

CONNECTION

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TWINS ACE HARDWARE

Truong Truong with a Britepaths collection box for school supplies at Twins Ace Hardware in Fairfax.

Pedestrians Killed In Two Crashes

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Police Kill 2 Men in Separate Shootings

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Donate
NEW Backpacks
Here

July 1 - August 1

Britepaths

Help with School Backpacks

PAGE 3

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NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWINS ACE HARDWARE
Truong Truong with a Britepaths collection box for school supplies at Twins Ace Hardware in Fairfax.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY MALL THEATRES
From left, Kyle Ayers and Dan Collings of University Mall Theatres.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALYA SALON
Natalya Anderson, owner of Alya Salon & Spa, with a Britepaths collection box.

Many Families Unable to Afford School Supplies

Britepaths collects backpacks, funds for school supplies.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

While it may seem as if schools just let out for the summer and everyone's on vacation, Britepaths and its supporters know that the 2022-23 school year will soon be here. And with that knowledge comes the inescapable fact that many local parents will be financially unable to provide the back-to-school supplies their children will need.

That's where Britepaths comes in, collecting new backpacks, plus cash donations to purchase school-supply kits, for students in need. The Fairfax-based nonprofit is seeking these items now to benefit 2,500 Fairfax County students who otherwise, would begin the school year without the things they need. And Britepaths is asking the local community for help.

"Working families in our community who were already dealing with the effects of the prolonged pandemic have been further stretched by the higher costs of food, gas, rent and other necessities," explained Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "When you're living paycheck to paycheck, the thought of having to find funds for

school supplies, on top of everything else, is extremely stressful."

*Recipient schools whose students will be served through Britepaths' efforts include:

Daniels Run Elementary
Eagle View Elementary
Fairfax High School
Katherine Johnson Middle School
Fairfax Adult High School
Providence Elementary
Willow Springs Elementary
Fairfax Villa Elementary

Financial donations to Britepaths' Collect for Kids Back-to-School Program this summer will enable the organization to buy pre-assembled, school-supply kits for these FCPS students, including those in the Fairfax High School pyramid.

Community members are asked to donate funds via Britepaths' secure, online donation page at: <https://britepaths.org/our-services/back-school>, or mail checks payable to Britepaths to 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. Write "Back to School" on the memo line. For more information, call 703-273-8829 or email events@britepaths.org.

Britepaths is also collecting 700 new backpacks, which may be dropped off at local, partner businesses or ordered through Amazon. New backpacks – large sizes are needed most – may be brought to several places collecting them for Britepaths.

❖ Backpack donation sites in Fairfax, now through Aug. 1, are at:

Twins Ace Hardware Fairfax, 10310-B Main St.

University Mall Theatres, 10659-A Braddock Road.

Sugar Mama's Ice Cream, 11208 Lee Hwy.
Cinema Arts Theatres, 9650-14 Main St. (inside Fair City Mall).

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce/Office Evolution Fairfax, 10304 Eaton Place, Suite 100.

FVCbank, 11325 Random Hills Road, Suite 140.

"Hugo the Gargoyle" Little Free Library in Fairfax City's Old Lee Hills neighborhood, Colony Road near Heritage Lane.

❖ Backpacks may also be donated at Alya Salon & Spa, 139 Park St. in Vienna.

People may order them, as well, via an Amazon Wish List linked on Britepaths' Back-to-School page. Or go directly to <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30A5MCLIRONCH>.

Those ordering backpacks this way should include their contact information when placing their orders so Britepaths may thank them for their generosity. And logging in to Amazon via Amazon Smile (<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1596259>) helps Britepaths even more.

"We're grateful to all who are donating this summer to help ease this stress for families in need and allow their children to start off the new school year unashamed – and with all the supplies they need," said Whetzel. "Britepaths also appreciates Godman Power Group Inc. and Twins Ace Hardware

for sponsoring the Back-to-School Program, and additional sponsorships are welcomed."

Furthermore, besides collecting backpacks throughout this month, Twins Ace Hardware in Fairfax City is hosting a "round-up at the register" campaign through July 31. Customers may choose to donate to Britepaths' Back-to-School Program the change they would have received from their purchase.

All in all, said Whetzel, "We're hoping people will take a few minutes out of their summer fun to share some of that joy with a local child in need. We pool the donated funds to purchase supply kits in bulk – thereby stretching every dollar and enabling us to provide supplies for each student for around \$10. So \$100 helps 10 students, but any amount people can donate will make a difference."

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Britepaths is in its 38th year of providing help and a way forward for struggling individuals and families in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. All year 'round, the organization relies on funding and volunteer support from businesses, individuals, community organizations and faith communities so it can provide services to people in need.

Britepaths stabilizes families with supplemental food and financial assistance. It also helps them build resilience through financial education, workforce-development coaching and IT training. In addition, Britepaths offers supports for children via its Back-to-School drive, Food4Thought weekend food packs, and holiday assistance. For more information, go to britepaths.org.

Out with the Old; In with the New

Fairfax City adopts a new official seal.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's official: The City of Fairfax will soon have a new seal, in keeping with the City's efforts to distance itself from its Confederate past.

After George Floyd's death in 2020 in Minneapolis, City Council wanted to reexamine how the City's markers and institutions reflected the Civil War. So it established the Connecting Fairfax City for All Stakeholder Advisory Group to do so.

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liability, City Council wanted to reexamine how the City's markers and institutions reflected the Civil War. So it established the Connecting Fairfax City for All Stakeholder Advisory Group to do so.



From left are Fairfax's old City Seal and the new one it just adopted.

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