

THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ♦ Chantilly ♦ Great Falls ♦ Herndon ♦ McLean ♦ Oak Hill ♦ Oakton
Reston ♦ Vienna ♦ Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station ♦ Lorton ♦ Clifton

Shortly after 8 a.m.
the Herndon Town
Green was packed
with cyclists.



Big Year at
the Art Festival

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Senior Living

PAGE 6-7

Biking to Work!

PAGE 10

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

MAY 22-28, 2024

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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Wishing you a Happy Memorial Day Weekend!



Under Contract!



Offered for...\$1,150,000

311 Wrens Way, Falls Church City
 CHARMING renovated/expanded cottage home built in 1860 in FCC, sits back on a lush quarter acre+ lot with a stone walkway leading to the porch. The main level features a beautiful stone wall and wood burning fireplace in the living room. The updated kitchen offers an eat-in area with quartz countertops, ample storage space and ss appliances. Completing this level is a spacious family room with a cathedral ceiling, wood burning fireplace, built-ins and sliding doors to a private patio area. The upper level has spacious BR's, a full-size and half bath, and laundry. Loft with stairs from second bedroom. **Falls Church City Schools!**

Under Contract!



Offered for...\$2,439,000

6025 Woodland Terrace, McLean
 GORGEOUS 2016 Arts & Crafts home with 3BR/4.5BA on 3 spacious levels located on over a half acre in sought-after Chesterbrook Woods! Designed by renowned architect Dwight McNeil and built by Joy Custom Design + Build. This finely detailed home features over 5300 sq ft of living space. The back of the house transitions beautifully to the sun-filled gourmet kitchen, breakfast area, and stunning family room. Spacious main level BR with en suite. Upper level features 2 BR's, each with en suite. Lower level offers a spacious family room, rec room, wine cellar, and full bath. **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

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 McLean, 22101
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Coming Soon!



Coming soon in McLean!

6192 Hardy Drive, McLean
 STUNNING 5br/3ba split level home in Potomac Hills neighborhood. Step inside to discover tastefully updated modern features throughout the home! The main level features a beautiful over-sized island, quartz countertops, and high-end appliances in the kitchen. Warm hardwood flooring and a wood burning fireplace welcomes with natural light flowing into the living, dining and kitchen areas. Completing this level is a primary suite with two additional spacious bedrooms. Lovely sunroom overlooking the lush backyard. The lower level offers a family room, 2 additional BR's and a full bath. **McLean HS pyramid!**

SOLD!



6144 Farver Road
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,550,000

SOLD!



6709 Pine Creek Court
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,200,000

SOLD!



1562 Forest Villa Ln
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,550,000

SOLD!



2336 N. Oak Street
 Falls Church, 22046
 \$2,000,000

SOLD!



1639 Macon Street
 McLean, 22101
 \$2,215,000

SOLD!



1313 Merrie Ridge Rd
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,637,500

Curious what your home is worth? Call to chat with JD and Ed today!

National Police Week 2024, Annual Candlelight Vigil

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On May 13, The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund officially added the 282 names of U.S. law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty to the Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., as part of the 36th Annual Candlelight Vigil of the 2024 National Police Week. The newly added officers' names inscribed on the wall include 118 federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2023 and 164 who died in previous years.

"Their sacrifice is now being recognized after the Memorial Fund's research staff confirmed the circumstances of their death and their record of law enforcement service," states a release by the Memorial Fund. The vigil's purpose was to dedicate, honor, and remember all the newly added officers by reading aloud their names on the Roll Call of Heroes Honored in 2024.

William Alexander, CEO of The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, stated, "Their memory remains a testament to valor and selflessness, two core tenets that a law enforcement officer abides by when sworn into service."

According to reports, 30,000 people gathered at the mall that night. Numerous officers, including those from the Fairfax County Police Department, wore their respective uniforms. Among the many others appeared to be bereaved families of fallen officers, some with children. Listening intently to each name read aloud; the crowd stood silent under the shared weight of all the officers who died in public service and their families' losses.

Chief Kevin Davis, Fairfax County Police Department, read a section of the Roll Call of Heroes, 2024. "From the Commonwealth of Virginia, Joseph Edward Carey, Sr.; Mark Christopher Wagner, II (bell tolls). From the State of West Virginia, Steven Paul Gitlin, II; Cory Stephen Maynard (bell tolls)."

Following the Roll Call readings on the National Mall, participants lit their candles, generating waves of golden flickers across the long, dark distances to the United States Capitol and Washington Monument.

In a video produced by The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund of the 2024 Candlelight Vigil, Arlington County Police Department Lt. Steve Troyano says, "We lost Harvey to 9-11-related cancer. It changes everything."

Terrica Gibson, a survivor, says, "The wall remembers and honors them."

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reports that, with new names in 2024, the wall now bears the names of 24,067 officers. Among the names are six Fairfax County Police Department law enforcement. They are Sergeant John Joseph Donohue. EOW: Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, cause: COVID-19; Second Lieutenant Francis Joseph Stecco, EOW: Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008, cause: drowned; Master Police Officer Michael E. Garbarino, EOW: Wednesday, May



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL FUND

36th Annual Candlelight Vigil of the 2024 National Police Week.



PHOTO POSTED TO FACEBOOK AT FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF

Fairfax County Deputy, 2nd Lieutenant Jennifer Foster, lays a rose upon the Seal of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial during the 32nd Annual Council of Governments Wreath Laying Ceremony & Honor Guard Competition held on May 4 as part of National Police Week 2024. This ceremony highlights the importance of correctional officers and those who have fallen in the line of duty. In 2023, 21 correctional officers from across the country fell in the line of duty. Behind her, far right, sits Fairfax County Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Franconia District.



SCREENSHOT YOUTUBE VIDEO 36TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL, D.C.

Lt. Steve Troyano, Arlington County Police Department, takes rubbing of a name on the Memorial Wall.

17, 2006, cause: gunfire; Detective Vicky Anne Owen Armel, EOW: Monday, May 8, 2006, cause: gunfire; Captain Tommy F. Ber-

nal, EOW: Thursday, June 28, 2001, cause: motorcycle crash; and Police Officer Karen Jean Bassford, EOW: Wednesday, July 27,



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL FUND

Chief Kevin Davis is pictured on May 7 with Monsignor Sal Criscuolo at the 30th Annual Blue Mass at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Washington, D.C., remembering fallen heroes and supporting those who serve. During the 34th Annual Candlelight Vigil held May 13, Chief Davis read the Virginia and West Virginia sections of the Roll Call of Heroes, 2024.

1977, cause: automobile crash.

According to preliminary data compiled by The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund in its 2023 End-of-Year Preliminary Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report, 47 officers were shot and killed in the line of duty. Compared to the 63 officers shot and killed in 2022, this number represents a 25 percent decrease. However, the report states, "The number of men and women fatally wounded by gunfire remains a pressing concern for law enforcement personnel."

The report cites that traffic-related incidents claimed the lives of 37 officers in 2023, a 27 percent decrease from 51 in 2022.

Centreville Shooting Kills One, Injures Another

Police believe incident between teens was drug related.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

One young man is dead, and another was taken to the hospital with serious injuries, after a shooting last Wednesday, May 15, in Centreville. Fairfax County police do not believe this was a random act and have initially attributed it to a drug deal gone bad.

Killed was Michael Alcantara, 18, of Manassas, and arrested for his murder was Hassan Kanu, 18, of Centreville. The shooting occurred in the parking lot of the Centre Lee Business Park along Route 29. This location contains a popular Dunkin' Donuts shop, is near the busy Stone Road intersection and is next to a Sunoco gas station.

After receiving a call that morning around 9:30 a.m. about shots being fired there, police responded at 9:35 a.m. to the 14600 block of Route 29. There, they discovered Alcantara suffering from gunshot wounds to the upper body. Officers quickly attempted lifesaving measures, but Alcantara was declared dead at the scene.

In addition, police found Kanu, who had also sustained gunshot wounds to his upper body. He was then hospitalized for treatment of serious injuries that were initially considered life-threatening. He

was released from the hospital on Sunday and is now being held without bond in the Adult Detention Center, pending his Sept. 3 court date.

Detectives determined that both teenagers had been inside a car together, prior to the shooting, and apparently had some type of altercation. After that, police say they both left the vehicle and then exchanged gunfire with one another, resulting in both of them being shot.

In a press conference not long afterward, Police Capt. Kent Bailey addressed the media, across the highway from the scene. "First and foremost, our community is safe – there's no threat to the public," he said. "All individuals involved in this incident are accounted for."

He described the site as an "active, commercial shopping center," but he didn't know how busy it was at the time of the shooting, nor why the teens chose this parking lot for their encounter. And he couldn't say whether anyone else had been in the car with them before their argument and subsequent shootout. Bailey said it was among the many elements that were still under investigation.

Police charged Kanu with second-degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. If convicted of the murder



Police Capt. Kent Bailey holding a press conference after the shooting.

charge, he could receive anywhere from five to 40 years in prison. The gun offense carries a mandatory three-year sentence.

In a relatively safe area, Centreville's biggest crimes are usually thefts from vehicles. So to have a murder happen here – and in broad daylight – is definitely out of the norm. Indeed, there hasn't been a homicide in Centreville since February 2022.

As for this one, detectives located two firearms, as well as drugs, at the scene. Bailey said the weapons belonged to the two people involved, but he did not identify what types of drugs were found. However, he did say, "Preliminarily, detectives have discovered that this could possibly be an illegal narcotics transaction."

Police are still investigating the circumstances that led up to the shooting and are asking the nearby community to review any home-surveillance footage that might assist them in piecing together what happened that morning before the fatality occurred.

Anyone with information about this event or who may have witnessed it is asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 5. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 703-246-4676 or going to <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/>.

LETTER

Proposed Data Center Amendment Won't Protect You

Don't think a 24/7 mind-numbing noise, transmission lines through your yard, or higher electric bills will happen to you? How close do you live to a property where a massive data center can be built by-right? Closer than you think as nearly all the I-5 lands are adjacent to residential in Fairfax County.

The new ordinance was supposed to implement the recommendations of the long-awaited Jan. 9, 2024 Data Center Report but falls far short; it's proposing to require a noise study up front rather than waiting for residents to complain after it is built, to require noise generating equipment to be enclosed (which is mostly impossible for HVAC/tower-cooling systems so it allows for a simple administrative override) and stops short of requiring Special Exception approval – something Loudoun County will be doing

as part of its Zoning Ordinance changes this year. <https://www.loudoun.gov/5990/Data-Center-Standards-Locations>.

The County says they can't require air or water quality mitigation or protections, or stricter noise regulations, or set electrical limits with the Zoning Ordinance. But they can certainly improve their chances if they require a Special Exception approval so that all can weigh in like they did on Jan. 23, 2024 with the Chantilly Premier Mega Data Center (SE 2022-SU-00038) – the tallest and largest single data center building in Fairfax County which, through the Special Exception process, was able to secure dozens of commitments (proffers) that require the noise at the residential boundaries to be below the Noise Ordinance; require Tier 4 backup generators to reduce air pollution and spill potential (most data centers use cheaper Tier 2); require a new noise study

every time noise generating equipment is added; require monitoring and mitigating at the source for sodium, bromide and other chemicals released into our water, etc. Chairman McKay even stated, "if we're going to do any data centers in Fairfax County"...the ones we do in this county are going to be done at the highest standard we can possibly foresee."

Like the Chantilly data center, I-5 districts have evolved over time and although the County wants you to believe the I-5 and I-6 districts are for their "messiest" of uses, so we should continue to allow enormous data centers by-right, the reality is that these districts are adjacent to residential districts and/or environmentally sensitive areas. Is that bad zoning? Yes, but the only thing that can be done to mitigate these poorly zoned areas is to require data centers (and let's compromise with the county here – data

centers over 80,000 SF) in ANY industrial district, to be approved through the Special Exception process.

The June 5 (7pm) Planning Commission and July 16 (4pm) Board of Supervisors Public Hearings will determine if we keep ignoring the problem or we require a Special Exception to at least give citizens and the environment a fighting chance. Please email your comments, subject Data Center Zoning Amendment, to your Supervisor (ClerkToTheBos@fairfaxcounty.gov), Planning Commissioner (plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov), or sign up to speak in-person or via phone or pre-recorded video. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/data-centers>

Cynthia Shang
Chantilly, VA

President, Save Pleasant Valley

BRIEFS

Help Restock Frost Middle School's Pantry

Frost Middle School seeks the community's help to fill its pantry shelves for students in need. Especially welcome are Amazon gift cards or nonperishable food items so the school may continue to provide weekend food to students who might otherwise go hungry.

Donations of the following food products are needed: Shelf-stable milk and shelf-stable, individual, prepared meals (Dinty Moore, Chef Boyardee, Hamburger Helper, etc.), as well as cereal cups/packets, fruit/apple sauce cups, granola bars, snack packs (crackers, pretzels, popcorn, etc.) and other healthy snacks.

Deliver to Frost Middle at 4101 Pickett Road in Fairfax, weekdays from 7 a.m.-3:30 pm. Visit nonprofit Britepaths' Food4Thought Partner page to donate online and learn more about its Food4Thought partner schools, such as Frost. Go to <https://britepaths.org/food4thought>.

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PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/THE CONNECTION

Insight In Action

Brian Donohoe, Executive Director at The Trillium Tysons, and Ray Dennison, Executive Director at The Providence of Fairfax, toast Insight Memory Care's Executive Director Anita Devine at Insight's sponsor kick off event March 21 in Fairfax. Looking on is Nate Salisbury, Director of Operations at Silverstone Senior Living.

Greenspring Residents Grant \$542,000 Scholarships for Student Employees

Fifty-one local high school students preparing to turn their tassels were recently named Student Scholars at Greenspring, an Erickson Senior Living community in Springfield, Va.

Dedicated high school student workers are being recognized and set up for success through these four-year scholarships, funded by generous donations from community residents. At the Student Scholars' Award Ceremony on April 26, 51 student workers were granted \$10,000 scholarships through the Student Scholars' Fund at Greenspring, which awarded a total of \$510,000. In addition, 13 students received donor-designated scholarships for a total of \$542,000 with all scholarships.

"Thank you to all the residents who donated. These awards set our student team members up for success," said Director of Philanthropy Kimberly Nelson.

Since 1999, the Greenspring Scholars' Fund has raised more than \$6 million to support student team members in pursuing trade school and higher education. Each scholarship is funded exclusively through the generous contributions of residents and staff members. This year, donations to the Greenspring Scholars Fund topped \$565,000, more than any previous year.

Of primary importance to the Greenspring community is the ability to award all eligible students who apply with a scholarship. Eligibility for the Class of

2024 requires at least 1,000 working hours during the student's junior and senior years of high school. They must achieve satisfactory grades (2.75 or higher) and maintain a disciplinary record free of adverse actions during employment.

At the ceremony, Resident Council President Chuck Davidson read a few inspirational quotes from various leaders and artists worldwide, including Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

To learn more about open positions and career benefits at Greenspring, visit GreenspringCommunity.com.

2024 Greenspring Scholars

- ❖ Zellal Abbas, Edison High School
- ❖ Suhail Abdulwasi, Edison High School
- ❖ Oun Ahmed, Edison High School
- ❖ Prince Amoah, Hayfield Secondary School
- ❖ Janelle Amo-Yartey, South County High School
- ❖ Peter Andreoli, West Springfield High School
- ❖ Addison Ashton, Hayfield Secondary School
- ❖ Autumn Avery, Hayfield Secondary School
- ❖ Brittany Awuku-Larbi, Lewis High School
- ❖ Rangheena Azizi, Potomac High School

SEE GREENSPRING GIVES SCHOLARSHIPS, PAGE 7

BRIGHTVIEW
SENIOR LIVING
Fair Oaks | Woodburn

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SENIOR LIVING

Greenspring Gives Scholarships

FROM PAGE 6

- ❖ Joshua Baskin, Edison High School
- ❖ Kalkidan Baye, Edison High School
- ❖ Elbet Bekema, Lake Braddock Secondary School
- ❖ Winson Chen, Lake Braddock Secondary School
- ❖ Isabelle Cory, West Springfield High School
- ❖ William Culbreth, Hayfield Secondary School
- ❖ Natania Daniel, Lake Braddock Secondary School
- ❖ Urael Debas, Lewis High School
- ❖ Gabriella Evangelista, West Springfield High School
- ❖ Haseeb Fakhry, Lewis High School
- ❖ Eleanor Fisher, Lake Braddock Secondary School
- ❖ Kaylee Genao, Woodbridge Senior High School
- ❖ Fedir Humeniuk, West Springfield High School
- ❖ Ramesha Khan, Lewis High School
- ❖ Addison Lusk, Hayfield Secondary School
- ❖ Ahmed Manj, Lewis High School
- ❖ Hiermon Mengestu, Edison High School
- ❖ Elroe Midekssa, Edison High School
- ❖ Kelly Miraya-Mayuri, Edison High School
- ❖ Nora Mohamed, West Potomac High School
- ❖ Byron Morales, Lewis High School
- ❖ Peter Nguyen, Lewis High School
- ❖ Nabil Niori, South County High School
- ❖ Fatimah Noori, Lewis High School
- ❖ Aja Nyelenkeh, Annandale High School
- ❖ Joy Opoku, West Potomac High School
- ❖ Yusuf Ouanina, Lewis High School
- ❖ Violet Oublier, Hayfield Secondary School
- ❖ Lucia Oyarce-Chavez, South County High School
- ❖ Asraful Patwary, Lewis High School
- ❖ Dylan Pettit, West Springfield High School
- ❖ Shayan Rauf, West Springfield High School
- ❖ Aemod Saeed, South County High School
- ❖ Omari Starnes, Lewis High School
- ❖ Prapada (Amy) Srithongkum, Edison High School
- ❖ Mariam Sylla, Lewis High School
- ❖ Anajwa Thomas, Hayfield Secondary School
- ❖ Berhaane Wobante, Edison High School
- ❖ Meserak Wudneh, Edison High School
- ❖ Priscilla Yeboah, Mount Vernon High School
- ❖ Shahed Zaghbani, Osbourn High School

Reston Senior Movie Day

The Reston Association, in cooperation with Reston Town Center's LOOK Cinemas, present 'Senior Movie Day', a free movie on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except in November and December, Senior Movie Day is the third Wednesday of the month). Coffee, donuts, and OJ are provided, and door prizes are distributed prior to the movie.

Park in the Blue or GREEN garage. One time action item while at your home: Download the ParkRTC App onto your phone, if you have a smartphone.

Registration is not required, just show up.

Questions: Ashleigh@reston.org or 703-435-6577.

Wednesday, June 26 Featuring, Oppenheimer (rated R)

Doors open at 9:15 a.m.

Showtime is at 10 a.m.

LOOK Cinemas at Reston Town Center

Ages: 55+ FREE

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COUNTY NEWS

Homelessness Point-in-Time Count 2024

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee's regional point-in-time counts are a "limited and imperfect perspective." In their May 2024 report, the authors acknowledge that it is a single-night snapshot of who is experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington area. Weather, shelter bed availability and other variables affect the count, which does not show the scope of homelessness or the number of people assisted weekly, monthly, or annually.

"It is not unusual for a jurisdiction to serve as many as four or five times the number of people during a year as are counted during one night of the PIT enumeration." [Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington [pg. 8]

In Fairfax County, 1,278 people reported homelessness on the night of January 24, 2024, a reduction of 2% from 2023. Fairfax County was the sole jurisdiction in the metropolitan Washington region's homeless services system that recorded a decrease.

The counties of Arlington, Loudoun, Montgomery, Prince George's and Prince William; the City of Alexandria, and the District of Columbia all saw percentage increases from 2023 to 2024. The highest percentage change was 38 percent in Loudoun County, followed by 28 percent in Montgomery County, Md.

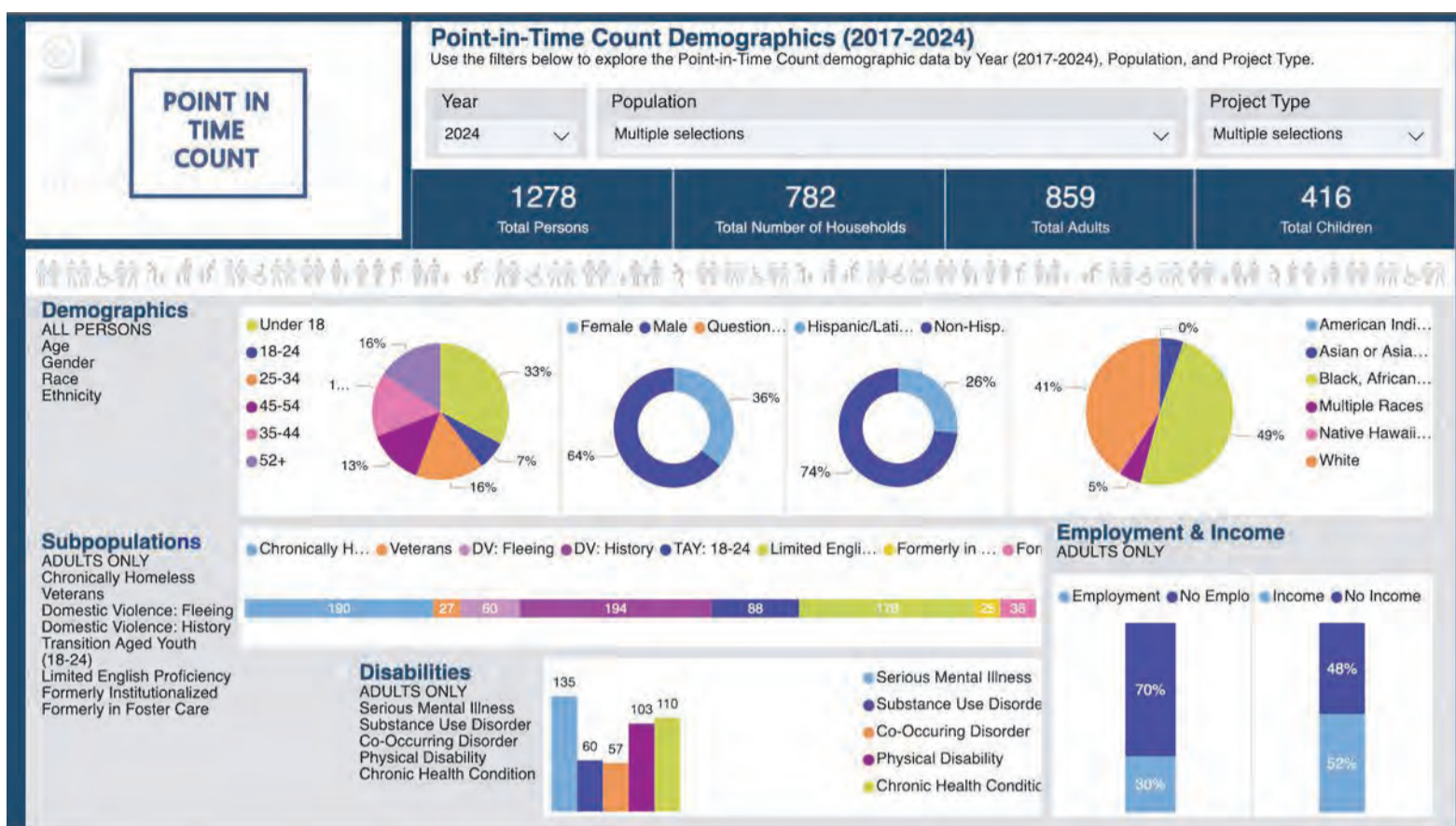
Nine thousand seven hundred seventy-four people were recorded in the metropolitan Washington region's homeless services system — the total excluded persons who doubled up with family or friends per HUD restrictions. From 2023 to 2024, regional homeless count rose by 1,078, a 12 percent rise.

The 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) enumeration also shows how many individuals use year-round winter shelters, emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, and permanent housing solutions.

A critical finding of the report is that with COVID-19 ending, federal emergency funding for rental assistance programs and eviction prevention measures ended. Rising housing costs compound those losses. The collaborating jurisdictions and service providers worry that many more region residents will become homeless. The lack of affordable and available permanent homes for the lowest-income households is one of the biggest challenges to reducing homelessness in the area.

HUD mandates that communities that receive federal funds conduct the annual count during the last ten days of January. The count uses electronic administrative records to enumerate people living in shelters. Metropolitan Washington CoCs have also counted unsheltered people yearly for 24 years even though it is only required every other year.

Visit Point-in-Time Count 2024, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, to learn more about trends by household types and subpopulations, including chronic homelessness, veterans, youth ages 18-24, survivors of domestic violence, and demographics.



Point-in-time count demographics for Fairfax County

SCREENSHOT THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POINT-IN-TIME COUNT [3 OF 4]



PHOTO BY FCPS

The decision on who in the Fairfax County Public School division will receive a pay increase and the amount for FY2025, starting July 1, 2024, lies in the hands of the Fairfax County School Board. The board will adopt the FY 2025 Approved Budget on Thursday, May 23.

Last-ditch attempt for targeted FCPS pay increases at 5%

On Thursday, May 23, Mateo Dunne, the Mount Vernon District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board, will launch an effort through motion to amend the superintendent's proposed FY 2025 Approved Budget. He aims to replace Superintendent Michelle Reid's 3.0 percent across-the-board pay raise with a "targeted" 5.0 percent pay increase for the division's personnel and teachers. The school board is adopting the FY 2025 Approved Budget that evening.

From the beginning of the Fairfax County School Board budget discussions in January of this year, Dunne and some of the other school board representatives objected to any pay raise for administrators. Dunne has consistently argued that the pay raise should focus on teachers and support staff, including cafeteria workers, custodians, librarians, school bus drivers, and school counselors.

"These are the people who educate, feed, transport and care for our children during the school day, and they are the ones who deserve a salary increase this year," Dunne said in a statement that every single dollar should be spent to ensure they receive fair and just compensation."

The school board approved the FY25 Budget Priorities Resolution on January 25, 2024.

Dunne noted in his statement the resolution directed



PHOTO BY FCPS

Mateo Dunne, Mount Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County School Board

Reid to include competitive pay with consideration 'for differentiated pay for hard-to-fill positions, such as teachers in Title I schools and special education teachers.' "Instead, the superintendent proposed an across-the-board 6 percent pay raise for all FCPS employees, including herself," Dunne said.

Dunne wrote in an email that currently the superintendent "earns more than the president [of the United States] and her chief of staff is paid more than the secretary of defense. "It is unconscionable to increase the pay of administrators at a time when our teachers are overworked and underpaid," Dunne said.

An outcry from some Fairfax County Public Schools staff and others erupted at last week's budget public hearings as Fairfax County Public Schools attempted to finalize its fiscal year

2025 budget, currently written with Reid's recommended reduced compensation adjustment from 6.0 to 3.0 percent for all staff. She reduced compensation across the board because state and county money for schools came in at less than the schools budget called for. The county budget reduced the amount for schools by \$89,028,182 less, and state revenue was also reduced by \$16,291,557 less.

Fairfax County Public Schools annual FY 2024 budget will increase from \$3.5 billion to \$3.7 billion in FY 2025. Dunne states, "In particular, the county is providing an additional \$165 million, which results in the FY 2025 budget being the largest budget increase for FCPS in over ten years," Dunne added.

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Fairfax County Sheriff's deputies who marched in the Honor Guard competition, winning first place, are (from left) PFC Benedict, PFC Sapp, PFC Harb, PFC Chong, and PFC Felder, with Sheriff Stacy Kincaid who is holding the First Place plaque and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Rodney Lusk, (Franconia), vice chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors, which sponsors the annual Corrections Wreath Laying Ceremony and Honor Guard Competition.

Sheriff's Honor Guard team wins 1st place

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Honor Guard team won 1st place in the Wreath Laying Ceremony and Honor Guard Competition at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., on May 6. A

spokesperson for the Sheriff's Office said, "The team worked very hard on their routine. Sheriff Kincaid and all her sworn and civilian staff are proud of their accomplishment and well-deserved recognition."

COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Park Authority Opens First Inline Skate Rink

On Saturday, May 11, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Washington Capitals launched the first inline skating rink in the county with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and free hockey instruction. The rink is located at Lake Fairfax.

"This new outdoor rink is focused on ball hockey and inline hockey, and we are excited for the programming that will take place here for years to come," said Peter Robinson, Capitals director of youth hockey development.

Jeff McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, appreciates the partnership with the Washington Capitals. What he loves most about the

inline skate rink is that it helps to level the playing field, he said. The facility allows people to come and use it, removing the cost burden.

"It's part of our One Fairfax mission to make sure equity drives everything we do, and this is a true testament to that," McKay said.

Jai Cole, the Park Authority executive director, attended the opening. "One of the reasons we have a world-class park system is that we work with our community to provide a wide variety of amenities to support a whole world of interests."

SEE COMMUNITY NEWS, PAGE 10



SCREENSHOT - YOUTUBE

Fairfax County Park Authority's first inline skate rink celebrates opening with a ribbon cutting.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Dulles Toll Road Eastbound over Route 123 Bridge Rehabilitation Fairfax County

Willingness to Hold a Public Hearing

Find out about plans to rehabilitate the Eastbound Dulles Toll Road (Route 267 EB) bridge over Route 123 (Dolley Madison Boulevard) to improve safety, increase vertical clearance under the bridge and extend the overall life of the bridge. The bridge was built in 1963 and later repaired in 1995. The project includes replacing the concrete deck, parapets and steel beams and repairing the piers and abutments.

Pursuant with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) was prepared under agreement with the Federal Highway Administration. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included with the PCE.

Review the project information and PCE environmental document at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/TollRoad123> or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2429 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Ms. Dipali Patel, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 on or prior to **June 4, 2024**. If upon receiving public comments it is deemed necessary to hold a public hearing, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

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UPC: 118396
Federal: NHPP-BR09 (308)

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COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

GREAT FALLS



SCREENSHOT VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY VIDEO D.C. WATER.COM

Earlier this year, sewage flowed in DC Water's Manhole #31 in Great Falls, located approximately a football field length from the Potomac River and near 18 private wells. (File image)

Update to Potomac Interceptor Sewer Line Repairs

The Great Falls Citizens Association released an update on May 10 on efforts to restore the Potomac Interceptor Sewer Line that failed in late February. The Connection reported the failure in the story "Major Sewage Line Fails Near Potomac River in Great Falls" as part of its March 6-12, 2024 edition.

According to the update on the GFCA website, Tijuana Haynes, a public outreach consultant at DP Consultants, Inc., shared the following information with the Great Falls community: DP successfully installed a temporary pipe to convey the flow into the existing manhole 31 (MH-31). The sinkhole location has been backfilled and restored. The project no longer relies on bypass pumps to convey flow. Normal work hours, Monday through Friday, resumed on May 13. To mitigate foul odors, DP has installed an odor suppression system on the premises. They are currently cleaning the Potomac Interceptor between MH-31 and MH-30, and DP estimates a completion date of Dec. 31, 2024.

Email Tijuana Haynes at thaynes@dpconsultants.net for further information.

The Potomac Interceptor sanitary sewer system carries about 60 million gallons of wastewater daily from areas near Dulles Airport to the Potomac Pumping Station in Washington, DC. After being treated by the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, the pump station's flows are released into the Potomac River.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Julie Kagler of Parks and Recreation of the Town of Herndon checks off t-shirt distribution for Todd and Alexis Sloan Johnstone of Herndon during the Fairfax County Bike to Work Day 2024 held Friday, May 17.

HERNDON

Bike to Work Day, Town of Herndon

Even before the first light of dawn broke on Friday, May 17, bicyclists peddled into the Fairfax Bike to Work Day 2024 pit stop on the Town Hall Green in the Town of Herndon. It was one of 27 different pit stops across Fairfax County this



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Shortly after 8 a.m., the Herndon Town Green was packed with cyclists.

year for bicyclists during the 23rd annual Bike to Work Day. Commuter Connections, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), and other local governments hosted dozens more pit stops throughout the National Capital.

MCLEAN

McLean Day, Soggy but Happy

Despite the constant mist and rain throughout the day, people flocked to McLean Day 2024, held on Saturday, May 18. Once again, the community's biggest annual festival showcased many attractions. Live music, gourmet food truck selections, and various games delighted the attendees. Over 100 exhibitors and sponsors were present, offering giveaways and creating a vibrant atmosphere. The event also featured entertainment such as balloon animals, magicians, amusements, and a range of carnival rides to suit all ages.

During the Carnival Rides on Friday and McLean Day on Saturday, residents of District 1A who were eligible to vote had the opportunity to choose their candidates for the McLean Com-

munity Center 2024 Governing Board. Ten adults and five teens competed to become members of the volunteer board that oversees the McLean Community Center. The board plays a crucial role in providing policy guidance, strategic planning, and ensuring the proper management of finances.

McLean Center.org released preliminary results on May 18, announcing the individuals elected to serve terms on the board. Doug Jeffery, Michael Monroe, and Peter Pin have been elected to serve 3-year terms, while Ron Kessing will serve a 1-year unexpired term. Sonya Thott will represent the Langley High School boundary area, while Aaron Stark will represent the McLean High School boundary.

SEE COMMUNITY NEWS, PAGE 15
PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Dad Bret Gallagher and his two children set out to enjoy time at McLean Day and stop to talk with Doug Jeffery, a Governing Board candidate whose name McLean Center.org released in preliminary results on May 18, as an individual elected to serve a three-year term on the board.



Election volunteer Jane Pacelli hands an eligible voter a ballot.



A shared plate of fried dough sprinkled with confectioners sugar is finger-licking good for (from left) Alex Ayachi, 12, his friend, Grady Alton, 12, and Grady's mom, Jennifer of McLean. Asked whose idea it was to come to McLean Day, Alex quickly answered, "Mine."



Henry Linnemeier, 13, has mastered the art of riding a bull given his proper positioning and gip to maintain balance. His mom, watching from the side, said there would be no bull riding for her. "I'm just going to have fun watching him," she said.



Blake Tinsley, 4th grade, Deer Park Elementary.



Fiani Gaitan, 2nd grade, London Towne Elementary.



Lela Melick, kindergarten, Virginia Run Elementary.

Westfield Pyramid Art Show Highlights Students' Work

Westfield High's Pyramid Art Show was April 18.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Westfield High senior Zoe Brennan poses with her colorful artwork.



Westfield High senior Ellie Bibb with her sculpted and painted marine animals.



Angelina Gehrke, 8th grade, Stone Middle, holds her ceramic starfish.



Westfield senior James Torres with his bright display.



Ana DeMicoli, 4th grade, Cub Run Elementary. (Standing beneath her entry).



Shravya Rao, 1st grade, Coates Elementary. (Vase of flowers).



Westfield junior Gene Evans does realistic artwork.



Ben Math, 6th grade, Deer Park Elementary.



Aditya Tirukkovalur, 4th grade, McNair Elementary.

ENTERTAINMENT

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/>

RESTON ASSOCIATION SUMMER "AT THE MOVIES"

Reston Association is set for another exciting summer of movie events. "RA at the Movies" gives the community a chance to gather together in a variety of settings while enjoying movies in the great outdoors. Whether gathering for a family outing, date night, or to extend a little pool time, RA has a summer movie for all to enjoy. Movies in the Park include:

Saturday, June 8: Date Night: My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3

Doors open: 8:00 p.m./Showtime: 8:45 p.m.

Lake Newport Soccer Field, 1550 Reston Pkwy

Similarly, Dive-In Movies at some of RA's pools throughout the community let guests enjoy family-oriented films after a day of swimming. Dive-In Movies include:

Thursday, July 11: Puss in Boots: The Last Wish

Doors open: 8:00 p.m./Showtime: 8:45 p.m.

Lake Newport Pool, 11601 Lake Newport Road

Wednesday, August 7: Kung Fu Panda 4

Doors open: 8:00 p.m./Showtime: 8:45 p.m.

Lake Audubon Pool, 2070 Twin Branches Road

All RA at the Movies events are \$6 for RA members and \$10 for non-members. Admission is free for kids under the age of 3. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Register at www.reston-webtrac.com or contact events@reston.org or 703-435-6571.

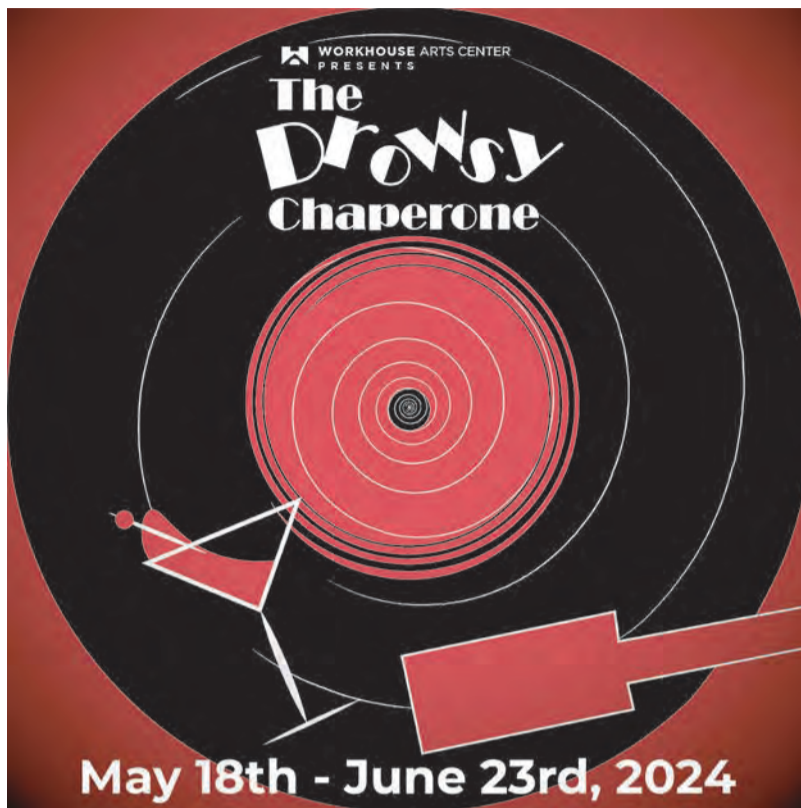
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT COLVIN RUN MILL.

Mill tours every weekend from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

June 2nd and June 16th – Mill in Motion: the mill is operating, the miller is grinding grain, the Northern Virginia Woodcarvers and a local blacksmith are demonstrating their skills. On June 16th, Father's Day, Mill in Motion welcomes fathers and grandfathers with free admission.

June 8 – Brownie Badge Day: Girl Scouts can earn two badges.

June 15 and 19 – Colvin Run Before & After the 13th Amendment (12-Adult): Learn how enslaved and free African Americans helped build and maintain the mill and the Colvin Run community. Discover how, after slavery was outlawed, African Americans developed more connections to the community and created spaces of their own.



"The Drowsy Chaperone," now thru June 23, 2024 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

PARK AUTHORITY, MASTER GARDENERS OFFER FREE VEGETABLE GARDEN CLINICS

As spring blooms, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Master Gardeners extend a warm invitation to all gardening enthusiasts for a series of free Vegetable Garden Plant Clinics. These educational programs, offered in collaboration with the Fairfax County Master Gardeners and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), aim to cultivate a deeper understanding of gardening practices and foster a sense of community among green thumbs of all levels.

Join expert gardeners at a variety of locations as they provide valuable insights, answer questions, distribute soil sample kits, and offer complimentary analyses of plant and pest issues. These clinics are scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following Saturdays: June 8, July 13, Aug. 10 and Sept. 14. Clinics will be held concurrently on each of these dates at eight locations across Fairfax County:

Pine Ridge Park, 3401 Woodburn Road, Annandale

Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston

Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

Grist Mill Park, 4320 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria

Grove Point Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield

George Mason Park, 9700 Braddock Road, Fairfax

Hogge Park, 3139 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church

Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Walk With Dr. Rinka Mehra. 10 a.m. Meet at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Walk with Dr. Rinka Mehra is a new initiative aimed at encouraging families to participate in a monthly walk to promote a healthy

community and encourage active lifestyles. Walk with Dr. Mehra offers participants the opportunity to engage in safe physical activity while gaining valuable health information and connecting with others in their community. Visit <https://www.themehraclinic.com/about>

FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS READY FOR 2024 SEASON

The opening of the 2024 Farmers Market season is fast approaching and the Park Authority, along with dozens of local food producers, will have tons of fresh and healthy foods waiting for you at all 10 markets located throughout the county.

This year, you can expect to find locally grown produce, delicious baked goods and prepared foods at the farmers markets. Additionally, enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities from musical performances, games, and don't forget to bring your food scraps to support our community composting efforts!

The 2024 season begins April 17 with the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Market. Check out our full market schedule for the latest times and locations.

WEDNESDAYS

McCutcheon/Mount Vernon April 17-Dec. 18, 8 a.m. - noon
Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

Oakmont May 1-Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-noon
Oakmont Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton

Wakefield May 1 – Oct. 30, 2-6 p.m.
Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale

THURSDAYS

Annandale May 2 -Nov. 14, 8 a.m. - noon
Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Herndon May 2 -Nov. 7, 8 a.m. - noon
Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., Herndon (by the Red Caboose)

FRIDAYS

McLean

May 3-Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

Kingstowne

May 3-Oct. 25, 3-7 p.m.
In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria

SATURDAYS

Burke

April 20-Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon
VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke

Reston

April 27-Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon
Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

SUNDAYS

Lorton

May 5-Nov. 10, 8 a.m.-noon
VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton

Visit the Farmers Market website for complete information about this year's markets – including details on SNAP benefits for eligible households available at designated locations. Contact the Community Horticulture Office at 702-642-0128.

THURSDAY/MAY 16

"Wagner & Me" Movie. 1 pm. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingelside Ave., McLean. Jewish-American Heritage Month Selection. Stephen Fry's journey to reconcile his Jewish heritage with his love of Richard Wagner's music. Programs subject to change. Not rated.

MAY 18 THRU JUNE 23

"The Drowsy Chaperone." At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center Performing Arts announces its newest production, "The Drowsy Chaperone," a delightful musical comedy about characters coming to life in a fictitious 1928 song-and-dance-infused performance. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$25 to \$40. Visit the website www.workhousearts.org.

ART CAMP 2024 WITH CAROL ZEITLIN

Registration Open at Woods C Center, Burke Centre.

Fine Arts & Crafts Fun Camp (7/8 yrs & up/Teen)

Campers explore Drawing, Watercolor Painting & crafts as Clay or Sculpture and Mixed Media.

June 17, 19 & 21 (Mon/Wed/Fri) – 12:30-3:15 pm

July 15, 17 & 19 (Mon/Wed/Fri) – 12:30-3:15 pm

Drawing Plus Color Fun Camp (5- 8 yrs)

Campers Draw, plus color with Watercolor, crayons cartoon characters, stuff animals & more.

June 17, 19 & 21 (Mon/Wed/Fri) – 10:00-11:00 am

July 15, 17 & 19 (Mon/Wed/Fri) 10:00-11:00 a.m.

To Register: Call/Text instructor (703) 250-6930 for details and registration. E-mail: czeitlinschneier@yahoo.com

MAY 30 TO JUNE 2

Tysons Library Quarterly Book and Media Sale. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

Thursday, 30 May, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, 31 May, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 1 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, 2 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or

half price if less. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests.

MAY 30 TO JUNE 2

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield.

Thursday, May 30th, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. open to all

Friday, May 31st, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. open to all

Saturday, Jun 1st, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. open to all

Sunday, Jun 2, 12 – 2 p.m. Bag Sale, \$5/bag

Thousands of like new books to choose from. The Friends of the Richard Byrd Library is a nonprofit all volunteer organization. Funds raised support children's and adult programming at the Richard Byrd Library. For more information contact the Friends at rbfriends@gmail.com

FRIDAY/MAY 31

Summer Blast Off. 8 p.m. At Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna. The President's Own United States Marine Band featuring guest soloist Doreen Ketchens, New Orleans Jazz Clarinetist. Join "The President's Own" for a mix of patriotic favorites, popular movie soundtracks, Sousa marches, and Broadway show tunes, and a guest appearance by iconic New Orleans jazz clarinetist Doreen Ketchens. As always, the program will conclude with a medley of the Armed Forces' service songs honoring all those currently serving, veterans, and their families, followed by one of the best fireworks displays of the year.

FARM HARVEST FRIDAYS

Every Friday at 2:00 p.m. – May 31 through October. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Enjoy live music, a guided harvest from Annie, the Giving Garden urban farmer, produce tastings, and more. Throughout the season, the farm will produce over 50 varieties of fruits, vegetables and herbs, including strawberries, zucchini, beets, spinach, carrots, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, and more.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: DOUBLE FEATURES

June 1, June 15, & July 20. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. First set: 4:00-6:30 p.m. 2nd set: 7:00-9:00 p.m. Summer Concert Series will offer two live performance sets on each date, with the first band at 4-630 p.m. and the second from 7-9 p.m. The series will feature local bands such as Party Fowl, Cazhmiere, Billy Twilde, and more. Come out and enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while jamming to your favorite groove!

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Reston Pride Festival. 12-6 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. The festival will offer access to vendors, performances, speakers, fun, festivities and more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Dust to Dust. 9:30 a.m. Join NOVA Parks Naturalist Whitney Gilliland for an unforgettable journey along the banks of Bull Run. Delve into the world of birds, soaking in the beauty of nature, and uncovering some hidden history as we explore two recently discovered enslaved cemeteries. NOVA Parks Historian

ENTERTAINMENT

New Work Honoring 2024 Centennial of George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue

**Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 4pm
at George Mason University
Center for the Arts.**

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Music Director Christopher Zimmerman, will present the Virginia premiere of Peter Boyer's Rhapsody in Red, White, and Blue, with piano soloist Jeffrey Biegel, on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 4 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts. Biegel commissioned the work from Boyer to commemorate the 100th anniversary of George Gershwin's landmark masterwork Rhapsody in Blue, which is also on this concert program. This special program that honors the past and looks to the future of American classical music closes with Amy Beach's "Gaelic" Symphony.

Biegel and Zimmerman discuss the new Rhapsody and its influences in a pre-concert talk at 3 p.m.

"Our season finale is a celebration of great American orchestral music, old and new, known and unknown," said Christopher Zimmerman, FSO conductor and music director. "The centerpiece is a brand-new piano concerto by the young American composer Peter Boyer, inspired by Gershwin's beloved 'Rhapsody in Blue' with which it is paired. Again, we bring in the virtuoso performer for whom the piece was written, the great



The Virginia premiere of Peter Boyer's Rhapsody in Red, White, and Blue, will feature with piano soloist Jeffrey Biegel, on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 4 p.m.

American pianist Jeffrey Biegel."

Rhapsody in Red, White, and Blue takes the form of a single multi-sectional movement — like Gershwin's original — that contains allusions to blues influences and depictions of iconic American vistas.

Before introducing local audiences to Boyer's new American classic, Biegel also joins the FSO for the work that inspired it all: George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, which was originally premiered on February 12, 1924 with Gershwin himself as soloist.



The Clifton 5K Run will be held Saturday, June 8, 2024 in the Town of Clifton.

Paul McCray will be there to share insights into what's uncovered and the lives of those laid to rest. The roundtrip hike will be approximately 4.5 miles, so make sure to wear comfortable shoes for the unpaved trail and bring along a water bottle to stay hydrated. To register: <https://ow.ly/jMcx50REAR6>

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Inner Gardens Solo Show Artist

Talk. 11 a.m. At Atrium Gallery, McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Inner Gardens is a collection of Abol Bahadori's latest paintings that delve into the depths of the human psyche, exploring the intricate landscapes of our inner worlds. Each piece invites viewers to embark on a journey of introspection and discovery through colors, surreal simulation of perspective, and intuitive abstract marks. The reception will provide an opportunity to engage with the artwork, meet fellow art enthusiasts, and enjoy light refreshments in a welcoming atmosphere.

SATURDAY JUNE 1

Celebrate National Trails Day.

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. At Laurel Hill Central Green, 8780 Lorton Road, Lorton. Participate in a variety of interactive educational trail activities. Explore nature with the Wonder Wagon. Meet the local fire and rescue team. Learn about the local history of Laurel Hill Park.

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Quarterly Recycling Day. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill St., NE, Vienna. Got junk? Get rid of it the eco-friendly way at the next Quarterly Recycling Day! Town residents can drop off scrap metal, electronics, and auto waste for recycling. You can also drop off one-time use and rechargeable batteries for bulk recycling. To learn more visit www.viennava.gov/recycling.

SATURDAY/JUNE 8

Clifton 5K Run. 6-9 p.m. In the Town of Clifton. A family-friendly race with 5K and one-mile options. Live music, refreshments and an awards ceremony follow at the Red Barn near Clifton's Main Street area. Cost is 5K:\$25 per person; 1-Mile Fun Run:\$20 per person. Email: clifton5k@verizon.net. Visit the website: <https://www.facebook.com/cliftonva.org>

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Legals

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SAK Tysons Hotel, LLC trading as Staybridge Suites (Tysons/McLean), 6845 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, Fairfax County, VA 22101-3725. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Hotel Limited license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. VIPUL KAPILA, MEMBER. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE
Natty & Boom Group Inc trading as Sorn Thai, 6224E Old Dominion Dr., McLean, Fairfax County, Virginia 22101-4217. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant Beer, Wine, and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Kamol Sriechpong, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

Announcements

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Legals

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DWI Suspected in Fatal Motorcycle Crash

Detectives from our Crash Reconstruction Unit (CRU) are investigating a fatal motorcycle crash in Groveton.

Early morning on Friday, May 17, around 1:16 a.m., officers responded to the intersection of South Kings Highway and Memorial Street in Groveton for a crash involving a 2023 Kawasaki ZX and a 2007 Ford F-150. Preliminarily, detectives determined the driver of the Ford F-150 was traveling east on Memorial Street and entered the intersection of South Kings Highway. The motorcyclist, who was traveling south on South Kings Highway, struck the driver's side of the F-150.

The motorcyclist, Jonathan Bartell, 28, of Alexandria was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The driver of the F-150 was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Officers from the DWI Squad responded and obtained a warrant for Driving Under the Influence for Santos Adrian Ventura Fuentes, 34, of Alexandria. Ventura Fuentes is being held on no bond. Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives continue to investigate the crash.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

CALENDAR

			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

OAKTON

Oakton Student Wins Poetry Prize

In the Gaithersburg (Maryland) Book Festival poetry contest for high school students, second prize went to Oakton, Va., resident Isabela Revis, a sophomore at Oakton High School, for "The Bloody Lane."

Contest judge Clint Smith, a local poet and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction for his book "How the Word is Passed," announced the top three winners at the Festival on May 18.

"These poems demonstrate a remarkable command of the craft and show extraordinary creativity," Smith said of the winning poems. "I am in awe of these young poets. Their work took my breath away."

Chelsea Zhu, a sophomore at Richard Montgomery High School and an Rockville, Md., resident, was awarded first prize for "Voyage to the Exoplanet." Ayomi Mukerjee, a Gaithersburg, Md., resident and freshman at Thomas Wootton High School, received third prize for "My hair's twists and tangles." Ariana Miranda, a senior at Wheaton High School and resident of Silver Spring, Md., won the fan favorite contest with her poem, "Color Coded."

RESTON



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Kofi, Tracy, and Shanelle of Reston enjoy their Saturday at the Tephra ICA Festival at Reston Town Center.

33rd annual Tephra ICA Arts Festival

The Tephra ICA Festival held at Reston Town Center May 18-19 shaped up to be a great weekend event featuring contemporary art and music. www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

rary artists and artisans from over 25 states producing high quality, hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind artwork. Robert Goudie, executive director of Reston Town Center Association, said the festival featured 216 artists this year, many first-timers.

"It's as good a show as we've ever had.," said Goudie. "And look at the people who are already out despite the drizzle. That tells you how much people are looking forward to this."

VIENNA

Vienna Adopts Town Budget

The Vienna Town Council adopted the Town budget, real estate tax rate, and water and sewer rates for fiscal year 2025. The adopted \$53.8-million balanced budget reflects current economic conditions related to inflation and supply chain issues and:

- ❖ Maintains property tax rate at 19.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value
- ❖ Addresses inflationary increases in operating costs, mainly through tax revenue increases related to assessed value of new construction
- ❖ Funds compensation increases for eligible employees
- ❖ Provides a night shift pay differential to police officers who work overnight
- ❖ Adds one personnel position identified as a priority – An after-hours information technology position to support police, the community center and other after-hours IT needs

This is the 12th consecutive year there was either no change or a reduction in Vienna's property tax rate.

The adopted budget also includes a 10 percent increase in water and sewer bills. The result is an average annual water service increase of \$100.

I-66 EMP Partners with Educate Fairfax Foundation

With its recent contribution of \$15,000, I-66 Express Mobility Partners (I-66 EMP) became a 2024 Annual Partner with Educate Fairfax, the not-for-profit educational foundation serving Fairfax County Public Schools. I-66 EMP's contribution will help support Educate Fairfax to foster workforce readiness and career development.

Dr. Lynette Henry, executive director for Educate Fairfax, said "Our 2024 partnership with EMP is a tremendous boon for the students we serve."

I-66 EMP is the builder and operator of the 66 Express Outside the Beltway that runs through Fairfax County to I-495. In April of this year, I-66 EMP contributed funds to provide 10 student needs-based scholarships to the FCPS Tech Adventure Camp this summer. During 2023, the roadway operator made a donation to the foundation that went towards supporting the Innovators Fund, a program which augments STEM education, as well as the Kids In Need Fund, which provides essential school supplies for students from low-income households.

Since the relationship between I-66 EMP and Educate Fairfax began in 2019, three years before the 66 Express Outside the Beltway opened to the public, the transportation infrastructure consortium has contributed a total of \$140,250 to FCPS's not-for-profit foundation.

Raffle for Scholarships

The Herndon-Reston Rotary Club is raising money for its scholarships for South Lakes High School and Herndon High School. The \$5 raffle is a great way to support local students. Purchasing raffle tickets is 100% online. The winner will be drawn electronically, too. Please help

our students out. Everyone and anyone can help a little, and our kids will gain a lot. The winner receives a 1-month membership to D1 Reston, a \$100 gift card to Glory Days Reston, and a gift basket valued at \$100 from Weird Brothers Coffee. Winner will be notified by email after the raffle drawing on June 7, 2024. <https://rafflecreator.com/pages/79222/herndon-reston-rotary-spring-scholarship-raffle>

"Drill Baby, Drill" ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... is not what I was telling my dentist recently – during multiple visits (I use that term lightly). After years of dental neglect, I've finally had "some work done," as they say. And if I were to be saying anything, it would have been "pull, doctor, pull." But given the number of teeth extracted over two four-hour appointments, the dentist didn't need any encouragement from me. He was quite clear and determined to pull all the teeth fit to be removed. The number might have totaled a baker's dozen before all was "Novocained" and pulled.

This dental journey began with Dr. Frimm in Newton Centre, Ma. He was the family dentist that tended to all the Louries. From a young age then I was indoctrinated into the world/need for dentistry. Fast forward to the last few years. I had continued to be a regular visitor to the dentist until my long-time adult-era dentist died somewhat unexpectedly at his age 72. Though the practice sent out an email announcing his death, there were no referrals included. I was, in effect, set adrift-ish. As a result, me and my teeth were left to fend for themselves. With no more electronic reminders from a dentist, I had no reason/reminder to schedule an appointment with the dentist, if you know what I mean (barring any immediate teeth issues: crowns, root canals, sensitivity to hold or cold, et. cetera)?

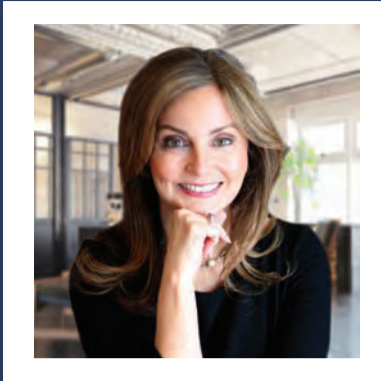
As you might imagine, my teeth and gums suffered accordingly. The lack of enamel that finally broke Kenny's resistance was the failure of a main tooth (three from the center on the top left) to hold its respective place. If it were Halloween, I would have had the perfect look to go as a hockey player. I wouldn't say I looked like "The Great Eight," when he has his game face on (I believe his missing tooth is on the upper right); nevertheless, since it's not Halloween, the toothless look is not what I was after. Moreover, with crowns missing their tops and other teeth issues: teeth missing, teeth cracked) and the difficulty eating as I didn't have enough teeth – top or bottom to masticate (grind and chew) my food into small enough pieces, it was, as my late mother would say: "Enough already."

Combine that with the dry-throat side effect from my cancer medicine and eating/swallowing not only became a challenge, it also became a fear, as food occasionally would get stuck in my throat. That meant of course, no air and no breathing, very scary. (It only needs to happen once before you know you never want it to happen again, so you begin to take precautions. After years of miscellaneous precautions, a visit to the dentist became an inevitability.)

I'm not exactly a shell of my former self but eating had taken on an entire new modus operandi. It was no longer about pleasure, it became more about avoiding pain – and death, if you want to know the truth? Death caused-by-blockage. Because I might not have had the required amount of patience – and teeth, quite frankly, while eating (trying to eat slowly and chew my food), I often ended up swallowing larger pieces of food that my mouth/throat couldn't quite handle. Soon, it became obvious, even to me that I couldn't ever take a bite of food without a glass of something nearby (as well as "bite-sizing" to very small portions). And the few times I neglected to take this precaution, like with a dessert, I nearly paid the ultimate price. After a year or two of this recurring difficulty, combined with the other teeth/dental issues I was experiencing, I bit the bullet (not really) and made the necessary dental arrangements which has led to this column. (As for the real pain: the cost of all this work and the meager coverage offered by your typical dental insurance policy covering up to \$1,000/\$1,500 per year, as an example, paying for this volume of repair and replace is something else that's been hard to swallow.)

It's been nearly a month now – and two payments since this dental journey began. I'm not quite home free yet, but I'm a lot closer to the promised land (although medical and dental procedures rarely come with promises) and a return to dental normalcy. Dental normalcy meaning – for me, that I can chew and swallow my food without fear, and without making absolutely sure there's glass of something nearby, just in case the not-expected thing happens. In addition, I'll have completed my dental payment plan so even though I may be cash poor, I'll be teeth rich. This dental business will address, finally, a situation I've been anticipating and worrying about for years. Using my cancer diagnosis as an excuse as in, why bother, it was easy to back-burner the dental demands until I looked like hell and had difficulty swallowing my food, so much so that mealtime had become fear time. And the last thing a cancer patient needs is additional fear. Cancer fear is more than enough on its own. Oddly enough, having my dental issues resolved seems to make dealing with my cancer easier in some respects. And easier will come at a time when my cancer issues may once again be rearing its very ugly head. As Rachel Maddow says: "Watch this space."

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



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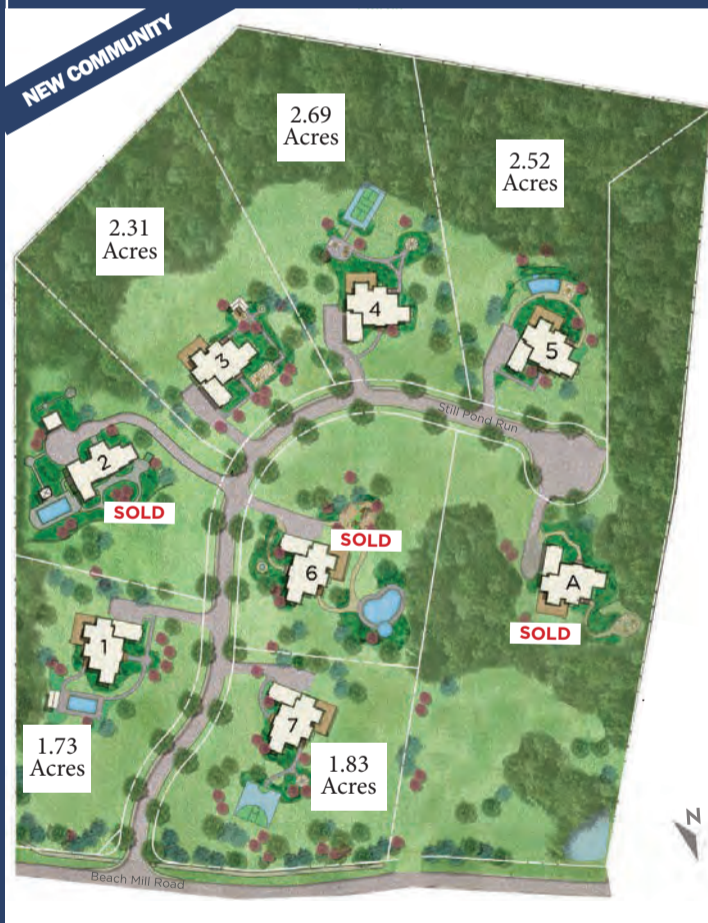


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