

CONNECTION

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Kamala Harris Speaks at Fairfax 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony

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Vice presidential candidate, U.S. Sen Kamala Harris, (D-Calif.) gives the keynote address at the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, Friday, September 11, 2020.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Police Support Group Visits Franconia Police Station

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'Old Town Just Feels Like Home'

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(From left) U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Douglas Emhoff, Democratic Vice Presidential candidate, U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and Fairfax County Fire Chief John S. Butler bow their heads in a moment of silence.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

A moment of silence at the Fairfax 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony, exactly 10:28 a.m. September 11, 2020, marking nineteen years to the moment when the North Tower at the World Trade Center collapsed on September 11, 2001, following a terrorist attack.

Kamala Harris Speaks at Fairfax 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters, County Fire Chief John S. Butler stepped to the podium at the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony to commemorate lives lost on September 11, 2001. Democratic Vice Presidential candidate, Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), the senior senator from Virginia, Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), and County leaders among them Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D), Supervisors Pat Herryty (R-Springfield) James R. Walkinshaw (D-Braddock District), Walter L. Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill District), Dalia A. Palchik (D-Providence District) and first responders of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department joined Butler.

“We have some esteemed guests but today is really about those who went into buildings and never came back knowing they might not come back. Those who went to work, to do their normal jobs and never came back.” The ceremony began with a moment of silence at 10:28, when the North Tower at the World Trade Center collapsed. Sen. Warner said, “These last nineteen years, the commitment of those first responders, those who died in the tragedy, we still hold their memories and condolences to the families who still grieve. I know the Chief said there are six (first responders) still in current service who responded that day, and we can’t thank you enough for what you’ve done.”

In his introduction of United States Senator Kamala Harris, Sen. Warner said, “She understands the dangerous world that we live in, but she also understands the absolutely critical role first responders and our military play in keeping our country safe.”

Sen. Harris recalled where she was and what she was doing nineteen years ago. It was early morning in California, then the images started to come on the tv, and everyone stopped. She said they all stood around in utter disbelief, strangers hugging each other, understanding at their core without



Vice presidential candidate, U.S. Sen Kamala Harris, (D-Calif.) gives the keynote address at the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, Friday, September 11, 2020.

reflection, without thinking that they were all in this together.

She said: “In times of despair, in times of suffering and pain, we find our very nature as who we are. We stand together, understanding we are all in this together. So, as we honor them, let’s remember that today we honor those lost in New York, Pennsylvania, and right here in Virginia. We remember the passengers and crewmembers, the firefighters, law enforcement peace officers and military personnel. We remember that they were more than these victims of an unspeakable act. They were also parents and sons

and daughters and neighbors and friends.

And we know that they will never be defined by the story of those who stole them away. No, they will be defined by their humanity, by their story. I hear laughter that still echoes in the homes and hearts of those who love them.

What our attackers failed to understand is that the darkness they hoped would envelop us on 9-11, instead summoned our most radiant and kind human instinct - the instinct to care for one another, to transcend our division, and see ourselves as fellow citizens. To race towards danger and risk everything

to protect each other, the instinct to unite.

If we learned anything watching the heroes of 9-11 is that the strength of the human spirit knows no bounds. And that even the gravest threats against us only serve to reveal our true strength, and our capacity to act with love and courage in the face of immense challenge is what defines us as Americans.

I’m humbled to be here and to join in this moment. And I wish, and I pray that the cherished memories of those who served remind us of who they were as individuals, but also who we are as a nation.”



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), front, with Supervisor Pat Herryty left and Board of Supervisor Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D), right, at the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony in Fairfax.

Facilitating Voting, Adjusting the Budget and Tackling Criminal Justice

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL



Over the last month, the Virginia General Assembly has been in what's called a "special session" to address voting in the forthcoming election, the budget and criminal justice. We have been juggling our jobs, families and other responsibilities to serve the public in this historic session.

The legislature had to revisit the state budget because the covid-19 pandemic has seriously impacted the budget we approved in February 2020. Revenues have stabilized somewhat and the state has received some federal assistance. Our money committees are now reconciling the ideas from both chambers to cut about \$2 billion from the budget. Both chambers are prioritizing secondary school and healthcare spending in light of this crisis, priorities that I support.

Making Voting Easier

For the November 3 election, we made several changes which Governor Ralph Northam has signed into law. First, we authorized early voting drop boxes at the early voting polls and at the November 3 polls for people to return pa-

per, absentee ballots. Second, we appropriated funds to pre-pay each absentee ballot return envelope. Third, we created a process for voters to cure or complete their absentee ballot if the registrar finds that the voter failed to include all required information on the return envelope.

Criminal Justice Reform

The Senate has passed significant criminal justice reform measures. The Senate police reform legislation would revamp the process to train and decertify police officers. All new Virginia officers will have state-mandated minimum training and officers will no longer be allowed to terminate decertification proceedings through resignation. Law enforcement agencies will be required to share records with new employers so that misconduct cannot be covered up. We are expanding the reasons for decertifying law enforcement officers, adding five new categories of misconduct, including improper use of force.

Our bill will put into law use-of-force standards, including bans on chokeholds and shooting into moving motor vehicles, requiring warnings before using deadly force, requiring de-escalation and stipulating use of deadly force as a last resort. These new rules could

also be used to challenge an officer's assertion of qualified immunity in a civil case.

The Senate has passed bills to reduce opportunities for racial profiling and prohibit searches of people or vehicles based solely upon an odor of marijuana. Now that the legislature decriminalized marijuana, criminal searches should not be undertaken solely because of an allegation of an odor, a situation that is impossible to challenge in court.

The Senate approved my bill to reform the current law that addresses assault on a law enforcement officer. My bill eliminates the mandatory minimum, six-month sentence, requires an investigation of incidents by an independent police officer, requires a prosecutor to approve charges and gives a judge or jury the option of convicting someone of a misdemeanor if the defendant has slight culpability and there is either no bodily injury or the defendant has either diminished mental capacity or pervasive intellectual disability.

On a 30 to 6 vote, the Senate also passed my bills to restore prosecutors' discretion to drop charges or enter plea deals that involve rehabilitation, mental health treatment and either reduced charges or dismissal. I expect the Senate to pass a bill this week to enhance civilian

SEE FACILITATION VOTING, PAGE 5

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What Problem is Ban Solving?

To the Editor:

To the members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors who recently voted to move forward on a public hearing for a total ban on firearms in public places within Fairfax County, I ask a simple question: what problem is this solving? Does Fairfax County have a gun-crime problem in public places? Can you point to any facts, statistics or non-emotional anecdotes which justifies such a move?

Concealed carry permit holders are the most law-abiding demographic in the nation.

Over 420,000 Virginians are licensed to carry a concealed weapon, which means on average 1 out of every 20 Virginian passersby could be armed at any given moment except where firearms are foolishly prohibited.

One out of every 20 people you pass by is prepared to defend themselves, their families or the people around them, from violent crime.

Your decision to proceed down the path to ban guns in open spaces is nothing but divisive. Americans are passionate about the 2nd Amendment.

If you don't like it, there's a process to repeal it. America has enough divisional strife without needlessly adding to it through

emotional and fact-less legislation.

County spending and taxes have increased 25 percent over the past five years. I don't know anyone who's salary has increased 25 percent in five years and many of our residents are currently unemployed due to the COVID shutdown.

Stores are permanently closing and our future-years tax base is getting wiped out. We're trying to give our kids an education through remote learning, and their physical activity has decreased as sports leagues are shut down. Studies show depression and anxiety are on the rise.

Our roads need maintenance, the mass-transit system we partially fund is hemorrhaging money, There's homelessness and an opioid addiction crisis. The Board of Supervisors is needlessly kicking a hornet's nest when it should be concentrating on real, tangible problems that everyone can get behind.

Our county is not lacking in problems, and good, solid leadership would set out a rational, reasonable and affordable plan to solve them together, united as a community.

Matt Rising
Springfield



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

19 Years Later, Lest We Forget

Each Sept. 11, the front lawn of West Centreville Fire Station 38 is adorned with 343 small American flags in honor of the 343 firefighters who died that day in New York.



LETTER

Clarification

In his Sept. 9, 2020, opinion piece (“Political Correctness Impeding Diversity”), Supervisor Herrity implied that Mr. Phil Rosenthal currently serves on the Good Shepherd Housing Board of

Directors. Mr. Rosenthal is not a current member of our board. His board service ended in 2015.

Alexis Feeney Tallman
Chair, Good Shepherd Housing Board of Directors

Facilitating Voting

FROM PAGE 4

review boards’ powers and to set up standards for mental health emergency response teams.

Last week, the Senate debated creating a new state lawsuit for police violations of any provision of the U.S. Constitution, the Constitution of Virginia or any provision of state or federal law. The sponsors referred to it as “repealing qualified immunity,” but it was in-fact much broader than that and would have constituted a massive and unpredictable expansion of li-

ability for local governments. We will continue to work on this legislation.

I and many of my colleagues want to increase opportunities to hold law enforcement misconduct accountable in civil courts. We will work with the House to arrive at a targeted approach in the 2021 session.

We expect this special session to conclude in the next three weeks. If you have any feedback, please email me at scott@scottsuovell.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN MOLEK

Welcoming Students Back to Fairfax High

Although classes are online for now, teachers in Fairfax High’s ESOL Department created this photo collage to welcome their students back to school. (Top row, from left) are Greer Mancuso, Kate Scrivener and Sara Chae; (middle row, from left) Candi Freeman, Bora Costello and Carrie Mikhail; and (bottom row, from left) Olga Velasquez, Oindrila Banerjee and Elissa Robinson.



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Police Support Group Visits the Franconia Police Station

No fires, rubber bullets or tear gas at this peaceful event.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

After seeing the police officers in this country treated poorly by the people they were sworn to protect, Brenda Tillet shifted gears and started a movement called “Bolster the Blue,” to change that tide. Her efforts go against the chant of “defund the police,” that was common to the demonstrations that have rocked the nation this summer.

“Those protests started the disrespect of our police officers,” she said, before a Bolster the Blue rally in the parking lot at the Franconia Police Station in Fairfax County. She calls her gatherings “Flash Mob Fridays” events, although most of the mob consisted of area residents that seemed to lean on the republican side, and there were not many teens present. “Our primary purpose is to get people engaged in legislation,” she said, and she targeted HB 5013, a bill that was recently killed in legislation. That bill would have made it



Brenda Tillet spoke of supporting the police instead of shaming them. Most of the attendees were from around the Franconia area.

easier to sue police officers.

“You affected change,” she told her supporters, “this is a very bipartisan issue,” she said. There were signs of Trump supporters in the group but Tillet said she has invited democrats to be speakers also. There were several speakers at the Flash Mob Friday event

that seemed to point the finger at Virginia’s elected officials on all levels. “The police had the politicians turn their back on them,” said Steve Knotts, another speaker that was in from his residence in Chantilly. “We have to stand up for what’s right, not let the mob rule,” he said.

Sean Rastatter, Vice Chair, Fairfax County Republican Committee, lives in Centreville and grew up in a family of Fairfax County Police Officers. He called the current Virginia House and Senate officials “radical Richmondites,” adding that the defund directive can go the other way too. “I say defund the politicians that use the police as scapegoats,” he said. One member in the audience had a “Defend the Police,” t-shirt on, and others waved American flags.

With the backdrop of the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist strikes, the event was dedicated to Christopher Amoroso, a police officer who was killed at the World Trade Center. The speakers stressed the message that Amoroso gave his life saving victims that he didn’t even know. That’s what police do, they said.

Bolster the Blue

Tillet is a Fairfax resident that founded Bolster the Blue several months ago to “increase community awareness about anti-law enforcement legislation which de-

stroys our officers and abolishes safety in our homes and communities,” her description on the website read.

Beginning in September and continuing into the fall, there are several Flash Mob Fridays scheduled at various spots in the county. The first one was in the City of Fairfax on Friday, Sept. 4, and next week, September 18, it will be at the Sully District Station, followed by Mason District, Reston, West Springfield, Fair Oaks and McLean.

In addition to a website, Tillet uses Facebook to communicate with her followers and advertise upcoming legislative events. For the upcoming Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 29, “we have secured all 10 public comments at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting to address every aspect of inequality and unfair legislation affecting our LEOs and our communities on a local and state level and to demand action by our Board of Supervisors members,” she wrote in an email. She declared to never stop fighting or put her armor down.

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Home For Sale

Backing to # 9 on the Shenandoah Valley
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When you enter the home, you’ll immediately notice traditional details like hardwood floors and crown molding throughout the main living area. Past the large sitting room and formal dining room, you’ll find the fabulous kitchen and living room at the back of the home. The renovated kitchen features stainless steel appliances [double wall ovens (one a convection), gas cooktop, granite countertops and tons of cabinet space. There’s a pass-thru opening from the kitchen to the living room, which includes a cozy brick propane fireplace and a huge picture window. This home has so many spots to relax or entertain a crowd. Before you even make

it outside, there’s a screened porch, which leads out to the backyard. You can grill dinner out on the deck [built with Trex!] or just enjoy drinks under the gazebo in your fenced-in yard. Even though your yard borders the Shenandoah Valley Country Club Golf Course, the wall of towering trees lining the property offers you privacy when you fire up the hot tub on the deck. Around the front, you have a 2-car garage and a wide concrete driveway with extra room to park your RV or boat. Bring the party back inside and head down to the finished basement. You’ll find the laundry room and a second living room, as well as a rec room

with a wall of custom walnut built-ins, a fireplace and double doors that open up to the backyard. After the party, you can wind down in your main bedroom suite, which includes a private suite. In fact, all 3 bathrooms have upgrades of fresh paint, new vanities, and tile. This home is as efficient as it is beautiful, with a new roof, gutters & windows. There’s also a tankless water heater, upgraded electric, a heat pump with oil backup and a new 500-gallon underground propane tank for the fireplaces. This sprawling rancher is move-in ready, there’s no “to-do” list attached. Come take a tour today!

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Safe Spaces for Productive Racial Discussions

Components that should be included in effective forums.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As symbols of racial tension and injustice seemed ubiquitous this summer, a group of parishioners at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria began meeting virtually to engage in dialogues about the thorny issue of race. They began watching documentaries and reading lengthy passages on racial history in advance of their discussions. At one point this summer, members of the predominantly white and wealthy parish joined the Prayer Walk for Peace & Justice sponsored by Alfred Street Baptist Church, an African American congregation also located in Alexandria.

"It has been incredible ... but our people are so willing to spend time on it, and hungry not only to learn more but to be part of supporting real change in our society," said Reverend Elizabeth Rees, Senior Associate Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. "We're using the Sacred Ground curriculum. Over the past months, we have heard parishioners talking about their eyes opening to their white privilege and their struggles to use that privilege to open their worlds up to different people and different voices."

From social media and the workplace to classrooms and places of worship, buzzwords like white privilege and micro-aggression and discussions around race were important after a summer of racial unrest. While open and honest conversations can improve race relations, researchers say that workshops, classes and group discussions and those who are establishing forums or simply seeking them must include certain basic components such as education and self reflection in order to lead to enhanced racial harmony and decrease the chance of members gaining misunderstanding, antagonism and defensiveness.

"For me the most important aspect of teaching about race is to foster a conversation that is self-referential," said Anita Chari, Ph.D., cofounder of 'Embodying Your Curriculum', a course that teaches educators how to navigate racism and social injustice. "I think that when we delve into issues of race, which can be highly charged, we need to begin from a basis of introspection and looking at each individual's own racial formation, and move from there."

As with the structure of the program of study at St. Paul's, a review of the past racial occurrences should be included in effective discussion about race, advises Chari. "I think understanding the nuances of racial history is one of the most fundamental aspects of coming to greater reconciliation and understanding about race within American society," she said. "This involves teaching students not only about the broader view of race in American history, for example ... the evolution of racial discourse through the brutal practice of chattel slavery, as well as the very local histories of race that inform the present."

Gatherings that encourage empathy and a deep understanding of other points of view can break down racial barriers on the road to racial justice, says David Trigaux, director of programs and fundraising,



BY WASHINGTON URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

Preparing for debates forces you to see an issue from the perspective of someone whose view is the opposite of your own, says David Trigaux of the Washington Urban Debate League.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Paul's Episcopal Church Parishioners participate in a forum designed to promote racial reconciliation.

Washington Urban Debate League, an organization that creates debate teams for young adults and older students in Montgomery County and others parts of the Washington region. "Students prepare for debates by reading and trying to understand both sides of an argument," he said. "This process forces you to see an issue from the perspective of someone whose view is the opposite of your own. Any experience that forces you to be intellectually aware of another point of view and to walk in another person's shoes, causes empathy and brings people together in a way that can spur social awareness and awakening."

The topic for the league's current season is the criminal justice system, says Trigaux. "We get to think about the fact that some people might see a police officer as helpful while another person might see them as a threat," he said. "Switching sides forces you to think about where someone else is coming from."

Because of the controversial nature of discussions around race and the fear of being misunderstood or criticized, some might opt for silence, says Rees. "People in my generation and community were taught to be colorblind when we were children," said Rees. "We didn't consider ourselves racist, but we didn't talk about race because we didn't want to offend."

The goal now, says Rees, is to be color conscious. "Some might say 'this doesn't have anything to do with me because I'm not racist,'" she said. "That's part of the problem. Racism and injustice is a community sin. Until we realize that we're part of the system that affects other people and unless we're addressing it, we're part of the problem."

Due to its popularity, Rees says that St. Paul's is planning for a second phase of the forum, which is open to anyone and not limited to parishioners.

"We will learn more particularly about racial injustice in Alexandria and Virginia and think about what injustice and antiracism might look like for us as a parish," she said. "It seems like we'll be spreading this learning and these ground-shaking conversations further into the parish. I am so glad to be doing this work, and so thrilled the parish is behind it, and eager to see where it leads us."

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'Old Town Just Feels Like Home'

Brooke's Bridal & Ball opens in Fairfax City.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Brooke Ramos initially wanted to be a wedding planner. But after working as a stylist in two bridal shops, she decided to open her own business, instead.

The result is Brooke's Bridal & Ball, in Fairfax City's Old Town Plaza. It's owned by Brooke and her mom, Nanci Ramos; and on Aug. 1, it had its grand opening and ribbon cutting.

"Opening up a business during normal times is stressful; but doing it during a pandemic can be really nerve-wracking," said Fairfax Assistant Economic Development Director Danette Nguyen. "But Brooke and Nanci said 'I do' to opening it here, and we're so thankful."

THE SPACIOUS STORE features more than 100 wedding gowns, plus dresses for the mother of the bride, bridesmaids, flower girl and special occasions – such as formal events, galas and holiday parties – as well as coordinating accessories. "This really looks nice," said Councilman Joe Harmon. "And it'll also generate walk-in traffic to Old Town Plaza."

"This used to be a Panera restaurant, and the transformation is phenomenal," said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "People are still getting married, pandemic or no pandemic. Brooke will enter her customers' lives at a critical time, creating an experience they'll remember for the rest of their lives. She's providing a service and so much more."

Then came the ribbon cutting; but first, Brooke thanked her friends, family and the City for "making my dreams come true." Afterward, attendees – wearing masks and socially distancing – got to see the beautiful gowns inside the shop, and Brooke and Nanci toasted to a successful future.

"Businesses like this are a perfect example of how to evolve in a COVID-19 world," said Economic Development Director Chris Bruno. "And Fairfax City is the perfect setting for them to do that. We have the infrastructure to guarantee the safety and security of both customers and employees as we reopen the economy."

"I've always been really girly and liked weddings, and I got a wedding-planning certification in 2011," said Brooke. "I was then a stylist at Alfred Angelo Bridal in Springfield for six years, working with brides, bridesmaids, mothers and flower girls to help them find their gowns."

"I loved every minute of it," she continued. "It was a fun atmosphere, and I liked making the girls' dreams come true. The best part was connecting with a bride's vision of her wedding." She then switched to Brides by Demetrios in Tysons Galleria, working there two years until the Macy's it



Cutting the ribbon are (from left) Jennifer Rose, Chris Bruno, Joe Harmon, David Meyer and Brooke and Nanci Ramos.



Brooke's Bridal & Ball owners (from left), Brooke and Nanci Ramos, with one of their wedding gowns.



(From left) Brooke and Nanci Ramos toast to "a successful 2020 and further."

was inside closed last spring.

So Brooke teamed with her mother to open their own store. "My mom has a background in bookkeeping and accounting, so she takes care of the books," said Brooke. "We make a good pair."

They also loved Fairfax City. "I used to come here for lunch with friends and always liked the atmosphere," explained Brooke. "We looked at several locations, but this one was the best. Everyone's so friendly and welcoming, and I like the way the businesses support each other and help each other grow."

At Brooke's Bridal, she and her stylists ask brides-to-be what they want their gowns to look like and the type of feel their wedding should have. Then they'll help them browse the store's offerings, see what they want to try on and help them in and out of each gown.

Once the gown is chosen, the bride's

measurements are taken, and the gown is specially ordered for her. "The gowns in the store are samples," said Brooke. "However, at the end of both the fall and spring seasons, we'll sell directly from the floor to make room for the new collections."

BECAUSE OF COVID-19, she said, "We ask the bride if she'd feel comfortable with us helping her in and out of her gown. We wear masks and gloves; and after a bride tries on a dress, we'll have it cleaned and sanitized – a 24-hour process – so it's ready for the next bride." Walk-ins are fine, but the store recommends customers make appointments to try on dresses, so they'll have one-on-one time with a stylist.

"We ask the bride to be open-minded regarding her gown, but we also make her comfortable and feel at home, so she'll have a good experience," said Brooke. "It's the most important day of her life – and she'll

Brooke's Bridal & Ball

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be looking at her wedding pictures for the rest of her life."

In sizes 0-28, the gowns come in a variety of styles and, said Brooke, "We try to find out the bride's personality and what draws her to a certain style of gown. We also offer different types of veils, gloves and jewelry." By opening day, they'd already received 17 appointments for weddings in 2021, and both she and her mother are excited about the future.

"The tug at Brooke's heart is when a bride decides on her gown," said Nanci. "She likes being part of that emotional experience, and Brooke can usually tell that the bride has found that perfect dress before she can. We have many testimonials from satisfied customers – there's just a heart connection."

They also plan to have trunk shows, in which bridal-gown designers give a sneak peak of their new line before the public sees it. And this fall, they'll receive their dresses for spring 2021.

"Next year, on a July weekend, we'll do Brides across America and give free dresses to military personnel or their brides, or first responders," said Nanci, "It's giving back to the community. Eventually, we plan to have makeup artists in our store on the weekends. A baker also wants to come in, and a harpist wants to play music here on a Saturday."

Pleased with their Fairfax City location, she said, "We really like the community feel, so we wanted to be here. And we love the Old Town area – it just feels like home."

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) was at the Burke Community Church to see the new addition

Burke Community Church Expanded, Enhanced

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

A major expansion project was recently completed at the Burke Community Church, adding space for a 1150-seat worship center, adult classrooms, offices, lobby, cafe, bookstore and commercial kitchen. The non-denominational has been part of the Burke community for 45 years.

Supervisor Pat Herry was invit-

ed in to see the updated church, and talk about the project with church officials. "I was happy to see the successful completion of this project at Burke Community Church. BCC serves our community through their work with those in need and our non-profit partners and their new facility is amazing. I look forward to continuing to work with BCC to advance their goals," Herry said.

The church is located at 9900 Old Keene Mill Road in Burke.



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Legals

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT SHAWANO COUNTY

Freedom Mortgage Corporation
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Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

Summons
Case No. 2020CV000114
Judge William F. Kussel, Jr.
Foreclosure of Mortgage: 30404

Plaintiff,

v.

Kami King
9118 Galbreth Court
Springfield, VA 22153

Defendant.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN,

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If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. 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: September 14, 2020

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Lanier Middle School to be Renamed

The City of Fairfax School Board on Monday voted to change the name of Lanier Middle School. The school was named after Sidney Lanier, a Georgia poet who served in the Confederate Army. The Sept. 14 vote was 4-1, with just Mitch Sutterfield voting no.

The School Board will vote on a new name, later this fall, to take effect in the 2021-2022 school year.

Community members may send their name suggestions via LanierComment@FairfaxVa.gov or to www.CityofFairfaxSchools.org through this Friday, Sept. 18.

"I believe this is the right moment for this change," said School Board Chairman Carolyn Pitches. "We need a name that represents who we are and one that represents our entire community. I overwhelmingly heard from students that they want to be proud of their school."

Foundation Coffee Roasters Opens

Foundation Coffee Roasters opens this Friday morning, Sept. 18, at 10 a.m., at Fair City Mall in Fairfax.

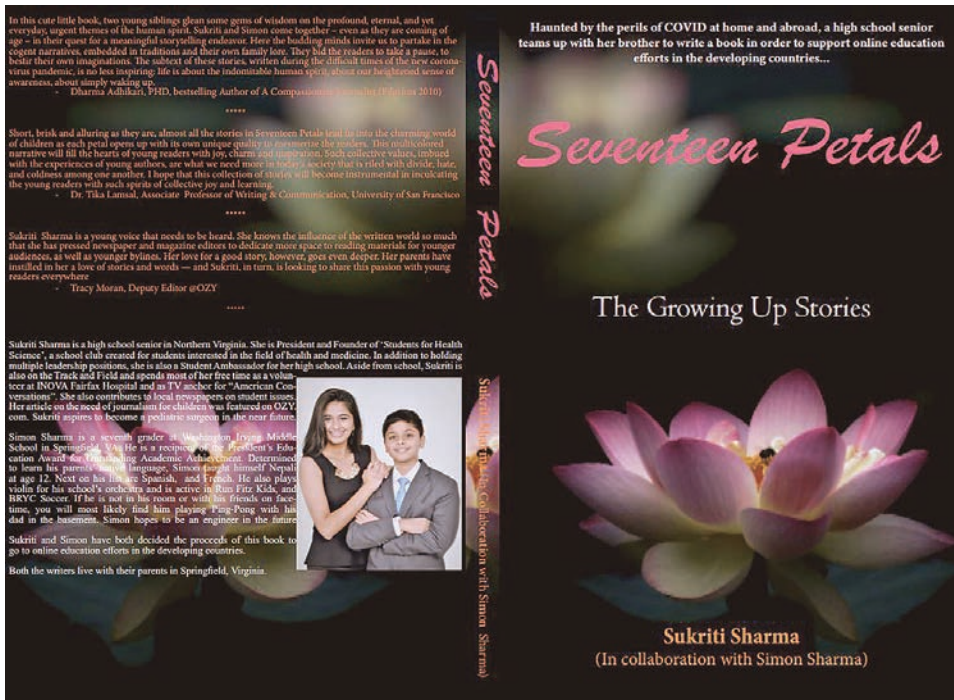
It's behind the mall, at 9650 Main St., behind DSW shoes and Hallmark. Coffee beans are roasted onsite, and the shop also features espresso-based drinks prepared with house-made syrups, teas and pastries made from scratch daily. And this Friday and Saturday, bring a friend and receive one free drink when purchasing another drink.

Drug Take-Back Boxes Reopen

As of Sept. 14, drug take-back boxes reopened at all Fairfax County police stations. People may bring their unused or unneeded medications to their local, district station to dispose of them in a safe, convenient and responsible way.

Boxes are located in the lobby and are accessible 24/7. Accepted items include prescription medications and ointments, over-the-counter medications, and medications for pets.

Prohibited items include needles, liquids, illegal drugs, medications from businesses or clinics, non-prescription ointments, and any lotions, aerosol cans or inhalers.



Book's cover

Springfield Sister, Brother Duo Launches a Book

Hunted by the perils of COVID-19 at home and abroad, Sukriti Sharma, a senior at West Springfield High School in Virginia, has teamed up with her brother, Simon, to support healthcare efforts in the refugee camps of Nepal and elsewhere by writing "Seventeen Petals: The Growing Up Stories."

The 115 page-book the marketing of which is managed by Kindle Direct Publishing, consists of 17 stories that talk about same number of human personality traits: Acceptance, Humility, Reverence, Virtue, Purpose, Simplicity, Commitment, Diligence, Service, Consistency, Assurance, Willingness, Loyalty, Sensitivity, Compassion, Wisdom and Devotion.

Priced at US \$9.99 the book has already received rave reviews from journalists, newspaper editors and university professors for their ability to engage the readers and explain the story lines in the simplest possible form.

The stories stem from writer duo's deep insight into the socio-cultural and familial imagery of young minds while growing up

in a diverse and multicolored society, and settle peacefully in the hearts of avid young readers who are readying themselves to becoming the global citizens, albeit amid difficult times posed by COVID.

In a press release, issued on Sept. 15, the day the book was released on Amazon, the writers stated that the book was the result of their parents' rich tradition of passing the oral culture of storytelling, the free time they had while being locked down due to COVID and their urgency to do something for the kids of their age and younger in the Tibetan refugee camps of Nepal and elsewhere who were undergoing even harsher health and learning environment due to the ongoing pandemic.

Sukriti Sharma said during the zoom-launch of the book that they have aimed at raising at least US \$50,000 by the end of this year so that the refugee children who have lost their basic human rights could get one of the most basic needs of life: the health.

Amazon made an online and paperback version of the book available for pre-order on Sept. 9.

Help Feed Local Families in Need

Britepaths is a well-known, Fairfax-based nonprofit that helps area residents, all year 'round in a variety of ways. And its Food Bridge program helps bridge the gap for them during times of crisis. But Britepaths can't do it all by itself - and that's where the community comes in.

Via Food Bridge, Britepaths donates grocery-store gift cards, as well non-perishable food and supplies from its food pantry, to people in need. And whenever someone makes a contribution to Britepaths at <https://britepaths.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=7>, it receives some of the money it needs to purchase grocery-store gift cards at a bulk-discount rate to distribute to its Food Bridge clients.

Families are referred to this program by social workers, and generally receive assistance for approximately four to six months. Other clients may receive emergency assistance once or twice to get them through a

brief crisis.

Gift cards allow clients to meet the specific, dietary needs of their families, which may include managing food allergies. The cards also enable parents to make good nutritional choices for their children, such as fruits, vegetables and dairy items that Britepaths can't store in its pantry or easily deliver.

In addition, using these gift cards lets the clients practice their newly acquired, financial-management skills to get the most out of every dollar they spend for food. Other Food Bridge initiatives include Our Daily Veggies farmers market vouchers and Food-4Thought weekend food assistance for local students in need.

Besides individuals, any entities wishing to become a Food Bridge supporting organization may contact Christina Garris at cgarris@britepaths.org or 703-273-8829.

- BONNIE HOBBS

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And So It Begins



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Eleven years, six months and two weeks, approximately, after being diagnosed with "terminal" cancer: stage IV non small cell lung cancer, I have begun my treatment for stage IV papillary thyroid cancer. I'll be taking three pills a day, all at once, same time every day. The list of possible side effects are as long and scary as it presumably gets (blood clots, arrhythmia, to highlight just a few). I doubt its bluster. Likely somewhere between it depends and probably. Every patient is different of course so what happens next - to me, can only be forewarned. It cannot be foretold - with any kind of certainty, that is.

What I've read about these straight-on effects so far is somewhere along the lines of the cancer untreated would be worse so pick your poison, I suppose. I didn't exactly pick, but the poison - euphemistically speaking

if not literally, which has been prescribed, arrived by mail at my home as of 1:30 this afternoon and I see no reason to wait. Gulp. Let us go forth in hope because there are no guarantees here. The guarantees left the building late Feb., 2009 with my initial diagnosis. Maintaining a positive attitude and a good sense of humor has to remain my not-to-so-secret weapon. Granted, wishing and thinking a thing doesn't make it so, but moaning and groaning about it will be neither productive nor prudent. It would simply reinforce a negative and as Brian Dennehy (a k a "Cobb") said in the movie "Silverado" about a completely different subject: "We can't be having none of that now, can we?"

I think the reason I'm meandering about here and in life is that I don't have a clear understanding of my prognosis yet, though I have asked. Moreover, since my new normal has only just begun, I don't have my routine down and as a result, the treatment process has not become second nature. And until it's no longer first nature, I'll be more preoccupied and cognizant of what I'm doing and why, and when I should be doing it. Primarily, this confusion/series of arrangements has to do with coordinating taking the three thyroid cancer pills with my current and pre-existing - going back 11-plus years, pill regimen which involves upwards of 60 pills daily. It's not overly complicated. It's just new and some pills shouldn't be taken together as is the case with the synthroid medication, the anti-nausea pill and additionally, not all pills can be taken with food, without food and so forth. I realize this isn't rocket science, but my life sort of depends on it, so it's kind of important that I pay attention to what and when I'm ingesting.

And it's this newness that is scary because it represents the great unknown - for me: Will the side effects be debilitating, life changing? Will they be treatable/manageable? Will my life expectancy once again be front and center as I wobble back and forth from lab work, diagnostic scans and follow-up appointments? Previously I sort of knew where I stood. Now, I don't really know anything. Oddly enough, having been there and done that is not as comforting as I would have anticipated.

Even though I've switched over - so to speak, from lung cancer to thyroid cancer, I can't really say I've experienced a "Serenity now-" type moment. I'm not nearly so confident in my outcome now as I sort of was when I

only had lung cancer. Being diagnosed with a 'new' cancer, 11-plus years in the presenting, hardly reassures that all is under control. I mean, what about my "incurable" lung cancer? We're not treating it anymore. Is it going to now grow and reassert itself and if it does, will we then stop the thyroid cancer treatment? It seems that there could be a return to sender situation here where I'll be back and forth between oncology and endocrinology. I'll figure it out. I'm not afraid to ask the tough questions. It's the answers that might scare me though.

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



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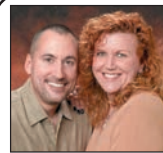


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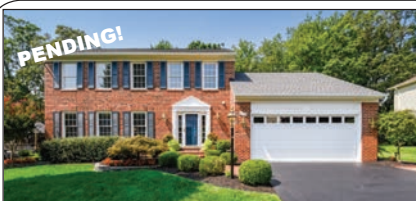
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SOLD
The Ridges of Glendilough \$759,900
A favorite floor plan is coming on the market on a beautiful half acre. Updates throughout include kitchen with stainless appliances and white cabinets while the bathrooms are tastefully upgraded. A private and spacious Home Office is perfect for today's working from home environment. Four bedrooms, five finished levels, screened porch as well as hardwood floors throughout the main and upper levels are just some of the features of this home located in the Woodson-Frost school area.



“Committed to Earning the Loyalty of Our Clients by Providing Unparalleled Professionalism and Exceptional Service While Supporting Our Community.”

