

THE CONNECTION

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

Doe, a deer, a
female deer.

Oh Deer, What Can the Matter Be?

PAGE 4

Schools Sue DOE

PAGE 3

Does Civilian Review Panel Need Reform?

PAGE 8

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 9, 18

PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

SEPTEMBER 3-16, 2025

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FCPS Sues USDOE Over Frozen Funds

Trans Use of 'Intimate Facilities' Fourth Circuit of Appeals Precedent vs. Federal Policy.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, the Fairfax County School Board filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Education and Secretary of Education Linda McMahon in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division, challenging the department's decision to classify the school district as "high-risk" and potentially withhold federal funding.

The Arlington School Board filed a similar lawsuit on the same day against the U.S. Department of Education and Secretary Linda McMahon in the same court.

Students and their families in a total of five Northern Virginia public school districts are embroiled in the dispute that centers on the DOE's threat to freeze federal funding if the schools do not rescind their transgender-inclusive policies regarding "intimate facilities," use of bathrooms and locker rooms, which the department claims, in its official press release, violate Title IX. The impacted districts are Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun, and Prince William counties, as well as the City of Alexandria.

The Northern Virginia districts are the only public school systems in the nation currently affected. It is a power struggle between school districts, which are local government entities responsible for setting their own policies, and the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), which alleges that the districts' policies violate federal law.

The core argument of the school districts is that their policies are not only necessary for the well-being of their students but are also legally required. They cite legal precedent from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which has appellate authority over all federal district courts in Virginia. In the 2020 case of *Grimm v. Gloucester County School Board*, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Title IX protects students based on their gender identity. The Supreme Court's refusal to hear an appeal on the *Grimm* case effectively leaves the 4th Circuit's ruling standing.

The DOE singled out the school districts for a "high-risk" designation — a specific form of enforcement — after its Office for Civil Rights alleges the policies, which pertain to "transgender-identifying" students, violate the sex-based protections of Title IX.

"Although this type of behavior was tolerated by the previous administration, it's time for Northern Virginia's experiment with radical gender ideology and unlawful discrimination to come to an end. OCR's investigation definitively shows that these five Virginia school districts have been trampling on the rights of students in the service of an extreme political ideology," states a July 25, 2025, press release by the DOE.

The school districts refused, among other things, to sign a resolution agreement pro-



Dr. Michelle Reid



SCREENSHOTS FCPS

The Fairfax County School Board. Fairfax County Public Schools, one of the largest school districts in the U.S., is suing the U.S. Department of Education to stop as \$167 million in funding from being frozen in retaliation for continuing its trans policies.

vided by the DOE that would have required them to change their policies.

The fiscal implications of this designation make it difficult for schools to access millions of dollars in federal funding. The districts cover the costs of programs — such as meals and special education — and wait for reimbursement from the DOE, which could deny claims, leaving the districts with a significant fiscal burden.

As Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid stated in an online

message to staff and parents on Aug. 29, the DOE has "effectively frozen" access to as much as \$167 million in funding, placing the schools in an "impossible position — whether to violate a federal court ruling ... or risk this critical funding."

Fairfax County Public Schools is the ninth-largest school system in the U.S., with 199 schools, nearly 183,000 students, and over 25,000 full-time staff members. Its bus fleet is the largest in the country, with over 1,600 buses, according to FCPS.

Community Members Speak Out on Pending Lawsuit Against U.S. DOE

August 28, 2025, FCPS School Board Meeting.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The following are excerpts from the two-minute remarks by speakers addressing the Fairfax County School Board during community participation at its regular meeting held on August 28, 2025. The board meeting began at 7 p.m. It is the evening before the Fairfax County School Board files the complaint, Case 1:25-cv-01432 Document 1 Filed 08/29/25, FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, Plaintiff, v. LINDA McMAHON, in her official capacity as Secretary of Education of the United States; the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division.

Josie Gillespie, history teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools, trans student protection: "Thank you for standing up for trans stu-

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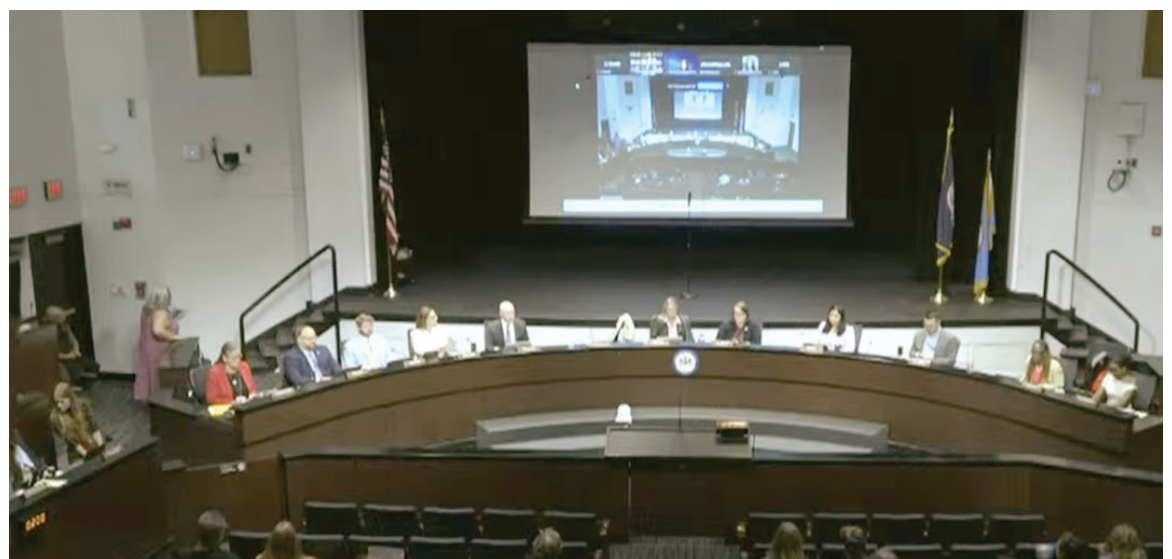


SCREENSHOTS

Robert Rigby Jr. addresses the Fairfax County School Board.

dents across the county. I have seen firsthand the effects these attacks have had on our LGBTQ students; the fear and anxiety they have caused have made the community feel less safe. ... In *Grimm v. Gloucester County*, the courts ruled that trans students are protected under Title IX."

Angie Trerotola, mother of an FCPS student: "I'm here tonight because I believe deeply in that our division has made a commit-



The Fairfax County School Board is in session on August 28, 2025; two representatives attend remotely.

ment to have our public school system reflect the community we exist in. We don't tolerate bullying and discrimination, and we celebrate everyone in FCPS. ... I'm proud that he goes to a school where he

knows bullying is not tolerated and where every student, trans and cis, is treated with dignity."

Matthew Erwin, father of two FCPS students: "I'm here tonight to thank you for standing with our

transgender and gender-expansive students. There's a simple issue. FCPS complies with Virginia law, and it complies with several federal court cases striking down an-

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 15



White-tailed deer doe with multiple fawns.



White-tailed deer buck.

Fairfax County to Cull White-Tailed Deer

Deer population has grown to poses safety and health hazards and environmental damage.

By Glenda C. Booth

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Many Northern Virginians find their backyard plants like hostas and day lilies chomped down to a nub, often a sure sign that deer paid a visit. White-tailed deer are too numerous in Fairfax County, county officials maintain.

The county recently announced that “deer management” will occur from Sept. 6 to Feb. 14, 2026, in certain county parks, primarily using archery by “qualified bowhunters” who must meet certain standards.

A county map shows where the hunting will occur. In the Mount Vernon area, for example, hunting will take place in Hunt-

ley Meadows, Grist Mill, Mount Vernon and John Byers Parks.

White-tailed deer are most active at dawn and dusk and breeding season is from late September through February. Most does have at least two fawns. Deer are herbivores and easily adapt to human landscapes.

Predators Gone

Historically, animals like mountain lions, bobcats and wolves were the primary deer predators. Today, the major predator is people. Deer are killed by hunting, vehicle collisions, dogs and trains, says the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. “Deer have few natural predators in Virginia, and other sources of mortality (e.g. diseases, injuries) are not sufficient to control populations,”



White-tailed deer doe

says DWR.

Both the state and Fairfax County governments base their deer management on the

concept of carrying capacity. “The maximum number of deer a habitat can support on a sustained basis is the biological carrying capacity,” explains Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources’ website.

Fairfax County’s deer management plan says, “A healthy ecosystem can support 15 - 20 deer per square mile without damage to the environment. Estimated deer density at many sites in Fairfax County is a minimum of 40 - 100 deer per square mile. ... The deer population in Fairfax County has grown to a level that poses safety and health hazards to our communities and is not sustainable by the environment over time. An integrated deer management program is necessary for

SEE FAIRFAX COUNTY, PAGE 12



White-tailed deer, a young buck.



Fawns



PHOTO TOWN OF VIENNA

The Vienna Town Council approved a one percent increase in the town's meals tax, bringing it to 4 percent, effective Jan. 1, 2026

Town of Vienna Approves Meals Tax

The Vienna Town Council approved a one percent increase in the town's meals tax, bringing it to 4 percent, effective Jan. 1, 2026, according to an Aug. 25 news release. The increase matches Fairfax County's new meals tax, which is also effective January 1, 2026. The town's meals tax applies only within Vienna town limits, while the county's meals tax applies to businesses outside the town. The increased 4 percent tax could help pay for a community aquatics and fitness center on the former

Annex property, with an anticipated 2030 opening.

The Town Council will discuss the aquatics and fitness center during a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) work session on September 15, at 7 p.m. at the Vienna Police Department Community Room. A vote on the CIP is expected at the regular Town Council meeting on October 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Town Hall.

— MERCIA HOBSON

Fatal Four-Vehicle Crash in Centreville

Detectives from FCPS Crash Reconstruction Unit (CRU) are investigating a fatal four-vehicle crash that left a man dead in Centreville.

On Aug. 25 at 2:24 p.m., officers responded to a crash at Sully Park Drive and Kamputa Drive in Centreville.

Preliminary, three vehicles were traveling on Sully Park Drive in the southbound lanes when the driver of a Honda Pilot was observed traveling northbound on Sully Park Road in the southbound lanes into oncoming traffic. The three vehicles swerved to avoid a collision but were then struck by the driver of the Honda Pilot.

The driver of the Honda Pilot, Darrell Ew-

ing, 80, of Clifton, was transported to the hospital in life-threatening condition and later pronounced deceased. Two of the other drivers and passengers were transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Preliminarily alcohol does not appear to be a factor in the crash. Detectives continue to investigate whether speed was a factor.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

BE AN INFORMED VOTER

Attend the LWVFA Candidate Forum for your district to learn where the candidates stand on the issues before you vote. You can submit questions for the candidates to answer.

Sept. 9 -- 9th District, 7 p.m. LWVFA on Zoom.

9th District Candidates
Democratic - Karrie K. Delaney
Republican - Nhan C.

Sept. 22 -- 7th & 15th Districts, 8 p.m., LWVFA Televised Channel 10

10th District Candidates
Democratic - Karen A. Keys-Gamarra
Republican - Cassandra R. Aucoin
15th District Candidates
Democratic - Laura Jane H. Cohen
Republican - Sandra T. Davis

Sept. 25 -- 16th District, 7 p.m., LWVFA on Zoom

16th District Candidates
Democratic - Paul E. Krizek
Republican - Richard T. Hayden
Independent - Shelly M. Arnoldi

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

THE ORIGINAL

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The Frederick P. Griffith Jr. Water Treatment Plant, Lorton, Va.

Fairfax Water Works To Meet PFAS Deadlines

Test results show some samples exceed ‘maximum contaminant levels’ set by EPA.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

HB 2050, introduced by Del. David Bulova (D-11), was signed into law by Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin in April 2025. “The bill requires certain facilities to monitor for PFAS on or before October 1, 2025, using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Method 1633 or an alternative method approved by the EPA.”

PFAS, a group of chemicals known as “forever chemicals” can accumulate in the environment and in living organisms, including people and animals. Extensive scientific research has linked exposure to PFAS to serious health issues, even at very low levels.

Fairfax Water’s 2025 Annual Report on Water Quality reveals that levels of PFAS at one of its water treatment plants exceeded the federal health standards established



PHOTOS BY FAIRFAX WATER.ORG.
2025 ANNUAL WATER
QUALITY REPORT

Jamie Hedges, P.E., CEO of Fairfax Water.

by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While the utility reports its water is safe to drink, the findings at the Frederick P. Griffith Jr. Water Treatment Plant have

prompted a multifaceted response from the public water authority.

Most people in Fairfax County, depending on where they live, get their water from two sources: the Potomac River and Occoquan Reservoir. The water is treated at the James J. Corbalis Jr. plant in Herndon or the Frederick P. Griffith Jr. treatment plant in Lorton. Both are owned and operated by Fairfax Water. The water from the two plants can be blended to meet demand since the distribution pipes are interconnected.

The annual report documents that individual sample PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) levels at the Griffith Plant ranged from 3.7 to 8.7 parts per trillion (ppt), with an average of 5.5 ppt. PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) levels ranged from 3.0 to 6.2 ppt, with an average of 4.3 ppt. The average concentrations exceeded the 4.0 ppt maximum contaminant level set by the EPA. Fairfax Water notes

that the regulatory standard for compliance is the yearly average, not the highest individual sample. While some individual test results at the Griffith Plant have exceeded the 4.0 ppt MCL, the plant’s overall yearly average has not.

The Potomac-sourced water treated at the Corbalis Plant in Herndon has consistently tested below the new EPA maximum contaminant level of 4.0 ppt for PFOA and PFOS.

A Fairfax Water document from February 2024 states that results have ranged from “ND” (non-detect) to 3.2 ppt for PFOA and “ND” to 3.4 ppt for PFOS. The average concentrations were 1.0 ppt for PFOA and 1.2 ppt for PFOS, both below the 4.0 ppt maximum contaminant level.

This history of consistent results at the Herndon treatment plant (Corbalis) is a key part of Fairfax Water’s messaging, as it contrasts with the situation at the Griffith

Plant.

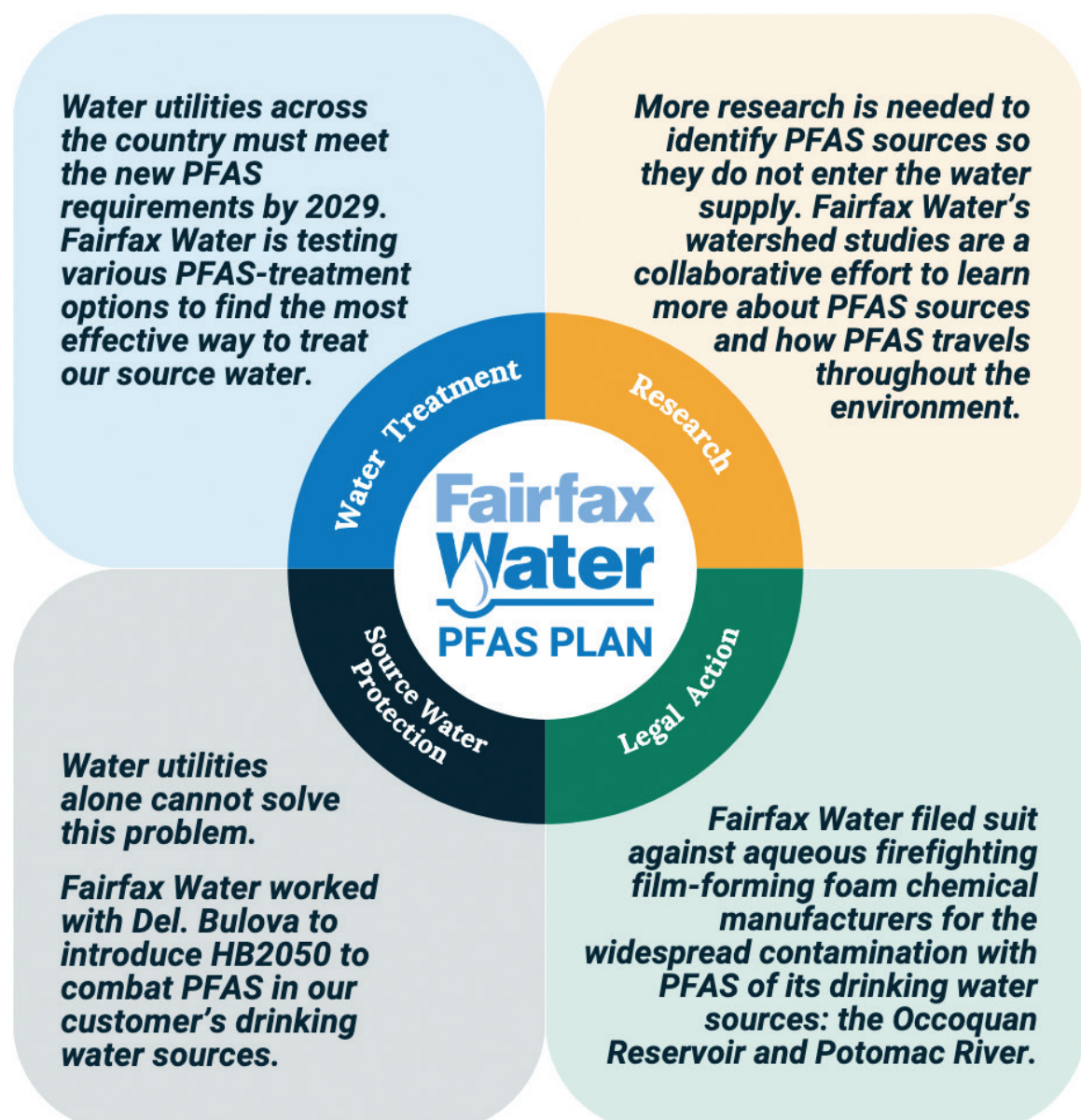
To understand the full scope of the toxicity issue, it is essential to recognize that scientific research indicates that even very small amounts of “forever chemicals” pose a health risk. The C8 Science Panel, a cornerstone of research on the health effects of PFOA, concluded there was a “probable link” between C8 (PFOA) exposure and diagnosed high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, testicular cancer, kidney cancer and pregnancy-induced hypertension.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a federal public health agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, conducted research and published a toxicological profile for PFAS. According to the agency, “ongoing research has identified associations between PFAS exposure and several other health impacts.” For PFOA

SEE FAIRFAX WATER, PAGE 7



The James J. Corbalis Jr. Water Treatment Plant, Herndon, Va.



FAIRFAX WATER.ORG, 2025 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Fairfax Water PFAS Plan.

Fairfax Water Works To Meet PFAS Deadlines

FROM PAGE 6

and PFOS, the impacts include pregnancy-induced hypertension and preeclampsia, lower antibody response to some vaccines and increases in cholesterol levels and changes in liver enzymes.

Fairfax Water's state-certified Water Quality Laboratory performs or manages the testing required by federal and state regulations. The utility's 2025 Annual Report on Water Quality, notes that nearly 45,000 data points were collected from approximately 10,000 water samples for 203 parameters in 2024. According to Fairfax Water, a part per trillion is equivalent to one gallon of water in 1,514,570 Olympic-sized swimming pools. The utility offers another analogy: one ppt corresponds to one penny in \$10 billion. The utility notes that "the ability to test compounds in water to these minute levels is relatively new."

Fairfax Water is an independent public water authority, not directly operated by the Fairfax

County Board of Supervisors, but the board does have a role in its governance. The utility is governed by a 10-member Board of Directors, which consists of Fairfax County citizens appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The annual Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), is a requirement of the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act. It must include information on detected contaminants.

Fairfax Water's plan to address the issue is a multifaceted approach to ensure compliance with the EPA's new regulations. The utility has implemented several measures as part of a long-term plan. A summary of a Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee meeting on Oct. 29, 2024, highlighted a presentation by Jamie Hedges, the general manager and CEO of Fairfax Water.

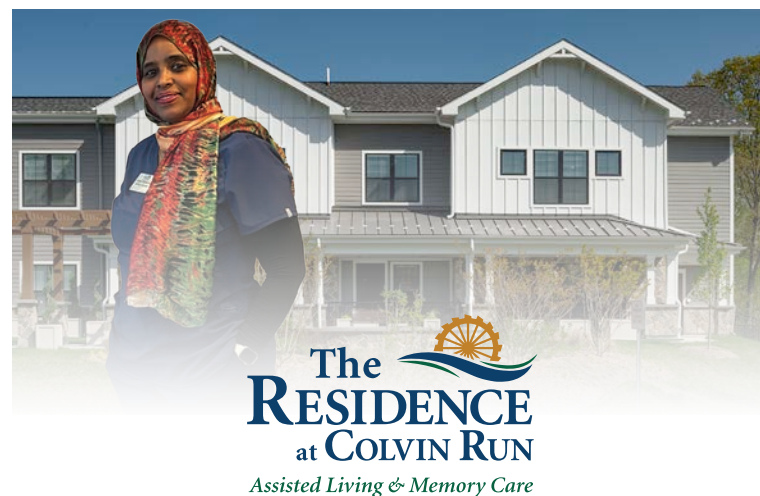
The summary states that Hedges discussed the utility's efforts and noted that "the region will not be able to comply with the EPA's latest

regulations, due to take effect in 2029, unless additional treatment processes are put into effect." The EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level of 4.0 ppt for PFOA and PFOS rule was finalized in April 2024. Hedges also outlined Fairfax Water's "roadmap to compliance" and the associated costs.

Fairfax Water is currently pilot-testing various PFAS treatment options, such as Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) and Ion Exchange, to identify the most effective solution.

They are also conducting watershed studies in collaboration with partners like the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory and Virginia Tech.

The utility's approach is part of a "One Water" strategy, which aims to identify and reduce the sources of PFAS pollution before the chemicals enter the drinking water supply. Hedges's support for legislative action, such as Virginia House Bill 2050 (HB 2050), is also documented in the meeting minutes.



Celebrating the Ones that Care

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From the Caregiver, Hodan Mohamed

I love to take care of the elderly, and I feel like I'm making a difference in people's lives. Whether it be that they stay with us for a short amount of time or they're with us for a long-term care.

“

From Dan B., the Resident's Family

I can tell that Hodan genuinely cares about giving Louise the best care that she can, and I feel that she does just that. Hodan is always responsive to requests that I make, but probably more importantly, I see that she also takes the initiative whenever she sees that an aspect of care is necessary or soon will be.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

In-Person Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY2027 Budget
(July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027)

McLean Community Center Governing Board
Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Small District 1A-Dranesville residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. The draft budget proposal will be available on the center's website and copies can be picked up at the center's reception desk beginning the week of Sept. 14.

Written comments may be delivered to the McLean Community Center (see address below) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to feedback@mcleancenter.org. Written comments may continue to be submitted after the Public Hearing through Monday, Oct. 13.



McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711
mcleancenter.org

Chair of Fairfax Police Civilian Review Panel Urges Reforms

Dr. Bryon Garner details the body's limited authority and seeks broader powers.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The chair of the Fairfax Civilian Review Panel, Dr. Bryon Garner, served as the guest speaker at the Aug. 26 Fairfax NAACP meeting. He explained that the panel's mission is to enhance police legitimacy and community trust by reviewing certain police investigations for accuracy and fairness.

Garner highlighted the panel's strengths while drawing attention to its weaknesses. The panel reports directly to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and is independent of the police. "Its mission is to enhance police legitimacy and build and maintain trust between the citizens of Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors, and the Fairfax County Police Department," Garner said.

The panel accomplishes this by reviewing certain FCPD investigations to ensure accuracy, completeness, thoroughness, objectivity and impartiality. The panel also examines FCPD Internal Affairs Bureau investigations of officer misconduct and abuse of authority.

"Citizens can file complaints directly with the panel or through the FCPD, and if they are unsatisfied with the internal investigation, they may request a review by the panel," Garner said.

Garner's presentation was titled "Making Oversight Matter: creating meaningful police accountability through strategic partnerships" because he wanted to highlight that civilian oversight is only effective when it leads to real, tangible accountability for police actions. Throughout his talk, Garner explained that the current Police Civilian Review Panel has limited authority and resources, which restrict its impact. To partially overcome these limitations, Garner



Richard G. Schott, Fairfax County's independent police auditor, attends the virtual Fairfax NAACP meeting held Aug. 26.



Dr. Bryon Garner, chair of the Fairfax Civilian Review Panel, speaks at the Aug. 26 Fairfax NAACP meeting.

emphasized legislative reforms and advocated for expanded powers, funding and enhanced community engagement.

Garner's statements during his presentation stressed that while the panel can be an important body for police oversight in Fairfax County, it is currently limited. The amount of information shared with the panel is too little for panel members to effectively fulfill their role in reviewing and making decisions on misconduct cases. The panel's role is largely one of broad oversight instead, as the main problems are a lack of independent power and bureaucratic and operational hurdles.

According to Garner, a primary concern is that the panel lacks strong powers to investigate police officer misconduct, such as the ability to conduct independent investi-



Two-slide overview of Fairfax Civilian Review Panel.



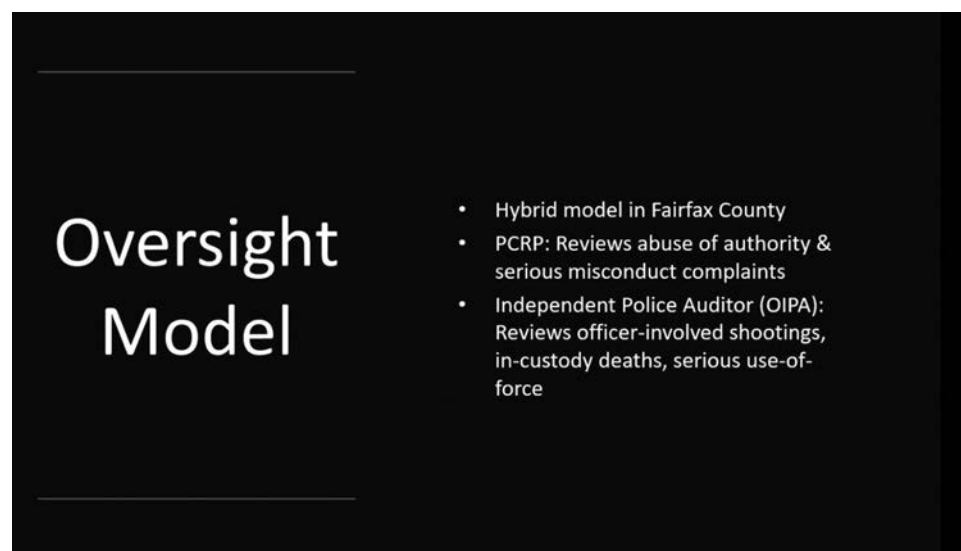
gations or compel testimony.

While the panel has consistently advocated for greater authority, particularly the ability to conduct independent investigations rather than just reviewing completed Internal Affairs investigations, Garner said

there has been resistance to expanding oversight, which requires building more trust with key stakeholders.

Virginia state law, though, presents additional barriers to meaningful civilian over-

SEE CHAIR OF FAIRFAX, PAGE 13



This slide explains Fairfax County's hybrid police oversight model, which is composed of the Police Civilian Review Panel (PCR) and the Independent Police Auditor (OIPA).



The slide highlights community challenges facing the Police Civilian Review Panel as of Aug. 2025.

Thank you, Vienna, VA for raising a scout.

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Scout

September Marks National Preparedness Month

There's no better time to get your family ready for whatever might come your way. Disasters happen when we least expect them, and the families who do best are the ones who planned ahead.

Know What You're Up Against

Before you can make a good plan, you need to know what threats you might face. Every area has its own set of risks.

Here are some common threats to consider:

- ❖ Weather-related disasters: Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, winter storms, extreme heat

- ❖ Natural disasters: Earthquakes, tornadoes, sinkholes

- ❖ Human-caused events: Chemical spills, power outages, cyber attacks, terrorist incidents

Don't forget about more common emergencies too. House fires, medical emergencies and car accidents happen far more often than major disasters.

Build Your Family Emergency Plan

Once you know your risks, it's time to make your plan. A good emergency plan covers four main areas: communication, meeting places, evacuation routes and who does what.

Set Up Communication

When disaster hits, phone lines get jammed fast. Text messages often get through when calls can't. Pick one person outside your area to be your family's main contact. Everyone should have this person's phone number memorized and written down.

Make sure every family member has a list of important phone numbers. Include local police, fire department, poison control, your doctor, your insurance company and work numbers.

Create a group text or use a family app so you can quickly update everyone at once. But remember, technology fails. Have backup ways to communicate.

Choose Meeting Places

Pick two places where your family will meet if you get separated:

Near your home: This could be a neighbor's house, a nearby school or a local park. Choose somewhere everyone knows well and can walk to quickly.

Outside your neighborhood: Pick a place further away in case you can't get back to your area. This might be a library, community center or relative's house in another town.

Write these locations down and make sure everyone in your family knows exactly where they are and

how to get there.

Plan Your Routes

Figure out at least two ways to get out of your neighborhood. Main roads might be blocked, so you need options. Drive these routes now while things are calm so you know where you're going.

If you don't have a car, know your other options. Can you walk? Is there public transportation? Do you have neighbors or friends who could help? Don't wait for an emergency to figure this out.

Keep maps in your car and at home. GPS systems fail when cell towers go down, but a paper map always works.

Give Everyone a Job

When an emergency happens, people panic less when they know what to do. Give each family member specific jobs based on their age and abilities.

Adults might handle shutting off utilities, grabbing important papers or helping elderly neighbors. Older kids can help pack supplies or take care of pets. Even young children can have simple jobs like carrying their own small bag or helping count family members.

Write down who does what and post it where everyone can see it. Practice these roles so they become automatic.

Practice your meeting places and evacuation routes. Time how long it takes your family to get ready and leave the house. You might be surprised how long it actually takes.

Try different scenarios. What if the disaster happens at night? During a weekend? While the kids are at school? What if some family members aren't home?

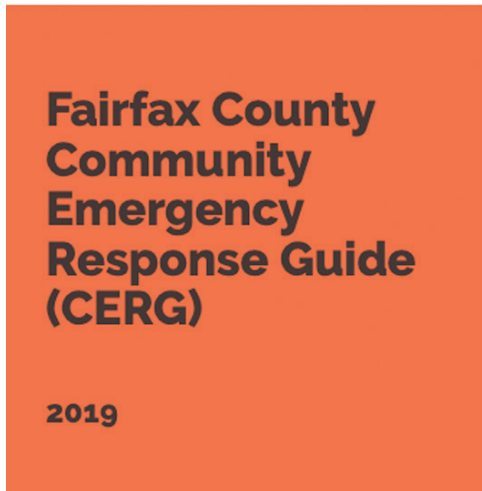
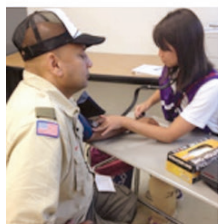
Talk through your plan at dinner or during car rides. Ask "what if" questions and make sure everyone knows what to do.

Update your plan twice a year when you change your clocks. Phone numbers change, kids grow up, and new risks might appear in your area.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/readyfairfax/makeanemergencyplan>

Community Emergency Response Guide

Fairfax County faces many hazards. Some are difficult to predict; a few strike without any warning at all. In the past several years, our community has responded to major storms, hurricanes and power outages. Be prepared for any natural disaster or emergency. Download a PDF copy of the Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG), available in multiple languages



Don't Forget Special Needs

Every family has particular situations to consider:

- ❖ Pets: Where will they go? Do you have carriers and supplies ready?

- ❖ Elderly family members: Do they need help moving? Special medications?

- ❖ People with disabilities: What equipment or help do they need?

- ❖ Infants and young children: Extra supplies, comfort items, car seats

Keep Important Information Ready

Create a family information sheet with everyone's important details: full names, birth dates, Social Security numbers, medical information, medications, allergies

and emergency contacts.

Make copies and keep them in multiple places: your home, car, workplace and with trusted family members who live elsewhere.

Store digital copies in the cloud so you can access them from anywhere. But also keep paper copies in waterproof containers.

Practice Makes Perfect

Your emergency plan won't be perfect the first time, and that's okay. The goal is to start somewhere and get better over time.

After each practice session, talk about what worked and what didn't. Maybe your meeting place is too far away, or your kids need more time to get their shoes on. Adjust your plan based on what you learn.

Remember, any plan is better than no plan. Even a basic plan gives your family a huge advantage if disaster strikes.

Take Action This Week

Don't put this off. Start with just 30 minutes this week:

- ❖ Choose your family contact person and meeting places
- ❖ Write down everyone's jobs
- ❖ Schedule your first practice drill

Your future self will thank you for taking these steps now. When emergencies happen, families with plans stay calmer, make better decisions, and get through tough times more easily.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/cERG>

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Town of Herndon Grapples With Dual High-Stakes Lawsuits



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION

To revitalize its community and enhance local business, the Town of Herndon began its efforts for downtown redevelopment with discussions that started in the early 2000s and by 2017, Herndon entered into a contract with Comstock Herndon Venture, LC to redevelop property in the town's historic downtown district.

Former police chief sues town; town sues developer Comstock.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon is facing two high-profile civil lawsuits. Both cases could serve as significant legal case studies with implications for municipalities nationwide. One lawsuit involves matters of public-private partnerships (PPP), while the other centers on public-sector employment law.

The first lawsuit is between the Town of Herndon, Va., and Comstock Holdings, L.C. The matter concerns a long-delayed downtown redevelopment project, a public-private partnership. This lawsuit is a significant legal case study because it tests the core terms of a public-private partnership.

Herndon filed the lawsuit in the Fairfax County Circuit Court in July 2025 (Case Number: CL-2025-0010248). The town is suing developer Comstock to reclaim the deed to a nearly 5-acre parcel of land in downtown Herndon. The town transferred the land to Comstock in 2020, with the condition that the property would be returned if the developer did not proceed with the project. Comstock is a major developer in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, with a primary focus on high-growth urban and suburban markets.

Herndon alleges that Comstock has backed out of the development agreement but is refusing to return

the property. Herndon claims that Comstock is holding the land "to exert pressure on Herndon to pay for Comstock's predevelopment fees," which the developer claims total "several million dollars." Herndon argues that its Comprehensive Agreement with Comstock does not obligate the town to pay these fees, as that provision only applies if the town requests the project to be transferred to another developer, which has not happened. The case is ongoing, and the town is seeking to reclaim the land.

According to the records, a hearing is scheduled for Sept. 19.

To revitalize its community and enhance local businesses, the Town of Herndon initiated its downtown redevelopment efforts with discussions that began in the early 2000s. The official redevelopment project was initiated in 2015, and public meetings and feedback sessions were held throughout 2016. The design and planning phase took place from 2017 to 2018. Five amendments to the Comprehensive Agreement followed: 2020, 2021, 2022, August 2024 and September 2024, followed by the Comstock Notice to the Town of Herndon, December 6, 2024 "Not to Proceed."

Defamation or Private Personnel Matter?

The town's former police chief, Maggie DeBoard (2012–2025), is suing the town for \$500,000, alleging defamation. While the Town of Herndon has not disclosed specific

details about the civil suit filed by DeBoard, basic information is publicly available. The case number is CL-2025-0009705, filed on July 2, 2025, and titled DeBoard v. Town of Herndon, Personal Injury. Maggie DeBoard is the plaintiff, and the defendants are Christopher E. Martino and the Town of Herndon, with plaintiff counsel listed as Westlake Legal Group. The case

text does not provide further details on the specific claims of defamation. Christopher E. Martino had served as the interim town manager since Sept. 3, 2024. Martino's appointment concluded on April 30, 2025.

DeBoard was placed on administrative leave in February 2025. Her departure was officially announced in March 2025, when the

town appointed a new police chief. The town did not provide a public reason for her administrative leave or subsequent removal, citing it as a personnel matter.

"The Town has no comment on either matter at this time," a spokesperson for Herndon said in an email. Neither Comstock nor DeBoard have replied to a request for comment.

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Hungry deer visit bird feeders.



White-tailed deer on roads and highways can collide with vehicles.

Fairfax County to Cull White-Tailed Deer

FROM PAGE 4

long-term reduction of deer-related conflicts in Fairfax County.”

Forest Regeneration at Risk

Deer primarily eat leaves, twigs, buds of woody plants, forbs, acorns, nuts, fruit, grass, mushrooms and lichens. “An average adult white-tailed deer requires five to seven pounds of food daily per 100 pounds of body weight, which equates to over one ton of vegetation consumed by one deer in one year,” DWR points out.

Because they eat tree seedlings and saplings, deer can disrupt natural forest regeneration and succession. The National Park Service (NPS) maintains that deer browse is one of several factors threatening forest regeneration in Washington-area national parks, including the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), to the point that “patterns of consistently insufficient regeneration or altered species composition call into question the long-term viability and resilience of forest ecosystems,” one study found.

On Aug. 27, GWMP Superintendent Jennifer Madello said via email that they do not have a deer management plan or funding for one. “The NPS is reassessing deer management in National Capital Region parks by refining white-tailed deer modeling tools and ensuring population reduction targets directly support park ecosystem recovery and conservation goals. ... The potential for future collaboration with adjacent state and county programs is a possibility for the future.”

Fairfax County’s website echoes NPS’s conclusions, noting, “In many areas within Fairfax County, there is little to no regeneration of trees due to consumption of seedlings and saplings by deer. Forest structure has become impaired and simplified with removal of understory and shrub layers by deer. Additionally, seed banks (seeds stored in forest soils for future generation) will not



Deer roam around Northern Virginia in all seasons.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

The size of the deer population is hurting the environment says Fairfax County’s deer management plan.

be replenished and will decline over time. White-tailed deer not only alter vegetation structure through direct browse damage to native plants (lowering their ability to become established), but also impact forest health through the dispersal of non-native, invasive plants.” Deer browsing can also have cascading effects such as loss of insects, birds and other wildlife that depend on these habitats.

Another View

Fairfax County’s deer management is “inhumane and cruel,” asserts Gina Lynch, Chair of the Animal Services Advisory Commission, a board appointed by the Board of Supervisors. She views bow hunting as recreation and says that “about 10 percent of arrows are never accounted for or collected,” which means that some deer run off with arrows embedded in them. In testimony to the Board of Supervisors, she requested a moratorium “until a reliable assessment could be developed which studied the full spectrum of issues associated with wildlife within the County.” Lynch has advocated for non-lethal contraception. “At some point, we have to coexist,” she said in a recent interview.

Charles Smith, a restoration ecologist and board member of the Virginia Native Plant Society, argues that there are few practical alternatives to the county’s program. In a 2022 article, he wrote, “Immuno-contraception and sterilization are not effective on open deer herds. Simply put, you cannot sterilize enough does and deer move around a lot.” He also contends that fenced exclosures “can be effective, but most landowners and localities lack the resources to implement effective exclosure programs.

“With lethal control of deer populations, we can reduce the impacts and ultimately reduce browse to levels that allow native plants to regenerate and support local biodiversity,” Smith wrote.

SEE FAIRFAX COUNTY, PAGE 13
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

It can be hard for an untrained eye to see deer browse impacts on vegetation. Compare these pictures of an overbrowsed forest with barren forest floor and a seedling recruitment area (oak regeneration).

Fairfax County to Cull White-Tailed Deer

FROM PAGE 12

Vehicular Collisions

Virginia ranks ninth in the country for deer-related vehicle crashes, according to the insurance company State Farm. There are 1.3 million animal collisions in the country annually and State Farm processed over

1.8 million claims involving animal collisions from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. The most dangerous months are November, October and December, according to State Farm.

Conservation groups like Wild Virginia are advocating for more wildlife corridors – con-

necting natural lands – to keep animals off roads and improve ecosystem health. They helped create Virginia’s Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.

How to Discourage Deer

Deer find some plants unpalatable, like

mountain mint, yarrow, milkweed, wild indigo and goldenrod. Generally, deer avoid prickly and strongly scented plants. Check the deer-resistant plants and tips for protecting plants at Plant NoVa Natives, <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/deer-and-native-plants>.

Chair of Fairfax Police Civilian Review Panel Urges Reforms

FROM PAGE 8

sight, according to Garner at the meeting. Unlike states such as Maryland, which have enacted comprehensive police accountability laws granting local oversight bodies subpoena power and independent investigatory authority, Virginia offers limited legal support for civilian oversight. This creates a challenging legal environment in which the Fairfax panel must negotiate for access to information and cooperation, rather than relying on legal authority established by a state statute.

Garner clarified the relationships between the Fairfax Office of the Independent Police Auditor (OIPA), the Police Civilian Review Board, calling it a “hybrid model,” and the Fairfax County Police Department. The auditor reviews officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and serious use-of-force.

“The relationship between OIPA and the Office of the Police Civilian Review Panel, OCRP, represents a carefully designed division of oversight responsibilities. OIPA exclusively handles citizen complaints concerning the use of force. In contrast, complaints concerning allegations of serious misconduct or abuse of authority are handled by

FCPD,” Garner said.

Richard G. Schott, Fairfax County’s first independent police auditor, appointed by the Board of Supervisors in 2017, clarified to The Connection, after the presentation, that the Police Civilian Review Panel hears from him at some of their public meetings throughout the year, where he summarizes his reviews and reports on use-of-force matters.

“The Panel members have the opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments. And, they always have the ability to make recommendations to the FCPD/Board of Supervisors regarding use-of-force matters,” Schott said.

Additionally, the community has low public awareness of the panel, according to Garner.

Garner advocated for expanded investigative powers and legislative reforms to enhance the effectiveness of the panel. He also emphasized the importance of ongoing training, strategic partnerships, such as those with the NAACP, and increased public awareness to enhance the panel’s role in police accountability.

Garner’s “presentation underscored the panel’s vital role in increasing police transparency and accountability — issues that directly impact many of the complaints our

Legal Redress Committee investigates,” said the NAACP. “Because allegations of police misconduct are a recurring concern in our community, the branch shares the panel’s commitment to accountability and looks forward to continuing this partnership to advance equity and justice in Fairfax County.”

Garner is not new to serving on a police review panel, having previously served on one in San Diego, California, before relocating to Northern Virginia. He served as the vice chair of the Fairfax Civilian Review Panel and was elected to serve as its chair for the 2024-2025 term.

How Virginia Law Constrains Civilian Police Review

The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 (MPAA) shifted the power to determine administrative charges and discipline from police departments to three civilian-led panels: Police Accountability Boards (PABs), Administrative Charging Committees (ACCs), and Trial Boards.

In November 2023, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) reviewed the MPAA’s implementation and recommended improvements in six areas: staffing and resources, training, legal counsel, data collection, role clarity, and improving the statewide disciplinary matrix.

A key difference between Maryland and Virginia laws on police oversight is that Maryland’s law gives stronger legal authority to civilian oversight bodies. Virginia panels generally lack independent investigative authority and must rely on police departments’ internal investigations.

A key limitation in Virginia law, § 9.1-601. Law-enforcement civilian oversight bodies is that while these bodies can conduct investigations, their ability to gather evidence and compel cooperation is often constrained. “The law-enforcement civilian oversight body may hold hearings and, if after making a good faith effort to obtain, voluntarily, the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, and other evidence necessary to perform its duties the law-enforcement civilian oversight body is unable to obtain such attendance or production, it may apply to the circuit court for the locality for a subpoena compelling the attendance of such witness or the production of such books, papers, and other evidence, and the court may, upon good cause shown, cause the subpoena to be issued. Any person so subpoenaed may apply to the court that issued such subpoena to quash it.”



Spotted Lanternfly nymphs can be found in groups on plant stems during their first four stages of development, or instars.



Spotted Lanternfly nymphs are black and white, then turning red & black with white spots in their last instar before becoming adults.



Killing the insects at all stages is encouraged, by destroying their egg masses and by smashing or vacuuming hatched insects.

Stomp, Squish, Slap, Smash!!

Making spotted lanternfly unwelcome.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Advised to “stomp, squash, squish, squeeze, slap, spray, scrape, smash, or otherwise destroy” by Virginia’s Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Spotted Lanternfly is getting anything but a warm welcome since its arrival in the Commonwealth. Not actually a fly as their name implies, *Lycorma delicatula* is scientifically classified as a planthopper. About an inch long and half an inch wide as an adult, the insect does not sting or bite. It does not eat fruit or the leaves of plants. It’s not interested in taking up residence in your house. It may be considered pretty in both nymph and adult stages. So why the admonition to kill them?

When first detected their numbers were low, but they are now a significant presence here. Their numbers alone can make encountering them unpleasant for park users or in one’s yard. For those with plantings to protect, they represent a significant risk. Spotted lanternflies have specialized mouthparts that allow them to suck sap from plants. They feed on a wide range of our native plants, including grapes, hops, stone fruits, and hardwood trees. With few natural predators here, their sig-

“Like a vampire in a black tuxedo, white shirt and red bowtie.”

— Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources



Adult Spotted Lanternflies, look very different from their nymphs, with scarlet wings visible when wings are spread.

nificant numbers have the capacity to devastate wine and lumber industries. Further the sticky, sugary fluid they secrete when feeding, called honeydew, can coat leaves and stems, cause sooty mold and prevent photosynthesis, further damaging plants. In early stages, they feed on a range of plants.

Their preferred host is the non-native Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) tree, which they seek after mating, in preparation for laying their egg masses.

A hitchhiking native of Asia, the insect was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014, and likely reached the US on goods shipped from overseas or on imported Tree of Heaven. They were first detected in Virginia in 2018. Fairfax County began SLF detection trapping in 2019 and installed and maintained traps, seasonally, through 2023. The county began treating (destroying) Tree of Heaven, the insect’s host plant, in 2020. This is the best SLF control measure known at present. Fairfax



Fairfax Master Naturalist Aurora Boughi, of Lorton, sneaks up for a kill before the adult can jump.



Adult spotted lanternflies group on a Tree of Heaven, with white honeydew shown below as they suck tree fluid.

County has spent more than \$300,000 to date using herbicide on the hard-to-control Tree of Heaven, which spread by seed, regeneration, and rhizomes. The county’s Urban and Community Forestry Department indicates that treatment is expected to continue “for the foreseeable future, as long as funding and need are both present. These efforts include funding Park Authority’s activities on their properties as well as managing contractors to remove tree of heaven from other county owned properties.”

SLF nymphs, which look nothing like the adults, are seen in June, with adults appearing as early as July. They mate in four hour sessions, and lay eggs from late September through the onset of winter. The first three

instars of the nymph stage are black with white spots; the nymphs turn red and black with white spots in their final fourth instar. The adults are quite striking with their mix of white, brown, black and scarlet coloring, making them sometimes easier to spot than other pests. The Virginia Dept of Wildlife Resources describes them as “like a vampire in a black tuxedo, white shirt, and red bowtie.”

Eggs are laid in inch-long egg masses, holding 30 to 50 eggs, on trees, stone, fences, grills, lawn furniture and vehicles. The egg masses are found in all seasons except summer, resembling a dull brown smear of cracked mud. The stationary egg masses are

SEE STOMP, SQUISH, SLAP, PAGE 15
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Community Members Speak Out on Pending Lawsuit Against U.S. DOE

FROM PAGE 3

ti-trans bathroom policies, including ones in Virginia.”

Amanda Campbell, community participant: “I want to take a moment to thank FCPS for standing up for all of our students and following the laws and precedents in Virginia and the 4th Circuit Court that require affirming transgender policies [to] remain in place. The executive branch does not get to unilaterally change laws to enforce its will. Seeing such visible and vocal support of marginalized populations is incredibly important for students, families and staff.”

Student Speaker #1: “My trans sister is nine, and she’s been exactly who she is since the day she was born. ... As a brother, I just want her to be safe, happy, and loved. Trans kids aren’t the people bullying others in bathrooms, but to be honest, I don’t think she’ll be safe from bullying until we all agree it’s not okay to judge.”

Robert Rigby Jr., representing FCPS Pride, via video testimony: “I also thank the school board and Dr. Reid for rejecting the dehumanization and demonizing of transgender students.”

Eileen Scherzinger: “I am the proud parent of a trans daughter, and I’m also a coordinator and facilitator for the PFLAG Group



SCREENSHOT

Student Speaker #1 addresses the Fairfax County School Board; “My trans sister is nine. ... As a brother, I just want her to be safe, happy and loved. Trans kids aren’t the people bullying others in bathrooms.”

in Fairfax ... Our kids only want to be recognized for being there. ... And use restrooms

and locker rooms that correspond with their gender identity. ... They just want to use a

stall in private and move on and go on with their day.”

Stomp, Squish, Slap, Smash!!

FROM PAGE 14

easier to destroy than the quick hopping nymphs and adults. Look for the adult insects now, and their egg masses through the winter, particularly on Tree of Heaven trees. Eliminating those trees goes a long way toward managing the insect pests.

The Urban and Community Forestry website offers education and advice on managing the insects. Squishing adults is a method that can achieve some limited success. Urban Forester, Rachel Habig-Myers, says “Every SLF eliminated before egg laying saves up to a hundred next year.” She adds

that while they jump to avoid their demise, “They get lazy after one jump or two.”

She has this warning about control by smashing: “Well, it’s going to be a gross sticky mess.” She says instead we may have to learn to live with these insects, as we have with stink bugs (Pentatomidae). Stink bugs are another crop pest with sucking mouth parts.

Stink bugs will not lay eggs in our houses, but are often found in numbers near window frames or having made their way inside.

Habig-Myers shares that in Philadelphia, where there was a heavy infestation, they

saw the population drop after a couple of years. She says, “We can live with them [SLF] without stressing out.”

At this point, Urban Forestry is still recommending reporting sightings on iNaturalist for population prediction purposes, though no direct reporting of insect sightings to the department is needed. As Habig-Myers says, “They are everywhere.”

Other possible new controls are emerging and may offer help for the pest’s management overtime.

In a four-year \$475,000 grant from the US

Dept of Agriculture, Virginia Tech researchers are training pet dogs for detection of SLF egg masses. Some observers have seen birds, European hornets and ants using SLF as a food source.

For advice on dealing with SLF, see VA Cooperative Extension’s manual at

<https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ento-586/ento-586.html>. Urban forestry seeks the public’s assistance in mapping the location Tree of Heaven, and reporting SLF on the iNaturalist app; see <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ento-586/ento-586.html>

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Sept. 29 -- 14th & 18th Districts, 8 p.m.,
LWVFA Televised Channel 10
14th District Candidates
Democratic - Vivian E. Watts
Republican - Eric Johnson
18th District Candidates
Democratic -- Kathy K.L. Tran
Republican -- Edward F. McGovern

NEW CLOTHING FOR KIDS – SCHOOL ‘STARTER SETS’

Kids are back in school in Northern Virginia and Assistance League of Northern Virginia (ALNV) wants to make sure that children have what they need to feel good about themselves and be prepared for a new school year. ALNV volunteers

recently assembled “starter packages” of clothing for the Title 1 elementary schools it supports so the schools would be ready on opening day. Each package included an assortment of essential items, like undies and socks, shirts and shorts. A total of 1298 items were provided. School counselors and liaisons were happy to receive the clothing and will be distributing the items as needed. Soon, ALNV will be working with each school to determine their specific needs for clothing. In addition, ALNV distributed 457 grocery gift cards in August, valued at \$9,140, to help struggling families, as it did in June and July. The cards help families when school-provided meals might not be available. Go to www.alnv.org to find out more about Assistance League of Northern Virginia and their programs to help local children in need. You

can also view a recap of the “New Clothing for Kids” program by going to this site: NewClothingforKids.org with Dorine DiConti.

SNEAKERS FOR ASSISTANCE LEAGUE

Do you have unwanted sneakers taking up room in your closet? Did you miss the return date for a pair that doesn’t quite fit? Assistance League of Northern Virginia has been collecting new and gently used sneakers as a fundraising program through GotSneakers.com. Sneakers that are wearable are sold to people who might not otherwise afford new shoes. Sneakers that can’t be worn are saved from the landfill and are recycled to make playgrounds and tracks. Assistance League receives financial compensation for each pair that is sold and that money helps support our programs that provide food, clothing

and books to local school children in need. Several members are collecting sneakers in their neighborhoods. If you have sneakers to donate, send an email to the member nearest you to receive the address for that dropbox.

Burke@alnv.org
fairfax.chantilly@alnv.org
fairfax@alnv.org
herndon@alnv.org
oakton@alnv.org
springfield@alnv.org

Find out more about Assistance League of Northern Virginia and their programs to help local school children at alnv.org.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE SNACKS 4 KIDS

It’s hard to focus when you’re hungry, es-
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 19

ENTERTAINMENT

NATURE HIKE WITH A RANGER

Along the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Join a ranger on nature hikes:

Sept. 15 at 9 a.m. at Turkey Run Park, C-1 Parking Lot

Sept. 16 at 9 a.m. at Theodore Roosevelt Island

Oct. 6 at 9 a.m. at Great Falls Visitor Center Courtyard

Oct. 21 at 9 a.m. at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

All hikes will be 1.2 to 2 hours of slow, moderate hiking. Turkey Run hike will have steep stairs both ways. Join NPS Natural Resources Program Manager Brent Steury for a hike. Brent has worked as a scientist in this area for over 20 years.

NOW THRU SEPT. 28

“Layers” Arts Show. At 700-B West Broad Street, Falls Church (Route 7). The artworks of 68 artists will be on display when Falls Church Arts presents its “Layers,” an all-media exhibit, running from August 16 to September 28, 2025. This diverse show will feature the work of emerging and established artists from the Virginia, Washington D.C., and Maryland area, all interpreting the theme of multiple layers in their submissions. Artworks can be viewed online at <https://www.fallschurcharts.org>.

Now Thru Sept.. 29

Masterpiece Mini Golf. Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Friday & Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Sunday: 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Masterpiece Mini-Golf isn’t just a game—it’s an interactive journey through the world of art like you’ve never seen before! Imagine 18 artist-designed holes bursting with bold colors, iconic imagery, and mind-bending creativity. From Monet’s water lilies to Banksy’s graffiti walls, every twist and turn brings you face-to-face with art history’s greatest paintings—reimagined in wild, surreal, and playable form. It’s part gallery, part game, and 100% fun for all ages. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/masterpiece-mini-golf>

SEPT. 4-7

Tyson’s Library Book & Media Sale. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

Thursday, 4 Sept. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, 5 Sept. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 6 Sept. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, 7 Sept. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests

Visit the website: <https://www.tysonslibrary-friends.org/>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 6

Dog Paddle event. Sponsored by Reston Association. Bring your dog for a dip in a pool that has closed for the season and bid farewell to the dog days of summer. Proof of a current dog license or current vaccinations required. This event will sell out so register soon!

SATURDAY/SEPT. 6

U.S. Asian Fest. At Dulles Town Center Festival Grounds. Last year, over 5,000 attendees joined us, with 100+ amazing vendors—and this year is going to be even bigger.

Celebrate the rich cultures of Asia with: Traditional performances and cultural showcases
High-energy entertainment that goes into the night

Spectacular lion and dragon dances
Over 15 DJs spinning throughout the day and night

A show-stopping cosplay contest
Incredible food from across Asia
Unique vendors with handmade goods
Whether you’re coming for the food, the music, or the culture—US Asian Fest is an experience you won’t want to miss.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 5

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Community



The Fall Community Parking Lot Sale takes place on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 at the McLean Community Center.



The G34.3 Brewing Oktoberfest takes place on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025 in Lorton.

Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations! It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need. Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: “McLeanCC” to schedule an appointment.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 6

Kids Festival. 1-3 p.m. At Springfield Overlook, 7039 Old Keene Mill Road, Sixth Floor, Springfield. Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon of fun and wonder with Abracadabra Alex and Marsha and

the Positrons! Your little ones will be mesmerized by a mind-bending magic show and will dance and sing along during a high-energy concert. Set against the unique backdrop atop the Springfield Commuter Garage, this event is the perfect way to create lasting family memories.

SEPT. 6-7

AAUW Used Book Sale. Saturday 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Sunday noon to 3 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Area American Association of University Women (AAUW) is pleased to announce the return of its Annual Used

Book Sale at the McLean Community Center. Proceeds earned at the Used Book Sale go to support scholarships and fellowships for local and international women scholars. For further information, contact aauwbooksale2025@gmail.com.

SEPT. 6-7

Burke Centre Festival. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Burke Centre Conservancy Grounds, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. An annual celebration of the Burke Centre community featuring Arts & Crafts, rides, shows, foods, characters, and much more!

Saturday Schedule:

9:30 AM - opening ceremony

10-5 PM - regular operating hours

5-10 PM - after hours Wine & Beer Garden with live music, 5-10

PM-Saturday only-with Fat Chance & High Energy bands, and Bunnyman

Brewing & Cave Ridge Vineyard

Sunday, Sept. 7:

10 AM-5 PM - regular operating hours

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

Humanity First Community Day 2025. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Masjid Mubarak, 4555 Ahmadiyya Drive, Chantilly. This event is hosted by Humanity First USA and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Northern Virginia, and is designed to foster connection between neighbors, first responders, and local leaders in a spirit of service and unity. Highlights include:

Community partnerships and charitable efforts (e.g., weekend food programs for underserved families)

Family-friendly activities (e.g., fire truck walk-throughs, bounce houses)

Barbecue and refreshments

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

“Fault Lines” Film Screening. 3:15 p.m. At the Angelika Film Center at Mosaic. Featuring a post-film panel discussion with: Del. Marcus Simon, Fairfax County Board Chairman Jeff McKay, Falls Church Mayor Letty Hardi, Fairfax County Supervisor Dalia Palchik, Keith Waters of GMU Fuller Institute, Carmen Romero of True Ground Housing, Evan Goldman of EYA, and Stewart Schwartz of the Coalition for Smarter Growth.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

“Hamilton” Movie. 12:10 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. and 6:50 p.m. At Paragon Theater in Falls Church

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

on Grandparents' Day. Paragon Theater will have \$10 kids' tickets and \$9 senior tickets.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 9

NARFE Chapter 1116 will host a forum for the candidates for Town Council and the Mayor of Vienna on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025 at 1:00 pm in the Community Room on the lower level at the Vienna Community Center. Call 703-205-9041.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 10

Guest Artist Speaker. 7-9 p.m. At Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. The Springfield Art Guild is hosting guest artist Justin Worrell to speak to members and guests on the subject of contemporary tonalist painting. Guests are welcome to this free event. Visit the website: <https://www.springfieldartguild.org/>

SEPT. 12-13

George Mason University's School of Theater – The Originals! 2025. Friday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, September 13 at 2 p.m. at 7:30 p.m.

\$14. At the deLaski Performing Arts Building, A105, TheaterSpace, GMU Fairfax Campus. Tune in for an exciting evening of original new works featuring George Mason University's talented student playwrights and performers. The Originals! offers George Mason's theater artists the chance to share their work in a variety of forms. This annual event opens the season for the School of Theater, welcoming students, alumni, and friends back to campus. Whether a ten-minute play or musical, explore the brilliant imaginations of our students as they present this year's Originals!

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

Fall 2025 Civil War & Militaria Show & Sale, Books, Relics & Memorabilia. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, 1 mile from Beltway Exit, Route 50 West. Admission: \$5 per person. Vendors Welcome! For additional Information: contact Don Hakenson, email dhakenson@verizon.net, or call 703-971-4984 or Bud Mayo, email mayo5304@cox.net, or call 703-389-1505.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

Fall Community Parking Lot Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Join your friends and neighbors at the best sale of the season! Shoppers will find fabulous bargains offered by 50 vendors, including household items, electronics, clothing, music, books, children's items, and collectibles. Visit Kids' Row, where 5- to 15-year-olds sell their gently used treasures—toys, games, sporting equipment, and other items. Shoppers can enjoy music by a live DJ, and food and beverages will be for sale.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

Life, the Universe, and Everything: A String Theory Way. 2-3:30 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join in a talk with scientist and author Dr. Howard Jeffrey Bender as he gives a light description of String Theory. We will learn how it may affect our consciousness and personality, how our universe has developed, and how Dark Matter may be explained. Cost: Free. Website: Life, the Universe, and Everything: A String Theory Way.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

Runnymede Park Bird Walk. 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. At Runnymede Park, 195 Herndon Parkway, Herndon. Each walk has an experienced leader. All levels of experience are welcome. Meet in the parking lot. Bring binoculars or borrow from them. Durable footwear. Insect repellent good to have in summer.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

Mason Run 5K. 9 a.m. At Laurel Hill Park. Boldly Gold Foundation 2025 Fundraising Campaign race for Childhood Cancer Awareness. The goal is to raise \$100,000 for the

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An Update on International Trade and New Tariffs will be presented on Monday, Sept. 15, 2025 at Reston Library.



The Burke Centre Festival takes place Sept. 6-7 on the Burke Centre Conservancy Grounds.

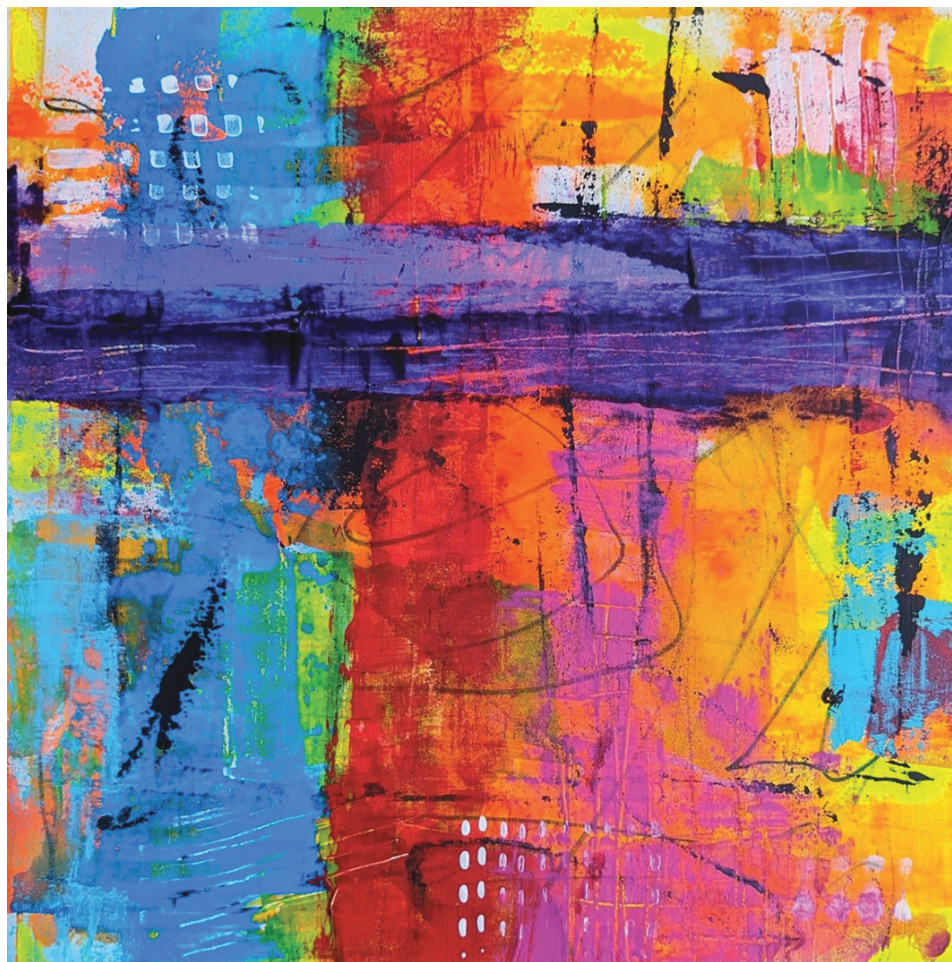
INOVA Health Foundation to assist children facing childhood cancer. To get involved or donate, visit www.boldlygold.org or contact us at Kim Ryan at 678-478-0630 or kryan@boldlygold.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

Fall 2025 Civil War & Militaria Show & Sale. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax. Admission: \$5 per person. Vendors Welcome! For additional Information: contact Don Hakenson, email dhakenson@verizon.net, or call 703-971-4984 or Bud Mayo, email mayo5304@cox.net, or call 703-389-1505.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

DMV Girls Try Hockey for Free Day. Registration is now open for the third annual DMV Girls Try Hockey For Free Day, taking place at 16 rinks across Maryland and Virginia on Saturday, Sept. 13. The DMV Girls Try Hockey for Free Day is a joint effort between the Washington Capitals, Monumental Sports & Entertainment Foundation, the Potomac Valley Amateur Hockey Association (PVAHA), and various youth hockey organizations throughout the region to introduce girls ages 4-9 to hockey at no cost. Try Hockey for Free is a USA Hockey Program that provides local youth the chance to try hockey during a one-to-two-hour ice session at no cost. Required



The "Layers" Arts Show takes place now through Sept. 28 in Falls Church.

equipment is loaned to participants through the local youth hockey organization. Try Hockey for Free days also provide local youth hockey associations with a platform and opportunity to acquire new players locally and engage interested families into youth hockey programs across the region. Participating clubs in Virginia include: Ashburn Ice House (at Ashburn Ice House in Ashburn, VA) Caps Academy (at MedStar Capitals Iceplex in

Arlington, VA) Loudoun Knights (at Ion International Training Center in Leesburg, VA) NOVA IceDogs (at Mount Vernon Rec Center in Alexandria, VA) Piedmont Predators (at Haymarket IcePlex in Haymarket, VA) Potomac Lady Patriots (at Prince William Ice Center in Woodbridge, VA)

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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CALENDAR

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Employment

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

Reston Raiders (at Skatequest in Reston, VA)
Richmond Generals (at Richmond Ice Zone in North Chesterfield, VA)
In addition, select participating rinks will host an all-girls Future Caps Learn to Play session in the weeks following DMV Girls Try Hockey for Free Day to encourage participants to continue to learn more and engage further with the game. For more information, visit <https://www.capsyouthhockey.com/>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 14

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: Beethoven — The Young Genius. 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Internationally acclaimed pianist Jeffrey Siegel returns for his Keyboard Conversations concerts with commentary. In Beethoven—The Young Genius, Siegel presents the passionate, popular Sonata Pathétique in C minor; the high-spirited “Rage Over a Lost Penny,” and the deeply moving Largo e mesto from the early Sonata in D major, Op. 10, No. 3. The program will conclude with a short Q&A with the audience.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 14

Repair Cafe Event. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, Burke. They are a group of volunteer repair experts with a focus on community. Once a month, they bring tools and knowledge to a library in Fairfax County to provide repairs and advice for a variety of things. Volunteer link: https://volunteernow.volunteerfairfax.org/custom/1427/opp_details/190697

MONDAY/SEPT. 15

An Update on International Trade and New Tariffs. 1-2:30 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join in a discussion of the latest developments in international trade and tariffs that may affect your finances. Presented by Steve Creskoff, international trade lawyer and law professor at the University of Maryland. Website: An Update on International Trade and New Tariffs - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 16

NAACP Virtual Zoom Event. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. What's on the Ballot? What's at Stake? Why Your Vote Matters? Join in an important discussion with community leaders on what's on the Nov. 4th Ballot.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 17

Journey Within: Self-Discovery Book Club. 6-7:30 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A literary discussion that focuses on a character's personal growth and how it relates to our own. Led by life coach Shabnam Curtis. At September's meeting they will discuss the novel Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout. Website: Journey Within: Self-Discovery Book Club - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

Alloy Project Auction. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Signature Grand Room, Reston Town Center. Join in a vibrant evening of contemporary art, an online and live auction, bold flavors from Barcelona Wine Bar, and celebration at The Alloy Project, Tephra ICA's annual fall benefit and cocktail party. This year's auction show-

cases work by the award-winning artists from the 2025 Tephra ICA Arts Festival and beyond and is now open for preview. Online bidding begins Sept. 2 and will culminate at the event on Sept. 18. You can also view the artwork in person starting September 11 at Tephra ICA at Signature.

2025 Artists:

Claire Helen Ashley; Betsy Best; Collette Fortin & Berry Davis; Laura DeNardo; Nicole DePonte; Van Doan; Judith Forst; Danielle Hatch; Hong Hong; Kue King; Sabrina Lee; Lisa Markowitz; Olga Nenazhivina; Jillian Roper; Michael Sorge

SEPT. 18-28

2025 Logan Festival of Solo Performance. At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. This innovative festival, acclaimed in The Washington Post with “three plays prove the power of one,” will gather celebrated solo performers from across the country for two weeks of performances, workshops, discussions, and events. The 2025 festival will feature three dynamic productions:

SPADURA – Written and performed by Dahéli Hall, an acclaimed comedian, writer, and director residing in Los Angeles, SPADURA unapologetically takes on the baby industrial complex, aging, the physical, emotional, and financial cost of IVF, as well as the unique fertility obstacles faced by Black women in America. SPADURA Dates: Friday, September 19 at 7:30pm; Sunday, September 21 at 5:00pm; Friday, September 26 at 7:30pm; Saturday, September 27 at 7:30pm; Sunday, September 28 at 2:00pm

The Jewish Dog – Filtering the darkest, most dramatic period of modern Jewish history, The Jewish Dog offers a view of the Holocaust through the eyes of a canine unusually fascinated by human affairs. The Jewish Dog Dates: Thursday, September 18 at 7:30pm; Saturday, September 20 at 7:30pm; Sunday, September 21 at 2:00pm; Saturday, September 27 at 5:00pm; Sunday, September 28 at 5:00pm

George – Don't Do That! Join Catherine Flye as she and her friends celebrate the life of the beloved British comedienne Joyce Grenfell, for an evening of witty songs, amusing sketches, anecdotes and reminiscences of the legendary star. This joyful entertainment provides a glimpse into the lives of a host of funny and endearing characters, in music, song and the spoken word. George – Don't Do That! Dates: Saturday, September 20 at 2:00pm; Sunday, September 21 at 7:30pm; Thursday, September 25 at 7:30pm; Saturday, September 27 at 2:00pm; Sunday, September 28 at 7:30pm. 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 emailing the 1st Stage box office at boxoffice@1ststage.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

18th Annual Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. At Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave. in Clifton. Check-in/breakfast is at 7 a.m. To register, go to www.erinpeterfund.org. Annual fundraiser for the nonprofit Erin Peterson Fund (EPF). Just 18 years old, Westfield High grad Erin Peterson was among the 32 victims of the 2007 mass shooting at Virginia Tech. After

her death, her parents began EPF in her honor. The fund supports programs for students at Westfield High, Stone Middle School and Centreville Elementary and, to date, has given out 174 scholarships. Email erinpeter-sonfund@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Bug Fest. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Lake Accotink Park, Springfield. Step into the fascinating world of bugs at Bug Fest — Lake Accotink Park's annual celebration of all things that crawl, fly and buzz! A day packed with discovery, fun and outdoor adventure. Perfect for families, nature enthusiasts, and curious minds of all ages, Bug Fest invites you to explore the vital role insects play in the environment through hands-on activities, live demonstrations and engaging presentations. Here's what you can experience:
Insect Safaris – Embark on a guided trek to find bugs in their natural habitat.
Live Bug Encounters – Meet fascinating insects up close.
Insect Collections & Log Rolling – Discover hidden critters by turning over logs and inspecting natural habitats.
Soil Stations & Bug Walks – Explore how bugs contribute to healthy ecosystems.
Critter Talks – Hear from experts who study and care for insects.
Bug Science & Crafts – Create your own insect-inspired art and try interactive science activities.

SEPT. 24

Senior Movie Day. Reston Association presents Senior Movie Day. Join them on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Coffee, donuts and OJ are provided, and door prizes are distributed prior to the movie. Doors: 9:00 a.m., Movie at 10 a.m. Location: Movie theater at Reston Town Center
Sept. 24: Featuring: The Ballad of Wallis Island

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

G34.3 Brewing Oktoberfest. 12 to 9 p.m. At G34.3 Brewing Company, 8532 Terminal Road, Suites L,M,N, Lorton. Oktoberfest! Beer, food, live Oompah band & more. They are bringing the Bavarian vibes with: Lenticular Lager 1553 – the fan-favorite Märzen-style beer. Food by The Alpine Chef – bratwursts, pretzels & more! Live Oompah Band – classic tunes, festive dancing, and full stein energy. General Admission is Free – show up and celebrate VIP Ticket: \$44.99 – includes a full Bavarian meal from The Alpine Chef (limited availability)

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

RA's Fall Yard Sale. Location: 12010 Sunrise Valley Drive (Near the Reston Wegmans)

MONDAY/SEPT. 29

Rise Above Golf Tournament. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. At Belmont Country Club. The Rise Above Golf Tournament promises a full day of networking, competition, and community building on one of the area's premier golf courses. Participants will enjoy a complete tournament experience proudly sponsored by Tower Club Tysons while supporting life-changing programs for trauma survivors. For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or details about either event, visit corefoundation.org/rise-above-be-relentless-foundation or contact riseaboveberelentless@corefoundation.org.

Remind Me Again



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I can understand receiving reminders from my healthcare provider concerning appointments and medicine refills - as I'm a cancer patient still undergoing treatment. I can understand receiving reminders from pet superstores concerning food and pharmacy items which as an owner of four cats and a dog - I might need reminding. I can understand receiving reminders from a high-end kitty litter distributor given their product's time-sensitive effectiveness in identifying a cat's overall health status since I'm paying an extra premium for the privilege. And I can certainly appreciate reminders from car dealers about miscellaneous service intervals and recommended repairs/replacements for our cars that we likely would otherwise let pass. But I cannot understand - other than the company's motivation to nudge me to buy their products as often as possible, maybe even prematurely, that I'm “arrowed” to a line near the bottom of a plastic dish soap bottle pointing to the advisory “Refill.”

Really? I need to be encouraged/nagged about dish soap? You mean to tell/advice me that I can't be left alone to my own homeowners' devices to know when and if I want to refill a bottle of dish soap? Is there some other reason - other than emptying my “refill” inventory as soon as possible in order to create a need, possibly, to replenish my reserves? Does the product lose its effectiveness if I don't refill the bottle at the exact line as indicated? There's not a shortage of dish soap in the market, is there? I mean, this isn't a pandemic-era shortage of toilet paper type-situation, where I need to horde dish soap in case the market/bottle dries up, is it?

Let me rework the great Alfonso Bedoya's response to Humphery Bogart in “The Treasure of Sierra Madre” (1948) as my reply: I don't need no stinkin' line on a bottle to show/tell me what to do. I may not be the most capable homeowner in the world (least capable more likely), but neither do I need to be held by the hand. And I don't need any help from the long arm of corporate America reaching into my wallet and extracting dollars for a purchase that might not make any sense - and don't really benefit me. Well, not as much as the purchase benefits them. This is dish soap. It's for cleaning dishes. It's not penicillin. It's not insulin. And more to the point - for me, it's not chemo/targeted therapy. It's a product for a sort-of-a-daily, somewhat mundane task: washing dishes. We're not sterilizing anything here. We're handwashing. There's no surgery scheduled. Just life in the kitchen.

A life with which we're all familiar and likely equipped to manage. As you might have guessed, I've taken offense with this, in my opinion, money grab. Can't I be left alone concerning my purchases for the kitchen. It's not an operating theater. The only eyes watching me belong to either a cat - wanting a treat, or the dog - wanting to go out. Moreover, I'm not giving any lessons. I'm not you-tubbing my handiwork. There's nothing particularly time-sensitive going on. And there's certainly no spouse monitoring my every wipe. She knows I'm capable of “doing the dishes” and trusts me to know what kitchen-centric products need to be purchased when. However, as indicated by the line on the bottle, apparently corporate America thinks I'm a dufus and needs to tell me what to do with their products and when. What products are next? Tissue paper? Paper towels? Toilet paper? (God forbid.) A line may not have been crossed but it has been drawn. And as a consumer, I take objection to its appearance and corporate America's reach. If I need any help managing my day-to-day/activities of daily living, I'll let you know. Otherwise, mind your own business, and I'll mind mine.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 15

pecially for kids. That's why snacks are important to help elementary students maintain their energy levels during the school day. Unfortunately, not all families can afford to provide school snacks for their children. You can help Assistance League of Northern Virginia make snacks available for low-income children by making a contribution from our August Wish List. The list features Goldfish snack packs that school personnel have identi-

fied as a popular favorite with students. Use this link: <https://tiny.alnv.org/snacks4kids> or scan the QR code on the flyer to access the wish list. Please select Assistance League of Northern Virginia as the shipping address to assure prompt delivery. If you would prefer not to order through Amazon, you can pay by personal check for these items. Please send your check, made out to ALNV, to PO. Box 209, Herndon, VA 20172 and include “Wish List/month” in the memo line. (E.g., if you order in August, please write Wish List/August.

Give yourself a boost knowing that your generosity will make it easier for students to be focused during the school day. Visit www.alnv.org to learn more about Assistance League.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.



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