

# CONNECTION

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

## Rock the Block In Fairfax City

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### Hidden Protest In Springfield?

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### Scary 'Near Misses'

PAGE 3

The youngest members of the crowd stood closest to the stage. Taylor Swift tribute band, Cruel Summer, wowed the crowd at Fairfax City's monthly Rock the Block event.



# Anti-war Message From the 1960s Unearthed on a Springfield House Wall

By Mike Salmon  
The Connection

**H**ome improvements made years ago uncovered a time-sensitive message that was sweeping the nation in the late 1960s, sparking a Springfield homeowners curiosity which has grown through the years.

Years ago, when a gardener cleared some weeds and shrubbery in a garden off Old Keene Mill Drive the words etched on the wall read “Get Out of Viet-Nam,” tipping off a Springfield mystery that homeowner Robin Campbell thinks about often. “One of the workers found the letters carved into the cement,” she said.

“What was he thinking when he carved it? I would love to know,” she wondered.

Campbell’s house was built in 1968, an intense year in the Vietnam War. Teens all over the country were being drafted, the Tet Offensive was a big item in the news, protesters were everywhere and the United States suffered nearly 17,000 casualties making it the most costly year in the whole war. On Jan. 31, 1968, 246 Americans were killed in action that single day while Richard



Etching this message in a concrete wall was not an easy thing.

Nixon preached “Sock it to Them,” on the campaign trail.

Somewhere in that time period, the construction worker on the job in Springfield



The timely way “Viet-Nam,” was spelled on the wall.

felt these events were big enough to etch his feelings on a wall that would be covered by vegetation. In 1968, Campbell had not been born yet but her parents were well aware of the anti-war sentiment that was present in the young people’s minds so they looked at their options and moved to Canada.

Campbell’s father was already a Canadian citizen, so he wasn’t in danger of being drafted, but they moved anyway, and Robin was born in Canada in 1971.

The family moved to Springfield in 1978 and they bought the house in 1986. Robin went on to graduate from West Springfield High School in 1989. Years later, Robin and

her husband bought the house from her parents and her parents moved into nearby Greenspring Village where Robin visits regularly.

Somewhere during this process, her father showed her the message on the wall and explained how he found out about it from the gardener when they first moved in years before. He knew about it before but for some reason he waited to tell her about it. The letters in the message are about six inches tall and the whole thing is about six feet long on the wall.

The message on the wall is still heavy on her mind and she’s toying with the idea to launch her own investigation, possibly digging through records and finding the builders. Did the worker just come back from the war? Was he a protester? Did he have friends that died over there? “What was he thinking when he carved it? I would love to know,” she said.

She looks at the parallels with the protests in the 1960s and the issues today. Whether it’s marching with a sign or discreetly voting for the politician that supports a particular issue, protesting may have a role.

“There are also a lot of ways to protest, and I like the idea of one of the masons working on our house finding a way to make his voice heard, even if no one knew it at the

**“What was he thinking when he carved it? I would love to know.”**

— Robin Campbell of Springfield

time,” she said in an email.

One clue that it was authentic was the spelling of Vietnam. Now it is spelled as one word, but there was a time when it was “Viet-Nam,” to many and that’s the way the word is spelled in the etching. Google has it “Vietnam,” no dash while Unesco has it “Viet Nam,” but still no dash.



Robin and Doug Campbell near the spot on the wall that is now part of family lore.

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# Danger Lurks: Near Misses On the Roads

New report reveals key factors in vehicle-pedestrian and cyclist near-miss incidents.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

In the Fairfax area — a near miss motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian or cyclist is reported on average every two days and six-and-a-half hours, with more than half of the reports involving children.

This statistic is based on 254 near miss reports collected over 18 months, from January 2024 to July 2025. The data sourced for the statistic is cited in the “Fairfax Near Miss Summary Report-Sept 2025,” by Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets (NoVA FSS), provided to The Connection on Thursday, Sept. 19. The report’s purpose is to identify and analyze locations on Fairfax’s roads where people report feeling unsafe while walking or bicycling.

The analysis of near-miss reports reveals several key trends and prime spots for reporting incidents throughout Fairfax County. While reports of collisions by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) are crucial, the near-miss report provides a different kind of insight. It fills in the gaps using a Near Miss survey app and documents a wider range of unsafe interactions that don’t escalate into a reportable crash, but still cause people to feel unsafe.

Eighty-six percent of the incidents are recurring, and peak during prime commuting hours in the mornings and evenings. Reports that cite infrastructure or environmental factors as a risk often mention poor visibility and inadequate traffic controls. The most frequently cited behavior posed to pedestrians is “failure to yield,” at 59 percent, followed by speeding at 49 percent and distracted driving at 26 percent.

The highest number of reports was submitted in the Hunter Mill District (51), followed by Franconia (48) and Providence (44).

However, as stated in the report’s executive summary, “It doesn’t mean that other jurisdictions like Mason, Mount Vernon or Springfield, etc. don’t have Near Miss incidents occurring on their streets. Rather it shows how much more NoVA FSS needs to do to raise awareness of the NM (Near Miss) survey app.”

The top roadways in Fairfax for reports involving children include Telegraph Road, Fairfax County Parkway and Gallows Road. Most incidents occurred on 25 mph roads and involved dangerous driving behaviors, such as failure to yield, speeding or distracted driving.

Case studies in Hunter Mill reflect near miss trends countywide.

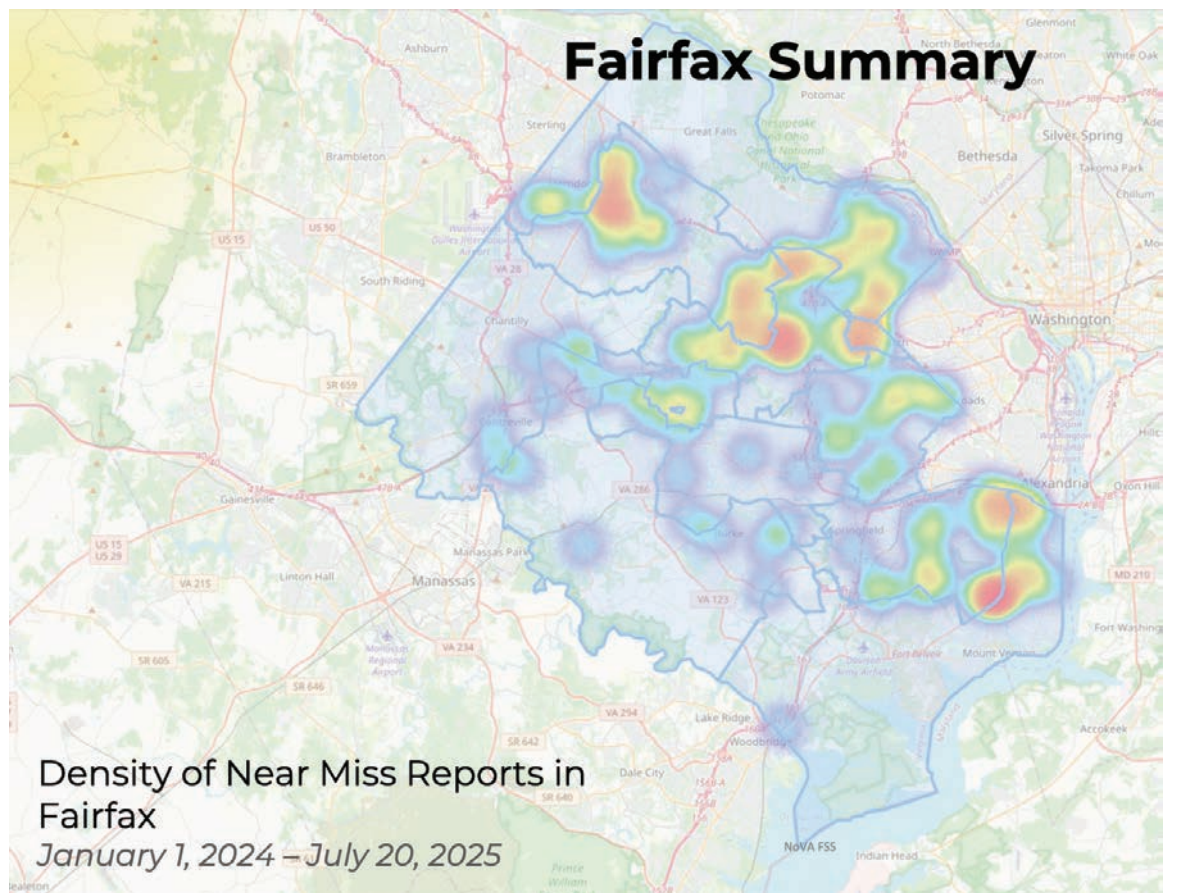
The Hunter Mill District report provides two case studies that highlight several key trends across Fairfax County. The report notes that incidents in this district are “recurring or involve children at a slightly higher rate than the average for Fairfax. They show a higher-than-average rate of drivers speeding, being distracted, and running lights/signs.”

Lake Newport Road, Reston: Reports from this area frequently mention speeding and running red lights, with a higher-than-average rate of children involved due to the nearby Armstrong Elementary School. The road’s position between busy parkways makes it especially dangerous.

One resident described a harrowing incident. “The light at the intersection of Fairfax County Parkway and Lake Newport Road is extremely dangerous. A child was crossing the street on a bike and had the walk signal to do so when a car came speeding through on a red light, almost hitting the child.”

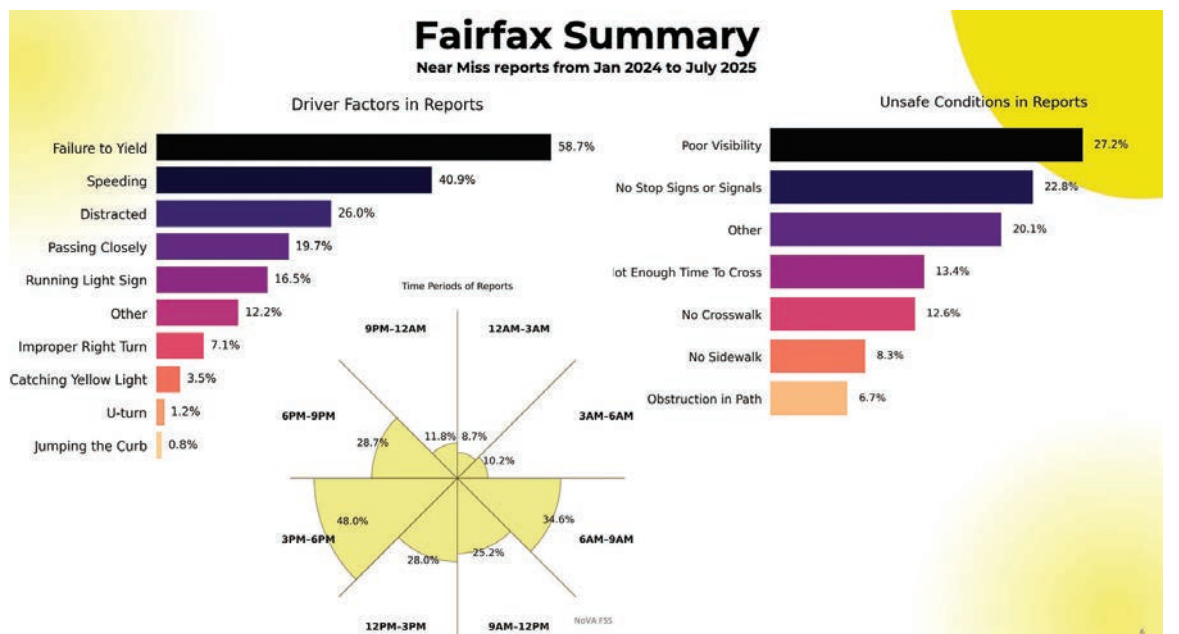
Reston Town Center: Another case study focuses on Reston Town

SEE DANGER LURKS, PAGE 10

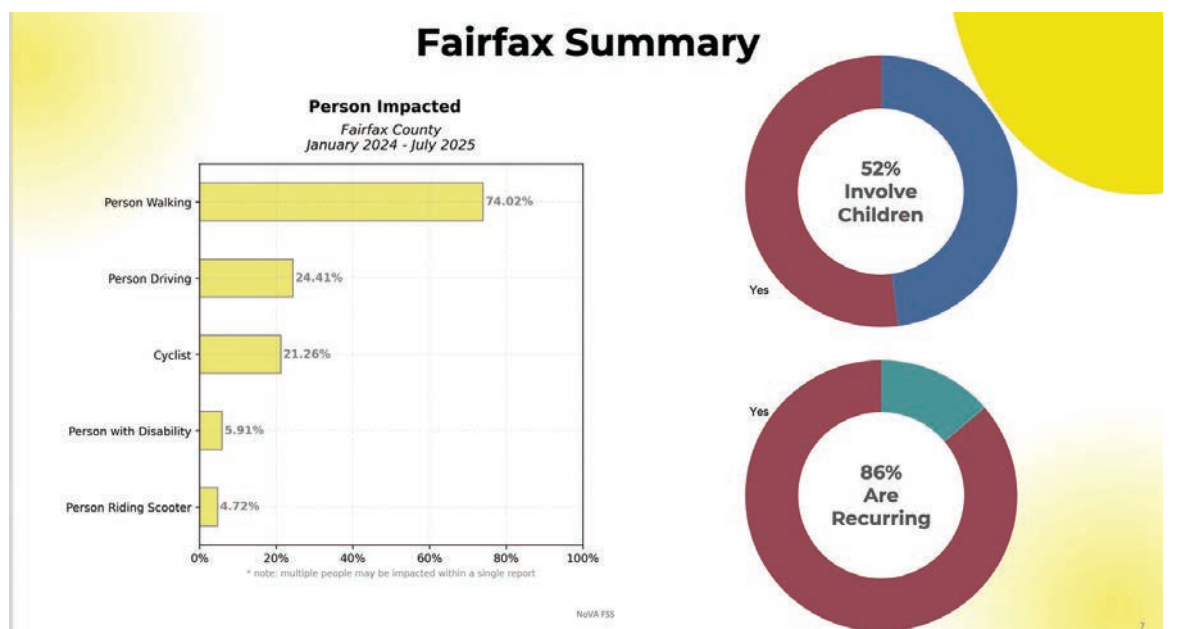


GRAPHICS BY FAIRFAX NEAR MISS SUMMARY REPORT-SEPT 2025

The map’s coloring depicts the density of reported near miss vehicle-pedestrian and vehicle-cyclist collisions.



The three graphs show the Fairfax Summary reported near miss incidents from January 2024 to July 2025 for driver factors, unsafe conditions and the time periods.



A graphic from the Fairfax Summary report shows percentages for people impacted, with 74 percent being pedestrians. It also shows that 52 percent of near miss incidents involved children, and 86 percent were recurring.



## Fiesta Fairfax Is Oct. 4 in Old Town Square

Fiesta Fairfax will celebrate Latino culture in the heart of Fairfax City with a special event on Saturday, Oct. 4. It'll run from 2-7:30 p.m. in Old Town Square, 10415 North St. and will include live music, dance performances from various countries, authentic Hispanic



Fiesta Fairfax is this Saturday.

food, salsa lessons, crafts artisans, educational exhibits and more.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, the event is free to attend and everyone is welcome. Free parking is available in the garage on University Drive, across from the library.

The City is hosting it in partnership with the nonprofit Fiesta Fairfax Foundation, which is committed to supporting the Latino community. It offers scholarships to Latino students pursuing higher education, as well as grants that fund programs and initiatives serv-

ing the local, Latino population. To donate to this organization, go to <https://fiestafairfaxva.com/donate/>.

### ❖ Entertainment Schedule

2 p.m. – Mariachi Estrellas  
2:30 p.m. – Welcome remarks  
2:40 p.m. – Alma Boliviana Fraternity  
3 p.m. – Los Quetzales Mexican Dance Ensemble  
3:20 p.m. – La Decana  
3:40 p.m. – LUSA – Fairfax High  
4 p.m. – Azucar Latin Dance

(GMU)

4:30 p.m. – Sol y Rhumba  
6 p.m. – Kadencia

## Main Street Market Is this Sunday

Fairfax City is holding its first Main Street Market this Sunday, Oct. 5 in downtown Fairfax. More than 15 local small businesses are participating and will offer a variety of items, including handmade goods, vintage treasures and unique gifts. The address is 10417 Main St. and the hours are noon-4 p.m. The next two markets will be held Nov. 2 and Dec. 7.

## Easley Named Interim CEO of Fairfax EDA

Matthew Easley was recently appointed Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority (EDA). He's doing this job while continuing his position as assistant director of finance and operations for Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED). As interim CEO, he'll oversee the organization and management of EDA operations, carry out directives from the EDA Board and work closely with Brooke Hardin, the FCED interim director.



Matthew Easley



# October 10, 11, 12

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### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://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](mailto:calendar@connectionnewspapers.com).

### ADDRESSING HUNGER FOR STUDENTS

No one likes to be hungry, but that's a stark reality for a surprising number of residents in Northern Virginia. The most recent annual Capital Area Foodbank report found that 27% of households in Fairfax County and 46% of households in Prince William County experienced food insecurity in 2024. Unfortunately, it's the case that a higher percentage of households struggling to provide food include children.





The youngest members of the crowd stood closest to the stage.

# Taylor Swift Tribute Band Rocks the Block

Old Town Square in downtown Fairfax City was the place to be last Friday night, Sept. 26, when the Taylor Swift tribute band, Cruel Summer, wowed the crowd at the City's monthly Rock the Block event. The lead singer, Alyssa Coco, performed songs from all of Swift's musical eras, while little girls collected friendship bracelets and the audience sang along.



Alyssa Coco (with mic) sang a wide range of Taylor Swift's hits.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Many girls in the audience waved their arms in time to the songs.

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## Old Keene Mill Road at Ainsworth Avenue Crosswalk Improvements and Left-Turn Removal Fairfax County

*Willingness to Hold a Public Hearing*

**Find out** about planned crosswalk improvements at the intersection of Old Keene Mill Road (Route 644) and Ainsworth Avenue (Route 3315)/the western entrance for Irving Middle School. The existing crosswalk that spans Old Keene Mill Road will be relocated slightly east to accommodate an extension of the existing grass median; the extended median will include a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the relocated crosswalk. The existing westbound Old Keene Mill Road left-turn lane to Ainsworth Avenue will be permanently removed to allow for the grass median extension and pedestrian refuge; therefore, the westbound left-turn movement will no longer be allowed at this location.

**Review** the project information at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/OldKeeneMill> or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2926 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Ms. Kerri Yap, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 on or prior to **October 8, 2025**. If upon receiving public comments it is deemed necessary to hold a public hearing, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

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

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# SENIOR LIVING

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Northern Virginia Senior Olympics has a record enrollment of 1,200 participants in 2025.

## Just When You Think NVSO Can't Get Bigger, It Does

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t is a week into the 2025 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO). The opening ceremony on Sept. 13 was followed by nine field and track events, and the next week is packed with everything from diving, crossword puzzles, miniature golf, tennis, bocce and the increasingly popular Mah Jongg (American style).

On Saturday, Sept. 20, Herb Levitan stands in the Thomas Jefferson Community Center gym instructing volunteers on the rules for the basketball goal competition. Levitan has been organizing the registration for NVSO events for over 15 years. He has also been competing for many years and had been swimming at Dulles yesterday but says he has a whole drawer full of medals from past years so he doesn't take the medals anymore.

Today they have men's and women's basketball categories competing from 50-89 years old in field goals and free throws. The competition begins at 11 a.m. with the field goal event where one person takes four shots from each of five different stationery positions.

The women sit in chairs beside the court calling out encourage-



Ann Pugh (center) and Nancy E. Jogner (right) wait their turn to compete in the basketball goal event. This is the first year for Pugh to compete in the NVSO but she has already won a medal in poker. Jogner has been competing for eight years but entered rowing for the first time this year where she won a gold medal.

ment to each other.

"Nice."

"Good job Stephanie."

And clapping enthusiastically for an especially impressive shot.

Ann Pugh says this is her first time competing in the NVSO. "I entered poker last week and got a bronze medal."

Sitting beside her is Mary Lynne Brown who is entered in four events and will be defending her corn hole medal from last year.

Nancy E. Jogner says she has been competing in different events for eight years but this is her first year as an 80-year-old. "I did rowing for the first time. It was really fun. They showed me what to do, and I won gold."

The men seem focused on their turn to shoot, watching their competitors and occasionally twirling the ball around in preparation. They rotate around the court one

SEE JUST WHEN YOU THINK, PAGE 15



This successful shot hangs in the basket in the women's basketball field goal competition on Sept. 20 at Thomas Jefferson Community Center.



Will it or won't it? One of 20 attempts to get a successful basket in the field goal competition at the NVSO event on Sept. 20.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The suspected 2016 black Mercedes C300 involved in the fatal crash.



IMAGE VIA GOOGLE MAPS

The hit-and-run crash site is near the Mount Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center on Richmond Highway in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County.

# Fatal Nighttime Hit-and-Run Crash in Mount Vernon

Nationwide, pedestrian deaths have soared 80% since 2009.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

**O**n the evening of Sept. 23, 62-year-old Trina Jones of Alexandria was struck in a hit-and-run crash while she was crossing Richmond Highway at Belford Drive. Jones was subsequently struck a second time by a Fairfax County police officer responding to the scene. The location is just outside the Mount Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center in the Hybla Valley area of Fairfax County.

Preliminary reports from Fairfax County Police Department authorities indicate that a southbound driver in a black Mercedes C300 sedan is believed to have struck Jones and then fled the scene.

Jesse Katzman, the commander of public affairs for the FCPD, said during an on-site news conference at the crash location that evening that the victim, who appeared to be alone, was found lying in the roadway. Police were dispatched around 8:39 p.m. “When our officer approached the scene, he made contact with a pedestrian who was lying in the roadway.” At the time of the news conference, heavy rain was readily apparent.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue responded and began performing lifesaving measures. Jones was transported to a hospital but was later pronounced deceased.

Through their investigation, detectives were able to obtain a picture of the Mercedes involved in the initial crash.

The FCPD has opened both criminal and administrative investigations into the officer’s involvement. The officer involved in the crash has been identified as a two-year veteran assigned to the Mount Vernon Patrol District. As department policy, the officer has been placed on restricted duty status pending the outcome of the investigation.

Katzman explained that the investigation encompasses both the hit-and-run and critical incident aspects because an officer is involved. He also stated that body-worn



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT/FACEBOOK

Jesse Katzman, commander of public affairs for the Fairfax County Police Department, gives an on-site news conference the evening of Sept. 23 near the hit-and-run crash site on Richmond Highway in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County.

The Virginia Crash Report from the Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS) shows 99 pedestrian-involved crashes and six fatalities in Fairfax County between Jan. 1 and Sept. 26, 2025.

camera footage and in-car video will be reviewed to gather more information about the incident.

According to FCPD General Order 303 (Criminal Investigations of Department Employees), the Major Crimes Bureau conducts the criminal investigation and presents the findings to the Fairfax County Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office, led by Steve Descano. Concurrently, Internal Affairs handles the administrative review.

Detectives are searching for the driver of the hit-and-run vehicle.

### Contextual Statistics

Drivers struck and killed 7,148 people walking in the United States in 2024, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association’s latest report, “Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State: 2024 Preliminary Data.” Pedestrian deaths are increasing at a rate far faster than overall traffic fatalities. Between 2009 and 2023, pedestrian deaths rose 80%, while all other traffic fatalities

increased 13%. More than three-quarters of pedestrian fatalities occur after dark. Fatal pedestrian crashes at night rose 84% between 2010 and 2023, compared to a 28% increase in daytime fatalities.

Trina Jones of Alexandria appears to be the seventh pedestrian crash death in Fairfax County, according to trends.virginia.gov. Trends reports 99 pedestrian-involved crashes with 114 injuries thus far this year as of Sept. 28 in Fairfax County, and an additional 11 crashes in Fairfax City with 14 injuries and three in Falls Church with eight injuries.

### Other Pedestrian Crash Incidents

❖ Jan. 29, 2025: A fatal pedestrian crash occurred in Woodlawn. Erica Tibbs, 33, of Alexandria, and her 5-year-old child were crossing Richmond Highway from west to east while not in a crosswalk and were struck by the driver of the Chevrolet Suburban shortly before 8:34 p.m. Erica Tibbs died.

❖ Feb. 14, 2025: A fatal pedestrian crash

### Virginia Crash Report

Date Range: 1/1/2025 to 9/26/2025  
Region/PDC: Region: Fairfax  
Jurisdiction: All  
Grouped By: City/County  
Crashes Filtered By: Pedestrian Involved  
Primary Street(s): ALL  
Secondary Street(s): ALL

City/County	2025		
	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
Alexandria City	39	2	53
Fairfax City	11	0	14
Falls Church City	3	0	8
Fredericksburg City	10	0	15
Manassas City	0	0	0
Manassas Park City	0	0	0
Arlington County	62	0	70
Caroline County	4	0	4
Essex County	0	0	0
Fairfax County	99	6	114

occurred in Hutchison in the area of Centreville Road and Parcher Avenue just outside the Town of Herndon shortly before 2:55 p.m. The pedestrian, 67-year-old Norman Barazueta, was taken to the hospital and pronounced dead 12 days later, on Feb. 26, police say. Detectives believe Barazueta “stepped into the southbound lanes” of Centreville Road when the southbound driver of a 2024 Chevrolet Trax struck him.

❖ April 2, 2025: A fatal pedestrian crash occurred in the 7700 block of Route 29 near Merrifield. Preliminarily, Fairfax County Police said the driver of a Nissan cargo van was traveling west on Lee Highway when 87-year-old German Gomez of Falls Church stepped out into the driver’s lane.

❖ July 8, 2025: A crash on the Dulles Toll Road near the Herndon/Chantilly exit killed a woman early Tuesday morning when a vehicle struck the pedestrian around 2 a.m.. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police did not publicly identify her. The driver of the vehicle stayed on the scene.



# Burke House Fire Caused by Electrical Event

By Mike Salmon  
The Gazette

On Friday, Sept. 26, around 3:30 a.m., the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department responded to reports of a house fire in the 6600 block of Mainsail Court in Burke. Units arrived with fire showing from the roof of an attached garage in the single-family home. Crews quickly began extinguishing the fire and conducting search operations. There were no civilian or firefighter injuries. FCFRD said.

There were six occupants in the house at the time of the fire. One occupant smelled smoke and, upon investigation, discovered a fire in the garage. All occupants self-evacuated prior to fire department arrival. The home had working smoke alarms; however, the fire was discovered prior to them activating.

Fire investigators with the Office of the Fire Mar-



Burke house damaged in fire.

shal determined the fire originated within a stud bay of an exterior wall in the garage. The cause of the fire was an electrical event involving a Tesla Charger, FCFRD said in a press release.

Six occupants were displaced. Red Cross assistance was offered and accepted. Damages are estimated at \$128,223.

PHOTO BY FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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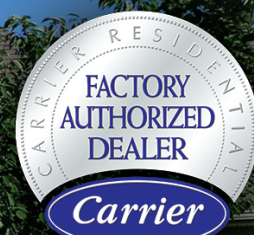
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# Danger Lurks: Near Misses On the Roads

FROM PAGE 3

Center, where drivers are reported to “make unsafe or illegal maneuvers from the right turning lanes at red lights.” A resident provided a detailed report, stating that they daily witnessed cars “not stop behind the line and run the light in right-turning lanes from Bluemont and turning into Stratford condo parking.”

Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets reports that “traffic calming measures are recommended in dangerous locations such as Lake Newport Road, which currently sees higher-than-average rates of unsafe driving behaviors.”

The executive summary of the “Fairfax Near Miss Summary Report-Sept 2025” clarifies that although the highest number of reports were in Hunter Mill, Franconia and the Providence Districts, this “doesn’t mean that other jurisdictions like Mason, Mount Vernon or Springfield, etc., don’t have Near Miss incidents occurring on their streets.” Instead, it highlights the need for NoVA FSS to raise awareness of the survey. The organization encourages anyone who has experienced a near miss to “fill out a report to share your experience,” as stated on Novasafestreats.org.

A report, “Deadly Pedestrian Trends Northern Virginia (NOVA) Region & Alexandria, Arlington & Fairfax” from Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets provides the most recent data on record. As of August 2025, Northern Virginia as a whole recorded 10 pedestrian/cyclist fatalities on its roads, with six in Fairfax County.

“Fairfax had the highest number of crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists that resulted in fatalities or serious injuries from Jan 2024 - Apr 2025. Arlington County had no fatalities in this time period,” states the report.

Richmond Highway South corridor had the most pedestrian and cyclist fatalities or serious injuries in the Northern Virginia region.

In a call to action, Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets proposes to “reduce pedestrian-cyclist fatalities by 10 percent in 2026 vs 2025 [and a] 15 percent reduction in serious injuries should also be set as a 2026 goal vs. 2025 result.”

Among other recommendations are to reduce vehicle speed on high crash corridors, such as Richmond Highway; increase driver, pedestrian and cyclist safety campaigns during late summer through the fall and improve traffic enforcement via technology to supplement the police.

The goal of Northern Virginia



SOURCE: ADAMEBBIN.COM

Sen. Adam P. Ebbin (D-39)

Families for Safe Streets is to create streets that are safe for people of all ages, abilities, and modes of travel by sharing impact stories to increase public awareness and understanding. Key to this is to educate people driving, walking and biking on safe behavior, educating public policymakers, and advocating for measures to make streets safer. NoVA FSS has chapters in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax counties. For further information email: [contact@novafss.org](mailto:contact@novafss.org) or call: 703 946-8401.

## Challenges: No Sidewalks; Poor Visibility

Highlights of near miss hotspots elsewhere in Fairfax point to Dranesville’s Live Oak Drive. “Every report brings up the lack of sidewalks and poor visibility along this stretch. Despite frequent pedestrian and bike use, the road has no infrastructure for them.”

“Adding sidewalks along several high Near Miss reported roads would improve pedestrian safety.”

In Sully, “Near Miss small sample size limits the conclusions that can be drawn regarding patterns in reports, failure to yield, distracted driving, and speeding continue to be reported at higher-than-average rates in Sully when compared to Fairfax overall. 4 of the 5 reports within the analyzed period in Sully reported cyclists as an affected party. Specific conclusions [are] difficult to draw from [the] data pool, but traffic calming measures may see decreases in the high speeding and failure to yield rates.”

In the Dranesville district, reports bring up the lack of sidewalks and poor visibility along a stretch of Live Oak Drive. Despite frequent pedestrian and bike use, the road lacks infrastructure for these users.

## Failure to Yield; Children at Risk

In the City of Fairfax, key issues

SEE DANGER LURKS, PAGE 11

## Case B: Sherwood Hall Lane (Midday Lane Intersection)

“This intersection is unsafe for pedestrians, cyclist and drivers. The crosswalk gives pedestrians a false sense of security - vehicles rarely stop to let people cross, and when a car does try to stop for the crosswalk the cars back up behind and often will swerve around to pass because they assume the vehicle is trying to turn, as a result speeding right into the crosswalk! It’s terrible and happens all the time. Please install a flashing signal for the crosswalk or some kind of barrier to make it impossible for cars on Sherwood Hall to pass at this intersection. I walk here with my children in the stroller everyday and it is extremely stressful for walkers, cyclists and drivers. This is also near Hollin Meadows school and families have a hard time crossing the street safely. Please help!!”



Another crosswalk without any accompanying signals which drivers fail to yield to, leading to near misses. Despite the double yellow lines, drivers also attempt to pass others who do stop at the crosswalk, creating even more dangerous situations for pedestrians.

GRAPHICS BY FAIRFAX NEAR MISS SUMMARY REPORT-SEPT 2025

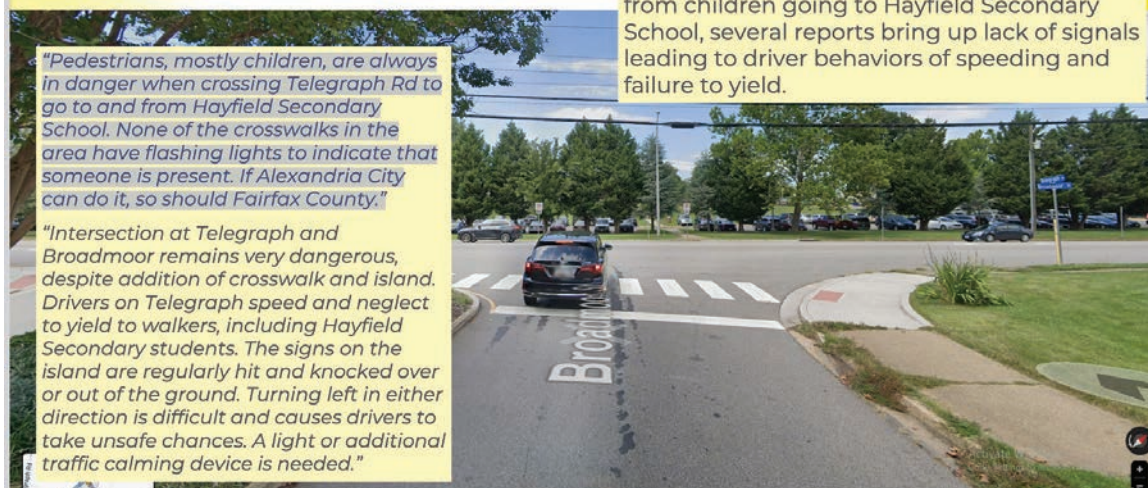
A graphic from the report highlights the Sherwood Hall Lane and Midday Lane intersection in Mount Vernon, where the crosswalk gives pedestrians a false sense of security. Drivers rarely stop, and when a car does, vehicles often swerve to pass, creating a dangerous situation.

## Case A: Telegraph Road

Unsafe intersection with frequent foot traffic from children going to Hayfield Secondary School, several reports bring up lack of signals leading to driver behaviors of speeding and failure to yield.

“Pedestrians, mostly children, are always in danger when crossing Telegraph Rd to go to and from Hayfield Secondary School. None of the crosswalks in the area have flashing lights to indicate that someone is present. If Alexandria City can do it, so should Fairfax County.”

“Intersection at Telegraph and Broadmoor remains very dangerous, despite addition of crosswalk and island. Drivers on Telegraph speed and neglect to yield to walkers, including Hayfield Secondary students. The signs on the island are regularly hit and knocked over or out of the ground. Turning left in either direction is difficult and causes drivers to take unsafe chances. A light or additional traffic calming device is needed.”



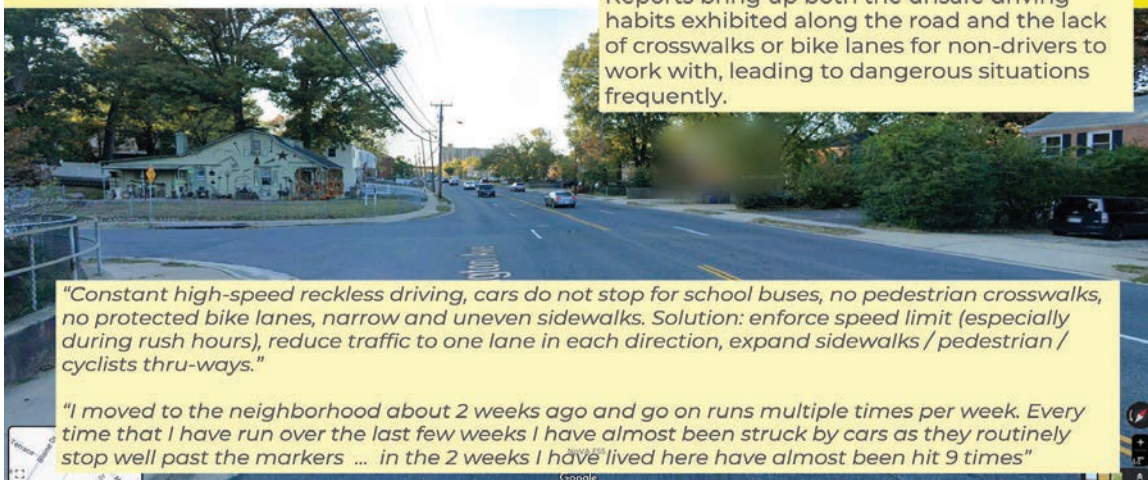
Highlighting a near miss hotspot for children, the report shows that a lack of signals on Telegraph Road near Hayfield Secondary School in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County leads to drivers speeding and failure to yield.

## Case A: The Corridor along Huntington Avenue

Reports bring up both the unsafe driving habits exhibited along the road and the lack of crosswalks or bike lanes for non-drivers to work with, leading to dangerous situations frequently.

“Constant high-speed reckless driving, cars do not stop for school buses, no pedestrian crosswalks, no protected bike lanes, narrow and uneven sidewalks. Solution: enforce speed limit (especially during rush hours), reduce traffic to one lane in each direction, expand sidewalks / pedestrian / cyclists thru-ways.”

“I moved to the neighborhood about 2 weeks ago and go on runs multiple times per week. Every time that I have run over the last few weeks I have almost been struck by cars as they routinely stop well past the markers ... in the 2 weeks I have lived here have almost been hit 9 times”



A graphic from the report shows the corridor along Huntington Avenue in the Mount Vernon area, where a lack of crosswalks and bike lanes, compounded by high-speed reckless driving, leads to dangerous situations.



# Danger Lurks: Near Misses On the Roads

FROM PAGE 10

include failure to yield, distracted driving, speeding, the absence of stop signs or signals, and poor visibility. “City of Fairfax has the fewest reports of all districts in this analysis, but of the four reports from January 2024 through July 2025, all were recurring, half involved children, and three reported failure to yield. Interestingly, none of the reports can be grouped, as all four reports were spread out across the city. Specific conclusions [are] difficult to draw from data pool, but traffic calming measures may see decreases in the high speeding and failure to yield rates.”

In the Braddock district, Random Hill Road elicits recurring reports that note, “The lack of signals [creates] a dangerous crosswalk which drivers ignore, especially with the road’s multiple lanes. One lane stopping while the other doesn’t may lead pedestrians to cross when it isn’t actually safe. Multiple reports also describe speeding, further endangering pedestrians.” Examples: “I have experienced drivers that are constantly speeding and not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks. This is a 4-lane street and doesn’t have an area in the middle. There are children crossing for the school bus at times.”

The Franconia district is reported to have an “unsafe intersection with frequent foot traffic from children going to Hayfield Secondary School,” and several reports bring

up lack of signals leading to driver behaviors of speeding and failure to yield.

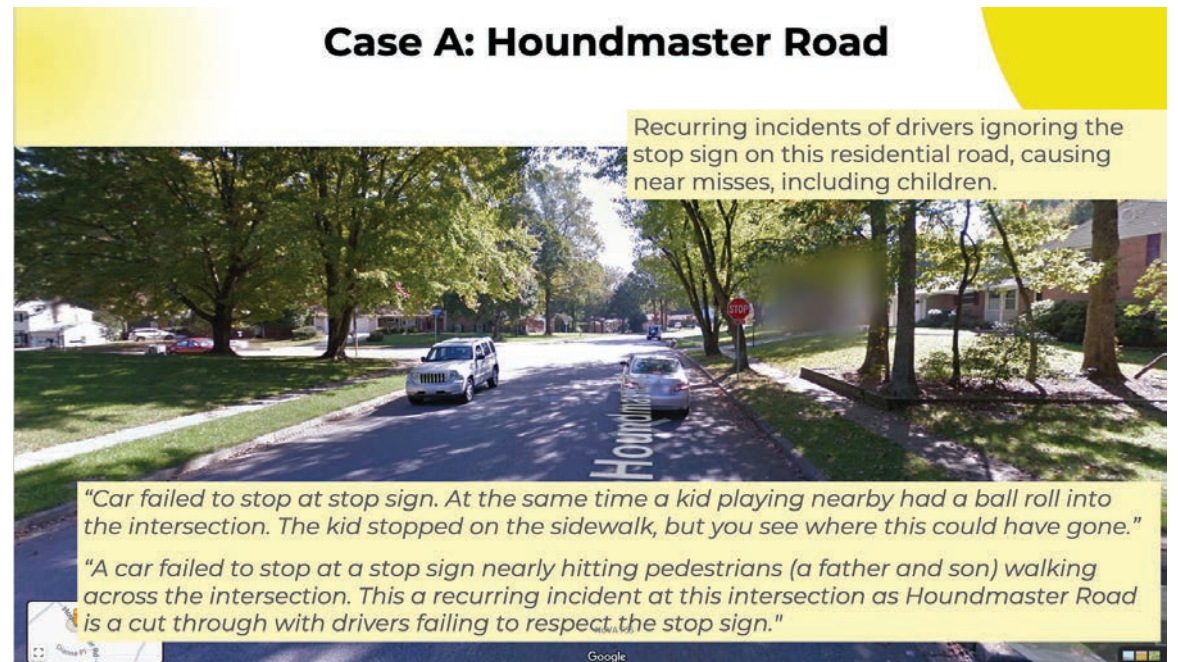
“Pedestrians, mostly children, are always in danger when crossing Telegraph Rd to go to and from Hayfield Secondary School. None of the crosswalks in the area has flashing lights to indicate that someone is present. If Alexandria City can do it, so should Fairfax County.”

A case study in the Springfield district is Houndmaster Road, which has experienced recurring incidents of drivers ignoring the stop sign, leading to near misses, including incidents involving children.

In Mount Vernon is the intersection of Sherwood Hall Lane and Midday Lane. “This intersection is unsafe for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. The crosswalk gives pedestrians a false sense of security — vehicles rarely stop to let people cross, and when a car does try to stop for the crosswalk, the cars back up behind and often will swerve around to pass because they assume the vehicle is trying to turn, as a result, speeding right into the crosswalk.”

## Increasing Penalties

A new Virginia law, Senate Bill 1416, went into effect on July 1, 2025, to increase penalties for drivers who injure or kill pedestrians and other vulnerable road users in a crosswalk. Introduced by Sen. Adam P. Ebbin (D-39), the law makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor



At Houndmaster Road, located in a residential area of Springfield, the report indicates recurring incidents where drivers ignore the stop sign, causing near misses, including those involving children.

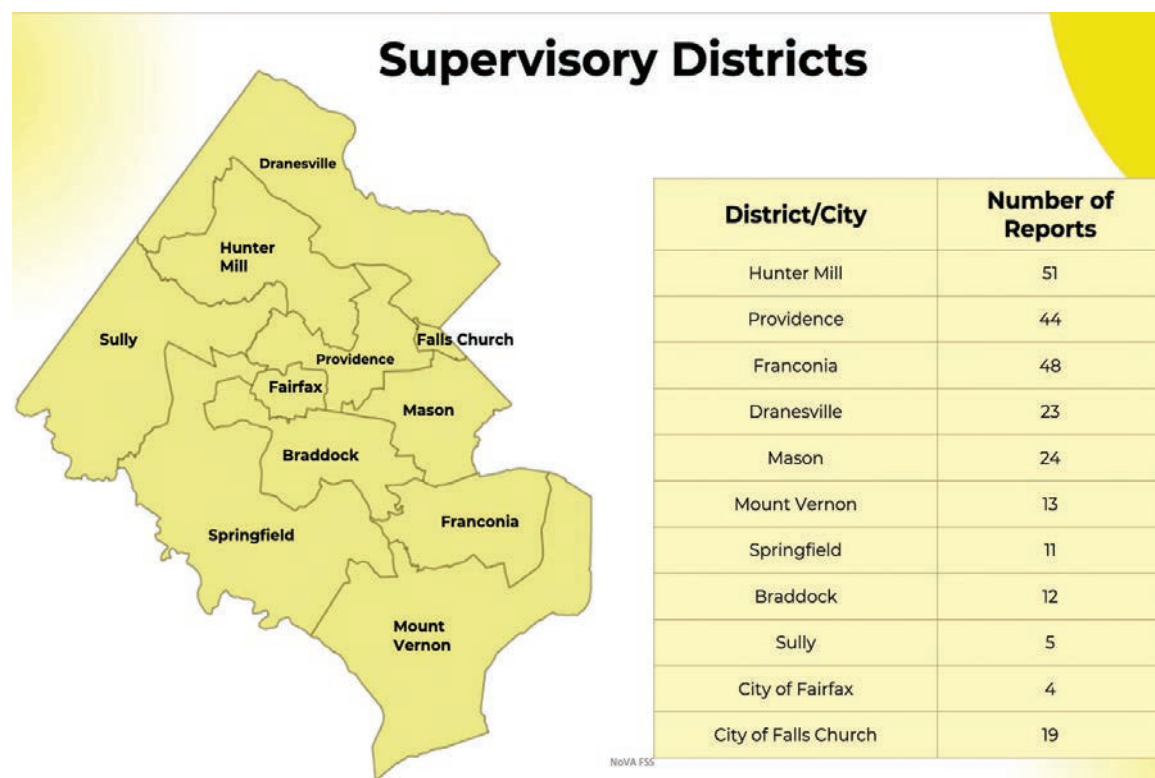
or if a driver’s failure to stop for a pedestrian results in serious bodily injury or death.

This legislation is a significant change from the previous law, which treated such a violation as a minor traffic infraction with a much smaller penalty. The new law aims to make drivers more accountable, act as a stronger deterrent to reckless driving near crosswalks, and make Virginia’s roads safer.

Ebbin, who received the “Bicycling-Friendly Legislator” award for his work on the bill, highlighted the law’s importance during

Bike to Work Day 2025. “A few years ago,” he told the crowd, “we started dealing with distracted driving and to better define that because there’s a penalty but it’s rarely enforced.

And then this year we came at it from a different approach, alarmed at the people being stricken in crosswalks and the perpetrators receiving just a slap on the wrist for failure to yield.”



GRAPHICS BY FAIRFAX NEAR MISS SUMMARY REPORT-SEPT 2025

This map and chart spotlight the top three districts for near miss reports: Hunter Mill, Providence, and Franconia.

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## HALLOWEENKEND THRILLS

### AWAIT IN FAIRFAX PARKS!

**Step into a Halloween season** packed with thrills, treats and traditions across Fairfax County parks. Ghostly golf, costumed parades, harvest festivals and family-friendly haunts fill the calendar with festive fun. Create memories with loved ones, explore new adventures and celebrate the magic of fall at Fairfax County Park Authority events designed for every ghost, ghou and goblin.

#### Goblin Golf

Burke Lake Park, Oct. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, Choose times between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grab your Halloween costume (not required) and join us at Burke Lake Park for Halloween-themed mini golf, treats and family fun! Cost is \$10 per person.

Farm Harvest Festival – Big Trucks, Carnival Rides and Fall Fun!

Frying Pan Farm Park, Oct. 17-19

Join us at Frying Pan Farm Park for the Farm Harvest Festival, featuring Big Truck Night, carnival rides, games and tasty fair food. Enjoy unlimited ride specials on Friday night or Sunday for \$25, or grab individual tickets on Saturday for even more fall fun. Parking is just \$10 per day, so bring the family and celebrate the season with us. Learn more.

Sensory-Friendly Family Trick-or-Treat Clemjyjontri Park, Oct. 19, 1-6 p.m.

Celebrate Halloween in a calm, inclusive, sensory-friendly way at Clemjyjontri Park. Enjoy a variety of fun and accessible activities, including the carousel, train, arts and crafts, sensory tent and themed treat stations throughout the playground, all with reduced noise and sensory support. Costumes are welcome but not required. Tickets cost \$20 per person. Secure your ticket to the all-inclusive fun.

#### Halloween on the Farm

Frying Pan Farm Park, Oct. 25, 5-7 p.m. or Oct. 26, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Trick-or-treat at Halloween on the Farm. Enjoy trick-or-treating on the farm, visit with farm animals, make spooky crafts, play Halloween games and take a tour of the decorated farmhouse. Cost is \$12 per person. Register today.

#### Haunted Mini Golf

Oakmont Rec Center, Oct. 24-25, 4-9 p.m.

All werewolves, vampires and goblins (and their families) are invited for a fun night of mini golf. Trick-or-treat and win various goodies at Oakmont Mini Golf. Enjoy food trucks, face painting, popcorn and games. Come dressed in your best costume! Cost is \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Register today.

#### Ghost Town

Burke Lake Park; Oct. 25-26, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Get ready for a full day of fun at Burke Lake Park's Ghost Town. Enjoy themed activities, a train ride, carousel, crafts, mini golf and tons of treats — no scares, just treats. Join the fun and make it a Halloween to remember. Cost is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Ticket pickup for registrants, 3 p.m. Register today.

#### Halloween Bash

South Run Rec Center, Oct. 25, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Hustle down to the South Run Rec Center to join in some Halloween fitness fun featuring the Monster Mash 5K Dash, Halloween Fun Run 1-Mile and Spooktacular Tiny Tot Trot. Come in your best costume to enjoy the spooktacular atmosphere with your community. Cost is \$25 for the 5K and \$15 for other runs. Register today.

Family Skate Night - Halloween Costume Skate and Dance Night

Franconia Rec Center, Oct. 25, 5-10 p.m.

Ghouls and goblins beware — Halloween Family Skate and Dance Night is coming to Franconia Rec Center. Gather your favorite spooky crew and head out for this thrilling family-friendly event with tunes sure to bring you back from the dead. Cost is \$10 per person. Register today.

## FILL THE BINS

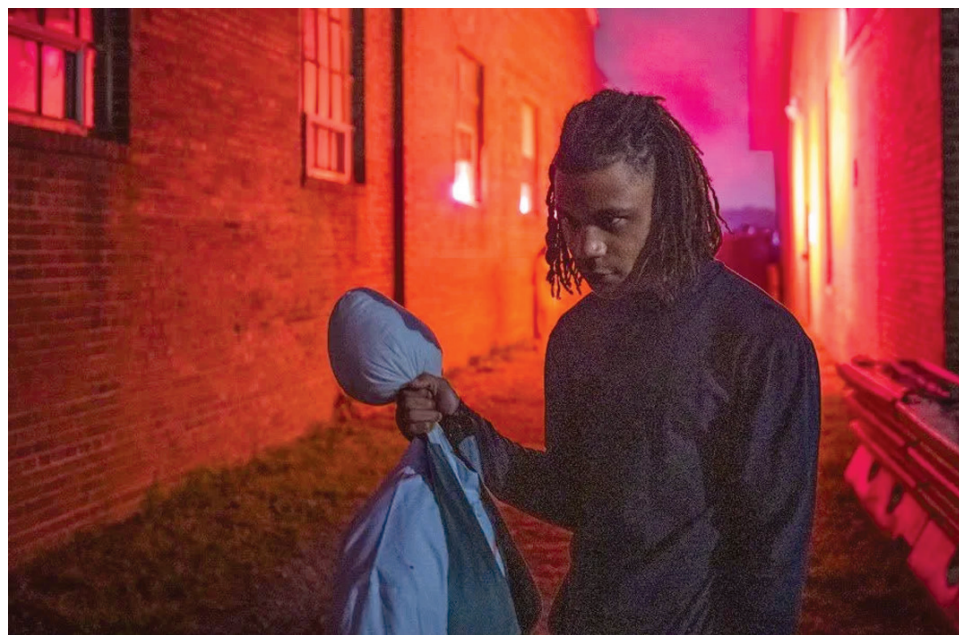
**To help Virginians protect their personal information and support neighbors in need,** AARP Virginia hosts Fill the Bins — free paper shred and pantry events in October. Four collection locations — Woodbridge, Lorton, Dulles, and Manassas — make the secure



## WHAT'S CALLING YOU NOW?

### 3 STEPS TO DISCOVER WHAT LIGHTS YOU UP

**What's Calling You Now? Three Steps to Discover What Lights You Up will be presented on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025 at Reston Library.**



**The Workhouse Haunt Returns Oct. 10 thru Nov. 1, 2025 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.**

disposal of personal documents available to more people. Examples of documents for shredding might include bank statements, cancelled checks, credit card junk mail and receipts with identifying information. Each vehicle is limited to no more than three bags or boxes of documents; registration for this free event is required.

Fill the Bins event dates, times and locations are as follows:

Saturday, October 4, 2025, between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Parkway Church, 3713 Pennington Lane, Woodbridge

Sunday, October 5, 2025, between 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Lorton Community Action Center, 9520 Richmond Hwy, Lorton

Saturday, October 11, 2025, between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Dulles South Food Pantry, 24757 Arcola Mills Drive, Dulles

Saturday, October 25, 2025, between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 9325 West Street, Manassas

## NATURE HIKE WITH A RANGER

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

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.

## OCT. 1 AND 2

**Dassara Hindu Festival.** All Day, and Thursday 4-6 p.m. At 2030 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna (private house). Families create “Golu,” beautiful stepped displays of dolls and figurines that show gods, goddesses, everyday life, and mythological stories. Friends and neighbors visit each other's homes to see the Golu, exchange sweets, and share songs or prayers. You can think of Dassara as a mix of the fireworks of the Fourth of July, the family togetherness of Thanksgiving, and the storytelling and decoration traditions of Christmas — colorful, loud in some regions, creative and community-focused in others, but always centered on celebrating the triumph of goodness and light. As it is a residence, and due to limited parking please RSVP - 703.826.1521 (text message).

## FRIDAY/OCT. 3

**Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble. 8 p.m.** At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Join London's Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble for a riveting program featuring Schubert's Octet in F major, D. 803, considered one of the greatest chamber works of all time; Francaix's witty Octet, commissioned as a companion piece to Schubert's Octet; and a special work commissioned by the Academy.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 4

**Walk to Stop Suicide. 12:30 p.m.** At Mosaic District, Fairfax. Join the American Foundation

for Suicide Prevention's Fairfax Out of the Darkness Community Walk. Check-in & Pre-Walk Activities Begin: 11:00 a.m. Program Begins: 12:30 p.m. Event Ends: 2:00 p.m. The Fairfax Out of the Darkness Community Walk Support for mental health and suicide prevention is needed more now than ever before, and proceeds raised through AFSP's Out of the Darkness Walks fund lifesaving research, education, advocacy, and survivor support programming.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 4

**Parktoberfest. 12 to 5 p.m.** At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5235 Walney Road, Centreville. The celebration will be filled with live music, local food and drink, artisan vendors, and activities for all ages.

Highlights include:

Live performances by The Walkaways, Lucas Mason and Georgia Rae Braun

Craft beer from Ono Brewery and food trucks Burgorilla & TacoOne

Artisan and maker marketplace with local vendors

Tours of the brand-new Woodlands Stewardship Education Center

STREAM Loop adventures for kids and families.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 4

**Oktoberfest. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.** At Historic Church Street, downtown Vienna. Oktoberfest celebrates its 16th anniversary this year with its biggest festival yet! More vendors, more food, great music & entertainment, plenty of free kids' activities and, of course, locally sourced beer and wine selections! Vienna's 2025 Oktoberfest will feature:

❖ Live entertainment on three stages: Beer Garden, Town Green, Mill Street

❖ Large Beer/Wine Garden featuring: Caboose Brewing Company, Norm's Beer and Wine, Settle Down Easy Brewing and Vienna Vintner

❖ Large selection of multinational food

Free kids' activities, inflatables, games and entertainment on the Town Green

❖ Business Expo Showcase

❖ Large Vendor Market

❖ Artisan Market

❖ Wellness Expo

❖ Free shuttle from Vienna Metro North and James Madison High School

❖ Bike Park right off the W&O trail: ride your bike, park and fest!

❖ Loads and Loads of Fun! Visit [www.viennaoktoberfest.org](http://www.viennaoktoberfest.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 4

**Papermoon Puppet Theatre: Puno, Sewing Memories. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.** At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Indonesia's innovative Papermoon Puppet Theatre presents a spellbinding, non-verbal puppetry work. A bittersweet and hopeful piece, Puno tells the story of Tala, a young girl who is coping with her father's passing, exploring how we can hold and appreciate what has been left to us.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 4

**D.C.-Metro Modern Home Tour. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** At six homes located in: Washington DC, Arlington VA, Vienna VA, Fairfax Station VA, and Rockville MD. Local architects, builders, designers, and homeowners will be showing off their work/homes for just one day (Saturday) for 6 hours. Attendees have the opportunity to meet the architects, designers, builders, and owners of these residences, engage in discussion, and -hopefully- find some inspiration or a partner for their own project. Website: <https://mads.media/2025-dc-metro-modern-home-tour>

## SATURDAY/OCT. 4

**Open House.** At Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. The Sydenstricker Schoolhouse has arranged for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation to come to the Schoolhouse on October 4, 2025. During this Open House, facilitators from the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation will be utilizing science skills to help families better connect and understand the history of



# ENTERTAINMENT

Jamestown. The facilitators will present two educational hands-on programs: Archaeology Discovery and Science on The James. These programs will be presented from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm and are open to the public free of charge. At the "Archaeology Discovery" station, the Foundation will host a simulated archeological dig. But no dirt is involved at this dig site! Families will analyze artifacts laid on a simulated archaeological dig to participate in a hands-on activity, interpret those artifacts, and share their findings while learning all about the Powhatan people. The analysis of each square will help piece together what happened in the historic Jamestown-Yorktown-Williamsburg tide water triangle.

## OCT. 4-5

**Celebration of the Arts. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.** At 1803 Capital One Dr, Tysons. Designed for all ages, this immersive two-day outdoor festival will transform the streets of Capital One Center into a multi-block celebration of the arts—featuring interactive installations, hands-on workshops, live music, and culinary experiences for every generation. Guests can engage in participatory artmaking with regional artists and arts organizations, take part in workshops designed for all ages and skill levels, and discover unexpected moments of creativity throughout the campus. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' traveling Art-mobile will showcase Love, Laughter, Tears: An Artist's Guide to Emotions—a curated art exhibition featuring works from VMFA's renowned collection spanning over 6,000 years of global history, exploring how artists across cultures and time have expressed universal human emotions through their work. The festival features a full schedule of live music performances, a curated selection of food and dessert vendors, and dedicated beer and wine tasting experiences. The food and beverage district will also host culinary workshops and highlight the vibrant restaurant offerings within Capital One Center, including Sisters Thai, Ometeo, Star Hill Brewpub, Stellina Pizzeria, and others.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 5

**Vienna CROP Walk.** The Walk begins at Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 Maple Avenue, Vienna, at 12:45 p.m., with onsite registration starting at 12:30 p.m. The Walk supports local and international hunger relief efforts. It is approximately 2 ¾ miles and takes about an hour. A shorter walk is also available. You can register at the walk or online. To volunteer to help, register, donate, or for more information, go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/viennava> or contact Lisa Hechtman at [lhechtman@gmail.com](mailto:lhechtman@gmail.com). There is no fee to walk, but walkers are encouraged to donate or to find sponsors who will support their efforts. You can even form your own team. Three-quarters of the funds raised go to Church World Service (a hunger relief nonprofit), and for the Vienna walk, one-fourth will go to the Committee for Helping Others (CHO), which provides a food pantry and clothes closet in Vienna and Oakton, as well as other emergency assistance to local residents.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 5

**Friends of Reston 5K.** Join the Friends of Reston for their 5th Annual Friends of Reston Fall 5K, to help raise funds for their scholarship and enrichment programs. All proceeds for this event support the Friends of Reston, a 501(c)(3) supporting organization of Reston Association.

The race will start and finish at Browns Chapel Park, 1575 Brown's Chapel Road, Reston. Race will start at 8:00 am  
Runners will run along the Reston paved trails.

### Registration Fees:

5K - \$40 through August 31  
\$45 September 1 through September 30  
\$50 October 1 through Race Day.  
5K (14 & Under) - \$25 through August 31  
\$30 September 1 through September 30

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The Town of Vienna celebrates Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.



The Capital Art & Craft Festival takes place Oct. 10-12, 2025 at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly.

\$35 October 1 through Race Day.

On-Line registration will remain open through Race Morning. All registrations must be completed on-line. Packet pick up will be at the Browns Chapel on Saturday, October 4 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 5

**Servire Chorus Concert. 4 p.m.** At St. Andrew the Apostle, 6720 Union Mill Road in Clifton. Servire is known for its "Sing and Serve Mission"—combining musical excellence with community service. In addition to presenting a program of a cappella works from the Renaissance to today, the ensemble will conduct outreach with local school choirs and collaborate on a service project supporting Marian Homes, Inc., a nonprofit that provides housing and care for adults with intellectual

disabilities. Visit [www.st-andrew.org/concerts](http://www.st-andrew.org/concerts).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 5

**Venture into Volunteering. 12-4 p.m.** At Springfield Town Center, Upper Level, Springfield. Have you been thinking about volunteering? Looking to add new and enriching activities to your life? Want to create new connections? Volunteer Solutions, in the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, is coordinating the annual Venture into Volunteering fair, with the support of Fairfax County's Park Authority and Neighborhood and Community Services. Meet representatives from nonprofit organizations and local government agencies who will tell you about ways to volunteer in the community and answer your questions. If you have questions, please email [VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov) or call 703-324-5406.



The 22nd annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour runs Oct. 18-19, 2025 in Great Falls.

## OCT. 9-13

**Washington West Film Festival.** At LOOK Dine-In Cinemas, Reston Town Center, Reston. Headliners include two-time Olympic gold medalist Edwin Moses, who will attend to present his film *Moses 13 - Steps*; the documentary *In Waves and War*, which explores how psychedelics may help veterans confront invisible wounds of war; and a 30th-anniversary celebration of *Apollo 13* featuring special guest Sen. Bill Nelson, a former NASA administrator. To view a full schedule, visit: <https://www.filmfest.com/schedule-tickets/>

## OCT. 10-12

**Capital Art & Craft Festival.** At Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. The Capital Art & Craft

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

Festival will feature 225 artists from throughout the country with art in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood. Attendees may buy directly from the artisans who create the work, all of which is crafted by hand. Hours: Friday, Oct 10 and Saturday Oct 11: 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday Oct 12: 10 am -4 pm. Tickets: \$11 in advance; \$12 at the door; Senior & Military discounts available; children under 12 free. Ticket information: [www.CACFart](http://www.CACFart)

## OCT. 10 – NOV. 1, 2025

**Workhouse Haunt Returns.** At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Haunt Nights: Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. This year's event, Apokalypse: Kingdom of Shadows, promises even darker thrills, more immersive storylines, and terrifyingly interactive experiences designed to challenge even the bravest thrill seekers. Guests travel in small groups for frightening experiences that bring them through the abandoned, historic buildings and into the dark woods where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights unfit for the faint of heart. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 11

**What's Calling You Now? Three Steps to Discover What Lights You Up. 2-3 p.m.** At Reston Regional Library, Reston. Join in this session where together we will learn:

How to listen for what's calling you now

How to uncover what truly excites you today—not just what used to

How to take small, inspired steps toward a future that feels aligned

Led by Patty Hagan, CEO of Lighthouse Coaching. Website: What's Calling You Now? Three Steps to Discover What Lights You Up - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home

## SATURDAY/OCT. 11

**Repair Cafe Event. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** At Thomas Jefferson Library. 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/190807](https://volunteernow.volunteerfairfax.org/custom/1427/opp_details/190807)

## OCT. 11-12

**Taste of NoVa.** Produced by Northern Virginia Magazine, Taste of NoVa will be held October 11–12 at the National Museum of the U.S. Army in Fort Belvoir, in partnership with Northern Virginia Food Rescue, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit fighting food insecurity and waste. Guests can enjoy unlimited tastings and sips from 120+ of the region's most acclaimed restaurants and award-winning Virginia wineries, breweries, distilleries, and mixologists. This year's festival puts the spotlight on the culinary talent behind the region's most beloved dining destinations, featuring live cooking demos, beverage pairing sessions, and a dynamic speaker series with beverage experts and social media tastemakers. Visit [TasteOfNoVa.com](http://TasteOfNoVa.com).

## OCT. 11-12

**Cranford United Methodist Church 125th Anniversary.** At 9912 Old Colchester Road,

Lorton.

Saturday, October 11 | 12:00–5:00 PM

Community Farmer's Market-style event with historical talks, family activities, vendors, and displays & talks from our recent Ground Penetrating Radar survey. Special remarks are planned for 3:00 PM

Sunday, October 12 | 10:30 AM–1:00 PM

Opening of our Year 2000 time capsule, followed by a special worship service and potluck luncheon.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 12

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel:**

Chopin — The Romantic. 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Experience some of the most stirringly melodious music ever composed in this Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel. The program Chopin—The Romantic features exhilarating polonaises, dreamy nocturnes, charming waltzes, poignant mazurkas, and the narrative Ballade in A-flat major.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 12

**Table Top (T-TRAK) N Gauge Model Trains. 1-4 p.m.** At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Join them for a Table Top show of running N Gauge Model Trains. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors, \$4; Military, active and retired, \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station-railroad-museum.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 12

**Pet Expo. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** At McLean Central Park, McLean. Leash up your furry friends and join us! Enjoy great DJ music, Fido's Bone Bar, the Bark-a-Lounge Beer and Wine Garden complete with a miniature pony to deliver goodies to your table. Take a picture with your pet at the professional photo booth—free! Meet the best in the business of pet-related exhibitors and find resources including pet rescue, adoption, pet sitters, groomers, trainers and more. Great giveaways! Stay for lunch and enjoy the gourmet food trucks. Join the fun for the Pet Parade at 3 p.m.—costumes are encouraged!

## SUNDAY/OCT. 12

**Documentary Screening: Homelessness in America. 3 to 6 p.m.** At Cinema Arts Theater, 9650 Main Street, Fairfax. The film explores the human stories behind homelessness and the urgent need for community-driven solutions. Following the screening, there will be a Q&A session with Director and Producer Asad Sheikh, alongside community leaders, offering insights into challenges and initiatives addressing homelessness in the country.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 12

**Fashion for Love, Care, and Hope Charity Gala. 3 p.m.** At Hyatt Regency, Reston. Sponsored by Filipino American Cancer Care (F.A.C.C.) The F.A.C.C. Fashion for Love, Care and Hope Charity Gala and 5th anniversary are not just an event; it is a celebration of hope, resilience, courage, and community. During the gala, they will be presenting financial assistance of \$1,000 each to 15-25 cancer patient beneficiaries in the Philippines, United States, and other countries. Visit the website: <https://www.filamcancercare.org/>

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 15

**Journey Within: Self-Discovery Book Club**

(Virtual). 6:00pm-7:30pm. At Reston Regional Library, 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 we will discuss the novel Gilead by Marilynne Robinson.

Website: Journey Within: Self-Discovery Book Club - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home

## OCT. 16-19

**Chantilly High School Presents “Disney's Newsies.”** Set in turn-of-the-century New York City, Newsies tells the story of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy who dreams of a better life beyond the streets. When powerful publishing giants raise distribution prices at the expense of the young newsies, Jack and his friends band together to fight back. With grit, determination, and the power of community, they take on the big guys to demand fairness and justice. Performance Dates: October 16, 17, and 18 at 7:00 p.m.

October 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are available online at [chantillydrama.org](http://chantillydrama.org).

## FRIDAY/OCT. 17

**The MCC Wayback Machine. 7 p.m.** At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean historian and former MCC Board member Carole Herrick will present a history talk highlighting the community efforts that brought about the creation of the center and its early history.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 18

**Community 50th Anniversary Celebration. 5-10 p.m.** At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Music through the decades, delicious food, a signature drink and many interactive attractions are on the menu at this community celebration that offers something for everybody.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 18

**Laurie Berkner Band. 11 a.m.** At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Back by popular demand, Laurie Berkner and her band perform a concert event for the whole family. Trick or treat yourself by wearing your costume for this performance of some Halloween songs as well as classics from the Laurie Berkner Greatest Hits album.

## OCT. 18-19

**Celebrate Creativity.** Join in the 22nd annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour, which takes place over two days - October 18th and 19th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free, fun & family friendly! The Tour map <https://www.greatfallsstudios.com/home-2025-studio-tour> will lead you to private studios down the back roads and main roads of scenic Great Falls. Visit artists working and displaying in a variety of locations: remodeled barns, historic farms, converted garages, contemporary and traditional homes, group studios, a church, and other unusual places. Along the way you will explore our beautiful community and meet a unique and diverse group of artists who are excited to share their vision and engage you in the creative process. ABSORB the full spectrum of styles and mediums - the variety will amaze you! Questions? Email the social media director and Board Secretary, Elizabeth at [elizabethbertholonart@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethbertholonart@gmail.com).

## Practically Pavlovian



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I first heard/read about Ivan Pavlov in the fall of 1972. How can I be so specific? Because that's when I matriculated to the University of Maryland. And Ivan Pavlov was a topic of my Psychology 100 class. A class so large, over 600 hundred, that - at least where I sat near the back, could barely see him - or his canine companion (I don't remember the dog ever barking, by the way). The professor spoke into a microphone attached to a cord which he wore around his neck. He was going through various slides illuminated on the canvas behind him and commenting on them. There was never any stoppage to ask any questions or to clarify anything he had just said. We were meant to listen, not interrupt and relearn (learn the first time) all the information he was teaching by studying our textbook. This process was foreign to me. I never was taught in the fashion that I was now being subjected (yes subjected) and expected to grasp the lessons. Neither could/would I thrive by taking multiple choice exams, being graded on a bell curve (results of which were posted out the lecture hall), and never interacting with the professor. I got my first and only “D” in this class and I was probably lucky not to fail. I remember these feelings all too well, but I remember very little else except - wait for it: Ivan Pavlov.

Likewise, I can't remember if the class was held Mon./Wed./Fri at 8:00 am for 50 minutes or Tues./Thurs. from 8:00 am for 75 minutes. Neither can I remember the professor's name, nor the breed or name of his dog. I do remember he always dressed in black leather pants and a dark shirt and certainly never a sport coat. As for his many teachings and references to the textbook that we all bought at The Maryland Book Exchange, I remember very little except Pavlov's dog experiments. Pavlov discovered an animal behavior/human interaction that us pet owners (certainly dog owners) have come to rely on when training our puppies: “Classical Conditioning.” Something to do with a “learned response” resulting from a “neutral stimulus.” Moreover, he discovered dogs “could be trained to salivate at the sound of a bell after it was paired with the presentation of food.” (I get that way myself.) A more literal description: your dog comes/obeys you when there's a reward (food) for doing so.

Well, it's been over130 years since Pavlov's experiments/research (they occurred the 1890s) and the worm, as is often colloquialized, has, at least in my house, finally turned. No more is the human (yours truly) the one doing the prompting. It is now the dog who prompts the human. (Moreover, in a parallel universe, the cat is also prompting/conditioning the human, but that's another paragraph.) As for my three-year-old male golden retriever Burton, he manifests a simple but recurring behavior when he wants/needs to go out: He gets up from wherever he is and walks throughout the house until he finds me, always me (we've bonded) and stands steady on all fours and stares at me. He will remain in that position until I acquiesce and say something like “OKAY Burton, I know you want to go out. Let's go.” Then he turns tail, literally, and trots into the kitchen where he waits to be “leashed” up by yours truly before he gets to go “out.” We don't have a fenced-in yard, so Burton has to be walked. After he goes outside first thing in the morning with Dina, the rest of the time (day and night) I am responsible for his comings and goings. This standing and staring behavior is repeated by Burton four to five times throughout the day. He comes into any room where I am, stands and stares at me until I get up, then he gets to go out. Very simple. He has me “conditioned.”

It's the same story with Andrew, our cancer-surviving cat; when he walks into the kitchen, I know he's hungry. That's when I give him food. Other times, I'll put the food on the floor: nothing. However, when we meet in the kitchen, he'll sit by his bowl, look up at me and I know he wants me to get him some food. His terms. Not mine.

These kinds of behaviors are all too familiar to dog and cat owners. It's the cost of doing business, so to speak. You have to give up control and in so doing, acknowledge that you are at the animal's mercy. It's akin to the inmates running the asylum except in this context, it's not the inmates who are crazy.

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

# Just When You Think NVSO Can't Get Bigger, It Does

FROM PAGE 6

at a time, and when the competition is finished the volunteer adds up the numbers in the multi-age competitive category. “No ties; that's good. Everybody gets a trophy.”

“That's what we want.”

NVSO is open to participants 50 years old or older by Dec. 31, 2025 and who live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions, Arlington County, City of Alexandria, City of

Fairfax, City of Falls Church, Fairfax County, Fauquier County, Loudoun County and Prince William County.

NVSO has grown from its 40th anniversary in 2021 with 50 events and 691 participants to 92 events with 1,200 participants in 2025 with 50-yard butterfly and poker added as new events this year and duplicate bridge brought back.

Sponsors of NVSO 2025 include AARP Vir-

ginia, Adobe, The Beacon Newspapers, Belmont at One University, CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield, Goodwin Living. Greenspring by Erickson Senior Living, John Hopkins Health Plans, The Jefferson, The Landing and The Riviera in Alexandria, Retirement Unlimited Inc., United Health Care, Vinson Hall Retirement Community, Woodbine Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, Woodlands Retirement Community, Chesterbrook, and others.



# Fairfax Fall Festival: The Place for Family Fun

49th annual celebration is Saturday, Oct. 11.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

When pumpkin-spice beverages are everywhere and the leaves start changing color, it's time for the Fairfax Fall Festival. This year's event, the 49th annual, is Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., in downtown Fairfax City.

The fun includes three stages of live entertainment, food, crafts, beer gardens, plus children's rides and activities. Admission is free, and the festival goes on rain or shine, with activities for all ages. (Except for service animals, pets are discouraged).

More than 400 crafts booths and displays will line both sides of University Drive, Main Street and Sager Avenue. And at Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive, the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department will host Sparky's Harvest Bash with Sparky the Fire Dog, teaching children fire prevention and safety. Children may check out a fire truck, meet some volunteer firefighters and even take a photo with Sparky.

"The Fairfax Fall Festival on the second Saturday of October is an event this entire region looks forward to every year," said Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read. "Our dedicated crafters, food vendors, entertainers, service clubs and City volunteers make this a true, hometown celebration for people of all ages. Next October will mark a full, half century of hosting this event in our City, and we're looking forward to celebrating it, as well."

At this year's event, a wide variety of food will be offered at two food courts – one on Sager Avenue and the other on University Drive next to the fire station. And four more food vendors will be at Old Town Square, 10415 North St.

A trio of beer gardens will be at the Main Stage at University Drive and South Street, in Old Town Square, and at University Drive and Sager Avenue. Wine will also be available, and members of local charities – VFW Post 8469, Kiwanis Club of Fairfax, and Fairfax Host Lions Club – will be the servers. And Monster Organics will provide compostable beer cups.

The Children's Stage in the Truist Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive will feature singers, dancers and musicians. Children's rides, moonbounces and slides will be in that area, too. (Rides are weather-dependent). In addition, a full slate of entertainers will perform on the three festival stages. See Entertainment Schedule for details and addresses.

Fall for the Book – featuring books and interactive activities for children, teens and adults – will run from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Children's Stage (see below). And My Gym Children's Fitness Center will offer an outdoor, agility obstacle course where children,

ages 2-10, may balance and dash through several fun challenges. And trained coaches will teach them how to do cool tumbling moves in a safe, playful way.

Open houses and tours will be held at the City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., as well as at the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, 10386 Main St., from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

For parking, shuttle bus and further festival information, go to [fairfaxva.gov/fall-festival](http://fairfaxva.gov/fall-festival).

## Entertainment Schedule

### Main Stage

University Drive and South Street  
10 a.m.-noon – The Rob Hornbeck Enterprise  
1-2 p.m. – Alte Kameraden German Band  
3-5 p.m. – Sudden M Pact

### Old Town Square Stage

10415 North St.  
10-11 a.m. – Main Street Community Band  
12:30-2 p.m. – Shelley Star and The Galaxy  
3-5 p.m. – The Devil's Brigade

### Children's Stage

4020 University Drive (parking lot)  
10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Fall for the Book  
1:15 p.m. – Jubilee Performance Company  
1:45 p.m. – Tene Band  
2:15 p.m. – Bull Run Cloggers  
2:45 p.m. – Holy Spirit Varsity Cheer Team  
3:15 p.m. – Melina's Dance Co.  
4:15 p.m. – Bach to Rock, Fairfax

The Mbithi siblings (from left) Kassandra, 12, and Ife, 9, pose with Sparky the Fire Dog outside Fire Station 3 at last year's event.

PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION



One of last year's vendors, Monica Montgomery of Flying Ninja Woodworks holds a handmade cheese cutter.



At last year's festival, artist Brianna Camp draws a chalk portrait that she designed.



Some of the children's rides and activities slated for this year's event.