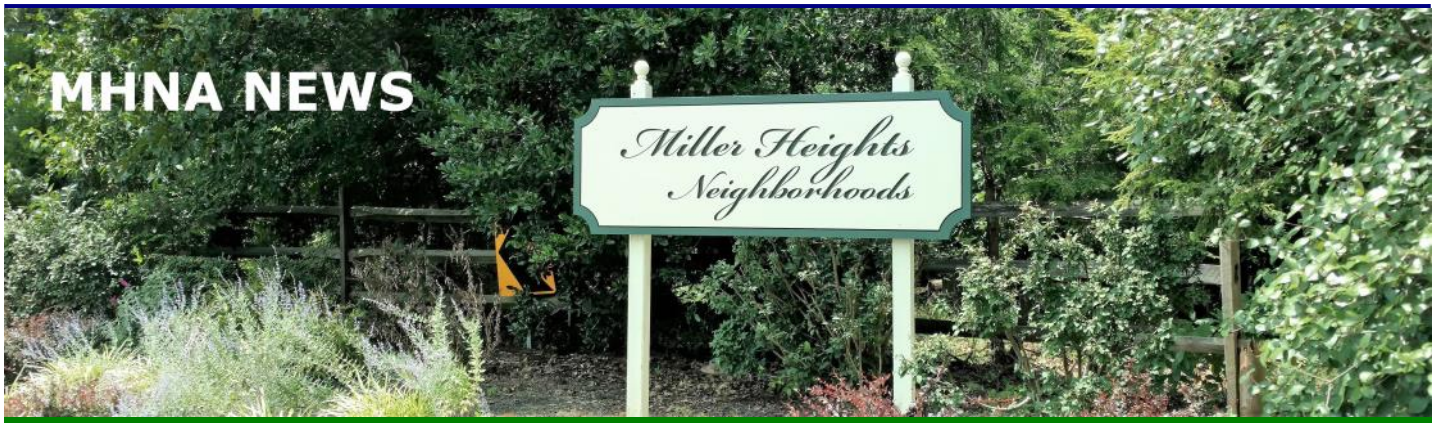

www.MHNAnews.com August 2025

A Message from the MHNA President

Dear Neighbors,

I write this from the hot soup of a late July in NOVA….but the weather may break before the newsletter flies! We were sad that we couldn't hold the Miller Heights BASH! in June…. BUT we've rescheduled for Saturday September 13th (with a Sunday rain date).

MHNA has been working with the County on some different projects to learn, inform residents, facilitate engagement, and in some cases advocate for neighborhood interests.

For the ATT site at 3033 Chain Bridge Rd, we worked with Options for Oakton (O4O), Greater Oakton Community Association (GOCA), Smart Growth for Oakton, and others to advocate for lower density and for addressing current and future traffic and transportation issues in Oakton that will be exacerbated by the project. Several Miller Heights residents were invited to participate in a Task Force to provide community input on the project: Hollye Doane, Nick Newberry, and me. The best resources to learn more about the project are here (or give me a call and I'm happy to discuss what I know).

Options for Oakton: https://www.optionsforoakton.org

Options for Oakton and Smart Growth for Oakton Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1570583073777721

County Rezoning Application Documents: https://plus.fairfaxcounty.gov/CitizenAccess/Cap/CapDetail.aspx?Module=Zoning&TabName=Zoning&capID1=REC23&capID2=00000&capID3=036SW&agencyCode=FFX&IsToShowInspection=

Developer (EYA) website: https://www.3033chainbridge.com

Because these groups advocated for addressing Oakton's current and future traffic problems, Supervisor Palchik funded a Chain Bridge Corridor Study to look at congestion, safety, and multimodal transportation issues in Oakton. The study is supposed to get started in the Fall and we expect to be heavily involved. If you would like to participate or share ideas, please contact me. There will surely be various forums to participate along the way.

For the Cinnamon Ridge Stormwater Pond, we worked with the community to advocate for common sense solutions that would avoid the County spending $1.5 million on a project that would kill over 120 large healthy trees in a small area of Difficult Stream Park at the NW corner of Langton Arms Ct. and Miller Heights Rd. The project has no notable environmental benefits and in fact addresses no real problem – the outfall structure and pipe need replacing but the pond is stable with relatively little water flowing through it. But the County has decided they must do something to comply with their MS4 permit.

They have offered a few less intensive alternatives (smaller construction area and less trees killed) and offered the community the option to make a choice or else they will go with their original, most intensive plan. We've done our best to reach out to the entire community with a focus on immediate/nearby residences to see if we can come to a general consensus on our response to DPWES. Please reach out if you need more information or to weigh in.

It's been a long time advocating for change at the Oakton Elementary School kiss and ride. The traffic backs up dangerously - with cars often trying to pass the line on a blind uphill stretch - for about 15 minutes every afternoon at about 3:50. The County has revisited the problem again after a few years and we are hoping for implementation of a solution this time around.

We held a joint meeting with GOCA earlier in the year to give neighbors a chance to talk to the County about property tax assessments. The meeting was the first at the Oakton Schoolhouse, which GOCA now operates with the County, and was informative and well attended.

Regarding traffic calming, we are in the design phase for the center medians and hope to have them installed by the Fall. These are landscaped medians and MHNA will be responsible for planting and maintaining them. If you'd like to contribute something to the median planting specifically that would be great…and this would be a great time to tell you that…

It's (still) time to pay your 2025 dues! We can't keep up the

(Continued on page 2)

Contacts

(Continued from page 1)

work we do without your support. Only $20 per year recommended donation! All of your MHNA board members have paid their dues – no free rides! And to make it easier we have created a new QUICKPAY BUTTON (WEBSITE LINK).

We are planning for MHNA elections in the Fall. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please let us know. More details to come. As always, I remind everyone to please let us know if you have any questions about what we are doing or have suggestions for what else we can do or how we can do things better. And if anyone wants to work on something in the neighborhood that fits the MHNA mission, let us know. We can always create a committee and support you in your efforts.

Doug Shuster
MHNA President president@mhnanews.com

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Our MHNA Website

As we mentioned in previous newsletters, the MHNA website is continually updated with new features and more information for you. The upgraded site is working very well and allows you to join MHNA and update your directory and sitter information yourselves. The **Member Portal** contains the MHNA Directory and the Sitter/Helper Directory. You can quickly pay your MHNA dues on the site and your information there can now be easily updated and accessed by you.

Check our website at www.mhnanews.com

To claim your household, register and update your profile and pay your dues, go to:

MHNA Member Portal Login - MHNA Membership Portal (mhnanews.com)

MHNA Board Officers

President	**Doug Shuster**
Vice President	**Michelle Cline**
Secretary	**Sammy Shuster**
Treasurer	**Abheshek Narain**
Communications	**Barry Ingram**

MHNA Committee Chairs

Membership	**Abheshek Narain**
Hospitality	**Patti Ogden & Marjorie Itkin**
Trails & Environment	**Sara Holtz**
Landscaping	**Judith Schneider-Fletcher**

Important Numbers

Emergency - Police, Fire, Medical)	911
Poison Control Poison Control (TTY)	1-800-222-1222 711
Police (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
Victim Assistance Network (Crisis Hotline)	703-360-7273
Animal Control	703-746-4774
Animal Shelter	703-830-1100
Fairfax County Fire Dept. Hdqtrs.	703-246-2126
Fairfax County Health Dept. (Code compliance)	703-324-1300
Fairfax County Health Dept. (sewer/septic)	703-246-2201
Fairfax Park Authority	703-324-8700
Fairfax Water Authority (after hrs. emergency)	703-698-5800
Hazardous Trees	703-324-1770
Household Hazardous Waste Infoline	703-324-5033
Miss Utility (underground utility marking)	1-800-552-7001
National Weather Service	703-652-1210
Storm Drainage Flooding (after hrs. emergency)	703-323-1211
VDOT (road hazards and conditions)	1-800-367-7623
Washington Gas emergency	703-750-1400
Power Outage (Dominion Power)	1-800-366-4357
Report Potholes (VDOT)	1-800-367-7623

Officer and Committee Updates

Please Slow Down!

We are still seeing far too many instances of drivers, especially on Miller Heights Road, exceeding posted speed limits. We have many neighbors walking and enjoying the fresh air along the roads, children playing throughout the neighborhood and contractors providing service to our residents. Over the years, we have had speed bumps and speed limit signs installed and have asked the FFX County police to place speed cameras in various locations now and then. Now, we have added more visible yard signs and speed humps to remind drivers to slow down .

Need service hours?

Join our effort to remove invasive plants from parkland in Miller Heights and replace them with native plants, for the benefit of local wildlife such as birds and pollinators/ butterflies.

Contact Sara Holtz at **sh12sh34@gmail.com** for upcoming dates.

Editor's Note: We really appreciate all our residents and other contributors for providing us with all the input for our MHNA Newsletter. Thank you!

Upcoming Nearby Events

Oakton Library Book Sale

August 24

Sunday 1 - 4.

https://www.friendsofoaktonlibrary.org

Chantilly Regional Library Book Sale

October 24 - 26

Dulles Expo Center Events

The International Gem & Jewelry Show

August 15—17

12 – 6 PM

The International Gem & Jewelry Show - Chantilly, VA (August 2025) Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite

Capital Arts and Craft Festivals

October 10-12

https://www.capitalartandcraftfestivals.com/

We Need YOUR Help!

We send out over **581** emails to our MHNA residents each time we have MHNA announcements, meeting notices, Newsletters, and other communications. Although we have **565** homes in Miller Heights, we only have email addresses for about **380** unique homes, since many homes have multiple email addresses and others have not supplied their email addresses. If you know some of your neighbors are not receiving our mailings, please suggest they provide their email addresses to us. They can provide this information by contacting us at: **info@mhnanews.com** or going to our website **www.mhnanews.com** for more information. When residents provide their information, such as address, phone numbers and email addresses, they have the option of keeping the information private if they prefer. We also see that many who are receiving the announcements and newsletters are not opening their emails or their emails may be going into their JUNK or SPAM folders.

You can help get the word out

Membership & Treasurer Update

by Abheshek Narain

Membership

As of August 2, 2025, Miller Heights Neighborhoods Association has seen a 25% increase in paid membership since late April 2024. Thank you to all for supporting MHNA !

We also see that over 250 have registered themselves and confirmed their residence via our site. Thanks to the reminder signs placed throughout the neighborhood by Judith Fletcher and email blasts from Barry Ingram, we continue to see an increase in your support.

However, with all of the new residents in the neighborhood, we urge you to reach out to your new neighbors and share with them the value of joining MHNA ((www.MHNAnews.com), re-register and submit the annual donations. Only through your outreach will they join and support the neighborhood events hosted by MHNA (e.g. upcoming neighborhood Bash), the efforts to work with Fairfax County on the entrance median for speed reduction, etc. Only together can we continue to keep our neighborhood as amazing as it is.

Below are some of a few highlights of our membership levels.

MHNA Membership as of August 02, 2025

	Total Membership Status
Total Eligible Households	564
Claimed	251 (44.4%)
Paid	164
Unpaid	87
Unclaimed	322 (55.6%)

Financials

Below is a quick overview of our financial reserves. Our largest expenses continue to be the cost to maintain the neighborhood entrance, including grass cutting (as its not maintained by the County), entrance sign maintenance, general landscaping, flowers, mulching, etc. as well as the upcoming neighborhood Bash. Without MHNA, the entrance would grow wildly and look unkempt.

For awareness ,we have provided a brief breakdown of MHNA's current account balance as of August 2 2025 current account balance:

	Current Balance (as of August 2 2025)
PayPal	$ 5,237.35
Checking (Truist)	$ 5,058.10
Total Reserves	$ 10,295.45

As always, if you have any updates to your contact information, please visit our new Membership portal (https://www.mhnanews.com/portal/login.php), or reach out to membership@mhnanews.com.

If you prefer to remit your donation by check, please feel free to submit payment to "Miller Heights Neighborhoods Association" P.O. Box 538, Oakton, VA 22124

Thank you for your continued support of the Miller Heights Neighborhoods Association and its goals and activities. We look forward to your engagement and the continued sharing of information about MHNA and our activities with your neighbors.

-Abheshek Narain - Treasurer & Membership Chair

Miller Heights Facebook Group

The **Miller Heights Neighborhoods Facebook group** is for residents of Miller Heights in Oakton, VA, to share news, information and upcoming events that might be of interest to our neighborhood. This closed group has grown to **626** members and it is still growing with lots of posts.

The MHNA Facebook group is a popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and videos, send messages and keep in touch with neighbors.

You can be invited to join by your neighbor or you can request to join yourself. Check (20+) Miller Heights Neighborhood | Facebook .

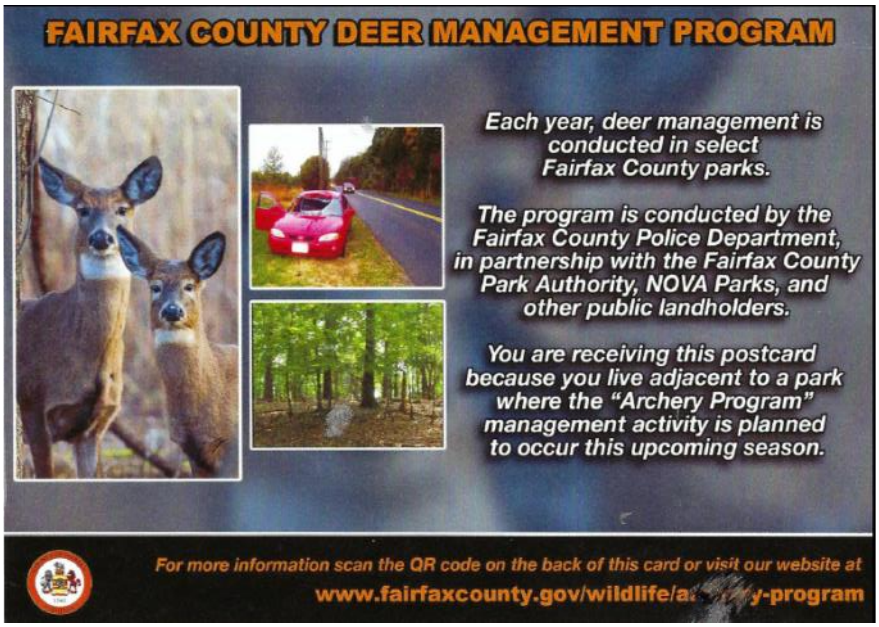
Nextdoor Miller Heights

Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. And, it's free. Nextdoor's mission is to use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods. **The Miller Heights Nextdoor group** has grown to **988** members as of now and it is growing every day, You can be invited by your neighbor or sign up directly on the website. The link to the site is : https://millerheightsva.nextdoor.com .

Note: This site might be improved if we were to restrict the membership to only Miller Heights residents.

The Miller Heights Social Club

The Miller Heights Neighborhood has another neighborhood group called the Miller Heights Social Club (MHSC). Originally called the Miller Heights Co-op, the organization was formed for families with young children. Over the years the group has changed focus to social events for families and adults of all ages. Our annual events are intended for neighbors to come together, get to know one another, and build relationships. Our events have included: Wine & Beer Tasting, Halloween Family Party & Chili Cook-off, Ladies Bunco Night, Men's Poker Night, Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, Holiday Cookie Exchange, Progressive Dinner, Spring Family Party, Summer Fiesta, and Family Pizza Party. To join visit: https://forms.gle/RmvgQgkq7YvE3Nvh9 or with questions email: millerheightssocialclub@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at a future event!



Oakton Nature Instagram Page
(@oakton_nature)

Check out this new Instagram account featuring beautiful photos & fun facts about nature in our amazing Oakton community.

- Follow us!
- Comment on our posts!
- Share your best photos of nature in Oakton (with or without captions) & we'll post them!
- Share Oakton_nature with nature enthusiasts!

(@oakton_nature) • Instagram photos and videos

instagram.com

To those of you on Instagram, check out our new account **@oakton_nature** & follow, like, comment, share our stories & posts. Message us through IG to share nature photos you take in Oakton

A Special Note on Trash and Recycling

There is a lot of very good and helpful information on handling your trash, composting and recycling at the following Fairfax County link for the Fairfax Recycles Newsletter:

Recycling and Trash | Public Works and Environmental Services (fairfaxcounty.gov)

MHNA has been a big supporter of recycling and composting, an effort that Sara Holtz has championed for our neighborhood.

Annual Miller Heights Coat Drive

The annual coat drive is happening!

Bring new or clean used coats to 3312 Saddlestone Court.

Bag and leave them on the stoop between October 30th and December 15th

Thanks

The Miller Heights Board

Our coat drive results in 2024

FARMERS MARKETS

Farmfresh Oakton Market

Open Saturdays 9am-1pm year round

Oakton United Methodist Church
2951 Chain Bridge Rd
Oakton, VA 22124

For more information

https://www.freshfarm.org/markets/oakton

Oakmont Farmers Market

Open Wednesdays, May 7 - October 29, 2025
8 am to noon

3200 Jermantown Rd

Oakton, VA 22124

For more information:

Oakmont Farmers Market | Park Authority (fairfaxcounty.gov)

NEWSLETTER NEWS

This is your newsletter. We want to get community event updates, block party news, general neighborhood news, questions and answers about issues, opinions (not political), and just neighborhood stories written by our residents. **If you have information, items of interest to our community, or human interest stories you would like included in the Newsletter, send it to us. Photos are always invited and welcome.**

If you do have input or ideas about content, contact Barry Ingram at: editor@mhnanews.com

Sign up for the Palchik Post: Signup Form (constantcontactpages.com)

A Message from Supervisor Dalia Palchik

Dear Miller Heights neighbors,

I hope you are enjoying the final days of summer and finding time to recharge and connect with loved ones before the school year begins. As always, #TeamProvidence is working hard to keep you informed and engaged in the many opportunities happening across the district and beyond. Below are a few updates and ways you can get involved:

Leaders to Leaders Quarterly Informational Sessions: My team is organizing virtual information sessions with presentations by county agencies and organizations on topics important to you and your communities. Kicking off in September (date TBD) with a focus on public safety, we have Fairfax County Departments of Transportation, Police, Public Works, and the Virginia Department of Transportation joining us. Additional details to come. Fill out this Presentation Feedback Form to help us plan for the next presentation!

Back to School Supply Drive: Now through September 5th, my office has partnered with several organizations to collect essential school supplies to ensure students have the tools they need to succeed in the classroom. All collected supplies will be distributed to students during the Providence Day and Back to School Celebration. More info on distribution coming soon.

Providence Day & Back to School Celebration: Mark your calendars! Join us for our annual Providence Day & Back to School Celebration on Saturday, September 20th from 10am to 1pm a t Marshall High School for a free, family-friendly event with community resources, live music, food, and fun!

Free Trees for Community Groups: Fairfax County is offering free native trees to community organizations this fall. You can find more information here.

Housing Fairfax 2025: Tysons and Beyond: The Tysons Community Alliance is hosting a forward-looking conversation about housing in Tysons and across Fairfax County. Find more info and register for the event here.

Back to School Immunization Clinics: Access the full schedule and list of locations here.

Thank you for the opportunity to share resources and support you. If my office can be of assistance, please reach out at Providence@fairfaxcounty.gov or (703) 560-6946.

With gratitude,

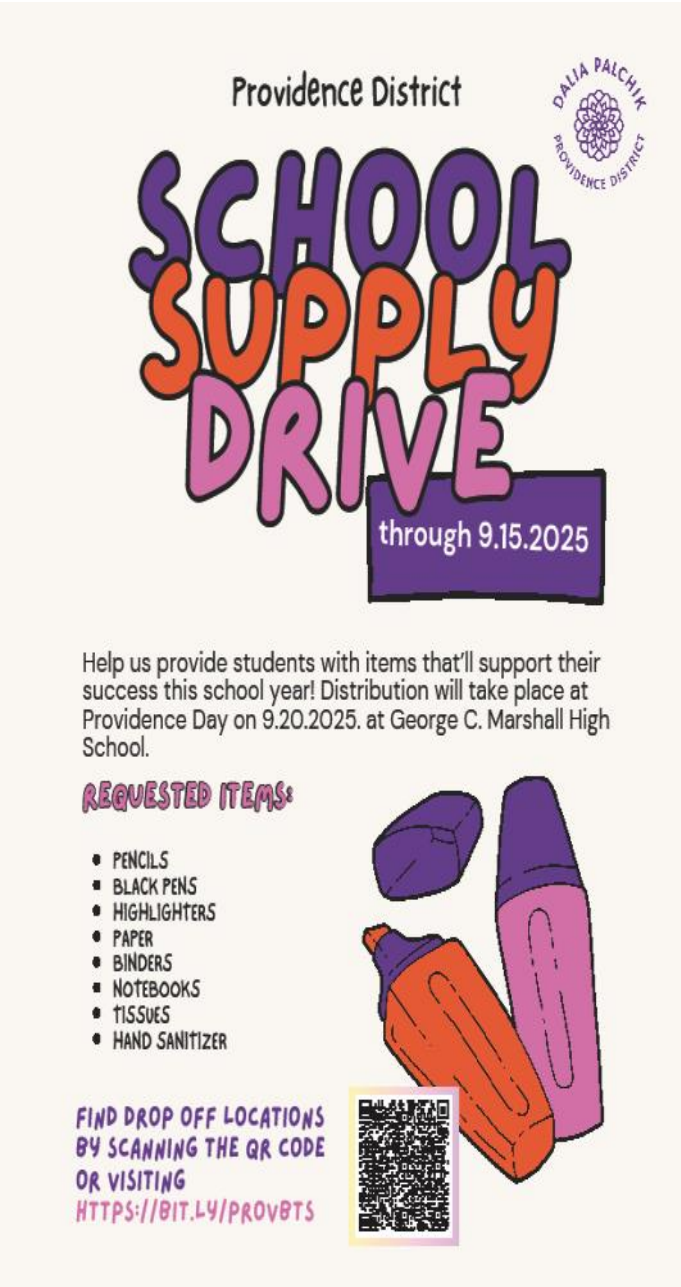
Dalia Palchik

Oakton Day in the Park

Submitted by Jackie Davey

Join us for the fifth annual Oakton Day in the Park! This free community festival is **Sunday, August 24, 1- 4 pm**, at the Oakton Community Park, 2841 Hunter Mill Road. There will be entertainment and activities for all ages including a large animal petting zoo, antique cars, a craft table, face painting and a children's book sale. In the schoolhouse, kids can join the Traveling Players in performing improvisational skits. Settle Down Easy Brewing Company, Taco Rock, Luciano Italian Restaurant and Ben & Jerry's will be serving local favorites. Parking will be available at both Unity Church of Fairfax and Oakton Library.

To make this event successful, we need volunteers. Volunteer shifts range from 1 hour to 1½ hours, so you will still have time to enjoy the other festivities. To volunteer, sign up here. Volunteering is a great way to meet your neighbors!



The Providence District office is hosting a Back to School Supply Drive in conjunction with the 2025 Providence Day and Back to School celebration. We'd love to provide students with materials that they need throughout the year such as writing tools, paper, highlighters, and other supplies. We're seeking partners who'd be interested in hosting a box onsite where community members can go to drop off donations.

Details:

- Collection can start as soon as you agree to partner. **The drive will run through September 5th** to allow us to prepare for distribution.
- We'll add your location to our working document so people know where they can drop off donations.
- We ask that you provide your own box. It doesn't have to be anything fancy! We will send a flyer that can be used to label it.
- We'll add your location to our working document so people know where they can drop off donations.
- We ask that you provide your own box. It doesn't have to be anything fancy! We will send a flyer that can be used to label it.
- If you're able to, we'd love for you to push the supply drive on your social media platforms, newsletters, or any other communication channels. We'll share a toolkit to make this easy.

The donations can be dropped off to our office at the Jim Scott community Center (3001 Vaden Dr.) or picked up by a Providence District team member.

Please confirm by **Friday, August 1st** if you're able to partner, as we're hoping to encourage donations during Virginia's Sales Tax Holiday (August 1- 3). If you need more time to decide or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.
Thanks so much for your consideration and partnership!

Joanna Fitzpatrick (she/her)
Office Manager & Scheduler
Office of Providence District Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik
3001 Vaden Drive Suite 218, Fairfax, VA, 22031
Main: (703) 560-6946 | Mobile: (571-460-9776)

YOU CAN HELP!

We are looking for a Miller Heights Host for the Providence District Back to School Supply Drive.

In conjunction with the 2025 Providence Day and Back to School celebration they will provide students with materials they need throughout the year such as writing tools, paper, highlighters, and other supplies. They are seeking partners who'd be interested in hosting a box at their home where community members can go to drop off donations.

Would anyone in Miller Heights like to host a collection for our community? If yes please contact MHNA or Supervisor Palchik's Office directly. If we don't get a Miller Heights host, GOCA is sponsoring a collection at the Oakton Schoolhouse.

Joanna Fitzpatrick (she/her)
Office Manager & Scheduler
Office of Providence District Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik
3001 Vaden Drive Suite 218, Fairfax, VA, 22031
Main: (703) 560-6946 | Mobile: (571-460-9776)

The drive runs through September 5th and the donations can be dropped off at the Jim Scott community Center (3001 Vaden Dr.) or picked up by a Providence District team member.

Fairfax County Parks

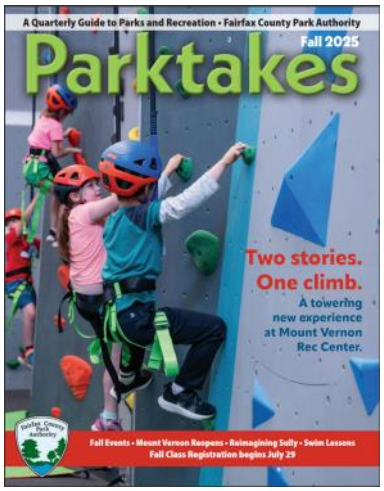
Looking for things for you or your family to do? Classes to take? Recreation or exercise? Well, take a tour through the Parktakes Fall Guide from the Fairfax County Park Authority. Of course, the Oakmont Recreation Center is the closest one to Miller Heights. You can also view the guide at the Park Authority website: https:www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes

Outdoor, indoor and virtual class options are available in a wide range of interest areas including:

Choose from a variety of options and formats:

- Outdoor and indoor fitness classes
- Learn to swim group lessons and private lessons
- Children's and adult classes
- Summer Camps
- Nature & history programs
- Sports
- Scouting
- Golf lessons
- Gardening
- Virtual classes and camps – Fitness, nature, music, drama, coding
- Astronomy

The fitness centers offer a wide variety of cardiovascular machines, including treadmills, ellipticals and bikes, most with personal television viewing screens. For strength training, we have several lines of Cybex and Free Motion strength training machines as well as free weights.



GOCA Update

(Greater Oakton Community Association)

Dear Oakton Neighbors and Friends,

Many of us moved to Oakton because we were attracted to the overstory of trees and this summer we need that shade more than ever! While you enjoy the shade, here are some updates including the latest news about the resubmitted EYA rezoning proposal for redeveloping the AT&T site and Oakton Day on August 24th!

See our website at: www.greateroakton.com

Community News

- Update on AT&T Site Development
- Oakton Transportation Study and County Budget for Transportation Improvements

GOCA News

- Countdown to Oakton Day!
- New Committee for Historic Schoolhouse
- Vandalism in Oakton Community Park
- New Signs Encouraging Cleanup After Dogs in Park
- Seeking Your Support for Local Students

Other Items

- Interactive Map of Art in Fairfax County
- Local Push to Create Pollinator Pathways
- Spotlight on a Unique New Oakton Venue
- Spotlight on a Community Nonprofit: CHO
- Upcoming Sessions to Remove Invasive Plants

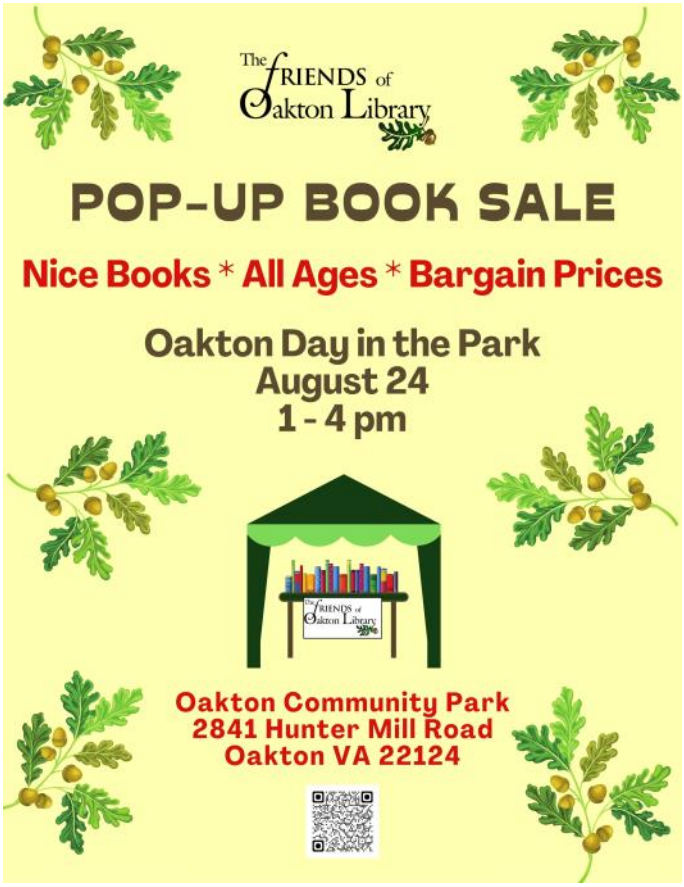
Community News

Update on AT&T Site Development. On July 22nd, EYA released its new application for rezoning, which can be found at Zoning Application RZ/FDP 2023-PR-00020 (PLUS link). To review the updates to the plan, EYA will host a public community meeting on Wednesday, August 27th at 7 pm at the Jim Scott Community Center. Our local community groups are still reviewing the just-released revised plans–please watch for further analysis from GOCA, Options for Oakton and Smart Growth for Oakton. EYA invites you to send questions or comments to EYA, and we encourage you to reach out to Supervisor Palchik and Commissioner Hancock with your feedback.

Oakton Transportation Study and County Budget for Transportation Improvements. As we have reported, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation is conducting a study of the traffic corridor stretching a mile in any direction from the planned EYA development. Supervisor Palchik arranged for funding of this study as part of the agreement to change the Comprehensive Plan to permit the new development. The traffic study is underway but will not be completed until sometime next year. Unfortunately, the County is currently making decisions on its budget for transportation improvements for the next

(Continued on page 10)

FRIENDS OF THE OAKTON LIBRARY



The Friends of The Oakton Library will be holding its Pop-Up Book Sale on August 24 from 1-4 PM. At the Oakton Community Park. We could use your donations! We welcome your gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and puzzles. Come and shop for the family. Stock up on kids books, and great reads from current fiction to vintage classics, from non-fiction to memoir and biography. All profits support programming at the Oakton Library and help purchase materials for the county library system. Think of us when you clear out your bookshelves. You may bring up to three bags or boxes per day to the donations cart in the library foyer.

There are plenty of other events going on at the Oakton Library to fill your summer days with fun!

Events - The Friends of Oakton Library

https://www.friendsofoaktonlibrary.org

Mary Colombi - VP Friends of the Oakton Library

GOCA Update (Continued)

(Continued from page 9)

The GOCA Board

Lauren Crum and Shelley Deutch, Co-Chairs Linda Byrne, Jackie Davey, Mark Deaton, Janet Kerr-Tener (Founding Co-Chair), Kris Olsen, Robin Thurman, Gary Wong and Albert Wu
Linda Byrne, Jackie Davey, Mark Deaton, Janet Kerr-Tener (Founding Co-Chair), Kris Olsen, Robin Thurman, Gary Wong and Albert Wu

GOCA is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, and 100% of your donations go to our community efforts. To donate, please visit our PayPal link. If you would like to become more actively involved, email us at contact@greateroakton.com and we can match you with the right opportunity.

See our website at: www.greateroakton.com

Oakton Community Library Hours

Monday & Tuesday - 10 am to 9 pm
Wednesday through Saturday - 10 am to 6 PM

BOOK DONATION INFORMATION

Your book donations help to finance Oakton Library's programs and FCPL's collections as a whole.

The Oakton Public Library is grateful for all the support from our Miller Heights neighbors.

When donating used books please note:

- donations should be in good to excellent condition
- there is a limit of 3 grocery sized bags or small boxes per donation
- all donations should be left on the green cart just inside the Oakton Library lobby

Visit The Friends of the Oakton Library

Home - The Friends of Oakton Library

TRAILS & ENVIRONMENT

Submitted by Sara Holtz

Let's create a huge Pollinator Pathway in Miller Heights

Let's make our neighborhood safe for the pollinators (butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, etc.), using our own yards & parkland for their shelter!

Complete this form to join our Miller Heights Pollinator Pathway

Pollinator Pathways

- Are corridors for wildlife to move around safely
- Provide food and shelter
- Connect healthy yards to natural areas.

Pollinators thrive best in large, connected areas where they can move around freely - finding shelter, mates, nesting areas, food, and water - and where they are safe from chemicals. When neighbors work together, they can join their yards to create pollinator pathways.

How do you join our Miller Heights Pollinator Pathway?

- **Don't use insecticides.** These chemicals kill pollinators.
- **Preserve and plant native plants.** Local pollinators need the plants that evolved here to survive.

Complete this Pollinator Pathway form to join

Participants can order this 7.5" yard sign to promote this initiative & encourage others.

FAQs

What are pollinators?

Pollinators are animals that help plants reproduce by moving pollen from one flower to another. They include butterflies, moths, bees, ants, beetles, flies, hummingbirds, and more.

Why help the pollinators?

About 90% of plants need pollinators to reproduce. Without them, many plants would disappear. That would hurt the whole environment, including birds, animals, and even humans. Pollinator numbers are dropping fast. The main reasons are insecticides and habitat loss.

What's wrong with spraying for mosquitoes?

Chemicals that kill adult mosquitoes and ticks - including products that call themselves "natural" or "safe" - also kill any other insect and thus cause serious damage to the ecosystem. Plus, mosquito spraying is expensive and not as effective as other control methods. Don't attract bees and butterflies to your yard just to wipe them out with chemicals!

How else can you help?

- Avoid using other outdoor chemicals.
- Plant many different native flowers so something blooms in every season.
- Plant a native tree. Trees provide more benefits than any other plant.
- Leave leaves on the ground to shelter pollinators in winter.
- Leave some bare soil—some bees nest in the ground.
- Remove invasive plants—they crowd out the native ones that pollinators need.

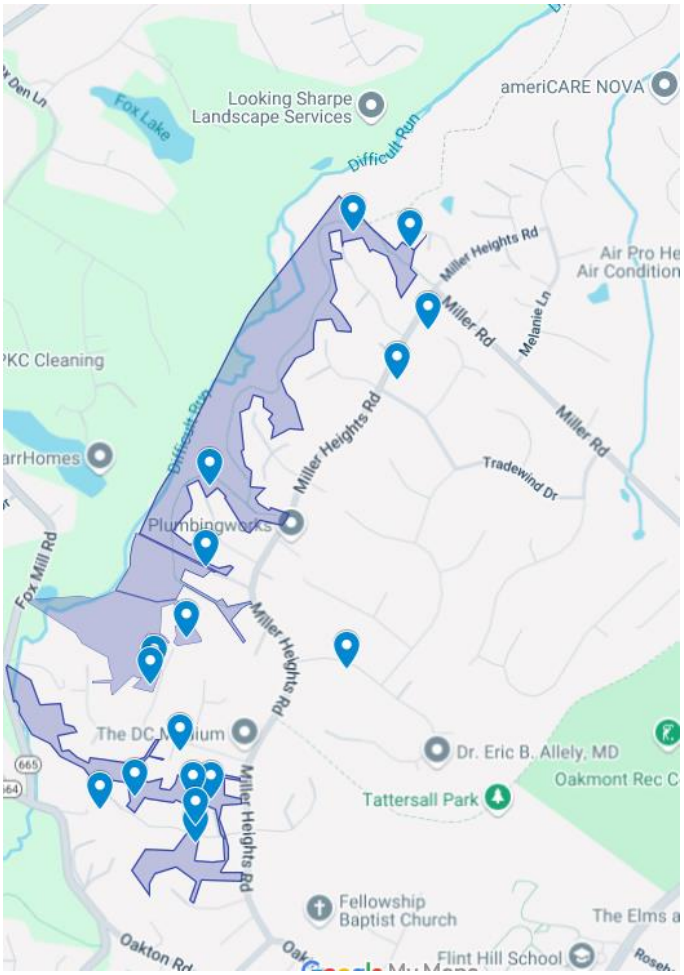
Make your lawn smaller—turfgrass lawns offer nothing for pollinators.

Complete this form to join our Miller Heights Pollinator Pathway

Who already joined?

See the map on the following page **map of properties** that already took the pledge.

Pollinator Pathways



TRAILS & ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)

Habitat Restoration

Thanks to our dedicated park volunteers who have been with us since we started our Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area (FCPA IMA) site in April 2017. A very special thanks to site leaders Tucker Newberry and Nick Newberry for their years of service to our community & parkland. Shout out to Ken Quincy, longtime Providence District representative to the FCPA Board and State Senator Saddam Salim who attended our IMA sessions this spring!

Volunteers with State Senator Saddam Salim

Ken Quincy, Providence district rep to the Fairfax County Park Authority board

TRAILS & ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)

Inspiration for Planting Native Plants This Fall

Fall is the best time of year to plant. To avoid the ecological & economic damage caused by non-native invasive plants, select native trees & plants, which benefit local wildlife, climate & the environment. The images below give some suggestions for native plants that are excellent alternatives to non-native invasive plants that are currently causing damage to our Miller Heights neighborhood & parkland

If you think you have any of the non-native invasive plants pictured in these photos or need assistance with identification or removal of non-native invasive plants, the three Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area (FCPA IMA) site leaders in Miller Heights (Tucker, Nick & Sara) would be happy to visit your property.

TRAILS & ENVIRONMENT

Submitted by Sara Holtz

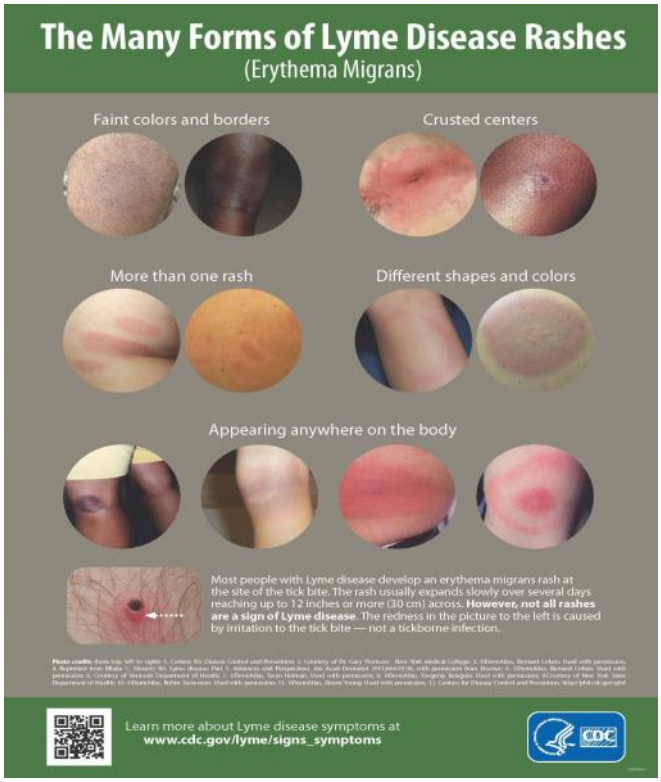
Register at https://volunteernow.volunteerfairfax.org/custom/1427/opp_details/182492?slotid=1857720250817

This is an excellent way to contribute to habitat restoration in Miller Heights and complete service learning hours for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), conservation hours for Scouting America & green or government hours for the Girl Scout Silver Trefoil. For FCPS students, if you complete 40 hours of service learning during high school you can receive a gold cord to wear on your graduation gown.

Lyme Disease in Fairfax: What to Know and How You Can Stay Protected

Lyme disease is the most reported tick-borne disease in the Fairfax area with 80 cases reported so far in 2025. Keep yourself and your loved ones protected by:

- Recognizing the symptoms of Lyme disease
- Practicing tick-free landscaping
- Using insect repellent
- Dressing in long, light clothing
- Performing tick checks
- Know how to correctly remove and attached tick



https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/lyme-disease-fairfax-health-district-what-to-know-how-you-stay-protected

Wind. More wind. And Bluebells

By Farmer Brown (Gordon)

Promises of Pawpaws and Prickly Pears

Greetings Garden Enthusiasts! As we swelter in the crucible of summer reminiscing in the memory of a delightful spring, it's the perfect time to reflect on our gardening successes and share some valuable tips to enhance your green spaces.

First off, is the usual recommendation to remove invasive ground covers and embrace wood chips. Periwinkle and pachysandra, while popular ground covers, are invasive and difficult to manage. It's taken years to remove these from my property, and I continue to fight the persistent Fish Mint (Houttuynia Cordata). Replacing these invasive plants with wood chips offers numerous benefits. Wood chips help retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and add organic matter to the soil as they decompose. They also provide a clean and tidy appearance for your garden beds, making them look well-maintained and inviting. I highly recommend using Chip Drop, a wood chip company that offers a "Chip Drop" service. Wood chips are not only better than traditional mulch but also a more cost-effective option. They break down slowly, enriching the soil over time and providing long-lasting benefits to your garden. There is one catch though… the drop could be any size and happen at any time so be aware of this.

To be fair though… I've again spent more than I really should have on plant purchases but, obviously with an eye to the future, I am hoping the perennials will seed and fill in the bare areas. But gardening doesn't have to be expensive. Splitting ferns, planting bulbs, and perennials are excellent ways to save money while expanding your garden. These activities not only help you propagate plants but also ensure a diverse and vibrant garden without breaking the bank. Speaking to folks in the neighborhood who may be willing to part with some of their own plants is another great way to save money – I've got a few shout outs later in the letter. This allows you to learn from master gardeners about which plants will thrive or not thrive, which plants are great propagators, and what plants look like in a flower bed.

Oh man! How about these invasive lantern flies, which are ridiculously quick jumpers! I find they're best controlled using BB pellets. Lantern flies are particularly fond of fruit trees, especially my grape vines so I do regular checks and kill these pests on sight. I'm very concerned that their presence will lead to significant damage, affecting the health and yield of my vines.

Benefits of Cone Flowers and *Echinacea*

Cone flowers and *Echinacea* are not only beautiful but also beneficial plants for your garden. They attract pollinators like bees and butterflies, which are essential for a healthy ecosystem. I've done what I can to bring more natives into my yard to help provide fodder for bees and hummingbirds. I plan to do more next year to really bring color to my yard

So what new garden additions have I done this season? Well, I was challenged to and put in a dedicated asparagus bed which

promises fresh, home-grown asparagus for years to come. Next a basil bed, started from seed has been perfect for all our culinary needs. Also, I've been able to expand my Eastern Prickly Pears' which are boasting fruit in their 2nd year!!

Additionally, I've prepared mushroom logs with chicken of the woods mushroom plugs, offering a unique and delicious harvest in probably 2-3 years. Speaking of waiting a long time to get a harvest, my Pawpaw's have finally turned up and this year looks promising with one tree currently laden with nearly 50 fruits!

Finally, I spent time revamping a berry patch, now arranged in accessible rows of thimble berries, raspberries, wineberries (gasp, shock, horror), logan berries and blackberries which have been most prolific this year.

Now I have to put in a word to encourage plant and seed swaps in our community.
Gardening engagement is vital for a thriving gardening community so I encourage everyone to participate in plant swaps and seed swaps. Personally, I'm very grateful to Bob for the beautiful iris' he's given me along with several other delightful plants. Matt and Heather have also been very generous with bee balm, ferns, forest grasses and sun drops – thank you so much. Passionate gardeners like these folks have shared some tremendous gardening insights and inspired me to up my game this year! Thank you!!

Quick punt to join our Miller Heights Facebook Gardening Group (Miller Heights Garden Club | Facebook) to stay updated on upcoming swaps and connect with other gardening enthusiasts. These events are a fantastic way to share your gardening successes, some laughs, options to exchange plants and seeds, and learn from fellow gardeners.

Let's continue to nurture our gardens and share the joy of gardening with others. Happy gardening!

Submitted by Barbara Rogers - A New Book

The Metamorphosis of Bunny Baxter is about a girl who lives here in northern Virginia who is fascinated by insects and their importance in our environment. She also has to face something that happens frequently in our school district – redistricting!

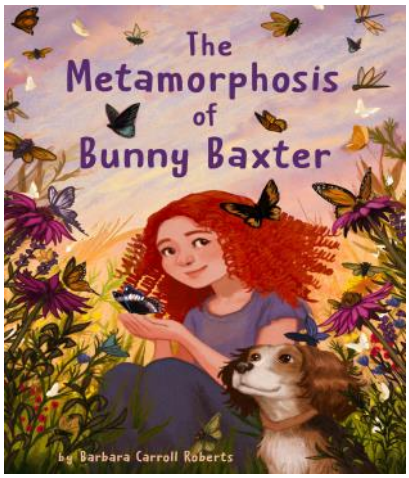
The book has received a couple of starred reviews and is a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection.

Signed copies can be ordered at Bards Alley Bookstore in Vienna or at Scrawl Books in Reston, and I'll be speaking at Scrawl Books on September 14. (I'll also be speaking at Bards Alley on Aug. 2, but it sounds like the newsletter will come out after that.)

My family has lived here in Miller Heights since 1998. My kids went through our public schools, and I spent MANY hours volunteering in classrooms and in the PTA, as well as substitute teaching at Waples Mill. I started writing children's books when our youngest was in college. This is my third published children's book, and I have another coming out next year.)

Thanks,

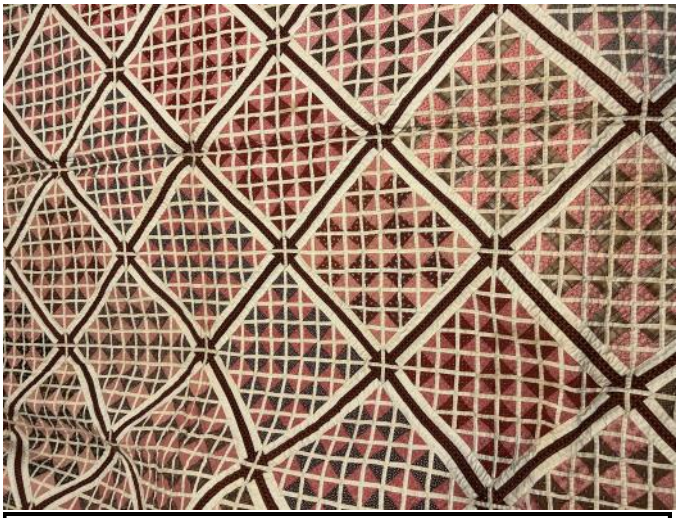
Barbara Roberts (Author)



Process vs Product, why do you make things?

By Beth Eltinge

Several years ago I was talking with a fellow quilting enthusiast and she told me about a useful way of thinking about the creative process. It was a concept with rising popularity in the quilting world. When one sets out to make a quilt, what is the primary motivation for starting the project? Is it the desire to have a new quilt for a bed, a new wall hanging, a baby gift, or is it a love for the process of making the quilt and a desire to see what will happen with a new technique or pattern? Some quilters might focus on perfection, trying to create a perfect finished piece with perfectly formed points. Others might prioritize the process, experimenting with new ideas and just enjoying the journey of working with fabric. For many people it is a balance of the two, process and product, but the question remains, what is the primary driving force for starting? I confess I am highly process driven. Others are highly product driven.



This quilt was made by family cousins, I am not entirely sure of the exact connection. It is a beautifully hand pieced and hand quilted lattice quilt that showcases historic fabrics. **I value this quilt because of the product created.**

In addition to quilting I also enjoy beadwork. I started teaching myself beading techniques a little over twenty years ago, and for a long time my primary reason for starting a new project was to learn a new technique. The finished product often has little interest to me other than as a fond memory of making it. I have more necklaces and bracelets than I will ever wear, but I got a great deal of satisfaction making them. One year for my birthday I asked my daughter-in-law to pick out a kit from a certain designer so I could make it for her. Her gift to me was giving me the excuse to buy a new kit and learn a new technique. I ended up making the bracelet from the kit, then making four more bracelets with an adaptation of the pattern using supplies from my stash. She got five new bracelets and I got a lot of fun beading time.

These two pictures show a current work in process. I am not sure where this will end up.

Note: See more related photos and explanations on the following pages.

I think this process and product analogy applies in other areas as well. When I am pulling weeds I am motivated to have a nice looking bed without weeds, but I also can enjoy the process of pulling the weeds out by the roots and tossing them aside. When I prepare a meal, I am driven by the desire of a

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good finished product, a nice meal to share with others, but I also enjoy the process of looking through recipes and planning what to make. I have a friend who seeks out recipes which require a lot of chopping because she loves the process of chopping things with a good knife.

I have also been thinking about my grandfather. He loved to collect things. Among the things I remember him collecting were certain china patterns, spoons from each of the states, plates representing each of the presidents, mustache coffee and tea mugs, antique silver and cut glass items. He had these items nicely displayed in his home, and he enjoyed that, but what he really enjoyed was tracking down these different items. When we tried to sell one of his large china collections, we could not find any buyers for it. Most collectors of china or silver do not want to buy someone else's collection, they want to strike out and find pieces one by one on their own.

My grandfather also spent a lot of time collecting post marks from every post office in the United States. He did not collect stamps, he collected postmarks. Friends from all over the

For me the value of this quilt is in the process. I do not like the colors and the workmanship is not great. It was made by my grandmother when she lived with my parents during her declining years with dementia. My mother pulled out some old fabric she was unlikely to ever use and cut and pinned pieces for my grandmother to hand sew. To me it represents a loving daughter trying to help her mother feel useful.

country would send him used envelopes with canceled stamps. He carefully cut them out and glued them to large poster boards, which he bound into books. The books were sorted by state. After he died my mother had no idea what to do with them. She moved them to her home, and put out inquiries to the post office and others to see if anyone wanted them. She ended up reluctantly throwing them out. This was a project my grandfather spent years on. There were many thousands of post offices with unique post marks for him to collect. He derived a lot of pleasure figuring the best way to organize it all, and making sure he tracked down all the post offices in

These two pictures show a current work in process. I am not sure where this will end up.

This piece was made over several years. I was curious to see what would happen if I felted a piece of spiral knitting. I had it on a shelf for several years and finally made something with it.

each state. I can remember watching him work. The smell of rubber cement always reminds me of him carefully gluing the postmarks in his books. To my mind, the true value of what he did was in the joy the process gave him.

I think this paradigm also works for reading books. The members of my neighborhood book club tease me because they know I like to read the ends of books before I get to them. I love a good murder mystery, but I usually will read a portion of the book, then take a peek at the end to find out "who done it." I find this relaxes me and allows me to enjoy the process of how the author leaves a trail of clues and also tries to mislead with red herrings. I once naively assumed this was how everyone read books. During the height of the Harry Potter books, we had a friend who would buy the books, but not have time to read them right away, so she would loan them to our family to read first. There is one where a major character dies (spoiler alert, it is Dumbledore). There was a lot of buildup to this

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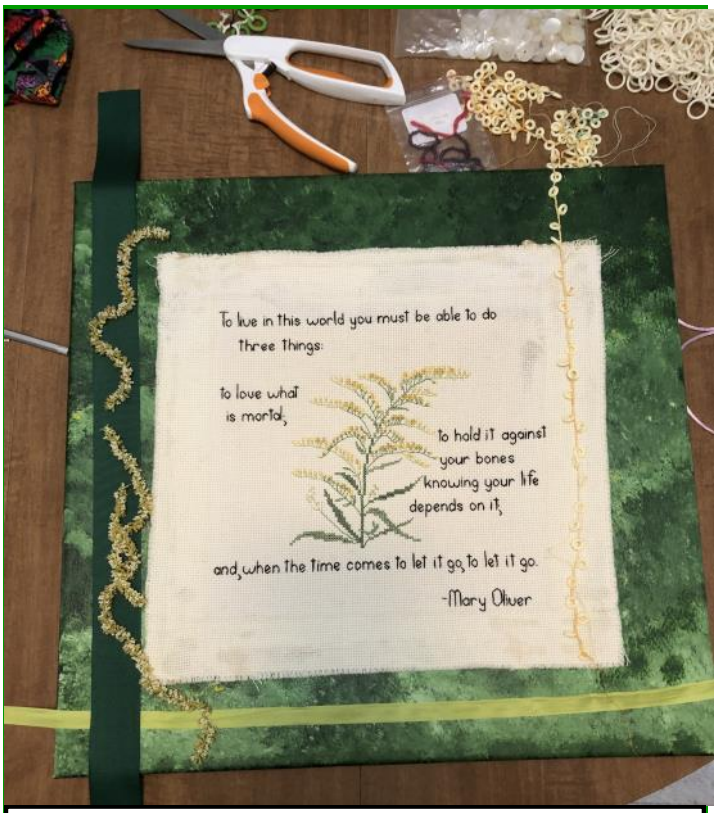
book, and a lot of publicity about the death of a major character. Shortly after starting the book, I thumbed ahead to find out who died. Once I knew, I could sit back and enjoy reading the book. When I returned the book to my friend, I helpfully informed her that it was Dumbledore who died. She looked horrified and said "No, don't tell me." I truly thought I was doing her a favor.

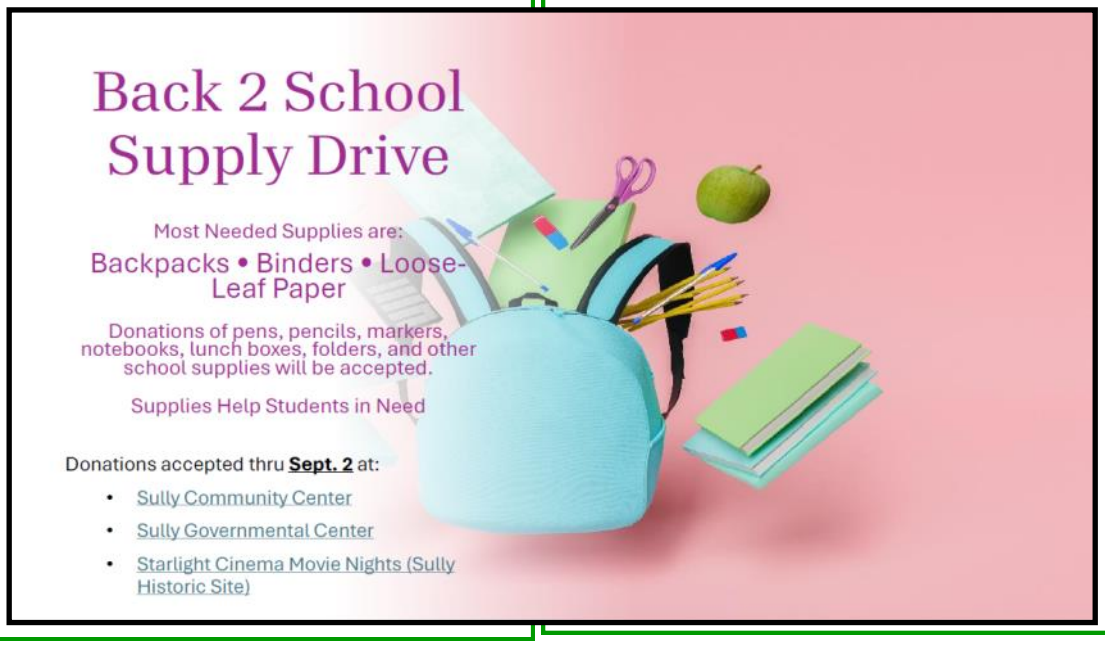
A problem with being highly process driven is I end up with a lot of "UFOs" (UnFinished Objects) or "WIPs" (Works in Progress). I am always eager to start a new project, to test out an idea, to see if something will work using a different technique, or find a new way to create texture or a new color combination. I will often work on a beading or knitting project until it is around 90 per cent finished and I see how it is going to turn out, then I want to set it aside and try something new. This creates a lot of clutter for me. A highly product driven person might feel the need to finish one project before starting the next and plug dutifully along on something that gives them no joy. As with many things, I think it reasonable to try to find some sort of balance between the two. It is good to savor the creative exploration of new processes while also completing projects that can be enjoyed and shared.



My mother made five cross-stitch pieces of the state flowers for the five states she lived in. Nobody wanted them after she died, so I took her completed product apart and made something new with it. I took the pieces out of the frames, embroidered poetry on them, mounted them on a canvas I painted, and embellished with beadwork I thought fit her stitching

Sully Back 2 School Supply Drive

The Sully District office is participating in a school supply drive. Attached is a flyer listing the supplies needed and we would appreciate it if you could distribute it to residents. While we can't go door to door, if your community would like to serve as a collection point, our office would be happy to pick them up. The supplies will be distributed by Neighborhood and Community Services. Thank you.



A MHNA Resident's Guide to Cocktails

By: Jeffrey Ziebarth, PhD

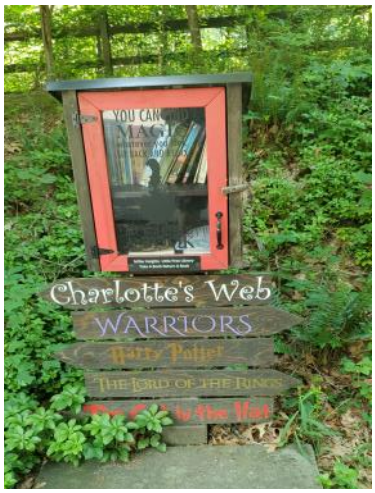
It was not long after moving to this neighborhood about 3 years ago that I got into mixing cocktails. It has since become for me a rewarding hobby. I'm a scientist by training and very quickly I started treating my bar like a chemistry lab and seeing the whole enterprise as an exercise in process engineering, so I thought it would be fun to share the lessons and tricks I learned with my fellow neighbors. As far as hobbies go, the initial capital cost is relatively low and, once you're up and running, you'll be happy to discover like I did that you can make drinks of the same or better quality than your favorite bar or restaurant downtown for far less than $18 a drink. And with the dog days of August fast approaching, there couldn't be a more opportune time to pick up a new skill and impress your friends and relatives alike with a refreshing cocktail. Let's talk bartending!

Click here to read the full guide, complete with shopping lists, tips and recipes!

Our Little Libraries

By Barry Ingram

Have you visited our Little Libraries on Cranbrook Lane or the one near the Miller Heights Rd Difficult Run Stream Valley Trail entrance recently? Lots of good books in there- some for you and some for the Kids. You can borrow or donate good books and magazines for both youths and adults.



Woodworkers in Miller Heights?

By Barry Ingram

Are the many woodworkers in Miller Heights? I mean hobbyists, just beginners, experienced or even professionals.

Well, I know there are at least a few. Do you have a shop in your home with all the equipment you would like to have?

Do you also know that there are several woodworking clubs here in northern Virginia, and some even pretty close to Miller Heights. Examples are The Washington Woodworkers Guild and the Manassas Woodworkers Club.

There are also some good woodworking shops with all kinds of good equipment and open to the public at reasonable cost in the area.. Examples are the Woodworking Shop at the Reston Community Center.

(https://restoncommunitycenter.com/) or Nove Labs right here Oakton. (https://portal.nova-labs.org).

Both of these sites have experienced woodworkers to guide and assist you in your projects.

Come join us!

In The Beginning

By John Davey

A remembrance from the start of the Miller Heights Neighborhood in 1976 and 1977

In the Summer of 1976, just after the Nation's Bicentennial, we were looking for a new home. We had made every improvement we could do to the little ranch house in Springfield Estates without pricing the place out of the neighborhood. One Sunday afternoon, we drove out I-66 to visit some friends who lived off Hunter Mill Road in Oakton.

Taking the ramp off I-66 to Route 123, the first thing we passed on the right was the old Mount Vernon style building that housed the Flint Hill School. Later, that building was hoisted on large airplane tires and moved across Rt 123 to its current location. There was a largish golf driving range immediately north of that building - where the AT&T building now stands.

The original Oakton Oak - a large, old, sickly tree - stood on the northwest corner of Jermantown Road, across from the driving range. That's where the Flint Hill School is now located. That tree was later removed, and a couple of other oak trees have since been renamed as the new Oakton Oak. The Oakton Elementary School (still standing) was further north on 123, also on the west side of the road. A small two bay Exxon service station was located a short way further north on the east side of 123, next to the original small, white Methodist church with the green roof. That small Exxon, owned and operated by a gentleman named Leo Cook, stood on the location of the now larger gas station.

The Oakton Post Office was originally located in a small grouping of nondescript buildings on the southwest corner of Hunter Mill Road and 123 - all later torn down for the current strip mall. The post office was later relocated to the end section of that new strip mall on Miller Road. The northwest corner of Hunter Mill Road featured a cluster of small, dark brown buildings that housed Appalachian Outfitters - an independent camping and hiking store. The largest of these buildings had been the original Oakton School and had flint chalk boards still mounted under wood wainscoting. That merchant was easily recognizable by a large canoe mounted on the side of the building. The Outfitters buildings were demolished to make way for the new bank building.

To get back to my story, our friends off Hunter Mill were not home, and as we traveled back on RT 123, we noticed a small hand made sign that said "New Colonial Homes" at the corner of Miller Road. Pat Cross' white house was at the corner of Miller Road and 123. That house was also later lifted onto airplane tires and moved to its present location at the corner of Miller Road and Wilson Avenue. Almost all of the land behind Oakton Elementary was just empty field at that time.

if you can believe it, Miller Road was in terrible shape at that time. It was only two-thirds as wide as it is now, and there were numerous spots where the roadbed had just disintegrated. On a number of stretches on the road, only one side of the car wheels would be on pavement and the other side would be traveling through a mishmash of crushed asphalt, rock, and dirt. Oncoming traffic would have to stop on both ends of the disturbance and take turns passing the obstacle..

Heading west on the hills on Miller Road, the development off Elmendorf was many years in the future. Fairfax County historians say that Confederate skirmishers would camp out in the fields now covered by the Elmendorf development. Just before you got to Elmendorf Road, on the south side of Miller Road, the old Miller farmhouse was located on the rise above the small pond. There was consternation about saving the farm house for history. Arguments went back and forth until a fire destroyed the place one night.

Right at the top point of Miller Road, a man named Smitty lived with his dog in a small house (with an outhouse) on the south side of the road - just east of where Melanie Lane intersects with Miller Road. For a couple of years, Smitty was the handyman of choice for the development. He was able to do almost any job and do it reasonably and correctly.

We soldiered on along Miller Road, past the point where it finally widened, and where it stopped at the intersection with an unpaved Miller Heights Road. A small trailer was located across the north (right) side of Miller Heights, and the unpaved road stretched southwards (left). A real estate agent named Fran Barrett was in the trailer, and she showed us the plans for the development which to this day is still officially identified as Cinnamon Ridge.

The roads in the new development were unpaved and only a few houses south on Miller Heights and down Devenish Drive were under construction. Fran showed us pictures and floor plans of the models and told us the location of other developments where the builder had completed similar homes. The builder for this north end of Miller Heights was RJL Builders (Robert J. Lewis). We drove slowly south on Miller Heights and then down Devenish Drive to see the construction. At that early time, 11014 and 11019 Devenish were the two houses furthest along in construction for the development - actually under roof decking, but without shingles. Both of these houses became the builder's models for a time, but those changed after more accessible houses were finished along Miller Heights.

We went through the houses under construction, and we were impressed with the quality of the work. The basement walls and floor were poured concrete, and the basic framing work was much, much better than other developments we had visited. The lots were mostly half acre - to accommodate septic fields - and most of the lots still had mature trees. The development was surrounded by parkland (actually flood plain), and the overall architectural plan was called "rural suburban." The RJL part of what would come to be known as Miller Heights Development stretched southwards as far as just to the north of Blue Roan Road.

We were pretty much sold on the development. It fit all of the prerequisites that we had listed for a new home. It took us a while to finally sign a contract, but the decision was made, and we were soon to be some of the original owners. I still think of my place as "My New House" even though it is fast approaching it's fiftieth anniversary. Moving in and a slightly skewed history of the first years in the Miller Heights Neighborhood are a story for another day.

Hammerhead Worms

Submitted by Lauren Stratton

Good afternoon,

This is by no means a fun update, but I do think it'd be helpful and important information to share. We live on Miller Heights Rd and have been having trouble with hammerhead worms this summer. It would be a great PSA to let people know what they look like and how to deal with them because they are invasive and dangerous for kids and pets. They are carnivorous worms that are covered in neurotoxins that can make pets sick and give people rashes if touched. They should NOT be smashed as they survive by separating into multiple worms when broken apart. It is recommended that they get frozen or killed with salt. We have made spray bottles of white distilled vinegar and go out every morning to spray them. They come out the most after a rain or on a humid morning. I've attached some pictures of one from our driveway.

Thanks!

Lauren Stratton

More Information on Hammerhead Worms

Hammerhead worms are once again making their way to backyards across the United States. They were most recently spotted in Washington, D.C. and Virginia but have been around for some time. The head of these flatworms resembles that of a hammerhead shark, hence the name. They have a yellowish-brown striped body and can grow well over a foot long

While they may look harmless, it's important to note that they secret toxins that could be dangerous to humans and pets.

Here is a July 10 FB post by Virginia Cooperative Extension that refers to this article from VA Tech

https://news.vt.edu/articles/2023/08/hammerhead_worms_expert.html

Walking Safely!

Submitted by Rebecca Pick

WALK ON LEFT SIDE FACING TRAFFIC! You need to be able to see what is coming at you.
Thank you!

Miller Heights Real Estate Update
January 2024

Hi All -

Real Estate Deductions for the Year Ahead

Real estate is ever-changing, as are legal policies and tax laws. Last month brought the passing of the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," and with it comes a few key new (and renewed) real estate-related tax deductions. These are more than tax changes: they're reminders of how real estate remains one of the most powerful tools for building long-term wealth and financial independence.

State and Local Taxes (SALT) Deduction. Homeowners can deduct up to $40,000 in state and local taxes (previously $10,000). This is especially helpful in areas with high property taxes and applies to property taxes on your primary residence, a vacation home and undeveloped land.

Mortgage Interest Deduction. The existing $750,000 mortgage interest deduction limit is now permanent, allowing homeowners to deduct interest paid on the first $750,000 of their mortgage debt. Higher limits ($1 million) remain in place for mortgages that closed before Dec. 14, 2017.

Mortgage Insurance Premiums (PMI) Deduction. Homeowners can once again deduct mortgage insurance premiums, also known as PMI, on their taxes. PMI is generally required when a home buyer makes a down payment of less than 20%.

Incentives for Real Estate Investors. Bonus depreciation and Qualified Business Income deductions have been made permanent—both valuable benefits for investors. Additionally, 1031 exchanges, which allow investors to defer capital gains when they exchange one like-kind property for another, remain in place.

Now's the time to evaluate if your current real estate setup aligns with these advantages. As always, please consult your tax advisor for details on how these and other tax deductions may apply to you.

If you're curious about your property's current value or have any other real estate-related questions, please reach out.

Enjoy the rest of your summer

Liz Potemra

703-581-7759

lizp@longandfoster.com

Long and Foster Vienna/Oakton

Recent Real Estate Activity in Miller Heights:

Status	Address	Number of Beds	Last/Next Update	Close Price	DOM
Active	3307 Miller Heights Rd	4	7/25/2025	$1,265,000	7
Active	3206 Wheatland Farms Dr	5	7/2/2025	$1,750,000	30
Active	3014 Apple Brook Ln	5	6/25/2025	$2,425,000	37
Active	3163 Ariana Dr	6	4/10/2025	$1,800,000	113
Active	10832 Miller Rd	6	1/17/2025	$2,444,920	196
Contract	3415 Miller Heights Rd	4	7/27/2025	$1,675,000	62
Contract	10912 Blue Roan Rd	4	7/18/2025	$1,140,000	11
Closed	11003 Kilkeel	5	4/30/2025	$1,265,000	0
Closed	3322 Saddlestone Ct	4	4/30/2025	$1,315,000	0
Closed	11170 Tattersall Trl	4	7/22/2025	$1,225,000	4
Closed	3403 Miller Heights Rd	4	7/23/2025	$1,325,000	5
Closed	3212 Miller Heights Rd	4	4/30/2025	$1,350,000	6
Closed	10800 Tradewind Dr	4	4/30/2025	$1,950,000	13
Closed	3124 Miller Heights Rd	4	6/2/2025	$850,000	29

MHNA NEWSLETTER

Kids Edition

By: Samantha

And other participators from around the neighborhood!

Welcome to the MHNA Kids Edition!! We hope you enjoy the activities and fun stories that we put in here for all of you to enjoy! If you have any ideas or want to include something of yours in the next edition, please email sammypecci@gmail.com. Enjoy!

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2. Back To School Crafts
3. Back to School Guide
4. Fall Puzzle

Homemade Applesauce Recipe

Ingredients:

6 lb. apples, peeled, cored, and cut into 8 slices

1 cup apple juice or apple cider

Juice of 1 lemon

1/2 cup brown sugar, packed

1 tsp. cinnamon, more or less to taste

Optional: nutmeg, maple syrup, butter, etc.

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in a large pot and cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, for 25 minutes. Carefully puree in a food processor or blender (don't fill too full; split into two portions if needed) until smooth. Store in the fridge and enjoy!

Recipe found at: https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/

Back to School Guide

School isn't here quite yet, but it's just around the corner. Here are some tips to be ready for the next school year!

1. **Set a good sleep schedule.** We all know how tempting it is to sleep in until noon during the summer, and it's always good to get lots of sleep. Unfortunately, school doesn't start at noon, it usually starts pretty early in the morning. It's important to set yourself up for a year of good sleep! The best way to do this is to begin setting your sleep schedule now. Go to sleep a bit earlier every day and wake up early so that by the time school rolls around, your body is fully adjusted to waking up early!
2. **Get Organized**. When school starts, your life can get quite busy. This makes it easy to get disorganized because you don't have time to keep organized. For that reason, it's important to get yourself organized before you step foot in the classroom. Ask your parents if you can buy an agenda or a calendar. You can write down homework, sports, activities, and anything else you would like to remember! You can even start using it now so that you get in the habit of writing things down.
3. **Find supplies**. One of the best parts (in my opinion) of going back to school is getting school supplies! However, make sure to use what you already have at home! You can use leftover paper, pencils, notebooks, and sticky notes to prevent waste. In fact, there are many craft projects that you, your friends, and your parents can do together! Check out the list below for some great YouTube videos with craft ideas.

Back To School Crafts

If you're looking to make some fun crafts, here is a list of YouTube videos and websites we have compiled for you to look through.

Notebook Designs: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRsdyfFHZkc

Fidget Toys: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8W_b6AMvys

Pen/Pencil Toppers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7ZrtxUyPoY

DIY Pencil Holder: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/tVkaUjY6UHY

Beaded Keychain: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coM3CrbTnB0

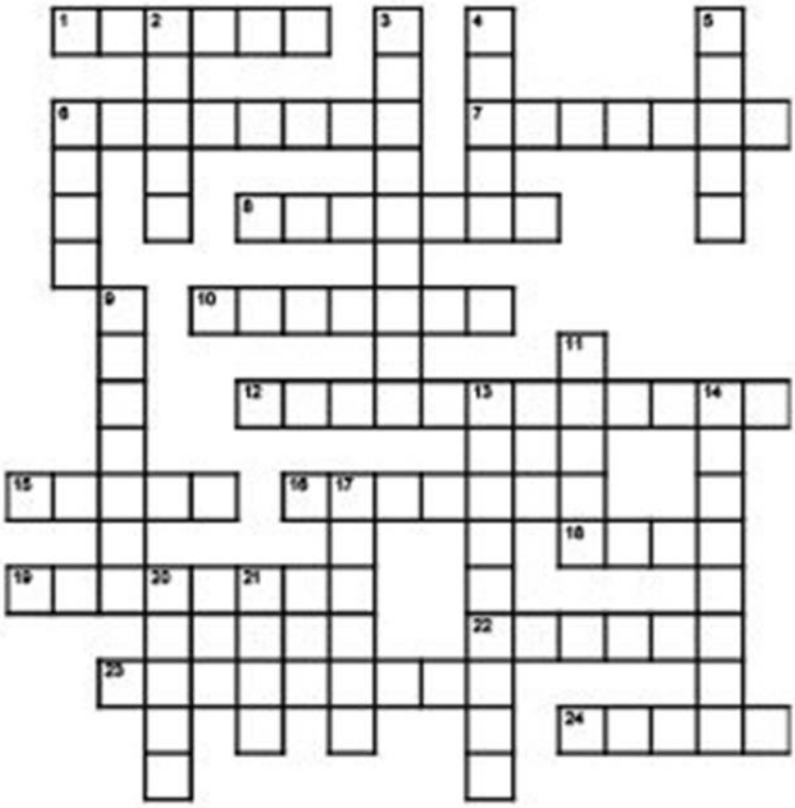
General Supplies: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJDOaqBIapk

General Supplies: https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/craft-ideas/g22593259/back-to-school-diy/

Name: _____ Date: _____

I LOVE FALL

Acorn
Apple
Autumn
Chestnut
Cider
Cobweb
Fall
Football
Gourd
Halloween
Harvest
Hay Bale
Hayride
Leaves
Maize
November
Nuts
October
Pumpkin
Quilt
Rake
Scarecrow
September
Sleet
Thanksgiving



ACROSS

1. They fall from trees.
6. Popular autumn sport.
7. Jack-o-lantern gourd.
8. The 10th month of the year.
10. The gathering of crops.
12. The fourth Thursday in November.
15. Might be patchwork.
16. Seat at a square dance (two words).
18. Leaf gathering yard tool.
19. They are roasted on an open fire.
22. Halloween decoration made by a spider.
23. The 9th month of the year.
24. Decorative squash.

DOWN

2. Oak treeEs fruit.
3. October 31st.
4. Honeycrisp.
5. Also known as corn.
6. The season that follows summer.
9. Fun activity on a farm.
11. Drink made from apples.
13. Used to keep birds off of crops.
14. The 11th month of the year.
17. Another word for the fall season.
20. Semi-frozen rain.
21. What squirrels often gather.

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Fairfax County 2023–2024 School Calendar

Fairfax County Public Schools 2025-2026 Standard School Year Calendar

July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4 H	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

4 Independence Day

August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4 NT	5 NT	6 NT	7 NT	8	9
10	11 SP	12 TW	13 SD	14 TW	15 SP	16
17	18 F	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29 H	30

29 Labor Day Break

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 H	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22/O	23 H	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1 Labor Day Break
23 Rosh Hashanah (begins sundown 9/22 - sundown 9/24)

October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1/O	2 H	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 SD	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 H	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 QE	

2 Yom Kippur (begins sundown 10/1 - sundown 10/2)
13 Indigenous Peoples' Day
20 Diwali

November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3 SP	4 TW	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 H	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26 H	27 H	28 H	29

1-2 All Saints Day / Día de los Muertos
4 Election Day
11 Veterans Day
26-28 Thanksgiving Break

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 O	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 H	23 H	24 H	25 H	26 H	27
28	29 H	30 H	31 H			

8 Bodhi Day
14 - Chanukah (begins sundown 12/14 - sundown 12/22)
22 - January 2 Winter Break
25 Christmas

January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 H	2 H	3
4	5	6 O	7 O	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 H	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 QE	29 SD	30 TW	31

1 New Year's Day
6 Three Kings Day/Epiphany
7 Orthodox Christmas
19 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
19 Orthodox Epiphany

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 H	17 TW	18 O	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

16 Washington's Birthday and Presidents' Day
17 Lunar New Year
18 First Full Day of Ramadan (begins sundown 2/17 and continues with daily fast and nightly prayer until 3/18)
18 Ash Wednesday
25 Orthodox Ash Wednesday

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19/O	20 H	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 QE	28
29	30 H	31 H				

20 Eid al-Fitr (begins sundown 3/19- sundown 3/20)
20 Nowruz
30- April 3 Spring Break

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 H	2 H	3 H	4
5	6 TW	7	8	9	10 SP	11
12	13	14	15	16 O	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1 Passover (begins sundown 4/1 – sundown 4/9)
3 Good Friday
5 Easter
10 Orthodox Good Friday
12 Orthodox Easter
16 Theravada New Year

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25 H	26 TW	27 H	28	29	30

25 Memorial Day
27 Eid al-Adha (begins sundown 5/26 - sundown 5/27)

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 YE	18 TW	19 H	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

19 Juneteenth

FCPS

Some holidays and observances, such as Eid al-Fitr, may shift due to anticipated lunar sightings.

Legend

F	First Day of School
QE	End of the Quarter / 2 Hour Student Early Release
YE	Last Day for Regular Classes / Early Release
O	Religious and Cultural Observance(s)
/O	Religious and Cultural Observance(s) - Evening Only
TW	Teacher Workday / Student Holiday
SD	Staff Development Day / Student Holiday
SP	School Planning Day / Student Holiday
H	Student Holiday
NT	New Teacher Training

Quarter Duration

Quarter	End Date	Duration
1	October 31	49
2	January 28	46
3	March 27	37
4	June 17	48
180 Instructional Days		

Number of 5-Day Instructional Weeks
1st Quarter - 5
2nd Quarter - 6
3rd Quarter - 6
4th Quarter - 8

www.fcps.edu/calendars

Updated 6/17/25