

CONNECTION

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

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
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The bluegrass band Sweet Yonder performing at Earp's Ordinary.

Bringing Residential
To Springfield

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Relief from the
Searing Heat

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Historic, Brand New
Music, Spirits, Fare

Page 10

SENIOR LIVING

Helping People Become Healthy and Strong

Omni Wellness & Performance opens in Fairfax City.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When José Chacón first started in the physical-therapy business, it was as a mobile massage therapist with a massage table in the back of his car. But by 2008, he'd founded Omni Wellness & Performance in Burke.

He and his staff relocated to Fairfax City last summer and set up shop in a 1,700-square-foot space inside the Fairfax Racquet Club at 9860 Fairfax Blvd. "We wanted to have our own private treatment rooms and performance and recovery centers," said Chacón.

Omni offers a full range of services to help people improve movement, reduce pain, maximize performance and restore balance to their body. They also learn to identify early warning signs when something doesn't feel right. Omni then provides them with solutions so they may become healthier and more independent.

"Omni is for active adults – such as tennis players, golfers, runners and student athletes – with chronic pain," said Chacón. "We also help people recovering from injuries. Within our five rooms here, we offer an



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Jose Chacón speaking while sons (from left) Julian and Liam listen.

infrared sauna, compression-boot therapy, massage therapy, physical therapy and performance training. We have memberships for our recovery services, and we sell individual plans of care for physical-therapy and massage packages."

SEE SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 6

Fighting Fraud for Older Americans

Last year the Federal Trade Commission recorded \$10 Billion in reported fraud from U.S. consumers. Because fraud is underreported, actual losses are much higher.

While education empowers older Americans to protect themselves, more is needed to eliminate this large-scale problem. AARP advocates for bipartisan laws and regulations to strengthen consumer protections against scams on everything from illegal robo-calls, to gift card regulations to cryptocurrency scams and more. This work is done in state legislatures across the country, in Congress and at the White House.

Earlier this year AARP joined White House officials and industry leaders in a meeting aimed at helping the federal government fight back against the use of artificial intelligence-enabled voice cloning to commit fraud. A virtual White House conference followed in June, with AARP again at the table. With fraud already at an epidemic level, the addition of AI powered

scams is alarming, which is why AARP is focused on advocating for a strong legislative response to this threat.

Already this year the Federal Communications Commission has moved to make it illegal to use AI voice cloning in robocalls targeting consumers. As a result, a scammer who cloned President Joe Biden's voice to deceive voters in New Hampshire was recently fined \$6 million.

If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

With about 1 million members in Virginia, AARP is the largest organization working on behalf of people age 50-plus and their families in the Commonwealth. On Facebook at www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia and follow @AARPVa on X at www.X.com/aarpva.

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Residential Plan Hatched for Central Springfield

First step of a several-year process laid out by planners.

BY MIKE SALMON
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

A dead zone in central Springfield took a step forward this week. Fairfax County planners aired a new plan for mixed use multifamily residential adding 1,342 residential units with an option for some office and retail. This area was once a thriving part of Springfield but is now made up of empty or nearly empty buildings.

One part is a 4.35-acre section of land near Springfield Boulevard and the other is a 1.42 acre plot of land off Amherst Avenue. "These sites were nominated by the county," said Katrina Newton, a planner at Fairfax County's office of Planning and Development. She gave part of the presentation, and the other part was given by Mark Viani, attorney for the developers. The property owner initially put forth the proposal that included both parts to the county, and that got the ball rolling on this development.

It was loosely determined through a county formula that with the additional housing, there will be 44 additional elementary school students at nearby Garfield Elementary School, 14 middle school students at Key, and 20 more high school students at Lewis High School. "They all have surplus capacity," meaning room for the additional students, said Newton.

Both presentations were not very detailed as far as the construction plans for the build-

ings, transportation, ownership, parking and retail, but some of the audience wanted to know the specifics.

"What about transportation?" one observer asked, noting that this area already gets backed up at certain times.

A big transportation part of both plans is another bridge over Old Keene Mill Road, along with noise analysis, streetscape potential, open space and the traffic on Backlick Road. "Bike recommendations as well," said Newton.

"This is the first of many conversations," Viani said. "We're at least three years out before any shovels go in the ground," he added.

Proposed Schedule

The first step is the staff report, which will be in the fall of 2024, followed by the Franconia Land Use Committee's recommendation, and then the public hearing process.

This isn't the first time this area was looked at for development. Over 20 years ago, then-Supervisor Dana Kauffman had a plan for this area, and at that time, there was a group called the Central Springfield Area Revitalization Committee, known as "CSPARC," that hatched a few plans that didn't really get off the ground, although some streetscape elements spruced up the area a little bit.

The rezoning process is one part of this plan that may take a substantial amount of time, they admitted.



These sites in central Springfield were prime pedestrian places before the highway was widened and Old Keene Mill Road was the main thoroughfare in this area.



Three residential sections proposed on the south side of Old Keene Mill Drive would have over 600 apartments or condominiums.

Refuge from the Searing Heat: Rising Hope Mission Church

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Last week, as people baked in a suffocating heat wave, Kameron Wilds found a shirtless gentleman in his 60s, keeled over with his head almost touching the scorching blacktop and going in and out of alertness. He had adhesive patches on his chest where hospital monitors had been attached.

Wilds, pastor at Rising Hope Mission Church just off U.S. 1, invited the man to get in the bus that Wilds drives every Sunday to take churchgoers home. Wilds asked, "Do you still have shelter?" "A few more days," the man answered.

"This heat will kill you. You can't stay out here," Wilds told him.

In an interview, Wilds said, "We see that all the time. This is what happens when you run out of options."

New Cooling Center

On July 15, Rising Hope opened a new, year-round, drop-in center at the church at www.connectionnewspapers.com



The sign at Rising Hope Mission Church.

8220 Russell Road. From 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday people can go there to escape the weather and generally hang out, sit in a chair, take a nap, interact with staff and volunteers, get snacks and play board games.

When Fairfax County announces an emergency heat day, the county typically offers public buildings to people, places like libraries and schools, Wilds explained. These measures are helpful, but the facilities are not staffed to provide support services.

SEE RISING HOPE, PAGE 7



Rising Hope's Kitchen Associate, Art Markel works with long time Rising Hope member and volunteer Susan Cline, to prepare plates for guests as they come in for a day lunch.

Dr. Dereck Scott To Lead City of Fairfax Bands

Conductor, arranger, and trumpet player, Dr. Dereck Scott has become the new director of music of The City of Fairfax Band Association. He assumed the position July 1 and conducts his first full concert of the City of Fairfax Band on Oct. 26, when the nationally acclaimed community ensemble launches its 2024-2025 season.

Scott is an established Washington area musical force. The multi-talented musician conducts the Cathedral Brass and was the McLean Symphony's interim music director. He also has conducted the Rockville Brass Band and the Cherry Blossom Brass Band. As director of bands at Flint Hill School in Oakton, Va., Scott leads five bands covering grades five through 12. His leadership from the podium has been described as transformative, "of the highest of artistic merit," and "significantly contributing to the ensemble's success."

On trumpet, Scott performs frequently around greater Washington. That includes having been principal cornet and soloist for the Rockville Brass Band. And he is a featured performer on The Brass of the Poto-



Dr. Dereck Scott

mac's album "Firestorm."

Scott is also an accomplished arranger

and composer, with more than 70 titles to his name. His work has been performed across the United States and internationally.

He said he didn't hesitate to compete for the music directorship. "The City of Fairfax Band is the group I kept on hearing about. This is a group I wanted to be a part of," he said. "I am extremely excited. I really do believe in community musicianship. It's a real thermometer of the cultural health of a community."

"The big thing is the group plays well. It's a good group; it's a very good group," Scott added. "I'm confident that they will be able to play anything I put in front of them."

Oct. 26 Concert Program

The ensemble will demonstrate its musical capabilities in concert at Fairfax High School on Oct. 26. Scott will open with exciting audience favorites from the Broadway hit "Wicked" and John Williams' themes from Steven Spielberg's beloved movie "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial."

Jazz lovers will savor the great standard, "Autumn in New York," by Vernon Duke. John Phillip Sousa march fans will enjoy

"Nobles of the Mystic Shrine."

The concert's major work will be Robert W. Smith's 1st Symphony titled "The Divine Comedy." A major four-movement symphonic band composition, it is based on Dante Alighieri's same-named classic narrative poem envisioning a soul's travels through the afterlife.

Scott's Other Concert Dates

Leading The City of Fairfax Band

The City of Fairfax Band's next appearance, which Scott will co-conduct, is the annual outdoor Children's Concert on Thursday, July 18, at 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Note: free ice cream starts at 7 p.m. Location: Veterans Amphitheater adjacent Fairfax City Hall at 10485 Armstrong Street. (Inclement weather location: indoors at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd.)

In addition to its Oct. 26 indoor season opener, later City of Fairfax Band performances are set for Dec. 21 and March 15. An additional concert is to be scheduled for late April or early May. (Updates at www.fairfaxband.org)

Fairfax City Shop Local Week Is July 25-July 31

Get ready for the first-ever Fairfax City Shop Local Week, happening from Thursday, July 25, to Wednesday, July 31. Participating small businesses will welcome customers to experience, discover and enjoy their offerings with a variety of themed celebrations.

❖ Community Cares Thursday, July 25, will see retailers partnering with local charities to give back to the community.

❖ Friday Social, July 26, promises a lively shopping atmosphere with sip-and-shop events.

❖ Sidewalk Sales on Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28, bring the excitement out-



doors with sidewalk sales throughout the City.

❖ Discovery Day Monday, July 29, invites customers to meet the makers, enjoy trunk shows and experience pop-ups in different stores.

❖ Treat Yourself Tuesday, July 30, focuses on pampering customers with products and services designed to boost their happiness and wellbeing.

❖ Wellness Wednesday, July 31, will highlight good-for-you offerings, encouraging healthy practices and products.

Participants in Fairfax City Shop Local Week will include Mode on Main by Mara,

Omni Wellness & Performance, eXurb Fitness, Heart N Soul Yoga Studio, Smiley Skin Beauty, Fairfax Surf Shop, Lucy Loves, Paradise Games and Gifts, Perfect Mistakes, Romp n' Roll, Down the Line Sports Center, Brooke's Bridal & Ball, and Brooke's Bridal & Beyond.

Besides providing a fun and enjoyable shopping experience, this event also contributes significantly to brand recognition for the participating local retailers. For more information, follow @FairfaxCityShopLocalWeek on Instagram and Facebook and join the conversation on social media with #FindinFairfaxCity.

Donate Clothing and Supplies to The Lamb Center

The Lamb Center (TLC), a nonprofit, daytime drop-in center for the homeless, is in urgent need of men's clothing, as well as food and supplies. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Here are the most-needed items:

❖ TLC's clothes closet is almost out of the following items for men: Jeans (30-38" waist), shorts (30-38" waist), short-sleeved shirts (M-2XL), and sneakers (sizes 8-13). Lightly used clothes are fine. Other men's items needed (new only) are jersey boxer

briefs (M-2XL), white undershirts (all sizes), and lightweight socks in both black and white.

All supplies may be brought to The Lamb Center at 3160 Campbell Drive in Fairfax City. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Saturday, from 9-11 a.m. Anyone who'd like to organize a clothing drive for these urgently needed items is encouraged to contact Development Manager Marisa Alonso at marisayalonso@thelambcenter.org.

❖ Each week, TLC purchases 25 gallons of milk, 180 pounds of fruit and 600 yogurts to feed their guests. These and other core, pantry items are essential to their health and wellbeing. So the center is seeking individuals, groups or businesses to help fund or shop for these supplies on a regular basis. To partner with TLC to feed neighbors experiencing homelessness, email Alonso at the above address.

❖ TLC also needs the following items for the many clients it serves: Toilet paper, pa-

per towels, napkins, backpacks, individual sunscreen-lotion packets, acrylic paint (all colors, for its art classes), small umbrellas, liquid bleach, dryer sheets, unscented 13-gallon trash bags with drawstrings; hand soap, disinfectant wipes, travel-sized toiletries (alcohol-free mouthwash, please) and surgical face masks (no N95).

People may also help The Lamb Center by making monetary donations at https://www.thelambcenter.org/ways-to-give/give-online/?blm_aid=1512449.

day when they place their order. The Chocotorta is a dulce de leche gelato with a chocolate-cookie-dulce-de-leche-mousse cake folded into it.

Dolcezza will also offer an ice cream day/birthday special this Sunday on pints of gelato: When guests buy one prepacked pint they can get another one for 50% off.

Dolcezza is in the Mosaic District in Fairfax County, as well as Bethesda, Md. and three locations in the District.

Free Scoops of Gelato on 'Sundae' July 21

Celebrate Dolcezza's 20th Birthday and National Ice Cream Day

Dolcezza will give away thousands of free scoops of gelato on 'Sundae' July 21 to celebrate its 20th birthday, which is also National Ice Cream Day.

Dolcezza Gelato has a sweet celebration

planned for its 20th birthday, which coincides with National Ice Cream Day.

To thank their customers for 20 years of growth, expansion, and Argentine style gelato, Dolcezza is giving away free scoops at all 5 re-

tail locations of Chocotorta gelato on National Ice Cream Day, Sunday/Sundae July 21st, which also coincides with its 20th birthday.

To get a free scoop of Chocotorta gelato, customers can wish Dolcezza Happy Birth-

Daniels Run Elementary Gets New Principal

When the new school year begins, there'll be a new leader at Daniels Run Elementary. Bringing more than 20 years' experience in education with her, Susan Mullen will take the helm as principal of this Fairfax City school.

Making the announcement of her hiring during an online meeting last Tuesday, July 9, to the Daniels Run community were Fairfax County Public Schools Region 5 Assistant Superintendent Rebecca Baenig and City of Fairfax Schools Superintendent Jeff Platenberg.

In May, the school system announced that Daniels Run Principal Chris Smith would be leaving his post there to become the new principal at the City's Katherine Johnson Middle School. He's succeeding Tammy Sillipigni, who'd earlier told school officials that she planned to retire on July 1.

Regarding Mullen's most recent experience in school administration, she comes to Daniels Run from Loudoun County Public Schools. There she served at John W. Tolbert Jr. Elementary School as an administrator since 2012 and as principal since 2016.

She received a degree from



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE DORSEY
Susan Mullen

George Washington University and dual master's degrees from Chapman University and George Mason University in educational curriculum and instruction and education in leadership. And Platenberg is delighted that she's now bringing her expertise to Fairfax.

"We are thrilled to have Susan Mullen join the City of Fairfax Schools community, and we welcome her to Daniels Run Elementary School," he said. "She brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm with her, and we are excited to begin a new school year with such a talented leader."

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Fatal Crash in Clifton

On July 13, at 10 a.m., Fairfax County Police officers responded to a crash on Old Yates Ford Road and Henderson Road in Clifton involving a 2003 Honda Accord and a 2019 Volkswagen Atlas.

The driver of the Honda was uninjured, while the passenger of the Honda was flown by helicopter with injuries considered life-threatening to a local hospital. The driver of the Volkswagen and passenger were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Yesterday, detectives were notified that the passenger of the Honda, Jack Gumm, 22, of Manassas, succumbed to the injuries he sustained in the crash.

Preliminarily, detectives believe the driver of the Honda lost control of the vehicle while traveling on westbound Old Yates Ford Road. The driver began to spin, crossed over the double yellow line and was struck on the passenger side by the Volkswagen traveling in the opposite direction. Preliminarily, alcohol does not appear to be a factor and speed is still under investigation.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call our 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)



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
SCOTT	16925	803	STAGE LANE	COVE CREEK	7/1/2024
ALBEMARLE	840	745	ARROWHEAD VALLEY ROAD-ROUTE 745	BRANCH MOORES CREEK	6/24/2024
BEDFORD	2832	699	BORE AUGER ROAD- ROUTE 699	BR. OF BORE AUGER CREEK	6/21/2024
DINWIDDIE	6050	624	HILLS DRIVE	WHITE OAK CREEK	6/20/2024
SCOTT	16905	732	ROUTE 0732	BRANCH	6/20/2024
LUNENBURG	11662	671	REEDY CREEK ROAD	BRANCH OF REEDY CREEK	6/17/2024
TAZEWELL	18573	627	ROUTE 627	INDIAN CREEK	6/12/2024
ROANOKE	15109	777	FT LEWISCHURCH ROAD- ROUTE 777	STYPES BRANCH	6/12/2024

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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SENIOR LIVING

Omni Wellness & Performance opens in Fairfax City

FROM PAGE 2

Using his professional training and experience in performance training and injury prevention, Chacón also employs functional neurology – specific, non-invasive treatment procedures to rehabilitate nerve cells. Doing so helps restore clients’ range of motion, relieve pain and improve their body’s performance.

Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Closed Saturdays). Call 571-517-1515; for more information, go to <https://omniwellnessperformance.com>.

Chacón said he chose Fairfax City for his business because he and his staff members “liked this small-town community, the uniqueness of it having a historic center, and it being centrally located [in Fairfax County].” And when City officials recently held a ribbon cutting for Omni, Chacón’s wife, young sons and employees were there to share in the special occasion. Pleased, he said, “It feels a little surreal realizing that a longtime goal and dream of mine finally came true.”

During the ceremony, Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read told him, “I am so glad you chose to open your business in Fairfax City. You know, it’s interesting that it’s called Omni Wellness & Performance because wellness is



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Cutting the ribbon are (from left) head massage therapist Sara Reynolds, Catherine Read, Tara Borwey (Fairfax City Economic Development), Jose Chacón, wife Jennifer Tillman and their sons Liam, 10, and Julian, 8, and Dr. Courtney Dagan, head of physical therapy.

for everybody and not just athletes.

“I realize you’re co-located here next to a racquet club and, certainly, athletes have to take care of their bodies because they use them differently and strenuously. But we also need to talk in terms of wellness when we talk about what makes a community healthy.”

Read said she also appreciated Omni’s

focus on the importance of “taking care of your body regularly through professionals who understand things like chiropractic care and other kinds of services that help keep all of us healthy all the time. So it’s wonderful to have you here in the City. I know that this space works for you and the people who have access to the services you provide. So thank you so much, and I wish you the best



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The infrared sauna room.

of luck in your business.”

In turn, Chacón thanked Fairfax City for the opportunity to relocate here. “Looking around this place, I didn’t think I’d ever have five treatment rooms – especially since I started from the hatchback of a Volkswagen Golf,” he said. “We’ve come a long way.”

“But now that we have plenty of room, we’re going to help more people,” he continued. “And thank you, Mayor, for welcoming me to the City to hopefully help our clients with wellness, as well as performance, so they can get healthy and strong.”

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COMMUNITY



Guests and Volunteers join together for a meal in the fellowship hall following a recent worship service. This is one of 6 lunches offered throughout the week.

Rising Hope Mission Church

FROM PAGE 3

“They are not welcoming,” Wilds said. “Someone who’s been sweating outside for three days likely has poor hygiene. When they arrive at a government building with all their belongings, they worry about how they will be perceived,” he says. “Rising Hope has created a space of dignity. We say, ‘This space is for you.’”

Except for the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter at 9155 Richmond Highway, the church’s drop-in will be the only drop-in place available during the week in southeastern Fairfax County.

Wilds elaborates, “While they are here, we can offer them dignity, community and access to resources. It’s not just about getting out of the heat. It’s about finding community and finding resources to assist them along the way.” Wilds expects to see between 40 to 50 folks a day.

Rising Hope helps people experiencing homelessness and poverty, by also serving lunch to around 50 people a day and providing food to more than 300 families a week from their market. Staff and volunteers help people access services, like housing and health care.

A recent grant will also enable Rising Hope to help nearly 100 families stay in their homes through rent and utility relief and support a new staffer to handle emergency services, particularly focusing on the continuum of care post-emergency.

Wilds recently wrote, “This and many other byproducts of homelessness need not and should not be in a country like ours and yet, as a recent SCOTUS decision has demonstrated, the realities only seem to be getting harder.” He was referencing the June 28 U.S. Supreme Court decision that decided it is constitutional to arrest or fine homeless people for sleeping in public spaces when no shelter space is available.

“The solution to homelessness isn’t criminalization for being without shelter,” Wilds wrote to supporters

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Rev. Kameron Wilds in the church’s greenhouse.



Former, now retired, Rising Hope pastor Rev. Keary Kincannon and current pastor, Rev. Kameron Wilds in the fellowship hall. They minister to the least, lost, lonely and left out, they say.

last week. “It’s options of affordable housing coupled with robust touch points along the continuum of care. The poor are not problems. The poor are people experiencing the problems of a society whose main objective is always increasing the bottom line.”

To Help

Rising Hope welcomes donations and volunteers to interact with their congregants, help them find services and other tasks. Visit www.risinghopeumc.org.



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General Assembly's Ongoing Efforts to Protect Air Quality

BY SENATOR SCOTT SUROVELL
(D-MOUNT VERNON)

Protecting Virginia's air quality by reducing greenhouse gases has been a priority of mine since I was first elected to the General Assembly in 2009. This year, both the House and the Senate took steps to address this issue.

However, Governor Youngkin exercised his power to veto some of our actions. Does that mean that Virginia will be stymied in reduc-

ing greenhouse gases for the next two years?

No. The General Assembly has considerable power to continue to move policy initiatives. Here's a description of how that played out in the back-and-forth of the 2024 legislative session.

The Governor's efforts to remove Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) probably captured the most attention.



Surovell

RGGI is a regional compact created by states in the Northeast to combat the air pollution that has been linked to climate change. Under RGGI, participating states first set a limit on the CO2 emissions allowed in their state. Power plants must buy

allowances for every ton of carbon they emit. Those funds are then returned to the state for a variety of green energy projects.

Virginia joined RGGI in 2020, under a law that was passed by both houses of the General Assembly that required funds to be allocated towards flooding resiliency projects and energy efficiency. The law has never been repealed and Virginia received over \$700 million for flood prevention projects and energy efficiency such as insulating and weatherizing homes.

In addition, according to an analysis of the public health impact of RGGI, carbon dioxide emissions in

SEE AIR QUALITY, PAGE 14

Artists Share Work at Pathway Homes' Arts Exhibit

Pathway Homes hosted an Artist Reception as part of its 11th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit, where Pathway Homes' residents who have mental health challenges showcase and sell their own art, poetry, and crafts. More than 83 pieces from 18 artists are on display throughout July in the South Atrium of the Fairfax County Government Center. Artists receive 100 percent of the proceeds.

The July 10 reception brought together the artists, providing attendees a chance to meet these talented people and celebrate their artistry. Pathway Homes is a nonprofit providing mental health services — starting with safe, stable housing — to individuals marginalized by poverty and inequity. Art and creativity are an integral part of recovery for Pathway Homes' residents.

During the reception, Pathway Homes' resident Sherril Crawford, whose work is on display, read a poem that she wrote. As for her inspiration, she expressed that: "Doing art gives you a vision of hope. Everything will be ok."

The exhibit is open to the public on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through July 31.

Artist bios and photos of their works are also available for viewing and sale at sota.pathwayhomes.org/artists. The reception and exhibit support the unique talents of Pathway Homes' residents and enable them to express



Marti Kelly, a Pathway artisan, with her crocheted afghan.



Pathway CEO Sylisa Lambert-Woodard.



Paula Weidmann, Pathway artist.



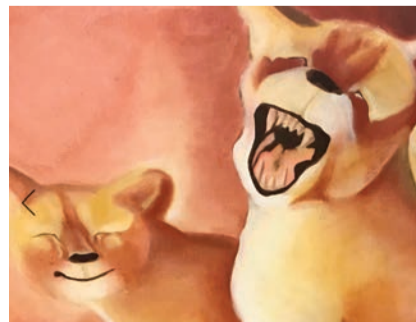
Sherril Crawford, Pathway artist and poet.

their journeys to recovery through their unique and personal artwork. The exhibit also honors Karen Free, a Pathway Homes resident and artist who passed away in 2011.

For more than 44 years, Pathway Homes has enabled tens of thousands of people in Northern Virginia with

serious mental illnesses and other co-occurring disabilities to get housing and supportive services to help them recover their lives.

Painting by Karen Free, a gifted artist and long-time resident of Pathway Homes, who passed away in 2011.



COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

Fairfax NAACP Wins National NAACP Thalheimer Award Again

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Declared the most active and involved local chapter of its size in the country, the Fairfax County NAACP won the National NAACP's Thalheimer Award for the second time in six years. Karen Campblin, former branch president, will receive the award at the National NAACP's Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 14-17. A local celebration is planned later.

Nikki Zimmerman, president of the Fairfax NAACP, said that the branch does not treat the honor lightly. "It is a tribute to our late President Michelle Leete, who led our branch with distinction throughout 2023 and tragically died before her time. ... We dedicate this award to her memory and pledge to continue the fight for racial equity and justice for all."

The award period, from May 2023 to



SCREENSHOT@FAIRFAXNAACP.ORG

Members of the Fairfax NAACP accelerated the voting education of Black people and all people of color during the 2023 elections, which saw near-total redistricting with new numbers and some unfamiliar candidates.

May 2024, proved important across multiple issues. Notably, the education committee led the fight to replace the reading method

for young children in Fairfax County Public Schools with a phonics-based one. The Criminal Justice Committee led initiatives to

hold the Fairfax County Police Department accountable for the officer shooting and killing of Timothy Johnson, an unarmed Black man suspected of shoplifting sunglasses, and develop policies to protect citizens from unnecessary police use of force. The Housing Committee championed services for individuals who are unhoused, particularly extreme heat relief and pushed the Board of Supervisors for greater funding to improve the county's stock of affordable housing. The Political Action Committee, leading its 2023 "Souls to the Polls" campaign, created a website listing all election nominees on the ballot during the election season, which saw near-total redistricting. They also honored the recently found gravesites of formerly enslaved people in collaboration with NOVA Parks, the Religious Affairs Committee hosted a Juneteenth event at Bull Run Regional Park.

Visit Fairfax NAACP website at fairfax-naACP.org.

Good Shepherd Housing School Supply Drive Underway

Monetary donations are also crucial.

The Good Shepherd Housing School Supply Drive is underway, a crucial initiative that will directly impact the lives of children in need. The nonprofit organization is collecting backpacks and school supplies for the 2024-2025 school year and would like to receive all donations by Aug. 1.

To support their School Supply Drive, visit Good Shepherd Housing's Amazon Wish List and ship items directly to the

nonprofit organization's office at 8253 Backlick Road, Suite L, Lorton, Va. You can also deliver locally collected items to the office or donate funds online.

As of Sunday, July 14, 5 p.m., \$104 of \$5,000 had been collected for the organization's Children's Resources Program, which funds everything it does, especially its yearly School Supplies Drive. Immediate support is crucial to bridging this gap. To donate, visit https://good-housing.harnessgiving.org/donate/?-checkout=1665&campaign_id=15113.

— MERCIA HOBSON

NVFS Looks for Assistance with School Supply Drive

Participate now through July 24.

Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS), a nonprofit organization, is asking the community to help ensure its 2024 Back2School Drive provides 1400+ students across the region with new backpacks filled with the school supplies they need before they return to classrooms in August.

You can assist in three ways. Make an

online donation. Visit nvfs.org/back-to-school. Buy school supplies July 2-22 from the Amazon Wish list [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XQGK-9TE6PPT7/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex]. Amazon will deliver the selected items to the NVFS office. Alternatively, you can drop off supplies at 12955 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax (near Starbucks), on Wednesday, July 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursday, July 25, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For questions or a donation receipt, email lhurst@nvfs.org.

— MERCIA HOBSON



SCREENSHOT @FFXFIRE/RESCUE

Assistant Chief Dan Shaw, FCFRD, to retire after 29 Years with the Department.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue's senior leadership team, along with Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis, recognizes Assistant Chief Dan Shaw as he retires after 29 years with FCFRD.

— MERCIA HOBSON

Fatal Crash in Clifton

On July 13, at 10 a.m., Fairfax County Police officers responded to a crash on Old Yates Ford Road and Henderson Road in Clifton involving a 2003 Honda Accord and a 2019 Volkswagen Atlas.

The driver of the Honda was uninjured, while the passenger of the Honda was flown by helicopter with injuries considered life-threatening to a local hospital. The driver of the Volkswagen and passenger were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Yesterday, detectives were notified that the passenger of the Honda, Jack Gumm, 22, of Manassas, succumbed to the injuries he sustained in the crash.

Preliminarily, detectives believe the driver of the Honda lost control of the vehicle while traveling on westbound Old Yates Ford Road. The driver began to spin, crossed over the double yellow line and was struck on the passenger side by the Volkswagen traveling in the opposite direction. Preliminarily, alcohol does not appear to be a factor and speed is still under investigation.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call our 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)

NEW VENUE

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



The bluegrass band Sweet Yonder performing at Earp's Ordinary.



Tara Borwey talks to (front row, from left) the DeMarco family, Jon Stehle, Tess Rollins, Jennifer Rose, Councilmember Kate Doyle-Feingold and Chap Petersen.

It's Earp's Ordinary for Live Music, Food, Drinks and Fun

Fairfax City gets an exciting new restaurant/music venue.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A lifelong music aficionado, Michael DeMarco always dreamed of creating a space where local and touring musicians could showcase their talent. First, though, he worked for decades in the corporate world to support his wife and children. He even gave back to his Fairfax City community by serving on its City Council.

But once he retired and eventually left the Council, he could finally focus on making his dream a reality. It took him four years and a more than \$2 million renovation and restoration of the basement of a 70-year-old building. But at last, Earp's Ordinary opened for business and quickly became the premier restaurant/live-music venue in Old Town Fairfax.

It's at 10420 Main St., to the right of and underneath Commonwealth Brewery Co., and patrons enter via an elevator which delivers them to Earp's gigantic space filled with music and merriment. The motto there is "Music, Spirits, Fare," and Earp's illustrates it by serving top-notch food and drinks in a friendly, welcoming environment where music lovers of all ages may enjoy live performances of all genres of music and entertainment by local and national acts.

As for the name, it's a nod to the original Earp's Ordinary, an 18th-century

tavern and store that businessman Caleb Earp ran at the nearby intersection of Main Street and Chain Bridge Road. And, said DeMarco, "We're more than just a music venue. We're an excellent, outstanding restaurant and bar, as well."

Besides a wide variety of cocktails, wine, beer and cider, Earp's offers starters including smashburger sliders, bulgogi party tots, meatballs, spicy Szechuan chicken dumplings, Bang Bang Shrimp, and crispy Brussels sprouts with orange-passion fruit teriyaki glaze, pepitas and a pomegranate seeds.

There are also salads, plus several happy-hour specials. Entrees include chicken and sausage gumbo, Southern mac & cheese, and coconut-shrimp tacos with broccoli slaw, pineapple pico de gallo, green garlic sauce and sriracha. And among the hearty sandwiches are Asian pulled pork, Nashville hot chicken, falafel burgers, braised short rib grilled cheese, and mushroom, arugula and tomato with avocado crema on Texas toast.

Hours are Saturday, 3 p.m.-midnight; Sunday, 3-9 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday, 4-10 p.m.; Friday, 4 p.m.-midnight. Closed Mondays. Phone: 703-539-6960. Parking is available in the City's free garage.

And after all the construction obstacles DeMarco had to contend with en route to opening the 10,640-square-foot Earp's, he and everyone attending its recent ribbon cutting were thrilled to see it finally up and running.

Referring to DeMarco and his family, Councilmember Jon Stehle said, "You could not ask for a better set of humans to help us grow as a City. This is what a

Earp's Upcoming Entertainment Schedule

FRIDAY, JULY 19

The Beltway Opry (several singers and bands);

SATURDAY, JULY 20

The Rockits;

TUESDAY, JULY 23

Gordon Sterling: A musician's open jam;

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Anthony Carroll & Friends;

FRIDAY, JULY 26

King Moon Racer;

Saturday, July 27 – Ben Goldsmith featuring Rowan Clark;

Sunday, July 28 – No Part of Nothin' Band.

* To see the whole entertainment lineup beyond July, and to buy tickets to the shows, go to <https://www.earpsordinary.com/events/>.

"I've already been here to listen to some of them, and the vocal music talent is wonderful," continued Rollins. "So Michael, thank you very much for having a venue for musicians to come, to create and to entertain – and to just share their hearts."

Jennifer Rose, executive director, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, began by saying, "Congratulations, DeMarco family. This has been a long time coming, and there is nothing better than those tasty craft cocktails and live music – especially when you've had kind of an icky week. It's so great to come in and relax and

enjoy the amazingly talented musicians and this community.

"And I love that you have bluegrass, jazz and a little bit of everything. This is a wonderful addition to this City. From my first Old Town Visioning Committee meeting, way back in the summer of 2019, we talked about a venue just like this in the City. So welcome and congratulations."

Next, DeMarco stepped to the mic and addressed the crowd. Noting how long it took for Earp's to finally come to fruition, he said, "There have been a lot of ups and downs. But now we're open, and we've got great live music and great food and drinks. I'd like to thank my wife especially, all my children, my sister-in-law Paula, Chef Joe, Josh [Alexander, DeMarco's former business partner], and the staff – who've all been with me from

small town is all about. This is what it means to put everything on the line and be steadfast, thoughtful and to have an entire community rally to support you.

"I know this is a place where memories are going to continue to be made, a place where we'll continue to gather, come together, share and celebrate. That's what the Old Town area needed, that's what you've provided and will continue to provide. So thank you so much for your vision, for being here, and we can't wait to spend more time with you."

Tess Rollins, executive director of the Old Town Fairfax Business Association, said how excited she was. "Not only do I have a passion for small businesses, but when it comes to music, there are songs that change your mood," she said. "And when you come and gather to watch live music – and see and hear the creativity that comes from the musicians – that changes your mood, too."

SEE NEW VENUE, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEW VENUE



Listening to Michael DeMarco speak are (from left) his daughter Anna, sister-in-law Paula Doll Bandini, daughter Emilia, son Antonio and wife Joanne.

New Restaurant/ Music Venue In Fairfax City

FROM PAGE 10

the beginning.”

“I’m so excited about live music in the City of Fairfax,” continued DeMarco. “We’re a large venue that can seat 290 people, and we have a nice mix of singer-songwriters and musicians – solos, duos and full bands. The genres range from blues to bluegrass, jazz, classic rock, hard rock, ’80s music and the like, and I’m very happy to be able to share this with you.”

“I’d be remiss if I didn’t thank the community at large because there were some times that I didn’t think this was going to happen. But I called on some friends who called on some more friends, and they came up with a solution [a fundraiser] that really helped us open up this space, and I can’t thank them enough for all they’ve done for me. Come and see us often at Earp’s Ordinary and tell all your friends about us.”

Tara Borwey, programs manager with Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED), then told DeMarco, “You are a treasure to the community, and we’re all so honored to be here and be part of this day that we know you rode a roller coaster to arrive at.”

Commissioner of the Revenue Page Johnson said the building itself has lots of memories for many City residents. “This space was built out in 1955 as a bowling alley and, as a young man, my father was a pinsetter here,” he said. “My mother worked upstairs in a men’s shop, and that’s how they met – in this building.”

“So DeMarcos, thank you for bringing life back to this building,” contin-

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ued Johnson. “I’ll add one other important memory. Fast forward 25 years after that meeting, and I chose this place to propose to my wife. So best of luck and success to you.”

City Treasurer Tom Scibilia said he had his 6th birthday party in the same bowling alley in 1963. Furthermore, his dad was an electrical contractor who owned Fairfax Electric, and this building was his first commercial contract.

“So my dad actually wired this building,” he said. “Then [all these years later], my son is an urban planner for Fairfax City. And when this building came up [for consideration], this was his first land-use-review presentation to City Council.”

“Main Street has always been the center of our downtown, and we’ve tried to energize it with not just entertainment uses but multigenerational uses,” said former Sen. Chap Petersen. “I’m glad you have music for all ages, and I think this is wonderful. I like that the name has a historical connotation, and I’m happy to be here as a consumer.”

Jim Feather, City Planning Commission chairman, was also pleased to have an arts venue in Fairfax. “When we put together the Small Area Plan – with the engagement of the community, City staff and Council – creating something like this is exactly what we had in mind for Old Town. Michael, thank you for helping to make that real.”

Likewise, FCED Treasurer Dawn McGruder said, “Thank you so much for bringing music and this venue back. It was worth the wait.”

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Michael DeMarco (in center) prepares to cut the ribbon.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony participants pose for a group photo.



Some of the Earp’s Ordinary staff members.

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU AUG. 4

LuminoCity Festival. At Westfield Montgomery Mall, 7101 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. The festival will run daily, Monday to Thursday, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Admission tickets are available for purchase online at luminocityfestival.com or onsite. Ticket pricing ranges from \$16 to \$20 per person. Admissions for children 3 and under are free.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Dino Safari and Ice Age Adventure:** Two exhibition areas where visitors will explore 70+ life-sized animated dinosaurs and immersive ice age animals lighting sculptures
- ❖ **Interactive Recreation Zone:** Attractions such as a Dino Bounce Castle, Dino Speedway, T-Rex Thrill, Jungle Explorer Playground, Dino Carousel and Oviraptor Ride
- ❖ **Educational Experiences:** Participate in a Safari Dig and Dino Fossil Hunt to uncover hidden gems and excavate fossils from the prehistoric era
- ❖ **Lumi Giftshop:** Shop for dino-themed toys, gifts, and Lumi souvenirs
- ❖ **Food & Relaxation Zone:** Food trucks and restroom facilities, are convenient and easy to grab a bite and unwind after the prehistoric adventure

JULY 5 - AUGUST 2024

Family Friendly Theatre at Tysons Corner Center

The Plaza, Traveling Players Ensemble - Level 1

Join Traveling Players for family-friendly theatre in-studio and on the Plaza! Titles include: Hamlet, Improv Comedy Show, Learned Ladies, Orpheus & Eurydice and A Midsummer Night's Dream. In case of rain, performances will be moved inside Traveling Players Studio, located inside on the first floor.

Plaza Performances:

- July 31:
 - ❖ 7 p.m. - Hamlet
- In Traveling Players Studio:
 - ❖ July 5 - 2 p.m. - Orpheus & Eurydice
 - July 26-
 - ❖ 1 p.m. - Improv Comedy Show
 - ❖ 2 p.m. - Orpheus & Eurydice

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>

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: 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



LEGO DREAMZZZ Playground will be an attraction at Springfield Town Center from July 12 to Aug. 2, 2024.

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 AUG. 11

WMAI Inaugural Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Serving Together, Creating Together is an Inaugural Exhibition of art by participants in the Workhouse Military in The Arts Initiative (WMAI). Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/serving-together>

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 4-630 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!

FCPA'S SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT SERIES Fairfax County Park Authority's

July 18-24, 2024

Performances are held outdoors and may be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) before leaving home for inclement weather updates.

FREE CONCERTS AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. every Wednesday night through Aug. 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.
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

KIDZ KORNER EVENTS IN FAIRFAX CITY

FUNDAY MONDAY: Mondays, 10:30 – 11:15 am at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. For more information: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

July 22 – Miss Mollies' Musical Fun
July 29 – My Gym "Olympics" theme
Aug. 12 – Music Together Sing and Groove

Aug. 19 – Drew Blue Shoes Magic!
Aug. 26 – Storytime with Fairfax Library: "Ice Cream" theme

KIDZ KORNER: Saturdays, 10:30 – 11:15 am at Old Town Square, 10415 North Street, Fairfax. <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

July 30 – Mad Science of DC: "Up Up and Away"

Aug. 3 – My Gym "Olympics" Theme
Aug. 10 – Superhero Training with "The Hulk"

Aug. 17 – Children's Music with Marsha (of Marsha and the Positrons)

TYSONS CORNER CENTER EVENTS

❖ **Farm Harvest Fridays**
Every Friday at 2 p.m. – 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 4-630PM 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

ENTERTAINMENT



Miss Mollies' Musical Fun can be seen on Monday, July 22, 2024 at Kidz Korner Events in Fairfax City.

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 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, July 21, 4 p.m. The Billy Coulter Trio
Sunday, July 28, 4 p.m. Justin Trawick

JULY 12 TO AUG. 2

LEGO DREAMZzz Playground. At Springfield Town Center, Springfield. LEGO DREAMZzz activities Include:

Search MINIWORLD for the dream clouds to crack Mr. Oz's secret code
Dream up your own animal/vehicle mash-up and test it out on giant ramps

Meet & Greet Izzie & Z-Blob
Play Dream Team Bingo and collect your dream team and then take on the timed challenge to create a Memory Protector
Experience the LEGO DREAMZzz 4D movie

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

CRASE & Stop the Bleed. 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. At Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd; Chantilly. The training will start off with a presentation on Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE). This course equips you with strategies and guidance for surviving active shooter/active aggressor events and other critical incidents. This lecture will educate participants on attackers, past events, disaster response, and how to prepare for and respond when trapped in a building during an active violence event. Please be aware that certain content may be upsetting. The second portion of the seminar will be a course on Stop the Bleed which teaches participants the lifesaving skills

needed to prevent the number 1 cause of death after an injury: bleeding. Register here: <https://bit.ly/45K9dmM>

JULY 18-28

The Logan Festival of Solo Performance. At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. This innovative festival will gather celebrated solo performers from across the country for two weeks of performances, workshops, discussions, and events. The 2024 festival will feature three dynamic productions:

Fly Me to the Sun

Written and Performed by Brian Quijada

Directed by Raymond O. Caldwell
Following a tragedy in El Salvador, Abuela Julia moves in with her family in a Chicago suburb. Her grandson, BQ, learns about America through his grandmother's eyes while also teaching her to enjoy simple pleasures. Told in the style of a late-night talk show with Julia as a special guest (in the form of a puppet), Quijada weaves a beautiful story about the moments that move us and what calls us home.

Too Fat for China

Written and Performed by Phoebe Potts

The story follows Phoebe Potts, a self-described comic storyteller and professional Jew, as she tries, fails and eventually succeeds to adopt a baby. After a US adoption goes horribly wrong, Potts finds herself surprised, disgusted and ultimately resigned to the role she plays as a middle-class white lady in the business of adopting babies in the US and internationally. Potts' tragi-comic journey is about looking for more— more love, more life and more family and will do anything to get it, including having her morals and values fold in on themselves.

GUAC

Written and Performed by Manuel Oliver

Co-Written by James Clements
Directed by Michael Cotey
What do you do when you lose a son? Take it from Manuel Oliver, the father of Parkland shooting victim



The Skip Castro Band will play at the Free Concerts at Burke Lake Park on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

Joaquin Oliver, you have to do what you do best. Fearless, funny, and pulling zero punches, GUAC is a one-man tour-de-force theatrical experience about a father turned activist, his undying love for his son, and the story of an immigrant family in search of the American Dream only instead to be confronted by a uniquely American Nightmare.

The Logan Festival of Solo Performance will run July 18-28 with performances of each show as follows:

Fly Me to the Sun: Thursday, July 18 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 20 at 8pm, Sunday, July 21 at 8:00pm, Tuesday, July 23 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 27 at 5pm, Sunday, July 28 at 8:00pm

Too Fat for China: Friday, July 19 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 20 at 2pm, Sunday, July 21 at 2pm, Wednesday, July 24 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 27 at 8pm, Sunday, July 28 at 2pm

GUAC: Saturday, July 20 at 5pm, Sunday, July 21 at 5pm, Thursday, July 25 at 7:30pm, Friday, July 26 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 27 at 2pm, Sunday, July 28 at 5pm

Please email the box office at boxoffice@1ststage.org for reservations. General admission tickets are \$20 per show and \$10 per show for Students with valid ID. Individual tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

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.

FRIDAY/JULY 19

Wright at Twilight. 6:30-9 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Enjoy the iconic Pope-Leighey House, designed by Frank Lloyd

Wright, at twilight! Sit back with complimentary snacks and a glass of wine, as you watch the changing light bring out the beautiful architectural details of the house. Play games in the yard, listen to period music, and tour the house at your leisure as the sun slowly sets.

SATURDAY/JULY 20

Community Pool Party. 4 p.m.

At Lake Newport Pool, Reston. Reston Association will honor the 60th anniversary year of Reston's founding with a community pool party, cookout and celebration. The event is free for all RA members and recreation passholders. This 60th anniversary celebration will include music, a cookout with complimentary food and non-alcoholic drinks, pool games, raffle prizes and more. Residents are also encouraged to share their memories and photos from 60 years of Reston with a large "memory wall" that's aimed to evoke shared stories and experiences in the community over the years. Admission for non-members/non-passholders is \$20 for children and \$30 for adults. Everyone interested in attending is asked to register online at www.reston.org/events.

JULY 20-28

Vienna Youth Players Presents

"Newsies." 7 p.m. At Vienna Community Center. The newsboy strike of 1899 is at the heart of Vienna Youth Players summer production, "Newsies." This classic Disney tale, based on true events, traces its roots back to the time when newsies – boys and girls who sold newspapers on the street – went up against two newspaper publishers, Joseph Pulitzer of the New York World, and William Randolph Hearst of the New York Journal, to fight for the chance to earn a livable wage. "Newsies" takes this real-life event to the stage with an explosion of energetic music and dance. Tickets are \$18 each and can be purchased in advance online, www.viennava.gov/webtrac, or at the Vienna Community Center at the door before showtime, if still available. Shows run on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. July

20-27. Matinee performances are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. July 21 and 28. Visit www.viennava.gov/theatre.

FREE SCHOOL ENTRY PHYSICALS AND VACCINES

Fairfax County Public Schools announced that the Inova Cares Clinic (ICC) offers free school entry physicals and vaccines during Back to School Pediatric Health Fairs. This is for Medicaid-eligible or uninsured children five and older and 7th and 12th graders who require vaccines. Attend the clinics on July 20 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) at Herndon Inova Cares Clinic for Families, 600 Herndon Pkwy., (703) 464-6094, and August 17 at ICC-Children-Falls Church. Visits to ICC are by appointment only. Book your appointment at 703-698-2550.

SUNDAY/JULY 21

Parkemon is Back. 1-4 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, Chantilly. Here's how it works: there will be 12-14 posters of four different Parkemon set up around the park. Players will have to "capture" the Parkemon by taking a selfie with each character. They will then take the selfies to the Parkemon Pond Pavilion, where they can spin to win a prize. If you're out roaming the ECLP trails during ParkemonTM, or anytime, please consider supporting the park and all it provides the community.

SUNDAY/JULY 21

N Gauge Model Trains on Display. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Gauge model trains will be on display and running. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and Military (active and retired), \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, Facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425.9225.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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After

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OPINION

Air Quality

FROM PAGE 8
the region have declined by more than 50% while the regional economy has continued to grow.

However, Governor Youngkin announced from the start of his term that he wanted Virginia out of the interstate compact and he attempted to pull Virginia out in 2023. He was immediately sued and the legality of his action is currently pending in court. In the end-of-session budget negotiations, funding to force the Governor to follow the law and follow RGGI was removed as part of the compromise with the Governor that eventually led to passage of our biennial budget.

At the same time, the Governor vetoed my bill SB279, which would have created a Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank that would allow Virginia access over \$350 billion of low interest federal loans to finance public and private clean energy projects, investments in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and similar efforts. The bill had passed both houses with bipartisan majorities.

The Governor also vetoed my SB329, another measure designed to reduce greenhouse gases by promoting composting as a way to reduce methane consistent with Governor Youngkin's composting executive order. That bill passed the Senate 21-19 and the House 84-13.

Virginia still has the ability to move forward on reducing greenhouse gases. The General Assembly is taking action in other ways.

The budget we passed includes \$100 million to take on the kinds of projects that were previously funded by RGGI such as \$231 million to promote environmental management on farms and \$400 million for bonds to upgrade local sewer treatment facilities.

In addition, several of my bills promoting alternative energy were passed into law and signed by the Governor. SB508 will make it easier for Virginia consumers to receive payments from Virginia utilities when they install and use geothermal heating and cooling systems. For energy consumers who want to take advantage of solar power but cannot install a rooftop solar panel, my SB 253 and 255 will make it easier to participate in a "shared solar" program—receiving a credit on their electric bill for an off-site solar generation facility.

The members of the General Assembly will continue to work to bring Virginia back into RGGI. That may take another legislative session or another Governor, but we are not walking away from our efforts to address this critical priority for all Virginians. Please email me at scott@scotturovell.org if you have any feedback.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

SUNDAY/JULY 21

Relax Sound Bath. 4-5:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This month's Sound Bath with Iris McCray, which revolves around relaxing into the natural course of things. Visit the website <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/sound-bath>

JULY 25 TO JULY 31

Fairfax City Shop Local Week. Participating small businesses will welcome customers to experience, discover and enjoy their offerings with a variety of themed celebrations.

Community Cares Thursday will see retailers partnering with local charities to give back to the community.

Friday Social promises a lively shopping atmosphere with sip and shop events.

Sidewalk Sales on Saturday and Sunday bring the excitement outdoors with sidewalk sales throughout the city.

Discovery Day Monday invites customers to meet the makers, enjoy trunk shows, and experience pop-ups in different stores.

Treat Yourself Tuesday focuses on pampering customers with products and services designed to boost happiness and well-being.

Wellness Wednesday will highlight "Good for You" offerings, encouraging healthy practices and products.

Participants include Mode on Main by Mara, Omni Wellness & Performance, eXurb Fitness, Heart N Soul Yoga Studio, Smiley Skin Beauty, Fairfax Surf Shop, Lucy Loves, Paradise Games and Gifts, Perfect Mistakes, Romp n' Roll, Down the Line Sports Center, Brooke's Bridal & Balland Brooke's Bridal & Beyond.

JULY 27 TO OCT. 20

Annual Clay International. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. View 48 unique ceramic works that incorporate contemporary spirit and technical skill in the material. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/clay-international-2024>

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Designing American Living. 4-5:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House provide a unique opportunity to put two American styles of architecture – separated by over a century – in conversation with one another. Take a close look at both houses to examine what it was that the architects who built these homes were trying to convey about the people who lived here, the period they lived in, and what they thought the future held.

SUNDAY/JULY 28

G-Scale Train Display. 12-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS) members will have a G-Scale train display running. The sheer size of these trains is a wonder to behold as their ability to run through the garden all year round. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and Military (active and retired) \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.Facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

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

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The U.S. Navy Band Cruisers will appear on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

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.

BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK SALE

At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 Saint Germain Dr., Centreville.

Friday, Aug. 2, 1-5 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 3, 10-5 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 4, 1-4 p.m.
Bag sale on Sunday. Fill a grocery bag with books for just \$10.

Sponsored by Friends of the Centreville Regional Library.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Summer Open House. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Featuring free self-guided tours of both Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, bring your family and friends to learn more about this unique local historic site and enjoy 127 acres of outdoor space.

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation has announced its annual Summer Concert Series schedule at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. The series will feature military bands performing music from traditional patriotic tunes to contemporary works and pop hits. All shows begin at 7 p.m. Visit marineheritage.org/eventcalendar-368789.

Thursday, July 25: The U.S. Navy Band Cruisers will play pieces from across musical genres, from jazz to rhythm & blues, classic rock to pop, and their own original material.

Thursday, August 22: "The President's Own" United States Marine Band will present a varied repertoire ranging from traditional concert band selections to the patriotic marches that made it famous.

Thursday, Aug. 29: "The President's Own" United States Marine Band returns to close the Summer Concert Series for 2024.

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://restoncommunity-center.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.

Cyber Space – Between My Ears



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't quite know how to describe my relationship with the Internet: Friend or foe. On the one hand, whomever is in charge can sometimes offer unsolicited help, that's quite timely: Burial insurance, (let's be honest, I do have cancer) is a recent example of a recent sender from which I've been contacted many times; other emails, however, are completely off base and of no particular interest to me. Cooking recipes – from multiple entities, is an example of a regular sender. Why? I don't cook. I re-heat and I certainly don't ever follow a recipe. If I did follow a recipe, it would be a recipe for disaster. I don't think I'd burn the kitchen/house down, but there would be damage of some kind. In baseball, the catcher's equipment is referred to as the "tools of ignorance." Given my interest level and capability in the kitchen, pots and pans are my 'tools of ignorance.'

Moreover, to invoke a quote from M*A*S*H, specifically, "Hawkeye:" "The instrument has yet to be invented to measure my indifference ..." to cooking (he was responding to a remark made by Major Burns). Receiving regular emails on the subject is a 100% complete waste of the time it takes for me to delete it from my inbox. Though it's clear what the email is about when I see it listed in my inbox, its arrival irritates me, nonetheless. This is the one instance where I will say "Why me?" There is no rhyme or reason for a cooking outreach to land anywhere near my inbox. Granted, I know there's not really a sender on the other end, so there's no one to blame per se, only an entity. Ergo, my displeasure, compounded.

Receiving these unwanted emails is akin to a death from 1,000 cuts: slow and painful. In this context however, it's acquiescence from 1,000 emails. After receiving so many emails and doing so little with them for so long and knowing of no way to stop them, eventually your curiosity - morbid curiosity in this instance, gets the best of you; soon there's a click with your mouse or a tap on your keyboard and then you're in a world of someone, or something else's making. And with respect to the computer, that's not where I want to be. I want to be in my world, one of my choosing. I don't want to be led down a garden path by a computer. Any more than I want to learn how to make flowerless chocolate cake.

Most mornings, after I turn on the computer, "there it is," or I should say, there they are: "Burial insurance" and "Command" or "Heartland Cooking." One email I have zero interest in opening, another I have a grudging interest in. One is semi on target, given my current medical reality and the other is nowhere near the target. How can an entity (and here comes my 'displeasure,') hit and miss on the same person? I mean, if they found out enough to get a hit: (burial insurance), how could they be so clueless about the cooking?

I know why. There isn't anybody at home on the Internet. They're all in cyber space, not real space.

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

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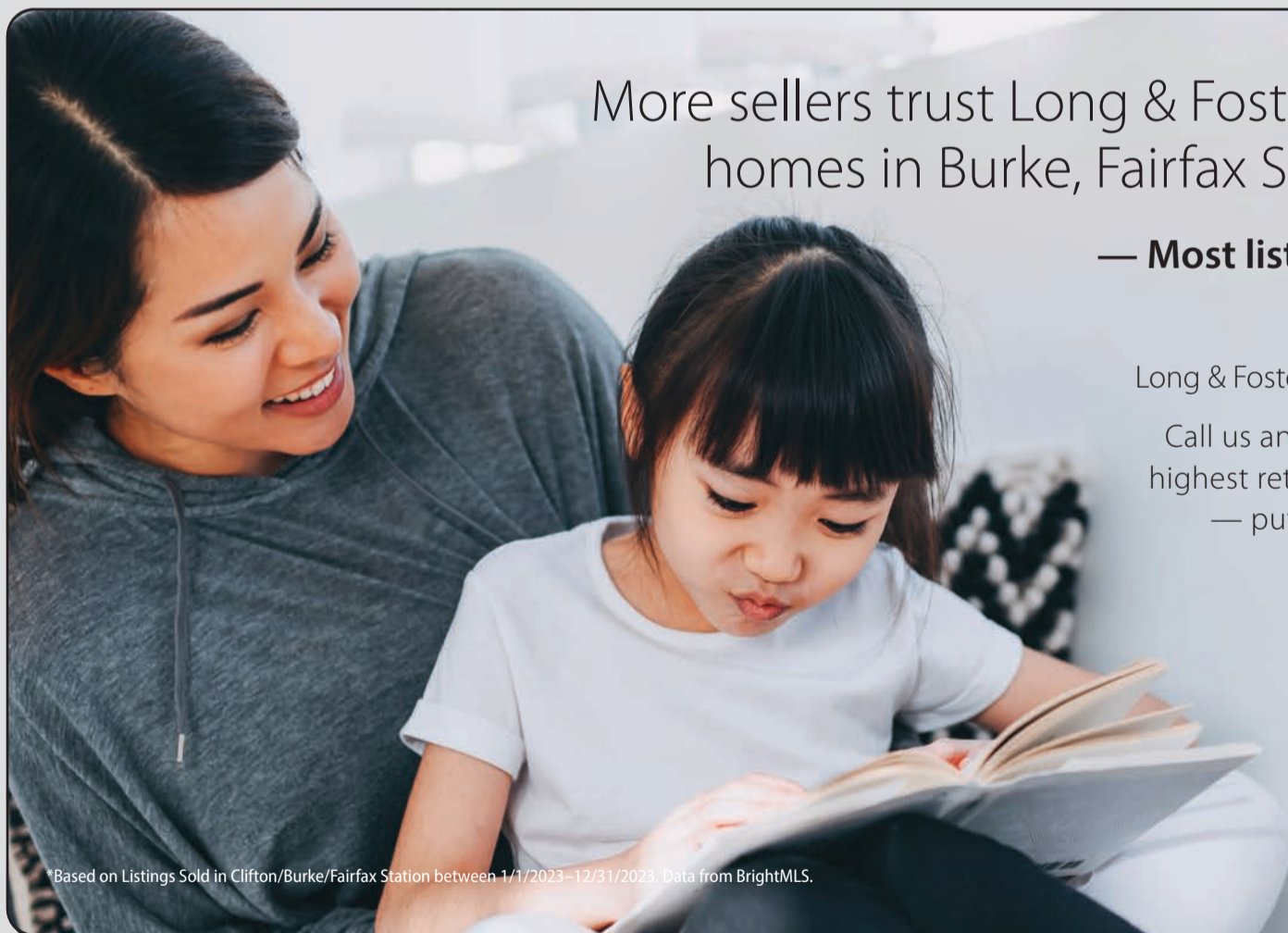
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