

**Fairfax County and COX Present:**



# **Unite, Uplift & Celebrate!**

**A Black History Month Celebration**



**BUILDING ON A LEGACY**

**Friday, February 21, 2025 • 5 p.m.**

**Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035**



**BLACK**  
**HISTORY**  
**MONTH**

**Unite, Uplift  
& Celebrate!**

*Reception*

*5:15 - 6:20 p.m.*

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

**Elements of Surprise**

R&B Group

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*Program*

*6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Board Auditorium*

**WELCOME**

**Mistress of Ceremonies: Nelfred "Tilly" Blanding**

Retiree • Fairfax County Government

**Kathryn Falk**

Market Vice President • Cox Communications

**BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM: "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"**

**Nikki Joy Brown**

Founder of The Culture Cup

**INVOCATION**

**Rev. Trevor L. Black**

Pastor • Peace Baptist Church • Dunn Loring, VA

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCE: "GOODNESS OF GOD"**

**Myrna Kinney**

First Lieutenant • Fairfax County Sheriff's Office

**POEM**

**Bennie Herron**

Father Engagement Supervisor • Fairfax County Department of Family Services

**SAXOPHONE PERFORMANCE**

**Ellis Hamilton**

# Unite, Uplift & Celebrate!

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## *Program Continued*

### **PROCLAMATION & REMARKS**

**Jeffrey C. McKay**

Chairman At-Large • Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

### **YOUTH PERFORMANCE**

**Lady Wolves Step Team**

Westgate SACC

### **GREETING**

**Rodney L. Lusk**

Franconia District Supervisor • Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

### **STEP PERFORMANCE**

**The Zeta Tau Chapter of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.**

George Mason University

### **REMARKS**

**Bryan J. Hill**

County Executive • Fairfax County Government

### **MUSICAL PERFORMANCE: "AMAZING GRACE"**

**Myrna Kinney**

First Lieutenant • Fairfax County Sheriff's Office

### **FEATURED SPEAKER**

**Toni Zollicoffer**

Chief Equity Officer • Fairfax County Government

### **SAXOPHONE PERFORMANCE**

**Ellis Hamilton**

*“Lift Every Voice & Sing”*

*James Weldon Johnson*

Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list’ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chast’ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand,  
True to our God, True to our native land.

# Unite, Uplift & Celebrate!

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



**Nelfred "Tilly" Blanding**  
MISTRESS OF CEREMONY  
Retiree  
Fairfax County Government



**Kathryn Falk**  
Market Vice President  
Cox Communications



**Rev. Trevor L. Black**  
Pastor  
Peace Baptist Church  
Dunn Loring, VA



**Nikki Joy Brown**  
SINGER  
Founder of  
The Culture Cup



**Bennie Herron**  
POET  
Father Engagement Supervisor  
Fairfax County Department of  
Family Services



**Myrna Kinney**  
SINGER  
First Lieutenant  
Fairfax County  
Sheriff's Office



**Ellis Hamilton**  
SAXOPHONIST



**Elements of Surprise**  
R&B GROUP



**The Lady Wolves**  
STEP TEAM  
Westgate SACC



**The Zeta Tau  
Chapter of Iota Phi  
Theta Fraternity, Inc.**  
George Mason University



**Jeffrey C. McKay**  
Chairman At-Large  
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**Rodney L. Lusk**  
Franconia District Supervisor  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



**Bryan J. Hill**  
County Executive  
Fairfax County Government

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**Toni Zollicoffer**

Featured Speaker

Chief Equity Officer • Fairfax County Government

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Toni Zollicoffer was appointed chief equity officer for Fairfax County in September 2024 and is charged with advancing the One Fairfax policy, a racial and social equity initiative adopted by the Board of Supervisors to ensure that equity is at the core of all public policies and services. Zollicoffer joined Fairfax County in May 2018 as the Department of Family Services' director of Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS). She brings over 25 years of leadership experience dedicated to improving outcomes for populations disproportionately affected in areas such as housing access, interpersonal violence and mental health. Her work has also been instrumental in embedding racial and social justice into the county's violence interruption and prevention strategies.

Prior to her role with DSVS, Zollicoffer served as deputy director of victim services for the Executive Office of the Mayor in Washington, DC, and held senior positions in various local government and non-profit organizations. Her education includes a certificate of advanced graduate studies and a master's in clinical community counseling from Johns Hopkins University. She is also a licensed professional counselor and has been recognized for her work in social justice and community health.

Zollicoffer lives in the Mount Vernon district of Northern Virginia with her partner, Bruce Moody, who continues to make her heart dance after 14 years. Together, they have seven adult children, two grandchildren, and twin road bikes.

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One Fairfax is a joint racial and social equity policy of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and School Board. The 2016 One Fairfax Resolution commits the county and schools to intentionally consider equity when making policies or delivering programs and services.

It is the commitment to promote fairness and justice in the formation of public policy that results in all residents – regardless of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, marital status, disability, socio-economic status or neighborhood of residence or other characteristics – having opportunity to fully participate in the region's economic vitality, contribute to its readiness for the future, and connect to its assets and resources.

The One Fairfax Policy establishes shared definitions, focus areas, processes and organizational structure to help county and school leaders to look intentionally, comprehensively and systematically at barriers that may be creating gaps in opportunity. The One Fairfax Policy includes a purpose, definitions, areas of focus to promote equity, process and roles.

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*Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month, which began in 1976, has since been celebrated to honor the legacy, contributions and resilience of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is a time to not only acknowledge the contributions of Black Americans in the United States, Virginia, and Fairfax County, but also to confront the ongoing inequities and injustices faced by our Black community; and

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County, like many communities across the nation, has experienced a complex history with our historically Black communities, and recognizes that past injustices influence our present and future; and

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County acknowledges the invaluable contributions of African Americans to our nation's history and to our local community, including their achievements in fields such as education, science, technology, arts, public service and activism; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 theme of Black History Month, "Building on a Legacy," urges us to honor the generations of African Americans who paved the way for progress, innovation and justice while inspiring us to continue their efforts toward building a more equitable and inclusive future; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County, does hereby proclaim February 2025 as

## **Black History Month**

in Fairfax County and encourages all residents to participate in events and activities that honor and celebrate African American history, heritage and contributions.

You're invited to celebrate the unveiling of the  
The "Enslaved 16" Historical Marker

# THE "ENSLAVED 16"

## HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING & DEDICATION CEREMONY



**Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 11 a.m.**

**West Springfield High School Cafeteria**

6100 Rolling Rd, West Springfield, VA 22152

1786, December 20th Slaves		
Charles age about 27 years	1000 00	
John " " 30 "	1100 00	
Peter " " 25 "	1100 00	
Henry " " 25 "	1100 00	
Louisa " " 22 "	500 00	
Hannah & Child 29 "	900 00	
Marrett age about 25 "	500 00	
Sally " " 56 "	100 00	
Nancy " " 11 "	500 00	
Laura " " 9 "	300 00	
Ann " " 9 "	300 00	
Sandy " " 6 "	250 00	
Sally " " 7 "	200 00	
Peter " " 4 "	200 00	
Corra " " 4 "	150 00	

### Directions:

The event is being held in the school cafeteria; there is ample parking in the lot after entering from the Rolling Road side.

**RSVP HERE**

<https://bit.ly/historical-marker-west-springfield>



Scan me

Photo courtesy of Fairfax County Circuit Court Historical Records.

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-4600, TTY 711. A Fairfax County, Virginia publication. 2/2025



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*Special Thanks*

Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman, Fairfax  
County Board of Supervisors

Bryan J. Hill, Fairfax County Executive

Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia  
District Supervisor

COX

The Culture Cup

Fairfax County Cable and  
Consumer Affairs

Fairfax County Department of Family  
Services – Foster Care and Adoption

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue

Fairfax County Health Department

Fairfax County Meeting Space  
Management and Event Support

Fairfax County Neighborhood and  
Community Services

Fairfax County Park Authority

Fairfax County Police Department

Fairfax County Public Library

Fairfax County Wellness Health  
Promotion and Prevention

Fairfax/Falls Church Community  
Services Board

Leadership Fairfax

League of Women Voters

NAACP Fairfax Chapter

One Fairfax

What The Chef Catering

**Scan to Learn  
More About the  
Black History  
Month Program**





## Creating a stronger community, together.

Cox is proud to make meaningful partnerships throughout our communities.

We proudly support Fairfax County's  
Black History Month Celebration

Find out more at [cox.com](https://www.cox.com)

**COX**<sup>®</sup>  
Bringing us closer



**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

*The Black History Month Committee thanks you for attending.  
We hope to see you next year!*

Tilly Blanding  
Ramona Carroll  
Chelsi Conaway  
Terri Henderson

Samantha Korkowski  
Emma Marshall  
Solomon Melson  
Marlon Murphy  
Naketa Proctor

Andrea Richardson  
Jernita Smith  
Dale T. Wallace  
Paul Woods

**SCAN TO TAKE OUR SURVEY**



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