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'No Lives Matter Until Black Lives Matter'

NEWS, PAGE 3



People at Fairfax City's Black Lives Matter protest on Saturday observe 8 minutes, 46 seconds of silence in George Floyd's honor.

Regional Park Lands Acreage

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Drive-in-Movie Theater Opens in Lorton

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OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

JUNE 11-17, 2020

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Occoquan Regional Park to continue improvement with more space, natural trails, shoreline.



Regional Park Lands Acreage

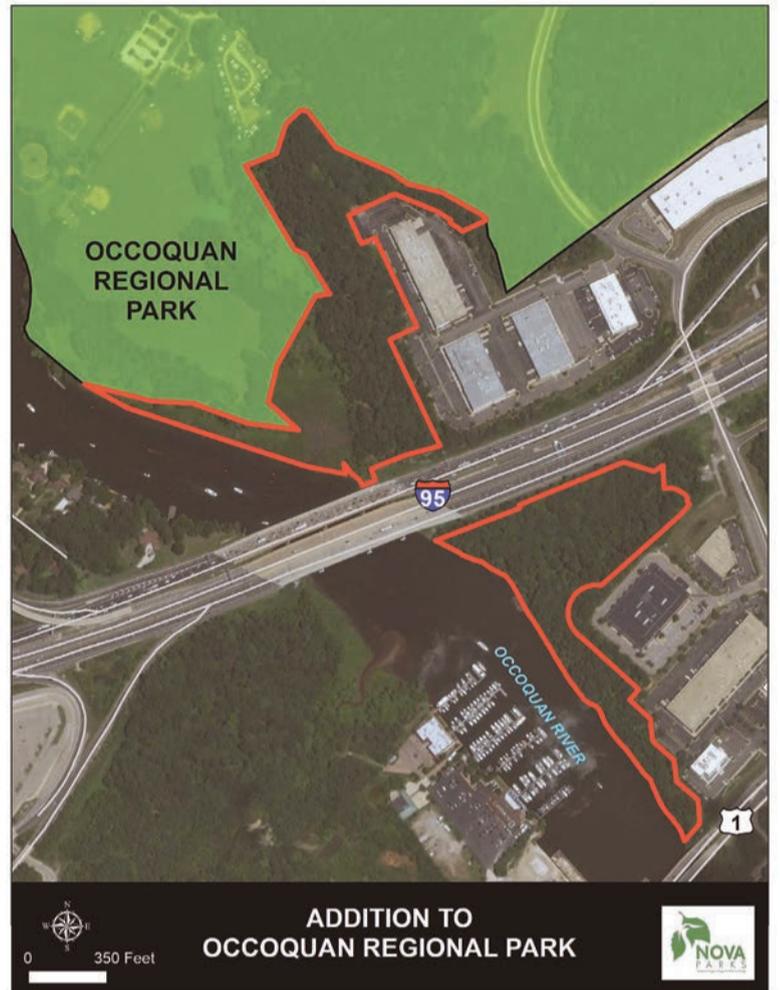
New parcels grow two parks.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

NOVA Parks will mark the acquisition of land to add acreage to two existing parks with ribbon cutting ceremonies; this week at Occoquan Regional Park, in Lorton, and later, in July, at Pohick Bay Regional Park, located on Mason's Neck.

At the Occoquan park, land donation by a commercial real estate company will add 32 acres and a half mile of shoreline. The newly acquired land, which abuts the current park, provides a logical extension of the park, according to Paul Gilbert, Executive Director, NOVA Parks. Gilbert notes that while no plan has been adopted yet for its development, it will likely be best suited to natural surface and boardwalk trails rather than an extension of the nearby paved loop trail.

Previously used as temporary warehouse space, the property is no longer needed by Colchester Land



GRAPHIC COURTESY NOVA PARKS

SEE NOVA PARKS, PAGE 7

Red areas include donated property joining the park system.

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NEWS

'No Lives Matter until Black Lives Matter'

People speak their minds during a powerful Fairfax City event.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Not even the 90-degree heat could match the fire and passion of the nearly 3,000 people who gathered Saturday afternoon in Fairfax City's Old Town Square to show that Black Lives Matter. The June 6 peaceful protest was organized by Fairfax High students, joining with people across the nation and world, after George Floyd's murder.

Because of the pandemic, they wore masks, but they carried signs with powerful messages, and several shared their stories with the crowd. Meanwhile, drivers passing by honked their horns in solidarity; and often, attendees chanted "Black Lives Matter," "George Floyd," "I Can't Breathe" and "No Justice, No Peace."

Fairfax Academy counselor Maria Martin experienced racism growing up in Michigan. So, she said, "It's important finally being able to have a platform, take a stand and speak up for people who can't. My husband's a law-enforcement officer, and there are so many good ones, but that's not good enough anymore. The bad ones are overshadowing them right now, and we've got to get rid of them."

Fairfax High teacher Bruni Herring recalled shopping for college supplies with her mother in Woolworth's in New York City, where she grew up. "My mom opened her purse to get her shopping list, and an employee followed us around the store," said Herring. "She believed my mom was shoplifting and told her manager. My mom gave him some choice words, dropped everything and we left. She told me, 'We'll never shop here again.'"

Herring sang the black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," during the protest. She attended because, "As a teacher of color, I'm always telling my students we all have a voice, we all matter. Whatever our race, religion or gender, we're all human – and I want them to know love conquers hate."

A MOTHER told the crowd, "We aren't born racist, so we have to be able to raise anti-racist children – it starts at home. And elections have consequences, so don't forget to vote."

Talking about police brutality, a Philadelphia woman told how, one morning at 6 a.m., "Six police officers broke down my door with a battering ram, looking for my boyfriend. People say, 'Aren't you afraid to live in Philly?' and I say, 'No, I'm afraid of the police.'"

"We know that silence is violence," said Erich DiCenzo, Fairfax Academy's Musical Theater/Actors Studio director. "To all the students here today, you're on the right side of history. This is not a fad – keep speaking out." He said he was proud to stand by his students to represent the diversity comprising Fairfax High and FCPS.

Elementary-school teacher Evie Koroveis came to support her black friends and let her students know



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Students and area residents during the somber 8 minutes, 46 seconds of silence for George Floyd.



David Broder and daughter Lucy, 7-1/2, let their signs speak for them.

"I'm always in their corner." And another white woman said white silence must end and people should be educated about racism.

One speaker said, "It's not enough that George Floyd's murderers are charged; we want them in prison." She called for police defunding so more money could go toward healthcare and social services. And, she added, "We're going to keep marching every day until all killer cops are in prison and this country is a safer place for all of us."

Yet another woman said, "We like to think Fairfax County is different and police brutality doesn't hap-

SEE PROTEST, PAGE 5



PHOTOS BY RICH CONDIT

The front edge of the group leading protesters along Burke Centre Parkway.

Burke Residents Join Calls for Racial Justice

The area residents gathered along Burke Centre Parkway on Thursday, June 4, to join nationwide protests against racism and racial injustice. Passing cars honked their horns in solidarity, neighbors held up homemade signs and chanted together, and the whole group walked for blocks in support of the black lives matter movement. The amount of donations received from community members not only helped all the people attending the protest, but multiple protests in the area afterwards.



Leila Echchadhi informs the crowd where the medical tent and free water is.



Hasan Crawford leads a chant as the group marches along Burke Centre Parkway.



Bailey Johnson of Burke marches with a sign.

Fairfax NAACP: Police Must Be Held to a Higher Standard

Fairfax NAACP calls for major changes for FCPS following assault charge for FCPD.

On Friday, June 5, Fairfax Police responded to a call about a man in distress in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County. Body-cam footage and bystander video reviewed by the Fairfax NAACP appears to show a man in distress, however, he does not appear to be a danger to himself or others. FCPD Officer Tyler Timberlake arrived on scene and immediately deployed his taser. The first officer on scene, who spent the first few minutes of the tape trying to calm the man down, is confused and says, “Does he have warrants?”

Timberlake then put his knee on the back of this man’s neck, while both cops and at least two EMTs piled on to the man as he cries out: “Deedee, I can’t breathe.”

Timberlake used his taser on the man at least two more times while he was already facedown on the ground.

The Fairfax County Police and Common-

wealth’s Attorney moved swiftly to charge officer Timberlake with assault and battery, announcing the charges at press conference on Saturday night.

“The community needs increased accountability and transparency for its officers.”

— Sean Perryman,
Fairfax NAACP President

Fairfax NAACP President Sean Perryman:

“I commend Chief Roessler and Commonwealth Attorney Descano for moving quickly to charge and arrest the officer that assaulted a

man clearly in distress and in need of help. This latest video is a testament that Fairfax County is not immune to police violence. We already know that use of force is disproportionately used against Black members of the community.

“Although we saw the county move swiftly to arrest this officer, we do not know what the official story would be without body cam and bystander video. Most officers in Fairfax are not equipped with a body camera and the Board of Supervisors has chosen to delay the roll out of body-worn cameras.

“The community needs increased accountability and transparency for its officers. And we need to reduce the interaction of Black people with armed officers because we see time and time again that we are viewed as a threat. This incident should never have happened.”

The Fairfax NAACP is working with individuals and ally organizations to develop a host of changes to the way policing is conducted in the county. Advocating for how police respond to people in mental health distress is just one such change, and we will be unveiling the full list of our proposals in the coming days.

Statement from the Mayors and Chairs of Northern Virginia

As the Mayors and Chairs of Northern Virginia, we raise our collective voices on behalf of the more than 2.5 million residents of our region to express our sorrow for the decades of injustices that have befallen the African American community in America. The tragic and senseless murder of George Floyd is an all too familiar scene, we grieve with the family of Mr. Floyd and the many who have died in similar acts of unlawful violence. Let us clearly state – Black Lives Matter. Mr. Floyd’s violent and wrongful death at the hands of Minneapolis police was the tipping point that prompted thousands in our region to stand up against persistent racial inequity in our country.

Northern Virginia is one of the most diverse regions in the United States. We value all people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex-

ual orientation or creed, and know that our success as a region is based on inclusiveness in government, education, and economic opportunity. We recognize that we still have far to go to address persistent racial inequity in our society at large, and in the administration of justice in particular.

As local government officials, we support the right of people of our region to express their First Amendment voices through peaceful protest. We are stronger when all voices are heard.

As elected leaders we resolve to work together to ensure that the voices raised today will further the needed change in our society.

We reaffirm our values of fairness and equal opportunity for all. We recommit ourselves to earning the confidence of all residents. Our

promise to our constituents is they will be treated fairly by their government, including their law enforcement. We will continue to support and pledge to lead open dialogues among our communities, law enforcement, and our elected officials moving forward.

As elected officials we recognize that we have far to go. The injustices of the past do not live in the past. We will work together to undo the culture of racism that was present at our founding and has been perpetuated through racial disparities in education, housing, healthcare, and economic opportunity. Dr. King taught us years ago there cannot be peace without justice. We stand committed to actions that will promote justice and peace for all.

Hon. Jeffrey McKay, Chairman,
Fairfax County

Hon. Libby Garvey, Chairman,
Arlington County

Hon. Ann Wheeler, Chair,
Prince William County

Hon. Phyllis Randall, Chair, Loudoun County

Hon. Justin Wilson, Mayor,
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Hon. Kelly Burk, Mayor, Town of Leesburg

Hon. Jeanette Rishell, Mayor,
City of Manassas Park

Hon. Lisa Merkel, Mayor, Town of Herndon

Hon. David Tarter, Mayor,
City of Falls Church

Hon. Hal Parrish, Mayor, City of Manassas

Hon. David Meyer, Mayor, City of Fairfax

Hon. Laurie DiRocco, Mayor, Town of Vienna

Hon. Derrick Wood, Mayor,
Town of Dumfries

Hon. Bridge Littleton, Mayor,
Town of Middleburg

Marching for Justice

Mother daughter team of Bailey and Marcy Quinn march in Burke.



PHOTO BY RICH CONDIT

Protest in Fairfax City

FROM PAGE 3

pen here. But it does, and we need to stop it.” Agreeing, a white female told attendees, “All lives matter, but no lives matter until black lives matter.”

Fairfax City resident Arralean Ellis wants change and real equality for black people so things will be better for her grandchildren. “I grew up in Alabama during segregation,” she said. “We couldn’t go into white people’s houses and drank from separate water fountains. And if I got hungry while shopping, I couldn’t eat at Woolworth’s counter like white people did.”

Although progress has been made, it’s still not enough, said Ellis. “We all need to work together to get the laws changed,” she said. “I worked in corrections for 30 years, and nobody told us, ‘I can’t breathe,’ because someone’s knee was on their neck. We need justice in this country; and if we continue to change, we’ll have justice and peace.”

THE ENTIRE CROWD then sat in silence for 8 minutes, 46 seconds – the same length of time the Minneapolis police officer had his knee on Floyd’s neck before he died. Afterward, they chanted “Black lives matter,” and Chantilly’s Jonathan Wilson told them, “I hope our message goes into the homes and lives of everyone across this nation and world.”

“The problem of abusive cops is a fact,” he continued. “If you know someone being bullied or abused, speak up about it – because, if not, they grow up and become abusers because they can’t understand why

that happened to them. Bring a message of peace and love so they can change the world when we’re not around.”

Erin Hopkins, a black Fairfax High grad, said, “There needs to be substantial, concrete change – and that starts with us. My father, boyfriend, former classmates and other black men I know have been stopped on Fairfax City streets by white cops who asked for I.D. and where they were going. It’s very uncomfortable; I don’t feel protected.”

Now a senior at UVA, she was there in 2017 when the alt right disturbances happened in Charlottesville. “I was scared, and the university didn’t tell anyone the KKK would be on campus,” said Hopkins. “But in Fairfax, the discrimination comes more in microaggressions. There are no public spaces here where black people feel comfortable and a sense of belonging.”

Furthermore, she said, “I’d like to see more public acknowledgement of the injustices by people in power, such as the mayor and City Council, because change has to start locally and work from the bottom up. [Racism] has been going on since 1619, when the first slaves were brought here, and has been institutionalized. It’s a systemic problem in every sector of black Americans’ lives.”

Regarding Saturday’s protest in Fairfax, Hopkins said, “It warms my heart at the same time as it breaks it. There are people of different races, backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses here; but, also, we’re protesting for black people to have the same rights as everyone else – life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Bruni Herring and Maria Martin participate in the protest.



Heartfelt sentiments are written on these protest participants’ signs.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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Overlooked Primary

Three Republicans on the ballot this month in primary for U.S. Senate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Don't look now, but Virginia is in the closing days of a primary. You might not have heard about it because of the global pandemic and the economic crisis. But buried beneath all the headlines about police brutality and racial injustice, Republicans are about to decide which candidate they want to appear on the ballot this November against incumbent U.S. Sen. Mark Warner. Many Republicans are struggling to figure out which candidate they are going to support in an election that almost seems like an afterthought in the midst of everything else that's going on right now. Even though Warner narrowly won his last reelection to Ed Gillespie six years ago, he seems to be in a solid position now.

"This is beyond an uphill race for any Republican running, especially candidates who have never held elective office and have no name recognition," said David Ramadan, a former Republican member of the House of Delegates who now teaches at George Mason University. "Mark Warner wins this one with a landslide."

Campaign finance records show Warner has more than \$8 million cash on hand. By contrast the three Republicans in the race are struggling. Daniel Gade of Mount Vernon has been the most successful, raising about half a million dollars. Thomas Speciale of Woodbridge has raised \$80,000. And Alissa Baldwin of Lunenburg County has raised less than \$8,000.

"Warner is going to run ahead of the Democratic ticket, maybe not by as much as he would historically but he'll outpoll the Democratic presidential candidate," said Ben Tribbett, Democratic political strategist. "For the Republicans to have a chance at winning the Senate race, they need Donald Trump to carry Virginia. And I don't think many people think that's going to happen, including the Trump campaign, which is not investing here."

DANIEL GADE, 45, is a professor at American University. A native of Minot, N.D., he has a bachelor of science from United States Military Academy at West Point, a master of public administration and policy from the University of Georgia and a doctorate in public administration and policy, also from the University of Georgia. After graduating from West Point, he was commissioned as an armor officer. In 2004, he was deployed to Iraq, where he was wounded in combat twice and lost his right leg. He served in the White House Domestic Policy Council during the Bush 43 administration, and he was a senior advisor to the Department of Labor in the Trump administration.

"I view this run as an extension of my military service," said Gade. "For far too long, there are people in these political positions who are serving themselves or serving their parties and too few of them are serving the Constitution."



Daniel Gade



Thomas Speciale



Alissa Baldwin

Gade says Warner has done little for Virginia, focusing instead on being a "reliable rubber stamp vote for his party." If elected, he says, he would support legislation that would give veterans the ability to use their VA benefits anywhere rather than limiting them to VA hospitals and clinics. He says he would also support the REINS Act, a proposal intended to cut down on regulation by requiring congressional approval of major agency regulations before they can be implemented. He says he would introduce a bill that would require every member of Congress to place all of their holdings in a blind trust, outlawing the kind of financial transactions that some lawmakers engaged in after getting privileged briefings on the COVID-19 crisis.

"Right now all they have to do is report their transactions, which is how we knew about the fire sale of stocks," he said. "It ba-



The Republican primary is June 23. The deadline to submit an application for an absentee ballot is June 16.

"This is beyond an uphill race for any Republican running, especially candidates who have never held elective office and have no name recognition."

— David Ramadan, Republican strategist

sically makes it a form of felony insider trading. The same kind of thing that got Martha Stewart in trouble should get legislators in trouble when they do it."

He says he would have voted for the CARES Act, although he adds that he believes it should not have included money for Planned Parenthood or the Kennedy Center. As for the Paycheck Protection Program, he feels that the requirement that businesses spend 75 percent of the forgivable loan on payroll might be too rigid. He says business owners should be able to spend that money on utilities and rent.

"It doesn't matter if you can still pay your

employees if the business dies because it gets evicted," he said.

THOMAS SPECIALE, 51, is an intelligence officer for the Director of National Intelligence as a government contractor. A native of Peoria, Ill., he has a bachelor of arts in political science from Illinois State University and a master of arts in international relations from American Military University. He enlisted in the Army in 1987, and he's served on active duty or in the Army Reserves since then except for the time he was in college. He's currently in the Army Reserves, where he serves as a human intelligence technician.

"Our country is being torn apart by hyper-partisanship and lies by career politicians, and ultimately there is a very real threat of socialism emerging in the United States," said Speciale. "Democrats want to do away with the Electoral College. They want to seize people's firearms. And they want to tamp down on what they call hate speech, which is any speech they don't like."

Speciale says Warner works for the Democratic National Committee instead of Virginia, raising money in New York, California and Florida rather than focusing on Virginia. If elected, Speciale says, he would advocate for strengthening Second Amendment rights by eliminating so-called "gun free zones" and reducing requirements for gun owners to have concealed-carry permits in multiple states. He says he wants to "re-invent" the Department of Education, but he was unable to provide any specific details other than "hold schools accountable" and "hold teachers accountable." One the issue of immigration, Speciale supports reforms that are outside of the current Republican mainstream — allowing DACA students to receive student aid through the CARES Act, for example, or supporting a path to citizenship

for undocumented immigrants.

"I don't think it is logical to think that you are going to evict 30 to 50 million illegal immigrants that our feckless leadership in the past have allowed to move here," he said. "And if you won't give me immigration reform, we'll have to build a wall."

He says he would have voted for the CARES Act, although he disagrees with the additional \$600 weekly benefits for people collecting unemployment insurance during the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Ultimately, though, he believes COVID-19 is what he calls a "fake pandemic" because he believes the original estimates for fatalities were overstated.

"I believe it's psychological terrorism," he said. "This is nothing more than a new flu."

ALISSA BALDWIN, 42, is an adjunct professor at Longwood University and a civics and economics teacher at Nottoway Middle School in Crewe. A native of Manassas, she was raised in Nokesville and Lunenburg. She has a bachelor of arts in political science and leadership studies from the University of Richmond and a master of science in educational leadership from Longwood University. She was a paralegal for several years before switching careers to become a high-school history teacher.

"I have gotten to a point where I'm so frustrated with the career politicians and the liberal progressive push on so many issues I hold near and dear, like life and liberty and gun rights," said Baldwin. "So I just decided to live my teaching and enter the race as truly a political outsider, someone who cares about people and is used to bringing people together to solve tough problems."

Baldwin says she would offer a contrast to Warner on issues like abortion, taxes and guns. If elected, she says, she would champion federal legislation that would outlaw the ability of business owners to prohibit firearms in their stores. On the issue of abortion, she is in favor of outlawing it even in cases of rape and incest. On the issue of education, she says she wants to dismantle the federal Department of Education using a phased approach that transfers all its operations to the states.

"They've actually created a lot more problems for teachers and created more inequity in the schools because of their funding formula and their regulations, which are actually unfunded mandates," she said. "It's quite burdensome on local school divisions in rural communities and urban communities that don't have the tax base for local matching funds."

Baldwin says she would have voted for the CARES Act, although she says she would have pressed for increased means testing to limit stimulus checks to people who are most in need rather than the widespread program that was approved by Congress.

"I don't believe that anyone who is here violating our rule of law should receive federal benefits," she said. "You are entitled to protection of your rights under our Constitution. But not benefits."



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Lorton residents Lori and Lana Whitley make daily use of park trails.

NOVA Parks Expand in Area

FROM PAGE 2

Company after completing its nearby office park project. The property is not considered viable for commercial or residential development due to its steep slope, wetlands, and the shoreline set back requirements. However, it's perfectly suited to NOVA Parks mission "to offer scenic, quiet, green spaces".

A few miles away, at the Pohick Bay park, the second of two private residential properties that predated the park will join the public space. Closing on this second lot is expected in July. State and federal grants worth about one million dollars, along with approximately \$300K from NOVA Parks capital fund, will allow for purchase of the Lott property. Gilbert notes that a private owner purchase was possible. Instead these sales to the park, as conservation measures, "will keep them natural." While houses on the properties will not be immediately removed, acquisition of the Lott property "opens the potential for improvements and expansion of the smaller camping area adjacent to it," Gilbert told The Connection.

The Lott and Stribling properties had retained private ownership and access through the park since the park's inception about 60 years ago. The Stribling property was purchased by NoVA Parks in 2018 valued at \$2.1 million (see Connection, April 19, 2018). Both purchases were made possible through a series of conservation grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, as well as the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. Over 15 years, NOVA Parks has added about 2200 acres to the regional park system serving the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon, and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax, through easements, grants, donations, and purchases.

The Occoquan Regional Park received a major upgrade in 2018 (see Connection, July 24, 2018), with over \$15 million in improvements. The rebuild included a new visitor's center with event space and cafe, a new seawall, and a 5K paved loop trail. The site anticipates the opening of the only national memorial to the suffragists' movement later this year, now under construction opposite the visitors' center.

The Regional Park system on the southern border of Fairfax County encompasses approximately 34 miles of nearly contiguous parkland. Beginning at Bull



Pohick Bay Park acquires land for conservation.



Kayakers enjoy the paddling in Pohick Bay Regional Park.

Run Regional, park land continues through Hemlock, Fountainhead and Sandy Run, a scholastic rowing facility, for a 20 mile, 4,000 acre block of parkland. After a gap with the Vulcan Quarry, Fairfax County Water, and a few private residences, the Occoquan Regional Park begins, running along the river shoreline. NOVA Parks notes that park usage has increased substantially since the pandemic as citizens seek exercise and relief in the park system's natural settings.

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NEWS

A Call to Save North Fork of Accotink Creek

Local Audubon Naturalist Society does not like development slated for privately owned land.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Just past the park sign garden that Ray Girouard was decorating runs the north branch of the Accotink Creek in the City of Fairfax. It's a little creek that eventually runs into the main branch of Accotink Creek further downstream, but it's the center of a controversy surrounding the Northfax West development plan, and extending the underground route for the creek which already flows under the city. "I don't think we should be burying streams," said Girouard, who is the president of the Cobbdale HOA and a resident of Fairfax for nearly 25 years. At the same time, he looked at the section of land where the project is planned, and noted that it's a parcel of privately owned land that is unsightly in some places, and is bound to be developed, so at least the Northfax West plan is one of the better options, he acknowledged.

City councilman Jon Stehle has been following the proposal for seven years, and had the same reaction. "There is no perfect project," Stehle said, "we want an economically vital area," he said, and supports it to some extent.

THE LOCAL Audubon Naturalist Society does not like it, and feels the proposal being considered would destroy stream and forest in the North Fork of Accotink Creek. And so the process continues, similar to commercial development projects all over the area where development is pushing out the natural environment. It's going up for discussion before the city council on June 15, and Stehle will be there listening to both sides of the issue.

Northfax West is a mixed-use planned development on nearly 12 acres in a spot behind car dealers on Route 29 and 123 in the north part of the city. The applicant is proposing 56 townhouses, 200-unit senior living facility with structured parking, culvert on-site stream, disturbance in floodplain and Resource Protection Area, and road construction.

The north fork of Accotink Creek bisects the area, running parallel to Orchard Street, that dead ends in the middle of the parcel.

The Audubon Naturalist Society supports part of the plan, and would like to see acres of impervious parking lot into a more vibrant, ecologically focused activity center with walkable streets, denser development, better use of scarce land, rain gardens, bioswales, and green roofs, they said. That would start by postponing the rezoning while they bring in an expert ecologist.

According to Stehle, the developer of the project has been going through the permitting process for many years regarding the environmental impact to this area and submitted a joint permit application to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in June of 2018. After a public comment period in January 2019, the Virginia Water Protection Permit was issued to the Developer by Virginia DEQ in March of 2019.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The North Fork of Accotink Creek.



Ray Girouard planting the garden at nearby Cobbdale Park.

IN JANUARY of 2020, the City Council held a work session on the three specific projects talking about the interconnected nature of all three of these efforts.

From the Audubon Naturalist Society standpoint, it's clear that nature needs to be protected for people and wildlife during redevelopment. "There's no way to make up for losing the living headwaters of the Accotink watershed," said ANS Northern Virginia Conservation Advocate Renee Grebe, in her latest blog post about the proposed plan. "City residents are at risk of losing another natural place of solace, while owls, fish, and salamanders will lose their homes. We have seen with the COVID-19 pandemic that access to nature is a priceless commodity during all times, and especially during the worst of times."

Even though the plan is acceptable, and could be worse, Stehle is hoping some sort of outdoor classroom or learning facility could be included. Streams are a good site for that. "It's Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week," he said.

The matter will be discussed in a virtual meeting on June 15 and then more formally by the City Council on June 23.

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NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

Workhouse Arts Center Lit Arches

Drive-in Movie Theater Opens in Lorton

Workhouse Arts Center opening family-friendly entertainment.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

Adapting to the special circumstances of COVID-19 with the need for social distancing, the Workhouse Arts Center will be presenting movie entertainment for the whole family. How? With drive-in movies on the Workhouse campus.

The drive-in movies will bring back what was once a staple of summertime entertainment throughout Northern Virginia and nation. The first weekend will feature "Beetlejuice" on Friday, June 12 and Harry Potter and the "Sorcerer's Stone" on Saturday, June 13

"Since temporarily closing our 'actual doors' to the public in mid-March, the Workhouse staff has explored ways to open 'virtual doors,' so that we may still continue to engage with the community and present unique arts experiences," said Joseph Wallen, Director, Performing Arts, Workhouse Arts Center.

"Our socially distanced drive-in theater will allow families to enjoy some of their favorite films in a new way...a fun experience to enjoy together, while observing current safety guidelines."

Dale Marhanka, Workhouse Operations Director, said, "Offering a Drive-in Theater at the Workhouse allows us to safely re-engage with our local community and partner with our neighborhood businesses. Creating an opportunity for all of us as a community to also escape from the current stressors in our lives and enjoy a brief respite from the struggles that we all currently share in fighting this pandemic."

Historically, decades ago, there were thousands of drive-in theaters in the United States. Now there are about 500 screens, at 300

Drive-In Movie Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Parking lot on the North side of campus (adjacent to building W7, Lorton. Movies screened on Friday and Saturday evenings at 9 p.m. Gates open at 8:15 p.m. Limited to 75 vehicles at \$30 per vehicle. All tickets will be purchased online and parking location will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Options to purchase a packaged snack box will also be available. Movie goers may bring their own snacks or meals purchased from local restaurants. Titles and ticket sales at: <https://www.workhousearts.org/drive-in-movies/>.

Note: Staff and volunteers will be trained on safety precautions and PPE use. Social distancing, restroom guidelines and other FAQs at <https://www.workhousearts.org/drive-in-movies/>.

locations. Fairfax County drive-In locations such as the Lee Highway Drive-In located on Lee Highway and Gallows Road gave way to what is now the Mosaic District. The Super 29 on West Ox Road, off Lee Highway (US Route 29) was demolished decades ago.

The Workhouse Arts Center Drive-In aims to create an opportunity to bring families and the community together. Beyond social distancing other Covid-19 precautions will include: Cars parked in every other space. Restrooms open at rear of building 7 or 8. Only one person permitted in each restroom at any time (unless guest requires assistance from companion). Restrooms will be wiped down at touch points after each guest exits.

"The community can be safe, come together, and have a great time. Community engagement is an essential component of the Workhouse mission, please join us," said Lura Bovee, Board Secretary of the Workhouse Arts Foundation.

Class of 2020

Rhory McCaster and Gracie Payne celebrate their graduation from Edison High School June 1 on the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. "I think this year is going to be in the history books," said McCaster, who will be moving to Florida and taking a gap year. Payne will be attending Northern Virginia Community College in the fall.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/THE CONNECTION

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Obituary

Obituary

On the wings of Angels, **Margaret "Midge" Johnson** was welcomed into heaven to be with her Heavenly Father and family. On June 5 she was surrounded by her family as her life on earth came to an end. Margaret was born on March 27, 1935 in Marietta, Ohio to Frank and Lois Stanley. She graduated from Marietta High School with the class of 1953 and attended college at the Northern Virginia Community College. She started her Federal Government career at the Bureau Public Debt in Parkersburg, WV. and transferred to Northern Virginia where she worked for the Department of Defense. She retired from the Federal Government after 32 years of service. After retirement from the government she worked 11 years for Fairfax County Schools, in Virginia. She raised her children in Belpre, Ohio. Surviving children are Frank Johnson(Betty) of Zimmerman, Minnesota, and Barbara Johnson Reynolds of Belpre. Six grandchildren, Stephanie Reynolds McNamara and husband Greg, Stephen Reynolds Jr. and husband Vance, Carissa Johnson, Athena Johnson Nuness, Derek Johnson, and Sean Michael Johnson. Great Grandchildren are Bailey McNamara, Jessica McNamara, Lily McNamara, Freedom Martin, and Jasmine Nuness. Midge was MOM to lots of kids that were growing up with her kids. Debbie and Ken McClure, Toni Jones, and Cindy Spears Haddox. They spent lots of time in her home with her family. She also took in her nephews for a while. Bob, Frank, and John Stanley. The more the merrier. She was grateful to have them join the family. Midge was from a family of 10 children. All preceded her in death. Frank, Robert, Wilmer, William, Kenneth Ray, Mary Jane, Ruth Lucille, Luva Mae and Louise Stanley O'Kennon. She was also preceded in death by her daughter Brenda Kay Johnson. Funeral services were held at Leavitt Funeral of Belpre. Viewing Wednesday June 10th 6-8pm, services Thursday June 11th, 1pm. Services were conducted by Pastor Frank Stanley, nephew, and Pastor Seth Fallon. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent in Midge's name to Kobacker House, where she spent her final days surrounded by her family. Kobacker House, 800 McConnell Dr., Columbus, Oh, 43214. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.LeavittFuneralHome.com

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 30' light pole with a new 30.5' light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 36' near 4701 Americana Drive, Annandale, VA (20200731). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

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FRIDAY/JUNE 12

Catholic Charities Food Drop Off -- The No Contact Friday Food Drop Offs initiative is an effort by Catholic Charities to increase food donations by offering no contact drive-thru drop offs throughout the region. Food needs include non-perishables such as canned fruits and vegetables, boxed or bagged cereal, rice and pasta, pasta sauce, cooking oil, bread, non-refrigerated juice, peanut butter, and canned fish, such as tuna or salmon. The next collection will be:

Friday, June 12, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 7600 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield, VA 22152.

To donate online, visit <https://secure.ccca.net/Give/Give/Donate/Giving.aspx>.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

Go Ape Re-Opening. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Go Ape South Run, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Go Ape Treetop Adventure and Journey courses offer an unparalleled outdoor experience, with over 70 suspended obstacles, thrilling ziplines, and an unbeatable view of South Run Park. Though the Go Ape season opening was originally March 28, it has taken the last two months to implement new procedures with guidance from national, state and local authorities. Go Ape's forest doors are re-opening June 13 with reduced session capacities to keep you one gorilla length (at least 6') from others. Visit goape.com/location/virginia-springfield/

SUNDAY/JUNE 14

Virtual Museum Tour. 1 p.m. Virtual tours at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Featuring "What is a Caboose?" by Museum Docent Tom Boltz. Mr. Boltz will host a 30-minute tour of the caboose before opening up the session for an interactive Q&A. Visit www.Facebook.com/FFXSRR to participate.

DRIVE-IN MOVIE THEATER AT WORKHOUSE

The Workhouse Arts Center will open its Drive-In Movie Theater on the Workhouse Campus beginning Friday, June 12 with movies to be shown Friday and Saturday evenings. The first weekend will feature "Beetlejuice" on Friday, June 12 and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" on Saturday, June 13. Showtime is 9 p.m. with gates opening at 8:15 p.m. Titles and ticket sales for the other weekends will be released the week June 8. Links to purchase tickets can be found at <https://www.workhousearts.org/drive-in-movies/>. The Drive-In Movie Theatre will be set up in the parking lot on the North side of campus (adjacent to building W7) and will be limited to 75 vehicles at \$30 per vehicle. All tickets will be purchased online and parking location will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Fatal Crash in Springfield Investigated

Virginia State Police Trooper E. Lynch is investigating a fatal crash in Springfield. The crash occurred at 2:15 a.m. Sunday, June 7, on Interstate 395 (main lines) at the 2 mile marker.

A 1997 Ford pickup truck was traveling south on I-395 through a work zone when it entered a closed lane - lane was inside the active work zone - and struck a 2009 Mack truck traveling north in that same lane. The Mack truck was part of the work zone crew.

The adult male driver of the Ford pickup died at the scene. State police are still in the process of notifying next of kin.

The driver of the Mack truck, a 53-year-old male from Mebane, N.C., was not injured in the crash.

The State Police Fairfax Division Crash Reconstruction Team and Motor Carrier Safety Team responded to the crash and are assisting with the ongoing investigation.

Art Scholarships Deadline Extended

The Art Guild of Clifton is offering \$750 scholarships to talented seniors exploring a college level curricula in the visual and performing arts including literature, music, and film. Application and details are available to download from artguildofclifton.org

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT, JULY 4TH EVENTS CANCELED

The Fairfax County Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series will be canceled through July due to public safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Fourth of July events have been canceled, too. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and health-related guidelines continue to recommend against large gatherings.

REOPENING OF OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FIELDS

The Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Public Schools, and the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services are announcing the reopening of outdoor athletic fields in Fairfax County for unpermitted use as part of Forward Virginia Phase 1 for Northern Virginia. This includes more than 850 athletic fields, including synthetic turf fields and fields at Fairfax County parks and public schools. Open, walk-on use of athletic fields is allowed when the field is vacant and only during regular operating hours.

FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN

Gov. Ralph Northam last week signed Executive Order Sixty-Three, requiring Virginians to wear face coverings in public indoor settings to help contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. Face coverings do not take the place of public health guidelines to maintain six feet of physical distancing, increase cleaning and sanitation, and wash hands regularly. Under the Governor's executive order, any person age 10 and older must wear a mask or face covering at all times while entering, exiting, traveling through, and spending time in public settings.

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"The News of My Death ..."



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... is greatly exaggerated." So said Mark Twain. So said W.C. Fields. And so said Kenny Lourie. And the reason I am now saying it is because of what correspondence I received in my personal inbox accessed through my HMO's online site. What I received was a condolence letter (sort of a form letter, quite frankly), addressed to the Lourie family from my oncologist expressing his sadness at my "passing" and his "privilege to have participated in the care of Kenneth Blacker Lourie" (me). Then, a bit later in the day, I received a cell-phone call from an unknown number (so I didn't answer it) but apparently, it knew me as a voice mail message was indicated. I entered my code and listened in associated shock as I heard my oncologist speak in a very heartfelt way about his "sadness" yet again concerning the death of yours truly. He spoke for nearly a minute, hemming and hawing and occasionally hesitating as if at a loss for words. Compared to the email, this message was personalized. Reading and then hearing what I have just written was an out-of-body experience of sorts, almost as if I was attending my own funeral and listening to the eulogies while standing off in the distance.

This experience was not totally unfamiliar to me. In fact, once before, pre-cancer, something similar happened though it was more curious than morbid. Scanning the Obituary section of The Washington Post, I noticed - for the first time, photos of the many of the deceased were a part of the page. They were located above the agatetype and mostly in black and white. Catching my attention as they did, I randomly went to the top right corner of the right-side page where I saw a photograph of an African-American man. Unknown to me except for one extraordinary fact. Printed below his photo was his date of birth: 9/30/54. The same as mine. It took my breath away. I have to tell you, seeing one's date of birth listed in the obituary section is a peculiar kind of the-future-being-now.

Subsequently, I was diagnosed with "terminal" non small cell lung cancer, stage IV and given a "13 month to two year" prognosis. And though my presumptive death was not listed in the obituary section, its inevitability was implanted in my brain where it has been gnawing at me since late February, 2009. And for the last 11-plus years, as you regular readers know, I have ebbed and flowed with the varying medicines and protocols which have amazingly managed to extend my life way beyond my oncologist's expectations, and never once had I being given last rites, so to speak, or advised to "get my things in order." Until today, that is.

After I thought a bit about what I had read and heard, a part of me drifted back in time to the 1999 Bruce Willis movie "The Sixth Sense" and whether unlike Haley Joel Osment, I was actually dead already. Being alone in my house with nobody to snap me out of my delusion, for all I knew, this is what death feels like. Nevertheless, I continued with my normal routine, presuming I was still alive and sure enough, it soon became clear that I was indeed still alive.

But my oncologist and maybe even my endocrinologist - with whom I have an appointment Monday, June 8th might think otherwise. And not that their thinking 'otherwise' will change their lives, but knowing what they think they know rather than what is actually true might blip their radar and cause some emotional misdirection. After all, they're only human and even though I might not be their most memorable patient, given my unexpectedly long life post diagnosis, I feel I'm not so easily forgettable either. Not dying does that to a person's "pagh," to invoke "the spiritual force inherent in all sentient beings" as believed by the inhabitants of Bajor. (See Major Kira Nerys from "Deep Space Nine.")

For the moment/immediate future though, I am still present and accounted for. I just hope all my medical appointments haven't been automatically cancelled since I'm still a living and breathing cancer patient, and that's no exaggeration.

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

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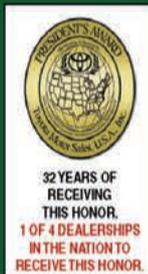
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