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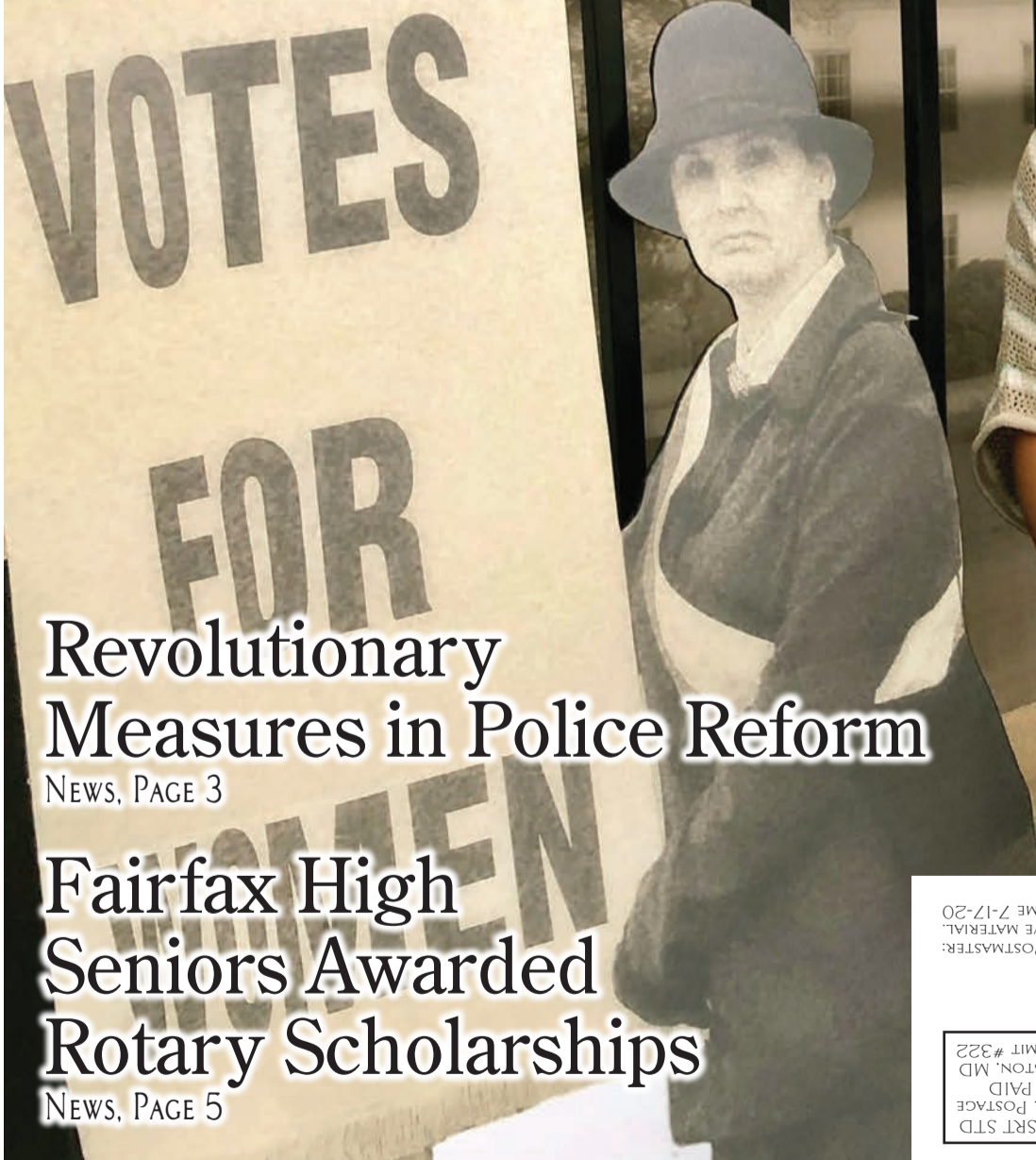
NEWS, PAGE 3

Delegate Kathy Tran (D-42), with daughter Alise, at Lorton Prison Museum, August 2018: Tran is one of the leading supporters behind Suffragists Memorial project.



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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



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Revolutionary Measures in Police Reform

Calls to 911 could be dispatched differently from the start.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Only 40 percent of Fairfax County Police officers are currently trained in crisis intervention techniques.

“Never has this disparity been more clear to me personally than in the body camera footage of the recent incident in Gum Springs, where one officer clearly and responsibly worked to de-escalate and render assistance to a resident in mental distress, while another officer chose to escalate the situation to the point of violence — in my view without having made a meaningful effort to peacefully resolve the situation,” said Lee Supervisor Rodney Lusk in a Board Matter on Tuesday, July 14. “This is a disconnect that is not unique to Fairfax County, and one that other jurisdictions have succeeded in overcoming.”

What Rodney Lusk and Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn propose could be a revolution in how services are delivered in a crisis because of the way 911 calls are dispatched from the start.

IN EUGENE, OREGON, a strategic triage initiative dispatches unarmed medics and



Rodney Lusk

mental health workers to 911 calls that do not contain elements of extreme violence or criminal activity. Crisis intervention workers are able to alert law enforcement in few instances where they need additional support.

But out of 24,000 calls dispatched in 2019 in Eugene, only approximately 150 required additional intervention from law enforcement — a success rate of over 99 percent. The actions saved Eugene approximately \$15 million with its “significant positive

“We are regularly deploying officers to respond to calls that are principally mental and behavioral health crises, as opposed to criminal activity.”

— Rodney Lusk,
Braddock Supervisor

downstream effects,” said Lusk.

“Jurisdictions in California, Arizona and New Jersey have instituted similar models to great effect, and I believe that the time has come for Fairfax County to evaluate the feasibility of following their example,” said Lusk.

Lusk said approximately 20 percent of calls made to 911 are for mental health crises.

“It’s become clear to us that we are asking our law enforcement professionals to do far too much,” said Lusk. “Today, in Fairfax County, if you call 911 your call will almost certainly be dispatched to a Fairfax County Police officer. ... That means that we are regularly deploying FCPD officers to respond to calls that are principally mental and behavioral health crises, as opposed to criminal activity.”

THE SUPERVISORS APPROVED the resolution unanimously on Tuesday, July 14, at the Connection presstime.

“We want a thorough review of best practices,” said Chairman Jeff McKay.

Specifically, Lusk and Alcorn asked:

- ❖ That the Board direct the County Executive to assign the appropriate staff, including but not limited to the Deputy County Executive for Public Safety and the Deputy County Executive for Human Services to review our 911 dispatch and response system to enhance our Diversion First strategies by implementing systems for the deployment of trained unarmed medical, human services, and mental health professionals in instances where mental and behavioral health are the principal reason for the call.

- ❖ That specific consideration should be given to programs that have been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions, such as the model in Eugene, Oregon, model, which has been in place for over 30 years.

- ❖ That the results of that study be returned to the Public Safety Committee with estimates as they relate to potential initial costs, long-term budget savings, the feasibility of a pilot program, and non-budgetary outcomes such as increased quality of service and decreased strain on our law enforcement professionals.

- ❖ And that a status update on this effort be shared with the Board no later than Oct. 1, 2020.

National Artifact Loaned to Suffragist Memorial

Suffrage reaches Centennial in August.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Last month, the National Park Service (NPS) announced the planned loan of a historic section of iron fence, once used to protect the White House, to memorialize the first group of protestors to stand before it. The fence, in service from 1913 through 2019, was the backdrop for suffragists who stood as “silent sentinels” in front of the White House to call attention to their cause in 1917. Those protests eventually led to guaranteeing women’s right to vote with passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In current times, when existing monuments to past historic figures are under scrutiny, it’s significant to note the Turn-



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Construction screening surrounds site of Turning Point Suffragists Memorial, Occoquan Regional Park.

ing Point Suffragist’s Monument, planned for Lorton, is the first monument to recognize the racial-

ly diverse group of women, who worked together for the common cause of voting rights. Indeed,



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Suffragist Mary Church Terrell, a national figure in civil rights, to be honored with a memorial statue.

their “firsts” are many. Not only were suffragists the first to conceive the idea of standing protests before the White House, as opposed to parades; the monument in their honor is the first and only

national monument to women suffragists, and the first, and possibly will be the only, organization to receive a section of the historic White House fence. Ironic too, that the monument will be located in a park that includes the grounds of the former prison where they were held and received bad treatment, including beating and force feeding for exercising their right to peaceful protest and demonstration.

Patrica Wirth, Director and CEO, Turning Point Suffragists Memorial Association, comments that getting the historic artifact “is a big deal.” The Secretary of the Interior exacts strict standards for the care, protection, and regular inspection of such important pieces of history. The fence section, which will be set in concrete

SEE CENTENNIAL, PAGE 10

Next Steps

Virginia legislature must take significant next steps in the closing months of this year.

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



Readers of this column are certainly aware that on more than one occasion I have praised the work of the 2020 General Assembly session as being historic and transformative. I believe historians will agree with my assessment of the work of the legislature in the early months of 2020 to rid the state of discrimination of all kinds, but I wonder how they will explain the subsequent phase within several months of its adjournment. Within just a few months, the legislature was faced with the need to take even more historic steps to transform the state and to do so with a sense of urgency.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is a historic event that overlays what was happening in the social and political structure, it played a minor role. If anything, the pandemic demonstrated that the federal government under the current office holders is incapable of taking responsible actions regarding the coronavirus

or the social and political unrest that abounds in this country. The pandemic has shown that state governments must step up in leadership related to the health crisis and to the stark inequalities in our society.

The pleas of George Floyd that he could not breathe were echoed by Black persons in Virginia and throughout the country that they could no longer live

under the suppression of a knee on their necks that they have endured for centuries and has kept them from realizing equality under the law and in society. That is why the Virginia legislature cannot rest on the important steps it took in the opening months of this year towards a more just society but rather now must take significant next steps in the closing months of this year.

The House Courts of Justice Committee and the Public Safety Committee on which I serve will be identifying the next steps that must be taken beginning in a special session of the legislature in the next month or two. The Legislative Black Caucus (www.vablackcaucus.org)

has outlined next steps, with which I concur. These steps include declaring that racism is a public health crisis in the state, reinstating parole, creating a civilian review board of police actions with subpoena power, defining the use of excessive force including banning the use of chokeholds, and ending no-knock warrants. The Caucus also proposes the important step of investing more in community and less in law enforcement, funding mental health professionals to respond to those who may be having mental health crises, replacing resource officers in schools who are often police personnel with mental health professionals, restricting the use of militarization tactics and weapons against citizens, and expanding the use of body cameras.

In issuing its agenda, the Legislative Black Caucus said in a printed release, "And on a larger scale, this moment is calling on leaders to combat institutional racism and societal discrimination that exists in the criminal justice system, economic structures, housing, education, in healthcare, mental health, in environmental policy and many other areas."

Your suggestions on next steps are welcome, kenplum@aol.com.

Commonwealth's Attorneys Voicing Support for Criminal Justice Reform

Dear Senator Surovell, Leader Herring, and Chair Bagby:

We are a group of Commonwealth's Attorneys who represent and are responsible for the safety of over 40 percent of the population of the Commonwealth of Virginia. As the national dialogue and push for meaningful systemic change within criminal justice and policing continues, we submit this letter to you as a statement of our commitment to these changes and meaningful reforms and of our willingness to be partners by offering our assistance to you and to your colleagues as you propose and implement these critically needed reforms.

We have seen the Senate Democratic Caucus' and the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus' list of priorities for the upcoming Special Session,

and beyond, and truly appreciate the agenda's commitment to meaningful measures.

We would like to offer our support and advocate our strong commitment to the advancement of these proposals, including, but certainly not limited to:

- ❖ All measures related to police officer accountability for use of force misconduct and other behavior-related complaints, to include the requirement to allow prosecutors unrestricted access to all police reports, information, and disciplinary records of officers involved in a matter before the court;

- ❖ A requirement that all warrants be served during the daytime and include a knock-and-announce provision with additional showing to a judge, not a magistrate, for (i) night-

time service and (ii) no-knock service;

Hon. Amy Ashworth, Prince William County and City of Manassas

Hon. Anton Bell, City of Hampton

Hon. Buta Biberaj, Loudoun County

Hon. Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Arlington County and City of Falls Church

Hon. Steve Descano, Fairfax County and City of Fairfax

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Hon. Joseph D. Platania, City of Charlottesville

Hon. Bryan Porter, City of Alexandria

Hon. Shannon L. Taylor, Henrico County

Send Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, July 23.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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FILE PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Robert Reed enjoys the company and a walking assist from canine friends.

Fairfax High Seniors Awarded Rotary Scholarships

Six Fairfax High graduating seniors recently received college scholarships from the Rotary Club of Fairfax. Because of the pandemic, they received them via email and the winners' names were announced at a club Zoom meeting.

Many of the grads will be the first in their families to attend college. And Verne Tuiniga, the club's New Generations/Youth Services committee chair, was impressed with the students' quest for academic excellence and focus on community service.

For example, the Paul J. Brown Community Service Award went to Kevin Chen. He formed a nonprofit STEM teaching service, volunteered at Walter Reed Medical Center and raised money to send Fairfax High athletes to competitions. (Brown was a former Fairfax City businessman and Rotarian).

The other scholarship recipients were: Temujin Chojilsvren - Pat Laing Memorial Scholarship (Laing was Fairfax High's former athletic director and a Rotarian);

Meghana Kamineni - Fairfax Rotary Memorial Scholarship;

Anny Chen - Setty Family scholarship (Bogi Setty is a longtime Rotarian);

Christian Segovia - Pathways scholarship to Northern Virginia Community College;



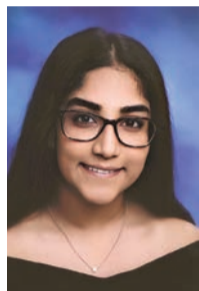
Kevin Chen



Anny Chen



Chojilsvren



Kamineni



Segovia



Leonardo

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAULA KELLEY

Nerissa Leonardo - Pathways Scholarship to Northern Virginia Community College.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Monetary Donations Needed for Students' School Supplies

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

More than 30 percent of all children in Fairfax County Public Schools are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals. So, not surprisingly, these same children also come from homes where there's just no extra money for school supplies.

"Each year, thousands of Fairfax County students face various challenges that no child in our country should have to face," said Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths. "Food insecurity, lack of resources for school supplies and limited access to appropriate school clothing are some of the very real issues that distract students from meeting their highest, academic potential."

So in normal times, that's where Britepaths comes in, usually providing these students with school supplies via the Collect for Kids Back to School Program. But due to COVID-19, things have changed this year, and Britepaths cannot accept backpacks, calculators or supplies donated by the community.

But school – whether online or in-person – will still happen. So although Britepaths will have to tackle this issue in a different way, it's still gearing up to help local students in need be ready to learn when the new school year begins.

Here's the new plan: In partnership with Fairfax County's Collect for Kids initiative, Britepaths will collect funds this summer to provide pre-packaged, school-supply kits to select schools to be distributed to students with identified need.

"Britepaths is committed to helping 2,500 students with their supplies, this year," said Whetzel. "In order to do this, we need to raise at least \$25,000 to purchase the supplies, but we cannot do it without the generosity of the local community. A donation of \$25 will help two students. Any amount people can give will make a big difference for children in need, right in their own neighborhoods."

Donations may be made at britepaths.org or mail checks, payable to Britepaths, to: Britepaths, 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please write "BTS" in the memo line. For more information, call Shefali Ryan at 703-273-8829, ext. 888.

Rotary Club Honors Fairfax City Educators

Weaver, Borhauer named Teachers of the Year.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

This year, the Rotary Club of Fairfax is honoring two Teachers of the Year from City of Fairfax schools. Principals submitted several nominations and, after reviewing them all, the club chose Fairfax High social studies teacher and department chair, Anna Weaver, and Providence Elementary advanced-academics resource teacher, Alan Borhauer.

Each will receive a cash prize and will be feted at an awards ceremony when the club can meet again in person. Below are some of their accomplishments:

Anna Weaver

The club was impressed by what students, teachers and colleagues said about her. "Mrs. Weaver always tells us that we come to school to learn and to do the best we can do," said one student. Another said she develops assignments and notes in a way that lets students think creatively about what they're learning.

"She inspires all her students to reach new levels and achieve the grades they work for," said a student. Other students described how Weaver helps them learn from their mistakes and understands the



Anna Weaver

Alan Borhauer

stress they're under.

A social studies teacher said, "Anna is a phenomenal teacher who's gone to great lengths to challenge her students within the subject, in many ways. She has her students look at history through many, different lenses and emphasizes life skills and being culturally aware historians."

As the department chair, said a colleague, Weaver advocates for all teachers in the building. She helps classroom teachers improve their instruction and works with members from all collaborative-learning teams to promote effective teaching and high student achievement. She also challenges every social studies teacher to "go deeper."

A supervisor said, "Anna's love for learn-

ing transcends every relationship she establishes at Fairfax High. She creates an environment in which students believe they can achieve greatness in academics. And she can identify and balance the needs of diverse learners with high levels of success."

Weaver also co-sponsored this year's freshman class and helped students build their float and prepare for their first homecoming parade, fostering school spirit and pride in Fairfax High's newest students.

Alan Borhauer

Borhauer is interested in helping his students, school and community. Providence Principal Dan Phillips describes him as, often, the first person to arrive at school and the last to leave. As the advanced academics resource teacher, he teaches and encourages students to use critical- and creative-thinking strategies.

Accordingly, he's able to discern students needing differentiated instruction. Phillips said Borhauer "truly knows the Providence students and, with his keen observations, can identify students with significant, academic and thinking talents. Doing so presents an opportunity for students new to this country, or those living in poverty, to qualify for the Providence Young Scholars program.

Phillips said Borhauer views each student as a capable, important learner.

He also works closely with students identified as gifted learners who might need an additional challenge to supplement rigorous classroom work. For them, he develops creative programs ranging from science experiments to strategic games.

Borhauer was also a guiding force in the transition to offer students who'd otherwise attend an Advanced Academic Center school to receive the same services at Providence. He also helps develop and run the annual, STEAM night and is lead instructor and planner of Providence's summer-school program.


He, too, collaborates with school staff and has provided professional-development activities and taught classes for staff and others in FCPS. And he works with the administration on the School Improvement Plan.

Phillips noted that one of Borhauer's most important accomplishments was planning and developing the school courtyard. He took a large, unused, outdoor area in the center of the building and turned it into an outdoor classroom, pavilion and garden for the Providence students, staff and families.

The Rotary Club of Fairfax currently meets online, Mondays, at 12:15 p.m. For more information, see www.fairfaxrotary.org.

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COVID-19 Gives Time for Reading

From current events to mysteries, books can fill time and lead to lively family conversations.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

During a recent 12-hour car ride to their summer home in Michigan, the Leland family finished two books, “Bridge To Terabithia” by Katherine Paterson and Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird.” They plowed through the audiobook version of both classics. While encouraging her children to read during the summer is usually met with eye rolls, Meg Leland says that her 14-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter were more receptive to audio books, and when they listen as a family, meaningful discussions ensue.

“We have a lot more free time this summer, so I say audio books are fine because at least they’re absorbing books and exercising their brain more than they would if they were constantly texting their friends or playing video games,” she said. “But I’m still trying to get them to read more books with real pages.”



BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMER READING

“Roll of Thunder, Hear Me Cry,” by Mildred Taylor
“The Girl Who Drank the Moon,” by Kelly Barnhill
“Brown Girl Dreaming,” By Jacqueline Woodson
“Finding Audrey,” By Sophie Kinsella
“I’ll Give You the Sun,” by Jandy Nelson
“An Ember in the Ashes,” by Sahara Tahir
“The Silence of Fountains,” by Ruta Sepetys
“Love from A to Z,” by S. K. Ali
“SLAY,” by Brittney Morris
“It’s a Whole Spiel: Love, Latkes, and Other Jewish Stories,” by Katherine Locke and Laura Silverman
“Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You,” by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
“My Hero is You, How Younger Kids Can Fight COVID19,” by Helen Patuck, (free as a PDF)

with literature, but she believes that there are other methods for motivating children to delve into physical books as well. “Obviously one of the most effective ways to inspire children to read is for parents to read and model that behavior,” said Cram. “Beyond that, read books on how to do a particular activity and then do it together as a family. Children can read about gardening and you can plan a family garden together. Cook a meal or a dish from a book that you’ve read.”

Other methods for making reading more enticing, says Cram, include reading a book and watching the movie or selecting books that are related to current events. “COVID19 is an obvious topic,” she said. “A suggestion for middle school students is “Fever 1793” by Laurie Anderson which deals with the “The Yellow Fever Epidemic and can lead to a discussion about resilience and survival. For younger children I suggest, ‘My Hero is You, How Younger Kids Can Fight COVID19,’ by Helen Patuck. It’s free as a PDF and teaches children the ways that they can stay safe.”

Literature for sparking meaningful conversations about racial injustice abounds, Karen Bentall, Librarian at Oakridge Elementary School. For younger children she suggests “Something Happened in Our Town: A Child’s Story About Racial Injustice, by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins and Ann Hazzard. “[It’s] a direct entry to conversation about what is happening today,” she said.

“This summer is what it is and there’s very little that we can do to change it,” added Cram. “But we can finish out the last half of summer more in a meaningful way that doesn’t lead to brain drain.”

As COVID19 restrictions have curtailed the traditional activities like camp and vacations, families like the Lelands have more free time to fill. The constraints and limitations have left many children bored and parents struggling to decrease screen time and get their students engaged in reading.

“Since this past school year ended on an academic roller coaster, it’s important to pull together a balance of fun and light academics like reading,” said education consultant Lisa Cram. “Picking up a book might be the last thing some children want to do, so parents have to get creative.”

That creativity, says Cram, needs to be rooted in structure.

“Create a daily schedule that includes time for reading or other academics, but also includes time for recreation,” she said. “Predictability will let kids know what to expect, so they’ll be less resistant to academics especially if they have another activity to look forward to.”

While Cram doesn’t believe that all screen time should be eliminated, it shouldn’t be the only form of recreation. “Physical activity is just as important as academics,” she said. “Ride bikes and go on hikes as a family.”

Audio books are a way to infuse long summer days

Randolph-Macon Academy Fully Opening for Fall 2020 Semester

Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, Va. will open for on-campus operations for all students and staff for the Fall 2020 semester. All classes will be held in-person with full course schedules and teacher instruction.

Randolph-Macon Academy is a co-educational private school for grades 6-12 offering a university-prep education with an exceptional Air Force JROTC program. Randolph-Macon Academy offers both day and boarding programs including fully-staffed dormitories separated by gender, organic

dining options and 24-hour security on a vast 135-acre campus.

Randolph-Macon Academy’s prestigious curriculum brings confidence to families with our unwavering standards for educational excellence:

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- ❖ Class of 2020 includes 65 students receiving \$8.4 million in scholarships

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the world including Harvard, Cornell, UPenn, Johns Hopkins, MIT, McGill, University of Toronto, Duke, Vanderbilt, Brandeis, Emory, Northwestern, Georgetown, William & Mary

Families looking for on-campus instruction for the Fall 2020 semester are strongly encouraged to contact the R-MA Admissions Office. Scholarships and Financial Aid are readily available now for qualified families.

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NEWS

Farmers Market Reopens in Burke

Vendors, customers look forward to Saturdays.

By JESS KIRBY
THE CONNECTION

The sweltering Saturday of July 11 was the first of weekly Burke Farmers Markets since December, where farmers, bakers and chefs came from all over Maryland and Virginia to sell their products.

The market offered both in-person and pre-ordering, and lines marked six feet apart kept customers socially distanced. Although the market opened later than in previous years, customers and business owners were eager to attend.

"It's run very safely, so we feel good being here. We feel that the customers are well taken care of and coached well," said Deb Matthews, the owner of Chase Your Tail Bakery in Leesburg, Va. "We usually do seven markets and we're only doing three. This really is a good part of our income."

"We were here last year... so we have developed a great customer base. There's a great word of mouth," said Eman Sleem of House of Empanadas from Northern Virginia.

"We usually get our peaches and tomatoes here," said Elaina Fazio, a customer from Springfield. "I get some for my grandma as well, so we go and deliver her peaches and tomatoes to her."

Many of the businesses create their own products using produce from the market.

"Our empanadas and corn loaves are only from scratch. We make everything, we source as much as we can from the market and we sell only at the markets and online," said Sleem.

"We have our own chickens so we use our own eggs when our girls are laying. We try to source as much as we can from the farmers at the market," said Matthews.

Even during the pandemic, many felt supported by the community.

"Other markets... have been great in supporting us and getting the commonwealth of Virginia to recognize us as essential. A lot of people wanted to support small businesses so it's been great," said Sleem.

"[The pandemic] has actually been a boost for our business this year. We did seven acres of pick-your-own strawberries and we would constantly have 400



Debbie Ross, of Metro Microgreens, Rockville, Md.



Deb Matthews, Chase Your Tail Bakery, Leesburg, Va.

PHOTOS BY JESS KIRBY/THE CONNECTION



Travis Urda, Mt. Olympus Farm, Ruther Glen, Va.



Jesus Reyna, King Mushrooms, Barclay, Md.

people out in a day," said Travis Urda of Mt. Olympus Farm in Ruther Glen, Va.

However, the pandemic has complicated how the vendors interact with customers.

"Before the pandemic we would have [customers] taste everything, now we can't," said Debbie Ross of Metro Microgreens in Rockville, Md.

"People can't touch anything because we don't want anything to be contaminated and possibly affect others," said Jesus Reyna of King Mushrooms from Barclay, Md.

Overall, vendors were excited to be there and sell their products.

"I'm just happy that we're able to sell our product and that we have people that are coming out and are interested in it and want to be healthy," said Ross.

"I go from starting the seed to all the way through watering and picking and harvesting everything, so I can connect with the customer. They want to know where their food is coming from," said Urda. He plans to attend every weekend until November.

Burke Farmers Market is open Saturdays, 8 a.m.-12 noon, at 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke.

Saturdays at Workhouse

Baker Patti Griffin joins other food and craft vendors at Workhouse Arts Center open air courtyard market on Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/
THE CONNECTION



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Coalition Pleads for Removal of County SROs

NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition proposes redirecting of funding to hire counselors.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

“While schools’ primary role is to serve as an institution for learning, it must also remain a suitable place for young people to mature and sometimes err, without being subjected to the unquestionably perilous path of the criminal justice system,” wrote members of the NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition in a July 6 letter to Fairfax County Public Schools Board and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. In it, the 29 organizations, faith-based groups and others that compose the coalition, urged FCPS to remove school resource officers (SROs) from its schools and “rely exclusively on administrative security officials that reported to FCPS.” The coalition also called on the Supervisors to redirect funds budgeted for the SRO program to go to hiring counselors instead.

School resource officers gained popularity after the 1999 Columbine school shootings. According to Schools, 51 Fairfax County Police Department officers serve as SROs in the County’s middle, high and secondary schools, one to each school with the exception of Robinson, Hayfield and Lake Braddock Secondary Schools that each have two. An SRO is a sworn police officer assigned to a Fairfax County Public School and employed by the Fairfax County Police Department. According to the FCPS website, school administrators, to include school principals, teachers, and school security staff have exclusive responsibility for school discipline. “SROs are prohibited from any involvement in student discipline. But they may attend disciplinary hearings (per the MOU) at the request of FCPS administration.” <https://www.fcps.edu/node/36892>

In 2018, Fairfax County School Board approved a revised Memorandum of Understanding between Fairfax County Public Schools and the Fairfax County Police Department for the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. At that time, the FCPS website reported, “Superintendent Scott Brabrand and FCPD Police Chief Edwin Roessler produced a revised draft agreement that was reviewed during three community meetings by the SRO Community Review Committee, which included individuals representing FCPS and community-based organizations.”

IN THEIR JULY 6, 2020 LETTER, the Equity Agenda Coalition challenged whether the revised memorandum was achieving its goals and if School Resource Officers were a disservice to students. The coalition offered an alternative and how to fund it.

CSRO programs nationwide have rocketed the “school to prison pipeline” into hyperdrive, and Black and Latino children are paying dearly,” stated the letter by Equity Agenda Coalition. It read: “In Virginia, black students make up 39 percent of the students enrolled in public schools with at least one arrest, but they also comprise 75 percent of school-based arrests. Even more alarming



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kofi Annan, The Activated People | NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

“In light of newly discovered data demonstrating that students continue to be subjected to the justice system for disciplinary issues that should be handled administratively per the 2018 changes to the SRO Memorandum of Understanding, the NOVA EAC strongly urges the School Board and Board of Supervisors to phase out this harmful program.”

— Kofi Annan, The Activated People | NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition

is that the overwhelming majority of these arrests are for relatively common and minor transgressions like fights, arguments or theft...This must end, and Fairfax County should lead the way in Virginia.”

Kofi Annan is the founder of The Equitable People, one of the organizations that signed the letter “In Solidarity.” Acting on behalf of the coalition, Annan wrote in a cover note accompanying the email with the attached letter and supporting documentation: “In light of newly discovered data demonstrating that students continue to be subjected to the justice system for disciplinary issues that should be handled administratively per the 2018 changes to the SRO Memorandum of Understanding, the NOVA EAC strongly urges the School Board and Board of Supervisors to phase out this harmful program.”

According to the letter, the revised 2018 Memorandum was supposed to ensure a distinct line between officers and school administration, and restrict officers from getting involved in non-safety-related matters;

mandate crisis intervention and disability awareness training, and require SROs to read students their rights before crime-related questioning and alert parents before their student was searched or questioned. However, NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition said follow-on data provided by Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court demonstrated the 2018 guidelines were not implemented consistently or effectively.

The letter read: “According to data uncovered by the Northern Virginia Equity Agenda Coalition, the full 2018-2019 year showed a decrease in the number of arrests and charges, but unfortunately no change in the types of charges being filed. Between August 2018 and June 2019, SROs processed 321 juvenile cases (278 individuals). 116 were for Possession of Marijuana; 36 for Assault; 10 for larceny; 6 for Trespassing; and 13 for Disorderly Conduct. In keeping with previous trends, over half of the students charged are African American or Latinx. The fact that these practices continue despite the new

regulations demonstrates the inability for FCPS to exercise proper oversight over the SRO program, and to hold Fairfax County Police Department or its administrators accountable for following the Memorandum of Understanding between the school system and the police department.”

James R. Walkinshaw (D) is the Braddock District Supervisor. Upon receiving the letter and documentation of new findings, he said, “Clearly, the Board of Supervisors and the School Board need to re-evaluate the SRO program as part of our broader reform effort. In Fairfax County, every child should have the opportunity to grow and thrive and we have a responsibility to address any issue that contributes to disproportionate outcomes.”

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay thanked Annan for the email and his work in the community. “I appreciate your thoughtful letter and the work of the Equity Agenda Coalition,” he said.

ANNAN said he received phone calls from School Board Member Karen Key-Gamara and a few other School Board members. He said, “Unfortunately, none of the responses indicated there was a sense of urgency around the topic, and none of them appeared ready to commit to removing the SROs before the beginning of the new school year. We are very concerned that both the FCPS school board and Board of Supervisors intend on dragging their feet with the expectation that the issue will die down, which as we’ve witnessed will only lead to the criminalization of more black and brown children. Black and brown communities in general, and the children of these communities need meaningful solutions now more than ever, and the community has spoken loudly and clearly that more police should not be part of that solution.”

NEWS

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



These masks are a common site at many locations.



The sterile gloves come in various colors.

Discarded PPE Litters Neighborhoods

Disposal of this essential equipment has not found its way into the trash cans in some cases.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

If it wasn't enough that the virus pandemic has everyone decked out in face coverings and rubber gloves to thwart the spread of germs, the area is now inundated with the discarded refuse in many parking lots. Can't touch the stuff because it may have germs, so the discarded personal protection equipment known as "PPE," sits and bakes under the summer sun.

This issue has come up to Laurel Shultzaberger, the emergency management and safety coordinator for the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, who recommends a common sense approach: just throw the used PPE in the trash cans in the shopping centers or at home. "We have had some reports of these on the ground," she said.

It's better to go with reusable masks, disposable sanitizing wipes and rubber gloves that go in the trash, not flushed down the toilet. The county is finding that many are flushing the wipes which clog the drains and "creating another environmental hazard," Shultzaberger said.

Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, put a message about this in a past newsletter this spring. "I have been hearing about a noticeable amount of used gloves, masks, and wipes discarded onto the ground throughout the community. Please remember to dispose of these materials correctly and help us communicate that improper disposal is a public health hazard for your neighbors and our

waste collection workers that must clean them up. Another concern is that these items get washed into the waterways and into the Chesapeake Bay," he said.

At the DPWES, Shultzaberger noted that the employees were going to the reusable masks as a "sustainable option," and worked with GreenFare Health and Wellness in Herndon for their mask supply. GreenFare made 1,000 sets (3 masks per set) of 2-layer cotton face masks which they donated to the county.

Nationwide PPE Disposal

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) started encouraging all Americans to recycle materials from their households and properly dispose of personal protective equipment, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, they said in a release. Recycling isn't just good for the planet by reducing the amount of waste going to landfills and saving energy, it also supports American manufacturing.

The EPA is targeting the cardboard to recycle, so it can be used to make the PPE, so one of their points is to "keep disinfectant wipes, gloves, masks, other PPE and medical waste out of recycling bins," the EPA said.

In an EPA video, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said to "properly dispose of PPE following local and CDC guidelines." Most likely, those guidelines do not include the parking lots around Fairfax County.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Fairfax House Fire Causes \$90,000 Damage

Fire officials say an early morning fire last Saturday displaced six people and caused approximately \$90,000 damage to a Fairfax home. Units from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and the City of Fairfax Fire Department were dispatched, July 11, at 12:09 a.m., to the 10800 block of Santa Clara Drive.

Six occupants were home when the fire began. One smelled smoke and, investigating further, observed smoke coming from the basement door. This person alerted the others and

they all evacuated.

First-arriving units saw smoke coming from the front door of the two-story, single-family house. Crews worked quickly to locate and extinguish the blaze in the basement. Fire investigators determined the fire was accidental and started in the basement utility room. They saw the cause was an electrical event involving an extension cord that was powering a treadmill.

— BONNIE HOBBS

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Centennial Celebration in August 2021

FROM PAGE 5

and under 24/7 video surveillance, is considered "on loan" to the NOVA Regional Parks, as custodian of the Turning Point Monument. Restoration of the piece has been completed and the artifact is being held by the NPS until the memorial site is ready to receive it for direct placement in the memorial.

MONUMENT CONSTRUCTION has suffered delays, and funding setbacks brought on by the Covid-19 impact to local and State government budgets, as reported by Connection, April 29, 2020. The Memorial Association, once fully funded in early March, has had to significantly scale back design and opening celebration plans in response to loss of pledged funding. Plans for a grand centennial opening on the Aug. 26 anniversary of 19th Amendment passage have been foregone in favor of a likely 2021 opening and declaration of August 26, 2020 to 2021 as a "centennial year" of suffrage celebration. As part of that recognition, the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, formed

to coordinate the nation-wide recognition of the centennial, is expected to release two short videos marking the centennial and the Memorial construction.

Through the Monument's funding difficulties, one donor group of note has remained steadfast, Delta Sigma Theta. The national sorority founded by African-American women in 1913, included 22 women who marched for suffrage in March 1913. In accordance with the times, they were relegated to the back of the parade; the only African-American group to participate. The sorority began their activism with that suffrage and ironically, they are at the forefront of groups contributing to the cause now, a hundred years later. The national sorority has given more than \$100,000 in support of the memorial. Their honorary member, Mary Church Terrell, a leading suffrage spokesperson and civil rights activist, will be one of the suffragists memorialized by a statue in the Turning Point memorial's 19 stations.

WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS for

renewed government funding for the memorial following covid budgetary adjustments? Budget funding sponsor, state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) says, "We first have to have an accurate forecast of expected revenues." He mentioned competing priorities for available taxpayer revenues suggested by the Governor, including pre-K initiatives and free Community College for critical skills, for example. Del. Kathy Tran (D-42), the Memorial's House funding champion, also recognizes the need to be realistic about what will be possible given the number of worthy programs and the need to carefully weigh spending decisions during this period of Virginia's revenue loss. However, she indicates the memorial has a lot of support and she will continue to push for funding it, describing it as "incredibly important to recognize 100 years of women's right to vote. Its passage [19th Amendment] stands as the largest expansion of democracy of that time."

Those with interest in supporting the national memorial can find more information at www.suffragistmemorial.org.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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BULLETIN BOARD

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PARK AUTHORITY SCHEDULES VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

The Fairfax County Park Authority is still looking for workers to fill seasonal positions now that COVID-19 safety restrictions are being eased and park facilities are reopening under Gov. Ralph Northam's phased Forward Virginia Blueprint. Parks, lakefront areas and golf courses, playgrounds, historic sites, and other unique locations offer fun places to enjoy the summer season, as well as earn competitive pay. Many positions are primarily out-of-doors, and all positions have new safety protocols in place for both workers and park customers. Save the date if you are interested in learning more about jobs in:

Golf (https://bit.ly/jobfair_golf) on July 15, 2020 at 11 a.m.

Park Services and Resource Management (https://bit.ly/jobfair_parks) on July 16, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Park Operations (https://bit.ly/jobfair_parkops) on July 17, 2020 at 10 a.m.

FAIRFAX CITY INTRODUCES OUTDOOR DINING EXPERIENCE CITY SQUARE

The City of Fairfax and the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority have launched a new street-side dining concept in Old Town Fairfax called City Square on July 1, 2020. City Square will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily throughout the summer and consists of two locations, with a total of six outdoor seating areas along University Drive and Main Street. Four of the outdoor dining areas are reserved for specific restaurants, and the other two are open to anyone who orders a takeaway meal from an Old Town Fairfax eatery. The two City Square locations were strategically selected to ensure that customers will continue to be able to access non-restaurant sector businesses and their associated parking areas.

GUNSTON HALL TO REOPEN GROUNDS

Since its COVID-19 closure on March 14, the staff at George Mason's Gunston Hall has developed numerous opportunities to bring the "museum experience" to families across the country including web page content, live stream events, and videos. Now, with the latest announcement of reduced restrictions, Gunston Hall will reopen starting with the public reopening of its grounds. Beginning Friday, July 3, Gunston Hall will reopen its grounds to the public. The grounds will be open from 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily. Guests may remit a contactless payment of \$5 per person, either cash or credit card. A household membership of \$100 includes free passes for adults and children in a household for one year. On August 3, Gunston Hall will fully reopen and welcome visitors back into the mansion, visitor center, and museum shop. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance at www.GunstonHall.org.

TAKE A SPIN ON A CAROUSEL OR TRAVEL BY TRAIN AT COUNTY PARKS

Carousels are once again spinning at parks in Fairfax County, and the Burke Lake Park train is choo-chooing along the rails. Take the kids for a ride on your next park outing. The Park Authority has colorful carousels at six parks and a miniature locomotive that runs for 1.75 miles through Burke Lake Park. You can now purchase tickets in advance for all of these amusements:

Burke Lake Carousel
Burke Lake Train
Clemyjontri Carousel
Frying Pan Carousel
Lake Accotink Carousel
Lake Fairfax Carousel
Lee District Carousel

You can buy an unlimited number of tickets for your favorite activities for the same day or different days. Drop-in tickets will still be available on site if activities do not sell out online. Visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the new online reservation system to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the county by limiting physical contact via transactions and making it easy to practice social distancing.

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It's a Twofer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And not just Tuesday, either. All week in fact, I'll be waiting to hear the music. One day, I'll hear from my oncologist and on another day, I'll hear from my endocrinologist. What I'll hear first is the status of my underlying non small cell lung cancer, stage IV (diagnosed Feb., 2009) and later in the week, I'll get results concerning my most recent party crasher: papillary thyroid cancer, stage II, diagnosed Jan. 2020. This will be the first time I will have been waiting for results simultaneously, concerning TWO cancers that I now have. (What? One wasn't enough?) And B.B. King thought the thrill was gone. For those of us unlucky enough to have been diagnosed with two different and active cancers, this is the kind of week which tests your mettle and is as far away from thrilling as one could possibly imagine.

C'est la vie, or at least it is because I'm not ready to be morte. Who says taking five years of French between seventh and eleventh grades was a waste? Here I am 50+ years later and I'm still able to dip into that old bag of tricks. I fear however, that the longer I'm still living as an active, still-being-treated cancer patient, the more my health is at risk. Cancer is not exactly a friendly visitor. Rather it's the kind of uninvited guest that takes up residence in your home and never leaves, like dust mites, fleas and mold. In some instances, you know they're present; in other cases, you're told. And the longer they stay, the worse the situation becomes.

My cancer diagnosis was sort of like that, a surprise. A lifelong non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer, I woke up one day with a pain in my left rib cage. A few days later, after the pain had migrated to the other side, combined with difficulty I was having catching my breath, I decided to go to the Emergency Room. A brief examination followed but revealed very little to the doctor. He suggested I return in a week to see the pulmonologist. Which of course, I did.

By that time, the pain had totally subsided and I remained pain-free for the next eight weeks until I got "the call" from my internal medicine doctor advising me that the previous week's biopsy confirmed a malignancy. Then I was in pain, emotionally - and afraid, as you can probably imagine.

But here I sit, 11 and one half years later, living proof that a "terminal" diagnosis is not necessarily terminal. Somehow, through a combination of conventional wisdom/treatment, some non-Western alternatives in the form of pills and potions and a good attitude which has meant keeping my glass half full while trying to maintain a good sense of humor, I have been lucky enough to see my beloved Boston Red Sox win their third and fourth World Series Championships of the 21st century. (Their first two championships in 2004 and 2007 were pre-Kenny's cancer diagnosis.)

But looking backward, as gratifying and rewarding as it can sometimes be, has not been my modus operandi. My 'operandi' has been to walk quietly, laugh heartily and be positive (like our friend, Ray's blood type) and not presume any facts which are not yet in evidence. Moreover, try taking any and all news in stride and be a patient patient (which is not double talk) and put one foot in front of the other and see where it leads.

For me, it has led to a future that I wasn't supposed to have and a present for which I am eternally grateful, even during weeks such as these when I'm about to enter when my life, vis-a-vis what I am told by my oncologist and endocrinologist, is hanging in the balance not once, but twice. Really, twice is a bit much, don't you think? I mean, I think I'm doing my unhealthy bit by having one type of cancer. There's really no extra credit/extra benefit in having two types, especially at the same time. Nor is there any BO-GO-type discount on my health insurance costs. Quite the contrary, actually. But if I'm still alive to complain about it, then I'm still alive and that's nothing to complain about.

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



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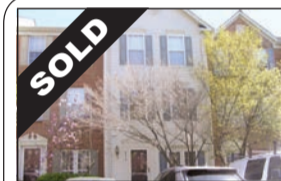
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Hope all my neighbors, friends and clients enjoyed all the July 4th celebrations. My neighbors made the sky explode with red, white and blue fireworks.

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