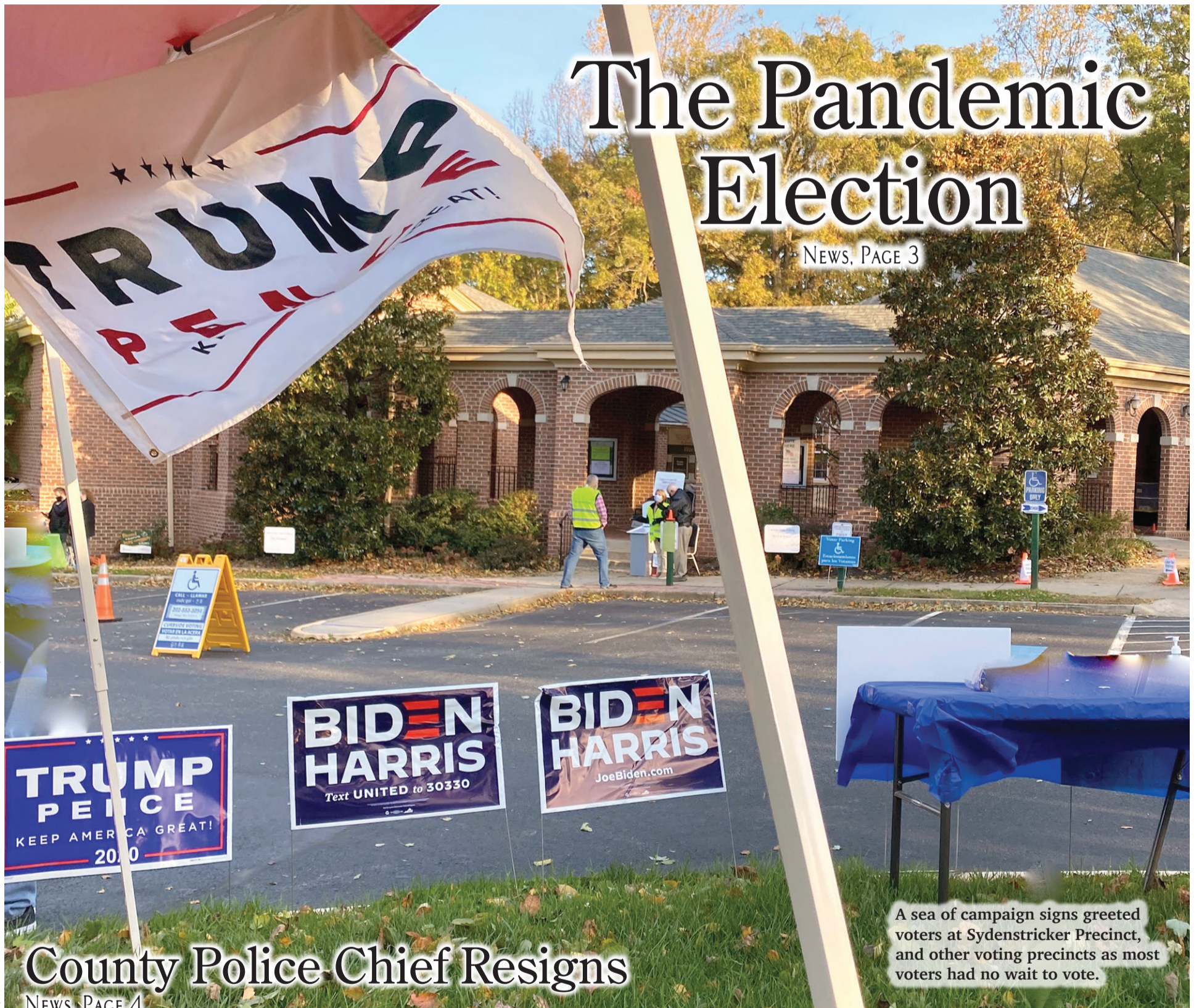


CONNECTION McLean and Oakton Vienna

The Pandemic Election

NEWS, PAGE 3



A sea of campaign signs greeted voters at Sydenstricker Precinct, and other voting precincts as most voters had no wait to vote.

County Police Chief Resigns

NEWS, PAGE 4

Possible Funding Threat for County Schools

NEWS, PAGE 2

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT # 322
POSTAL CUSTOMER
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
REQUESTED IN HOME 11-12-20

NEWS

Possible Funding Threat for FCPS

COVID cases increase yet leadership hangs their star on families returning and increased enrollment.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Full membership as of Sept. 30, 2020 at Fairfax County Public Schools declined by 8,859 students dipping to 180,151 compared to data recorded last year at the same time, according to Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Services Jeff Platenberg. That could be a problem if the trend continues.

The Membership Trends Report, SY 2020-21, presented by Platenberg to the School Board on Nov. 4 found that division-wide total membership dropped 5 percent for SY 2020-21. Platenberg said changes in membership occurred at all school levels with the most significant decline in happening at the elementary level, -7,729. The information was part of the Virginia Department of Education Student Record Collection 2020-21 that is collected four times a year, Fall, Spring (through March 31), End-of-Year and Summer.

The student attendance counts are known as “average daily membership.” The drop could potentially put millions of dollars in basic aid funding by the state as well as County funding in jeopardy. Virginia’s public schools are financed through a combination of state, local and federal funds. The apportionment of state funds for public education is the responsibility of the Virginia General Assembly, through the Appropriations Act. General fund appropriations serve as partial state support augmented by retail sales and use tax revenues, state lottery proceeds, and other sources.

Elaine Tholen, Fairfax County School Board, Dranesville District, chaired the Nov. 4 work session. According to Tholen, understanding the County’s membership trends would be the initial driver and basis for the board’s considerations as it began its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) season that ran through February 2021. School capacity, program locations, capital planning and construction projects hinged on enrollment data. Tholen said, “This is for informational purposes.”

According to Membership Trends Report, SY 2020-21, three factors affected the change in total student membership. They were the birth to kindergarten ratio, net migration, which is the total of new students entering the school division added to those leaving the division, and the number of transfers within the division. Referencing a PowerPoint, Platenberg said he found the kindergarten membership decrease for a total of -2,208 students “most interesting.” “It resulted in a birth to kindergarten ratio from 87 percent to 75 percent and that’s a significant decline worthy of note,” he said.

NET MIGRATION changed from 1,725 students in SY 2019-20 to a drop of -4,953 students in SY 2020-21. In other words, 6,678 more students withdrew from the division than entered. Whether or not the down-

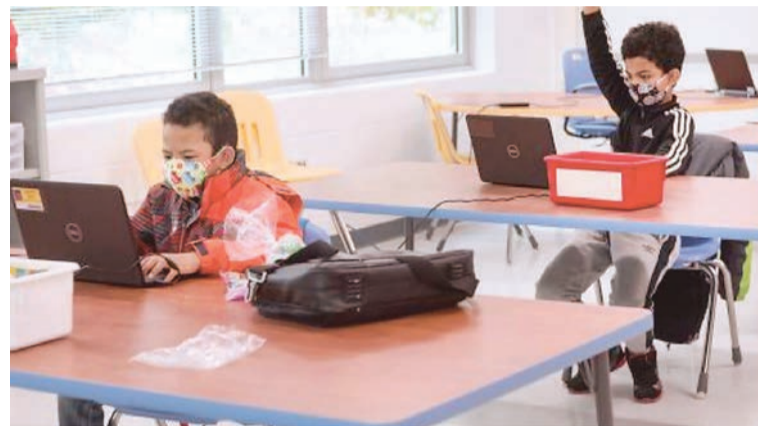


PHOTO FCPS

Students return to in-person instruction at Fairfax County Public Schools.

ward trend was temporary would depend on many factors, including the future course of the pandemic and economic conditions, according to the Trends Report.

While FCPS had an overall positive total number of transfers for SY 2020-21, 17,423, it decreased from the number of transfers for SY 2019-20 at 19,385.

Student withdrawals over the summer, those students who were reported active in the Student Record Collection from the previous school year and did not return by Sept. 30, contributed to a negative net migration for SY 2020-21. Summer withdrawals increased to 12,317 from 8,893 students in SY 2019-20. Whereas the top three withdrawals reasons in 2019-20 were to attend other schools, in SY 2020-21, home schooling skyrocketed to reason number three, increasing from 152 students to 1,584. Platenberg said, “This withdrawal information is particularly interesting given the pandemic.”

During discussion, Laura Jane Cohen, Springfield District School Board Member, said principals told her that families who had pulled their kindergarteners out of the county school system would come back to school on Nov. 16. They were “going to throw them (their kindergarteners) into the mix.” “Then...I’m hearing from folks who decided to delay enrolling their kindergarteners, and we’ll have them enrolled next year, which would cause massive fluctuations,” she said.

Platenberg said when the school system had “outliers,” it was best to proceed with caution and not make any drastic changes. “We have staffing at the levels that were provided from the prior year...What we have seen (enrollment decrease) is an aberration,” he said.

Megan McLaughlin, Braddock District School Board Member, said the decrease in student enrollment, 8,859, was “incredibly concerning” to her. “We’re talking not just about CIP impact but if my calculations are correct, that could be as much as \$132M or more in estimated expenses and funding. What’s going to happen to our budget?” Brabrand said he did not think the numbers at the elementary school level

Inside or out...

...Tech Painting's got you covered!

Serving: VA DC MD OBX

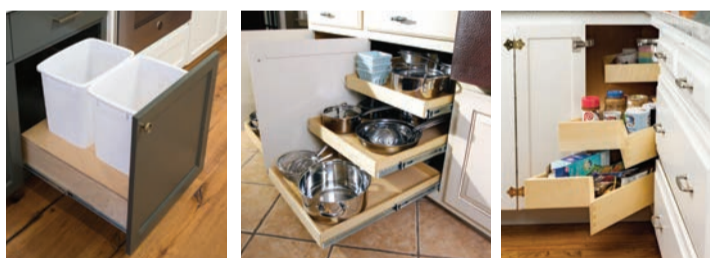
703-684-7702

www.techpainting.com

Since 1987

GRAND OPENING!

Enjoy more access to your kitchen with custom pull-out shelves for your existing cabinets



ShelfGenie
EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH

Schedule your complimentary design consultation today!
(703) 686-5010 | shelfgenie.com

NEWS

The Pandemic Election

Virginia voters support Biden, Warner and a new redistricting commission.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Twenty years ago, Virginia was a red state. Republicans scored Virginia's electoral votes in every presidential election since LBJ was reelected in 1964. Republicans held both U.S. Senate seats. The Grand Old Party had all the statewide offices, a majority of the congressional delegation and both chambers of the General Assembly. That was the environment when Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, both Democrats, ran for governor and lieutenant governor.

"Over the last 20 years, we've engineered the biggest political turnaround in the United States of any of the 50 states," said Sen. Tim Kaine as he watched voting totals on election night. "Partly it's our population. Partly it's Democrats in Virginia. We govern in a way that we're practical progressives. We're solving people's problems, and that's a good model."

The 2020 presidential election has yet to be resolved. But Virginia is now a solidly blue state, delivering 13 electoral votes to Joe Biden and handing Mark Warner a third term in the United States Senate. Election officials will continue receiving mail-in votes until Friday at noon, although the results of all the key races have already been determined. One result that is clear, though, is the success of a constitutional amendment creating a new 16-member redistricting commission to draw political boundaries for the General Assembly and Congress.

"Tonight is historic," declared FairMapsVA executive director Brian Cannon and campaign co-chairs Wyatt Durette and Bobby Vassar. "Virginia has now become the first state in the South to create a bipartisan redistricting commission to draw electoral district lines."

AT THE TOP of the ticket, Warner scored a solid victory against Republican Daniel Gade although Biden had more votes and a larger margin of victory. Appearing at his campaign headquarters in Del Ray, Warner called on Republicans and Democrats to put the divisive campaign in the past and look ahead to surviving the health risks posed by the pandemic and the economic uncertainty caused by the downturn.

"The only way we're going to be able to defeat that and truly build back better is if Americans become united," said Warner, speaking to a room of journalists and staffers. "That means ending the kind of attack rhetoric and mean-spiritedness that too often has infected our political discourse."

For now, though, the political discourse remains at a fever pitch. At press time, the presidential election is unresolved. Two hotly contested congressional seats in Virginia are too close to call. And lawyers are preparing for a season of legal challenges and trench warfare in the courts challenging state election laws on signature matches and late-arriving mail-in absentee ballots. Never-



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Democratic Party committee poll watchers offered a sample ballot card instead of hand-out information in a nod to Covid-19 safety, here at Pohick Precinct, and polling places throughout Fairfax County. Republican Party workers used the traditional written sample ballot method.

Fairfax County Unofficial Results

PRESIDENT

Joe Biden: 405,000 votes, 70 percent
Donald Trump: 162,000 votes, 28 percent
Jo Jorgensen: 7,000 votes, 1 percent

SENATE

Mark Warner (D): 401,000 votes, 70 percent
Daniel Gade: 172,000 votes, 30 percent

HOUSE DISTRICT 8

Don Beyer: 124,000 votes, 72 percent
Jeff Jordan: 48,000 votes, 28 percent

HOUSE DISTRICT 10

Jennifer Wexton: 70,000 votes, 60 percent
Alicia Andrews: 46,000 votes, 39 percent

HOUSE DISTRICT 11

Gerry Connolly (D): 198,889, 72 percent
Manga Anantatmula: 82,044, 28 percent

SOURCE: Votes cast in Fairfax County only. Congressional Districts include other jurisdictions. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/sites/elections/files/assets/result/resu1120.pdf

AMENDMENT 1 (REDISTRICTING)

Yes: 301,000 votes, 54 percent
No: 259,000 votes, 46 percent

AMENDMENT 2

Yes: 508,000, 77 percent
No: 156,000, 24 percent

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOND

Yes: 508,000 votes, 77 percent
No: 156,000 votes, 23 percent

PARKS BOND

Yes: 408,000 votes, 72 percent
No: 155,000 votes, 28 percent

LIBRARY BOND

Yes: 372,000 votes, 66 percent
No: 191,000 votes, 34 percent

TRANSPORTATION BONDS

Yes: 381,000 votes, 68 percent
No: 182,000 votes, 32 percent

theless, Republicans are facing an uncertain future in a state that has gone from ruby red to deep blue.

"They have to denounce Trumpism," said former Republican Del. David Ramadan (R-87), who is now at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. "They have to denounce white supremacy and go back to the basics of conservative principles versus winking at white supremacy and nationalism."

FOR VIRGINIA, the most important result of the election might end up being the amendment creating the new constitutional

amendment. It was an issue that split Democrats in Virginia, with Senate Democrats supporting the amendment and House Democrats mostly in opposition. FairMapsVA, which supported the amendment, raised more than \$2 million to support the ballot initiative. Fair Districts, which opposed the amendment, accused the campaign of using big money donors to tilt the outcome.

"Our campaign was truly a grassroots campaign that was outspent over 50 to 1 by out-of-state dark money groups and was fighting an uphill battle against biased language on the ballot meant to gain votes for

the measure," the statement said. "The people who pushed Amendment 1 know of its flaws, and it is now incumbent upon them to seek real solutions to fix those flaws, not just lip-service efforts like 'consideration' of Virginia's diversity."

Now that voters have approved of the new Virginia Redistricting Commission, retired circuit court judges from across Virginia will be sending resumes to the Virginia Supreme Court. The chief judge of the court has until Nov. 15 to select a list of 10 judges to submit to the General Assembly, where Democrats in the House and Senate get to pick two judges and Republicans in the House and Senate get to pick two judges. Those four judges will select a fifth judge to complete the panel, and they will select citizen members from a list submitted by the General Assembly. The deadline for candidates to file for office is March 25, which means maps must be finished by then.

"The only way we're going to be able to defeat that and truly build back better is if Americans become united. That means ending the kind of attack rhetoric and mean-spiritedness that too often has infected our political discourse."

— Sen. Mark Warner

"The legislators cannot control or override the citizen voices as six of the eight citizen members must vote for any map for it to be approved," said state Sen. George Barker (D-39), who was one of the leading voices in support of the amendment. "Additionally, the voting rules also preclude the types of outcomes we have had previously because the maps cannot unduly favor either political party."

The redistricting amendment was not the only successful ballot initiative on the ballot. Voters across Virginia also approved an amendment creating tax breaks for veterans. Voters in Fairfax approved bonds for transportation, libraries, parks and health and human services. In Norfolk, voters approved a new waterfront resort and casino, which will be built by the Pamunkey Indian Tribe on the Elizabeth River next to Harbor Park.

CRAFT SHOW

27th Anniversary!

Northern Va CHRISTMAS MARKET

150 ARTISANS
Featuring quality fine arts & crafts, Christmas collectibles, holiday fashions & decor, shabby chic & vintage re-creations, reclaimed furniture, jewelry, unique gifts & thousands of decorating ideas for the holidays.

NOVEMBER 13-15
Friday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm, Sunday 10 am-5 pm
For your protection, CDC and VA guidelines will be followed. Aisles will be wider, exhibitors & attendance limited and MASKS REQUIRED.

DULLES EXPO CENTER
4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, VA
Admission \$10 Adults - Children Under 12 - \$5
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY!

***Due to COVID rules, tickets are available online only and only for specific days and/or sessions. See website for admission details and coupons.

Please bring a canned food donation to benefit the Capital Area Food Bank
Free Parking & Second Day Return

For \$1 off Admission Use Code: **NVCMCNP**

Events Management Group - (757)417-7771 - WWW.EMGSHOWS.COM

NEWS

County Police Chief Resigns

Praised by many, Roessler also faced criticism and calls for resignation.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. announced his resignation last week, effective February 2021.

His resignation drew praise from many for his 30-plus years of service to the county through his work in the Fairfax County Police Department.

But the announcement came after police officers say their morale is the lowest it has ever been, and after calls for his resignation from some officers.

Hired in 1989 as a police recruit, Roessler served as interim Chief of Police in early 2013 before his appointment as Chief of Police in July of 2013.

“Chief Roessler has dedicated his life to protecting our community for over 30 years, as a new hire, patrol officer, interim chief, and eventually chief for the past 8 years,” said Jeffrey McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

“His efforts, along with officers and our community, have made us the safest jurisdiction of our size in the nation. The Chief has worked with the Board on reforms that have solidified the police department as a leader in transparency and community trust.”



Edwin C. Roessler Jr.
FCPD

“Chief Roessler has dedicated his life to protecting our community for over 30 years.”

— Jeffrey McKay,
Chairman of the Fairfax
County Board of Supervisors

ROESSLER LED the department to national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, while also maintaining state accredited status. The FCPD has been re-accredited by both entities during Chief Roessler’s tenure.

Roessler led the department through outside review of its use of force policies and community review by the independent Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission in 2015. Reforms led to enhancing diversity recruitment; increasing transparency; implementation of a body-worn camera program; establishment of a Civilian Review Panel and Independent Police Auditor’s office; and significant modifications to use of force policies, including de-escalation, duty to intervene, prohibition of choke holds, crisis intervention training and diversion programs.

FCPD training now begins with focus on the sanctity of human life.

Chief Roessler formed the Chief’s Diversity Council and partnered with community leaders to help form the Communities of Trust Committee.

During his tenure he prioritized wellness in the community and in the FCPD. Roessler worked to advance mental health support and resources in the FCPD. He also welcomed the addition of an officer-driven, post-traumatic K-9 therapy program and he and his wife raised K-9 Indy, who is now in therapy service with the FCPD Peer Team.

“Chief Ed Roessler is one of the greats in the history of the Fairfax County Police Department,” said Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw. “His efforts were key in helping make FCPD a national leader in transparency and accountability while maintaining our status as one of the safest large jurisdictions in the country.”

ROESSLER THANKED his staff and county residents and leadership for contributing to the department’s success.

“The FCPD is blessed with women and men, past and present, who understand their noble calling in life and are dedicated to serving and protecting others,” Roessler said. “I’ve worked alongside progressive law enforcement professionals, amazing forward-thinking strategic county leaders and great community advocates who have truly embraced the concepts of One Fairfax to ensure equity for all. Our county leaders, community and its great police department are positioned to continue to serve as a model for the next generation of policing in America.”

Supervisor James Walkinshaw (Braddock) said, “The men and women of the FCPD are some of the best-trained, most committed public servants in our community and the next Chief will have the honor of leading them into the future. That future requires a leader willing to acknowledge the inequities in the law enforcement and criminal justice systems and take bold action -- action that will sometimes face political resistance from defenders of the status quo -- to address them. I’ll be looking for someone with a track record and commitment to doing just that,” Walkinshaw said.

A recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee mentioned low morale in the police force.

“I’ve met with hundreds of Fairfax County police officers in recent months, in group settings and individually,” said Public Safety Chairman Rodney Lusk (Lee) at a committee meeting before Roessler’s announced retirement, “and to a person they have told me morale within the police department is the lowest that it has ever been.”

“This is a public safety issue that must be addressed in order to ensure that our officers are per-

forming at the highest level possible, and that we are retaining the highly skilled law enforcement professionals that we have invested so much time and resources in training,” said Lusk.

The Fraternal Order of Police called for Roessler to resign after he condemned the actions of an officer who was charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault and battery after tasing a man in the Mount Vernon District.

“Bolster The Blue,” a self-described conservative grassroots organization, held a press conference with Fairfax County GOP to say that their efforts helped lead to Roessler’s retirement.

Supervisor Pat Herrity said, “I want to start by thanking the Chief for his many years of service to the residents of Fairfax County. It has been a difficult time to serve in law enforcement. As we begin a new chapter in the history of our Police Department, we will need to find a leader that will address the needs of our officers, build on our legacy as a nationally respected and recognized department and keep at the forefront their primary mission — to protect and serve all residents of the county and keep us the safest jurisdiction of our size in the country. There is a lot of work still to be done and I am committed to working with the Board to address the many issues facing our officers and the department.”

14th Annual 

Alexandria Film Festival

Celebrating Independents for 14 Years!

November 12-15

AlexFilmFest.com
#AlexFilmFest
@AlexFilmFest

NEWS



PHOTO FCPS

Elaine Tholen, Fairfax County School Board Member, Dranesville District



PHOTO FCPS

Megan McLaughlin, Fairfax County School Board Member, Braddock District

County Schools' Membership Drops

FROM PAGE 2

were going to stay that low. "Most of those people I believe will come back to FCPS." Trying to head off potential future budget losses at the state level as well as the county level if enrollment did not increase, McLaughlin asked Leigh Burden, Assistant Superintendent Department of Financial Services, "Are we just going to wait till next March to find out what the state might do?" McLaughlin called attention to possible public comment to lower County funding if Schools "usually get more money when there are more kids...the inverse would be then the expectation."

Burden said the state had another opportunity to review enrollment data at the end of March. As for the County, they would not build their FY 22 budget based on an enrollment loss. "We believe that the current enrollment loss is temporary...We would plan to build our budget based on a flat enrollment from FY 21."

IN AN INTERVIEW days after the session, State Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33) said, "There are no further education related amendments from the Governor that will be considered by the General Assembly this year...(Nov. 9) the Senate will be going back into session to consider other amendments to the budget and to the legislation passed in the Special Session. In Special Legislative Session, the General Assembly made a number of policy changes to provide more flexibility and support our local public schools. For example, understanding the drastic changes in the school attendance due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly has delayed the mid-year adjustment to state payments based on ADM projections until after the final March 31 ADM is calculated."

In the Meantime, on Nov. 6, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers reported that Fairfax County's COVID positivity rate was at 5.3 percent and questioned if the numbers were safe, posting: "Why is @FCPSSupt forcing staff back into schools right as our numbers worsen? @BostonSchools closed when they surpassed 4%." Earlier that week, Arlington County Schools announced it was delaying plans for in-person learning, "a safety risk" wrote Superintendent Francisco Durán. Anne Arundel County Public Schools followed suit.

FCPS retweeted it was hiring classroom monitors to assist students in the classroom while their teachers work virtually. "Earn \$15.42 per hour. High school diploma or equivalent experience required." Work was hourly with no benefits.

FCPS continued its gradual return to school under concurrent instruction seeking to bring back small cohorts of vulnerable students, young children, those with disabilities, English learner newcomers and high school career back to in-person instruction. Pilot studies were underway at eleven schools. According to FCPS Family Guide for 2020-21 Return to School, in this model, students receive two days of teacher-led instruction in the school building and two days of teacher-led instruction at home. "Concurrent instruction maximizes teacher-led instruction (two days in person, two days virtual) by allowing in-person students to "log into" class on at-home days. Teacher-led concurrent instruction is the best instructional model for our in-person students."

FCPS continued its plans for early Head Start, PreK and Kindergarten, students with intensives support need and deaf/hard of hearing to return on Nov. 16 and students in grades 1-2 and those at specialized career centers to return on Nov. 30.



We Chose Westminster at Lake Ridge

"We are avid photographers and could customize our home to suit our needs—we turned a closet into a darkroom. We brought our important things with us and we are fortunate enough to continue our hobby. Our cottage is perfect!"

CALL TODAY AND SCHEDULE YOUR PRIVATE TOUR!

www.wlrva.org // 703-291-0191 // A not-for-profit life plan community //

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

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



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

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999



10% down
nothing until the job is complete for the past 17 years

Free Estimates 703-999-2928

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

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Announcements



AN ORGANIZED HOME IS A HAPPY HOME

ShelfGenie
EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH

50% OFF INSTALLATION*

SPECIAL OFFER
0% Interest for 12 Months
***On Approved Credit

*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Shelves. EXP 12/31/20.

Schedule Your FREE Design Consultation:
(866) 982-2260



Announcements

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!
844-947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval



*Terms & Conditions Apply

Announcements



INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS

BEFORE LeafFilter

AFTER LeafFilter

MADE IN THE USA

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

LIFETIME WARRANTY

A COMPANY OF LHS

15% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*

AND! 10% OFF
SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

5% OFF
TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!**

Promo Number: 285



CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

1-877-614-6667

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

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

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

NOW THRU THE HOLIDAYS

Santa at Springfield Town Center. Santa and his reindeer will be arriving at Springfield Town Center on Nov. 6 to kick-off the holiday season. In an effort to create touchless experiences and accommodate varying levels of visitor comfort, Santa will be available at Springfield Town Center via numerous experiences and offerings: Picture with Santa; Virtual Experience; Family Pet Photos on Mondays; Family Photos and Visits with Santa. Reservations are required for all Santa and photo offerings.

HAYFIELD HAWKS FUNDRAISER

The Hayfield Hawks football team is trying to raise money in order to provide players with new practice equipment and uniforms. Due to COVID, all of the fundraising is virtual this year. They have partnered with local businesses to create a discount card, which can be purchased for \$25 and entitles the cardholder to discounts and perks at a number of local restaurants. Delivery of the discount cards will be by mail / contactless and all proceeds will go directly to the program and helping the student athletes. Email Meredith Richard at EVHenderson@fcps.edu or call 703-408-4212.

NOV. 3 TO DEC. 6

Nature's Palette. At The Loft Gallery of Occoquan, 313 Mill Street, Occoquan. Featuring work by Patricia Hafkemeyer and wood artist, George Jones III. Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. Artist's Reception: See Facebook Live Reception on Saturday, November 7 at 3:30 p.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/loftgalleryoccoquan>

NOV. 11, 13, AND 14

Christmas Bazaar for Charity. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At 1025 Bellview Place, McLean. Sale of new and vintage Christmas items, including a huge collection of ornaments, tabletop decor, and kids' crafts, handmade wreaths and gift items. All proceeds donated to Jill's House and Operation Christmas Child.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Saluting Independence. 10 a.m. Virtual event. Join in Saluting Independence as they present the Col. E. David Woycik, Jr., Esq., USA (Ret.) and Lance Corporal Matias Ferreira, USMC (Ret.) Outstanding Service Award. The virtual event honors veterans and raises support and awareness for Canine Companions, a non-profit organization that provides highly trained assistance dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities at no cost to the recipient. Unable to attend the premier? The event will still be available for you to watch at your convenience. Registration is required to receive access to the event. Register now at www.cci.org/salutingindependence. A suggested donation of \$75 would be appreciated.

NOV. 13-15

Northern Virginia Christmas Market. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Features 150 fine artisans from 20 states selling fine arts, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, wood,

photography, fiber arts and more. Admission \$10/adults; \$5/children. Visit www.emgshows.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Music to My Ears. 2 p.m. Musical Direction; The Other Sound Designer. Artists Re-Imagine Their Lives in Theatre Post COVID-19. Part of the Virtual Round Table Discussion Series at 1st Stage in Tysons. Free. In these forums, they'll talk and share questions and thoughts with artists, actors, designers, musicians and directors about experiences they have faced as professional artists. Artists participating include Debra Kim Sivigny, Bob Barlett, Ron OJ Parsons, José Carrasquillo, Thembi Duncan, and more. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration is available at www.1st-stage.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Lesson Zero. 7:30-10:30 p.m. At P.J. Mulligans, 2310 Woodland Crossing Dr., Herndon. More information available on www.youtube.com/lessonzero or www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero.

NOV. 14 AND NOV. 18

Nuts About Felting. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Register for the "Nuts About Felting" program at Sully Historic Site and learn to create acorns using the wet felt technique. No needles are involved in this technique, and you'll take home three or four felted acorns that will never spoil. Cost is \$30 per family. Call 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Burke Historical Society. The Fairfax County History Commission will present its 16th annual—and first virtual—Fairfax County History Conference. This year's conference has the theme, "The Passage of the 19th Amendment," and will be presented at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/live-video-stream>, on cable Channel 16, and HD Cox Channel 1016.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Scotch Whisky and Cheese Tasting. 4-6 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Few foods so perfectly complement Scotch whisky as cheese. Both have unique and wide-ranging flavor profiles, so there's a cheesy counterpart for each distinctive pour. Sample delicious pairings of cheese and single malts and learn how to savor the two separately and together. Cost is \$60 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Snack and Paint. 1-3 p.m. At The Old Firehouse. Snack and Paint is an instructor-led painting class. This event is great if your teen has been painting for years or has never painted before. Painting is a great way to express your creativity! Snack and Paint gives your teen an opportunity to socialize safely. Participants will be painting a fall-themed picture. \$35/\$30 MCC district residents; preregistration is required. Visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 15

East German Youth. 2-3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Sponsored by Cold War Museum of Warrenton. Did Youth Indoctrination in the Cold War

East Uniformly Produced Docile, Closed-Minded Adolescents? That's Not What the Research Shows. Ask an Expert on Socialization in the DDR. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-behind-the-wall-socialization-of-east-german-youth-in-the-cold-war-tickets-122096464813>

NOV. 16, 23

Family Fishing. 11 a.m. to noon. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Park staff will provide all the equipment and bait you need to start you on your way to creating your own fish tales. The program is designed for family members age 5 to adult. Cost is \$10 per person. Meet at Shelter Call 703-323-6600, or visit Burke Lake Park.

MONDAY/NOV. 16

Call of Duty: Warzone Challenge. 3:30-6:30 p.m. At the Old Firehouse. Calling all McLean warriors. Your help is needed on the battlefield! The OFC is hosting a Call of Duty: Warzone challenge where contestants will need to strategize their way to first place and a Call of Duty themed prize. Visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 18

The Unruly Theatre Project's Virtual Improv Show. 7 p.m. Join us for (the) Unruly Theatre Project's virtual fall improv shows from the comfort of your couch! You can register for one show or as many as you like, but you need to register at least two hours in advance of a show to see it. A Zoom link and password for the show will only be emailed to participants. Visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 20

Virtual Family Fun Trivia Night. 7-9 p.m. Gather the whole family around the computer or tablet and get ready for some socially distant trivia. Prizes for winning teams. \$5 per family; preregistration is required. Visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

Trout Fishing in America. 3 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, CenterStage, Reston. Cost is \$10 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston. This Grammy-nominated music act returns to entertain audiences of all ages. Part of the Professional Touring Artist Series. Visit the website www.restoncommunitycenter.com/ptas.

CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Veterans Day Ceremony Cancelled. At Great Falls Freedom Memorial, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial will not be held due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Visit the website: gffreedom.org

NOV. 14-30

Great Falls Virtual Studio Tour. Online. 100s of Pieces of Original Art. Featuring 2-plus Studio Shops. Featuring Paintings, Photography, Furniture, Pottery, Fiber, Jewelry, Gifts, Mixed Media and More. You'll be able to pick up your purchases in the Great Falls Village Centre ... among other options. Things are a little different this year. Instead of the self-guided physical tour visits throughout Great Falls, guests can venture into artists' creative spaces without climbing into their cars. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com.

VIENNA LAUNCHES 'SHOP & STROLL' CAMPAIGN

The Town of Vienna announced the launch of a new campaign to encourage visitors to explore the town's diverse shopping centers. The initiative titled Vienna Shop & Stroll will take place on Saturdays now through December. Each month, designated shopping centers will host safe and socially distant seasonal activities and in-store promotions for all to enjoy. Locals and visitors can get to know business owners and learn more about the history of each shopping center. Visit ViennaVA.gov/shopandstroll.

Schedule: Select Saturdays 12-4 p.m.

November 14 -- Cedar Park;

November 21 -- JadesShopping Center + Vienna Plaza;

November 28 -- Small Biz Saturday on Church Street and surrounding streets off Church;

December 5 -- Village Green;

December 12 -- Glyndon Plaza.

TUESDAY/NOV. 17

Just Breathe!...We've Got You! 9:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. A Program of the Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon (SC). 9:45 am - Noon Session #2. Join in a three-part webinar series to learn how to get started for your next chapter in life, or for your loved one. Each session is hosted by a professional and will allow time for Q & A. Series sponsored by Navy Federal Credit Union; AARP; Kensington Reston Senior Living. Register your name and email address by calling the SC Hotline: 703-281-0601. Reservations accepted for the November 17th session until Friday, November 13, 2020. A ZOOM Invitation will be emailed to you. Additional Session: Session 3 Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 9:45 am - Noon. Agenda TBA. Free.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 25

Thanksgiving Eve Service. 7-8 p.m. Online via Unity of Fairfax 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Tune in to the livestream at 7 p.m. to watch the service. Visit <https://www.unityoffairfax.org/content/sunday-streams>

NOV. 26-27

Virtual 5K/1K Walk/Run/Roll. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Venue: Anywhere you like. Run your own race, at your own pace, and time yourself. T-shirts included with registration. Cost: \$10-25. Visit the website: <https://unity-turkey-trot-virtual-5k1k-2020-11-26.eventbrite.com/?aff=cnnews>

VIENNA'S TREASURE ORNAMENT

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department is offering Vienna's treasure, the 1946 Maxim Fire Engine that will be featured on a beautifully crafted ornament. Limited quantity available, delivery expected early December. Don't miss out, order yours now for \$20 at <http://vffd.org/store.html>.

NOW THRU DEC. 8

Just Breathe!...We've Got You! Tuesdays 9:45 to 12 p.m. Via Zoom. A Program of the Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon (SC). Three-part webinar series to learn how to get started for your next chapter in life. Each session is hosted by a professional and will allow time for Q & A. Series sponsored by Navy Federal Credit Union; AARP; Kensington Reston Senior Living. Just Breathe! - A breath and meditation break- Katie Courlander, Katie Courlander Yoga. Call 703-281-0601.

JOIN CUB SCOUTS

K-5 students are invited to join Cub Scout Pack 55 of Great Falls for fun, community service, hiking, campfires, and more! Children from Forestville Elementary, other area schools, and home school are welcome. The pack meets virtually once a month, for an optional masked, socially distanced outdoor activity, and the dens meet at least once a month. Contact Cubmaster Darius Sarraf at cubmasterpack55@outlook.com.

NOW THRU DEC. 1

White House Ornaments. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Assistance League of Northern Virginia. P.O. Box 209, Herndon. 2020 White House Ornaments available for purchase. This year's ornament features John F. Kennedy's official posthumous White House portrait. Cost is \$22 per ornament plus shipping if applicable. To view the ornament and information on ordering, visit www.alnv.org. Proceeds support community-based programs for local Children.

OLD FIREHOUSE CENTER OFFERS DISTANCE LEARNING

The Old Firehouse Center (OFC) is offering a new program to provide support to families doing distance learning due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Learning Connection is a supervised e-learning program held at OFC and supervised by staff, designed for students in 5th through 10th grades. The program will provide a supervised environment for students to complete their individual, school-led virtual instruction. In addition, staff will provide limited socially distant recreation opportunities for students during their breaks. A division of the McLean Community Center, OFC is located at 1440 Chain Bridge Rd. The program meets Tuesdays through Fridays and parents can drop off students as early as 7 a.m. and pick them up as late as 5 p.m. Open for registration: Session 4 will meet Tuesday, Dec. 1, through Friday, Dec. 18. Each, four-week session costs \$400. Session 4, costs \$300. Program participants must reside in Dranesville Small District 1A to participate. For more information or to register, call 703-448-8336, TTY: 711 or visit, <https://bit.ly/33TSii4>.

FLU SHOTS AT SAFEWAY

Local Safeway pharmacies will be giving flu shots at 112 Eastern Division stores in the region. Flu vaccines can be administered on a "walk-in" basis and are offered on a daily basis. The flu shot is free with most insurance, so there is no co-payment unless required by the plan. Visit the website www.safeway.com/flu

FLU SHOTS AT GIANT FOOD

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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

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

Patios & Drainage

Your neighborhood company since 1987

703-772-0500

J.E.S. Services

Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured

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

All work Guaranteed



Sign up for

FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

to any or all of our 15 papers

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE



As Second Opinions Go ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... it was first rate. A confirmation - of sorts that I have (and have had in all likelihood) thyroid cancer and not non small cell lung cancer. And I say 'sorts' because the medical records transferred did not include the original pathologist's report on the tissue sample taken in 2009 and not all the scans from the nearly 12 years of treatment either. Nevertheless, this second oncologist summarized my cancer as being thyroid; partially because I'm still alive. Generally speaking, lung cancer patients don't survive years beyond their prognosis. Addition by subtraction you might say. Unfortunately, lung cancer does what it does: grows, and when it doesn't, it's reason to consider another diagnosis. My primary oncologist had often said that the tumors in my lungs never acted as he had anticipated.

Good news then. Great news. I don't have the "terminal" cancer with which I was originally diagnosed. I guess that explains why I have lived so many years past the "13 month to two year" prognosis that I was initially given in late Feb., 2009. Rather than having an incurable disease: non small cell lung cancer stage IV, I now have papillary thyroid cancer stage IV. Hopefully, I will be able to live with it much as I had lived with the apparent lung cancer" day by day, scan to scan. However, the day to day stress may be less because the worst case is not necessarily a scenario that I have to anticipate. Granted, it's still cancer, and from what I was told, still incurable, but for the moment, very treatable. Surgery is likewise not an option and there is still medication - with side effects, that will remain part of my life, but there is life that remains. Moreover, there also remains regularly scheduled CT scans and lab work that will monitor my condition. And it is not until I receive the results from these diagnostic procedures that I can truly appreciate the change in my diagnosis.

It's not that I don't trust this second opinion, it's more that I've spent the last nearly 12 years thinking one way and changing how I think now after one 45-minute appointment is not quite how I can roll.

Besides, my thyroid cancer has metastasized to the lung. And though it has been slow moving, it has moved. And it is rare. At present, it is responding to the medication but there are no guarantees in the cancer business, and I will continue to live from one scan to the next. I am grateful to be out from underneath, apparently, this terrible weight of fear and inevitability. However, as a long-time cancer patient, I can't simply presume that life resumes as per usual, with per-usual being a pre-cancer-type life. Regardless of now being a thyroid cancer patient and not a non small cell lung cancer patient, I still am a cancer patient. As such, I still retain all the feelings and anxieties. I will still attend all the meetings, if you know what I mean? I can't simply disconnect or forget all that I've endured these past 11-plus years

And lo and behold, I have a CT scan this Wednesday. By the end of the week, I will likely learn if my newly diagnosed thyroid cancer is still responding to treatment or whether there is something rotten in Denmark (me being Denmark). Even though I have a new working diagnosis - thyroid cancer, which on the face of it, is much less serious, I can't approach my life any differently than I did before. Cancer is in charge, and until it tells me, so to speak, via scans and lab work, that it's OKAY to breath normally, I won't be able to. Now more than ever, almost, even with this new information, I can't forget where I've been and what I've been told. It was lung cancer once. Perhaps, it can be again. For the moment, I'm going to try and enjoy my new-found status. But with the incomplete medical records painting a less-than-definitive picture, I will go along with the second oncologist's assessment, but only from a distance. Unfortunately, having been told one thing before, and now being told another very different thing, doesn't change the facts on my ground. I still have cancer.

And it's still incurable. That problem remains.

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



Weichert
REALTORS

JD CALLANDER

Direct: (703) 606-7901
Office: (703) 821-1025
jd@newNOVAhome.com
www.newNOVAhome.com

#1 Agent Companywide
Top 1% Realtors Nationwide
NVAR 80+ Million Dollar Sales Club

#1 Virginia Agent 2020 - NEWSWEEK



**JD Sold More Homes Last Year
in 22101 Than Any Other Agent!**

Per MLS



JUST LISTED!

Haycock, Longfellow, McLean Schools!

1933 Freedom Lane, Falls Church
BEAUTIFUL 5BR/2.5 BA updated brick colonial on 3 levels in sought-after location - close to Metro and in Haycock, Longfellow, McLean school pyramid! Hardwood floors on main and upper levels; kitchen with stainless steel appliances; 5 large upper level bedrooms; family room with fireplace; new roof, deck, freshly painted and landscaped! Main level laundry; fully-fenced backyard; lower level walk-up; easy access to Metro, Tyson's DC, W&OD and major commuter routes! Plus large, level .25/acre landscaped lot!



***UNDER CONTRACT*
in 5 days!**

Offered for...\$975,000

1437 Cola Drive, McLean
FABULOUS and *SPACIOUS* 6 BR and 3 BA home in sought-after POTOMAC HILLS location! This immaculate and well-maintained home features beautiful hardwood floors throughout main level; sparkling, remodeled gourmet kitchen with granite counters & stainless steel appliances with island and breakfast bar plus additional eat-in space; expansive screened-in porch off kitchen overlooks backyard - perfect for entertaining or relaxing; fully-fenced yard; owner's suite w/ upgraded luxury ba; large LL rec room with custom bar and French door walkout!



QUIET CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION!

NOW offered for...\$1,249,000

1721 Chesterbrook Vale Ct, McLean
BEAUTIFUL 5BR/3.5 BA home on 3 finished levels in sought-after CHESTERBROOK VALE! This EXPANSIVE & lovely home features sparkling hardwood floors; light/bright updated kitchen with breakfast bar and breakfast room; huge 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 bathroom; updated bathrooms; private, landscaped lot in cul-de-sac location!
Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean schools!

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2020



Also available to RENT!

1469 Waggaman Circle
McLean, 22101
\$1,999,000 or \$6900/month



Under contract in 5 days!

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



2008 Freedom Lane
Falls Church, 22043
RENTAL - \$3999/month



Falls Church City!

102 Rolling Trace
Falls Church City 22046
\$849,000



Amazing Ballston Metro Location!

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



JUST LISTED!

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



Under contract in 5 days!

6624 Spring Valley Drive
Alexandria, 22312
JUST LISTED

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