

CONNECTION

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Amini Bonane presents the Legacy of Freedom Medal to Jeffrey Johnson at the City of Fairfax Juneteenth celebration.



Wiggly Larvae Point
To Water Quality

PAGE 8

County Looks at
More Data Centers

PAGE 11

Honoring
Juneteenth

PAGE 3

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

JUNE 20-26, 2024

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Governor Says Virginia Is Exiting Clean Car Commitment

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) has no interest in a roadmap to a zero-emission future for vehicles in Virginia. Youngkin cites Attorney General Jason Miyares' official opinion, which "confirms that Virginians are no longer legally bound to follow the emission standards of California."

Walton Shepherd, senior attorney and Virginia director at Natural Resources Defense Council, said, "Youngkin is a governor, not a king. In a nation of laws, no one person can unilaterally halt a democratically passed and signed law. This is outrageous. Youngkin tried and failed three times to get his allies to repeal the Clean Cars law, but the legislature rightly stood firm on the side of public health and cleaner air. Now he's trying to bail out out-of-state big oil interests by going against the will of the people."

The Sierra Club Virginia Chapter agreed, saying in a release on June 5: "The response is despite the standards being adopted and twice reaffirmed by the Virginia General Assembly. ... If upheld, the decision will restrict Virginians' choice because auto manufacturers prioritize delivery of EVs to states that have adopted ACCII [Advanced Clean Cars II]."

In 2021, Virginia approved legislation



Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R): "Virginia will exit California's electric vehicle mandate at the end of this year."

signed by then-Gov. Ralph Northam (D) to adopt California's Clean Cars standard. The California Air Resource Board announced its "ride to zero emissions," adopting the new Advanced Clean Cars II regulations (ACC II) during its hearing on Aug. 25, 2022, which

made the regulations more stringent.

At the June 5 videoed press conference, Youngkin said Miyares performed "amazing work" in finding that he could circumvent compliance with clean cars. Youngkin said that Virginia will exit California's electric ve-

hicle mandate at the end of this year, "ending once and for all the California electric vehicle mandate in Virginia" [minute 30:57 YouTube video]. Miyares wrote in his AG Opinion, "EV mandates like California's are unworkable and out of touch with reality, and thankfully, the law does not bind us to their regulations. California does not control which cars Virginians buy."

But the standards were adopted in Virginia, in order to give Virginia car buyers more choices. Scott Surovell wrote that, "Governor Youngkin's reckless attempt to unilaterally undo Virginia's Clean Cars law is an autocratic and unlawful action that will hurt everyday Virginians and set our state back." The Senate majority leader offered this background: "The General Assembly and Governor Ralph Northam adopted Virginia's Clean Car Law in 2021 at the request of Virginia automobile dealerships who lacked access to a consistent supply of affordable electric vehicles. Fifteen other states had already joined a multi-state compact which caused manufacturers to send most electric vehicles to other states so they could meet sales quotas. One purpose of the law was to provide Virginia consumers with more electric vehicle choices at lower prices so that they could enjoy the same choices and prices as other states."

SEE CLEAN CAR, PAGE 15

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‘We Must Push Back Against Efforts to Take Us Backward’

Fairfax City holds its second annual Juneteenth Celebration.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City’s second annual Juneteenth Celebration was held Saturday, June 15, in Old Town Square. And its overall message was that, despite the great strides Black people in this country have made – and contrary to the Pledge of Allegiance – there still isn’t “liberty and justice for all.”

Indeed, in his opening invocation, the Rev. Nelson Sneed said, “God, we thank You for how far we have come as a nation. And even as we bow, we acknowledge our need for You to guide us in the continual struggle for true, racial equity.”

“Let us affirm one another, especially those who may think or look different than ourselves. Bless us now with Your presence as we celebrate, reflect and remember what matters most – that we are one humanity, all created in Your image, for Your glory.”

The first speaker, Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read, honored Mount Calvary Baptist Church. Organized in 1870 by free and formerly enslaved African Americans, it was the foundation of the City’s Black community. The original church was on the west side of Route 123; and in 1955, work began on construction of a new place of worship at 4325 Chain Bridge Road.

Its modern, brick sanctuary, built on that same site, dates from 1999, and the Rev. Jeffrey Johnson Sr. is

the current pastor. “Inspired by President Biden’s declaration of Juneteenth as a national holiday in 2021, Rev. Johnson and four parishioners approached City staff in January 2023 with plans for a joint City/Mount Calvary Juneteenth celebration,” said Read. That first celebration was at the church, and Saturday’s event followed in the heart of Old Town.

“Without the 154 years of community created by Mount Calvary Baptist Church, this event would not be possible,” said Read. She then presented Johnson with a plaque in appreciation. Noting this church’s importance to the City and its Black community, she said, “Thank you, Rev. Johnson, for all you and your parishioners have done to keep Juneteenth at the forefront of a celebration important to our City.”

“Juneteenth reminds us that there were individuals who came here as things to be used – not men, nor women, to be respected,” said Johnson. “There have been many atrocities in the experience of African Americans on their road toward the ‘pursuit of happiness’ here in the United States. We’re here to make sure those past atrocities do not revisit us in 2024 and beyond.”

“We’re here because, sometimes, even the highest court of the land holds our journey toward happiness in contempt,” he continued. “We’re here to let the world know we’re proud to be Americans and



Posing after the ceremony are (from left) Amini Bonane, Krysta Jones, Saddam Salim, Gerry Connolly, Catherine Read, David Bulova, Jeffrey Johnson, Nelson Sneed and Councilmember Billy Bates.

proud of our heritage in this country. And you’re always welcome to Mount Calvary Baptist Church.”

Next, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly explained Juneteenth and the tasks still ahead. “On June 19, 1865, Union Army Gen. Gordon Granger marched into Galveston, Texas, and had to tell enslaved people they’d been free for two years,” said Connolly. “It was a joyous celebration in Texas for Black



David Atkins addresses the crowd.



Saddam Salim.

SEE FAIRFAX, PAGE 10



From left, David Bulova, Catherine Read, Gerry Connolly and Billy Bates listen to the speakers.



Catherine Read presenting a plaque to Jeffrey Johnson.



Amini Bonane presents the Legacy of Freedom Medal to Jeffrey Johnson.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City Plans School Bonds on November Ballot

For Daniels Run, Providence renovations, new high-school roof.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Whether it's a house or a public building, chances are – by the time it's almost 70 years old – it's going to require some repairs and renovations, even if it's had some earlier. The same holds true for schools.

Fairfax City's elementary schools, Providence and Daniels Run, were built 68 and 69 years ago, respectively, and are now in great need of major renovations. In addition, Fairfax High's roof is nearing the end of its operational life and needs to be replaced sooner than later.

So at its meeting last Tuesday, June 11, Fairfax City Council approved introducing an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$220 million in general-obligation school bonds to renovate the two elementaries and give the high school a new roof. Some \$177 million would be for Providence and Daniels Run, with \$43 million earmarked for the roof – and the total includes financing costs.

These capital-improvement projects have long been on the City's radar. And last week, Fairfax's Chief Financial Officer J.C. Martinez, told the Councilmembers, "This has been an ongoing effort for the past three years. Tonight, we need guidance regarding if you want to just do the two elementary schools or add in the high-school roof."

Councilmember Jon Stehle then asked City Schools Superintendent Jeff Platenberg to come to the podium and provide further information. "When I first came here in July 2022, Council had requested a schools' assessment," said Platenberg. "We put together a team and developed an RFP [request for proposals] and ended up with Moseley Architects."

He said the team also looked at the schools' operational costs in terms of their plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems and whether they were capable of meeting future needs. "The elementary schools were renovated in 2001, but they were designed to the standards of three years before that," he explained. "And when we looked at today's costs to renovate them, it really was a sticker shock."

Daniels Run and Providence are each 100,000-square-foot buildings. And besides the actual "hard costs" of construction materials, said Platenberg, "You have to add in 'soft costs,' including learning



Jeff Platenberg.

cottages [trailers] to hold the students while their buildings are being worked on."

He said the team looked at renovating both schools concurrently or staggering these projects, and "there was a big difference. When you figure in escalation in the costs of the construction materials, plus inflation, the further out you go [timewise], the higher the price tag." Therefore, it's cheaper to renovate both elementaries at the same time.

Stehle then said, "We need to move forward with the bond and put it out there to the voters. And the sooner we do the work, the less it'll cost."

"Design standards, and the teaching and learning spaces, have changed greatly since these schools were designed," said Platenberg. "And having modern schools will help us attract and retain teachers."

A week earlier, on June 3, the City School Board held its own meeting on this matter and approved requesting City Council to authorize a bond issue for \$177 to just cover the two elementary schools. But at the June 11 Council meeting, Fairfax High's roof was also being considered for inclusion into the bond issue.

"The high-school roof is still under warranty until 2030 or '31, so why are we considering adding it back in?" asked Councilmember Greenfield.

"We have eight years from the time the bond is issued to do [the work]," replied Platenberg. "So around 2032 is when the roof will need to be done."

Greenfield suggested they put together a bond-advisory task force "to let the residents know why the bond is needed and what it would mean to their real-estate tax rate."

But Councilmember Tom Ross stressed that "This is a critical need we have to move forward on. There's a tremendous amount of variables. Also, having a 1-percent



Daniels Run Elementary School.



Providence Elementary School.

sales tax would help us provide revenue for this."

Regardless of the outcome of the bond referendum, the City plans to investigate filing an application with the Commonwealth for a "Local Option Sales Tax" of 1 percent for the purpose of financing school capital projects.

"I support putting the referendum forward," said Councilmember Kate Doyle Feingold. "We also need engagement with the teachers and staff to make sure we're addressing their needs."

Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read weighed in, as well. "The high-school roof leaks, and the leaks aren't going to get better on their

own," she said. Furthermore, she added, "They might worsen in the next three or four years and may need to be done sooner."

Platenberg said seeking a bond issue of \$220 million "gives us more options and decreases the financial impacts down the road. And it saves taxpayer money, as well."

Stehle then made a motion to move forward with the \$220 million bond referendum and Ross seconded. The motion passed unanimously. As for the next steps, prior to City Council's next meeting, June 25, the School Board will have to adopt its own, revised bond resolution that includes the high-school roof and changes its

official request to a bond issue of \$220 million, instead of \$177 million.

Then on June 25, City Council will hold a public hearing and take action to go forward with the bond issue. After doing so, Fairfax City will then formally ask Fairfax County Circuit Court to order that this bond referendum be held at the same time as the Nov. 5 general election.

And before the residents vote on it, they'll receive a printed explanation of the referendum. It'll tell them why the money is needed and what it'll be used for, and they'll be given this information on election day.

NEWS

Man Arrested, Charged with Sexual Assaults

Police say DNA testing reportedly tied him to three cold cases.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A man police believe committed multiple, unsolved sexual assaults – dating as far back as 1998 – is now in custody in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. He is Edward Eugene Pottmyer, 58 and, although he has a Chantilly address, he actually lives in Loudoun County.

Police say he allegedly attacked three women who lived in the local area at the time of the offenses and that modern DNA testing reportedly tied him to each crime. He was apprehended June 5, but police didn't publicly release information about his arrest until last Thursday, June 13.

Details of the offenses are as follows:

❖ On Sept. 9, 1998, around 7 p.m., a 48-year-old woman was jogging on a bike path in Fair Lakes when she was assaulted. The suspect implied he had a knife, sexually assaulted her and then ran from the area.

❖ On Aug. 3, 2000, around 11 p.m., a suspect forced entry into a home in the 11900 block of Parkside Drive in Fair Oaks. A 66-year-old woman was asleep when she was awoken by a man assaulting her. She fought him and was able to escape by jumping from a second-story balcony and running away.

❖ On Dec. 6, 2004, around 10:45 p.m., a 51-year-old woman was in her basement in the 9900 block of Whitewater Drive in Burke. She saw a man exposing himself out-

side her sliding-glass door. When she yelled, the man ran away.

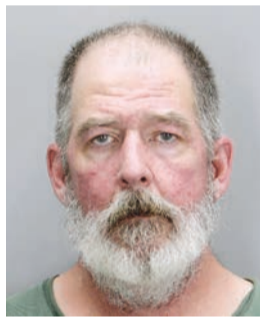
In all three cases, detectives recovered forensic evidence from the scenes and submitted it for analysis upon collection. But a suspect was never found. Recently, however -- because of the advancement in DNA testing -- detectives submitted this crime-scene DNA to Othram Inc.

Othram's technicians used Forensic-Grade Genome Sequencing to develop a comprehensive profile that was then used for Forensic Genetic Genealogy research. And according to Fairfax County police, "DNA analysis [allegedly] linked all three cases and potentially identified Edward Eugene Pottmyer as a suspect."

Afterward, detectives obtained Pottmyer's DNA which, they say, "positively identified him as the suspect." Detectives then obtained felony arrest warrants charging him with forcible sodomy and abduction with the intent to defile. On June 5, with the assistance of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Pottmyer was taken into custody. Since then, he's been in the Fairfax County jail where he's being held without bond. He has a Sept. 18 court date.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about these cases or believe they had unlawful contact with Pottmyer. Those with information are asked to call the Cold Case Squad at 703-246-7511.

Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).



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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 Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
ROANOKE	15085	699	BENDEMEER ROAD-RTE 699	MASON CREEK	5/29/2024
FRANKLIN	7916	705	CHESTNUT HILL RTE 705	PIGG RIVER	5/21/2024
GRAYSON	8730	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	CABIN CREEK	5/14/2024
SCOTT	16799	665	MANVILLE ROAD	BLACK OAK BRANCH	5/9/2024
ALBEMARLE	839	745	ARROWHEAD VALLEY ROAD-RTE 745	BRANCH MOORES CREEK	5/8/2024
ALBEMARLE	880	810	SIMMONS GAP ROAD	LYNCH RIVER	5/1/2024

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 vdot.virginia.gov and navigate to Traffic and Travel/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. 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.

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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VDOT Makes Roadsides a Refuge for Pollinators

Pollinator conservation provides bird and insect habitats and improves agency efficiencies.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will install 135 new acres of pollinator habitats this year to support pollinators such as bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles, flies, and more.

Since 2014, VDOT's Pollinator Habitat Program has created naturalized areas of native plants along state-maintained roads and properties that provide habitats to threatened and dwindling pollinator species. The program began with four plots in Northern Virginia.

This year marks five years since VDOT joined the nationwide Monarch Butterfly Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, a voluntary agreement between energy and transportation partners and the programs' administrator, the University of Illinois-Chicago. VDOT's initial five-year goal was to proactively implement conservation measures on roughly 3,100 acres of interstate roadsides to sup-

port the monarch butterfly. Five years into the program, VDOT estimates contributing around 8,000 acres of pollinator habitats along VDOT roadways, well above the initial goal. VDOT performs monitoring each spring season to document milkweed and nectar flowering species.

"Supporting pollinator conservation is a win-win for VDOT, because the agency can save money and improve efficiencies, and pollinators gain thousands of acres of habitat," said Chris Swanson, director of VDOT's Environmental Division. "We value being good stewards of the environment, which is why, throughout the Commonwealth, we're working to provide safe habitats for pollinators to ensure a healthy and sustainable future."

This year, VDOT and partners will add 107 acres of pollinator habitat plantings in Hampton Roads, 22 acres in the Greater Richmond region and about six acres in Southern Virginia. Last year, VDOT planted

82 new acres across the Commonwealth.

Pollinator corridors assist VDOT in efficiently delivering a safe transportation system. Roadside vegetation reduces erosion and stormwater runoff while providing sediment control. With more flowers and vegetation, VDOT beautifies the roadsides and saves time and money by reducing how often it needs to mow areas along the roadways. Additionally, roadsides with healthy plant communities can better resist invasive plants that can require the use of herbicides.

Governor Glenn Youngkin proclaimed June 17-23 as Virginia Pollinator Week in recognition of the important role of pollinators to the Commonwealth's environment and agricultural economy.

Wildflower and Protect Pollinators license plates help fund the Pollinator Habitat Program. VDOT has partnered with the Department of Motor Vehicles to offer special license plates to support the program.

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

TOWN ATTAINS WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATION

For the eighth year, the Town of Vienna has earned the distinction of being certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The honor is presented to communities that take exceptional action to preserve, enhance, restore, and connect wildlife habitat while also communicating the importance of habitat stewardship to the public.

To be certified each year, communities must accumulate at least 30 points through a variety of activities. Points can be earned by having property owners in Town certify their yards with the NWF as providing food, water, shelter, and places to raise young and by conducting qualified community activities. Multiple property owners received certifications this year, and the Town of Vienna earned points by passing its Tree Preservation Ordinance, running a booth at the Vienna Green Expo to educate residents about the program and the importance of backyard habitats to local bird and pollinator populations, removing invasive species, planting native trees on Town properties, and having a program team member on the Town's Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC) among other activities.

FREE CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING FESTIVAL

Fairfax Library Foundation will reprise its highly acclaimed Children's Summer Reading Festival beginning in June with two free events scheduled at area libraries: Sunday, August 18, from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm, at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA 20151

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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NEWS

New Rabbi for Congregation Adat Reyim of Springfield

Congregation Adat Reyim of Springfield has a new permanent religious leader, Rabbi George D. Billinson. A resident of Northern Virginia for more than 40 years, Rabbi Billinson previously served as the Rabbi for the Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation in Fairfax, Va. Before that he spent more than two decades serving the Jewish community in various capacities, including as a lay cantor, Ritual Chair, adult education and religious-school teacher, and President of George Mason University Hillel.

Rabbi Billinson said of his new position, "I am honored to have been selected as Congregation Adat Reyim's permanent rabbi. Adat Reyim is a very special, welcoming community, and my family and I have really appreciated getting to know this vibrant congrega-

tion. I look forward to a wonderful relationship with this community of friends."

An unaffiliated congregation, Adat Reyim serves the Northern Virginia communities of Springfield, Fort Belvoir, Fairfax Station, Burke, Alexandria, Vienna, and the Fairfax County section of Alexandria. From the name – which means a "community of friends" – to an inclusive approach to Judaism, this is a place members feel at home. Activities draw on the richness of Jewish tradition and respect the many ways our diverse community members connect to each other and the Divine. Interfaith families are welcome.

Congregation Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield, Va. For more information, please contact us at office@adatreyim.org or 703-569-7577.

Man Dies of Injuries from Crash Earlier in May

A 69-year-old man succumbed to his injuries sustained in a single-vehicle crash in May; the crash caused by a medical emergency.

On May 13, around 10 a.m., officers responded to View Lane and Bold Lion Lane in Newington for a single-vehicle crash into a house.

Detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit determined the driver of a 2012 Toyota Camry was traveling west on View Lane when he left the roadway and struck a house. The driver, Ellsworth Jackson Jr., 69, of Alexandria was transported to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. Officers determined Jackson suffered a medical emergency prior to the crash. Speed and alcohol were not fac-

tors in the crash.

On May 22, Jackson died at the hospital. Crash Reconstruction detectives received notification from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner confirming Jackson's death was a result of injuries sustained in the crash, despite the underlying medical emergency.

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 at 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

These activities mark the Foundation's second year hosting the free community events to encourage summer reading among pre-school- and school-age children to prevent learning loss over summer break. The festival, designed in partnership with Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL), will feature a wide variety of fun activities for children of all ages, including face painting, bounce houses, balloon and caricature artists, games and crafts, live entertainment, food trucks, and a photobooth. For more information about the event or the Fairfax Library Foundation, contact Xande Anderer at 571-992-4064 or xande.anderer@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org.

MCLEAN NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS

The club was founded in 1969 to create new friendships, provide opportunities for socializing and acquaint residents with the community. It sponsors many group activities including: Anything with food, Armchair Traveler, Book Club, Bunco, Canasta, Crafty Ladies, Genealogy, Golf, Let Us Lunch, Mah Jongg, Mah Jongg NY Style, Movie Lovers, Museums/House and Garden Tours, Nature Walks, Restaurant Critics, Sing for Fun and Tech Forums. Application forms may be mailed to: Mem-

bership McLean Newcomers and Neighbors, P.O. Box 6166, McLean, VA 22106. Visit the website: www.mcleannewcomers.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-mindsfairfax or www.nami-north-ernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support

Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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Ashley Palmer supervises water quality monitoring for the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.



The group of volunteers scoop up sediment from the stream bed.

PHOTOS BY
GLENDA BOOTH

Fairfax County's Streams Are Degraded

Volunteers identify invertebrates in streams which indicate the water quality in the streams.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

With around 85 volunteers, the NVSWCD does water sampling at nine sites, including Pohick, Accotink and Wolftrap Creeks.

"I saw a wiggle," Ashley Palmer told 14 volunteers as they scratched through soggy stream sediments, adding that most of the organisms would be eyelash size.

Since 2016, Palmer and volunteer teams have collected samples from the bed of the unnamed stream that flows through Mount Vernon Park, Westgrove Dog Park, River Towers Condominiums property and into Dyke Marsh. Palmer supervises stream monitoring for the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD).

The volunteers take 20 samples within a 300-foot span, seeking to identify 100 living invertebrates. What type of Invertebrates are found in a stream are an indicator of stream quality. Some species are tolerant of pollution and degraded environments and others are very sensitive. "We want 100 non-scuds," Palmer said, because scuds tolerate unhealthy habitats.

Mixed Results

The water quality scoring scale is 0 to 24, with 24 being a healthy stream. A stream that scores less than eight is considered to be in an ecologically unacceptable condition. A score of eight to 14 is in partially acceptable condition; greater than 14, acceptable.

On May 16 the group collected 84 organisms and the score was nine, which Palmer said is an "indeterminate ecological stream score." On April 11, they collected 146 organisms and the stream scored 18, which tied for the highest number ever recorded at the site over nine years.

Particularly captivating was a one-quarter to one-half inch long casemaker caddisfly tube, which looked like a miniscule stick. Its larvae make tiny tubes of leaves. Volunteers watched the insect emerge from its protective case. These are highly sensitive to pollution and found infrequently in the county.

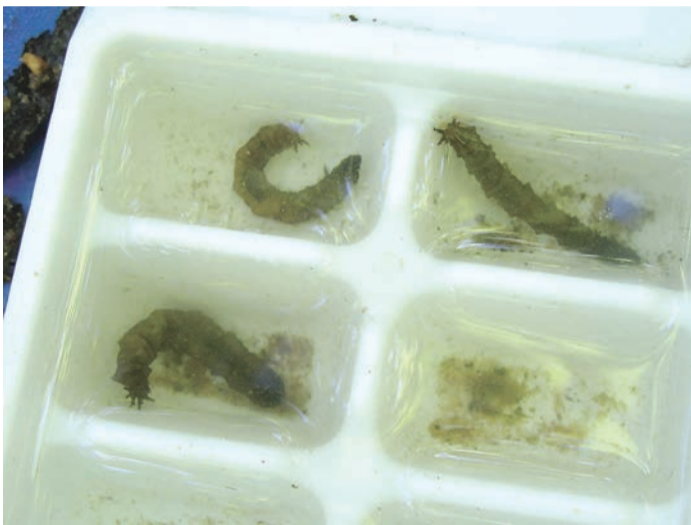


Volunteers search through the sediments for invertebrates.

SEE WATER QUALITY, PAGE 9



Stormwater flowing from an outfall in Paul Spring Creek in the Mount Vernon area during a storm.



They place the organisms, like these wiggly crane fly larvae, in water in an ice tray.

Stream Insects and Crustaceans ID Card
Lines under picture indicate the relative size of organisms

Beetles: Order Coleoptera
1" - 1", disk-like oval body with 6 small legs and gill tufts on underside OR small black beetle crawling on streambed OR comma-like brown "crunchy" body with 6 legs on upper 1/3 and possibly gill tuft on back end. OR (miscellaneous body form - rare), somewhat tolerant of impairment

Midges:
Family Chironomidae
Up to 1", distinct head, worm-like segmented body, 2 leg-like projections on each side, often whitish to clear, occasionally bright red, tolerant of impairment

Black Fly: Family Simuliidae
Up to 1", end of body wider (like bowling pin), distinctive head, sucker on end, tolerant of impairment

Most True Flies: Order Diptera
1" - 2", bodies plump and ragged-like, may have caterpillar-like "legs" along body, may have lobes or conical tails on end, tolerant of impairment

Gilled Snails: Class Gastropoda
Up to 2", shell opening covered by a thin plate called an operculum, with helix pointed up shell opens to the right, intolerant of impairment

Lunged Snails: Class Gastropoda
Up to 2", no operculum, with helix pointed up shell opens to the left, tolerant of impairment

Clams: Class Bivalvia
Up to 2", fleshy body enclosed between two clamped together shells (if clam is alive, shells cannot be pried apart without harming clam), somewhat tolerant of impairment

Glossary:

Abdomen	Thorax	Head
---------	--------	------

Tails: There are many different kinds of macroinvertebrate tails. The thin thread-like tails found on stoneflies and mayflies are called cerci. The oar-shaped tails found on a damselfly are not really tails - they are actually gills called caudal lamellae!

VA Save Our Streams Program
VA Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
P.O. Box 8297
Richmond, VA 23226
(804) 615-5036 www.vasos.org

These sheets are modified from the National Izaak Walton League of America SOS Program Stream Insects & Crustaceans ID Card.
<http://www.iwla.org/SOS/index.html>

Illustrations from: Voshell, J. R., Jr. 2001. Guide to the Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America. MacDonald and Woodward Publishing Co. With permission of the author.

These cards help volunteers identify the invertebrates they find.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



They find a salamander, but it doesn't count for this survey.

Fairfax County Streams Degraded

County data show that 83 percent of Fairfax County's streams were in fair to very poor condition in 2023, significantly impaired and lacking biological diversity.

One cause of poor water quality is polluted stormwater runoff, the only growing source of pollution to the Potomac River according to the Potomac Conservancy.

Impervious surfaces like roads, roofs and parking lots prevent rainwater from entering the soil. The water carries pollutants from those surfaces, like oils, metals and pesticides. "When impervious surfaces reach 10 to 20 percent of a local watershed area, surface runoff doubles and continues to increase until, at 100 percent impervious surface coverage, runoff is five

times that of a forested watershed," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If a watershed is as little as 2.5 percent impervious surfaces, stream invertebrate communities start to change, according to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

The Little Hunting Creek Watershed Plan, completed in 2005, indicates that 25 percent of the watershed was impervious then. The 2007 Cameron Run Watershed Plan reported that each subwatershed's imperviousness exceeds 23 percent, that "greater than 10 percent imperviousness has been shown to significantly diminish habitat quality and biological integrity in steam systems." Given expanding development since those assessments, impervious cover has no doubt expanded. County officials did not provide more recent numbers.

On county streams' condition, Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay said, "Fairfax County is dedicated to enhancing the health of our streams through numerous projects and initiatives. We employ a team of ecologists to collect data through the Stream Quality Assessment Program, enabling us to monitor trends and make informed decisions. Through stream bank restoration efforts, we are providing essential plants to help filter rainwater, ensuring the protection of our waterways. There are several ongoing stream restoration projects actively working to restore over 16 miles of stream banks throughout the County. This is in addition to the numerous other stormwater management projects around the County. To see a list of all stormwater projects we currently have in the County, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/stormwater-improvement-projects>."

More Information

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/stream-quality-assessment-program
www.cleanwaterhub.org/organization/97

Water Quality In the Streams

FROM PAGE 8

This stream is both intermittent and ephemeral, fed by stormwater overflow from upstream development and from underground springs. Palmer calls it a "muddy bottom stream," in contrast to many other county waterways that have rocky bottoms. The group collected samples from the streambanks, woody debris, riffles and submerged aquatic vegetation.

In a 2023 report, Palmer wrote, "It's very likely that one of the main reasons (if not the main reason) for the creek's low numbers of organisms is that it dries up in summer and fall. It is important to note that although the number of organisms found at QC1 [this stream] are few, monitors have seen many species at the site which indicate promise. QC1 often holds both dragonfly and damselfly nymphs which are predators in the aquatic food web, indicating stability in prey populations."

That report concluded that the creek "is in poor ecological health. A healthy stream is abundant in both quantity and biodiversity of macroinvertebrates, which serve many important functions in aquatic food webs ..." Palmer urges continued monitoring "because it is a tributary to Dyke Marsh and one of the ways to check in on the health of Dyke Marsh is to monitor the small streams that feed into it. This creek has experienced erosion in the past and it's important to keep an eye out for indicators for this problem arising in the future."

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Fairfax City Holds its Second Annual Juneteenth Celebration

FROM PAGE 3

Americans who, until that time, had still served in involuntary servitude.

“So we celebrate that liberation; but it’s a sober reminder that the struggle continues. As [abolitionist] Frederick Douglass said, ‘Without struggle, there is no justice.’ That same Texas had some of the strictest Jim Crow laws in America after Reconstruction and resisted the vote for Black Americans for another hundred years, until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. And even today, hurdles are put in front of people of color to vote.”

Therefore, said Connolly, there’s still work to do – not just in Texas, but throughout America. “We have to remind people what [Juneteenth] stood for and why it’s so important to our identity as a nation. Holding back any American holds back all of us. Preventing anybody from expressing their political will – whether we agree with it or not – diminishes our democracy.”

Sen. Saddam Salim (D-37th) called Juneteenth a time for renewed commitment to justice and equality, plus a symbol of “the triumph of freedom over oppression and the enduring spirit of resilience and hope.” But he noted, too, that “Virginia was a cradle of American democracy, yet also the central hub of slave trade. We’ve begun acknowledging and confronting this legacy. And in 2020, Fairfax made the bold and necessary decision to remove [its] Confederate monuments.

“They’d stood as painful reminders of a past that sought to divide us and perpetuate the injustices of slavery and segregation. Their removals here and across the country signify our collective commitment to a future embracing all Virginians, regardless of race or background. However, every time we make progress, there’s pushback. But we must push back against efforts to take us backward.”

“Fairfax and Northern Virginia have made remarkable strides toward creating a more inclusive and equitable community,” said Salim. “But there’s still much work to be done to ensure that every Virginian has an equal opportunity to thrive. We must continue to address the systemic, racial inequality persisting in our educational and criminal-justice systems and in our economy.”

Del. David Bulova (D-11th) spoke about the Booker T. Washington National Monument near Smith Mountain Lake. “It’s a powerful place with a powerful story,” he said. “It’s where Washington was born into slavery, and the site where he was freed. He went on to have an enormous impact on millions and millions of lives. And the display at the site that struck me most was a marker with the words Washington wrote about the moment he and his family found out they were free.

Quoting from Washington’s book, “Up from Slavery,” Bulova read, “It was a momentous and eventful day to all. My mother leaned over and kissed her children, while tears of joy ran down her cheeks. This was the moment she had been praying for. There was great rejoicing, thanksgiving and wild scenes of ecstasy.”

“I can’t fathom the relief that must have

been felt as slavery was relegated to history – more than a dozen generations after the first enslaved Africans were brought to Virginia’s shores,” said Bulova. “But Washington knew the struggle for social and economic justice and equality would be hard and long.”

And since Virginia retrenched into Jim Crow and segregation, said Bulova, he was proud to co-sponsor legislation establishing Juneteenth as a state holiday in 2020 – a year before it became a federal holiday. “Today we celebrate the joy of emancipation and freedom, plus the strength, courage and grace of Black Americans who’ve fought incessantly for their civil liberties.”

George Mason’s David Atkins, an associate pastor in North Carolina, called every African American a miracle. “Our lives are intertwined with the blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors,” he said. “We’re valuable because of our humanity and because our ancestors declared our worth when they fought for us to live.”

He said Juneteenth observes the beginning of an era that included slavery being abolished, giving Blacks the right to vote and seeing former slaves actually do so for the first time. “It’s a day of joy, liberation, remembrance and celebration,” said Atkins. “It’s a time for communities to come together to honor African American culture, heritage and contributions to society through expressions of music, art, oral presentations, parades and other festivities.

“Let us recommit ourselves to ensuring the right to freedom and equality and building a better future for all. Quoting Malcolm X, ‘You can’t separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.’”

Local resident Krysta Jones shared her own family’s history, starting from 1866 when her great-great-grandfather, Ben Jones, was born in Virginia and the General Assembly passed a law legitimizing the marriages of formerly enslaved people. She also said Black people want to hope, dream, work and succeed together with people of all races. “Whoever holds power is critical to freedom,” she said. “Be an ally – speak up for Black voices when we’re not in the room. And next time, make sure we’re there, too.”

Juneteenth Celebration Committee member Amini Bonane then presented Fairfax City’s inaugural Legacy of Freedom Medal to Rev. Johnson. He was honored for promoting the preservation of Black culture and heritage, plus advocating for equality and justice.

Deputy City Manager Valmarie Turner thanked the mayor and City Council for supporting this event, saying, “When we’re able to share together, we grow together and we’re better together.”

In his closing prayer, Sneed thanked God “for every heart encouraged and every mind committed to building a better tomorrow.”

Offering Juneteenth merchandise and historic information are (from left) Megan Leining and Andrea Loewenwarter with Fairfax City’s Office of Historic Resources.



From left are Linneall Naylor, Jenee Linder and Rondia Prescott, three of the five authors of “Black Communities of Fairfax: A History.”

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Sheldon Hutchins of Heritage Treasures selling Black history T-shirts.



Unremitting Data Center Demand Pushes County to Act

Balancing an economy that can't happen without data centers with homeowners' rights and quality of life.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The relentless march of data center growth in Northern Virginia has reached a reported 70 percent of the total number of data centers on our planet. Data centers have encroached on neighborhoods, such as the data center in Fairfax County along Route 50 in the Sully District, raising resident fears of deflating market value and sales prices of homes. The 110-foot-tall, 402,000-square-foot data center facility by Penzance drew criticism during the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors public hearing on Jan. 23, 2024. The planning commission had already given the project the green light in the fall of 2023. The supervisors approved the plan, despite the size of the structure and intense resident opposition.

In reaction, on May 7, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution for the advertisement of public hearings during which the Planning Commission and the Board would consider a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, including Chapters 112.1 and 112.2. The approved resolution stated, "Data centers can provide significant economic development opportunities and are important facilities to support the modern digital world."

As for what data centers are and what they do, they are austere, huge rectangular structures that store computing machines and related hardware equipment.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond describes data centers' interiors and what they make possible saying, "Interiors are packed with rows and rows of computer servers, vast quantities of cables and switches, and the considerable electrical power and HVAC hardware necessary to keep it all working. ... In many ways, data centers are like utilities, where the main interest for outsiders often lies in what the utility makes possible for its customers rather than in the functioning of the utility itself. But, as with water and electrical power utilities, a lot of things in the economy simply cannot happen without data centers."

The demand for more data centers is growing for more than just commercial reasons. Consumer Affairs reported that in 2023, U.S. homes had an average of 21 gadgets from 13 categories connected to the internet. The number of smart gadgets like Alexa, Echo Show, Wi-Fi video doorbells, robot vacuums, and smart baby monitors that warn anxious parents if their infant stops breathing has grown, feeding data center demand. This reporter has over 70,000 photos uploaded to the cloud and tells Alexa each night, "Play ocean sounds." Households, startups, enterprises, and organizations in-

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novate with generative AI, which depends on data centers.

Local jurisdictions and their governing bodies, such as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, depend on data centers for revenue. For the jurisdictions, data centers function as an alternative piggy bank stashed with tax revenue streaming which largely comes from assessments of computer equipment inside warehouses. Because of a Virginia legality commonly called the Dillon Rule, Virginia's localities lack true home rule and only have the powers expressly granted to them by the Virginia General Assembly.

In 2022, tax revenue in Loudoun County from data centers totaled \$663 million. Fairfax, with a fraction of Loudoun's data centers, collected \$20.28 million in data center revenue in 2022. (Source: Freedom of Information Act request by DC News Now, "In Northern Virginia, growing data center revenue is volatile, tax records show.")

Due to tight state restrictions, Fairfax County, like other local jurisdictions, has limited ability to raise revenue to pay for providing services, including revenue needed for public schools and public safety.

The Connection reported on Feb. 6, 2024, that multiple Fairfax County priorities could not be funded, such as baseline funding for IT initiatives; increased investments in affordable housing, environment, and energy; basic need assistance; and for schools, implementation of secondary security audit recommendations, expansion of middle school athletics, and the impact of federal government lowering the CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) that allows high poverty schools and divisions to offer breakfast and lunch percentages from 40 percent to 25 percent.

As for the current Fairfax County data center zoning ordinance, it allows among other things, data centers up to 40,000 square feet by right in the C-3 and C-4 office districts and up to 80,000 square feet in the I-2 and I-3 industrial districts. If a developer wishes to consider a larger building in those districts, they can obtain special exception approval or repurpose the existing building(s).

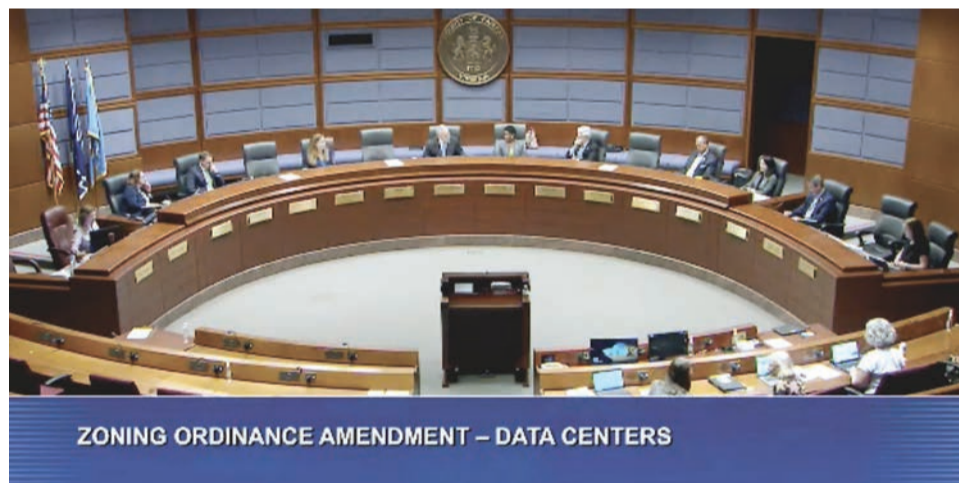
There are several data center applications pending review by Fairfax County, including the 70-foot-tall Plaza 500 project in the Alexandria area, a by-right land-use application. The proposed location is close to Edsall Road and South Pickett Streets. Residential and planned mixed-use buildings surround the area. Disallowing data centers by-right in the county would require an amendment to the zoning ordinance.

The Planning Commission's goal is to provide the Board of Supervisors with recommendations on land use policies and plans that will result in orderly, balanced, and



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Another Northern Virginia data center is constructed.



SCREENSHOT

Fairfax County Planning Commission

equitable county growth. The Commission recommended approval of a more restrictive zoning ordinance on data centers to address issues of compatibility with surrounding uses, noise, and aesthetics at its Thursday, June 6 meeting.

After considering the staff report by Carmen Bishop, deputy zoning administrator, the commission kept by-right in certain commercial and industrial districts unless they exceeded size, height, or other standards and required any equipment, such as generators, to be at least 500 feet from residences. A football playing field is 300 feet long, with a 30-foot-deep end zone on each end. However, a data center structure could be within 200 feet of residences. The equipment would face the industrial side, reducing noise.

At the Planning Commission meeting on

Thursday, June 6, Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, the chairman, provided his perspective on a zoning ordinance amendment aimed at enhancing the existing provisions. He acknowledged, "Northern Virginia sees data centers as integral to its future economies." However, the county needs to address the energy issues associated with data centers.

Niedzielski-Eichner said that it only made sense that regional and local governments advocate for solutions to the energy issue. "The energy required to operate data centers is enormous, and demand is quickly outpacing supply," he said. The solution to this challenge lies not within the county's jurisdiction but rather at the state, regional, and, to the extent that the electric grid spans the nation, national levels. The commissioner advocated for a carbon-free energy mix, including nuclear power, to meet data center demand.

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THROUGH JUNE 30

Illuminating the Natural World. Open weekends 12-5 p.m. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Reston. Internationally recognized artist Rosemarie Forsythe presents her new exhibition of distinctive, colorful paintings portraying the magic of nature, science, and learning through imaginative compositions that are often inspired by 15th century illuminated manuscripts.

JUNE 8 TO AUG. 4

Workhouse Minhwa Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Immerse yourself in the beauty of Minhwa, an exploration of the essence of Korea's beauty, vibrant colors, flora and fauna, and timeless narratives. The exhibit is located in the McGuire Woods Gallery, W-16 2nd Floor. Visit the website:

<https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/blowing-the-winds>

COLLEGE ACCESS FAIRFAX HOLDS FREE CLINICS

College Access Fairfax will hold free clinics throughout the summer at various locations in the county to help parents and students complete or correct the FAFSA or VASA financial aid forms. Clinics are currently scheduled on:

Tuesday, June 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Apple Federal Credit Union in Fairfax Corner.

Wednesday, June 26, 6-8 p.m. at Sully District Government Center.

Wednesday, July 10, 6-8 p.m. at Mason District Government Center.

Both the student and a parent/guardian must attend the clinic. Applicants should bring a laptop to all clinics except Fairfax High School. Spanish translation will be available. For more information, to register for a clinic, or to request a one-on-one appointment, visit College Access Fairfax's website. These services are free of charge.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT COLVIN RUN MILL.

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

June 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.

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



The Randy Thompson Band will perform on June 26, 2024 at the free concerts at Burke Lake Park in Burke.

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: 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

FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS READY FOR 2024 SEASON

2024 Farmers Market season is here and the Park Authority, along with dozens of local food producers, 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.

WEDNESDAYS

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

Oakmont

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

Wakefield

Through Oct. 30, 2-6 p.m.
Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale

THURSDAYS

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

Herndon

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

FRIDAYS

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

Kingstowne

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

SATURDAYS

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

Reston

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

SUNDAYS

Lorton
Through 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.

NOW 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.

FARM HARVEST FRIDAYS

Every Friday at 2 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

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 4-6:30 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!

DANCE NIGHTS ANNOUNCED FOR LAKE ANNE LIVE!

Thursday Evening Concerts beginning June 6 through June 27, 2024 from 6 to 9 p.m. Sponsored by Lake Anne and Washington Plaza Merchant Association, at Lake Anne Plaza (Waterfront) - 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston.

SCHEDULE:

❖ June 20 (6 to 9 p.m.): Salsa and Bachata Night! Learn to dance the popular Latin dances with instructor and DJ David Norton and dance the night away!

❖ June 27: Swing Line Dance! Learn Swing Line Dancing, including the always popular Charleston Stroll with Gottaswing's Sue and DJ Gary! DJ Gary will be spinning your favorite tunes from the 40's, 50's and up! Requests considered.

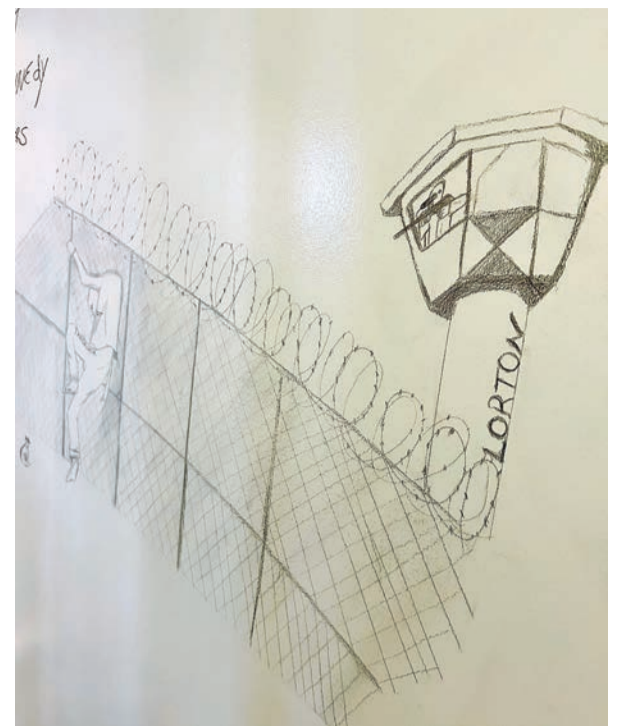
FREE CONCERTS AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. every Wednesday night from June 26th through August 21st at Burke Lake Park for an incredible line-up of bands, food trucks, 2 Silos beer, and Peterson's Ice Cream. The atmosphere is informal, so bring a picnic blanket, lawn chairs, and relax with friends and family.

SCHEDULE:

June 26 - Randy Thompson Band
Food truck: Empanadas de Mendoza

July 3 - The Nighthawks



Take part in the Learning Lunch on Friday, June 21, 2024 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. (Pictured): Recreated cell graffiti by Karim Mowatt.

Food truck: Roaming Coyote

July 10 - Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille

Food truck: DC Slides

July 17 - The Magic Trio

Food truck: Babu-Ji

July 24 - The Skip Castro Band

Food trucks: DC Slides & Empanadas de Mendoza

July 31 - The English Channel

Food trucks: DC Slides & Babu-Ji

August 7 - The Road Ducks

Food trucks: Babu-Ji & Empanadas de Mendoza

August 14 - SoHo Down

Food truck: Roaming Coyote

August 21 - Riptide

Food truck: Roaming Coyote

TYSONS CORNER CENTER EVENTS

❖ Farm Harvest Fridays

Every Friday at 2 p.m. - May 31 through October

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

July 20 at The Plaza

First set: 4-6:30 p.m. 2nd set: 7-9 p.m. Summer Concert Series will offer two live performance sets on each date, with the first band at 4-6:30PM 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 the restaurants while jamming to your favorite groove!

SUMMER SUNDAY CONCERTS IN THE PARK BY THE ALDEN

Due to the renovation of McLean Central Park, The Alden at the McLean Community Center's

www.connectionnewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

SUMMER SUNDAY CONCERTS in the park

The Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park features Elena Moon Park and Friends on Sunday, June 23 at McLean's Lewinsville Park.

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park will be held at Lewinsville Park this year. The free concerts will be presented on the porch of the historic house in the park at 4 p.m. on Sundays, June 16 through July 28. The park is located at 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 23, 4 p.m. Elena Moon Park and Friends
Sunday, June 30, 4 p.m. Backtrack Vocals
Sunday, July 7, 4 p.m. The Gordon Sterling Trio
Sunday, July 14, 4 p.m. Lil' Maceo
Sunday, July 21, 4 p.m. The Billy Coulter Trio
Sunday, July 28, 4 p.m. Justin Trawick

NOW THRU JUNE 23

"Postcards from Ihatov," adapted and directed by Natsu Onoda Power. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road Tysons. Adapted from the works of Kenji Miyazawa, including the classic "Night on the Galactic Railroad." This spellbinding tale of friendship, self-discovery, and the transcendent power of imagination takes audiences on a cosmic journey through the stars. This world-premiere production of visual theater is bursting with imagination and spectacle that the whole family can enjoy. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: Tickets: \$25-\$55 general admission, \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or call 703-854-1856.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 19

Juneteenth Celebration. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, Chantilly. This free event will honor the significant contributions of people, originally under enslavement and continuing after emancipation, to the operation of Sully as a home and farmstead. The event will pay tribute to their lives and those of their descendants. Join in a commemoration of emancipation at this special event. Take a tour to better understand the daily life of people enslaved at Sully. Visit the dairy, smokehouse, kitchen and laundry, first floor of the main house, and a reproduction home for enslaved people. Interact with history interpreters, listen to storytellers, participate in activities and see the special exhibits.

THURSDAY/JUNE 20

Jive After Five. 6-9 p.m. At The Roof Top at The Perch Putt, Capital One Center, Tysons Corner. Get ready to swing, refresh sip with delicious

drinks and socialize at Perch Putt! Join them for a high quality networking event with the Jive After Five Networking Series by Northern Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. It's 18 holes of rooftop miniature golf with whimsical food trucks with seasonal food, playful libations – with cocktails and tiki classics – at Rhum Roost and D J Juanjo.

FRIDAY/JUNE 21

Learning Lunch 1. 12-1 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come to the Lucy Burns Museum for a lunchtime talk about the new installation, Counting the Days, with co-curator Karim Mowatt. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/learning-lunch-counting-days>

SUNDAY/JUNE 23

Mosaic Harmony 30th Anniversary. 5 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Special Guest Artist Ralph Herndon. Mosaic Harmony is a community choir where people find love and acceptance regardless of color, religion, sexual orientation, or any other differences. We celebrate diversity and inclusion, sharing our message through the powerful medium of song, and inspiring our audiences to embrace all people

SUNDAY/JUNE 23

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3-4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Local Author P. O'Connell Pearson will speak on her book, We Are Your Children Too: Black Students, White Supremacists, and the Battle for America's Schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Fireworks, Food and Family Fun at Lake Fairfax Park
Lake Fairfax Location
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive
Reston, VA 20190

Fun starts at noon, with fireworks starting at 9:15 p.m. Enjoy food trucks, live performances and fireworks at the annual celebration. The park will close to new arrivals at 8:45 p.m.

Admission is free. Parking: \$15 ahead of the event date; \$20 at the gate
The park is the location of the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole. Tickets for the Water Mine, which will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., are sold separately.



Workhouse Arts Center will have fireworks on Saturday, June 29, 2024 in Lorton.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Fireworks at Workhouse. 6-10 p.m.
At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Bring a chair or a blanket to relax on the lawn and enjoy a display of vibrant colors, brilliant lights and ground-breaking explosions, while also providing amazing and fun entertainment for all ages. The DJ leads the party on the Workhouse Quad with special performances from local music and dance groups. Food trucks and beverage options (food, soft drinks, craft beer and wine available). Price starts at \$40 per vehicle in advance; \$45 on-site. <https://www.workhousearts.org/fireworks>

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

McLean Independence Day Fireworks Celebration. 6:30-10 p.m.
At Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike. Come celebrate Independence Day with McLean Community Center. The whole family will enjoy music, food trucks, giveaways and at dusk, a huge fireworks display. There is a limited amount of free onsite parking and additional free satellite parking with shuttle bus service (accessibility equipped). Visit mcleancenter.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 4

Fourth of July 5K Fun Run. Join Great Falls TrailBlazers for the annual Fourth of July 5K Fun Run. Meet behind the Great Falls Library on July 4 and the race/walk will begin sharply at 8 a.m. This pet-friendly event is open to all ages. The trail makes a loop and goes through the woods so if you want to bring a stroller it is best if it has large wheels like a jogging stroller. Visit the website at GreatFallsTrailBlazers.org or the Facebook Page for more information and a link to Run Sign Up. Free T-shirts to the first 200 runners who finish the race.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

40th Anniversary Celebration! 4-6 p.m. At Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite

100, Fairfax. Featuring a fun-filled afternoon celebrating with Insight friends new and old! They'll be gathering at Insight-Fairfax to look back on their journey and celebrate everyone who has helped shape where they are today.

AUG. 1-4

4-H Fair and Carnival. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon. Check out livestock displays and 4-H exhibits, treat yourself to classic fair food, enjoy live entertainment, tractor demos, carnival rides and get up close and personal with adorable farm animals. For a special Friday night out, visit the Big Truck Night on Aug. 2.

Carnival Hours

Thursday, Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Big Truck Night from 5 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 3, the Carnival is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Do you want the best deals on tickets for carnival rides? Purchase Unlimited Ride Wristbands for Thursday and Friday only. If purchased in advance online, wristbands are \$20 per person. Onsite wristbands are available for purchase at \$25 per person between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. You can purchase regular ride tickets on site after 3 p.m. Wristbands are for one day only.

SUNDAY, SEPT 15

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. 7 p.m. Music of Joy and Peace. At GMU's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. Visit <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. The annual Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates our rich diversity through song, dance, food and art. Learn about our mosaic of cultures as the community gathers for a delightful day in Reston Town Center. If you are interested in

being part of the entertainment or storytelling, or craft vendors (quality product representing a culture) application forms will be on the website. All are encouraged to dress in attire that shares their pride in their cultural roots. Visit <https://restoncommunitycenter.com/>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Arts by George! 5 p.m. At GMU's Fairfax Campus, Fairfax. The annual ARTS by George! benefit, presented by George Mason University's College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA), returns in 2024 with multiple award-winning actress and singer Lea Salonga as the headliner. The philanthropic event raises vital support for student scholarships in visual arts, dance, music, theater, game design, film, and arts management, as well as for the Mason Community Arts Academy, Green Machine Ensembles, and the Great Performances at Mason season at the Center for the Arts. Visit <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

Paws in the Park. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town Alexandria. Place your business in front of thousands of pet lovers this fall, all while supporting our mission to help Alexandria's animals. They are looking for sponsors and vendors for our annual Paws in the Park event on October 13th in Old Town Alexandria. The free event features entertainment and music, food and drink, kids' activities, silent auction, and so much more.

NOV. 8-9

"Beauty and the Beast." At 7 p.m. at Ernst Theatre in Annandale. Oakcrest School will stage Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." Through the enchanted story of a beloved classic fairytale set in a "poor provincial town," Belle encounters a young prince trapped under a spell that can only be broken by the power of love. Learn more at Oakcrest.org.



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Obituary

Obituary

Announcements

David C. Fischer



Brilliant business mind and Springfield founding father David Fischer passed on to his next chapter June 15th at 6:15 in the morning following his valiant battle with the debilitating disease Alzheimer's.

A devoted husband of more than 44 years to his wife Wanda, David had six children by his first wife, Margaret. Margaret preceded him in death in 1979. Their children: David (Cindy and children Samantha and Kyle), Deborah (Mike and children Chris and Patrick), Mary Catherine (Tom and son Sean), Pamela, Patricia (children Vincent and Nicolas), and Michael (Heather and daughter Ashleigh) survived him. David also raised Wanda's daughter Juli (Len and children Rachel, Hannah/David, and Abby). In addition to his birth grandchildren listed, he was a devoted grandparent to an additional five step grandchildren (Adam, Daniel, Joseph, Kaleb, and Kaitlynn) His love and acceptance was a model of step parenthood for his entire family.

Mr. Fischer was born in Buffalo, New York on July 25, 1928 to Ester and Charles Fischer. He was the fourth of five children. He is preceded in death by his parents and his sisters, Ruth and Dorothy and brother Clarence. His sister Essie survives him.

Following High School, Mr. Fischer studied drafting and lived with his oldest brother Clarence and oldest sister Ruth and her husband Russell while working as a draftsman for General Electric in Buffalo. After his marriage to Margaret, he relocated to Northern Virginia, where he started as a shoe salesman in Shirlington, Va. While there, he met Wally Stapleton, who would later become his store manager at Fischer Hardware. In the mid 1950s, he left the shoe business and began working with his father-in-law at Springfield Paint and Hardware. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Fischer bought out his father-in-law and changed the store name to the iconic Fischer Hardware, a beloved Springfield business for well over 50 years.

Under his direction, the store expanded five times and was ultimately housed in what was once the Safeway grocery store across from Mike's American Grill. Mr. Fischer had a staff of close to 75, and many employees worked for him for decades. Each of his children, his stepdaughter, and even some of his grandchildren had the opportunity to work at "the store".

The store sold in 2010. Evidence that its lasting success was a direct reflection of the sheer charisma and business acumen of Mr. and Mrs. Fischer was that the new owners could only keep it afloat - even using the name- for just over a year.

The Fischers retired to Florida where they lived until 2020, when COVID encouraged them to relocate to a home they owned in Ohio across the street from Mr. Fischer's stepdaughter.

An avid sportsman, Mr. Fischer loved to fish and hunt in his earlier years. He graduated to snowmobiling and boating, eventually settling on sailing as his passion. His final sailboat was a 52 foot Irwin that he lovingly designed and piloted from Tampa, Florida to Solomons, Maryland in the summer of 1980, with the help of his brother, sister, brother-in-law, son, stepdaughter, and his always first mate wife, Wanda.

To those lucky enough to have known him, he will be remembered as a gentle, caring, charismatic man who detested conflict and expected civility from and afforded civility to everyone he met. Funny and loving, he and his wife were the consummate host and hostess. He adored and spoiled his wife their entire marriage. Never apart, the two worked together, socialized together, traveled together, commuted more than an hour and a half each way every day together and loved every minute of life together. He will certainly be waiting for her on the other side - and she and the rest of us will certainly be poorer for his absence from this side.

Services will be determined at a later time. In lieu of gifts or flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association or Ohio Valley hospice would be appreciated

"Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous." (Proverbs 112:4, NIV)

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Exiting Clean Car Commitment

FROM PAGE 2

California is the only state permitted to create emissions standards under the federal Clean Air Act and the first state to ban the sale of internal combustion vehicles. California is legally capable of setting stricter and different standards than federal standards. The Clean Air Act of the United States Environmental Protection Agency allows other states to adopt California's motor vehicle emission standards under Section 177. Among other requirements, federal Section 177 mandates that these standards match the California standards that have received a waiver, so other states' regulations change along with California's.

Youngkin said consumers could purchase whatever they liked — electric, hybrid, or gas — under his plan. “To be clear, I don't have anything against electric vehicles. But when today nine percent of automobiles in Virginia that are purchased are electric vehicles to turn around and mandate that 35 percent of them have to be electric vehicles, imposes an extraordinary economic burden on our dealers and on Virginians.” [35:15]

An account in California's Gov. Newsroom on Aug. 25, 2022, confirms “yearly targets” as “35 percent ZEV sales by 2026, 68 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2035.” Twenty percent of sales can be plug-in hybrids that run on batteries and gas. California's policy does not ban cars that run on gas. People can keep their existing gas cars or buy used gas powered vehicles.

What speakers, like Dave Perno, at the press conference discussed, as well as what was quoted by others in a Friday, June 7 press release by the Governor's Office, was that Virginians deserve the freedom to choose which vehicles best fit the needs of their families, businesses, and the community's economy.

Perno, president of Loyalty Automotive in Chester, Virginia, emphasized Virginians' freedom of choice and the economic impact on local vehicle dealerships. He said the governor “recognizes that supporting small businesses and consumers is not a partisan issue but a community and economic imperative.” (28:16). He added that this presents a chance to highlight the importance of em-



SCREENSHOT

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares (R): “EV mandates like California's are unworkable and out of touch with reality, and thankfully, the law does not bind us to their regulations.”

powering individuals to make decisions that are important to them.

“And that's what today is all about,” Perno said. “Celebrating freedom.”

Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears commented on the governor's action in a 29-word statement, indicating that the governor's action goes beyond exiting from the California Electric Vehicle Mandate. “I'm in full support of Governor Youngkin's actions to withdraw Virginia from REGGI and AG Jason Miyares' official opinion that Virginia is not legally bound to California's emission standards.”

REGGI (pronounced “Reggie”) is the first mandatory market-based program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. It is a cooperative effort among the northeastern and mid-Atlantic states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia. It is the first implemented carbon cap-and-trade initiative in the United States

(2009) to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Within the 11-state region, REGGI compliance obligations apply to fossil-fueled power plants 25 megawatts and larger.

Neither the governor nor any speakers at the press conference or those quoted in the press release discussed a legal means to exit his predecessor's legislation. Nor did anyone discuss the environmental justice and equity impacts of air pollution from vehicle emissions affecting all Virginians, especially vulnerable residents in frontline communities who often face the most severe consequences.

No one addressed the disproportionate burden of air pollution on heavily urbanized communities and those near busy corridors. This is especially true of neighborhoods sandwiched between freeways, ports, and rail yards. Nor did anyone speak about air quality standards at levels that protect Virginians at the most significant risk: children, older adults, and people with lung and heart disease.

No More Diverting



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After meeting with my new oncologist on Mon., I can say with tepid certainty that I am not at death's door. However, I may be a death's sidewalk. Meaning I'm hardly a casual observer and much too close for comfort. Specifically, what I am is more of what I've been for the past 15-plus years: a cancer patient being treated for a terminal form of cancer. Initially I was diagnosed with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer, a killer if there ever was one and more recently, perhaps correctly, I was re-diagnosed with stage IV papillary thyroid cancer. Terminal because an operation I had was unable to get “all” the cancer and the medicine I was prescribed post-surgery has a one to three-years window of effectiveness. As you regular readers know and recent columns have stated, I am eight months into year four and am now starting a new medicine with all sorts of side effects possible and a new medical problem/side effect resulting from the years of taking my papillary thyroid cancer medicine: chronic kidney disease stage IV. In summary, previously I was at a hard place. Now I'm between a rock and that hard place. Which is a bit more than I bargained for since late Feb. 2009 when Team Lourie first heard my-diagnosed-with-cancer news. Still, it's hardly a place anybody wants to be.

Nevertheless, what's left of Team Lourie (my wife, Dina, minus my brother Richard who died Dec. 3, 2022) met our new oncologist this past Mon. We switched oncologists because we had lost confidence in our original one (and to quote “Forest, Forest Gump: that's all I want to say about that”). We were a bit more prepared this time than we were at that first meeting in 2009. We had a frank exchange offering assessments, analysis, suggestions, and occasional scenarios, but most definitely, no guarantees. Pills, procedures, and schedules (lab work, scans, in person) were reviewed and tweaked a bit. New medications were ordered, and a few future appointments were made. As much as anything, you could say this was a strategy meeting. More than most, we understand you need a game plan and once again we have one.

From what I've been told, the chronic kidney disease (with dialysis to follow if I deteriorate further), may cause me to be, as the Brit's like to say: “In for a spot of bother.” Having been there and done that, I'm just glad there's still something to be bothered about. And there's still something I can do about it. I must watch what I eat (not as I eat it) and be mindful of the consequences of sodium, potassium, phosphate and so forth. I'm now reading product labels. It's not for certain whether this food awareness/change will really help, but it gives me hope. And though ‘hope’ may be overrated by some, I'm happy and motivated to embrace it figuratively speaking to “make my day,” notwithstanding Dirty Harry aka Clint Eastwood. And since the alternatives are grim, I'm willing to give a little to possibly get a lot.

The ‘little’ I won't bore you with, but it involves some adjustments, shall we say as to how I consume my daily bread. These changes are, if I get lucky, made in the near/short term but will ultimately get me a longer term. However, since there are no guarantees in the cancer business (other than cancer untreated will grow), I need to stay positive about the negative. A doctor can't tell me with any certainty that because I survived the original non-small lung cancer diagnosis, later re-categorized to papillary thyroid cancer, it enables/provides me with the necessary tools/wherewithal to survive my current double whammy: thyroid cancer and chronic kidney disease. Unfortunately, there's not even a road map as my misdiagnosis/change to thyroid cancer, now complicated by chronic kidney disease offers little other than lots of twists and turns and bumps along the way. My experience tells me to try and take it all in stride, not to get too high or too low and not get bogged down by the potential medical complications. None of those complications happen until they do so overreacting to a possibility that isn't yet a reality is unhelpful. What is helpful is finding the humor and normalcy in life without looking through the cancer lens. When I divert into a non-cancer subject, it's the best possible thing I can do; not be cancer centric. So, when I meander into a non-sensical subject like “backparking” or resealable packaging, it's not only a literary pursuit, it's a sign that even though I have cancer, it doesn't have me, yet.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk

at 703-324-8556 for more. Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmafc.org. The Center's website is www.scmafc.org.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org. The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombuds-

man Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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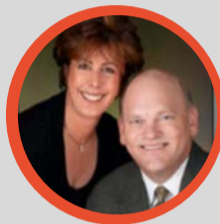
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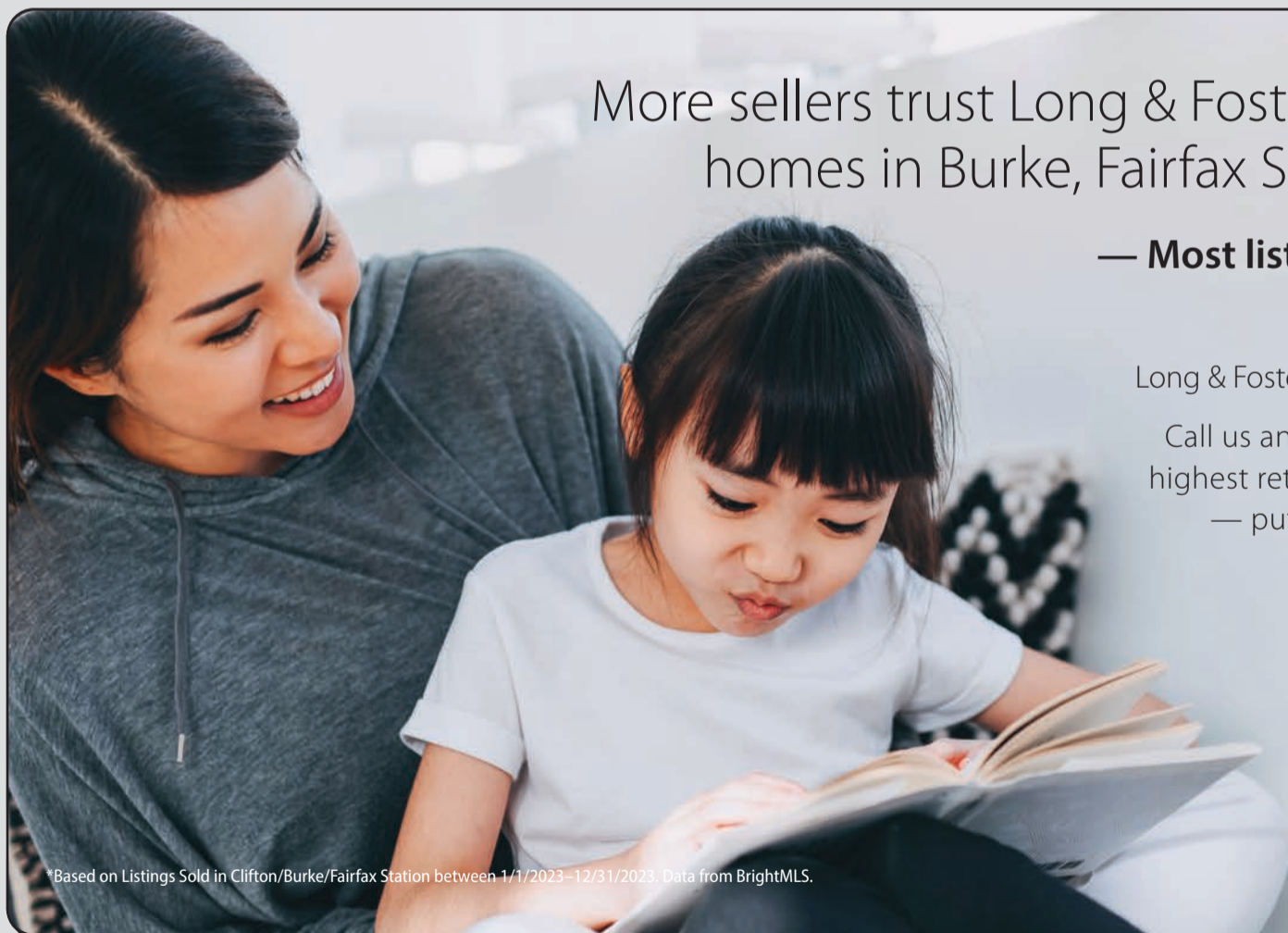
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