

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.

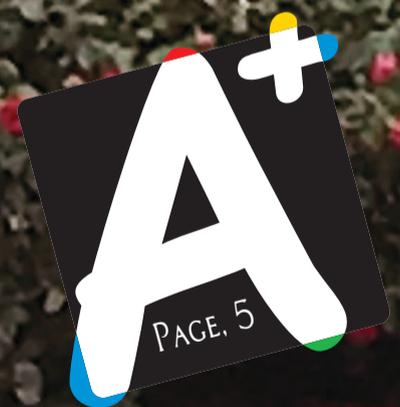
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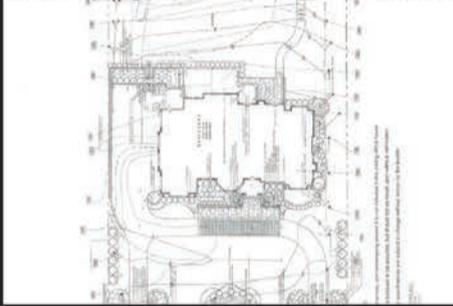
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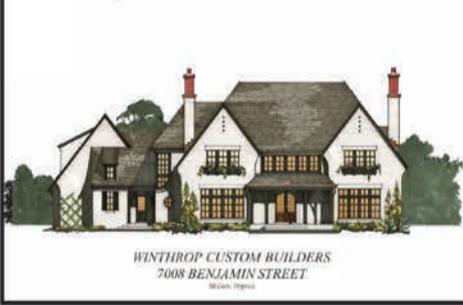
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(From left) U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Douglas Emhoff, Democratic Vice Presidential candidate, U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and Fairfax County Fire Chief John S. Butler bow their heads in a moment of silence.



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.

The House at the Half

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



The House of Delegates is probably half-way through its virtual Special Session. At least the House has debated all the bills introduced by its members with the exception of the budget that is always last to be considered. Those bills have been sent to the Senate and await their consideration while the House will now begin deliberations on the bills the Senate has passed.

As I have indicated in recent columns this special session has been a busy one as special sessions go. Even more unusual, it has been conducted for the first time ever in a virtual environment.

The House has passed 37 bills, all of which are of considerable importance and consequence. These bills will fund safe and secure alternatives for Virginia voters to return absentee ballots during the upcoming 2020 general election, implement housing protections for Virginia families negatively impacted by COVID-19, ban the use of no-knock-warrants and neck restraints, require law enforcement officers to

intervene or report when they see wrongdoing from colleagues, and streamline the process for localities to remove, relocate, or alter Confederate statues and other war monuments on public property.

To understand fully what some of the bills, described here in generalities, will do, go to <https://lis.virginia.gov> to review the specific language and provisions. To make

voting easier during the pandemic, HB5103 permits localities to establish ballot drop-off locations, supports pre-paid postage for absentee ballots, and makes it safer and easier to vote absentee.

HB5116 requires large employers to provide limited paid quarantine leave for Virginia workers. HB5028 establishes a presumption of worker compensation eligibility for first responders, teachers, and other high-risk essential workers who die or become disabled due to COVID-19. HB5047 combats price gouging for personal protective equipment. There were other COVID-related bills.

Some of the bills passed in the House in the area of police and criminal justice reform are far reaching. HB5013 eliminates qualified immunity for law enforcement officers. HB5043

created a statewide Marcus Alert system for those in a mental health crisis. HB5045 bans sexual relations between officers and arrestees. HB5058 eliminates certain pretextual police stops.

HB5049 demilitarizes police departments by prohibiting the acquisition and use of certain weapons by police departments. HB5090 expands disclosure of law enforcement criminal incidence information files for closed or cold cases under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. HB5148 increases earned sentence credits for incarcerated persons. HB5099 prohibits the use of no-knock warrants. HB5146 reforms state law related to expungement of police and court records. HB5069 bans the use of neck restraints by law enforcement. HB5098 expands the definition of hate crimes to include false 911 calls. HB5109 standardizes and enhances training by criminal justice academies and establishes required in-service training standards for law enforcement officers.

These are some of the bills that have passed the House at half-time. All have been subject to compromises of the legislative process and require a careful review of the current text to understand their implications. They are still subject to the scrutiny of the State Senate, possible conference committee action, and signature of the Governor.



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 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

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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 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."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Virtual Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2022 Budget

(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)

McLean Community Center Governing Board
Wednesday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call **703-744-9348**, to be placed on the speakers list. The draft budget proposal is available on the Center's website. Copies will be available at the Public Hearing.

Written comments may be delivered to the McLean Community Center (see address below) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to **george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov**. Written comments may be provided after the Public Hearing up through **Monday, Oct. 26**.

[WWW.ZOOM.US](http://www.zoom.us)



ZOOM meeting ID: 992 1990 0562
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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Study (NEXT)

I-495 (Capital Beltway) in the vicinity of the Dulles Toll Road interchange to the George Washington Memorial Parkway interchange in the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge Fairfax County

Virtual Location & Design Public Hearing Monday, October 5, 2020, 7 - 9:30 p.m. 495NorthernExtension.org for details

In-person by Appointment Location & Design Public Hearing Thursday, October 8, 2020, 4 - 8 p.m. McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

Learn about and provide input on the Virginia Department of Transportation's environmental assessment and draft design plans to extend the 495 Express Lanes by approximately three miles from the Dulles Toll Road interchange to the George Washington Memorial Parkway in the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge to reduce congestion, improve safety and travel reliability, and provide additional travel choices. This project will involve a change in limited access control.

The virtual public hearing will be held Monday, October 5, 2020, with a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. followed by a formal comment session. Afterwards, a 30-minute question and answer period will be offered if time allows. Visit the project webpage (495NorthernExtension.org) or call 703-691-6715 for information on how to access and participate in the virtual public hearing and provide formal comments. Due to COVID-19 health concerns and safety requirements, the public is encouraged to participate in this virtual hearing.

For people who are unable to participate in the virtual public hearing, VDOT is planning a by-appointment-only, in-person hearing on Thursday, October 8, 2020, from 4-8 p.m. at the above address. A video presentation, display boards, and project staff will be available to answer questions and receive public comments. CDC-recommended health measures, including mask requirements and social distancing will be in place. Reservations are required to attend, please call 703-691-6715 or sign up at 495NorthernExtension.org to make a reservation.

In compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, an environmental study in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA), which includes a Preliminary Noise Analysis, was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for public review and comment. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on historic properties is also included in the EA.

Review information on the project website (495northernextension.org), during the virtual or in-person meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-691-6715 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting or submit them by October 23, 2020 to Abi Lerner, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email 495NorthernExtension@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Study" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

NHPP-495-5(095), State: 0495-029-419, P101, UPC: 113414

NEWS



PHOTOS BY LAURA GERSONY/THE CONNECTION

The group works in the garage of Jason Chen, the student who founded Project Caelus, at his home in Herndon.

TJ Students One Step Closer to Rocket Launch

BY LAURA GERSONY THE CONNECTION

A group of 26 students at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ) just came one step closer to launching a rocket to the edge of Earth's atmosphere. The group, which calls itself Project Caelus, successfully performed a "cold flow test" this Sunday afternoon, Sept. 13, running cold air and water through their engine prototype to simulate flight conditions.

The final launch is planned for spring of 2023. If successful, the group's leadership says they will be the first high schoolers ever to accomplish this goal with a liquid-fueled rocket.

The cold flow test comes after nearly three years of largely theoretical work, during which the group conceptualized, designed, and built the rocket's engine from scratch.

Ankit Khandelwal, a TJ senior from South Riding who serves as the Electronics Safety Officer for Project Caelus, said it was a joy to finally see the fruits of the group's labor.

"We've gone through three re-designs, we've gone through three years of setback after setback, and it's finally coming together," Khandelwal said. "It's nice to see that something that we've put in so much work is finally paying off."

With no faculty advisor, the students are almost entirely self-taught; Project Caelus founder

JASON CHEN, a TJ senior who lives in Herndon, said that the group has learned almost everything from textbooks and the discussion website Reddit. They currently work out of Chen's garage,



Several Project Caelus members perform a final systems check moments before the cold flow test.

at his home in Herndon.

Chen was inspired to start the project after watching the movie *October Sky*, in which a coal miner's son grows up to become a NASA engineer.

"I'd wanted to do something space-related for a while, but didn't really know what I wanted to do," Chen said. "[The movie] inspired me to think, you know, if these guys could do it, what's stopping us from doing something like that?"

The student group is divided into three primary teams. The propulsion team oversees issues related to the rocket's engine, design, and manufacturing; the programming team oversees the ground software and response mechanisms built into the rocket; and a third team takes care of outreach and finance.

To finance the launch, the group ran an online, one-on-one tutoring program called "Caelus Computing," in which members of Project Caelus taught computer science and math skills to younger students.

Ron Nachum, a TJ junior and resident of Vienna, the group's pro-

pulsion lead, said that he views the cold flow test as just one step in a longer journey.

"To me, it's not so much a culmination as a step towards bigger things that I'm looking forward to," he said. "I'm a junior, so I'm hoping we can get to a rocket launch before I graduate."

AS UPPERCLASSMEN at TJ, many members of the group will have graduated before the rocket ever takes flight. Srikar Gouru, the group's software lead and a senior at TJ, says the experience of conceptualizing and building the rocket has been valuable in itself.

"I've definitely gotten more out of it than just getting to see a launch," he said. "Even if we do get the cold flow and static fire going, I think that's a pretty amazing thing." After their successful cold flow test, the group's leadership is optimistic that they will launch by spring 2023.

And as compared with the theoretical heavy lifting they've done the past few years, Chen says, "building the rocket will be the easy part."

AREA ROUNDUPS

League of Women Voters to Host 10th District Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area invites you to join its U.S. House of Representatives - Virginia 10th District Candidate Forum, to be held online on Monday, Oct. 5 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The following candidates certified for the Nov. 3 general election have been invited and are listed here as they appear on the Virginia Department of Elections' website: Jennifer T. Wexton (D); Aliscia N. Andrews (R) This event is free and open to the public. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_btx0QCvTT-HbkyNahqKTg Questions addressed to both candidates should be submitted in advance at: <https://forms.gle/byMSdmbZBYbvHPYb7>

LWV Candidate Forums are nonpartisan. The League never supports or opposes any party or candidate. We invite all certified candidates competing for office in their respective districts.

Please direct any questions about the event to: pr@lwv-fairfax.org

MPAartfest Goes Virtual, Oct. 4-18

The McLean Project for the Arts will host its 14th annual MPAartfest on a new virtual platform due to the continuing pandemic. This year's festival will run Sunday, Oct. 4 through Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020 at MPAartfest.org

The inaugural Virtual MPAartfest will feature the work of more than 50 juried artists, showcased and for sale in their own online galleries. Admission is free for online events. MPAartfest 2020 is made possible with the support of the McLean Community Center, in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Virtual MPAartfest 2020, a two week online juried fine art and craft show/sale featuring the work of local and regional visual artists. This online event features contemporary art, special musical performances from some of the DC-area's best musical talents*, a virtual version of the much-loved New Dominion Women's Club Children's Art Walk, the participation of many McLean Community organizations, and daily artist studio talks with participating artists.

Families, friends and art enthusiasts of all ages are encouraged to attend this virtual celebration of community and the arts.

Sunday, October 4 through Sunday, October 18, 2020, www.MPAartfest.org

Admission is free for online events. For more information visit www.mpaart.org/ or call 703-790-1953.

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.



Welcoming Back Kindergartners, Preschoolers
Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool and Kindergarten in Vienna welcomed back Kindergartners on Sept. 9. Preschool begins the week of Sept. 14.



The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is happening on every sidewalk, track, and trail across this country. All of us are raising funds for one goal: A world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Because this disease isn't waiting, and neither are you.

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Library Board of Trustees Revisits July Controversy

Trustee Rosenthal apologizes for 'wrong words' and retains board seat.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fran Millhouser, Chair of Fairfax County Library Board, said she received “many emails voicing public concern” for statements made by Trustees Phil Rosenthal (Springfield District) and Darren Ewing (Dranesville District) during the previous board meeting in late July. In response, Millhouser set up the Wednesday, Sept. 9 Board of Trustees meeting via Zoom and allowed ample time for the ten allowed three-minute public comments by Fairfax County residents, a presentation and discussion on demographics and the library’s curated collection, followed by other matters and Trustee comments. One of the last things Millhouser said as the Sept. 9 meeting prepared to adjourn and after Rosenthal commented and apologized for his use of inappropriate words at the July meeting was, “Thank you, Phil, and I want you to stay.”

In the weeks before the September meeting, thirty-one organizations, members of The Activated People, condemned Rosenthal’s statements. In a letter to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Library Board of Trustees, they called the comments “racist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, and anti-Islamic” and said he criticized the County’s attempts to promote inclusion in its library catalog. Jeffrey McKay, Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, said he hoped Rosenthal would resign. Rosenthal did not step down. He apologized for the disruption and offending anyone. On Aug. 25, Ewing tendered his resignation.

Before the public provided their comments during the Sept. 9 meeting, Millhouser said, “Everyone who uses the library is treated as

an individual. They choose what they want to read...We may recommend, but we do not promote or advocate.” Whitney Holchberg, 11, spoke first. She said, “White people have been the dominant voice, since before our country started. It’s time to give others the opportunity to be heard.” Matt Higgins found it ironic, “and frankly embarrassing” that Trustee Rosenthal had been unable to educate himself on systematic racism. “We have an obligation to educate ourselves... Phil, if you don’t understand what systematic racism is, I would encourage you to take advantage of the scary collection that you were denouncing.”

“I greatly respect the likes of Mr. Rosenthal and Mr. Ewing for speaking up and presenting, to generate some dialogue,” said Justin Hall. “What I fear is the calls for resignation whenever there’s a voice that we disagree with and that’s not right.” Lauren Kelly sent a message to Trustee Phil Rosenthal using the County contact form available as public record. “As a constituent in the Springfield district whose local

“White people have been the dominant voice, since before our country started. It’s time to give others the opportunity to be heard.”

—Whitney Holchberg, 11

library is Pohick, your claims about BLM, books with Muslim authors, and social justice books were not only tone deaf, but flat out incorrect...You should resign.”

FOLLOWING PUBLIC COMMENTS, Doug Miller, Strategic Planner and Customer Research Manager at Fairfax County Public Library Administration, and Dianne Coan, division director, Fairfax County Public Library technology operations, provided “Presentation: Library Demographics and Collection.” According to Miller, County demographics did not match use. “Our survey results tend to represent substantially more white users... slightly fewer Black or African American users... slightly fewer Asian or Pacific Islander users... and substantially fewer Hispanic users than the county population as a whole,”

said Miller.

During Cohen’s presentation, she said County demographics did not match the catalog’s content proportionally. The composition of the collection was extraordinarily white and cisgender. Cohen added, “The terminology that we use in applying cataloging metadata has some of its own natural limits as the search terminology that we use in its retrieval. For example, most people looking for books would use a search term of World War II. The National Standard heading, however, is World War, 1939 to 1945.

Cohen said the Library created lists because books by an author’s cultural background, such as Black or by identity, LGBTQ+, were near impossible to find without curated librarian help. “Even for librarians, it becomes really challenging to recall all the specific titles and authors...We keep lists... We adapted these lists after the web came around... We created virtual pathfinder carousels, social media posts... Lists help to show customers that the library has titles in the collection that are being talked about.. and lists are also a way to offer alternatives... They assist them to find books of interest for their entertainment, for their education, or in the words of Dr. (Regina Sims) Bishop for finding their mirrors, their windows, their sliding glass doors.”

During Board discussion about the catalogs, Trustee Priscille Dando (Fairfax County Public Schools) requested a look into a diversity audit process, including those beyond culture such as disabilities for the existing collection and new purchases. “To know what actually is there, and compare that to what is actually available,” she said.

Trustee Rosenthal said, “This COVID could be an opportunity for working through the schools. Get those underrepresented populations...into the library through music and computers, to read books and different things.”

IN A RELATED ACTION, Kofi Annan, CEO of NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition, released a statement on September 8, 2020, titled “Fairfax County on the Verge of Transformation.” According to Annan, Jef-

SEE TRUSTEE, PAGE 11



Whitney Holchberg, 11, speaks during public comment.



Matt Higgins speaks during public comment.



Justin Hall speaks during public comment.

PHOTOS BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fran Millhouser, Chair (Mason District) Fairfax County Library Board: “Thank you, Phil, and I want you to stay.”



Jane Miscavage, Vice Chair (At-Large) Fairfax County Library Board: “We have the finest professionals in the country... But here we are. Two trustees during our last meeting, called out our staff publicly because they didn’t like the way a catalog page was arranged... Trustee Rosenthal’s comments not only damaged his own credibility, but it put the credibility of this board in question on all sides.”



Brian Engler, Trustee (Braddock District) Fairfax County Library Board: “I also want to thank... everybody who spoke, everybody who has written to me on both sides of the issue. I’ve tried to respond to many of them. I haven’t responded to all of them, quite a few.”



Miriam Smolen, Trustee (Providence District) Fairfax County Library Board: “The language that we use is so, so, so important, now, more than ever. That’s why I think it is appropriate to call out the language that was used in July.”



Liz Walker, Trustee (Sully District) Fairfax County Library Board: “I personally do not reflect those kinds of views that have been expressed in the July meeting.”



Vienna Police Highlights

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department from Sept. 4 – Sept. 10, 2020.

INCIDENTS

Found Property -- Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry Street, SE August 19 4:00 p.m. A resident found an abandoned bicycle behind the Community Center.

Grand Larceny -- Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue, West Between Sept. 2 at 12 p.m. and Sept. 9 at 4:22 p.m. A man reported that his wife stole food stamp cards from him.

Vehicle Tampering -- Ayr Hill Avenue and Mill Street, NE Between Sept. 3 at 12:01 a.m. and Sept. 9 at 6 a.m. A citizen reported that the catalytic converter was stolen from his box truck.

Petit Larceny -- 300 Block Valeview Court, NW Between Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 4 at 12 p.m. A resident reported a bicycle was stolen from their carport.

Suspicious Person -- 300 Block Lewis Street, NW Sept. 4 between 9:50 p.m. and 10:27 p.m. A resident reported that he observed a man on his security camera approach his front porch, look in the windows, then walk away. Officers checked the area but did not find the man.

Vehicle Tampering -- 300 Block Ayr Hill Avenue, NE Sept. 5, 4:11 a.m. An

officer was approaching a suspicious vehicle when he observed a man run from a residence and quickly get into the rear of the vehicle. The officer attempted a traffic stop but the vehicle, which was occupied by at least three men, fled the area at a high rate of speed. The officer returned to the initial area and found that two vehicles were rummaged through.

Found Property -- 600 Block Tazewell Road, NW Between Sept. 5 at 12 p.m. and Sept. 6 at 12 p.m. A resident reported an abandoned bicycle that was left in his yard.

Police Service -- 200 Block Locust Street, SE Sept. 5, 1:20 p.m. An officer responded to assist with a civil dispute between two roommates.

Assault -- 200 Block Locust Street, SE Sept. 5, 5 p.m. A resident reported that she was assaulted by her roommate after she spilled a drink. The resident was advised of the warrant procedure should she wish to pursue charges.

Assault -- 200 Block Locust Street, SE Sept. 5, 7:50 p.m. A resident reported that she was assaulted again when her roommate struck her arm. The roommate requested rescue personnel respond as she was not feeling well and needed medical assistance. The roommate was transported to an area hospital for treatment. Rescue personnel checked the resident's arm and determined there was no apparent injury.

Petit Larceny -- 400 Block Blair

Road, NW Between Sept. 5 at 10 p.m. and Sept. 6 at 2 p.m. A resident reported that someone entered his unlocked vehicle and stole a bag that contained a camera and a key fob for the vehicle.

Grand Larceny -- 100 Block Pleasant Street, NW Between Sept. 5 at 11:20 p.m. and Sept. 6 at 12:00 a.m. A citizen reported that her hybrid bicycle was stolen from her friend's residence.

Found Property -- Cottage Street and Yeonas Drive, SW Sept. 6, 11:03 a.m. A citizen turned in a Virginia driver's license.

Vehicle Tampering -- 400 Block Upham Place, NW Between Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 3:30 p.m. A resident reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle and rummaged through it.

Vehicle Tampering -- 600 Block Upham Place, NW Between Sept. 6 at 7:31 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 3:30 p.m. A resident reported that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and rummaged through it.

Petit Larceny -- 400 Block West Street, NW Between Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 8 a.m. A resident reported that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and stole a cup of coins and music CDs.

Vehicle Tampering -- 600 Block Upham Place, NW Between Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. A resident reported that someone entered his unlocked vehicle and rummaged through it.

Petit Larceny -- 600 Block John Marshall Drive, NW Between Sept. 6 at 9:30 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 8:30 a.m. A resident reported that someone rummaged through her unlocked vehicle and stole U.S. currency.

Petit Larceny -- 600 Block Upham Place, NW Between Sept. 6 at 11 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 7 a.m. A resident reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle and stole U.S. currency.

Vehicle Tampering -- 500 Block Colony Court, NW Sept. 7 between 12:30 a.m. and 9:50 a.m. A resident reported that someone rummaged through his unlocked vehicle.

Vehicle Tampering -- 500 Colony Court, NW Sept. 7 between 3:08 a.m. and 9 a.m. A resident reported that someone rummaged through his unlocked vehicle.

Vehicle Tampering -- 500 Block Colony Court, NW Sept. 7 between 3:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. A resident reported that someone rummaged through her unlocked vehicle.

Animal Case -- 300 Block Park Street, NE Sept. 7, 8:03 a.m. A resident reported that they caught a bat inside their residence. An officer transported the bat to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter for rabies testing. On Sept. 9, the Fairfax County Health Department advised that the test results on the bat came back as negative for rabies.

Found Property 20-007054 100 Block Courthouse Road, SW Sept. 7 8:59 a.m. An officer found a keyring

with two keys and a key fob.

Animal Case -- 500 Block Yeonas Drive, SW Sept. 7, 10:17 a.m. A resident reported an injured raccoon in his yard. The officer determined that the animal was in grave condition and euthanized the animal.

Fraud -- 300 Block Owaissa Road, SE Sept. 7 between 11:33 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. A resident reported that someone called them claiming to be from AT&T, obtained account information, and purchased an iPhone using their account.

Civil Matter -- 400 Block Troy Court, SE Sept. 7, 11:52 a.m. Two men came from out of town to assist in clearing out their deceased father's home. One of the men became intoxicated and threw a filing cabinet down the stairs, scaring his brother. All parties agreed to stop sorting out the belongings for the day and wait for the executor to assist the following day.

Domestic Dispute -- Glyndon Lane, SE Sept. 7, 10:24 p.m. An officer responded to a domestic dispute between a husband and wife who are in the process of divorce. The two agreed to keep their distance from one another.

Illegal Dumping -- 400 Block Maple Avenue, East Sept. 8, 11:14 p.m. Officers responded to the report of someone illegally disposing of paint cans. The individuals left the area before officers arrived. Several cans of paint were left by the side of the road. Public Works was notified to properly dispose of the cans.



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

CALENDAR

NOW THRU SEPT. 24 (TUES/THURS)

Fitness Fun -- Youth Program at Hunters Woods Park, Reston. 4:30-5:30 p.m. This fall will be filled with virtual learning, so join in for some in-person exercise! Come play a variety of sports and games: all socially distanced and above all ..nonstop fun. We'll also discuss nutrition and the importance of stretching. Fitness Fun is coached by professional staff who are trained to encourage maximum participation, good sportsmanship, and above all, FUN! Ages 7-12. Fee: \$72/RA members; \$90/non-members.

NOW THRU SEPT 30 (MON/WED)

Fitness Fun -- Youth Program at Brown's Chapel Park, Reston. 4:30-5:30 p.m. This fall will be filled with virtual learning, so join in for some in-person exercise! Come play a variety of sports and games: all socially distanced and above all ..nonstop fun. We'll also discuss nutrition and the importance of stretching. Fitness Fun is coached by professional staff who are trained to encourage maximum participation, good sportsmanship, and above all, FUN! Ages 7-12. Fee: \$72/RA members; \$90/non-members.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Bats Class. 7-8 p.m. At Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Bats may have a scary reputation, but they make our evenings more pleasant by gobbling up lots of bugs, such as mosquitoes, that like to bother humans.

Walk the meadows and forest edges to see bats feeding on insects. Use a bat detector to hear echolocation. Learn about our native bats and their habits. Designed for participants age 7 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-569-3464 or visit Lake Accotink Park

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Movie Night. 8:30 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Join them as they set up a large movie screen along the fence at the back of the Adult Lawn Area, with the grapevines just behind. Check in, find yourself a picnic table with a good view, and then take an hour to hang out and order dinner, dessert and plenty of wine before the film starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person (21+ Only). A maximum of 200 tickets will be sold for this event. Email reservations@wineryatbullrun.com.

DRIVE-THRU DRAMA

The Alden in McLean is bringing back its Drive-Thru Drama performances in September. The new show, "From the Ash Baxter Files: The Search for the Stolen Spyglass," will be performed Friday through Sunday on Sept. 18-20 and Sept. 25-27. Show times are from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for MCC tax district residents. A limited number of timed tickets are

available and must be purchased in advance at www.aldentheatre.org. The Alden is a division of the McLean Community Center (MCC), located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE GREEN

The Celebrate Great Falls Foundation announces a schedule of five Summer Concerts on the Green beginning August 30, 2020. Each concert will begin at 6 p.m. on the Village Centre green (in front of the gazebo).
 September 20 - The Unfinished;
 September 27 - Wes Tucker and the Skilletts.

Celebrate Great Falls Foundation organizers are putting in place several new protocols to help ensure a safe, socially distant evening. After each concert, they will assess whether to proceed with the remaining concerts and implement any needed changes in our protocols. This will be announced on the Monday prior to each concert. The safety and wellness of our bands, volunteers and the Great Falls community is of paramount importance in all of our decisions.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

Drive-In Experience. 6-9 p.m. At Old Centreville Crossing, 13810 Braddock Road, Centreville. Drive-In experience with limited social distant car spots. Experience a movie (TBA) on Sept. 25 from 6-9 p.m. Cost is \$25.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Trustee Apologizes For 'Wrong Words'

FROM PAGE 8

frey McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, will formally introduce these recommendations at the Sept. 15, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting.

In the statement, Annan wrote: "The NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition urged the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to adopt the following recommendations and apply them to all current and future County boards, authorities, and commissions (BACs):

Having BACs appointees sign a written commitment to support the One Fairfax policy.

Requiring BACs to annually review the One Fairfax policy as a group.

Requiring BACs to amend their bylaws to include a clause stating that "all policies enacted by the board will be in-keeping with values expressed in the One Fairfax Policy."

Undergo annual training about systemic racism and the importance of encouraging diversity and inclusion."



Priscille Dando, Trustee (Fairfax County Public Schools) Fairfax County Library Board: "Those remarks don't reflect the view of myself or the priorities of Fairfax County Public Schools."



Suzanne S. Levy, Trustee (City of Fairfax) Fairfax County Library Board: "I wanted to say first, thank you to Darren Ewing, for his years of service on the board. He knew

the county budget process more than any of us...and we're going to miss him because he contributed so much."

Phillip Rosenthal, Trustee (Springfield District) Fairfax County Library Board: "I used very inappropriate words, and I apologize to you because it was not my



intention. My intention, simply was that when maybe we feature books by Muslim people, we may be voting down in reference to another religion... So please let's try to have a balance...I used the wrong words."

Gary G. Russell, Trustee (Mount Vernon District) Fairfax County Library Board: "The list, it doesn't matter to me. If it's the right list or the wrong list. But if



there are people who perceive it that way, then we need to address it. If we don't get this dialog working there's going to be another 57 years before Reverend King's dreams are fulfilled."

PHOTOS BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

'Ransomware Issue' with Schools' Technology Investigated

Fairfax County Public Schools has issued the following letter to the FCPS Community and Staff:

"FCPS continues to investigate the ransomware issue involving some of our technology systems. We are taking this matter and concerns about the personal information of students, staff and their families very seriously.

The ransomware issue did not disrupt the distance learning program during the first week of school. However, we are working diligently with the FBI and our cybersecurity consultants to investigate the nature, scope and extent of any possible data compromise.

If it is determined in the course of our investigation that personal information

has been compromised, we will take steps to notify affected individuals as appropriate. Please know that FCPS is working diligently to protect the information of our staff, students and their families.

At this time, we are not asking staff or students to make changes to their devices as a result of this issue. Our IT staff and cybersecurity experts are investigating the matter, and we will contact you if we determine your computer requires technical attention. Unless you are contacted by FCPS, please continue to use your device for school-related activities.

We deeply appreciate the patience and concern of our community and staff and will bring you further updates when they are available."

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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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Offered for...\$1,299,000

1721 Chesterbrook Vale Ct, McLean

FABULOUS* 5BR/3.5 BA home on 3 finished levels in sought-after CHESTERBROOK VALE!** This ***beautiful and ***spacious*** home features sparkling hardwood floors; light/bright updated kitchen with breakfast bar and breakfast room; amazing **GREAT** room with cathedral ceiling, fireplace and French door walkout to patio; main level office with built-ins and pocket doors; wonderful owner's suite with luxury bath; updated baths; private, landscaped lot in cul-de-sac location! Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean schools!



Offered for...\$899,000

2009 Wellfleet Court, Falls Church

***LOVELY* 5BR/3 BA home in sought-after Nantucket neighborhood in Falls Church!** This wonderful home features newly remodeled kitchen with quartzite counters, island, eat-in nook with bay window and coffee station! Open floorplan with hardwood floors throughout the main level; sunny, light/bright living and dining rooms; owner's suite + 2 additional BRS on main level; LL rec room includes frpl, built-ins & walk-out to fenced yard w/ patio, & add'l bedrooms, hall ba & mud room. Quick access to Metro and routes!

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2020



Also available to RENT!

1469 Waggaman Circle
McLean, 22101
\$1,999,000



Under contract in 5 days!

1152 Randolph Road
McLean, 22101
SOLD for \$1,190,000



2008 Freedom Lane
Falls Church, 22043
RENTAL - \$4200/month



1870 Kirby Road
McLean, 22101
\$1,325,000 or \$5490/mo RENT!



Amazing Ballston Metro Location!

900 N. Stafford Street
Arlington, 22203
\$619,900



Under contract in 5 days!

1916 Foxhall Road
McLean, 22101
\$1,149,000



Just Listed!

2124 Reynolds Street
Falls Church, 22043
RENTAL - \$3500/month

Call to sign up for a virtual 1-on-1 appointment with JD today!