



# DogFest Goes Virtual

NEWS, PAGE 7

## Moving Schools to Dismantle Systemic Racial Oppression

NEWS, PAGE 3

## EagleForce Warrior Foundation Donates \$30K

NEWS, PAGE 6

Cheshire family of Great Falls with the dogs they raised, Buckner, the black Lab, and Zeno, the Golden Retriever. Top - from left: Nikki Cheshire, Raymond Junkins and Ben Cheshire. Bottom - from left: Tory Junkins and Jacqueline Cheshire.

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

PRSRRT STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EASTON, MD  
PERMIT # 322  
POSTAL CUSTOMER  
ECR WSS  
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.  
REQUESTED IN HOME 8-13-20

# YOUR SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

enjoy the Costa experience now with advanced safety protocols

staff is regularly tested for COVID-19



# COSTA

DENTISTRY

DR. SHANE COSTA | DR. NEHA GARGE

VIRTUAL CONSULTATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE | VISIT US ONLINE TO LEARN MORE [→](#)  
(703) 757-0833 | 10135 COLVIN RUN RD, SUITE 230, GREAT FALLS, VA 22066 | [COSTASMILES.COM](http://COSTASMILES.COM)

# NEWS

## Moving Schools to Dismantle Systemic Racism

### NAACP holds virtual Town Hall.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County NAACP held a virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 5. President Sean Perryman moderated discussion between Education Committee Chair Sujatha Hampton, Ph.D., Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Scott Brabrand Ed. D, and other staff. They focused on Fairfax County NAACP Education Committee Priorities 2020-2021 created to ensure educational equality of rights and eliminate race-based discrimination in the school district.

Throughout the 90-minute conversation, Hampton challenged Brabrand to live up to the school district's ideals, push for change and employ metrics and firm deadlines to goals.

"I'm watching you like a hawk," Hampton said.

Brabrand responded that in partnership, they should "watch together and learn together. ... I'm committed to doing the work ... I am serious as the leader of this system, about taking us where we need to go and I want to be a partner with the NAACP in doing that," Brabrand said.

The Town Hall began with a discussion on COVID-19 and how to protect vulnerable FCPS students, faculty and staff. Perryman said they couldn't talk about systemic racism without talking about COVID and the shutdown of schools. It was going to impact Black students as well as students of color disproportionately.

Brabrand said Covid exposed many inequities in the school system. "We are going to do everything we can to have a very strong virtual start and have all of our kids connected. And we will have metrics to begin the conversation with the community about how we can deliberately, carefully, safely ease back into school," he said.

Hampton said she and others in health and science fields were not comfortable with information the County's Health Department shared.

As a solution, Brabrand said he was working with the Virginia Department of Health and County Health Department for guidelines and metrics. They would establish decision-making policies on how to dial-up or, if necessary, dial-down students attending in-person school. The district would make certain health conditions were as low risk



Sean Perryman, president of the Fairfax County NAACP



Sujatha Hampton, Ph.D., Education Committee Chair of the Fairfax County NAACP



Scott Brabrand, Ed.D., Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools

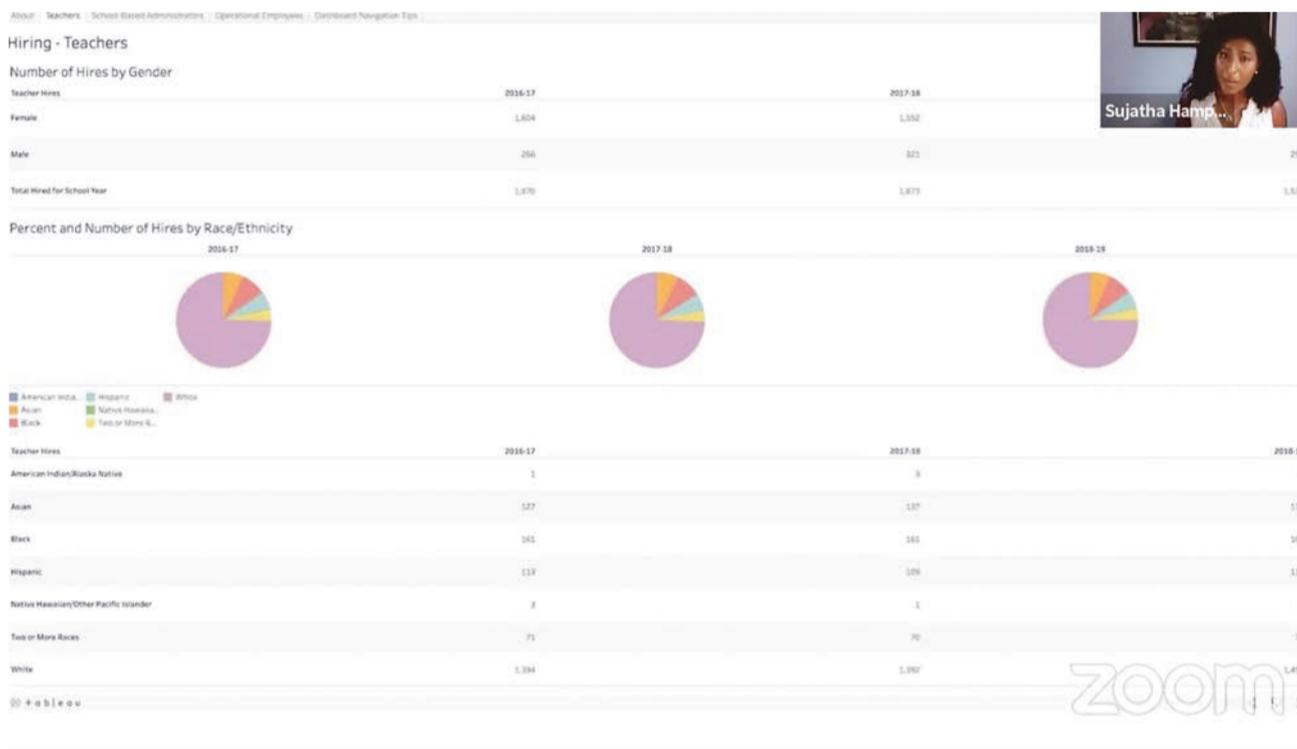
workers and restorative justice specialists, district data showed an over-representation of Black and brown children with behavior incidences.

According to Hampton, the mostly white teacher workforce "clearly have some issues because Black kids are not so bad." She said, "The problem is that when you only have teachers who are feeling threatened by their students to this degree, and nobody is reviewing whether the systems are put in place before they are disciplined, there's a problem...You should be able to look at the IEP for any child that's there and see their behavior intervention plan. You should be able to see all the things, all the steps the school took before they got there. There are ... just gigantic, gaping holes where people didn't do due diligence. And that is tragic." Hampton described differences between schools. "It's a culture thing," she said.

Brabrand said there would be new behavior codes for the school year. They would, as Brabrand said, "make teachers dive deeper before they're referring a kid to the office."

"And we're going to do a paper review of discipline data...Our issue is solving it systematically... Real-time data tracking for discipline; quarterly follow up with Doctor Ivy... If there's trends that are of concern around disproportionality, we're going to address it, just the same way that we would look at addressing attendance or

grades," he said. Dr. Frances Ivy added they had found all schools were not reporting on the same form. Perryman introduced the third Education Priority of Fairfax NAACP, to increase hiring and retention of Black and Latinx teachers, accessing it semi-annually in a public forum. Perryman asked, "Don't we have something like 26 schools that don't have anything but white teachers?" Brabrand confirmed the district had 25-26 schools that had no instructional staff of color. He added, "That is a problem, and that is not acceptable." Perryman questioned why the number of teachers of color had not changed in two years, even though there was a supply out there. Brabrand explained the district's decentralized hiring process had moved it to central. He said, "(It) doesn't mean you are going to pick diverse candidates out of that bigger pool...This is something I'd love your



Percent of FCPS teacher hires by race/ethnicity

as possible. Brabrand announced the public would see the "first draft at our August 18 Work Session."

HAMPTON voiced concern that the majority of County support staff who worked with vulnerable school populations had not been reached to participate in earlier district surveys. According to Hampton, unions represented only 30 percent of those individuals. "We need you to protect them," she said to Brabrand. Hampton added that the school district must commit "to gathering data, to reviewing the data, to analyzing the data with new metrics that are anti-racist (and) doing follow ups and having deadlines... Otherwise nothing happens, we just keep waiting," she said.

Hampton introduced the second Education Priority of Fairfax NAACP, to create an effective model for the Equity and Cultural Responsiveness Team by the end of the academic year. Brabrand said after hearing concerns voiced by members of NAACP and others regarding the new Chief Equity Academic Officer position, he changed course.

He intended to decouple the role and instead create two jobs. One would be Chief Equity Officer with a full range for the entire organization and the other Chief Academic Officer. "I would seek a national consultant to assist us in hiring both those key positions," Brabrand said.

Hampton said they were there to help and might have perspectives not yet considered. "You cannot achieve radical transformation, with exactly the same profile and exactly the same people at the table. It is not possible; and assuming anti-racism is a fairly new thing for systems to be considering, you have to be looking for somebody completely new, a totally different mindset," she said. Hampton offered Brabrand side-by-side "Traditional vs. Anti-Racist" job descriptions.

Brabrand and Hampton turned their attention to racial bias viewed through the lens of the disproportionate number of behavior incidents in the schools involving Black and brown children. Although the district provided School-based Intervention Programs for Behavior with a consulting system of counselors, psychologists, social

SEE NAACP, PAGE 11

## Oversimplifying a Complex Issue

**“Defund the Police” slogan in response to the real problems in policing may inhibit progress towards reform.**

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

COMMENTARY

Communications experts advise that a message needs to be short and punchy to convey its intended meaning in a short period of time. Short and sweet can lead however to confusion, mixed meaning and unintended consequences.

Virginians have realized the fallout from simple, bumper-strip-sized messages in the past. “End parole” as a campaign slogan helped former Governor George Allen overcome a 20-point polling difference to be elected governor. For some people the slogan meant less crime and safer streets, but it also filled Virginia’s prisons to overflowing shifting huge sums of money from other programs to the Department of Corrections. More people were incarcerated and for longer lengths of time, but the crime rate stayed essentially the same. The campaign slogan “End the Car Tax” got Jim Gilmore elected governor, but the resulting policy costs Vir-

ginia schools nearly a billion dollars every year even until today.

I am not particularly good at campaign slogans, but I am fearful that the current “Defund the Police” slogan in response to the real problems in policing throughout the country may inhibit progress towards reform. The number of people who want to literally take all funding from the police is small, but the use of a simplistic phrase to describe the reform movement may turn off many moderates and completely scare away conservatives. There has to be a better way to describe the desired outcomes that reflects the complexities of the problem.

Policing desperately needs reform at all levels of government. The misuse of police power and tactics by the federal government in Portland is frightening, and the Congress must take steps to reign in the administration politicizing the use of police powers. At the state level Virginia

needs to increase—not defund—its funding of state police to ensure that its pay structure will attract the best trained and most professional persons to its ranks. It needs to be able to fill its open slots to reduce overtime and stress on its current force.

At the same time the Virginia General Assembly needs in its special session this month to enact the reforms proposed by the Legislative Black Caucus including eliminating the use of choke holds, using body cameras, and enhancing training.

The same reforms need to be applied to police at the county, city and town levels including sheriff departments in Virginia. The responsibilities that have befallen the police in the area of mental health need to be assumed more by personnel in the departments responsible for and skilled in this area of concern.

The public demands and legislators will ensure that the public is safe. At the same time we must demand and put into existence a system free of discrimination and inappropriate use of force. That means we need to redefine our expectations of policing and reimagine the role of public safety officers in our society. We must be willing to spend dollars appropriately to accomplish those objectives. It is over-simplifying a complex issue to suggest that we can “defund the police.”

## Vote YES on Virginia Constitutional Amendment

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

As one looks out over the public policy landscape in the midst of a seemingly out-of-control pandemic, it is easy to feel powerless and distressed at the direction of the country’s drift.

As the pandemic continues, it has not only been mismanaged into the worst and deadliest public health disaster in over a century but also has crippled the very spirit of the USA. With nearly 40 million unemployed we are in depression mode.

American youth already lost a portion of the academic year 2019-20 with no apparent plan for making up the loss. Now, we head into academic year 2020-21 with the likelihood that students in grades K through college will lose at least a portion of the coming year as local governments, parents and teachers argue “safety” versus actual classroom instruction—be it in our vast unused brick and mortar buildings or yet unproven, part-time “virtual learning.” Our youth take the brunt of this publicly mismanaged disaster. How will we make it up to them? Now the White House is starting to dismantle one public service (besides defense) that has worked through the pandemic—the U.S. Postal Service, 500,000 men and women who keep on delivering mail to our doors.

Is there any ray of hope on this dismal horizon?

Yes. The most obvious one is November 3, the day we get to change the incumbent in the White House, elect new Congressmen and

women and one third of our U.S. Senators. Another tremendous ray of hope, also on November 3—is the opportunity to vote on Virginia’s constitutional amendment to end the practice of gerrymandering. As Congressman Don Beyer says, “this amendment is an enormous improvement on the undemocratic system Virginia has had for centuries.”

A constitutional amendment cannot be easily undone by legislators tempted to return to their old ways of carving up districts by packing them with voters of their own party and persuasion. This amendment is the product of a great deal of work and public pressure to transfer the power to draw districts (Congressional and Virginia legislative ones) from an opaque one controlled by majority legislators to a redistricting commission composed of 8 bipartisan legislators (4 from each party) and 8 independently selected citizens operating openly in public.

The amendment was passed by both the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates twice, in two different legislative sessions. In 2019, the amendment sailed through the Senate by a vote of 40 to 0 and the House 83 to 15—at the time the Republicans held a slight majority in both houses. In 2020, now with Democratic majorities in both houses, the amendment passed 38 to 2 in the Senate and a closer 54 to 46 vote in the House. Also, during the 2020 legislative session, the House and Senate both

passed accompanying enabling legislation for the redistricting criteria to which both congressional and state legislative districts must adhere. The criteria include, inter alia, that districts be compact, composed of contiguous territory, preserve communities of interest, give racial and language minorities an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and ...not dilute or diminish their ability to elect candidates of choice either alone or in coalition with others, and several other vital protections.

This year, after the Democrats captured modest majorities in both houses, a group of Democrats in the House of Delegates seemed to get cold feet, suddenly deciding that maybe things should be left as they had been... i.e., now that they held the majority and would control the redistricting process. Still the House passed the amendment, although by a smaller margin. The Senate, however, again passed the amendment overwhelmingly, 38 to 2. Democratic Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw was quoted as saying, “The arguments against that [passage] were pure bullshit.”

Our own Delegate Ken Plum, the most senior delegate in the House, voted a firm YES both times and told me just a few days ago he still supports a YES vote on November 3, as does our longtime progressive Senator Janet Howell.

The time to bring down the curtain on gerrymandering and restore fairness in Virginia redistricting has finally come. Now it is up to us on November 3.

Please vote YES on November 3!



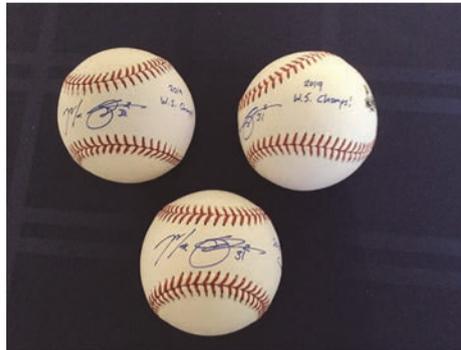
## NEWS

### Max Scherzer Signs Baseball for Women's Education Fundraiser

There is an opportunity to own a baseball signed by Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer with "2019 World Series Champs!" and at the same time support women's and girl's education. With the cancellation of McLean Branch AAUW's Used Book Sale, its annual charitable fundraiser, a substitute fundraiser will feature the Scherzer baseball opportunity along with a request for contributions to support education and local scholarships for women. In 2019 the proceeds of the book sale enabled the branch to fund scholarships for a woman returning to college at George Mason, Marymount, and Trinity universities and also support women's education through AAUW Funds, a 501(c)(3) entity.

Donors will get on base with a contribution of \$20 or more and also have the opportunity to hit a home run and own the baseball signed by Max Scherzer. In fact, three donors will have the opportunity because Max graciously gave the branch three signed balls.

For each \$20 contribution, the person's name will be listed. Multiples of \$20 will enhance the opportunity, and the owners will be selected randomly.



Contributions can be made until Aug. 31 through GoFundMe at <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/aauw-mc-lean-areas-home-run-fundraiser-for-women-and-education>.

Donations may also be sent with full name, address, and phone number to McLean Branch AAUW (American Association of University Women) at P.O. Box 1002, McLean, VA 22101. A receipt will be sent for each contribution. The \$40,000 goal will enable the branch to fund the scholarships and AAUW fellowships and grants as in the past. Last year's book sale netted \$47,000.

### Assistance League Promotes Summer Reading

Last month, in response to the COVID-19 crisis and through a partnership with Scholastic Books, Assistance League of Northern Virginia provided hundreds of new books to elementary school children in Manassas, Alexandria, and Springfield. The books were distributed to students through school staff. Some books were hand delivered to homes, some were mailed, some were placed in "little libraries" at the schools, and others were made available in front of the schools.

As part of its Operation School Bell program, Assistance League of Northern Virginia has a Literacy program through which it tutors students who need extra help with reading, and also provides new books to elementary school children at no cost to them. For many of the students touched through the Literacy program, these are the first new books they could call their own and the only children's books in their homes. Assistance League's goal in June was to keep kids reading during the summer when they had no access to public libraries or school classrooms.

For more information, visit: [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org)

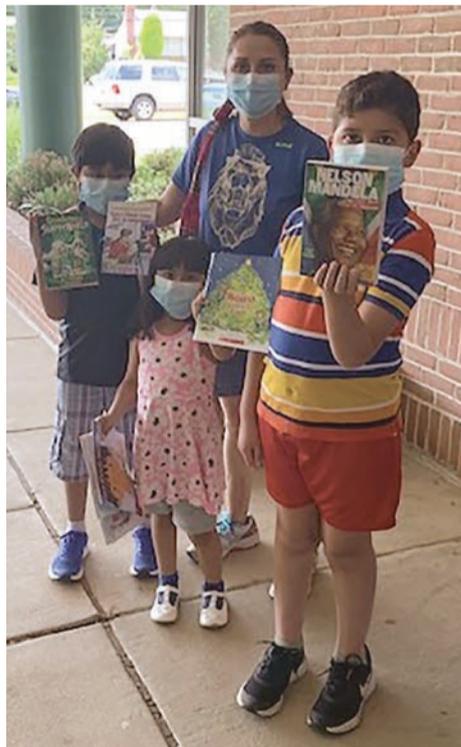


PHOTO COURTESY OF ALNV

Assistance League of Northern Virginia provided hundreds of new books to elementary school children in Manassas, Alexandria, and Springfield.

#### AREA ROUNDUPS

### STEM Program Volunteers Needed

The AAAS STEM Volunteers Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), needs scientists, engineers and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in school districts in the DC metro area during the 2020-21 school year. Due to the pandemic, it is anticipated that instruction will be virtual. We will work with our school district partners and volunteers to determine the best ways to support STEM teachers in a virtual environment.

If you care about K-12 STEM education and have time to share your knowledge with students and teachers, send a note to [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com) with your home address.

## State Farm Insurance G. STEPHEN DULANEY

IN GREAT FALLS



AUTO • HOME • LIFE  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Like A Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There.®

Open Saturdays

Complementary Insurance and Financial Review

Visit [www.gstephendulaney.com](http://www.gstephendulaney.com)



**703-759-4155**

731-C WALKER RD. • GREAT FALLS, VA

State Farm Insurance Companies  
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois

Proud Supporter of Military Appreciation Mondays

Families need help now more than ever.

### Adoption Competent Mental Health Therapists

serving  
adoptive, foster & kinship families

via TeleHealth



[www.adoptionsupport.org/telementalhealth](http://www.adoptionsupport.org/telementalhealth)

Call us to learn more

**866-217-8534**

Inquire about financial  
assistance



the nonprofit  
CENTER FOR ADOPTION  
SUPPORT AND EDUCATION  
since 1998

# EagleForce Warrior Foundation Donates \$30K

## Funds launch Capital Caring Health's 'So No One Dies Alone Program.'

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The local nonprofit provider of elder health, hospice and advanced illness care, Capital Caring Health, received a \$30K donation from EagleForce Warrior Foundation to launch the provider's 'So No One Dies Alone Program' for Veterans from Northern Virginia and nearby areas and their families. "We recognize the sacrifices made by our military and their families, and we're proud to be a part of this new program ensuring our Veteran heroes are surrounded by the compassionate presence of another human being as they near the end of life," said Cheryl Campbell, CEO, The EagleForce Warrior Foundation.



Altonia Garrett, Vice President, Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, Capital Caring Health



Jason Parsons, Vice President of Public Affairs and Philanthropy, Capital Caring Health

Through the Foundation's signature "Vet Jets Program" families and loved ones who do not have the financial resources to cover travel expenses to be with their Armed Forces Veteran nearing the end of life, will be provided private and commercial air travel to be at their bedside. Ground transportation expenses are included.

One of the reasons Capital Caring Health was excited about the funding according to Reverend Carolyn Richar who is a certified hospice and palliative care nurse with Capital Caring Health was because so many families during the COVID-induced economic crisis are struggling financially without jobs or they are ones with jobs but not sure how long those jobs are going to be there. "The idea of putting thousands of dollars into a trip is just frightening. It is possible now, so they don't have to worry about that," Richar said.

The program ensures Veterans the opportunity to experience an important component of the end of life. "The humanity, solace and comfort found in the presence of another human being," said Jason Parsons, Vice President of Public Affairs and Philanthropy at Capital Caring Health.

According to Altonia Garrett, Vice President, Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, twenty-five percent of the patient population at Capital Caring Health are Veterans. "We live in a very veteran-rich area. So,

we can see a lot of those folks benefiting from their loved ones and people that need to get here to be with them," she said.

Richar said the ability to have a meaningful conversation to discuss those things that matter most to the Veteran and to their family, was important. According to Richar, so often, Vietnam Veterans struggled. They went through rough times and came back from the war, wanting to forget what they saw or what they went through. She said, "Nobody here wanted to hear about it...There's so much unsaid for these Vietnam War Vets... So much crisis and trauma in their lives once they got back. So many of them have these deep regrets...People who struggled with perhaps anger issues or addiction issues or other connection struggles. To have the chance to be together now and share whatever words they need to share. Say whatever I'm sorries, I love yous, I forgive yous, anyone needs to say... None of us are guaranteed, even the minute from now. So, use this time now, as fully and beautifully and joyfully as you can."

PHOTOS COURTESY  
CAPITAL CARING  
HEALTH



Reverend Carolyn Richar, palliative and hospice nurse, Capital Caring Health

**"Say whatever I'm sorries, I love yous, I forgive yous, anyone needs to say... None of us are guaranteed, even the minute from now. So, use this time now, as fully and beautifully and joyfully as you can."**

— Reverend Carolyn Richar

## FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

### DRIVE-IN THEATERS AT WORKHOUSE

The Workhouse Drive-In Movie Theatre is set up with a 40 foot screen on campus and is 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. Alternatively, moviegoers may bring their own snacks or meals purchased from local restaurants. Showtime is 9 p.m. and gates open at 8:15 p.m. At 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Visit the website: [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

Thursday, Aug. 13 -- "Moana"  
Friday, Aug. 14 -- "Despicable Me"  
Saturday, Aug. 15 -- "Clue"  
Thursday, Aug. 20 -- "Suffragette"  
Friday, Aug. 21 -- "How to Train Your Dragon"  
Saturday, Aug. 22 -- "Labyrinth (Encore)"  
Thursday, Aug. 27 -- "A League of their Own"

### TYSONS CORNER DRIVE-IN MOVIES

Tyson's Corner Center is hosting Drive-In Movie Nights, in partnership with the Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center, on the second weekend of each month. Located along Fashion Blvd. between Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's, will open for parking, be sure to bring your ticket. Show starts at 8:30 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 14 -- "Aladdin"  
Saturday, Sept. 12 -- "Mrs. Doubtfire"  
Reserve your spot - space is limited. Reservation and movie details are located at <https://www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events>

### DRIVE-IN MOVIES AT SOUTH RIDING

South Riding Town Center in Chantilly will host a free Summer Drive-In Movie Series each Tuesday evening now through August 18. Attendance is limited to South Riding residents and advanced registration is required. Spectators must remain in their car during the movie but may roll down their windows. South Riding Inn and Dominos will be available for delivery to vehicles and other food options are available for takeout. No alcohol. Registration is available on the events page at [www.southriding.net](http://www.southriding.net). The movie begins at sunset and lineup for the summer is as follows:  
Aug. 18 -- "The Lego Movie"

### MOSAIC DEBUTS OUTDOOR DRIVE-IN MOVIES

EDENS Mosaic has launched a new outdoor drive-in movie series this summer. Located on the top level (7) of Market Garage across from Mom's Organic Market and Hyatt House. Check-in is on level 6. Address: 8295 Glass Alley, Fairfax. The films begin at 8 p.m. The lineup includes:  
Friday Aug. 28: "Sonic the Hedgehog" at 5:15 p.m.  
There is a \$28 fee to reserve a designated spot in accordance with the new social distancing guidelines. Tickets can be purchased at <https://mosaicdistrict.com/>

events/event/drive-in-at-mosaic/?event\_id=8599 Visit [www.mosaicdistrict.com](http://www.mosaicdistrict.com).

### COLUMBIA PIKE DRIVE-IN

Pull up to the Columbia Pike Drive-In Movie Nights at the Arlington Career Center for some free retro-style family fun. All movies start at sunset (between 8 and 8:30 p.m.) and are shown in English with Spanish subtitles. Space is limited and new protocols are in place to keep everyone safe. Address: 816 S Walter Reed Dr, Arlington, VA 22204. Visit the website: <https://www.columbia-pike.org/movienights/>  
Aug. 15 -- "Ready Player One"  
Aug. 22 -- "Coco"  
Aug. 29 -- "Mary Poppins Returns"

### SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT SERIES

The Fairfax County Park Authority will livestream 25 free summer concert events featuring a mix of nationally known performers and singer-songwriters. These virtual events provide a new way to enjoy great performances from the safety of your home. To view a livestream concert, go to the Fairfax County Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series main page at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances), select the date on the calendar for this performance, and click on the links for the livestream video.

Schedule  
Thursday, Aug. 13 -- John McCutcheon, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 14 -- Alice Howe with Freebo, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 21 -- Lee District Nights: Frank Solivan, 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, Aug. 23 -- Starlight Cinema: Oshima Brothers, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 27 -- The End of America, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 27 -- Mount Vernon Nights: Los Texmaniacs, 7:30 p.m.

### AUG. 17-21

Summer Virtual Camp. 9 - 10 a.m. Virtual presentation. At 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Art That Takes You Places. Ages 10 - 12. You may be staying close to home this summer, but while you are in this class you will be whisked away -- make some art that takes you places. Virtual camp fees are \$75 per screen for each week with an additional \$10 fee if you wish to purchase a material kit. Email: [info@upcyclecr.org](mailto:info@upcyclecr.org). To register, visit [www.upcyclecr.org/camps](http://www.upcyclecr.org/camps). Zoom link will be sent the day before the camp starts to access the virtual classes.

### AUG. 25 -- ACT ONE

"Saltwater Farm" by Ann Timmons. 7:15- 9 p.m. Presented by Pipeline Playwrights in association with MetroStage, a two-part reading of the complete script-in-progress. Aug. 25: Act One and Sept. 1: Act Two. As an old Maine family's wealth is disappearing, siblings face hard choices while confronting their own past in a changing world.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

## NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Wherever volunteer Puppy Raiser for Canine Companions for Independence®, Tory (Cheshire) Junkins of Great Falls goes, so does her service dog in training, Golden Retriever Zeno. Being exposed to life experiences allows the dog opportunities to learn new skills it will need to know after matched with a recipient and performing its service dog work.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cheshire family of Great Falls with the dogs they raised, Buckner, the black Lab, and Zeno, the Golden Retriever. Top - from left: Nikki Cheshire, Raymond Junkins and Ben Cheshire. Bottom - from left: Tory Junkins and Jacqueline Cheshire.

# DogFest Goes Virtual

## COVID affects fundraising efforts, virtual platform spurs creative responses for the Sept. 20 event.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Cheshire family of Great Falls is raising its 14th Canine Companions for Independence® (CCI) service puppy. In between teaching their dog a reported 30 some commands, Jacqueline Cheshire, CCI's Capital Chapter President, and dedicated volunteers are planning the chapter's seventh annual fundraiser, "DogFest Washington DC | September 20-Virtual." Previously anchored at Reston Town Center, the event relocated to Facebook amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. They hope for a healthy bottom line from event proceeds to help support the non-profit organization that provides highly trained assistance dogs free of charge to people with disabilities. Costs run \$50,000 per dog, according to Cheshire.

While precautions related to coronavirus forced organizers to reimagine the charitable event, they also needed to factor into their business model diversified fundraising to counter lost revenue streams and creative event planning. Cheshire said, "We need to keep funding these dogs, raising these dogs, and getting them trained and into the hands of people with disabilities, even though there's a pandemic...Revenue is down, 20 to 30 percent this year...We have very few sponsors because we've not been able to go out and show off the dogs... On the day of the event, ordinarily, we'd have vendor booth fees...and percentage of sales fees... Last year's event attracted over 600 participants and raised over \$90,000." On Aug. 4, Cheshire said they had raised \$38,000.

U.S. Army CPT Gavin White of Herndon was injured after stepping on an IED while serving in Afghanistan. He applied for an assistance dog with Canine Companions for Independence and matched with Stuart IV in 2015. White and his wife, Karissa, wrote in an email that as a result of the injury, he lost his right leg above the knee and had extremely limited use of his left leg. They add-



PHOTO BY TORY JUNKINS

U.S. Army Captain Gavin White of Herndon with his daughter and Canine Companions for Independence service dog, Stuart.

ed: "Stuart helps Gavin every day, assisting in the application of prosthetics, retrieval of items, and increases his mobility either by walking on Gavin's weak side or letting Gavin know that people are around him... 'Whenever I have Stuart with me, people provide the room I need to use my wheelchair and get around...When I am feeding or changing my daughter it's great to have Stuart there to help. He will pick up items that are dropped or take things to my wife if my hands are full.'"

Dog lovers and supporters can participate in 'DogFest Washington DC |September 20

Virtual' through the newly minted Facebook event page. "This DogFest will certainly be one to remember," said Tory Junkins, Cheshire's daughter. Junkins is taking videos of the dogs for promotion and education. The celebration begins at noon and features a lineup of the human-canine bonding and testimonials by graduates, "almost like a mini telethon," said Cheshire. "Two contests are running. "One is the best dog trick...and the other competition is submitting a photograph of your dog in a costume...People will vote on Facebook." Winners will receive a basket of dog items.



PHOTO BY TORY JUNKINS

Puppy raiser Heidi Cummings, member of the Tyson-based Capital Chapter of Canine Companions for Independence®, made the service dog-themed quilt she is raffling off and donating proceeds to 'DogFest Washington DC |September 20-Virtual'. Cummings is holding her puppy in training, LaValle, as her release dog, Auckland, sits by her side.

Volunteer forces remain stable during COVID. Stephanie Dagata said, "Puppy Raising is fulfilling, joyful, and educational. It can also be frustrating at times, tiring at times and defeating at times but this is where our wonderful CCI family comes into action. We are all here to help."

"To raise from a puppy of 8 weeks old to 18 months or so, and then turn these loved beautiful puppies, very well behaved to the advanced training (center) and change another's life, is truly a labor of love and giving," said Deb Push of McLean.

Visit Canine Companions for Independence to learn more or to donate.

# Black Interior Designers on Industry's Lack of Inclusion and Diversity

Local tastemakers speak honestly about racial barriers within the profession.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

As recent racial injustice protests have brought issues of diversity and inclusion to the forefront of the nation's consciousness, local interior designers of color are voicing concerns about equity and underrepresentation within the industry. Four tastemakers from around the region share their experiences with systemic racism in the industry, the issues that make achieving success more difficult for black designers than their white counterparts and strategies for improvement.

"The prejudices in the design industry are very, very deep," said interior designer Sheryl McLean of McLean & Tircuit in Bethesda. "I don't let it hold me back, but I have to acknowledge that it's there. I often wonder if people think that I'm going to design a bedroom and use a dashiki bedspread."

The dearth of African American designers in the region often makes them an anomaly at trade shows and other professional events. "I've been in situations where I'm the only black person in a room or on site and no one wants to talk to me," said Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs in Alexandria.

This unfamiliarity can lead to reactions that range from blank stares to awkward conversations with their white counterparts. "You can see how uncomfortable and standoffish some designers are," says McLean. "They don't know what to say because they're afraid they might say something wrong, but they automatically assume that you're not on their level."

"I think that this is definitely true in the Washington area. It's like a sorority girls club in a way," said Jeanne Griffin of Jeanne Griffin Interior Design in Alexandria.

"There's a network of designers who belong to the same country clubs and have parents who know influential people who can help grow their business. I didn't have anyone helping me."

"Many black designers didn't go to school with, don't worship with, or don't live in the same neighborhood as the decision makers," added Lorna Gross-Bryant of Lorna Gross Interior Design in Bethesda, Maryland. "For example, a show house board might say they didn't select a designer to participate because they 'don't know them.'"

Despite their attempts to assimilate and overcome barriers within the industry, designers of color are often received with wariness and misconceptions. When Griffin casually inquired about the lack of diversity at a design event, her questions were met with perplexity. "I was told, 'I'm not a racist. I just don't know any black people.'"

The social dynamic in the Washington region, says Hill-Mattauszek feeds this systemic exclusion. "DC is defined by groups and if you're not in a certain group it's harder to be successful," she said. "For the longest time if you went to trade shows you'd hardly ever see any African American designers on a panel."

A lack of coverage by national design publications limits widespread visibility of their work, says McLean. "Mainstream magazines haven't felt the need to feature African American artists or our contributions," she said. "They're calling now and asking for quotes as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement, and that's great, but where have they been for the last 20 years? Not getting coverage hurts us."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEANNE GRIFFIN INTERIOR DESIGN  
**Jeanne Griffin of Jeanne Griffin Interior Design in Alexandria created this airy kitchen.**

Organizations like Black Artists + Designers Guild (BADG) and Black Interior Designers Network (BIDN), both of which McLean and Gross are members, have helped raise the profile of designers of color. "A lot of African American designers are also making their voices heard through social media," said Hill-Mattauszek. "There's been a change, but for a long time it was a struggle."

The industry's evaluation of its nearly homogenous make-up requires introspection and a shift in mindset, suggests Griffin. "Are majority white firms brave enough to put the work into diversifying their staff?" she asks. "Are people brave enough to be able to hire someone of a different race?"

Creating a new generation of up-and-coming interior designers who are driven and unafraid to push creative and social boundaries requires mentorship, education and confidence. "My advice to aspiring African American designers is to always strive for excellence," said Gross. "There is no substitute for hard work. This is what my parents instilled in me and I think the philosophy still holds true. And establishing a great network is critical."

While talent is essential to working in the industry, established Black designers say that the ability to create aesthetically appealing spaces is not enough. "As black designers, we always have to be better, being equal is not allowed," said Griffin. "For Blacks, being equally qualified is seen as being behind. We have to be 200% better to be seen as equal."

Established designers are paving the way for new talent and believe that education can offer that equanimity. Gross, Griffin, Hill-Mattauszek and McLean have graduate degrees and multiple certifications in design, and encourage those who want to join the industry to do the same.

"During my career, I've tried to balance the playing field by pursuing as many degrees and certifications as possible to alleviate any concern about my ability to execute a project at a high-level," said Gross. "I have been fortunate to have a healthy number of clientele who seek my work."

"The more education you have, the more opportunities you will have," added Griffin. "I also encourage students of color to take any opportunity to travel abroad. It builds so much self-confidence."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

**VIENNA OKTOBERFEST IS CANCELED**

In the interest of public health and safety and to limit the spread of COVID-19, Vienna Oktoberfest 2020 has been canceled. The event was scheduled for October 3. This joint decision by the Vienna Business Association (VBA) and Town of Vienna is in line with current recommendations from the Virginia Department of Health and Gov. Ralph Northam's office and takes into consideration the uncertainty about the safety of public gatherings in the fall. Fees will be

refunded by August 15 to 2020 festival vendors who have already registered and paid.

**THURSDAY/AUG. 20**

Taste of Italy: 5:30-6:15 p.m. At Vienna Vintner via Zoom, 320 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Vienna Vintners will be presenting a Taste of Italy private wine tasting event to support Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon (SC). Funds donated to SC will help us to create a

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

## Park Authority to Honor Six Volunteers

The Fairfax County Park Authority will honor six individuals and groups with 2020 Elly Doyle Park Service Special Recognition Awards at a virtual volunteer celebration in November.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Special Recognition Awards given to individuals or groups for outstanding volunteer service will go to:

- ❖ **Birds and Bees Engineers (BBE)/Paul Slebodnik** – At no cost to the county, the BBE team of volunteers has invested hundreds of hours over the past six years to install and maintain homes for bluebirds and purple martins at county parks. Led by Paul Slebodnik, this group has monitored the bluebird houses at Twin Lakes Golf Course, Burke Lake Park, Oak Marr RECenter and the Upper Occoquan Service Authority. It has worked to educate and install purple martin colonies throughout Fairfax County, including Twin Lakes. And last year, Slebodnik and his wife Alexis established a partnership with Twin Lakes management to start a honey bee yard on the course. The team has bolstered the bird population and helped the survival of important pollinators.
- ❖ **Jane Gamble** -- Jane Gamble is an amateur photographer who provides professional-quality photos to the Park Authority's Public Information Office and Resource Management Division for use in the agency's communications. Her specialty is park wildlife, and her photos frequently appear in the Park Authority's social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), the ResOURces newsletter, and other agency publications to promote stewardship and highlight the wealth of natural resources in the county. Her photographs have significantly increased traffic and engagement on these social media platforms.
- ❖ **Sara Holtz** – Sara Holtz is the Site Leader at Difficult Run Stream Valley Park in Oakton for the Invasive Management Area (IMA) Program. She works to remove nonnative invasive plants from the park, leads workdays for volunteer groups, and acts as an advisor for Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Hornaday conservation awards, and Eagle Scouts, educating young volunteers on the importance of habitat restoration, inspiring neighbors to help remove invasives and assisting fellow site leaders with their IMA sites.
- ❖ **Jean Ann Lenney** -- Jean Ann Lenney has been a front desk volunteer at Riverbend Park's Visitor Center for two years, working regularly, even through the holidays. She manages the sales at the gift shop, answers phone calls, provides visitors with guidance and support, and often takes on additional tasks while on duty. She provides excellent customer service to visitors and outstanding support to park staff.
- ❖ **Elarbi Taouil** – Elarbi Taouil has worked with the Cub Run Park Volunteer Team since 2017, participating in periodic cleanup events and using his gift for photography to inspire residents to care about the park. He has volunteered to lead photography expeditions into the park to teach camera and photography basics, and the Park Foundation has used his photographs in social media posts, annual reports and fundraising appeals that attracted monetary support.
- ❖ **Tony Lee Williams** – Tony Lee Williams has been a volunteer martial arts instructor at Mount Vernon RECenter for more than eight years, providing safe, comfortable, and effective learning experiences for his students. He brings a positive attitude, flexibility and dedication to his role, whether teaching a class for one or 10 students. He arrives early to ready his classroom space and is willing to stay late to talk with his students, developing a warm rapport.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Awards were established by the Park Authority in 1988 in recognition of former Park Authority Board Chairman and member Ellamae Doyle's years of outstanding service toward the preservation of parkland and establishment of natural and recreational areas for the benefit of Fairfax County residents. The purpose of the award is to publicly recognize a volunteer or group of volunteers for outstanding volunteer service contributions to Fairfax County parks.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662 or at [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov).

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

Can't make both nights? Watch live when you can, then catch up on YouTube. Link of YouTube will be posted on Pipeline Playwrights' website ([www.pipelineplaywrights.org](http://www.pipelineplaywrights.org)) when available. Register at <https://forms.gle/4ptA5Y2B-tUGX5u519>

## ONLINE CODING CLASSES FOR KIDS

CodeWizardsHQ is offering online after school coding classes for kids and summer coding classes for kids with a structured curriculum that is comprehensive, developmental, challenging, and fun. Students get to code a project in every class. Expect the most fun and effective live, teacher-led coding classes for kids with support, including live office hours and 24/7 access to their proprietary coding platform. Their teachers take a students-first approach to teaching Python, Java, HTML/CSS, and JavaScript that guarantees students will reach their potential. New summer classes are starting on August 3. Visit [www.CodeWizardsHQ.com](http://www.CodeWizardsHQ.com).

## THE BIRCHMERE REOPENS

The Birchmere in Alexandria is reopening with limited capacity. During the public health emergency, there will be a \$25 food and beverage minimum and a \$5 Covid fee. There will be no bar service and no gathering in the stage or bar areas. Customers will be escorted to their seats, and those without reserved seats will be seated by staff to ensure social distancing.

Schedule of Shows:

Friday, Aug. 14 -- Eli Cook Band  
Saturday, Aug. 15 -- Tommy Emmanuel

Friday, Aug. 21 -- Michael Clem (of Eddie From Ohio) and Rusty Spidel (of SGGL)

Sunday, Aug. 23 -- Vanessa Collier

Friday, Aug. 28 -- John Kadlecik

Friday, Sept. 11 -- The Eric Scot Band

The venue is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. All shows at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall, unless otherwise noted. Visit the Birchmere's website: <http://www.birchmere.com/>

## COMMUNITY MARKET AT WORKHOUSE

The Workhouse Arts Center announces a new Community Market initiative in partnership with the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce every Saturday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Community Market is designed to help businesses rebuild during Virginia's Phase II reopening in a unique setting all while keeping local arts alive. Surrounded by historic buildings, the Workhouse offers a unique venue for Fairfax and Prince William businesses and organizations to market and sell goods and services. The outdoor environment provides greater exposure to traditional brick and mortar businesses as well as a way for the community to shop in a safer way during Phase I and Phase II of re-opening the local economy. Spaces and tents will adhere to social distancing guidelines and the Workhouse will monitor traffic and cleaning guidelines for optimal safety. Interested vendors should contact Elena Romanova at [elenaromanova@workhousearts.org](mailto:elenaromanova@workhousearts.org).

A wake of waves crashes as "River Sea Chocolates Wild Sloth" docks at the pier during the 2018 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta. (File photo 2018)



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION

## Reston Pride Runs Deep, Water or Not

### Coronavirus collides with Cardboard Boat Regatta.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Reston Historic Trust & Museum canceled its fourth annual Cardboard Boat Regatta due to the coronavirus pandemic. In its place the organization presents the 2020 Cardboard Challenge during the entire month of August. Although mates won't be squeezed in sinking cardboard creations, ferociously paddling back to the dock, community spirit and pride run deep in

Reston, water or not. According to Alexandra Campbell, executive director of Reston Historic Trust & Museum, registered participants can create their favorite Reston places and landmarks mainly out of cardboard. Paint, duct tape and paper-mâché can be used. Participants can register for the event with a suggested donation of \$25. They will have a chance to win a one-of-a-kind trophy from Nova Labs and have their work exhibited at Reston Museum in October. Registrants must email images of their works [info@restonmuseum.org](mailto:info@restonmuseum.org) or tag @restonmuseum on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. Visit <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboardchallenge>.

**20 NEWCOMERS & 20 COMMUNITY GUIDE**  
Publishing: August 26, 2020

**For Advertising:**  
Call 703.778.9431 or Email [advertising@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:advertising@connectionnewspapers.com)

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 8 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made and other vital community information.

**Perfect Advertising Opportunity for:**  
Hospitals | Healthcare | Wellbeing | New Homes | Realtors | Schools | Malls | Shopping Centers | Professional Services | And Much More

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

**Alexandria Gazette Packet**

**Mount Vernon Gazette**

**POTOMAC ALMANAC**

**Same Company, Same Employees,  
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!**

## TWO POOR TEACHERS

### Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed  
Since 1999



**Free Estimates 703-999-2928**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level  
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

**Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)**

### Announcements

**FREE!**  
Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Toilet FREE! (\$500 Value)



**WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE!**  
SAVE \$1,500

- ✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience
- ✓ Ultra low entry for easy entering & exiting
- ✓ Patented Quick Drain® Technology
- ✓ Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard
- ✓ 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage

Limited Time Offer! Call Today!  
**877-691-5591**  
Or visit: [www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa](http://www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa)

### Announcements

### Employment

#### Receptionist FT or PT

Fairfax City law firm seeks full time or part-time receptionists. Dependability, maturity, good judgment, professional appearance required. Excellent job for someone entering or returning to the labor market. Full time from 9 to 5 or Part-time from: 7:45 to 1:15 and 1:15 to 6:15. Other minor tasks involved. Résumés and salary requirements should be sent to [JHelmandollar@SurovellFirm.com](mailto:JHelmandollar@SurovellFirm.com). We are an EOE law firm.

### Employment

#### Forget Daily Commuting

Print and digital media sales consultant for area's most popular and trusted local news source

Manage your own hours from home  
Enjoy flexible schedule plus no daily commute  
Help local businesses grow  
Unique opportunity to be a voice in your community  
Competitive compensation

Call Jerry Vernon  
**703-549-0004**

Connection Newspapers & Digital Media  
Trusted Connection to Local Communities

### Announcements

### Announcements

**REACH VIRGINIA AD NETWORK**

**WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS OPEN**

VPS Virginia Press Services

**REACH OVER 1.5 MILLION Virginia Readers Weekly**

**Advertising Solutions starting at \$300**

Contact this paper or Landon Clark - [landonc@vpa.net](mailto:landonc@vpa.net) to get started today.

### Announcements

### Announcements

**Leaf Filter GUTTER PROTECTION**

✓ INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS



BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

MADE IN THE USA ACCREDITED MEMBER LIFETIME WARRANTY A COMPANY OF ALHS

**15% OFF** YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\* **AND!** **10% OFF** SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS **+** **5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!\*\*

Promo Number: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\* Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

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

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

World Without Loneliness. Join your friends and colleagues in the comfort of your home via Zoom Hyperlink. Your host is Victor Mendes, Owner, Vienna Vintner. Your Sommelier, Roberto D'Onofrio, will be showcasing three delicious bottles of wine. Cost is \$100 for 3 bottles of wine, \$75 for 2. Email: [viennavintner@gmail.com](mailto:viennavintner@gmail.com) or call 703-242-9463

#### AUG. 21 TO SEPT. 14

Aspire House McLean. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 952 Mackall Farms Lane, McLean. Aspire House McLean 2020 will open on Friday, August 21, 2020 with a Virtual Preview Party and remain open until Sunday, September 14, 2020. Limited numbers of guests will be allowed to tour the home Wednesday through Sunday; face masks and temperature checks required. Cost is Adult Ticket \$50, Senior Ticket \$45, Military Ticket \$45. Visit the website: <https://www.aspireshowhouse.com/mclean>

#### AAAS STEM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The AAAS STEM Volunteers Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), needs scientists, engineers and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in school districts in the D.C. metro area during the 2020-21 school year. Due to the pandemic, it is anticipated that instruction will be virtual. We will work with our school district partners and volunteers to determine the best ways to support STEM teachers in a virtual environment. If you care about K-12 STEM education and have time to share your knowledge with students and teachers, send a note to [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com) with your home address.

#### TEXT FOR FOOD

No Kid Hungry Virginia encourages families to text FOOD or COMIDA to 877-877 to find free summer food sites organized by school districts and community organizations. Meal sites are offering a variety of distribution models to help safely connect students with meals and promote social distancing, including "Grab and Go" service and food delivery along bus routes while passing out multiple days' worth of meals at one-time.

#### FRESHFARM MARKETS OPEN

Local FRESHFARM Markets are opened. Residents are encouraged to pre-order as much as possible, but grab-and-go and prepackaged options will be available for purchase at all of the markets listed below.

Saturday Markets  
Arlington, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. -- N Court-house Rd. and 14th St N, Arlington  
Oakton, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. -- 2854 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton.

Sunday Market  
Mosaic, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. -- 2910 District Ave., Fairfax

#### COVID-19 TEXT MESSAGES IN SPANISH

As part of its efforts to provide coronavirus-related information and assistance in multiple languages, Fairfax County now provides COVID-19 text alerts in Spanish. To sign up, text FFXCOVIDESP to 888777.

#### FAIRFAX COUNTY ACTIVATES CORONAVIRUS INFO CENTER

Fairfax County activated a Joint Information Center in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on March 13.

Fairfax County Health Department COVID-19 webpage – [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus)

Emergency Information Blog (you can subscribe by email or follow by RSS) – [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Call Center – The community may call 703-267-3511 with questions. The call center is open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

Residents may also text FFXCOVID to 888777 to receive updates from Fairfax County about COVID-19.

Twitter – [@fairfaxcounty](https://twitter.com/fairfaxcounty) and [@fairfaxhealth](https://twitter.com/fairfaxhealth)

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty](https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty) and [www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyhealth](https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyhealth)

#### SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group takes place first and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, [scov.org](http://scov.org). Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net).

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) or [havenofnova@verizon.net](mailto:havenofnova@verizon.net).

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at [gronbiz@aol.com](mailto:gronbiz@aol.com) or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at [lynnieb517@verizon.net](mailto:lynnieb517@verizon.net).

# Citizen's Guide to Better Times

Things each of us can do to help our country right now.

**D**on't sit at home with your worry beads as you consume the news. Action is what is needed. And yes, Virginia, each of us has the power to contribute to a better future. Want to be counted in bringing better times forward? Try this simple test to evaluate how you are or will be making a difference.

- 50+ points – At least you're in the game. Can you find some stretch goals?
- 70+ points – Involved citizen.
- 90+ points – You rank as an active leader. Congratulations!

- Socially distance (10 points)
- Follow informed news sources, both sides! (20 points)
- Register your support/use of Post Office and mail-in voting (10) (\$, letters to Congress, newspaper, SM)
- Register your support for adequate number of voting stations (10) (ditto)
- Sign up as a census taker (5)
- Sign up to work at voting stations (5)
- Vote! (20 points)

Eileen Curtis  
Great Falls

# NAACP Holds Virtual Town Hall

FROM PAGE 3

help on... (and) how to create cohorts of support for new Black teachers and Latino teachers to say yes... We need folks to be able to be courageous enough when they are offered the job to take it with us in those schools... We are not going to have schools that continue not to hire teachers of color... There are some schools that have more work to do to create that environment, and we're going to get it addressed this year."

Discussion of the fourth priority goal keyed into the roles, limits, and domain of Principals and Regional Area Superintendents to ensure during the 2020-2021 school year a system of effective oversight on issues of equity. Hampton questioned outcome differences between schools, given their principals and respective atmosphere in their schools as related to equity. "Maybe you have to look at what has kept principals from running buildings... (You) have that responsibility to do that oversight of principals," she said.

Brabrand responded that in the past, some principals used the resources they had better than others. He said, "This year equity is part of every principal's goal... There shouldn't be any discipline disproportionality... There shouldn't be any academic gaps. We have coaches to help us do that... We need to do it at a deeper level and focus it around equity," Brabrand said. He added they would be held accountable. Hampton said, "You need to put the right people in those jobs. I think that you need to reward that sort of attitude."

**NEARING THE END** of the town hall, Hampton and Brabrand discussed the establishment of curriculum review committees to study current curricula for racial or cultural bias, especially in the areas of Social

Studies/History/English, and to identify resources and teaching practices that could promote a more inclusive worldview and a complete study of the United States and World History. Such would be completed by the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Colleen Eddy, Coordinator for Social Studies K-12 at FCPS, said they were auditing existing curriculum to remove biased, harmful and racist resources, creating a transformative curriculum. "That means partnering with the right people across the state, focusing on the design principles for culturally responsive pedagogy, and adopting anti-bias and the anti-racist outcomes for our curriculum... with a mindset to fidelity of doing good work that's responsible and has integrity to history."

Finally, Brabrand and Hampton reviewed the admissions process to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ).

"We want to see obviously that TJ reflects the population it serves," Hampton said. She questioned why Black teens chose not to go to TJ.

Brabrand said, "I expect a conversation about TJ with our school board in the coming months to address a lot of the questions and solutions, not 20 years of status quo where we have tried to do something, but we've settled around the edges, and it has not made a major change. I'm sitting with Karen Keys-Gamarra from the School Board, with Marty Smith, our Chief Operating Officer who oversees TJ admissions, myself and the principal of TJ on a Governor's Task Force led by the Secretary of Education... and the Board of Education Chair."

Due to time constraints, not all 2020-2021 priorities as developed by the Education Committee and part of its Advocacy and Legislative Agenda could be discussed at the town hall. A follow-up meeting is planned.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

<b>LANDSCAPING</b>	Good is not good, where better is expected. <b>-Thomas Fuller</b>
<b>A&amp;S CONSTRUCTION</b> SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. <b>703-863-7465</b>	

<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	<b>ELECTRICAL</b>
<b>K &amp; D ELECTRIC</b> COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...	Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com

<b>LANDSCAPING</b>	<b>LANDSCAPING</b>
<b>Quality Tree Service &amp; Landscaping</b>	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
	<b>Summer Cleanup...</b> Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.
25 years of experience – Free estimates <b>703-868-5358</b>	
<b>24 Hour Emergency Tree Service</b>	

**Patios & Drainage**  
Your neighborhood company since 1987  
**703-772-0500**

**J.E.S. Services**  
Free Estimates • Fully Licensed & Insured

- Planting & Landscaping Design
- Drainage & Water Problems
- Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New
- Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid
- Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose
- Retaining walls of all types

All work Guaranteed

**A&S Landscaping**

- All Concrete work
- Retaining Walls • Patios
- Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions
- French Drains • Sump Pumps
- Driveway Asphalt Sealing

**703-863-7465**  
LICENSED  
Serving All of N. Virginia

## "Extensive Metastatic Disease"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Well I certainly don't like the sound of that and I especially didn't like reading it in the "impressions" part of the radiologist's report I received Friday summarizing the previous Wednesday's PET scan. Though hardly a surprise given a thoracic surgeon's description of my original PET scan 11 and 1/2 years ago: "You lit that thing up like a Christmas tree." Still, I would have rather read something a bit less ominous. But I don't suppose being diagnosed with two types of cancer (non small cell lung stage IV and papillary thyroid, stage II) lends itself to a 'bit less ominous.' Besides, 'less ominous' left the building in late February 2009 when I was first diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: non small cell lung cancer.

Not to make light of such a heavy dose of reality but, as Tom Sellick says on his recent television commercial for AAG: "This isn't my first rodeo." And neither is this statement of fact from the radiologist the first less-than-encouraging news I've heard and seen. To invoke Jack Palance (Curly) from "City Slickers" (1991): "I \*\*\*\* bigger than that." I've been living with a version of these words for 11 and 1/2 years. Tell me something I don't know.

Nevertheless, I'll find out what it all means soon enough. Though it might be a bit of a re-hash from a few columns ago stating that since all the tumors in my lungs can't be biopsied, practically proceeding, my oncologist will never know for certain exactly how much of what type of cancer I have. And since one medicine - from what I've been told, can't treat both cancers, life expectancy, treatment protocols, etc., are likely unclear at best. Presumably, we'll treat the cancer which is most prevalent, most aggressive and most treatable/curable? I can only hope that as I sit and write this column, two days before my surgical lung biopsy on Monday, seven days, approximately, until I hear from my oncologist, I'll be able to compartmentalize the worst case scenarios - all of which are out of my control anyway, and try to live life as normally as possible and avoid any rabbit holes of gloom and doom.

Right now, this is just another blip on the cancer radar that has been "blipping" for more than 11 years. Generally speaking, the medical feedback we receive almost always sounds mediocre (and I don't mean fair to middling either). And it never sounds worse than it did in February '09 when I initially was diagnosed and given a "13 month to two year" prognosis. Unfortunately, having outlived my oncologist's expectation by upwards of 10-plus years doesn't guarantee me any favorable news. That was yesterday (yesteryear, actually). This is today, 2020. However, much has changed/evolved in the cancer-treatment world. There have been more drugs approved for the treatment of lung cancer in the last few years than in previous multiple decades, including the introduction of an entire new class of medicine: immunotherapy. It's not exactly game and match but it is night and day.

Still, it's premature until I'm re-diagnosed and placed in a new protocol and see the results - in future CT scans. This pending biopsy may be the storm before the calm or vice versa, quite frankly. As I await results, my glass remains half full, as always. I just have to hope that while waiting for the cancer business to become clear, I don't get so thirsty/anxious that I empty my glass. That wouldn't help anybody, especially me.

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



# DIANNE VAN VOLKENBURG

*Buy with Confidence. Sell with Success.*

## Work with the #1 Realtor

Dianne Van Volkenburg and her team of real estate agents and marketing specialists are unsurpassed in providing first-class service to buyers and sellers. In fact, Dianne and her team have one of the highest rates of repeat clients in all of Northern Virginia as former clients, families and friends trust them for their real estate needs.

## Over \$80 Million in Sales for 2020!



Great Falls \$2,599,000



Great Falls \$2,649,900



Great Falls \$1,899,000



Great Falls \$2,099,000



Great Falls \$1,150,000



McLean \$2,269,000



Great Falls \$1,450,00



McLean \$2,399,500



Great Falls \$2,500,000

## Inventory Is Low - Call Me Today

LONG & FOSTER<sup>®</sup> | CHRISTIE'S  
REAL ESTATE INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066  
703-759-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

703-757-3222

sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

