

# A Giant Step for Scout on the Circle

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From left -- Giant Store Manager Ilham Tarbouz, Mayor David Meyer, Giant District Manager Jeff Lewis and Fairfax City Fire Chief John O'Neal at the opening of a new Giant store at Scout on the Circle.

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# NEWS

## Former Lee District Supervisor Joe Alexander, 90, Dies

His efforts in Lee District show signs that will be forever remembered.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

In his 32 years and eight terms as Lee District Supervisor, Joe Alexander (D) was determined to help people in the Franconia area so much that when Metro eyed another site for the Blue Line station, he “persuaded Metro,” to move it to the present location and combine it with other transportation systems, and it’s now named the “Joe Alexander Transportation Center.”

On Sunday, Aug. 30, Joe Alexander died at the age of 90, leaving behind a legacy in the Springfield area that will live on.

“Joe got it relocated,” said former Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman, who was Alexander’s assistant for many years before being elected to Supervisor.

“Joe was known as the ‘pothole politician,’ and no request was too small,” Kauffman said.

Alexander was sitting at the table when President Jimmy Carter signed the Metro funding bill in 1980.

“He was magnificent in reaching out and engaging,” Kauffman added.

When he first started at Lee District, there were several different water companies serving the district, and Alexander looked at that as a challenge. “People couldn’t flush with confidence,” Kauffman said. Alexandria worked with the companies and when he was finished, everything was merged into Fairfax Water.

In the 1960s, there were many gravel operations dominating the landscape, including a stretch of land that went from behind Edison High School to an area behind Hayfield Secondary School. In the early 1970s, the gravel companies were winding down operations, and it became one big dirt track for motorcycles and a dumping ground, before Alexander stepped in. He worked with the companies, and now the old gravel pits are Kingstowne, Manchester Lakes, dotted with a few ponds and parks.

He was also involved with turning parts of the gravel operations into Lee District Park and the Greendale Golf Course.

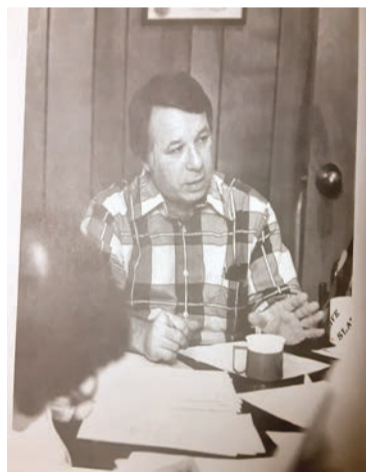
At one time, Mike’s American Grill had the “Joe Alexander Burger,” on the menu. It was a bacon-cheddar cheeseburger with mustard and mayonnaise.

**JOE ALEXANDER** was born on Dec. 21, 1929 in Pittsburgh. His father landed a job at Fort Belvoir, so the family moved to the Franconia area in 1931. Joe went to school in Fairfax County, and was on the Mount Vernon High School football team. In 1953, after training to be a pilot at a local airfield, he became a fighter pilot in the Korean War. He followed in the legacy of his father, Milton Alexander, who was the

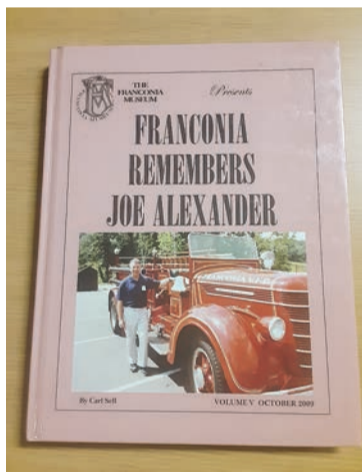


CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Joe Alexander and Carl Sell pose for the cover of the Springfield Connection during the Franconia Museum’s Eighth Annual History Day in October 2009.



As the Lee District Supervisor, Joe Alexander made things happen around the district. Alexander died on Aug. 30.



There’s a book about Joe Alexander by Carl Sell available at the Franconia Museum.

chief magistrate of Fairfax County in the early years, and went into local politics in the early 1960s. The family owned Franconia Hardware for years, which was located right across the street from the current Franconia Government Center. His mother, Celia, was the postmaster in Franconia.

“Joe Alexander – Lee District’s longest serving Supervisor, a veteran combat pilot, respected local banker and business owner who will best be remembered as an architect of the region’s Metrorail system and transformational pothole politician, passed away over the weekend,” wrote Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay, former Lee District Supervisor. “Joe not only lived through the transformation of Fairfax County from farmland to Virginia’s burgeoning economic engine, he oversaw its transformation. He was a role model for me as I made my way through Fairfax County Government.”

Alexander could have run for higher office, but chose to stay in Lee District. He became a volunteer docent at the Franconia Museum at one point.

Carl Sell, one of the founders of the museum, wrote a book in 2009 called “Franconia Remembers Joe Alexander,” and it’s currently available at the museum.

Joe Alexander’s funeral is planned for Sunday, Sept. 6 at noon, at King David Memorial Garden in Falls Church, 7482 Lee Hwy Falls Church.

## ‘Our Families Need Internet Access Now’

Britepaths helping schoolchildren connect to online classes.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

The ongoing pandemic is causing most students in the local area to attend school virtually this fall. But for families without Internet access, doing so is a huge obstacle. So Britepaths is stepping in to help.

Realizing that children in the families it serves may be unable to connect to distance learning, the Fairfax-based nonprofit is expanding its back-to-school drive to try to ease the digital divide for as many of its clients as possible.

With money already tight for them, these families are barely squeaking by. Their children need to attend classes; but paying for Internet service is one more burden they just can’t bear.

Fairfax County Public Schools is doing what it can to offer WiFi/hotspots to families without Internet. But it anticipates a shortage in these resources. And, making matters worse, in low-income housing units – often built with inexpensive, industrial, cinder-block construction – these devices are consistently unreliable or completely inoperable.

As a result, Britepaths has started a Digital Access Initiative to help families in need obtain the Internet service their children need to attend school online. And the community’s help is urgently sought.

“We are hopeful that the deep, systemic inequalities being revealed this year will hasten the changes we all know need to occur,” explained Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. “But our families can’t wait years. School starts in September, and our families need Internet access right now.”

So Britepaths is seeking the community’s support so it may offer qualifying families Digital

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Lisa Whetzel

Access Grants of up to \$500 per household. The money would be paid directly to their local, service-provider and will cover six months of Internet service to connect students to their distance learning.

“We are grateful to Highlight Technologies for helping us kick off our Digital Access drive with a grant of \$5,000,” said Whetzel. Highlight Technologies is an award-winning, woman-owned, small business providing critical services to several federal-government customers.

Now, Britepaths hopes that other entities and individuals will follow suit and contribute whatever they can to this effort. Any amount donated will help make a difference. Donations may be made at <https://britepaths.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=5>. Or mail checks, payable to Britepaths, 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. Write “BTS” on the memo line.

Grant sponsors are also needed. It would be an opportunity to highlight a company’s or organization’s support, while bringing more public awareness to the real effects of the digital divide in the community. For more information, contact Carolyn Amacher at [camacher@britepaths.org](mailto:camacher@britepaths.org) or 703-273-8829, ext. 888.

## A Special Special Session

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



### COMMENTARY

Until the early 1970s the Virginia General Assembly met every other year in the even-numbered years. For the very conservative state that it was, every other year was deemed adequate to limit the power of government. With all the changes that had occurred in the world with wars, growing and competitive economies among nations and states, and increased expectations from the citizenry particularly for more educational programs, Virginians approved a Constitutional amendment in 1971 that added a "short" session in the odd-numbered years, so called because it is 45 days in contrast to the regular session that is 60 days. In the 1980s another Constitutional amendment added a "reconvened" session each year after the regular session to deal with the governor's amendments to legislation. This happened because the state became more competitive between the major political parties, and the party controlling the General Assembly could no longer be counted as controlling the governorship

as well. In any year, the governor has the constitutional power as does the General Assembly to call a "special" session to deal with unique needs. Although the regular "long" session held this year along with its reconvened session were considered among the most productive ever there was general agreement among political leadership and the active community at large that a special session would be needed. As the Commonwealth faced the devastation of an international pandemic, a crashing economy as great as the Great Depression, and social unrest that demanded that issues overlooked or delayed for decades had to be faced, a Special Session was called by the Governor.

In his proclamation of July 17, 2020 calling the General Assembly into Special Session, Governor Ralph Northam stated its objectives as being "for the purpose of adopting a budget based on the revised revenue forecast and consideration of legislation related to the emergency of COVID-19 and criminal and social jus-

stice reforms." Never has a Special Session of the past had such broad intent with any one of the purposes being more than adequate to have the legislature's attention.

The session is special also in that the General Assembly for the first time in its history is meeting virtually. The Senate has some social-distanced meetings at the Science Museum, but as a House member I meet almost daily in virtual meetings of committees on which I serve and every several days with the entire 100-member House. I have a single-purpose secure electronic device that permits me to cast my votes electronically.

The Special Session must grapple with a \$2.7 billion shortfall in revenue as a result of the tanking of the economy. The Governor's proposals that leave more than a billion dollars in a "rainy-day" fund require close scrutiny.

Finally, the most important "special" feature of this session is that issues related to fairness and safety in voting and police and criminal justice reform are being addressed. In a future column I will enumerate these special bills as they are passed by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. I am proud to represent my constituents in such an historic and special Special Session!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Expanding Awareness of Systemic Racism

To the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees;

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area supports and promotes the Fairfax County Public Library's initiatives focused on diversity and inclusion, social and racial justice, and spotlighting authors from marginalized populations. The library's resource collection "FCPL Stand on Social and Racial Equity" accelerates and enables a timely discussion on race and social justice in our own community.

To expand awareness of our nation's history of systemic racism

and discrimination, the League will publish the FCPL's "Battling Systemic Racism" resource list in its October 2020 newsletter, the Fairfax Voter. We encourage other community groups to do the same, and in so doing, applaud the library's commitment to promoting resources from diverse perspectives and enabling timely discussions on race and social justice.

A library is a reflection of the community it serves. We have an obligation to ensure that all members of the community find themselves there. It is particularly crit-

ical for the children's collection to reflect a comprehensive worldview. Children encounter diversity regularly in their interactions with others at home, in school, and in the community. It is important that they learn about other cultures in a way that teaches them to be respectful of differences and reject stereotypes. It is also crucial that they see themselves mirrored in the library's collection.

The League views our community's difficult discourse on racial and social inequities as enlightening, not offensive. These conver-

sations require us to listen to our neighbors and embrace respect for all people everywhere. The League will work in tandem with the Fairfax County Public Library in its efforts to support the principles of One Fairfax and ensure that our county's residents are informed of racial and social injustices in our midst and take the necessary steps forward on the never-ending arc toward equity.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Anu Sahai**, Co-President  
League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

## A Time for a Good Gun Safety Law

To the Editor:

Back on Sept. 13, 2019, state Senator Scott Surovell, wrote an opinion article in the Connection newspapers about his father and son feeling scared and intimidated by four armed men walking through a farmer's market carrying AR-15s. Then came the November election and Virginians purposefully and decisively flipped the state House of Delegates and State Senate to Gun Sense Majorities. Now we have many gun safety laws on the books and one in particular that Senator Surovell spoke of in the article – the right for localities to ban firearms on municipal owned properties and

at permitted events. This is a good gun safety law and I urge the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to pass this ordinance, just like Alexandria and other localities have done. The Board is having hearings on the issue on Sept. 15, with a vote after that. And now, we see the carnage this weapon of war is wielding by Americans on Americans. We can and we must begin to scale back the proliferation of these assault weapons and this law is a good beginning.

**Peggy Pridemore**  
Volunteer Member  
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

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# Ewing Resigns from Library Board

Trustee Rosenthal apologizes for disruption.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

Two members of the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees, Phil Rosenthal, Springfield District Representative and Darren Ewing, Dranesville District Representative, made statements during the July 29 public meeting of the Fairfax County Library Board Trustees that caused the public, organizations, and top County leaders to voice concern. The ensuing aftermath continues to unfold more than a month following initial calls for Trustee removal from office.

Emails from the public to the Library Board include statements that Rosenthal's remarks made during the meeting were dangerous. He contradicted Library policies and disparaged the needs and concerns of the community he was appointed to serve. On Aug. 11, Chair Fran Millhouser, Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees, released "Letter to the Public Regarding the July 29 Library Board Meeting from the Library Board Chair." In it, she wrote: "I have received many emails voicing public concern



Trustee Phillip Rosenthal, (Springfield District), Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees



Trustee Darren Ewing (Dranesville District), Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees

for statements made during that July meeting. If you have not had a chance yet, I invite you to watch the Board meeting in full. I do not take your comments lightly and am setting up our next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. via Zoom, to allow for ample time for a presentation and Board discussion."

AN AUG. 20 LETTER, signed by the twenty-seven organizations, faith-based groups and unions of NOVA Equity Agenda Coali-

SEE LIBRARY BOARD, PAGE 11

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**WELLBEING**

# Impact of Extended Social Isolation on Teens and Tweens

**Psychiatrists and psychologists say that missing opportunities to connect with peers can cause long-term damage.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
 THE CONNECTION

**A**fter a summer of postponed vacations, closed pools and limited summer camps, all a byproduct of COVID-19, parents are concerned about the wellbeing of their children. “My kids have heightened anxiety now and they’re awkward when they do see people,” said a Bethesda mother of three.

“He’s so bored and misses his friends,” said a McLean mother about her 12-year-old son. “My husband and I work, so he’s spent a lot of time alone this summer.”

Mother and child psychologist Amanda Dounis, adds, “My 12-year-old son emphasizes how terrible it’s been,” and “He claims many of his friends are depressed.”

As a new school year begins under a cloud of uncertainty that could prolong the disconnection from peers, child psychologists and psychiatrists are expressing concern about the current, and possibly long-term, effect these restrictions will have on children, particularly teens and tweens. Some are wondering if the benefits of social connection are important to balance against degrees of safety measures for COVID-19.

“For middle and high school students, socialization teaches them lessons as important as math or English,” said psychiatrist Dr. Carole Lieberman M.D. “During these years at school, they learn how to face the challenges of making new friends, becoming popular, trying on social values, [and] developing leadership skills. Social isolation, however, robs them of these opportunities and sets them back on their psychosocial phases of development.”

The mental health damage can be overlooked, says child & adolescent psychiatrist Dr. Marilou Jimenez, M.D. chair of the Addiction and Mental Health Center at MedStar Montgomery Medical Center. “The potential impact that prolonged social isolation will have on these kids is profound,” she said. “We’re seeing that Generation Z is uniquely impacted by this pandemic. COVID-19 has caused prolonged social isolation, missing important milestones, an increase in social media usage and screen time, and prevalence of extreme stress among adolescents.”

Those with preexisting mental health conditions like anxiety and depression can be affected most significantly, says Jimenez. “It can wreak havoc on their mental state,” she said. “Social distancing can greatly impact and exacerbate mental health issues. We have seen, and are going to continue to see, a dramatic rise in depression and anxiety among these kids that will carry over long after enforced isolation and the pandemic are over.”

Attending classes in person could offer a layer of protection for students who might be experiencing mental health concerns, particularly for those who have limited family support. “When children are in school, detection occurs because educators and other adults may be the first to notice,” said psychiatrist Dr. Gail Saltz M.D., associate professor of psychiatry at the NY Presbyterian Hospital Weill-Cornell School.

However, not every child misses attending school. “There are some kids who find it less stressful because



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Parents should encourage their children to have in person social interactions using proper precautions, advises therapist Darby Fox.**

they don’t have to deal with bullying or peer pressure,” said Saltz.

While Zoom and other social media platforms have filled some of the social voids, this form of communication cannot replace the benefit of in-person contact. “From the first few days of life we begin to bond based on social cues, and it is very difficult to read tones on a screen,” said Darby Fox, Child & Adolescent Family Therapist who sees patients in Fairfax, Great Falls and Arlington. “Social media is very staged and relies on external cues. To build a solid sense of self we need to teach our adolescents to develop their internal strength. This cannot be done if they are constantly worried about external judgment and acceptance.”

Not only are electronics and social media unable to replace in-person contact, they can be detrimental, says Lieberman. “Texts are known for easily being misinterpreted,” she said. “Social media is where kids get bullied or become jealous of other kids who can make their life seem fantastic when they can make it up with photo-shopped pictures and tall tales.”

Pandemic safety precautions like the cancellation of sports can also stunt a child’s emotional growth, says Darby. “The physical benefits are undisputed, but mental toll of missing sports is underestimated,” she said. “Kids count on the sports [not only] for exercise, but for socialization, discipline and even college recruitment. Many of these kids’ entire sense of identity is built around who they are as athletes, so there’s a great sense of loss for them.”

The time void left by a lack of options for sports or other activities can lead to precarious behaviors, warns Jimenez. “Kids are left with a lot of extra time on their hands and some may turn to more unproductive means or unhealthy habits to fill those gaps,” she said.

Balancing the physical health risks of COVID-19 with the cost of mental health perils is an important part of mitigating damage, advises Darby. “Parents need to still insist their kids have live social interactions,” she said. “The restrictions have relaxed enough that most people are able to connect with others while following appropriate protocols. There is no substitute for asking a date out live or meeting their parents.”

Spending time outdoors on sunny days has proven to be therapeutic for Dounis and her son. “We eat breakfast there and absorb Vitamin D from the sunlight, she said. “My son also became the master barbecue chef. We wheel the grill to the front and connect loud music and let him cook.”

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# A Mural With a Positive Spin

A pro from Baltimore is the creative force for colorful wall art.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

As the headlines lately were dominated by unrest and destruction, Jessica Langley went for a positive message when she was asked to paint a mural at Old Keene Mill Shopping Center in Springfield. Langley is a mural artist, and looks at this type of signage to brighten up the plain brick wall with a positive message: “We’re all NEIGHBORS,” in teal and orange block letters

“Murals are impactful, and I am proud to be behind a piece of art with such a positive message of inclusivity presented in such a timely and purposeful manner,” she said.

The “We’re all NEIGHBORS” wall is the finishing touch on an extensive renovation project that was unveiled in late 2019 at the 90,000-square-foot New features at the center include new facades and signage, wide sidewalks, a double-sided outdoor fireplace, and furnished pavilions with over 170 outdoor seating spaces at the property for visitors to enjoy, officials said.

Shoppers have embraced the mural as well. “It’s a nice upgrade, makes it feel more authentic,” said Ra-



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The mural has a positive spin, “We’re All NEIGHBORS”.

chel Amatozzi, who lives nearby in Springfield. “More home grown,” she added.

“It’s beautiful,” added an Amazon shopper that was loading her car under the painting. “Why not?” she said.

“We are a shopping center, but we are a neighbor first. We are rooted here, we’re going to be here, and we invite the community to join us,” says Deirdre Johnson, Vice President of Asset Management at Federal Realty. “This mural was a great opportunity for us to inject a little energy, have some fun and spread a positive message.”

According to Langley, the design took about one month to create and finalize while the painting of the physical mural was completed in just over two weeks. The neighborly message is in tune with this center, as it is a gathering spot for many who live in this West Springfield area. “As a professional artist, my motivation is derived from the positive impact my artwork will have on the community,” Langley said. “Murals not only beautify and enhance environments, but also connect with individuals on a personal level as well,” she added.

## DRPT Notice of Availability FRANCONIA THIRD TRACK PROJECT Categorical Exclusion City Invites Public to Comment on Two Local

ALEXANDRIA— The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has completed a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) environmental process with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that is now available to the public. The Franconia Third Track project completed a FHWA Draft Categorical Exclusion (CE) that is available on the DRPT website ([www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov)). A hard copy is available at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA 22150 for fifteen days.

The Franconia Third Track project is a capital project that will alleviate rail congestion by increasing the number of railroad tracks and infrastructure from two to three railroad tracks between Lorton, Virginia and the Franconia, Virginia within the limits of the existing railroad right of way. The project includes creating infrastructure to increase the number of railroad tracks and the creation of a bypass that will allow trains to pass stopped trains at the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Franconia-Springfield Station. The project will not increase the number of trains running in the corridor, and will focus on alleviating existing rail congestion in the corridor. The Draft CE is the environmental clearance prepared by DRPT staff and approved for public availability by FHWA for fifteen days from the publication of this advertisement.

Please visit the DC2RVA Project [www.drpt.virginia.gov/rail/planning](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/rail/planning) to access the Franconia Third Track Project CE and to also find other rail and transit projects in Virginia.

Website: [www.drpt.virginia.gov/rail/planning](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/rail/planning)

About the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
DRPT’s mission is to improve the mobility of people and goods while expanding transportation choices in the Commonwealth through rail, public transportation, and commuter services.

DRPT is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. DRPT will also provide reasonable accommodations and interpretive services for persons who require special assistance to participate in this public involvement opportunity as required by the ADA. For accommodations, additional information or how to file a complaint, please contact our Title VI Compliance Officer at 804.786.4440, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219 or visit our website at [www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov)

Si necesita servicios de traducción en español para los documentos de este proyecto, llame a 804.786.4440, o por email a [drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov).

# You are invited to our Virtual Community Meeting

Hear from experts about the future of the overhead 230 kV transmission line connecting Dominion Energy’s Tysons and future Spring Hill substations.

Join us live online on Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
Find event details at [DominionEnergy.com/springhill](http://DominionEnergy.com/springhill)



## NEWS

# 'Every Department's Designed with the Shopper in Mind'

## Fairfax's new Giant opens at Scout on the Circle.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**G**iant is already a food store familiar to Fairfax City residents; but now they have one to enjoy at 9400 Fairfax Blvd. in the new Scout on the Circle development. It opened Friday, Aug. 21, much to the delight of the shoppers there.

"I've been watching it go up and wanted to see it," said Fairfax's Peggy Ericksen. "I think it's lovely and clean and has a very good selection. It's convenient, the parking is wonderful, and the staff is accommodating."

The 53,000-square-foot store was designed to address the way today's consum-

ers shop by expanding popular departments, providing more amenities and helping customers easily find their favorite products, while discovering new offerings. This new location also created 180 new jobs for the local community.

Upgrades include expanded prepared food, meat and seafood service counters, a larger natural and organic department and selection, and a fresh-cut fruit station and juice bar. Also available are a floral shop, full-service Starbucks with café seating, a beer/wine shop, bakery and a PNC bank with two ATM machines.

Giant began its first day of business here by being a good neighbor. It presented \$1,000 checks each to Britepaths, Volunteer Fairfax, Rebuilding Together Arlington/Fairfax/Falls Church, and the City of Fairfax Fire Department and Police Department. "We're proud to be part of the community, and we just want to give back to it," said Giant spokesman Daniel Wolk.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) are Fairfax City Police Sgt. Brock Rutter, McGruff the Crime Dog, Police Capt. Craig Buckley and Mayor David Meyer.

**FAIRFAX MAYOR** David Meyer attended the grand opening and was pleased with what he saw. "The City is thrilled to have this new Giant here," he said. "This is the first, new-construction grocery store in Fairfax in several decades, and it's a great location with easy access, plus a parking garage and surface parking."

"One measure of the economic vitality of a community is having access to high-quality food in top-flight facilities," he continued. "This Giant sets the standard for best practices in future grocery stores."

Focusing on energy efficiency, this store

SEE GIANT, PAGE 9

# Scout on the Circle Welcomes First Residents

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he new, mixed-use development, Scout on the Circle, has transformed its section of Fairfax Boulevard in Fairfax City. The Giant grocery store has opened, and the first residents have moved into the 400 luxury apartments being built there.

The 551,000-square-foot, \$150 million project at Fairfax Circle replaced an obsolete strip mall with the apartments, 29,000 square feet of restaurants and shops, the new Giant, plus two parking garages. At the intersection of Routes 50 and 29, it's just a mile from the Orange Line Metro.

"We're proud that we could take an over-50-year-old shopping center and rebuild it into a modern, state-of-the-

art, residential, retail and restaurant oasis that will serve the needs of Fairfax for many years," said Ronald S. Haft, chairman of the project's developer, Combined Properties.

The retail space is currently 80-percent leased, including leases in the final stages of negotiations. Confirmed tenants include Republik Coffee, TeaDM, Peri Peri Original and the Nail Bar. And Fairfax residents are delighted to see this long-awaited development finally coming to fruition.

"The City of Fairfax congratulates Combined Properties on the opening of its signature mixed-use, multifamily residential and commercial project, Scout on the Circle, at the east entrance to our City," said Mayor David Meyer.

The bright, spacious apartments feature layouts ranging from junior one-bedrooms to one, two- and three-bedrooms with balcony and den options. Enhancing the mod-



MICHAEL CARPENTER PHOTOGRAPHY

One of the living rooms inside the new luxury apartments.

ern aesthetic is custom artwork, as well as a vibrant color scheme.

Residents will also enjoy resort-style amenities that include two courtyards with grilling stations and fire pits, a sunny deck and saltwater pool, tailored communal spaces, a

cinematic screening room and a fitness center with cutting-edge equipment and technology.

"We're thrilled to deliver a property at the northeastern gateway to Fairfax City that is representative of the City's transformation into a more urban, walkable community," said Combined Properties executive Vice President Andrew McIntyre. "The interest has been incredible; and despite the challenges of COVID-19, we were able to quickly adapt to show our property, sign leases and facilitate move-ins."

The apartments in one of the buildings are complete and available to lease. The second building is still under construction. For more information, go to [scoutonthecircle.com](http://scoutonthecircle.com). Virtual and in-person tours are available by appointment at 703.750.8140.

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Bill and Heather Brennan select tomatoes at the new Giant store.

# Giant Opens at Scout on the Circle

FROM PAGE 8

was built with LED lighting throughout, plus additional doors and refrigerators throughout deli, dairy and produce sections to keep items fresh and cold while also conserving energy. It's light and airy, too, with aisles 7 feet wide or larger.

The store also features a pickup service. Shoppers place their grocery orders via GiantFood.com or the Giant Food mobile app, and in-store associates will hand-select, pack and deliver orders right to the customers' cars. Or, if desired, people may have orders delivered to their homes.

Shoppers may view Guiding Stars, nutritional-value ratings on items' shelf tags. They may also access Giant's team of licensed, in-store nutritionists for free, on-line and phone consultations, as well as online nutrition classes and webinars. To sign up for a class or contact a nutritionist, go to giantfood.com/nutrition. There's no pharmacy but, during the store's first two days open, Giant pharmacists from elsewhere administered both flu and non-flu shots.

"Giant has had a presence in the

Fairfax area since 1954, and we're excited to bring shoppers an additional location to better serve the growing needs of the community," said Giant Food President Ira Kress. "With all the added features and amenities, this store can serve as a one-stop shop," And because of its new and improved décor and layout, he added, "Every department is designed with the shopper in mind."

**AMONG THE CUSTOMERS** last Friday were Bill and Heather Brennan, "It's very exciting," said Bill Brennan. "It's a beautiful store."

Agreeing, his wife said, "It's a 10-minute walk from our house, and it's great to have something within walking distance."

Giant executive Gary Budd said being a part of Scout on the Circle "gives us the opportunity to serve many more people in the community that we weren't able to before. We're excited to offer our quality food and convenient services to the development's new residents, shopping-center visitors and the entire neighborhood around Fairfax Circle. We're confident this new location will serve this community well."



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## Renaming Lanier Middle School

The City of Fairfax School Board will accept comments regarding renaming Lanier Middle School through Thursday, Sept. 10. Visit [cityoffairfaxschools.org](http://cityoffairfaxschools.org) and click on the "Lanier Middle School Name" button, or email [LanierComment@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:LanierComment@fairfaxva.gov).

Comments are accepted through the website, email, or mail. Residents may also speak at a meeting set for next Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 5 p.m. The School Board is slated to vote on the new name at its Sept. 14 meeting.

### 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.

### LABOR DAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Fairfax County Government offices are closed Monday, Sept. 7, in honor of the Labor Day holiday. However, some facilities are open and schedules vary, particularly as some offices continue to feature reduced hours in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the county government is providing many essential services online, by phone and by mail.

### PARKING DAY

The annual event known as Park(ing) Day will be celebrated in Fairfax City on Friday, Sept. 18, 2020 for the second consecutive year. The parking lot of Fair City Mall at 9650 Main Street will be transformed into an interactive parklet from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as businesses, GMU students, and Fairfax City departments collaborate to celebrate people and open space. The event will feature a balloon garden and encourage the community to share their thoughts on their favorite things about Fairfax City. Each idea will be attached to a balloon in the balloon garden so that visitors can read thoughtful messages as they walk through it. In addition to the balloon garden, there will be a performance by the Dewberry School of Music Flute Ensemble of George Mason University's (GMU) College of Visual and Performing Arts, giveaways, and raffle drawings from businesses located at Fair City Mall. To learn more about Fairfax City's Park(ing) Day event visit [fairfaxcityconnected.com/parkingday2020](http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/parkingday2020).

### NIGHTMARE ALLEY AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

The Workhouse Arts Center announces that "Nightmare Alley" Haunted Drive-Thru is coming to Lorton for this year's Halloween season. "Nightmare Alley" is the first immersive, completely contactless drive-thru Halloween experience in the region. Zombies, swamp creatures, creepy clowns, and scary dolls are among 13 different scary scenes taking up residence on the

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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### Announcements



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### Announcements

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### Legals

### Legals

FILED 05-28-2020  
 CIRCUIT COURT DANE COUNTY, WI  
 2020FA000847  
 Honorable Peter C Anderson - Branch 17

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT DANE COUNTY  
 FAMILY COURT BRANCH

In re the Marriage of:

Nagavalli Aarigapudi  
 2330 Colorado Ave.  
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590,

Petitioner,

-and-

Srikanth Yalamanchili  
 7116 Strawn Ct,  
 Alexandria, VA 22306,

Respondent.

Case No.

Case No.

Divorce 40101  
 Case No.

Case No.

### SUMMONS (WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN)

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE PERSON NAMED ABOVE AS RESPONDENT:

You are hereby notified that the petitioner named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Petition for Divorce Without Minor Children, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within twenty (20) days after receiving this summons, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Petition for Divorce with a Minor Child. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Dane County Court, whose address is 215 S. Hamilton Street, Madison, WI 53703 and to Community Justice, Inc., attorney Frank Donahue, petitioner's attorney, whose address is 214 N. Hamilton Street, Ste. 101, Madison, WI 53703. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within twenty (20) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Petition for Divorce Without Minor Children, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Petition for Divorce Without Minor Children. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated: May 27, 2020

Community Justice, Inc.  
 Attorneys for the petitioner

Electronically signed by  
 Attorney Frank Donahue

State Bar No. 1114582

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### Announcements

### Announcements



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**-Werner Heisenberg**



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# Library Board

FROM PAGE 5

tion catapulted public outcry concerning statements to the highest levels in Fairfax County government. The Coalition said that Rosenthal “made unmistakably racist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, and anti-Islamic comments while criticizing the County’s attempts to promote inclusion in its library catalog.” The Coalition addressed its letter to Chairman Jeffrey McKay, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Millhouse. The Coalition copied all members of the Board of Supervisors and Public Library Board of Trustees. It called on both bodies “to formally and publicly condemn Mr. Rosenthal’s statements.”

Ewing, an appointee of John W. Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor, commented during the meeting. He resigned on Aug. 25. Supervisor Foust provided a copy of Ewing’s resignation. In it, Ewing wrote: “My remarks were not to lend support to Mr. Rosenthal’s comments but to examine the idea of more neutrality in the presentation of the library’s collection... I have decided to tender my resignation effective immediately. Perhaps my vacancy will help the board in developing a more diverse representation to further the library’s mission.”

Supervisor Foust responded in a statement that he had known Ewing for many years and many different volunteer roles. “He has and continues to provide valuable services to our community. That is especially true of his many years of service on the Library Board. As noted in his resignation statement, he recognizes the value of having a Library Board that is more diverse and looks more like the community that it serves. As he suggests, I will seek to advance that goal when I appoint his replacement.”

Unlike Ewing, recent outrage did not lead Phil Rosenthal, an appointee of Pat Herry, Springfield District Supervisor, to resign. The NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition said on

its Facebook page it was “sickening to hear Mr. Phillip Rosenthal... make unmistakably racist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, and anti-Islamic comments while criticizing the County’s attempts to promote inclusion in its library catalog... To listen to his remarks, skip to the 1:37 mark.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQvU2CvpGUI>

**THE COMMENTS** led Chairman McKay to post a statement on Twitter saying he hoped “Mr. Rosenthal resigns.” <https://twitter.com/jeffreymckay/status/1298982854693552135?s=12>

Rosenthal responded to Chairman McKay’s statement the next day. He said, “I have the utmost respect for Chairman McKay, and I sincerely apologize for any disruption that my remarks caused and the way they have been interpreted. My intention was to address that all sides of the discussion should be highlighted at the library and on the library website. I am sorry that I offended anyone with my remarks.” According to Rosenthal, he planned to meet with Supervisor Herry’s office sometime during the week of Aug. 31.

Supervisor Herry issued the following statement: “My office has also received feedback supporting our appointees’ views. I have always believed that open honest discussion gets us to better answers. Interestingly several other trustees agreed there was a need for further discussion and possible action to have the website present a diversity of opinions. The public library is one of the most important institutions in our democracy. For that reason, it is especially important that it offers a balance of viewpoints to remain neutral and non-partisan in representing many ideologies, religions, ethnicities, and stories. I look forward to seeing how the Library Board of Trustees works to more holistically encourage diversity of thought for readers in Fairfax County.”

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Workhouse campus during the month of October. These new campus inhabitants will scare and entertain visitors experiencing the attraction from the safety of their cars. Tickets are on sale now. There will be 13 nights of fright, starting on Friday, Oct. 2 through Sat. October 31. Fridays and Saturdays will run from 7-11 p.m. each weekend in October, and the three Sundays in the middle of the month (October 11, 18, and the 25) will run from 7-10 p.m. The Workhouse is holding auditions for scare actors and is accepting volunteers to assist in this year’s event. (Students wishing to volunteer are eligible to receive service hours.) For sponsorship opportunities, contact: [elenaromanova@workhousearts.org](mailto:elenaromanova@workhousearts.org)

### FLU SHOTS AT SAFEWAY

Local Safeway pharmacies will be giving flu shots starting Aug. 29 at 112 Eastern Division stores in the region. Flu vaccines can be administered on a “walk-in” basis and are offered on a daily basis. The flu shot

is free with most insurance, so there is no co-payment unless required by the plan. Visit the website [www.safeway.com/flu](http://www.safeway.com/flu)

### FLU SHOTS AT GIANT FOOD

Flu shots are now available at all Giant Food store pharmacies for both adults and children. The vaccinations will be administered by Giant’s pharmacists, require no appointment and are often covered in-full by most insurance plans. No appointment is needed and insurance companies, including Medicare, are billed directly, often at \$0 copays. Standard flu shots as well as the high dose flu vaccine for customers over the age of 64 are available. For more information, or to schedule an onsite flu clinic for your office, call 800-950-4678.

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

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## Not Exactly the “Canswer” I Was Hoping For

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



If this past week’s test results (EKG, blood pressure and lab work) pass muster, then I will join the ranks, full time, of the thyroid cancer community. At present, the medical plan is to pivot, completely, from any lung cancer treatment - which for the past 18 months has been immunotherapy bi-weekly, and focus instead, exclusively, on my stage IV, papillary thyroid cancer. If I can go forward, I’ll be taking three pills a day, at home. No more visits to the Infusion Center and of course, no more infusions. And not that I’m paranoid about getting exposed to the coronavirus, but less exposure to whatever can be transmitted by droplets, door knobs, elevator buttons, etc., can’t be a bad thing. The question remains however: Is the medication I’ll be receiving likely to have a positive effect? As in, will it cure my thyroid cancer?

What little I already know is that the type of papillary thyroid cancer that I’ve been diagnosed with recently - after three biopsies, is unfortunately not curable. It is treatable though, just as my previous lung cancer diagnosis was described. I like curable much better. But, treatable I’ll have to live with, hopefully for a long time, as I have for 11 and 1/2 years with the originally diagnosed stage IV non small cell lung cancer. My attitude then, as it will be now, is to try and stay alive until the next new drug comes along which might actually cure my thyroid cancer. The interim goal, different from the ultimate goal is stability; turning the incurable disease into a chronic disease, like diabetes, for example. And though curable is the preferred outcome, for those of us with our rear ends in those barcaloungers, stable is perfectly acceptable. In fact, for the many years I was treated for lung cancer, ‘stable’ became my new favorite word. Shrinkage, cure, remission and N.E.D. (no evidence of disease) was certainly the ideal. But for those of us in the trenches, our reality is often very different.

Living, even in those trenches, is the best reward, and as cancer patients, you learn that any guarantees, presumptions or even entitlements are best left outside the examining room’s door. Because once inside, reality takes over (as it likewise does late at night, as you’re lying in bed contemplating your predicament, when it tends to get late, early, if you know what I mean?). My friend Sean often jokes by asking me if I’m still on the clock (meaning am I still terminal-ish). I’m on the clock, alright, as I have been since February 27, 2009 when my oncologist first told Team Lourie of my “terminal” diagnosis. Cancer then, as now, is the dreaded disease. Eventually though, the conversation ends and a treatment plan is initiated.

Treatment is often predicated on a series of definite maybes/“we’ll see”. Success is measured one lab result, one appointment, one scan and one surgery at a time. No promises are offered and rarely are other patient histories relevant to one’s own circumstances. Patients have unique characteristics and it’s never quite right to draw parallels. Being a cancer patient is the opposite of being on a “Merry Go ‘Round.” It’s a “Not Very Merry Doesn’t Go ‘Round” - without the music. Moreover, there’s never a brass ring to grab, only an intangible thing called hope.

However, hope is a wonderful thing. Though it doesn’t necessarily get you across the finish line, it does enable you to endure the journey. You’re where you are and where you’re going to be so any kind of assistance - mentally or otherwise, is greatly appreciated. In my mind, the only pathway is forward. And though the challenges seem endless, a proper positive attitude that leaves open the possibilities of living life with cancer rather than succumbing to it creates a kind of karma that reflects off of others and is reabsorbed back into you. It’s this positivity loop which makes the unbearable a bit more bearable. At least it does for me.

My father used to say: “Every knock is a boost.” Imagine what every boost would mean to a cancer patient? It’s almost like medicine, but without the negative side effects. And who doesn’t need that? Those of us diagnosed with two types of cancer, that’s who!

Don’t knock it if you haven’t tried it.

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