Middleburg

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Jethro Tull Comes to Wolf Trap

PAGE 12

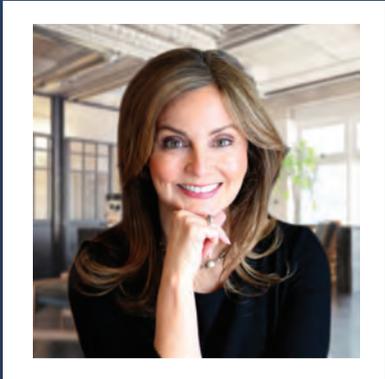
National Night Out at Sully II: Jisu Lim and son Elliot, 2, pose inside an ambulance from Fire Station 38.

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NEWS

Forty-four of the Nation's Highest Poverty Schools in FCPS

These schools serve free breakfast and lunch to all students.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

When Fairfax County Public Schools open on Aug. 21, there will be nearly a 30 percent increase in the number of schools participating in a U.S. Department of Agriculture program called the Community Eligibility Provision compared to last year. The program is a free meal option for schools and districts in low-income areas.

For the 2022-2023 school year, 34 of 198 Fairfax County Public Schools were in the program, being deemed part of the nation's highest-poverty schools. This year, 44 of the 198 Fairfax County Public Schools are in the program.

The upside to the harrowing statistic is that students enrolled at the public school division's 44 schools will be served a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost.

These 44 Fairfax County public schools will not collect household applications to qualify students for free or reduced-priced meals. There are no student meal cards that rack up a haunting amount of delinquent debt. No parents or

caregivers will be notified directly via the school division's text messages, phone calls, or U.S. mail that their students have an outstanding debt.

Such is the norm if there is delinquent debt; according to the Meal Charge Policy,

At these 44 schools, no student goes hungry because they don't want to burden their families with a debt that follows them from elementary to middle to high school if unpaid by their families or through donations by organizations. All students at these 44 schools can grab any breakfast as they hurry into the buildings and later enjoy the same lunches everyone else has.

It is food access equity — no stigma, no shame. But what about the other 154 public schools in Fairfax County?

Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines determine eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits at all other schools. Applications are available online and at each school location.

Concerns regarding federal meal program eligibility include that some families need help under-

standing the application process, others are humiliated to apply, and others have their applications denied. Fairfax County Public Schools does provide a review procedure. "Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Greg Rupert, Coordinator of Administration, will review applications and determine eligibility, states the Aug. 4 FCPS News Release.

Another concern is that the eligibility requirements for free and reduced-price meals are identical across the country. They do not account for the cost of living here. Households with four members and a maximum income of \$39,000 are eligible for free student meals. Four-person households earning between \$32,318.01 and \$45,991 are eligible for reduced-price meals, which are also no charge.

The breakfast meal price for grades K-12 students is \$1.75; qualifying students for reduced-price breakfast pay no charge. Lunch for elementary students is \$3.25 and \$3.50 for middle, secondary, and high school students; reduced-price lunch for

SEE FREE BREAKFAST, PAGE 5

Teacher Works to Erase Student Meal Debt

This is not the first rodeo for Fairfax County Public School teacher Gabe Segal as he attempts to stay on top of student meal debt. This time, it is for his high school students. On Thursday, Aug. 17, Segal is holding

a fundraiser at a local tavern and inviting guest bartenders at the legislative level: Delegates Irene Shin and Danica Roem (running for a State Senate seat) and Kyle McDaniel, candidate at-large for

SEE STUDENT MEAL, PAGE 14

Bandaid Approaches to Food Insecurity

School system extends summer food program at public school sites.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Part of an ongoing Series on hunger and housing instability in Fairfax County

On Aug. 4, it appeared hungry students who were depending on two meals a day from Fairfax County Public Schools, would be out of luck until school starts for the new school year Aug. 21.

Questioning the availability of free breakfast and lunch options for children and adolescents from

food-insecure households, the school system made an end-date adjustment to its summer meals program at "public school" sites for Camp Fairfax.

"After reviewing our staffing and current operations, we have been able to adjust our summer meals program and will extend our service through Aug. 18 while ensuring compliance with U.S. Department of Agriculture and Virginia Department of Education regulations. Food and Nutritional Services is committed to providing equitable opportunities for our students through open meal sites throughout the county," the school division responded in an email shortly after 9 p.m. on Aug. 4.

Nearly 60,000 children qualify for free and reduced meals in Fairfax County Public Schools.

"Prior to the pandemic, while Fairfax County has traditionally had a low food-insecurity 'rate' compared to other counties in the nation, it had the high-

SEE BANDAID, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON

Jimmy Cirrito, owner of Jimmy's Old Town Tavern greets Fairfax County Public School teacher Gabe Segal who is holding Cheers for Children at the tavern on Aug. 17 to raise funds to pay FCPS student meal debt.



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Herndon Middle School - Fairfax County Public Schools open on Monday, Aug. 21, with a significant percentage uptick, nearly 30 percent, in the number of schools deemed among the nation's highest-poverty schools.



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Children at Fairfax County Public Schools dig into a salad bar.

THE CONNECTION ♦ AUGUST 9-15, 2023 ♦ 3

COMMUNITY ROUNDUPS

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

McLean Design Guidelines

Fairfax County staff recently reviewed comments for the McLean District Design Guidelines submitted by organizations, individuals, and advisory groups. Many comments led to guideline amendments. A chart on the project webpage is available for review.

Staff believes the document demonstrates agreement on critical design choices that advance the Comprehensive Plan. The “Neighborhood Village” concept from the March 2022 meeting guided streetscapes, parks, and building design. The Advisory Group and staff developed the ideas into detailed design guidance.

The final document will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their September 12 meeting for their endorsement. Once endorsed, the guidelines will be used to inform development applications and capital projects within the McLean Community Business Center.

What’s in Your Well, Cistern, or Spring Water?

Private wells are uncommon in most of Fairfax County’s residential neighborhoods, although they exist in several areas, including Great Falls, Clifton, and others. Unlike the municipal water supply, homeowners are exclusively

responsible for their system’s care and maintenance, regular testing, and addressing problems.

Well water testing and an educational follow-up Zoom are available. Individuals across Fairfax County can learn about the water quality of their wells, springs, and cisterns through affordable, confidential testing. Being informed will help homeowners make decisions about system maintenance and water treatment.

The Fairfax County Well Water Testing Clinic 2023 is now accepting registration. Testing includes iron, sodium, coliform bacteria, manganese, copper, pH, E. coli bacteria, sulfate, nitrate, total dissolved solids, lead, hardness, mercury, and arsenic.

The clinic expects to sell out due to heightened demand. Early registration is available at <https://tinyurl.com/VCE-VAHWQP-FAIR-FAX>. The cost of each sample kit is \$65. Refunds are available through Friday, Sept. 1, less a \$5 processing charge. A limited number of need-

scholarships are available. For more information, contact the Fairfax County VCE Office at 703-324-5369.

Registration ends on Thursday, Sept. 14. Those who have registered may pick up their sample kits in the Pennino Building lobby, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, on Monday, Sept. 18, 4-7 p.m., and Tuesday, September 19, 7-10 a.m.

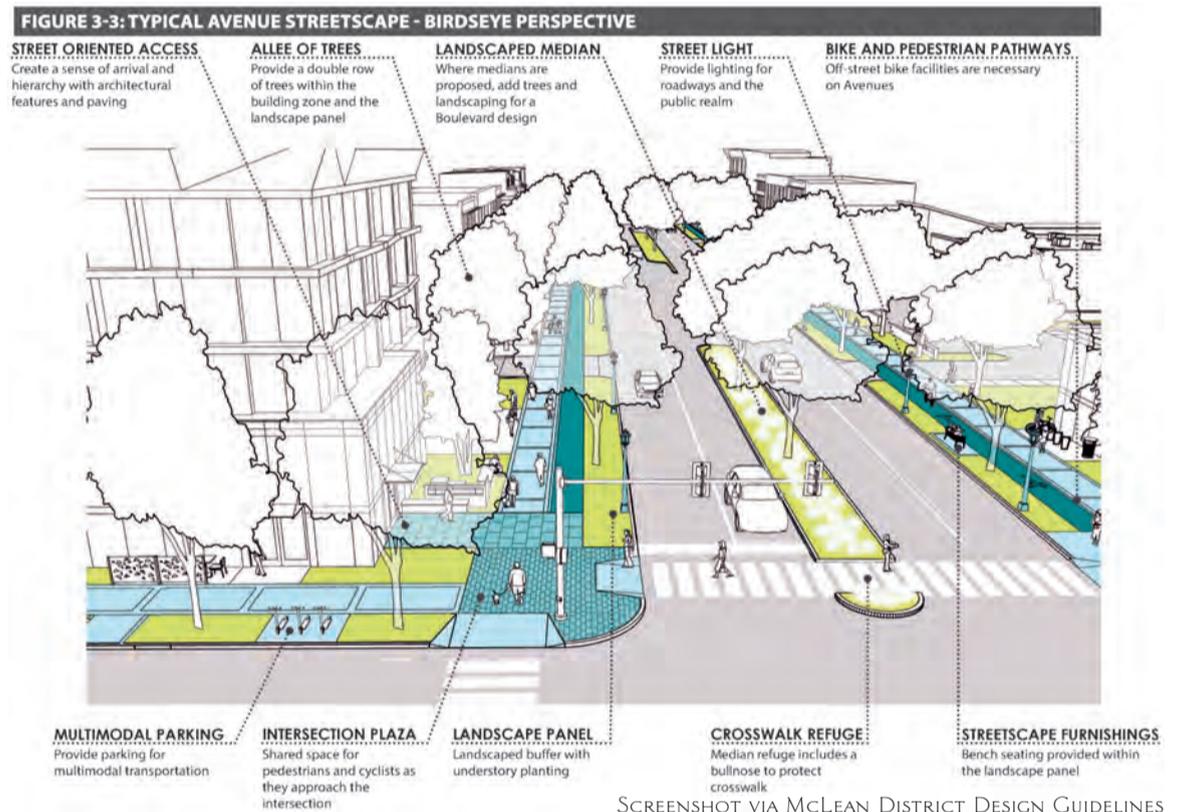
Collect and drop off samples in the Pennino Building lobby, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, only on Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 6 to 9:30 a.m.

The results will be emailed on Nov. 1. On Nov. 1 at 7 p.m., there will be a Zoom explainer.



SCREENSHOT VIA TWITTER.COM/TOWNOFVIENNAVA

The Town of Vienna tweeted, “Game over, and VA’s Big Red Machine (Vienna American) is headed home. The team fought a tough battle against TN in extreme GA heat today, falling short of reaching the semifinals, 7-2, in the Southeastern Region Little League Tournament. Congrats BRM, on a thrilling season.”



SCREENSHOT VIA MCLEAN DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES



SCREENSHOT VIA MCLEAN DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES

Bus shelter structure and pad designs.

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VOLUME II

DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES

McLEAN

SEPTEMBER 2023

SCREENSHOT VIA MCLEAN DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES

Cover of Volume II District Design Guidelines, McLean September 2023.

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Bandaid Approaches To Food Insecurity

FROM PAGE 3

est 'number' of food insecure in Virginia. Now nearly 75,000 residents are food insecure, and just under 60,000 children qualify for free and reduced meals in Fairfax County Public Schools. Since the pandemic, it is estimated that the number of residents who are food insecure has doubled," says the Fairfax Food Council.

FCPS extension of the summer meals program does not ensure a significant number of Fairfax County food-insecure students have a viable opportunity to readily access two healthy meals and an afternoon snack during the last two weeks before school starts. Access to the free food at Camp Fairfax's Summer Food Service Program is only for children enrolled in a fee-based activity program, open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services Camp Fairfax program is participating in the Summer Food Service Program as a closed enrollment site. That means at least half the children and teens enrolled in the activity programs are determined to be income-eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

A sliding fee schedule is available to parents and guardians seeking to register their children for the two remaining Camp Fairfax weeks at public school sites as well as at community centers. The school division is in charge of the program locally, state-run, and with federal funding. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reimburses program operators who serve children and teens with no-cost, healthy meals and snacks. Meals are served at summer sites in low-income communities, where sponsors often offer enrichment activities.

County-wide Food Assistance, the Fairfax Food Council

A patchwork quilt of food resources and programs in Fairfax County is available to support those experiencing food insecurity. They include but are not limited to Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) Neighborhood & Community Services, Capital Area Food Bank Hunger Lifeline, School Food & Nutrition Program, Virginia Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, and the Free Summer Meals for Kids Program.

Food Assistance sites exist throughout the county: Lorton, Alexandria, Centreville, Falls Church, Burke, Herndon, Springfield, Fairfax, Lorton, and Chantilly.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will launch a new Summer Food program in the summer of 2024, the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program will officially launch as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's collaborative efforts to boost its summer nutrition program. The program will provide grocery benefits to low-income families with school-aged children. Families can use pre-loaded EBT cards to purchase groceries during the summer months. Families will receive \$40 per month per eligible child. These benefits operate in conjunction with other FNS nutrition assistance programs, such as summer meal sites, SNAP, and WIC.

Free Breakfast and Lunch

FROM PAGE 3

qualifying students is free.

Foster children, who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, are eligible for free meals regardless of the household income with whom they reside. Children in the district who are members of households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or who are homeless, migrants, or runaways may also be automatically eligible for free meals. WIC participants may qualify for free or reduced-price meals depending on the household's income.

Free meals for all students and no application- Schools with Community Eligibility Provision

- Annandale High
- Annandale Terrace Elementary
- Bailey's Elementary
- Bailey's Upper Elementary
- Beech Tree Elementary
- Braddock Elementary
- Bren Mar Park Elementary
- Brookfield Elementary
- Bucknell Elementary
- Cameron Elementary
- Centre Ridge Elementary

- Crestwood Elementary
- Dogwood Elementary
- Forest Edge Elementary
- Forestdale Elementary
- Garfield Elementary
- Glasgow Middle
- Glen Forest Elementary
- Graham Road Elementary
- Groveton Elementary
- Herndon Elementary
- Herndon Middle
- Hollin Meadows Elementary
- Holmes Middle
- Hutchison Elementary
- Hybla Valley Elementary
- Justice High
- Key Middle
- Lewis High
- London Towne Elementary
- Lorton Station Elementary
- Lynbrook Elementary
- Mount Eagle Elementary
- Mount Vernon Woods Elementary
- Parklawn Elementary
- Pine Spring Elementary
- Poe Middle
- Riverside Elementary
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary
- Washington Mill Elementary
- Westlawn Elementary
- Weyanoke Elementary
- Woodlawn Elementary
- Woodley Hills Elementary

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‘Putting a Face to Those who Protect Our Community’

Centreville communities celebrate National Night Out.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

National Night Out is a time for neighborhoods all across the country to gather outdoors for a fun and casual celebration with their local first responders. In Centreville, residents marked this 40th annual event with cookouts, ice cream, music and moonbounces and invited firefighters and law-enforcement personnel to join them. Here’s what happened last Tuesday, Aug. 1, at four of these events:

The Elms

An apartment community across from the Old Centreville Crossing shopping center, The Elms held its well-attended celebration in its parking lot, complete with snacks and colorful balloons. Among the visitors was Capt. Shawn Adcock, who oversees the Fairfax County Police Department’s Special Operations Division.

“I’ve been a police officer 18 years – 14, with FCPD – and every year, I look forward to engaging with the community and some of our younger officers out here,” he said. “National Night Out is a good reminder of why we serve and the tremendous support we have from our community – and it’s just fun.”

1st Lt. Lucas Salzman, with the Sheriff’s Office, called it “a great opportunity to do something different and have an interaction with the public in a friendly, relaxing environment. It’s also fun meeting the kids; they really enjoy it and that makes it worthwhile.”

One of those children was John Brennan, 4, who was there with his mom. “We wanted to meet the heroes that keep us safe,” said Kelly Brennan. “John is happy to know them, and they’re a great influence. He had cotton candy for the first time and is going into the bouncy house next. He also got lots of stickers and made some fun memories.”

Arlene Aguilar’s son Santi, 3, enjoyed the cotton candy, too. Having a good time, she said, “It’s a family-friendly event; and afterward, we’ll go to the pool and the park.”



The Elms: Residents and law-enforcement officers celebrate together during National Night Out.



The Elms: Kelly Brennan, son John and 1st Lt. Lucas Salzman with the Sheriff’s Office.



The Elms: From left, Emily Romero, Jody Pujol and Rosario Pérez-Palma gave out snacks to the attendees.

Representing Legend, the apartment complex’s management company, Emily Romero, Jody Pujol and Rosario Pérez-Palma served up hot dogs, chips, sodas and cotton candy. “Through this event, we can bring the community together and connect with the local law-enforcement officers,” said Pujol. “So if someone sees something suspicious, they’d be comfortable contacting them.”

Agreeing, resident Brittany Burnett said, “It’s really nice getting to know your neighbors and the police and sheriffs who protect our town. I also got to tell them about the parking problem in our neighborhood.

“People park large tractor trailers along Braddock Road in front of the shopping center all the time. So if you’re coming out of the shopping center and trying to turn right or left, you can’t see because of all the vehicles in the way. And it’s

really dangerous at night because you can’t see the oncoming cars.”

Village at Mount Gilead

In Centreville’s Historic District, residents of Village at Mount Gilead gathered at their gazebo for pizza, home-baked cookies, chips, grapes, soda and ice cream. Husband-and-wife David Du and Ek Seo have lived in the community for a year and really enjoy being there.

“I like the quietness and greenery and the paths that make it easy to walk my dog,” said Du. “And there’s lots of common space.” As for National Night Out, he said, “It helps us put a face to the officers who protect our community. And with us being new here, it also gives us a chance to meet our neighbors.”

Seo described their neighbors

as “friendly and nice,” adding that they “keep watch over each other’s homes. And it’s a good place to raise children.”

Sylvia Bailey and her husband Otis have lived there since 2007, and Sylvia organized their event. “I’m the homeowners’ association president, and I think it’s important for the police officers and community members to get together,” she explained. “That way, if there’s anything suspicious going on in the neighborhood, it’s nice to be connected to some officers you know. National Night Out is also a great opportunity for the neighbors to come out and get to know each other.”

Sully Station II

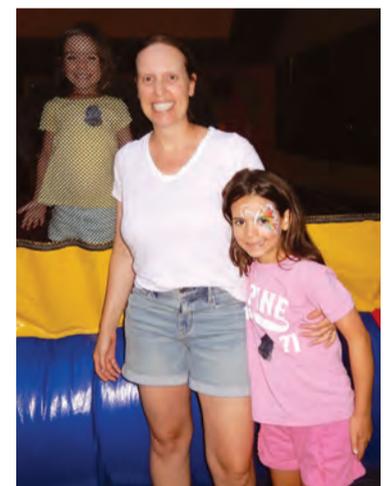
The parking lot of Sully Station II’s community center on Sully Park Drive was teeming with residents, firefighters and police of-



The Elms: Julius “Santi” Aguilar, 3, with some cotton candy.



Sully II: Dishing up ice cream are Westfield High grad Jack Stone and Arlene Cole.



Little Rocky Run: From left are Clara Bunch, 4-1/2, inside the moonbounce, with mom Missy and sister Annabelle, 7.

icers. They mingled leisurely, listened to music from a deejay and enjoyed each other’s company on a warm, summer evening.

On the menu were hot dogs, pizza, chips, veggies, fruit, soda and an ice-cream station with three flavors and half a dozen toppings. And Carol DiSano, on the community’s activities committee, helped organize it all.

“We had a wonderful turnout

SEE CENTREVILLE, PAGE 7

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Centreville Communities Celebrate National Night Out



Village at Mount Gilead: Some of the residents who gathered at their community's gazebo.



Village at Mount Gilead: From left, Stephanie Kim, Sylvia Bailey, husband-and-wife David Du and Ek Seo, and Ek's sister, Ey Seo, enjoying pizza and soda.



Sully II: Jisu Lim and son Elliot, 2, pose inside an ambulance from Fire Station 38.

FROM PAGE 6

– at least a couple hundred people came,” she said. “It’s a great, family-friendly event where we show our appreciation for our local police officers and firefighters.”

Among them was MPO Scott Richards from the Sully District Police Station. “I’ve attended many of these, over the years,” he said. “National Night Out means a lot because the community is inviting us to join them. We do community outreaches with homeowners’ associations, and this event lets us get the crime-prevention message out to the residents and reaffirm our partnerships with the neighborhoods. And interacting with the kids brings joy to them and to us.”

Jisu Lim and Kay Vang took their son Elliot, 2, for a tour of an ambulance from West Centreville Fire Station 38. “He likes firetrucks and police cars, so we wanted to bring him here, and he had fun,” said Vang. “Besides that, we actually got to go out and see who lives in the same community as us and meet the officers and firefighters who serve our neighborhood.”

Also pleased to be there was Firefighter Tegarassen Rungen, from Clifton’s Station 16, but working that day with Station 38. “It’s always good to make connection with the community and see what we can do for them,” said Rungen. “Sometimes, we can answer their questions, and parents enjoy taking photos of their kids in the ambulance and fire engine.”

René Torres brought his immediate and extended family to the celebration. “It’s my first time at a National Night Out,” he said. “It’s a great time to come out of the house and share the evening with friends, family and neighbors. It’s pretty amazing – and I’m going to take the kids to see the firetruck, in a little bit.”

Chatting with the Station 38 firefighters by their truck was Fire Department Battalion Chief Randy Bittinger. “We love coming to these things,” he said. “Anytime we get to go to a neighborhood when it’s not for an emergency, it’s great. Being a part of the community brings the fellowship.”

“This evening, we gave out fire helmets, did tours of the equipment and answered lots of questions from both parents and children.” Then, with a nod to the Sully police officers there, too, Bittinger added, “We love doing any kind of community work with our brothers and sisters in blue.”

Meanwhile, dad Tim Reichel watched his three, young sons gobble up bowls of ice cream with gusto. “It’s our first time here,” he said. “They also looked inside a police car and a fire truck. It’s important to have good relations between the police and the community. The police get to hear what’s going on in people’s lives, and we get to see them in a positive light.”



Little Rocky Run: From left are the Sully District Police Station’s PFC Meg Hawkins and MPO Scott Richards with Little Rocky Run’s Marjorie Ham with some neighborhood children.

Little Rocky Run

The community center on Sandstone Way was the site of Little Rocky Run’s event. Attendees enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips and beverages. More than 125 people came, including Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis. But for the children, the best parts were getting their faces painted and jumping inside the moonbounce.

“The kids are the life and future of this community,” said Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Marjorie Ham. “So it’s a pleasure for me to serve Little Rocky Run, especially when I see the families getting together for events like this. Adults get to meet the first responders, and kids get to interact with the police officers so they’re not afraid of them.”

Missy Bunch was there with her husband and children. Sporting a colorful, butterfly facepainting, daughter Annabelle, 7, said, “I liked the Freezie pops, bouncy house and facepainting. And we got hamburgers and chocolate, too.”

“We’ve lived here eight years and came out to enjoy our community and meet some new neighbors,” said Bunch. “It’s family-friendly here, with lots of great amenities, like the pools and playgrounds. And this event is a nice way for the community to connect with law enforcement and for the residents to share some food and stories.”

Three-year resident Dallas Guillen said she likes her neighbors because “they’re friendly and we always help each other out. We enjoyed tonight’s cookout; National Night Out brings people together, and I was happy seeing my family having fun. The police gave my kids sticker badges and coloring books, and they liked that. But our favorite part was getting coupons from the police for free Slurpees at 7-Eleven.”



Sully II: René Torres (at far right) with (front row, from left) his son Cairo, 6; wife London; and sister Flor holding his younger son Javi, 15 months; and (back row, from left) nephew Giandro Rodriguez, 9; and mom Veronica Torres.



Sully II: Firefighters from Station 38 pose in front of their firetruck. At far left is Battalion Chief Randy Bittinger.



Sully II: Enjoying some vanilla and mint chocolate chip ice cream are the Reichel brothers, from left, Alex, 2, James, 9 and Zachary, 5.



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Inalienable Rights

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Virginian Thomas Jefferson was a young man when he penned the words expressed among political philosophers of the time that there were natural rights "endowed by their creator" that all persons possess. His phrase in the Declaration of Independence that preceded that assertion, "all men are created equal," gained the most notice and debate even until today. Equality is in the eyes of the law. We hear on regular news broadcasts that a person who held the highest office in the land is "not above the law" and is subject to criminal indictment just as we would be if we had lied, deceived and fomented a crisis intended to take over the government. His trial and I believe subsequent conviction will be the right thing to do in

our democracy and will be the best civics lesson that we could teach to anyone at a time when there is a dearth of knowledge and understanding of our system of government.

Even more misunderstood and violated than equality under the law are the words that Jefferson wrote about the result of that equality, "and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Life begins at the time of birth for it is inconceivable that a fetus would possess the rights that flow from this phrase. At the time it was only white men who came closest to having these inalienable rights as practiced at the time. Certainly, women were limited in their liberties and opportunities to pur-



Plum

sue happiness, and if your skin color was not white you could forget any hope of realizing its promise. Even the U.S. Constitution recognized slavery and left to the states its implementation without protection of enslaved persons' liberties and happiness.

I grew up in segregated Virginia in the 1940s and 50s when Black children could not attend schools with white children by authority of the state constitution. No reason was given to me and the other children at the time other than that was the way it was. It took a Supreme Court decision and more court decisions to ensure equal protection of the law in education as provided for in the Constitution and its amendments and as foreshadowed as inalienable rights.

My grave concern is the way

that the current governor of Virginia steps without hesitation on the inalienable rights of the citizens of the Commonwealth. If it fits his partisan agenda of seeking higher office, he will go for it. If Florida and his major competitor for the presidency rewrites its history to fit a partisan theme, he does the same in Virginia regardless of the inaccuracies in the new history. If the governor of Texas wants to make a partisan point about immigrants and the border, Virginia's governor will spend several million dollars and move Virginia citizens in the National Guard away from their families to the Southern border to make a partisan point. The governor of Virginia ignores any inalienable rights of LGBTQ+ citizen rights.

A guiding principle in the formation of our government was the inalienable rights of our citizens. It is time to recognize and protect those rights for all our citizens!

Burden of Housing on Family Budgets

BY DEL. VIVIAN WATTS

This historic chart confirms just how severe the burden of housing is on household budgets. It was always an essential, significant expense, but it now takes more than double the chunk out of our budgets that it once did.

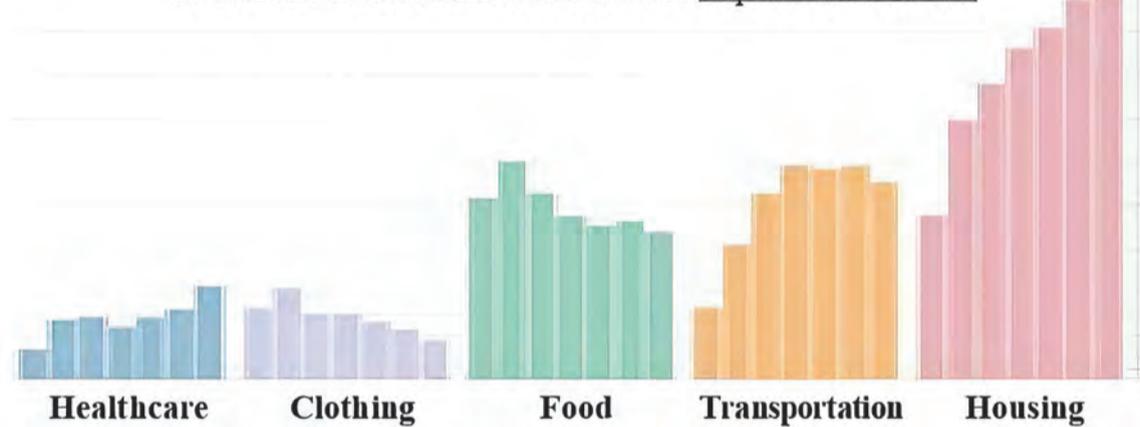
The major cause is lack of housing supply driving costs up through the domino effect of competition from higher income buyers/renters inflating the price of all housing but especially the limited stock of affordable housing. Reversing the escalating domino effect on housing affordability is many-faceted. However, it's important to be aware of public policies that can have the result of adding to housing costs. Two current issues center on the Federal Reserve's effort to control inflation and on the push to cut Virginia state taxes rather than fund local schools.

Last summer, the price of gasoline was hovering around \$5 a gallon pushed by world politics. That hit on household budgets faded as has the general impact of inflation which, as of June, has slowed to only 3% compared to its 1981 record-tying high of 9.1% a year ago.

All good, except for the fact that the Fed's effort to control market basket inflation by raising interest rates has a long-term impact on housing affordability. Last year, you could get a long-term fixed rate mortgage at 5% – now you

75 Years of How Americans Spend Their Money

1941-2014 Bureau of Labor Statistics <https://howmuch.net>



A good chart is worth a thousand words.

must cope with paying 7% over 30 years. Rents are equally impacted due to the business model of routinely re-financing commercial properties to cover the cost of running the property.

The second impact on the cost of housing is how the Virginia General Assembly will resolve cutting state taxes versus addressing under-funded schools. What does state school spending have to do with the cost of housing? The major item in local budgets is funding schools – the major source for local funding is the real estate tax. The major item in the state budget is funding schools – the major source for state funding is the individual income tax. This makes it a

given that a permanent cut in

Virginia's top income tax rate will translate directly into less state funding being available for local schools and the difference will directly impact the local real estate tax rate.

For those who think state school funding can take some paring back based on hearing an often-repeated political declaration that a given year's state budget included the most ever for public schools, the facts tell otherwise. The fact is each year's spending has to cover more students, as well as cover inflation. The fact is our state funding not having adequately covered these factors has resulted in Virginia spending less per student adjusted for inflation than we did in 2008, while other states are now spend-

ing more – on average 8% more.

Equally concerning is Virginia also has fallen behind its own adopted standards of education to support such basics as competitive salaries to attract and hold qualified teachers, smaller class sizes, and essential enhancements not just for students with learning difficulties but for mental health. On July 10, Virginia's non-partisan Joint Legislation Audit and Review Commission released a two-year, detailed study confirming the state's under-funding by as much as \$3.5 billion a year. Not beginning to address this significant shortfall in the state budget and putting more pressure on real estate tax rates and on household housing budgets is not the answer.

It's Not Just a Haircut— It's A Life Experience

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

It was 2011, and Dwight Grant was having an identity crisis. “I was feeling sorry for myself. Should I go back to college? Am I doing something wrong? Then I got a sudden windfall from three years of IRS mistakes and decided to take a two-week vacation.”

But he says he heard a voice crystal clear that told him he could take a vacation anytime; he needed instead to open a shop. “If you accept the gift I gave you ... but what was the gift? I looked at my hands and realized I was put on earth to barber. It was my calling to connect with people through hair.”

Grant lives in Centreville and started looking for a space nearby in Leesburg. He knew he needed a place that would be easy for his clients to find. He says the general rule in business is not to ask your clients to go more than 30 miles. But he was looking for the perfect place and all he could find in Leesburg were spaces in places like in a strip mall with no history.

“I knew I would know it when I saw it. I wanted to be careful to find the place that would allow me to provide the kind of service I wanted to provide for a client. I want it cozy, intimate, clean. I’m more into natural beauty than synthetic.”

So he gave his mother a call. She had some connections in Middleburg which he says is a tough place to break into. “At the time I was a single parent with three children under 12 and so I had significant responsibilities to consider. I knew my priority was to be a parent first and work second. They will grow. I won’t get to do this again.”

Grant decided to look for a place to open a barber shop instead of the beauty salon he desired in Middleburg since there were already five beauty salons located there. “Every place I looked there seemed to be a problem. Every landlord I met said they didn’t want a barber shop in their building.” Grant said there were stereotypes at play from that famous movie that Black barber shops were too loud and chaotic. “My mom got upset and defensive and said her son was different but they weren’t willing.”

Grant wanted to be on main street and finally he found a second story space which wasn’t ideal — “900 square feet but I went up the steps and fell in love with it—old pine wood floors, stucco walls, good bones, one side loft, all windows that reflected on the brick.” So he took it and he says in two weeks he had found a bank, bookkeeper, accountant, insurance and two barber chairs. “It usually takes months to get everything in place. He called it the Men’s Grooming Room. “It was supposed to be the quality of a beauty shop but the traditional congenial experience of a barber shop.

“I was about to get \$400 chairs but I scrolled at random and found the best \$1,500 chairs with some advice that pointed out the chairs were basic and had to be comfortable for everyone.” So he bought the chairs and since then has had every size person sit in them and feel at home.

He said opening the business was very nuanced. People said, “Well, you have a barber shop on the second floor. The Upperville Horse Show is opening — if you can hang on until after that, people will come. Everyone goes to Florida. If you can survive the winter.” But he says plenty of people came, and he never went a day with no income. “I’ve been busy every day.”

Grant says he just put a barber pole outside and a sign board on the sidewalk. “I think men are more spontaneous about getting a haircut than women. I had the Pepsi Cola guy pull in to get a haircut.” He

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dwight Grant’s first barber shop was on the second floor.

says despite being on the second floor he had an 80-year-old man crippled on one side who would drag himself up the stairs for a cut.

“I’ve done everything from a five-year-old with his first haircut to giving the last haircut on the planet to a customer who passed away the next day. Also some while lying in the coffin.” Grant adds that he is the only one in his salon now who is licensed to give shaves. “I do about 100 a year. I’m providing a personal service, very intimate.” He gets his customers by word of mouth. “I don’t want to work on strangers I have no connection to.”

In 2018 a coincidence made it possible for Grant to find the first floor space he wanted. “I had a customer who had come in a while back and had said to me that it would be nice if the barber shop could be on the first floor.” Then Grant heard of a business that was going to close and a space was becoming available. “It turned out that the landlord was the same person, Dan, who has become his mentor and friend. “I wouldn’t be here without him.” It worked out on both sides because Kosman wanted a renter who would stay the ages.

As time has passed, Grant says the men go home and tell their wives and children about his service and now he has expanded from a barber shop to a family beauty shop. “I think men in Middleburg have an especially warm feeling about their families.” He says now he has 5,000 unique customers a year with an 80 percent retention.

“Now there are five of us with six chairs, and each stylist has their own make up. We deal with length and texture and meet the client where they are in the chair to translate into a hairstyle that works for them.” He says, “I think how to make the hair on their head make them feel beautiful.” Grant’s two-story business is called Salon Aubrey, named after his daughter, and he is planning to lease the building next door — hopefully next year — to open a small barber school to encourage entrepreneurship.

“I want to encourage young people to know they can overcome obstacles in their professional life. It didn’t stop me.”

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From Aqualung at Wolf Trap National Park This Month, Ian Anderson's Rock Flute Delivers

The flute is the core of Jethro Tull's deep-sea diver sounds.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The progressive rock band Jethro Tull starts the "Seven Decades" concert tour of the United States in August with a song set going back to the 1970s mixed in with songs from their new album "Rökflöte," which is interpreted as "Rock Flute," the instrument that made this band famous through the years.

Manning the rock flute is Ian Anderson, the legend behind Tull's sound and master of this instrument from the woodwind family, and it's a sound rarely heard in the rock world. Anderson said in an in-



Jethro Tull.

terview last week that he "carved out that territory," but he noted that others have dabbled with it too. Namely bands like Traffic, the Moody Blues and Peter Gabriel in Genesis.

Anderson is known for the flute sound though, gaining momentum from their start in 1968, growing from there with influences like Muddy Waters, Beethoven, early

Pink Floyd, and later sounds of the Beatles. The Sgt. Pepper album was one that stuck out in the list.

"Early influences were from the blues," Anderson said.

Jethro Tull started out in 1968 in London and as in many bands, hadn't settled on a name. Somehow they came across a mention of Jethro Tull, an eighteenth century English agricultural pioneer



They're Thick as a Brick on stage.

who invented the seed drill. The band adopted the name in February 1968 for a performance at London's Marquee Club and it stuck.

As the front runner in the very beginning, some fans thought that was Anderson's name, but he just brushed it off. No sense getting excited about it, he had songwriting and melodies to worry about.

"It happened quite frequently in the early days," he said, "they thought that I must be Mr. Jethro Tull."

Burke resident Tim Kilbourn remembered a road trip to see Jethro Tull in New York when he was a teenager. The year was 1971. "We heard there was a concert and Tull was the main act, [Anderson] looked like a mad man," Kilbourn said. "They weren't straight rock and roll, more free spirited," Kilbourn said.

Viking Variations

Looking at some of the artwork and video from past shows, there is a hint of middle ages mythology connected with the band, and the flute sound goes along with that motif. Anderson mentioned a song of theirs from 1976 that was "loosely based," on Norse influence but it was only one song, and he's not too familiar with that age of Nordic beliefs connected with North Germanic peoples. After all, he's from Scotland and has spent some time in London.

One of their new songs, "Hammer on Hammer," for instance, has a video that starts out with swords and armor, evolves into jet fighters and modern warfare, and then

If you go....

Jethro Tull

Thursday, Aug. 24, 8 pm
Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna
<https://www.wolftrap.org>
866-245-6062

back to hammers and metal smithing. It evokes a medieval tune.

Ian Anderson was born in 1947 in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland. After attending primary school in Edinburgh, his family relocated to Blackpool in the north of England in 1959. He went on to art college to study fine art before deciding on an attempt at a musical career. In 2006, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Literature from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, and the Ivor Novello Award for International Achievement in Music.

Anderson uses his time on tour to learn about the history "applicable to where I am," he said. "There's always something new to learn." This tour is predominantly in the northern parts of the United States and out west so he may delve into historical events along that path. When traveling, "I tend to step outside and sniff the air and see if I can smell the history," he said. Virginia offers no shortage of history.

Being on the road puts him "out of my comfort zone," he said, and he looks forward to his cats greeting him as he walks in the door back home.

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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/>

JULY 31 – AUGUST 28

FUNDAY MONDAY in the heart of Fairfax City! 10:30-11:15 a.m. Enjoy free family programming that's perfect for the preschool set, but is open to children of all ages! On any given Monday there will be music, movement, storytelling, crafts and more. All performances and programs are held inside Old Town Hall located at 3999 University Drive, in the heart of Fairfax City. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> for more information. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts.

August 14: Storytime with the Fairfax Regional Library

August 21: Miss Mollie's Bubble Party (held outside)

August 28: My Gym

JULY 29 – AUGUST 26

KIDZ KORNER in Old Town Square in Fairfax City! 10:30-11:15 a.m. Join us outside for a morning of Free Family Fun on Saturdays in Old Town Square (near the Splash Pad!) located at 10415 North Street in historic Fairfax City. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> for more information. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Department of Parks and Recreation.

August 12: My Gym

August 19: Superhero Training with Captain America!

August 26: Miss Mollie's Musical Fun

THURSDAYS THRU OCT. 19

Weekly Farmers Markets. Thursdays 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. At The PARC at Tysons, 8508 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Celebrate Fairfax, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building community in Fairfax County, is excited to announce the launch of a weekly farmers market at The PARC at Tyson. The market is run by Potomac Farm Market, which has over 20 years of experience connecting communities to local farmers and artisanal food producers. Each week, residents can expect to find seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh cut flowers, and other locally sourced specialties.

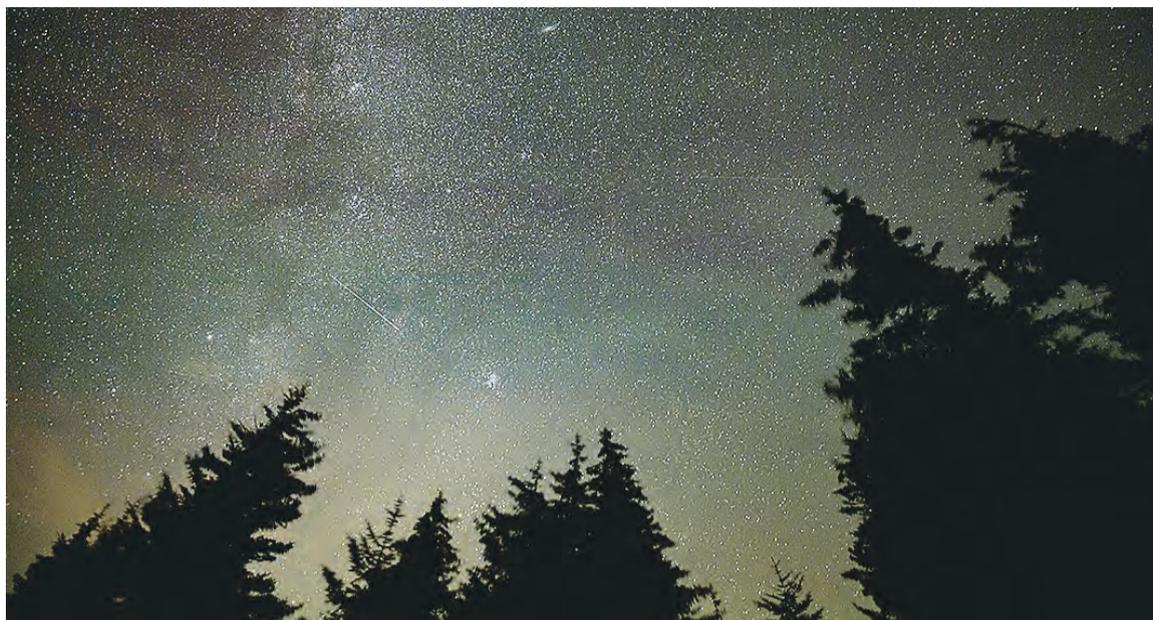
WEDNESDAYS

THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallship-providence.org/>

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Experience the Perseid Meteor Shower on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023 at Turner Farm Park Observatory in Great Falls.

Experience the Perseid Meteor Shower

8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. At Turner Farm Park Observatory, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's Observatory Park at Turner Farm and the Analemma Society invite you to witness the annual Perseid meteor shower. The Perseid showers are among the most plentiful showers with upward of 100 meteors per hour. Come prepared to enjoy the shooting stars with your unaided eyes, lounging on a lawn chair or blanket under the night sky. Binoculars can enhance the viewing experience while sitting or lying down. Call Sebastian Arnez, Turner Farm Park Observatory educator, at 703-324-2820, or visit Turner Farm.



The VietFest 2023 will be held Aug. 12-13, 2023 at the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center.

VietFest 2023

August 12, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. August 13, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. At the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Celebrate Vietnamese culture with VietFest, a 2-day festival on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Attendees can look forward to food and exhibition vendors, raffle prizes, live music and entertainment, traditional dance performances, crawfish eating contest, pho eating contest, and much more.

providence.org/

NOW THRU AUG. 23

Art Wednesdays. 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Summer on The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Enjoy the rest of summer watching live graffiti art come every Wednesday. The Lorton Workhouse and Live Art International hosts a free event showcasing alternative art concepts for participants. All materials will be provided to engage in a drawing class, take home personalized airbrushed swag and more.

AUG. 11-12

"The Addams Family." 7 p.m. At Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Presented by the Metropolitan School of the Arts Music Theatre Company. The Addams Family theatre performance will feature 29 student-actors from the DC area, including Metropolitan School of the Arts and surrounding high schools. The performance is recommended for ages 10 and older, and will be supported by a 12-piece mentoring orchestra, consisting of professional musicians and the top

youth orchestra players in the DC area. To get tickets to watch the comical antics of The Addams Family, go to www.metropolitanarts.org. Cost is \$25 per adults and \$10 per student.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

A Night of Art and Music. 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The August Second Saturday event features a free music performance by Quin Tango, as part of the Mount Vernon Nights Summer Concert Series, a collaboration with Fairfax County. Join

for a fun and casual evening of art and music. Stroll through the campus buildings and browse the ever-changing exhibits in dozens of artists' studios. Many of the artists will be there in person to chat about their work.

AUG. 12-13

Gel Plate Printing Basics. 1-4 p.m. 2-Day Workshop with Jennifer Duncan. Learn to use the Gel plate to create beautiful collage paper and as an easy form of monotype printing. In this two-day workshop they will create prints using botanicals and stencils on a variety of papers. Class limited to 8 participants. Supplies list will be sent to registered students. About the instructor: Jennifer Duncan has been teaching abstract painting and collage from her home studio and Great Falls School of Art since 2010. Her classes aim to be fun, innovative, and informative, and are designed to help students discover their own creative approach to making art. Visit <https://artsofgreatfalls.org/adults-summer-2023/>

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance. 4-6 pm. At Herndon Friends Meeting House, 2263 Coccina Drive, Reston. Join in this remembrance of the victims and effects of the 1945 bombings. Outside 4-5 p.m. vigil; inside 4-6 p.m. learning and reflecting through art (painting and peace crane making). Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available at the meeting house via Locust Street and nearby public parking is located across the street from the Herndon Depot. Visit the website: <https://www.herndonfriendsmeeting.com>.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

"Civil War History Where It Happened." 1 p.m. At Mercer Tavern Antiques, 39359 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. The Aldie Ruritan Club Presents "Civil War History Where it Happened." Hear historians and authors Don Hakenson and Carl Sell describe Mosby's Flour Mill raid, Captain George Custer's fall into the Little River and the Battle of Aldie right where it all happened. Books on sale benefit Aldie Ruritan Club and Clinton Hatcher Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans. Contact Carl Sell at sellcarl@aol.com or 703-971-4716 or Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net or 703-971-4984.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

N Gauge Train Display. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors (65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. For more information on the museum and show events phone 703-425-9225.

AUDITIONS FOR "ON GOLDEN POND"

Presented by Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation. Dates: Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 14 and 15 from 7-9 p.m. Visit www.viennatheatre.com for more information.

Student Meal Debt

FROM PAGE 3

the Fairfax County School Board. "Creating a partnership between educators and legislators is one of the few solutions. Together, we can raise funds and awareness for this ongoing issue that affects hard-working families," Segal said.

In January 2023, Segal collaborated with the nonprofit Educate Fairfax to raise money to pay off the ballooning student meal debt at one of the county's middle schools, where he taught. Segal asked local community organizations and businesses to help him, and he succeeded. Once again, Segal is collaborating with Educate Fairfax to raise funds and erase student meal debt.

"Let's reinstate universal free school meals, #Virginia," tweeted Roem. "When the federal government doesn't do its job, we have to do it in the states."

Schools cannot pay off meal debts using federal child nutrition funds. Schools may look to state, local, or charitable sources to try to offset the meal debt. The district writes off debts it cannot fund as operating losses.

The total school meal debt in Virginia is \$44,693,082. The initiative adds, "Charitable funds and general district funds were the largest contributors to paying off meal debt, regardless of the school district size or the region of the U.S."

FCPS Meal Charge Policy states, "At the end of the school year, the Assistant Superintendent of Financial Services and the Food and Nutrition Services Director will evaluate all delinquent debt for conversion to bad debt. Bad debt will be restored to Food and Nutrition Services from the general fund prior to the end of the same fiscal year."

Segal aims to increase awareness that the student meal debt crisis is escalating. It is not only at the school where he teaches but across the county and the state. Many students who will owe school meal debt are part of households that earn too much to be considered for free or reduced meals but also earn too little to afford the meals.

According to the Education Data Initiative, updated July 8, 2023, there are 247,470 food-insecure students in Virginia. In Fairfax County Public Schools, just under 60,000 children qualify for free and reduced meals.

Cheers for Children, organized by Segal, is a Student Meal Debt fundraiser that will be held on Thursday, Aug. 17, 7 to 10 p.m.,

SEE STUDENT MEAL, PAGE 15
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Obituary

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Janice Kuntz
July 27, 2023

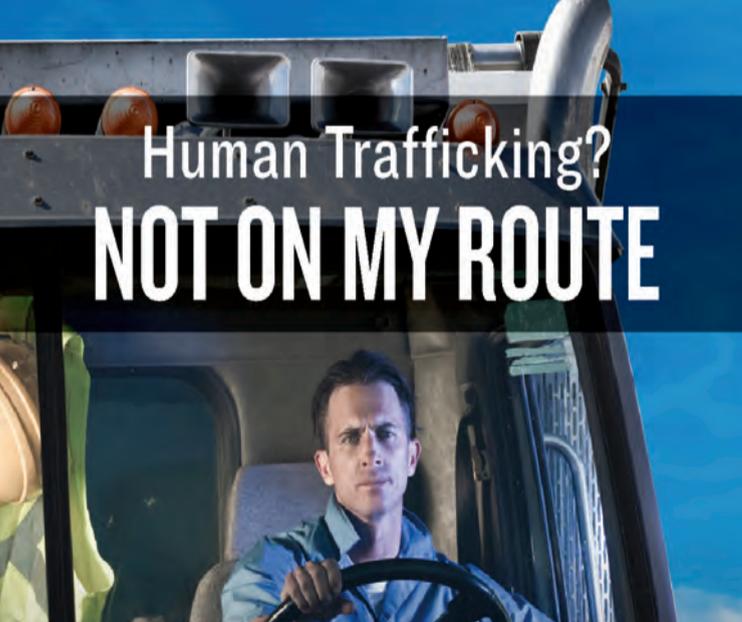


Janice Carol Kuntz, nee McDavid, died Thursday, July 27th, at Reston Hospital in Virginia. She succumbed to diabetes and congestive heart failure. Janice was born in 1940 in Kentucky to Irene and Randolph McDavid, and moved with her family to Baltimore, Maryland during World War II. After attending Eastern High School, she worked for a year at Baltimore Gas & Electric before commencing studies at Hood College in Frederick, MD. Janice graduated from Hood College in 1962 with majors in Chemistry & Mathematics, and a minor in Music, and went to work at W.R. Grace & Co. Shortly after, she met her husband-to-be, Richard, at a performance of Handel's Messiah at the Naval Academy involving the Hood College Choir. Richard and Janice were married in 1963. Janice followed her husband through sixty years of marriage to New York, California, and finally Great Falls, VA. Janice loved music, both listening and performing. She sang in choruses under the direction of Roger Wagner, Carmen Dragon, Erich Leinsdorf, and Paul Hill, in addition to performing with the Renaissance Revelers at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. Feeding a passion for travel, Janice and Richard enjoyed performing in London, Edinburgh, Paris, Berlin, Zurich, Bern, Vienna, Beijing, and St. Petersburg. Most recently, she joined her voice with Washington DC's Capitol Harmonia. She is survived by her husband and their two daughters, Lisa Marie Babbitt and Christina Lynne Kuntz - both who share Janice's love of music - and preceded in death by her sister, Linda LaPorte.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 11 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:
Hood College, 401 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, MD 21701
North Shore Animal League, 25 Davis Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

7:30-9:30 p.m.
 Callbacks by Invitation on Thursday, Aug. 17
 from 7:30-10 p.m.
 Performances Oct. 20 to Nov. 5, 2023
 Visit: www.viennatheatrecompany.org/audition/

'DRIVE-IN' TO THE STARLIGHT CINEMA
 Enjoy an all-new season of family-friendly entertainment at the Starlight Cinema at Trinity Centre, in Centreville, every Saturday evening in August. Come to watch the movies "drive-in" style from your car or bring chairs and blankets to watch from the lawn. As part of the Summer Entertainment Series, the Starlight Cinema brings the community together for wholesome family entertainment with live pre-show entertainment and feature film after dark. The schedule features:

- Aug. 12:** "Lightyear" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Rocknocoeros at 7 p.m.)
- Aug. 19:** "The Bad Guys" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Geoff Marsh at 7 p.m.)
- Aug. 26:** "DC League of Super-Pets" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Marsha and the Positrons at 7 p.m.)

Grab your picnic and enjoy the free entertainment that your family will remember. Gates open at 6 p.m., so come early to get a good spot. The Starlight Cinema is hosted at Trinity Centre, 5860 Trinity Parkway, in Centreville. For details, visit the Summer Entertainment Series' Starlight Cinema webpage.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta. 12 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Sail or splash -- it's all fun. Register or sponsor Reston Museum's 2023 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard-preregister>. You must register to race; spectating is free and open to the public.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Poetry Beneath the Stars. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Turner Farm Park, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Calling all stargazers. Join up at Turner Farm Park to contemplate the cosmos through poetic form. Attendees will be provided with examples of star-gazing poetry and then given writing prompts to generate poems of their own while staring up at the marvelous Milky Way. This event will include a telescope viewing in the Roll Top Observatory, weather permitting. This workshop is limited to 25 participants. Visit ArtsFairfax.org to register.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Summer Concert Series: Genres. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Join the Summer Concert Series featuring 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 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.

AUGUST

9 The Road Ducks
 16 The Colin Thompson Band
 23 Riptide

SATURDAY CONCERTS AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton • 7:30 p.m.
 AUGUST
 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
 AUGUST
 10 City of Fairfax Band Alte Kameraden 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.

THRU AUG. 18

Summer Art Camps. Ages 8-18 years. At Great Falls Village Centre Art School, Great Falls. Looking for a summer art camp for your budding artist? The popular art summer camps include: Fun with Watercolor & Acrylic Paints; Paper Maché Sculpture; Classical Drawing; Color Study; Cartooning; 35mm Photography for Middle and High School Students; Animé Style Drawing Morning (9:30-12:30 p.m.) and afternoon (1:30-4:30 p.m.) camp sessions are available. Camps are taught by professional artists with teaching experience in the Great Falls Village Centre art school. Visit <https://artsofgreatfalls.org/summer-camps-2023/>

Student Meal Debt

FROM PAGE 14

at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 668 Spring Street, Herndon, Va. Jimmy Cirrito met with Segal a few days before the event to coordinate details.

Cirrito said Fairfax County is a "tough place for low-income families because

the rent is very high around here." Some small businesses and others that employ may start new hires at or near minimum wage, which is \$12 an hour.

Cirrito recalled that he was "One of those kids in the lunch line that others made fun of. ... The students that had money would pick on the rest of us, and I couldn't get an ice cream because I didn't have the money."

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We Need Your Help Again
 We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784



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Centre View

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 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.

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Not a Fan of Humidity



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, through no fault of our own, we have been without central air-conditioning on our first floor, non-sleeping space. While we were out of town on vacation, we suffered an unexpected property loss to our home caused by a particularly bad, typical Washington DC summer rain event on Fri., July 14. Since we were on a cruise out to sea, we had no cell service, so it wasn't until we arrived back in port on Sun. July 16 that Dina retrieved a text message from Robert, one of our many super-friendly/helpful neighbors. The message simply texted: "Call me." Which we promptly did once we got settled in the car heading south from New York on I95.

Dina calls Robert, who was also collecting our mail while we were gone. Robert picks up immediately. Dina asks, "What's up? I just got your text." To which Robert responds: "Not horrible. But a tree has hit your house. We had a bad storm here Fri. night. I went inside and checked on the cats (being cared for by another neighbor); they're fine." The tree that fell, not the one you might have expected (he tries to explain which one), crashed onto the back of the house. It broke a window, and it looks like you suffered some water damage inside your house too. I just wanted to let you know before you came home and saw it for yourself."

Dina stammered a "What!" and a "Thank you" before she ended the call. Since she was on the speaker through the car, I heard the entire conversation. After which, we looked at each other and said something like "Yikes!" Over the next four hours or so until we got home, our attitude went from let's wait and see (me) to know what are we going to do (Dina)? Call the insurance company, that much I know.

Being that this would be my first real experience making a home-insurance-policy claim, I proceeded with extreme caution. What little I know of this process came from my years attending continuing education classes required to maintain my Life and Health Insurance License. And what I learned/retained, other than the Property and Casualty (home, car, et. cetera) world is excruciatingly complicated, is that the claim process, communications, timeline and so forth is fraught with misinterpretation, disagreement, and disappointment. To that end, I figured I needed to file a claim as soon as possible, especially since the event had occurred almost two days prior.

Even though it was early afternoon on Sunday, I surmised that since P&C claims don't just happen during the week, I called the company expecting to talk with an actual person. Sure enough, I was able to connect with a claim's specialist. I filled the claim and listened as the process going forward was explained to me. It all sounded reasonable and so we continued our drive home secure in the knowledge that we had fulfilled our initial filing-a-claim responsibilities.

After silence on Mon., on Tues. I called the 800 claims number for a status. Needless to say, the hole in my roof - which I couldn't see since the tree limbs and all were draped across it, was not getting any smaller, and its existence was making me nervous since I was told that there was rain in the forecast for later that day. Moreover, the downstairs central air conditioner was dead as the water from the storm had seeped through the roof into its electrical circuit and tripped the breaker thereby shorting out the circuit and burning out the motor of the air conditioning unit for the downstairs (where we live, mostly) as well as the light switch in the den. (When I saw we had no power, I immediately checked the fuse box and sure enough, a breaker had been tripped. When I flicked it back on, the air handler for the downstairs air conditioner restarted but only for a second and then stopped, never to restart again. Additionally, the den chandelier never came back on as its light switch was on the same circuit and thus was compromised as well.)

The following week has produced record-shattering heat and humidity. It has hardly been the ideal weather conditions to have had two-thirds of your house unair-conditioned. To add insult to perspiration, though we were able on Tuesday to get a water mitigation team to attend to our interior and sop up the moisture still in our house - and check for mold, and then on Wednesday (July 19) have a tree service contracted to remove the tree from atop our house, it wasn't until Sat. July 22 in the morning, nearly a week later, that we actually had an adjuster finally come by the house to "adjust" our claim. As Paul Harvey never said: Now you know the beginning of the story. Good fortnight! (To be continued next week.)

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



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