

'Families Are in Jeopardy Of Losing their Homes'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Hugs, handshakes, traveling, and gathering with friends at large events are just some of the things the current pandemic has stopped. However, those who've lost their income because of COVID have a greater worry – how to pay the rent and keep a roof over their families' heads.

So this month, Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths is hosting "There's No Place Like Home: An Eviction Prevention Campaign." Via this effort, it hopes to raise at least \$150,000 so it can continue to be a lifeline to those needing help the most.

"Many of these families are in jeopardy of losing their homes at a time when home means everything," explained Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "In times like these, everyone deserves a place to feel safe."

She understands that it's been a difficult year, but hopes that, if people in the community are able to give, they'll donate as soon as possible at <https://britepaths.org/civcrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=52>.

"While there have been episodic halts on evictions in the past few months, the harsh reality is that these are forbearances, not forgiveness," said Whetzel. "Rent has continued to accrue, even if income has stopped."

"We're encouraging clients to work with their landlords, but thousands of our neighbors have already been threatened with eviction during this ongoing pandemic," she said. "Many wake up every morning not knowing if their families will have a safe place to live next month."

Checks are also welcome: Mail to Britepaths, 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please note "Home" on the memo line. For more information, contact Shannon Bryant at 703-273-8829.

"The political winds are shifting daily," said Whetzel. "For the sake of our neighbors, we simply cannot wait for government support or intervention to arrive in time. Our county, state and local officials are doing what they can to identify and fill in the gaps, but families are in need now. For them, we are the frontline help – the community is their intervention. Thank you, in advance, for being here for our families in their time of great need."

❖Another way to help Britepaths is by joining Unity of Fairfax's Halloween Virtual 5K/1K Run-Walk-Roll set for Saturday, Oct. 31 at 10 a.m. For details and registration, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unity-halloween-virtual-5k1k-runwalkroll-tickets-121431983331>. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Britepaths' "There's No Place Like Home Eviction Prevention Campaign."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/OCT. 16

Bolster the Blue will be hosting a rally on Friday, Oct. 16 at the Fair Oaks District Station to Celebrate Our Fairfax County Police Department with Flash Mob Fridays. Participants are encouraged to bring flags and signs, and wear anything to support the police officers. Email info@bolstertheblue.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 16

The Electoral College Explained. 2-3 p.m. Zoom event sponsored by the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join via Zoom and learn about the Electoral College - What it is, how it works and if it's relevant today. Pre-registration is required. A Zoom link will be provided one day prior to the event. This program is free of charge. For more information, visit <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7158761>

WATERSHED CLEANUPS

Do your part to help the environment. Volunteer for a "Watershed Cleanup Days" event at a park or recreation center near you this fall. These community service events are great for individuals, families, service groups and students. Work outdoors helping to clear Earth's arteries by removing tires, bottles, cans and other debris dumped in local waterways. All

ages are welcome to take part. Cleanups are currently scheduled: Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020: Ellanor C. Lawrence Park; Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020: Lake Fairfax Park; Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020: Cub Run RECenter, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Providence RECenter and Riverbend Park. Visit the website <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer>

OCT. 19 TO NOV. 19

Elementary Gym Class. 4-5 p.m. At Nike field, South County Middle School, 8700 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. One hour, 2 days per week, outdoor elementary gym class for kids in grades K-6 taught by a former Division 1 athlete and current South County High School teacher. Cost: \$15 per class or 10 classes for \$120. Contact: <https://bit.ly/SCAAFallGym>

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Bolster the Blue Presents Police, Pastors, and Prayers. From 2 to 4 p.m. At 10550 Page Ave., Fairfax, in front of the Fairfax County Courthouse. Bring your family and enjoy an afternoon of prayer, messages of unity and celebration. Enjoy music, cotton candy, hot dogs, kids' games, and fun activities.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

Pathway Homes 40th Anniversary Breakfast. 8:30-9:30 a.m. Virtual event. Celebrate hope, self-determination, and recovery with Pathway Homes and its 40th year anniversary at the Steps to Pathways Break-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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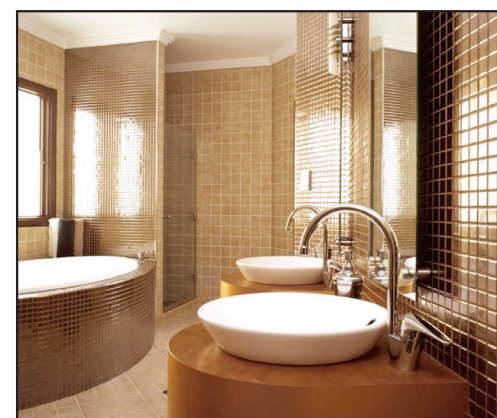
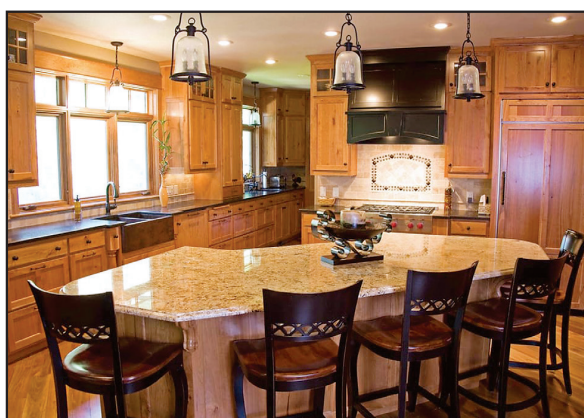
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