

CONNECTION

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

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH/THE CONNECTION

Women's Equality: Persistence, Vigilance, Engagement

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Blood Needed

PAGE 2

Danger Ahead with Dominion Merger?

PAGE 10

Lynne Garvey-Hodge portrayed Mrs. Robert Walker, a suffragist, at Women's Equality Day observance at Lorton's Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

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The Gift in the Blood

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The child had received blood from strangers.

After a transfusion for sickle cell disease at Inova, the child invited some of those donors to a blood drive. When they met, the distance between the donor chair and the hospital bed briefly disappeared. The child stood face to face with people whose donations had helped sustain them, people who had given blood without knowing who would receive it.

It was a moment most donors never experience: seeing, in one young patient, where their generosity had gone.

The encounter revealed what usually remains invisible after a donor leaves the chair: the person on the other side of the transfusion.

Right now, Inova is asking more Northern Virginians to take that seat.

The American Red Cross has declared only the second national blood supply crisis in its history, and the shortage is being felt locally. Inova needs 200 donations each day and approximately 1,400 each week to maintain the supply its patients need.

"Anything that is being donated today will be distributed tomorrow," said Nicholas Lilly, senior director of Inova Blood Donor Services.

The need is particularly pressing during the summer, when donations often decline even as trauma cases increase.

"If we don't donate today, we won't have enough for tomorrow," Lilly said.

Blood is needed for patients with sickle cell disease, cancer and traumatic injuries, as well as those undergoing surgery and other medical treatment.

Every six to eight weeks, some Inova patients with sickle cell disease receive red blood cell exchange transfusions. Inova cares for about 400 patients with sickle cell disease, some of whom require regular transfusions. Finding appropriately matched blood can be difficult, making a reliable donor pool especially important.

Unlike many medical supplies, blood cannot be manufactured when supplies run low. It must come from another person.

Fewer than 7 percent of people donate blood, although approximately 60 percent are eligible. Many people who could donate never try because they assume they do not qualify.

"People assume that they don't qualify," Lilly said. "Think about who is on the other side, the person who will benefit. People think that they don't need to donate because someone else is going to do it."

Eligibility can depend on factors including medical history, travel and where a tattoo was performed. Donors should allow staff to make that determination rather than ruling themselves out.

The process begins with a health questionnaire. Staff members check blood pressure, temperature and iron levels before drawing the blood. The entire visit takes about one to one and a quarter hours, including time to rest and have a snack afterward.

Inova operates permanent donor centers in Centreville, Sterling and Annandale, and holds mobile blood drives throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding region.

"We have locations that are open seven days a week that you can go in to donate," Lilly said. "We take walk-ins or you can sign up."

For Lilly, the appeal comes down to the connection between the person who gives and the person who receives.

"At some point everyone will know someone who needs blood," he said. "It's our duty to be a part of that."

For most donors, the person receiving their blood will remain a stranger.

But at that blood drive, one child with sickle cell disease stood among the people whose donations had helped sustain them. The donors had expected to give blood and leave without knowing where it would go. Instead, they found themselves face to face with the child who had received it.

<https://www.inovablood.org/donate-blood/where-can-i-donate/>

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'Deer Management' Starting Soon in Fairfax County

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

White-tailed deer are quite at home in suburbia and perhaps too much so.

From Sept. 12 to Feb. 13, Fairfax County will conduct annual "deer management" using archery, sharpshooting, "human exclusion, repellency and habitat modification." The last three, non-lethal methods, are county recommendations to property owners, such as fencing, tree guards, repellents and plants unpalatable to deer.

Deer management is needed, officials say, because of collisions with vehicles, disease transmission and harm to forest regeneration, forest composition, ecosystem services and biodiversity. Too many deer can degrade habitat by eating seedlings, saplings and valuable native plants.

Wildlife biologist Jordan Green elaborates, "In Northern Virginia, the need stems from an ecological imbalance where too many deer on the landscape degrade native habitats to the point of making it difficult to impossible for some other native wildlife species to survive. In addition, a higher concentration of deer has implications for the greater spread of disease, such as chronic wasting disease and the higher risk of deer-vehicle collisions." Green is with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

How Many Deer Are Too Many?

"Suburbia's rise supercharged the whitetail's recovery," wrote Ben Goldfarb in his book "Crossings." "Deer thrive in edge habitats, transitional zones where delectable meadows bump against the shelter of forests."

Fairfax County officials have conducted deer density surveys in certain parks using cameras and drone surveys. Their goal is to "manage local deer populations to balance the varied needs and reasonable expectations of a diverse human community (cultural carrying capacity), the requirements of a biologically diverse ecosystem and the anticipated future social/ecosystem demands. Hunting is the preferred population management method, where appropriate and feasible."

Historically, in the eastern U.S., animals like cougars, bobcats and red wolves were their primary predators. Today, few natural predators remain in Northern Virginia.

Deer Hunts

In fiscal year 2026, hunters "har-



A small buck takes a rest after foraging for acorns.



Fawns spend most of their days without their mothers.

vested" 752 deer in Fairfax County using archery and sharpshooting.

This year, hunters using bows and arrows will operate in over 100 parks from tree stands. The county will post orange "deer management" signs at park entrances and trail heads and send letters to around 27,000 property owners adjacent to the park sites. Archers and hunters must complete hunter safety education courses and have certain qualifications.

The Fairfax County police will conduct sharpshooting at night in secured parks when parks are closed and shoot at static locations over bait from elevated positions. They will donate the venison to local food banks and Hunters for the Hungry. In 2026, they donated an estimated 5,610 pounds of venison.

Vehicle Collisions

"Deer-vehicle collisions are the primary cause of deer deaths in suburban areas without other lethal control," says the county police department's website.

In 2025, there were approximately 120 deer-vehicle collisions in Fairfax County with the highest numbers of collisions occurring in October and November and the peak time for collisions being 6 a.m.

Native plants that are less attractive to deer, from Katherine Edwards, Fairfax County's Wildlife Biologist:

Common wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
Blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
Threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*)
Virginia or southern blueflag iris (*Iris virginica*)
Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)
Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Green-and-gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*)
Orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
Pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
False indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)
Common pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) (a tree)

Virginia ranks ninth in the country for collisions. A Virginia transportation official has estimated that only ten percent of deer-vehicle collisions are captured in police records.

Feeding Deer

Some people intentionally or unintentionally feed deer, says Dr. Gino J. D'Angelo, Associate Professor of Deer Ecology and Management at the University of Georgia. Some well-meaning people put

out corn. WalMart sells millions of bags of "deer corn," he says, and some packaged deer corn carries the aflatoxin fungus.

Deer also will knock bird seed out of feeders and eat what falls out. Grain-based food can be high in carbohydrates. "A deer's gastro-intestinal system cannot manage a high influx of carbs and they can increase acid buildup," D'Angelo said. Also, congregating deer can transmit disease through their saliva, feces and urine, he said.

White-tailed Deer

As they bound away, white-tailed deer flash their erect tails' white underside.

The males, called bucks, have antlers and are larger than females, called does.

Bark scraped off a tree may have been done by deer because their antlers are initially covered with hair called "velvet" and they rub off the velvet before rutting or mating season. In Virginia, rutting season is usually from late October through November when bucks may have heightened activity as they compete for does' attention.

Fairfax County's program is a model, Dr. D'Angelo offered. "Many wildlife professionals view programs in Fairfax County and the D.C. area as leaders in urban deer management programs. We are learning from the way they do this work."

Information

Fairfax County, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/deer-management-program

Locations of archery and sharpshooting, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/archery-program and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/sharpshooting.

Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline, 855-571-9003



Frank Donnella and son Franklin check out a 1965 Ford Mustang at last year's show.



Clouds reflect on the shiny hood of Wayne Davidson's 2005 Chevy Corvette C6.

Awesome Vehicles, Music, Food and Fun for Charity

Fairfax City hosts 27th annual Labor Day Car Show.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The 27th annual Labor Day Car Show is slated for Monday, Sept. 7, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., in downtown Fairfax City. A wide array of cars, trucks and motorcycles will be on display along University Drive between Sager and Armstrong Streets, and in the adjacent parking lots.

It's put on jointly by the City of Fairfax and the Clifton Lions Club, and it happens, rain or shine. The fun also includes food, live music and an awards ceremony, and all the proceeds go to charity.

Entry and parking are free, but tax-deductible donations are accepted and mainly benefit the Cloverleaf Equine Center (formerly called the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program; see <https://www.cloverleafequinecenter.org>) and Inova Hospital System's Life with Cancer www.lifewithcancer.org.

People who didn't register their vehicles in advance may still do so the day of the event, starting at 6 a.m., at the table across the street from Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive. Look for the large banner.

The show features a large range of vehicles, including hot rods from the 1940s and '50s, muscle cars like Mustangs, Corvettes and Ford GTs, and foreign cars such as Jaguars, Mercedes, Porsches and Bentleys. Trucks, antique cars from the 1920s and '30s, plus classic, custom and

brand-new cars will be on display, too, as will motorcycles.

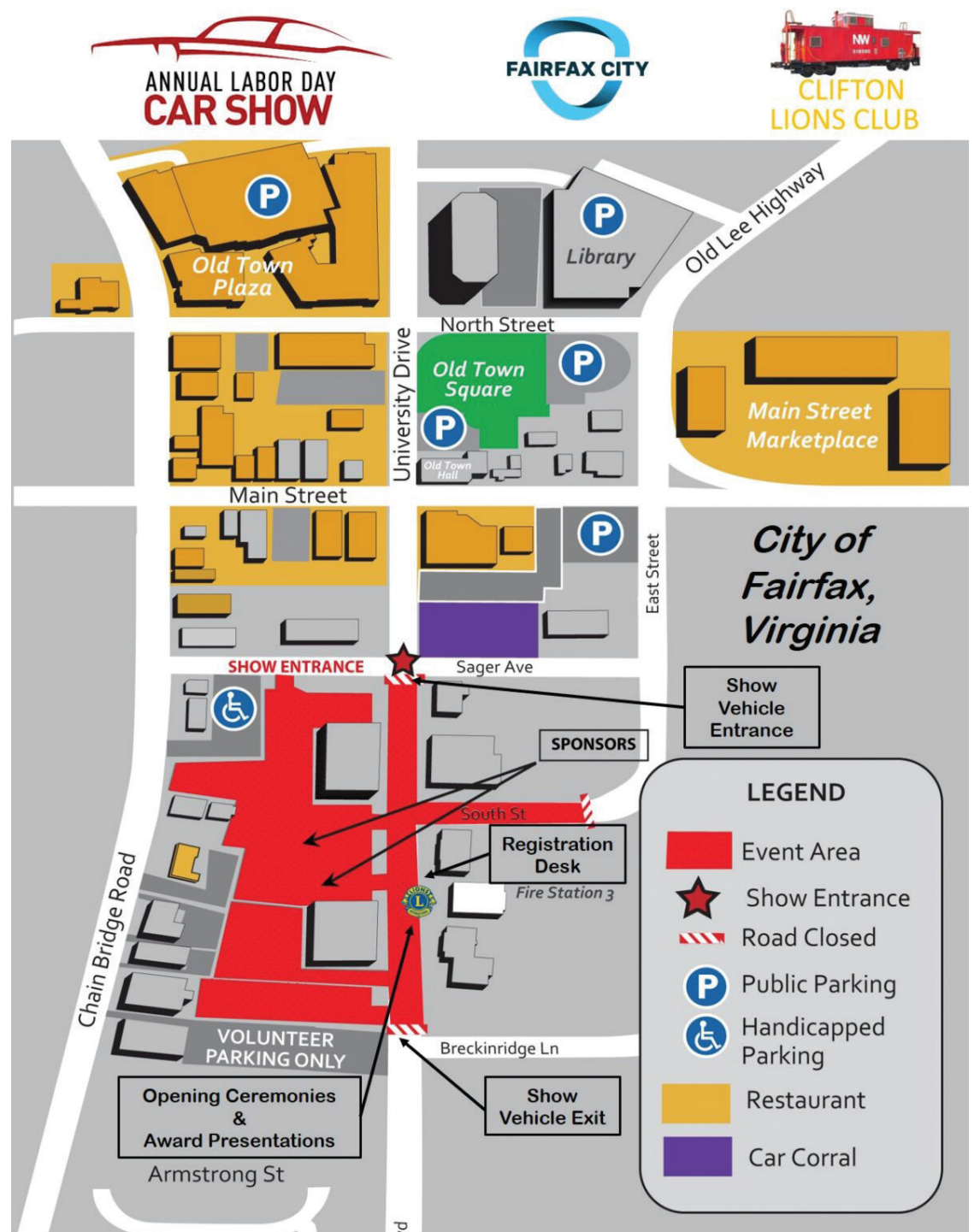
There'll be vendor booths and raffles, as well, plus music by the Eclectic Company band. And at 11:30 a.m. will be a special ceremony at the fire station, featuring Fairfax City's American Legion Post 177 Color Guard, local dignitaries and the singing of the National Anthem.

Also in that area will be food and beverages for sale. Lions Club members will be grilling and selling hot dogs and hamburgers. The always popular Inside Scoop ice cream truck and Rita's Italian Ice will offer refreshing treats, and Boy Scouts will be selling water. In addition, Kelly's Oyster House, The Auld Shebeen, DeClieu Coffee & Sandwiches, and some other restaurants in Old Town Fairfax will be open.

Over the car show's 26-year history, it's raised more than \$800,000 for charity. This year marks the 11th time it's been held in Fairfax, and the organizers anticipate this year's event will yield even more than last year's \$57,000. And all that money is given directly to the recipient charities, since this event has no administrative costs – everyone's a volunteer.

Besides contributing to the two primary charities, car-show proceeds will also benefit American Legion Post 177, Main Street Child Development Center and Mended Little Hearts, which supports children with congenital heart defects. In addition, donations are usually given to the City of Fairfax fire and police departments, as well as to Fairfax City Schools for children in need.

Even the funds from the Clifton Lions Club food sales that day go to the many charities the club sup-



Street map of the upcoming Labor Day Car Show in Fairfax City.

SEE CAR SHOW, PAGE 15

Fairfax City Is MedVoyage's 1st U.S. Headquarters

An international leader in satellite-enabled healthcare technology.

MedVoyage Global Inc., a Taiwan-headquartered global leader in satellite-enabled healthcare technology, has selected the Mason Enterprise Center (MEC) Fairfax for its first United States headquarters. The new location marks MedVoyage's expansion into the North American market and further strengthens Fairfax City's role within Northern Virginia's innovation economy.

MedVoyage develops low-latency, satellite-enabled, healthcare platforms connecting medical providers with remote patients, maritime vessels and emergency response units worldwide. Powered by dual, 24/7 global command centers in North America and Asia, the company's platform processes more than 150,000 emergency and remote telehealth cases annually across 80-plus medical centers in 40 countries.

With real-time streaming, high-reliability low-Earth-orbit satellite integration, as well as AI-driven clinical support, MedVoyage ensures uninterrupted digital care and automated pharmacy management in extreme or off-grid environments.

"MedVoyage's decision to establish its first



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDVOYAGE GLOBAL INC.

A MedVoyage Global medical clinic inside a ship at sea.

U.S. headquarters in Fairfax City reflects the strength of our innovation economy and the collaborative business environment we've built," said Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED) Director Colleen Kardasz. "From connecting international companies with regional resources to supporting their long-term growth, our goal is to provide a strong foundation for business investment. We look forward to working alongside MedVoyage as it builds its U.S. presence from Fairfax City."

MedVoyage's Fairfax City office will drive its U.S. sales, system engineering and regulatory-compliance operations. Over the next two years, the company plans to scale up its

local workforce with systems engineers, clinical compliance specialists and commercial sales executives.

This business-attraction effort originated through the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance, of which Fairfax City Economic Development is a member. Following an evaluation of regional technology hubs, MedVoyage selected the MEC Fairfax for its business incubation, growth resources and soft-landing services designed to help international companies establish and grow their presence in the U.S. market.

"Selecting Fairfax City for our U.S. headquarters is a foundational step in our global

scaling strategy," said Nemo Teng, CEO of MedVoyage Global Inc. "MEC Fairfax offers the ideal soft-landing environment and unparalleled access to the Northern Virginia tech ecosystem."

"[We're] minutes away from critical federal and defense stakeholders, such as the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Defense. This facility allows us to rapidly build strategic U.S. partnerships, access premier regional engineering talent, and deploy our emergency and maritime telehealth solutions across North America."

MedVoyage's investment further strengthens Fairfax City's reputation as a destination for companies advancing healthcare, artificial intelligence, aerospace and emerging technologies.

MedVoyage's lease at the MEC took effect Aug. 1. The office is at 10300 Eaton Place, Suite 474. For more information about the MEC, go to mec-fairfax.org.

◆◆◆

MedVoyage Global develops intelligent healthcare technologies for commercial fleets. Its solutions combine telemedicine, automated medication dispensing, digital inventory management, and connected medical devices to improve crew health, simplify onboard medical operations, and support regulatory compliance.

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- BRITTANY JONES, FCED

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Paul Gilbert in front of the old Springfield businesses that will undergo changes with redevelopment.



The walkway from the garage to Springfield Plaza is a placemaking element.

Is Springfield Revitalization Back?

Signs of progress on Springfield revitalization captured in a video.

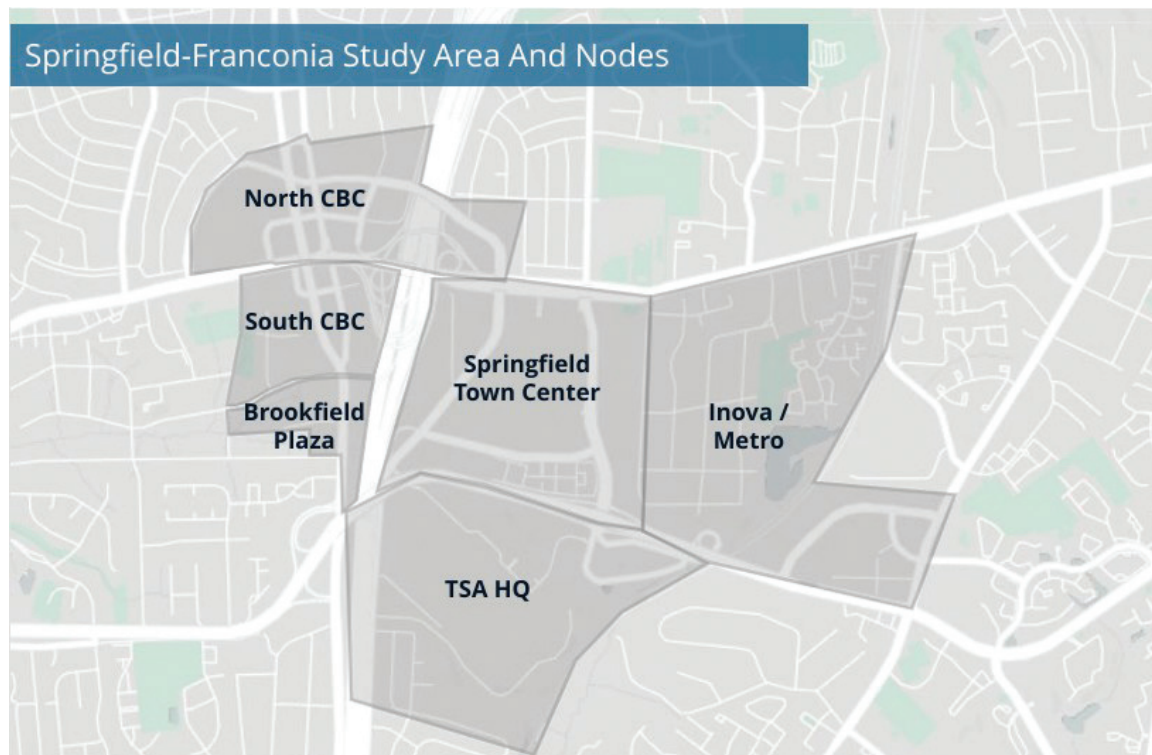
BY MIKE SALMON
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

As revitalization expert Paul Gilbert looked around in downtown Springfield, there were many things that were exactly as he remembered them from his childhood when he grew up in this area. In the world of economic vibrancy, “that’s not good for an area,” he said on a video called “Springfield Economic Development,” produced by Fairfax County.

In the Springfield Plaza area where Backlick Road was once the main street, many of the store fronts and buildings have been there for years and it doesn’t scream “new,” like comparable economic areas such as Tysons, Reston or The Mosaic that Gilbert compared it to. “Density is a big deal if you want businesses to survive,” he added. The stores need people buying things, the eateries filling the tables and the office buildings full of busy offices.

Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D) has a background in economic development and looks at this aging area the same way. A one-level storage facility right in the center of things is a place that needs work. “We need to make the building look more like an office building,” Lusk said.

According to the Fairfax County community revitalization information, the Greater Springfield/Franconia area has more than 10.7 million square feet of industrial flex space, 4.2 million square feet of office space, and 5.3 million square feet of retail space, including the Springfield Town Center that provides opportunities for the Springfield Commercial Revitalization District.



The six sections in central Springfield that will be under examination.



This piece of property was bought by the Schupp Companies and is slated for redevelopment.

In October 2022, Fairfax County released a market study of the downtown Springfield area which divided the downtown area into six quadrants: Springfield Town Center; Inova/Metro; Transportation Security Administration Headquarters; North CBC; South CBC; and Brookfield Plaza. One of the action items on this study is called “Placemaking,” and a step made in this direction is putting the “Springfield” sign on the pedestrian bridge from the transportation center in downtown Springfield to the Plaza shopping area. Both Gilbert and Lusk mentioned this gateway feature is a step in the right direction. This sign was added “to create a sense of place,” Gilbert said.

Along with the sign, an apartment building opened in the Springfield Town Center parking lot whose residents can walk to the Metro station.

Schupp Companies, located in Vienna, Va., is one of the developers that bought a section of the old buildings and strip of commercial entities which they label as “Springfield Gateway Purchase,” dated 2016. “Springfield Gateway was purchased in May of 2016 and represents a tremendous potential for alternative development opportunities,” says the picture description on the website. Years ago, before “Veteran’s Bridge” spanned Old Keene Mill Road, this location at the Backlick Road-Old Keene Mill Road intersection was managed with a traffic signal.

According to Lusk’s office, one of these parcels has recently come under new ownership and the owner is now working with Lusk on potential redevelopment. Currently, they have not yet submitted any application for redevelopment.

NEWS

Kick up Your Heels and Dance

“Dancing on the Square” will take place outside on four Thursday evenings in September at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., in Fairfax City. The dates are Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24. A dance workshop will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by an hour of free dance at 7:30 p.m. Dance workshops will include Latin, Jazz dance and Nepali dance. Slated for Sept. 3 are salsa and bachata dancing, and Commonwealth Brewing Co., 10426 Main St., will offer a special drink each night – the Whiskey Tango.



Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony

A Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony will be held Thursday, Sept. 10, at 5 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater, 10455 Armstrong St., (behind City Hall), in Fairfax City. All are welcome to attend.

Community Meeting re Picket Road Safety

Fairfax City is starting a roadway-safety evaluation of Pickett Road between Main Street and Route 50. Toward that end, it's hosting a community meeting/open house for City residents on Wednesday, Sept. 16, from 5-7 p.m. It'll be held at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Blenheim Blvd. in Fairfax.

Fairfax is receiving technical assistance from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to conduct this roadway-safety audit. So before its consultant work begins, the City is seeking residents' input that'll directly inform the audit. At this meeting, people will be able to review maps and identify specific locations of concern along Pickett Road. Their feedback will then be shared with the consultant.

Thrillers, Poetry, History, Memoirs, Literary Fiction

Fall for the Book's 28th Annual Festival includes 'New American Voices Award.'

Fall for the Book's 28th Annual Festival is packed with more than fifty writers, including poets, historians, novelists, memoirists, children's authors, graphic novelists, and more.

Chantel Acevedo's Cages, Bindu Bansinath's Men Like Ours, and Ada Ferrer's Keeper of My Kin, have been named finalists for the New American Voices Award, presented in partnership with Fall for the Book and the Institute for Immigration Research. Celebrating its ninth anniversary, this post-publication award recognizes recently published works that illuminate the complexity of human experience as told by immigrants, whose work is historically under-represented in writing and publishing.

In-person and virtual events run from Oct. 6-10, at George Mason University, downtown City of Fairfax, and in Fairfax County Public Library branches.

In addition to headliners Celeste Ng, and Stephen Graham

Jones, the festival welcomes featured writers Elizabeth Rusch, presenting the Beck Environmental Lecture with her book "The Twenty-One: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the U.S. Government Over Climate Change," and award-winning journalist and PBS NewsHour co-anchor Geoff Bennett with Black Out Loud: The Revolutionary History of Black Comedy from Vaudeville to '90s Sitcoms.

The full schedule is now live and can be found on www.fallforthebook.org/schedule.

The 2026 Festival will also host many local authors including, novelists Caroline Bock, Lina Patton and Diana Rojas; poets Michele Evans and Danika P. Myers; mystery writers Melanie McCabe and Aggie Blum Thompson; historians George Oberle and Nina Willner; Maryland state delegate Lily Qi; and folklorist Brittany Warman.

The Fall for the Book Festival partners with the City of Fairfax's 50th Annual Fall Festival on Sat-

urday, Oct. 10 and offers a day of hands-on literary events to readers aged 2 to 13. For the younger kids, Chuchu Wang will launch the morning with an interactive story-time featuring her picture book and lead a drawing demonstration. Next, Marcie Flinchum Atkins will help kids make their own animal handbook followed by Korena Di Roma Howley who will guide them as they make a paper drum. The middle-grade set will get zany with Adi Rule and make their own cut-out ghost chicken in time for Halloween. Finally, Amanda Foody will reveal the inspirations behind her bestselling series and offer advice on creating magical worlds.

Fall for the Book will host the Ninth Annual award ceremony for immigrant writers: The Institute for Immigration Research New American Voices Award, judged by Angie Cruz, Donna Hemans, and Weike Wang. The three finalists, Chantel Acevedo, Bindu Bansinath and Ada Ferrer, will appear at the festival on Oct. 8.

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Protecting the Right to Vote Still Requires Vigilance



Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26, attracted 315 people to Lorton's Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Legendary country music singer Dolly Parton may be an atypical woman activist, but on Aug. 26, one day after she died, she was honored at Lorton's Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

NOVA Parks Executive Director Justin Wilson told the 315 celebrants who gathered for Women's Equality Day that Parton wrote a song titled "19th Amendment" about the U.S. Constitutional amendment, certified on Aug. 26, 1920, that gave some women in the United States the right to vote.

Wilson shared some of Parton's lyrics: "There was just so much back then we weren't allowed to do, but the first bite of that apple I guess revealed the truth. That's when Eve got smart and that's why Adam don't like fruit. ... We had to fight for women's rights."

Calling the area a "sacred site," Wilson explained that in 1917 suffragists called the Silent Sentinels peacefully picketing on the White House sidewalk for the right to vote were jailed in the Occoquan Workhouse.

Pat Wirth who led the memorial's fund raising and building reminded all, "It is a national memorial. It took millions of dollars." Its name comes from the 1917 "night of terror" when prison guards brutally treated the jailed women and word leaked out, news that nudged a recalcitrant President Woodrow Wilson to support the amendment.



Virginia Lt. Governor Ghazala Hashmi gave the keynote address for Women's Equality Day at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

His change of mind was a turning point in the suffrage movement.

Hashmi, a Historic First

Introducing the keynoter, Virginia's Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi, Camdyn Parker, a 13-year

cookie mom," Hashmi highlighted three key words: persistence, vigilance and engagement. She applauded two South Carolina, enslaved women, Sarah and Angelina Grimke, who in the 19th century agitated for both slavery's

abolition and women's rights and challenged the notion that women should stay in the home.

"She made the radical argument that went to the very heart of democracy," Hashmi said. "How can a nation claim that it was ruled by the consent of the governed while systematically excluding half of its citizens from political power?"

Hashmi saluted other heroines, including the late African-American U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. Hashmi said, "It's a democratic philosophy that argues if one is excluded, enter. If the in-

Alexandria Girl Scout, said that Hashmi "made history" in 2026 as the first Muslim woman elected statewide in the United States, remarking, "Her election represents a more inclusive democracy."

Dubbing herself a "Girl Scout

See PROTECTING THE, PAGE 9



Justin Wilson, NOVA Parks Executive Director, welcomed attendees.



Laura Greenfield, AAUW Virginia President, described her group's projects.



Patricia Wirth relayed the memorial's history.



Nancy Tate, national League of Women Voters President, said that challenges to voting still persist today.



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Oriella Mejia, a Prince William Parks Commissioner, donned one of the sashes like those the suffragists wore.

Protecting the Right to Vote Still Requires Vigilance

FROM PAGE 8

stitution was not designed with you in mind, change it. And once you have a seat, make room for someone else.” She exhorted the audience to use “the power that that generations before us fought to secure.”

“Threats to voting rights are greater now than in 60 years,” Nancy Tate told attendees. “The suffragists knew that the fight for equality was never over,” she said, so some went on the found the League of Women Voters in 1920. Tate, an Arlington resident, is the League’s executive director.

Historian Shirley Marshall, author of “An Inside Story of the National Woman’s Party,” said, “The suffragists did more than hold banners and stand around.” Combining through the 1918 letters Elizabeth Kalb wrote from Washington to her mother, Marshall described

incidents, like the police arresting women “for carrying the American flag” and Kalb getting a lump from being “cracked on her head.”

“Police violence was common,” Marshall said, “But mostly out of sight.” Because Wilson initially did not support suffrage, women burned his speeches in Lafayette Square. “Kerosene was the secret, keeping the fires lit. They soaked logs in kerosene,” she snickered.

Many historical accounts portray the suffragists as white women, but suffrage was diverse, Marshall asserted. And she emphasized that even upon the 1920 passage of the amendment, women who were not white, like African Americans, Indigenous women and Chinese women, still could not vote.

Joy Galberth, president of the Fairfax County chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, recalled that the organizers of the suffragists’



The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Lorton.

1913 Washington parade insisted that African American women march at the end. “Our sorority marched with dignity even when forced to the back,” she said, adding, “Equality is not a destination but a responsibility.”

Gloria Blackwell, reinforced Hashmi’s themes. “It was a long, courageous effort,” she said. “They persisted. Democracy is not self-sustaining.” Blackwell is head of the American Association of University Women.

Kobby Hoffman, president of the Virginia chapter of the National Organization for Women, read the “Women’s Declaration of Independence” and sought petition signers urging Congress to recognize the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th amendment to the Constitution.

Marshall quoted Mary Church Terrell, a 1905 African-American civil rights leader: “There is an imperative need of meddlers today, active, insistent and fearless meddlers.” The meddlers are still at it.

“I declare to you that woman must not depend upon the protection of man, but must be taught to protect herself, and there I take my stand.”

Susan B Anthony

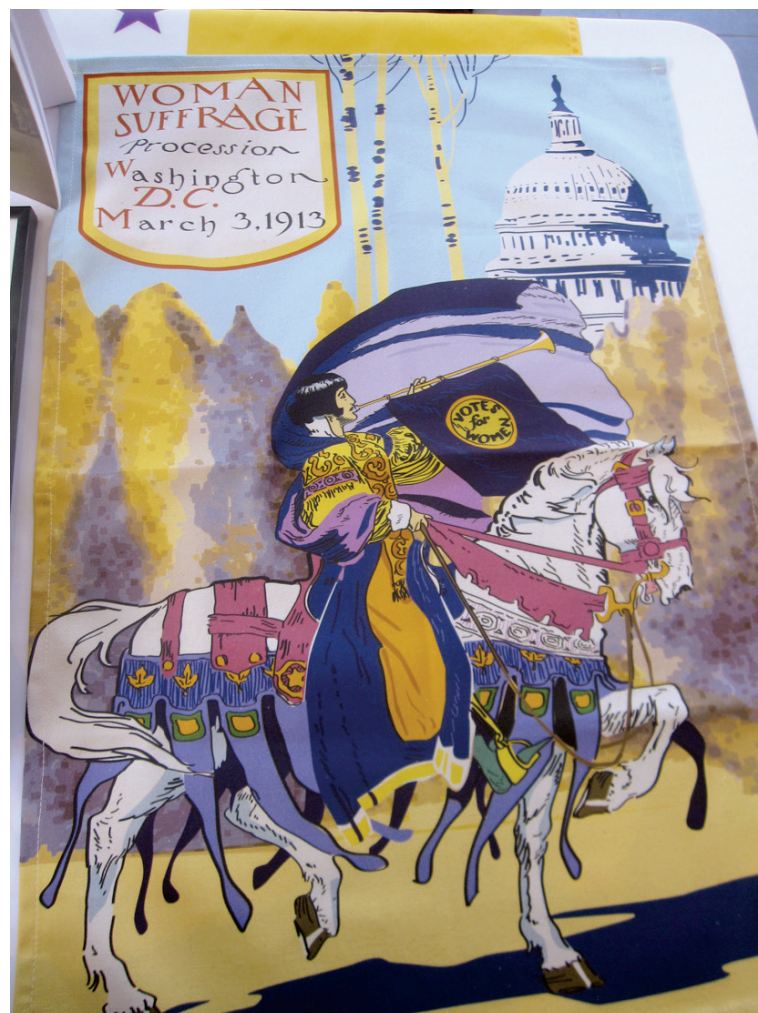
Susan B. Anthony was just one of many suffragists.



Thirteen stations tell the suffrage story.



Lynne Garvey-Hodge portrayed Mrs. Robert Walker, a suffragist.



The suffragists staged a parade in Washington, D. C., in 1913.

Outdated State Standards Collide with SCC Review of NextEra-Dominion ‘Merger’

Herndon-Reston Indivisible holds legislative town hall.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A town hall with State Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-38, and Del. Irene Shin, D-8, at Reston’s North County Governmental Center focused on mobilizing public action over NextEra Energy’s potential \$67 billion acquisition of Dominion Energy.

Speaking to the assembled community members on Aug. 30, organizers and lawmakers urged those present to scan the on-site QR code to submit formal comments directly to the three members of the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

“This is the QR code. It’ll take you directly to the [SCC] website to submit public comment,” Shin told attendees. “Make sure that you’re doing that one way or the other, whether you’re in favor of this acquisition or not,” Shin said. “Make sure you are letting the [SCC] know how you feel as Dominion Energy customers or folks who might be impacted by this decision.”

The event opened with live virtual analysis from Josh Macey, a professor at Yale Law School and expert in energy law and utility regulation. Macey stressed the importance of regulatory oversight, followed by the lawmakers’ comments highlighting community concerns, an audience Q&A, and a closing call to action.

The Aug. 30 event was hosted by Herndon-Reston Indivisible

Expert Context on Utility Risk

Macey cautioned that utility mergers carry risks that standard corporate transactions do not. Macey explained that a combined NextEra-Dominion could shift financial risks and higher costs directly onto Virginia consumers. He noted the merged entity could enter “into above-market contracts with its own affiliates” and use the regulated utility to “guarantee the debt of a riskier venture,” leaving ratepayers exposed if those bets go bad.

Infrastructure decisions after such a merger could disproportionately favor large commercial entities over everyday residents, Macey said.

New transmission could be built so that “cheaper supply goes to data centers” while “funneling more expensive power to the customers who don’t have any choice in who their provider is,” potentially prioritizing tech hubs over residential households.

Virginia could meet its clean-energy goals more cheaply through “a competitive process” rather than relying on voluntary promises from a merged megacity, Macey said.

Macey called for “ring-fencing provisions” prohibiting cross-affiliate financial transactions and requiring independent competitive solicitations subject to comprehensive audits.



From left, State Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-38, and Del. Irene Shin, D-8, deliver remarks to community members as Josh Macey, an associate professor at Yale Law School and expert in energy law and utility regulation, listens online.



State Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-38, (left) and Del. Irene Shin, D-8, listen to community members’ comments following a town hall meeting in Reston, Virginia, Aug. 30.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

Community members take their seats before a town hall meeting hosted by Herndon-Reston Indivisible, State Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-38, and Del. Irene Shin, D-8, at the North County Governmental Center in Reston Aug. 30. The meeting focused on mobilizing public action regarding NextEra Energy’s proposed \$67 billion acquisition of Dominion Energy.

Shin Discusses Legal Framework, Commission Structure

Turning to the regulatory landscape, Shin outlined the legal framework governing the transaction. The Virginia SCC will judge the merger under the Utility Transfer Act, a narrow, 1970s-era statute that asks essentially three core questions: does the deal interrupt or disrupt service; are rates still “just and reasonable”; and can ratepayers be held “mostly harmless”?

Unlike Texas and Hawaii, which rejected NextEra acquisitions because their state laws require a broad “public’s best interest” standard, Virginia’s current statute lacks a similar public-interest requirement.

Shin explained that Texas rejected a NextEra acquisition because regulators could not show it was in the best interest of ratepayers and would not shift risk onto them. Hawaii similarly rejected NextEra under its clear public-interest mandate. Shin contrasted those outcomes with Virginia’s Utility Transfer Act, which sets a narrower bar for

utility transfers.

Shin also laid out the State Corporation Commission’s 180-day review structure, which includes an initial 60-day period plus a possible 120-day extension. She noted that because the formal application was filed in mid-July, the statutory clock will run through the November and December holidays.

Addressing ethics concerns surrounding the three-member commission, Shin spoke about SCC Chair Kelsey A. Bagot who is a former senior attorney at NextEra. Shin voiced support for keeping Bagot on the case rather than seeking recusal, explaining that if Bagot stepped aside, the SCC would be left with only two members. Those remaining two commissioners could select a temporary third member without General Assembly oversight — an outcome Shin opposes.

Litigation Outlook and Public Action

Looking ahead, Boysko reinforced that

the 180-day window will not be the end of the NextEra-Dominion Energy story, stating that there will “likely be litigation, no matter what the answer is” and that the matter will “not be solved in 180 days.”

Shin added that if the SCC’s ultimate decision is appealed, the case would bypass lower appellate courts and proceed directly to the Virginia Supreme Court.

When an audience member asked whether the General Assembly could intervene to extend the SCC’s statutory timeline, Boysko acknowledged that while some lawmakers have requested an extension, she does not believe enough legislative support currently exists to pass such a measure.

Asked if the legislature has the technical authority to change the timeline, Shin replied it would be “very unusual and extraordinary” while the case is underway.

Both legislators concluded the meeting by emphasizing that public participation remains the most effective tool for residents, as lawmakers do not vote on utility merger approvals. They reiterated the importance of filing public comments in the official SCC docket.

They advocated for local in-person public hearings so residents do not have to navigate restrictive phone-in testimony systems. Shin reminded attendees that the merger impacts 2.7 million Virginia customer accounts and predicted that the upcoming legislative session will see multiple bills introduced to revise statutory standards for future utility acquisitions.

The Virginia State Corporation Commission announced on Facebook on August 17, “If you’ve been following the news about the proposed Dominion Energy/NextEra merger, you may be curious about how the public can participate.

We’ve created the following web page to help! Keep up with important dates and other information relating to the upcoming hearing.

We’ll be updating the page as more information becomes available.”

<https://www.scc.virginia.gov/about-the-scc/dominion-nextera-merger-updates/>

Fairfax County Supervisor Rodney Lusk Highlights Community Walk



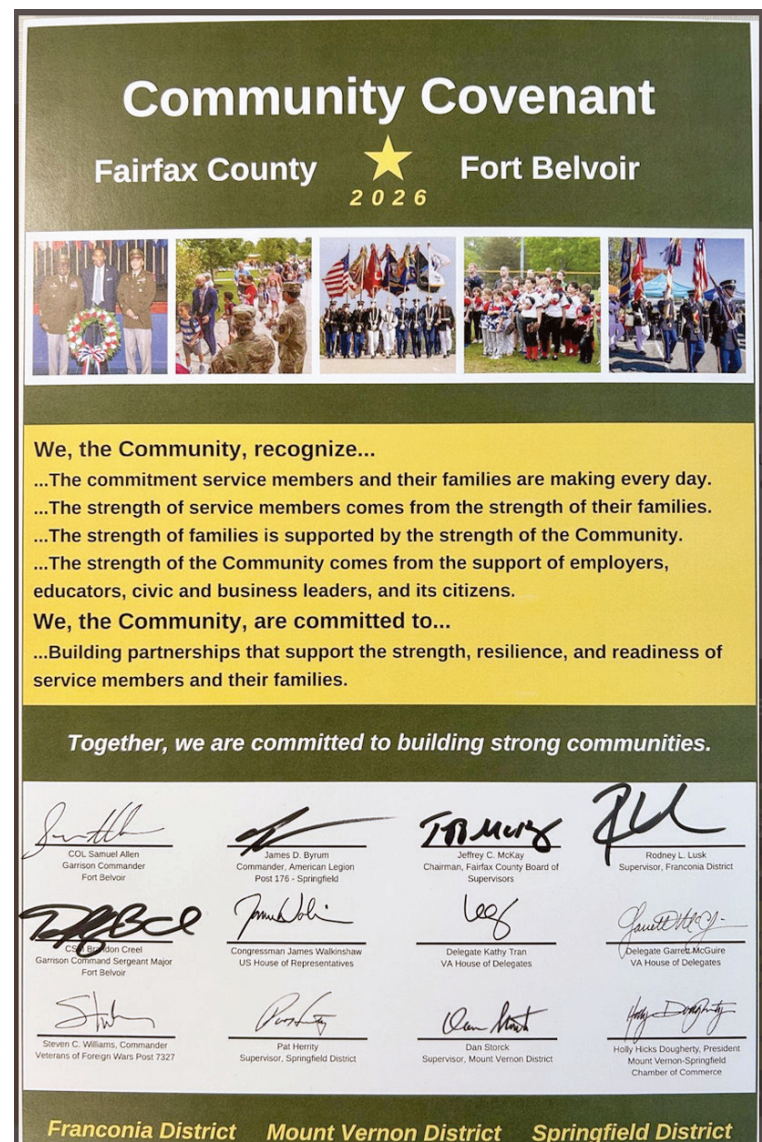
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE LUSK REPORT

Fairfax County Supervisor Rodney Lusk, center, walks across the Veterans Memorial Bridge alongside Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander Col. Samuel Allen, right, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon Creel, left, during the Army Community Covenant walk on Saturday, Aug. 22.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Supervisor Rodney Lusk, D-Franconia, highlighted a community walk across the Veterans Memorial Bridge on Aug. 22 to reaffirm the Army Community Covenant. The event served as the first official community gath-

ering for new Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander, Col. Samuel Allen, who assumed command on Aug. 13. The ceremony brought together local leaders, military members and residents. It featured special recognitions for WWII veterans Edwin “Ed” Lyman Kesler, 100, and Daniel “Dan” Emmanuel Palenski, 99, alongside assistance from Life Scouts Oliver Adams and Peyton Fu.



The 2026 Community Covenant document signed by Fairfax County and Fort Belvoir leadership.



WWII Navy veteran Edwin “Ed” Lyman Kesler, 100, poses with Fairfax County Supervisor Rodney Lusk as he receives a resolution honoring his service on Saturday, Aug. 22.



WWII Army veteran Daniel “Dan” Emmanuel Palenski, 99, center left, poses with his family and Fairfax County Supervisor Rodney Lusk, center right, on Saturday, Aug. 22.

ENTERTAINMENT

Fairfax County Farmers Markets Return

Operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority, these popular markets connect residents with local farmers and food producers at 10 convenient locations. Shop seasonal fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy, baked goods and artisanal products, while enjoying a vibrant, open-air market experience.

WEDNESDAYS

McCutcheon/Mount Vernon: April 22-Nov. 25, 8 a.m. - noon. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane

Oakmont: May 6-Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-noon. Oakmont Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road

Wakefield: May 6-Oct. 28, 2-6 p.m. Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road

THURSDAYS

Annandale: May 7-Oct. 29, 8 a.m. - noon. Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike

Herndon: May 7-Oct. 29, 8 a.m. - noon. Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn Street by the Red Caboose

FRIDAYS

McLean: May 1-Oct. 30, 8 a.m.-noon. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road

Kingstowne: May 1-Oct. 23, 3-7 p.m. In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center

SATURDAYS

Burke: Apr. 18-Nov. 21, 8 a.m.-noon. VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway

Reston: Apr. 25-Nov. 21, 8 a.m.-noon. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza

SUNDAYS

Lorton: May 3-Nov. 22, 8 a.m.-noon. VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd.

SUMMER CONCERT & ENTERTAINMENT SERIES

In its third year, **Take a Break Concert Series** spotlights fresh talent in one of Reston's newest neighborhoods. This laid-back, open space offers plenty of room to dance or play and a new 7:30 p.m. start time lets the heat ease off a bit.

Summerbration Fab Fridays | Schedule
Reston Station

Fridays, May 29 – Sep 25, 2026

WEDNESDAYS NIGHTS

Open Game Nights. 6:30-9 p.m. At Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Come enjoy table tennis, bridge, mah-jongg, arcade games, a sensory lab and more at the Old Firehouse. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

DANCING ON THE SQUARE

Thursday evenings in Fairfax City, Old Town Square – 10415 North Street, Fairfax. 6:30 p.m. Dance Workshop; 7:30 p.m. Free Dance. Join in every Thursday in September at Old Town Square for free Dance Workshops led by local artists and studios. Each evening begins with a guided workshop at 6:30 p.m., followed by an hour of open dancing at 7:30 p.m.—perfect for all ages and skill levels. No registration required. Make a night of it: stop by Commonwealth Brewing before or after the event to enjoy their special themed drink, the Whiskey Tango!

Sept. 3 – Salsa & Bachata

Instructor: Michele Kearney, Elegant Dancing
Learn fun, easy basics that will get you moving confidently on the dance floor!

More info: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/Events-directory/Parks-and-Recreation/Cultural-Arts/Dancing-on-the-Square-93>

RESTON ASSOCIATION DOG PADDLES

Bring your dog for a dip in the pools that have



The poster features the 'Dancing on the Square' logo with two stylized dancers. To the right, it says 'free dance workshops thursdays in september' with the Fairfax City Parks and Recreation logo. Below this, it lists the location '@ old town square' and the times 'workshops @ 6:30 pm' and 'open dance @ 7:30 pm'. At the bottom, there are four colored boxes for specific dates: 9/3 Salsa & Bachata (Michele Kearney, Elegant Dancing), 9/10 Broadway Jazz (Christopher D'Amboise, GMU, CVPA), 9/17 Latin Dance Styles (C4 Performing Arts), and 9/24 Jhyaure Dance (Luna Shrestha & Navin KC, KC Dance Center). A note at the bottom says 'Stop by Commonwealth Brewing before or after to enjoy their themed drink, the Whiskey Tango!'.

Dancing on the Square takes place on Thursdays in September in the City of Fairfax.



Take a tour of the Silas Burke House on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 in Burke.

closed for the season and bid farewell to the dog days of summer. Registration is required as space is limited. These events often sell out.

Saturday, Sept. 5: Autumnwood Pool

Saturday, Sept. 12: North Hills Pool

Sunday, Sept. 13: Dogwood Pool

NOW THRU SEPT. 6

Metropolitan Washington Summer Restaurant Week has been extended. At various restaurants in the DMV. Presented by the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington (RAMW), Restaurant Week features over 300 restaurants; diners can choose from 11 current Michelin Starred or Michelin Bib Gourmand restaurants, 5 James Beard Awardees and Nominees, 14 RAMMYS Winners or Finalists, and 30 first-time participants. The week will feature multi-course brunch and lunch selections for \$25 or \$35 per person, and multi-course dinners for \$40, \$55, and

\$65 per person for on-premise dining. For the full list of participating restaurants, visit www.rwdmv.com.

Virginia restaurants include:

Cielo Supper Club

Darvish Kitchen

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

Locket Rosslyn

Oak Steakhouse

The Boulevard

The Simon at Reston Station

SENIOR MOVIE DAY

Reston Association presents Senior Movie Day, sponsored by Friends of Reston. Join them on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Coffee, donuts and OJ are provided, and door prizes are distributed prior to the movie.

Location: LOOK Movie theater at Reston Town Center

Free. Ages 55+

Sept. 23: Reminders of Him

SEPT. 3 AND SEPT. 24

"Huzzah!": Better Said Than Done. 7 p.m. At Jammin' Java in Vienna. Better Said Than Done has been giving people a platform to share and listen to stories in Northern Virginia and beyond, for 15 years. To celebrate, the organization is staging two storytelling shows. September 3, "Huzzah!" will be presented live at Jammin' Java in Vienna at 7 p.m. On September 24, audiences around the country can watch "Hip, Hip, Hooray," live on Zoom, starting at 8 p.m. Visit <https://better-saidthandone.org/events/>

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

McLean Art Society's Opening Reception for "The Sky's the Limit" Exhibition and September Members Show. 5-7 p.m. At McLean Art Gallery, 6224B Old Dominion Drive, McLean. On view September 2-27, 2026, "The Sky's the Limit!" brings together original artwork inspired by the ever-changing beauty and drama of the sky, from sweeping clouds and glowing horizons to shifting light, color, weather, and atmosphere. The exhibition reflects the many ways artists look upward for inspiration and interpret the sense of openness, movement, and possibility. In addition, visitors can browse the gallery's new monthly show featuring a diverse selection of original artwork by McLean Art Society artists in a wide range of subjects and media. The gallery includes paintings in oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolor, and mixed media, along with drawing, photography, sculpture, and works in wood, glass, and ceramics. Get free tickets at sky-is-the-limit.eventbrite.com

SEPT. 5-6

33rd Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival.

Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday from 12:30-5 p.m. At Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. The Festival will showcase authentic Middle Eastern cuisine, traditional pastries, music and dancing, vendors, church tours, a silent auction, and activities for all ages. Visit the vendors, take a guided tour of the church, or engage in a game of backgammon or chess. Children also can find plenty to do in the dedicated kids' zone, which includes a petting zoo, two moon bounces, 18-foot slide, face painting and a variety of games. A highlight of the event is the Saturday night, 6:30 p.m. "Hafl" ("party" in Arabic) that will feature live music and dancing, including opportunities to join the "Dabke," a traditional folk line dance. Call 703-734-9566 or visit www.middleeastern-foodfestival.com

SEPT. 5-27

Natural Wonders by Rosemarie Forsythe.

At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, Reston. Reception to meet the artist on September 13 from 2-4 p.m. The exhibition features elements of the natural world Rosemarie saw in her backyard in Virginia and in the far-flung places of her life living and working around the world. Leaping horses, bright parrots, leopards, and even an alligator roam through her paintings. Colorful, highly patterned fish swim through a magical, deep blue sea. Forests of lilies, ferns, and wildflowers reveal glimpses of owls, monkeys, deer, and foxes. Palm leaves sway elegantly in a Pacific breeze by moonlight. Rich landscapes range from southern sand dunes to crisp, northern winter scenes of graceful birch trees rising to the distant sun.

SEPT. 5 TO OCT. 25

Bat Boy: The Musical. At Workhouse Arts Center, Building W3, Lorton. If you remember the Weekly World News tabloid sensation about a half-bat, half-boy creature found in a West Virginia cave, they already know the vibe. This rock musical is campy, hilarious, surprisingly heartfelt, and features a killer score that will have audiences tapping their feet between laughs. Performances run Fridays/Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. in September; Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. in October at the Workhouse Arts Center's Theater in Building W3.

www.connectionnewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY/SEPT. 6

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3-4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Brian Slawski will share research on Joseph William Dooley (1856-1934) and his family of Burke.

SEPT. 6-7

Labor Day Weekend Model Train Show. Sunday, Sept. 6 from noon to 5 p.m.; Monday, Sept. 7 from noon to 4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Labor Day Potomac Module Crew Weekend is a celebration of model railroading that brings together enthusiasts of all ages! This year's event promises a spectacular showcase of model trains, breathtaking landscapes, and the camaraderie of fellow hobbyists.

Highlights of the Event:

Interactive Displays: Enjoy the layouts featuring beautifully crafted trains and detailed scenery.

Running Trains: Watch as HO Models move around the tracks, our trains are always on time!

A Learning Experience: Children and families will have the chance to engage with experts who will share their knowledge about the mechanics of model trains and how to operate trains!

Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$4; ages 13 and older, \$6. Teachers, First Responders, and Military (active and retired) \$5. Seniors, 65+, \$5. www.fairfax-station-railroad-museum.org, Facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

SEPT. 10-13

Tyson's Library Book & Media Sale. At Tyson's Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests.

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

Friday, Sept 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept 13, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less.

Visit <https://www.tysonslibraryfriends.org/>

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

OFC Snack & Paint Night. 7 - 9 p.m. At the Old Firehouse Center, McLean. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, love snacks, or want to get your hands dirty with some paint, join the Old Firehouse Center (OFC) for our snack and paint night at the DuVal Studio at MCC! Led by a professional art teacher, you will be able to create your own masterpiece with your family while having tons of fun doing so. All materials and snacks are included in the fee.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

9/11 Film Screening: Come From Away. 7 - 9 p.m. At The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Filmed live on Broadway, the Tony Award-winning musical tells the remarkable true story of a small Canadian town that welcomed thousands of stranded travelers after 9/11.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

25th Anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001. 10:10 a.m. At Public Safety Headquarters, 12099 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Ceremony to let us all reflect and remember the lives lost 25 years ago on Sept. 11, 2001.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

25th Anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks. At National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, VA. The National Museum of the Marine Corps will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks with opportunities to remember, reflect and experience compelling artifacts connected to that day and its aftermath. The Museum will host the free, public book launch of The Legacy of 9/11: The U.S. Marine Corps and the Terror Attacks of September 2001, featuring special remarks, a panel discussion, wreath laying and book signing.

Among the Museum's Sept. 11 artifacts and

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Old Firehouse Center Block Party will take place on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 in McLean.



Harvest Happenings will take place on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

displays are:

Marine Corps flag recovered from the Pentagon that stood just yards from the crash of American Airlines Flight 77. Despite the destruction around it, the flag survived largely untouched.

F/A-18A Hornet, BuNo 161970, which flew an armed combat air patrol over Washington, D.C., on September 12, 2001.

AH-1W Super Cobra bearing 9/11 markings honoring New York City firefighters killed at the World Trade Center, flown by Marines during deployments to Afghanistan.

Recovered pieces of the World Trade Center and Pentagon, including an I-beam and Pentagon fragment visitors can touch, along with damaged signs, melted keys and a clock stopped at the time of impact.

The New York Fire Department 9/11 Memorial in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, featuring two steel beams recovered from the World Trade Center and honoring the 17 Marines who were among the fallen FDNY firefighters.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Fall Parking Lot Sale. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Join the McLean Community Center for the Fall Parking Lot Sale on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Shop a wide variety of treasures, including household items, clothing, toys, collectibles and more, from more than 60 local vendors. Admission

is free; visit mcleancenter.org for more information.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Virginia Native American Festival. 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. This year's festival welcomes members of the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Upper Mattaponi and Chickahominy tribes for a day, celebrating Virginia Native culture, heritage and community. Festival programming includes Upper Mattaponi dancing and drumming, traditional storytelling and a flute performance by Patrick "Littlewolf" Brooks of Five Feathers Productions, Shinnery League and a presentation by Mattaponi cultural keeper Samuel McGowan, featuring recreated tools and artifacts that highlight Mattaponi culture past and present. Throughout the day, visitors can try archery, join guided walks exploring traditional uses of local plants, watch fire-building and dugout canoe demonstrations, meet live animals, and participate in hands-on activities.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Paws in the Pool. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At The Water Mine at Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The Water Mine's pools, sprays, showers and water playgrounds are the ultimate way for you and your dog to end the summer season. Whether your pooch prefers

to frolic through the sprays or float in the water, Dog Daze is the perfect place to make more dog-loving friends, entertain the whole family and have a doggone good time. Entry costs \$15 per dog, and all proceeds go to benefit parks through the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

65th Washington Show. 9-5 p.m. At Hotel Belvoir Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. The National Capital Model Soldier Society is holding its 65th Annual Washington Show. Miniature model exhibition. Train/Armor/Ship/Car club tables. Demonstrations. Hobby vendors. Under 18 years free with adult. Visit <https://www.ncmssclub.org/annual-show>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Clifton Barn Dance. 6-10 p.m. In the Town of Clifton. Featuring caller Janine Smith and live music by the Julius Bjornson Trio. Julius is a master fiddler and was recently invited to be an Artist in Residence at Strathmore. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the following link:

<https://C25K.redpodium.com/clifton-barn-dance-2026>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Fall Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Morven Park, 17195 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. Native plants naturally thrive in our local climate. Shop for local flora from five native plant nurseries—Hill House Farm & Nursery, Nature By Design, Seven Bends Nursery, Watermark Woods, and Yellow House Natives. Plus, drop in for free educational talks with plant experts at this Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy event.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 13

Oktoberfest. 4 p.m. At Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church, 3435 Sleepy Hollow Road, Falls Church. The Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society will host an Oktoberfest concert featuring five members of The Edelweiss Band, at Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church. \$10 donation requested of nonmembers. More information: washingtonaccordions.org, peter@musicisforever.com, or 703-919-5701.

SEPT. 15-17

UTP Open Auditions. 7 - 9 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. An opportunity for teens to get paid to perform! (the) Unruly Theatre Project, The Alden's award-winning professional teen improv company, is holding open auditions for students in grades 9-12 on Tuesday-Wednesday, Sept. 15-16, from 7-9 p.m. Members are paid for performances and community programs, with opportunities to perform throughout the area; no prepared monologue is required, and the company has won first place at Northern Virginia's Improvicon in 2022, 2023 and 2025! Register at <https://mcleancenter.org/the-unruly-theatre-project/>.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

McLean Project for the Arts Fall Solo Exhibitions. 7 p.m. Opening Reception. At Berlage Center for Arts & Education, 6910 Fleetwood Road, McLean. The three featured exhibits include FOREST, featuring work by Freya Grand; Afterlight, featuring work by Ian Husting, and Hubris and the Sublime, featuring work by Sally Veach. The fall exhibitions run through November 14, 2026. In addition, a Tea & Talk presented by The Mather and lead by MPA Artistic Director Nancy Sausser is scheduled for September 30, 2026, at 11 a.m. Additionally, an Artist Talk is scheduled for October 29, 2026, at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

19th Annual Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. Join in a day of golf and fun. At Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Avenue, Clifton. Registration is now open. To register, visit www.erinpetersonfund.org.

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An independent, locally owned weekly
newspaper delivered to
homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Awesome Vehicles, Music, Food and Fun for Charity

FROM PAGE 4

ports. Jars for cash donations will also be available at the registration table and at the Lions Club food tent.

Event Co-Chairmen are Lions Club Past President Bill Poole and former City Councilmember Jeff Greenfield, with help from Mitzi Taylor and Deanna Payne of the Fairfax City Parks and Rec Department, plus the entire Clifton Lions membership.

"We also stuffed 300 new backpacks with school supplies for Fairfax City Schools students whose parents were unable to provide them," said Poole. "We then delivered them to the schools for distribution to these students."

"I've heard more stories this year about families going into debt for school supplies," added Greenfield. "So we're happy to know that what we do helps kids in need in our City schools." And that effort, as well as all the other programs funded in part by this Labor Day Car Show are made possible by the event's sponsors, volunteers, participants and spectators.

"Over 11,000 people attended last year," said Greenfield. "It's now the largest charity show in the Washington Metropolitan area. So when it comes together that day, all the trials and tribulations leading up to it fade away. And the money we raise for the nonprofits helps them budget and plan for their programs during the year."

More than 30 trophies will be awarded to the various vehicles, with most of the winners selected by the spectators viewing them. Participants will vote on the top cars, including Best of Show. There'll also be Kids', Ladies' and People's Choice trophies, one each for Best Motorcycle and Best Truck, and a Buddy Morrisette Memorial Trophy. Morrisette died in December 2016, but he helped put on this show for years.

All the voting will be done electronically. Every car will have a QR Code in its window, and people may just scan it on their phones to vote online for their favorites. The vehicle owners come from Maryland, North Carolina, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia and beyond to show their cars to an appreciative crowd.

"We had 424 vehicles on display last year, and we hope to get at least 15-25 more this year," said Poole. "If we do get 450, that would be a really good return on our investment of all the hard work that goes into putting on this show."

"Serving our community is the number-one motivation for me and for Jeff to keep doing this – and that holds true for the entire Lions Club membership," continued



At left, J.C. Alvarez and son Roman pose by this 1989 Ferrari 328 GTS last year.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Attendees last year look at the colorful classic cars in a lot off University Drive.

Poole. "The club's motto is 'We Serve,' and this car show is just one of the many projects we do that amplifies and reinforces our commitment to community service."

He said his favorite thing about it is "the 'mayhem' of the day of the event – the roar of the engines and the smell of the fumes. I also like seeing everyone walking around, looking at all the vehicles and having a good time together – especially the moms, dads and kids who are there enjoying the festivities."

As for Greenfield, he, too, loves "seeing how many families are there and hearing them talk about how grandpa used to have this particular car when he was young. That brings a smile to your face. You also see kids who've had Matchbox cars and then get to see the real versions of them here. This

event also brings people together. No matter what differences people may have, during this stretch of time, they can just set them all aside and come have fun at a car show."

The section of University Drive where the vehicles are displayed will be closed to traffic from 6 a.m.-3 p.m. But attendees will find lots of free parking available nearby, including in the City's multi-level parking garage, also on University, across from the library. For further information about the event, go to www.labordaycarshow.org.

Those unable to attend the event but wishing to help by making a contribution may do so either via PayPal at <https://www.labordaycarshow.org/make-a-donation> or by sending a check, payable to the Clifton Lions Club, to: Clifton Lions Club, P.O. Box 41, Clifton, VA 20124.

News With Which I Can Live



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After yet another monthly lab test, my oncologist responded with a brief electronic reply: "Cancer well controlled. Stable creatinine and liver function tests." Why this statement matters, other than the obvious is, that my health situation exists on two simultaneous tracks which unfortunately compound the treatment of either: stage IV papillary thyroid cancer and as a direct result of its previous treatment, stage IV chronic kidney disease. Two for the price of one, you might say, as I did say to the X-Ray tech when I had both a CT scan and MRI consecutively one visit, (I use that term 'visit' loosely). My lab tests measured the usual choices, but as soon as damage was done/creatinine level was too high, my oncologist stopped that original papillary thyroid cancer medicine and went on to plan (B), which I still remain on. (During the time I was being treatment for papillary thyroid cancer, I went to Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center for an evaluation/second opinion. Their thyroid cancer specialist doctor confirmed my papillary thyroid cancer diagnosis and agreed that I was on the best drug available for its treatment.)

However, like many medicines, they sort of have a shelf/effective life and are prescribed until they are no longer effective and another medicine/chemotherapy is recommended. This situation (changing medicines) is not so much a matter of if as it is when. In conjunction with recurring CT scans and MRIs, the indications from your regular lab work might indicate that something might be happening in your body and so changes are made to your treatment protocol, and this routine goes on and on and on (so long as you live on and on).

And since I wasn't promised a rose garden (much of a life/future in Feb. '09 when I was given a "13 month to two years" prognosis), I pretty much consider it a miracle that I'm still alive and take nothing for granted. Moreover, blips on scans and/or abnormal levels on my lab work are all just the cost of doing business, so to speak (remaining alive). As such, none of it really bothers me; it's more that it gets my attention and focus until the situation is addressed/hopefully resolved. The problem that persists is that none of this is guaranteed and most people's least favorite word is cancer is my most necessary word. And as you most of you should equate, cancer is the original "Big Dog," who rarely wants to get off the porch. As much as you (the patient) want to be in control of your life, a cancer diagnosis is the ultimate topsy turvy. Upside down is only the beginning. Whatever was before will never be again. You are a victim of your circumstance. And though there are many cancer patients in the world (heck, there are probably some on your street) from whom you might gain some strength and understanding, there are still times when you're on your own: as in receiving emails from your doctor with results of your recent lab work or scan. This moment is not for the faint of heart. And more often than not, you're by yourself when this kind of news appears on your computer/device.

Sometimes, very often in fact, I have been rewarded with the appearance and/or sound of my most favorite word: stable. I can live with stable. Moreover, I can live with uncertainty of not knowing what happens next. In addition, I can live with the monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly and hopefully even longer intervals between medical assessments I'll call them, to determine where me and my cancer stand in Kenny's world.

It's hardly an ideal existence but it's one I never expected, and one for which I'm eternally grateful.

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

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