

# CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station ♦ Lorton ♦ Clifton

The appearance of a large  
Lego giraffe presents a BIG sign  
that there's new entertainment in  
Springfield at the Lego Discovery  
Center at Springfield Town Center



ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Local Rescue  
Ends Well

PAGE 4

New Plans for  
Rose Hill  
Shopping Center?

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Lego Center  
Opens

PAGE 6



# \$590K In Arts Grants to 50 Nonprofits

**A**rtsFairfax, the nonprofit designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency, today announces over \$590,000 awarded in Operating Support Grants to 50 nonprofit arts and culture organizations based in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church.

Operating Support Grants are foundational to the stability of Fairfax nonprofit arts and culture organizations by providing County funds, distributed by ArtsFairfax, for the basic operation of invaluable programs, services, and facilities these organizations provide to Fairfax County area residents.

"ArtsFairfax received a record high number of Operating Support Grant applicants, in part because of our constant communication with grantees to understand their needs and make arts funding more accessible throughout the creative community" says Linda Sullivan, ArtsFairfax President & CEO.

New for Fiscal Year 2024, the minimum eligible budget was lowered to \$5,000 to allow more organizations to apply. Additionally, in recognition of the rising costs of labor

and materials, small organizations were able to apply for 25% of their eligible operating expenses (as opposed to a limit of 15% as in previous years), and for all organizations, the maximum allowed request was raised from \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Though the County allocation for arts grants remained flat from last year, the distribution of existing funds increased by 35.5% in support of nonprofit operating expenses.

## FY24 ArtsFairfax Operating Support Grants by the Numbers


- \$591,786 awarded to 50 organizations
- 74% female leadership
- 44% small budgets under \$100K
- 28% BIPOC leadership
- 12% veteran leadership

Applications are reviewed and scored by an independent grant panel comprised of local professionals with expertise in various arts disciplines, knowledge of arts management, and/or knowledge of the Fairfax community. To ensure transparency of ArtsFairfax grantmaking practices, all panel reviews are made accessible to the applicants and general public.

## Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Support Grantees

Organization	District	Discipline
1st Stage	Providence	Theater
Amadeus Concerts	Dranesville	Instrumental Music
American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras	Mason	Arts Education
Artisans United, Inc.	Mason	Visual Arts
Artists in Motion / Alchemy Ballet	Dranesville	Dance
BalletNova Center for Dance	Mason	Dance
Cappies NCA	Dranesville	Theater
City of Fairfax Band Association, Inc.	City of Fairfax	Instrumental Music
City of Fairfax Theatre Company	City of Fairfax	Theater
Creative Cauldron	City of Falls Church	Theater
Daily Poetry Association	Braddock	Literature
DanceArtTheater	Braddock	Dance
Fairfax Jubil-Aires	Springfield	Vocal Music/Opera
Fall for the Book, Inc	Braddock	Literature
Falls Church Arts, Inc.	City of Falls Church	Visual Arts
Gin Dance Company	Hunter Mill	Dance
Greater Washington Chinese Dance	Dranesville	Dance
IACC	Providence	Multidisciplinary/Arts Services
Jazz4Justice	City of Fairfax	Instrumental Music
McLean Community Players	Dranesville	Theater
McLean Project for the Arts (MPA)	Dranesville	Visual Arts
Mosaic Harmony	Providence	Vocal Music/Opera
Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre	Mount Vernon	Theater
Music for Life	Braddock	Instrumental Music
National Concert Band of America	Mount Vernon	Instrumental Music
New Dominion Chorale	Dranesville	Vocal Music/Opera
NextStop Theatre Company	Dranesville	Theater
Northern Virginia Chorale	Braddock	Vocal Music/Opera
Novasian Chorus Inc.	Sully	Vocal Music/Opera
Providence Players of Fairfax	Providence	Theater
Public Art Reston	Hunter Mill	Visual Arts
Reston Community Orchestra	Hunter Mill	Instrumental Music
Reston Community Players	Dranesville	Theater
The Choralis Foundation	Hunter Mill	Vocal Music/Opera
The Fairfax Ballet Company	Sully	Dance
Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art	Hunter Mill	Visual Arts
The Reston Chorale	Hunter Mill	Vocal Music/Opera
The Vienna Jammers Percussion Ensemble, Inc.	Hunter Mill	Instrumental Music
Traveling Players Ensemble, Inc.	Dranesville	Arts Education
Vienna Arts Society	Hunter Mill	Visual Arts
Vienna Choral Society	Hunter Mill	Vocal Music/Opera
Vienna Community Band, Inc.	Providence	Instrumental Music
Vienna Falls Chorus Sweet Adelines International	Providence	Vocal Music/Opera
Virginia Bronze Handbell Ringers of Northern Virginia	Franconia	Instrumental Music
Virginia Chamber Orchestra	Dranesville	Instrumental Music
Virginia Winds Academy, Inc.	Springfield	Arts Education
Washington West International Film Festival	Hunter Mill	Film
We Rock Cancer	Dranesville	Vocal Music/Opera
Woodbridge Flute Choir	Springfield	Instrumental Music
Workhouse Arts Center	Mount Vernon	Multidisciplinary/Arts Services

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# NEWS



These signs were on many front yards along Rose Hill Drive.



The store fronts may seem dated to some.

## Will New Proposal for Rose Hill Shopping Center Please Residents?

An updated version is expected from Combined Properties this fall.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Last spring a proposal by Combined Properties to convert Rose Hill Plaza to a mixed-use residential/retail center with 400+ rental units and 70% less retail caused an uproar in the community. Residents brought this up with Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) who recently put out a letter regarding the matter.

"I have received some recent requests for the latest on the Rose Hill Plaza proposal. I have prepared the attached statement with the most recent information I have including a plan for the upcoming months," Lusk wrote on social media.

The proposal "remains in Tier 3 of the 2023 Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program," Lusk's letter said, noting that it will remain deferred until the Board of Supervisors moves the proposal along in the process. Lusk is in talks with Combined Properties and noted that the community feedback he's received wants less residential, but the fate of the shopping center "as is" is not addressed in the letter.

There is steady foot traffic at the shopping center every day and many nearby residents like the convenience and the small business aspect of it. "The shopping center is needed for this area, I don't want the mom and pops going away," said Virginia Vaillancourt.

"We walk up here all the time," said Geo, who lives a few blocks away. He's seen the

proposal. "Mixed residential is a big concern," he said.

Lusk is expecting a new proposal from Combined Properties this fall that will "lower the number of proposed residential units," and the proposal will go in front of the county board of supervisors once again. Public meetings will be scheduled after that, the letter states.

"I have heard loud and clear that the shopping center, and especially the local businesses located there, are important to the surrounding community," Lusk wrote. "My goal is for all of us to continue working together until we come to a consensus on a plan that the community and the property owner can agree sustains the Rose Hill Shopping Center for decades to come."

The dated store fronts did bring out a few ideas. "This could be improved, don't get me wrong," said Geo, and referred to an urban renewal plan known as "CPTED," he'd like to see. This acronym stands for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design which is a multi-disciplinary approach that uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments, the CPTED association said. The proposed parking garage could attract some crime, some said.

"The open lot is nicer," Geo said.

The next Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting is September 12 at 9:30 in the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



Businesses like the barber shop are neighborhood staples at the shopping center.



# Rescued Osprey Gets Second Chance

Many hands save injured raptor.

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**E**arlier this month, we reported on an Osprey rescued after it was found entangled in a tree near the Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton on July 19th. Follow-up on the bird's story yielded additional information on how the incident unfolded and what has become of the young Osprey.

As reported (Springfield Connection, July 27-Aug 2, page 12) a call was placed to Animal Protection Police and with the help of Fire Station 441 and their ladder truck, they reached and rescued the bird. The alert eyes and reporting of Park Authority maintenance operations employees first spotted the bird. Maynard Slicker, working nearby, first saw the bird in distress, calling his supervisor, Beth Borostovik, who made the report.

Slicker shared that the bird was entangled in the branches of its nest platform when he heard its distress calls. The bird likely freed itself from one entanglement only to be caught again in a nearby tree, from which it was eventually rescued by Firefighter P. Cortes and his fellow 441 crew members. The bird was transported by Animal Protection Police to a local veterinary care center, then moved to the Wildlife Rescue League. The League enlisted a specialist in the care of raptors, Dr Belinda Burwell of Boyce Va., to treat the Osprey.

Burwell was presented with a young bird, a fully fledged juvenile female, that is known to have hatched at the nest platform site off Lorton Road this May. Burwell found and treated minor abrasions to the Osprey's left wing and foot. When placed in the flight cage that Wednesday, the bird was unable to fly, and initially was unable to use her left foot. Over the next five days, her strength increased to short flights and limping on her left foot, then to full recovery of her mobility. She was quickly released with another recovered Osprey into the Shenandoah River Valley that Sunday. Burwell commented that it is unwise to keep recovered birds longer than necessary since other problems may develop related to captivity.

"Fortunately this juvenile was a healthy weight and had fledged weeks before, so I'm sure she'll be fine on her own with a good food supply available," Burwell shared. "I wish we had received more information than only an address where found, but that is all I usually receive. It would be helpful in these cases to know the circumstances - for example if the bird was in the road and possibly hit, or in a yard near a window it could have struck, or how long it had been seen injured. Any little detail helps with these patients that can't talk to us." While it would have been preferable to return the young Osprey to her family and home territory, Burwell indicated, "This juvenile very likely was hunting on its own and should be fine on the Shenandoah River." Osprey diets



Rescued juvenile Osprey held in one set of the many hands that gave her a second chance at life.



Dr Belinda Burwell, certified rehabilitator, rescuing wildlife since 1987, with a hawk.

are mostly live fish which they dive into the water to catch.

Certified wildlife rehabilitator Nancy McDonald, known to many in Maryland as the 'Osprey Lady,' says, returning a bird to the nest or home territory is always preferable, however, not always possible. "I rescue a lot of young ospreys that have fallen or been blown out of a nest that is inaccessible for multiple reasons." She considers fostering rescued chicks or fledglings in another nest if a nest with the right number of similarly aged birds can be found. Osprey nests are numerous along Maryland's Patuxent River and Jug Bay and their associated creeks and tributaries. She says, "Ospreys are challeng-



Rehabilitator Nancy McDonald works with displaced young Ospreys.

ing, since they need Mom and Dad to help them out right up to the moment they begin migration, and in a lot of cases, the parents leave before the babies."

The remaining Lorton Osprey family, two parents and a second juvenile, are expected to leave their nest platform in September or October to migrate south for the winter. According to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, most Ospreys, who frequent the wider Chesapeake Bay region in the summer, spend the colder months in South America, ranging from Venezuela to as far south as Paraguay and Argentina. Adults typically return to their prior nesting sites in March, as the Lorton pair has done for multiple years. Young birds are thought to remain in the south until their second Spring season and don't mate until their third year.

Looking beyond raptor rescue to the many species with which the Animal Protective Police officers must interact, Dr. Katherine Edwards, Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist, notes that "APP Officers respond to numerous calls for service for sick and injured wildlife, potential rabies exposures, orphaned or abandoned baby animals, wildlife within living spaces of homes or businesses, and animals that pose a threat to humans or pets. Public safety is paramount and is the first consideration for any response. Animal welfare is also taken incredibly seriously for both domestic animals and wildlife. ... Officers make the best decision possible with the information and resources they have available at the time about whether an animal should be released, receive further evaluation by a rehabilitator or medical professional, or humanely euthanized to prevent suffering."

As a result of the feedback provided by rehabilitators and veterinarians in the Lorton Osprey's rescue, Edwards indicates the division is "taking measures to strengthen collaboration with local wildlife rehabilitators to incorporate their guidance into future practices."

One young Osprey will never know the names, Slicker, Borostovik, Cortes, unnamed APPO, Burwell, McDonald, Edwards, or Ivancic. Yet readers do know and can be grateful for the many people who work hard to save the lives of wild things. All, as Edwards put it, "are thankful this young osprey has a second chance."



Maynard Slicker with Park Authority maintenance operations saw, heard and reported the Osprey in distress.



Capt Eric Ivancic who heads the Animal Protection Police division assures officers receive best training to adopt best practices.



Firefighter Cortes disentangled the bird and wanted to know how she fared.



Young Osprey begins her second chance over the waters of the Shenandoah.



## CADETS

# CAP Cadets Honored

## Martin, Ten earn Eaker Awards.

BY CADET AIRMAN FIRST CLASS  
BEYZA KALI & CADET CHIEF MASTER  
SERGEANT JACK BOHANAN  
SPECIAL TO  
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY CADET CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JACK BOHANAN

**B**urke Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, US Air Force Auxiliary, awarded two cadets the prestigious General Ira C. Eaker Award. The awards were presented by the Mid-Atlantic Region Commander, Colonel Eugene Egly Aug. 10 at the Fairfax Salvation Army.

The General Ira C. Eaker Award is the second most prestigious award in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Programs. The award is named after a military aviator and a significant figure in the history of the United States Air Force. The Eaker Award is typically earned by Cadets who have shown outstanding work in all four of Civil Air Patrol's Core Areas: Leadership, Aerospace, Fitness, and Character. Earning the Eaker Award is in recognition of a Cadet's hard work and accomplishments throughout their journey in Civil Air Patrol. A cadet is promoted to the grade of cadet Lieutenant Colonel once they earn the Eaker Award and can lead junior ranking cadets in their wing.

The Eaker Awards were presented by the Mid-Atlantic Region Commander, Colonel Eugene Egly, a former Civil Air Patrol Cadet. Following the awards, Egly talked about the importance of being a leader and having responsibilities that could affect those around them. Throughout the meeting, he shared his own experiences in Civil Air Patrol and mentioned several honorable leaders and mentors he had met through the years who helped him in his journey in Civil Air Patrol.

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Ten was presented the Eaker Award for his exceptional skills in leadership and excellence in all aspects of the cadet core values. He has displayed admirable determination and



CAP Eaker awardees pose with chain of command following the awards ceremony Aug. 10 at the Fairfax Salvation Army. Pictured from left: Col. Eugene Egly, Mid-Atlantic Region Commander; Col. Elizabeth Sydow, Virginia Wing Commander; Cadet Lt. Col. Samuel Ten, Eaker Awardee; Cadet Lt. Col. Austin Martin, Eaker Awardee; Lt. Col. Daniel Brodsky, Virginia Wing Group 3 Commander; Capt. Sara Demyanovich, Burke Composite Squadron Commander.



Capt. Sara Demyanovich, left, presents the squadron guidon to the new Burke Composite Squadron Cadet Commander, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Kyle Morrison on Aug. 10 in Fairfax. Guidon Bearer Cadet Staff Sergeant Harris Helmer stands at attention in the rear.

commitment to Civil Air Patrol and has spent countless hours serving his squadron and community as a whole. He served as the 2023 Virginia Wing Encampment Cadet Commandant, responsible for supervising and mentoring 67 cadet staff and over 250 cadet students. Cadet Ten will attend Purdue University as a freshman this fall.

Similarly, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Austin Martin has fulfilled all of the leadership expectations and has earned his Eaker Award as well. The award he has earned represents his several achievements in his Civil Air Patrol career such as his noteworthy contributions in aerospace education and his unwavering dedication and constant help in the squadron. Cadet Martin received the Mid-Atlantic Region Aerospace Education Cadet of the Year in 2021 and is a sophomore at Georgia Institute of Technology. Both C/LtCol Martin and C/LtCol Ten undoubtedly inspired others in the squadron.

In addition to the Awards presentation, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Kyle Morrison assumed the position of Cadet Commander for the squadron. In this role, he leads the 80 cadets in the squadron. The past two summers, Cadet Morrison participated in the National Blue Beret supporting the Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture in Osh Kosh, Wis. Cadet Morrison joined Civil Air Patrol in October 2021.

The Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, with 22 squadrons spread throughout the Commonwealth has approximately 1,800 members, 12 light aircraft, and 29 multi-purpose vehicles. These assets are available to federal, state and local governments, emergency responders and law enforcement agencies to perform search and rescue, homeland security, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance and counter-drug missions. For more information on the Virginia Wing, visit <https://vawg.cap.gov> or [www.facebook.com/vawgcap](https://www.facebook.com/vawgcap)

### 4 Vehicle Crash on Rt. 50

FCPS Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives continue to investigate Aug. 11 Route 50 crash involving four vehicles.

Preliminarily, detectives determined the driver of a 2007 Jeep Laredo was traveling eastbound on Route 50 toward the Fair Oaks Mall. The driver rear ended a 2023 Lexus then continued eastbound and struck a Land Rover. The driver of the Jeep then struck the guardrail on the shoulder of the roadway and crossed all lanes of travel toward the median. The driver drove across the grass median, went airborne and struck a 2009 Ford U-Haul Truck that was traveling westbound Route 50. The driver of the Jeep and U-Haul were taken to the hospital for injuries originally believed to be life-threatening but later determined to be non-life threatening.

Detectives continue to investigate to determine if speed, alcohol or drugs were related to the crash.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.

### Blood Donations Needed

Inova's blood supply has reached critically low levels and there is dire need of type O blood donors immediately.

Multiple traumatic incidents and other medical emergencies have left our blood inventory for Type O blood critically low. We need all blood types, but a boost to the supply of Type O will help patients in need significantly.

Inova Blood Donor Services supports a Level I Trauma Center and two Level III Trauma Centers. Maintaining a sufficient blood supply is critical to the safety and well-being of our community. It is imperative that we do everything we can to increase and maintain the blood supply to support our community's sickest patients. The need for blood never stops and there is no substitute for human blood when it is needed for a patient.

Please help us with donations today so that we can help provide our patients with a better tomorrow.

Call 1-866-BLOODSAVES (1-866-256-6372) or visit [inova-blood.org](http://inova-blood.org) to schedule your appointment or inquire about your eligibility to donate today.

### Robust Registration Underway for 2023 NoVa Senior Olympics

Registration opened July 6 for the 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Herb Levitan, NVSO chair said, "We are really off to a robust start with a 30% increase over this time last year." Registration is online at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us) through Thursday, Aug. 24. Events begin Saturday Sept. 9 and continue until Sunday, Sept. 24.

Most events are in five or ten year age groups and by gender. Registration fee is \$20 which covers unlimited events. There are additional fees for ten pin bowling, orienteering, cycling and 3 par, 9 hole golf.

Adults 50 years of age by Dec. 31 who live in a sponsoring jurisdiction are eligible to participate. There is no onsite registration. The website also has multiple photos taken by the Osher Life Long Learning's Photography Club at George Mason University as well as this year's full schedule of events and venues.

2023 events include track, ERG rowing, cycling, swimming, diving, Wii bowling, ten pin bowling, eight and nine ball pool, tennis, scrabble, crossword puzzle, croquet, Mexican train dominoes, Sudoku, handball, rummikub, football and frisbee throw, softball hit and throw, jigsaw puzzle, Mah Jongg, bocce, horseshoes, cribbage, cornhole toss, pickleball, table tennis, 5K Trail race, basketball field goals and free throw, orienteering, field events, racquetball, bunco, line dancing, miniature golf and Canasta. New this year are disc golf, synchronized diving, advanced sudoku, and 9 hole, 3 par golf. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded after each event. Members of the general public are welcome to watch those participating. For additional information, email, [nvso1982@gmail.com](mailto:nvso1982@gmail.com).

NVSO is sponsored by the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. NVSO is also supported by Gold Patrons who contribute \$1000 enabling NVSO to purchase and replace equipment and services, promote participation and provide awards of recognition. 100% of money donated is used entirely for NVSO activities. It is a non-profit 501-C-3 organization.





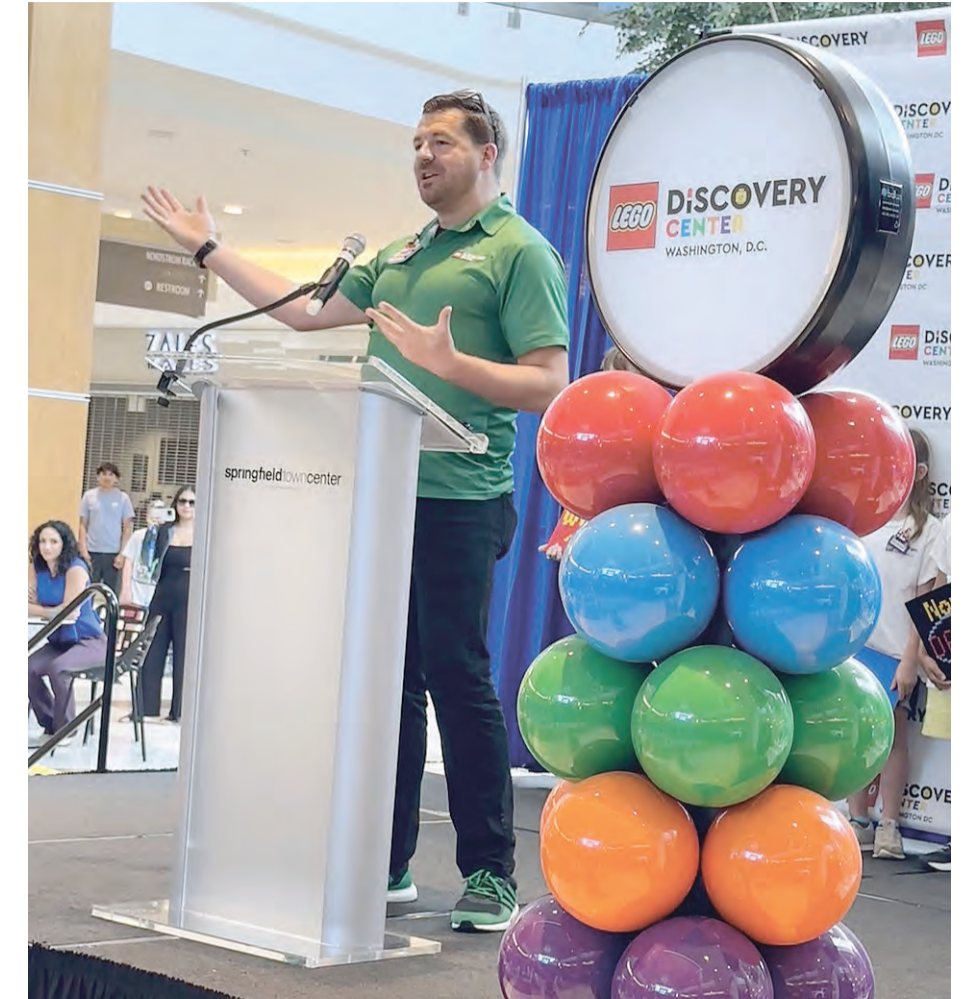
The appearance of a large LEGO giraffe presents a BIG sign that there's new entertainment in Springfield



Eli Mechiche, 6 years old, of Ashburn, attending the grand opening ribbon cutting event at the Discovery Center with his mother and sister, who is a LEGO mini-builder, says, "I like LEGOs."



Each with their own version of expressing happiness at being on hand for the opening, Liam Meagher, 7, home schooled; Parker Ray, 6, Spring Garden Elementary; Kosten Meagher, 3 yo; Abby Meagher, 10, home schooled, could not resist a peek through the Center windows to see what waits inside



Master Builder Andrew Litterst greeting participants later admitted to beginning evidence of callused fingertips after a LEGO brick building regimen of 7 to 8 hours a day to create the mini-worlds on display in the Center.

# LEGO Discovery Center Opens

Promises entertainment for all ages.

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME

A very tall LEGO Giraffe clues the first BIG sign of reaching a new destination for fun in Springfield. On Wednesday, kids by age, and at heart, found their way, by special invitation, to a new place of exploration. The LEGO Discovery Center Washington D.C. officially opened for all in Springfield Town Center on Aug. 14.

The 32,000 square foot family entertainment attraction and store on the mall's lower level boasts several sections. Twelve zones include multiple activities: LEGO block building areas, spaceship build, train ride with space pirates, Washington D.C. as a mini-world, 4D cinema, laser maze, and hero zone sure to help wear out even those with the most energy to burn. All this provided without the hazards of home carpet pedestrian danger.

The grand opening ribbon cutting event festivities included performances by the Herndon High School drum band and dance troupe, a participant parade and welcomes from general manager Theresa Alvich of the LEGO Discovery team and PREIT, the shopping center's owners, who recruited LEGO to the area.



An eager crowd of invitees of all ages awaits a first view of the Center



Proud mom Britanni Osbourne, mother of mini-builder, Bryson, from Burke, records his moment on the stage during the opening ceremony



When you have a LEGO brick key to open the doors, of course you also need a LEGO brick scissors to cut the grand opening ribbon  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



LEGO mini-builders assist LEGO's Theresa Alvich with a LEGO brick key ready to open the doors to the Discovery Center  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The invited crowd streams into the new Center as photographers capture the moment



Jessica Grannis of Springfield gets close to examine the tiny pieces available for mini-figure building



Aria Kim, 6 years old of Centreville, discovers worlds within the LEGO Tree of Imagination



# LEGO



Supervisor Lusk interacts outside DUPLO Park with possible future constituent Mya McKenzie, 17 months, now of McLean



Twins Laila & Mya Cavins, 14 of Beltsville Md. examine the intricacies of the Washington D.C. mini-world



Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Lee District, showed skill in both catch and release at the duck pond in DUPLO Park, an area actually geared to the learning, play and problem solving for the youngest builders

## LEGO Discovery Center Opens

FROM PAGE 7

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME

Master Builder Andrew Litterst later spoke of the opening, saying “It’s just a relief, to summarize it in one word.” Litterst won his position in February, in a brick building competition in the same spot where the podium stands for the opening event. He shared, “Ever since it’s been pedal to the metal. I’ve been building stuff pretty much all day for the past couple of weeks.”

In his opening remarks, District Supervisor, Rodney Lusk, commented on the importance of skills our children can learn through play in activities the Center provides including collaboration, problem solving, and sense of accomplishment, all skills that are needed in the workforce. However, all thoughts of past and future work were forgotten as the confetti popped, the ribbon dropped, and the crowd plunged into the new adventures.

Advance tickets, for sale now with military discounts available, are encouraged for visits to the Center, open from 10 am to 6pm.



Baxter Nichols, 24 of Alexandria; Lindsay McWilliams, 18 of Burke; Colton Jones, 17 of West Springfield, enjoying their new jobs and ready to serve food and drinks to sustain Discovery Center adventurers



Elle Cole, of Beltsville, enjoys the calm of the inside cafe while keeping an eye on her children exploring the Center



Charles McCool of Reston, shares that he “used to build LEGO with his twins, but “nothing this intricate, just simple ones.”



Herndon High School drum band and dancers led a parade of participants to opening ceremonies



Fryea the Firefighter and friend Catherine Stankewick greet participants at the stage in their new roles as LEGO Discovery Center employees after three weeks of job training



# 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 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 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 Tysons. 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://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## NOW THRU AUG. 23

**Art Wednesdays.** 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Summer on The Plaza at Tysons  
[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

**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.

## '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. 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.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

**Media Exclusive Event.** 10 a.m. to noon. At American Center, 1st Floor Conference Room, 8300 Boone Blvd., Tysons Corner. The Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce (NVBCC) will host its Media Exclusive Event to announce its Accelerator Program made possible by the recently awarded Congressionally Directed Spending. Topics to be discussed include:  
Introduction of NVBCC Leadership  
NVBCC Economic Evolution Accelerator Program  
Upcoming 2023 Initiatives & Partnerships  
Q&A

## FRIDAY/AUG. 18

**Tae Phoenix Concert.** 6 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Lake Anne and Washington Plaza Merchant Association (LAWPA) announced the first concert in Virginia by acclaimed artist and singer Tae Phoenix. Tae has worked extensively with Herndon-Reston Indivisible and said she is honored to be making her Virginia debut at Lake Anne Plaza with their support.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 20

**T-TRAK Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia T-TRAK members will hold a N gauge Model 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. Call 703-425-9225.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed. Structure ID	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
ALBEMARLE	753	687	SHIFFLETTS MILL ROAD	BUCK MOUNTAIN CREEK	7/25/2023
TAZEWELL	18686	806	ROUTE 806	COAL CREEK	7/12/2023

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

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

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

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

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

## DUMP FOR DONATIONS FUNDRAISER

Langley High School students Jaime Lee, Alex Haag, Rossteen Sanaei, Dante Tosado, and Johnny Lee are doing a fundraiser for Fairfax County Children's Services starting now through Saturday, August 19. A dumpster has been rented through Bin There Dump That (also supporting their cause), and they will rent as many dumpsters as needed. You can come by and throw away your junk in the dumpster and then donate any amount you wish to help buy new car seats (must be new) for foster infants and toddlers. The dumpster will be located at 8423 Weller Ave, McLean.



The Dump for Donations Fundraiser will be held now thru Aug. 19 at 8423 Weller Ave., McLean.

## 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](https://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

16 The Colin Thompson Band  
23 Riptide

## SATURDAY CONCERTS AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

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## AUGUST

19 Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone (Rock, Blues)  
26 The United States Army Field Band Six-String Soldiers (Country)

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## AUGUST

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; Anime 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://artsforgreatfalls.org/summer-camps-2023/>

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

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

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers. The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022. The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning 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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## Can't Claim Much Progress



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Two and a half weeks since the tree hit our house. Yet, minimal contact/movement from the insurance company/adjuster. In fact, it's been 10 days since the adjuster arrived at our house, iPad in hand. After the initial exchange of pleasantries, he walked around the house, making notes, while asking lots of questions. Even though he didn't go inside the house to "ladder" up into our first-floor attic to inspect the roof damage for himself (in fairness, before this his first on-site visit, I had forwarded to him a dozen or so email photographs, as provided to us by the water-mitigation team, so he kind of new the lay of the land, so to speak), he seemed as sincere, empathetic and understanding as you'd hope from the person tasked with rebuilding your life, so to speak. Since this first meeting, however, there has been radio and electronic silence. Subsequently I've called and emailed. Not an excessive amount but enough to be squeaky on his wheel. Still, nothing.

Originally, I had been promised an itemized list of damages and their respective repair dollars – and a Zelle payment possibly a few days later. Thankfully, I haven't been holding my breath. If I had, I'd be dead now, at least blue in the face. But I never thought his timeline was realistic. Still, the adjuster was very reassuring and confident; specifically, about when we might expect to be paid. (The process will be that I will receive a payment and then "general contract" my way through the repairs. I was further informed that if the reimbursements weren't quite right, that the adjuster is flexible and will work together with us to remedy any discrepancy. No problem, or so I was told. However, so far, all it's been is a problem.)

Yet here I sit, twiddling my thumbs and wiping my brow, looking for some kind of relief from the allocating-powers-that-be. At present, on my own, I have received three estimates on replacing the two air conditioning units, two estimates on repairing the roof and none so far on addressing the electric issues, inside and outside painting, chandelier replacement, refinishing the den's wooden floor – which was soaked, all of which seem to be cart-before-the-house until I see the estimates from the company to learn what they'll cover. Moreover, I've likewise received no communication or direction from the company/adjuster about replacing/reimbursing the oriental rug and pad that were destroyed by the water leaking through the roof and puddling on the floor in our den. All damages caused by the tree falling on our house during a rain/storm event, the kind all of us Washingtonians are familiar with, thereby creating a hole in the roof. All of which seemed well within our expectations for coverage according to the words of the adjuster. It seemed all so easy and reasonable that a delay and/or dispute seemed unthinkable. I joked that if I knew the process and all was going to be this easy, I would have knocked down the tree myself. Little did I know; very little, in fact.

However, not to balance the company's/adjuster's lack of follow up with reality, but the company promptly sent over a water-mitigation team. (I was advised to mention the possibility of mold – since it had already been three days since the storm, as an inducement to get the company to act. Sure enough. I called Monday; I mentioned the mold; the water-mitigation people arrived Tuesday. Unfortunately, that's all they've sent of done so far.) And I was grateful for what seemed like on that Tuesday, the beginning of a speedy resolution to our house's damage, a start, certainly. First things, first. And water is very often 'first.' (I remember being asked rhetorically, by the inspector who "inspected our home in 1992 "What are the three most important words in home ownership"? His answer: "Water, water, water." And I've been mindful of it ever since.

But it's not just water that has seeped into our house, it's reality as well. It feels like we're "Stuck in Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again" (a song written by Bob Dylan and often covered by "The Grateful Dead"). In total, we're sort of stuck – waiting for financial details, sort of confused and not at all thrilled by our circumstances and/or claim's experience. It's not as if I'm clueless about such quandaries. I realize as they do in the horse world: "Manure Occureth." And in every other world too, as water flows downhill – literally in this case, and of course, figuratively as well. At the end of the day – and the beginning too, I may be powerless to affect any action, certainly on my timetable, anyway.

Nevertheless, if I do indeed want to "Keep hope alive," to invoke the Rev. Jesse Jackson, I need a sign. Is anybody paying attention to claim #12J14658? You already have my cellphone number, email address and claim paperwork. Please act like it. Thank you.

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



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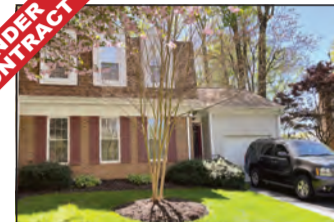
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