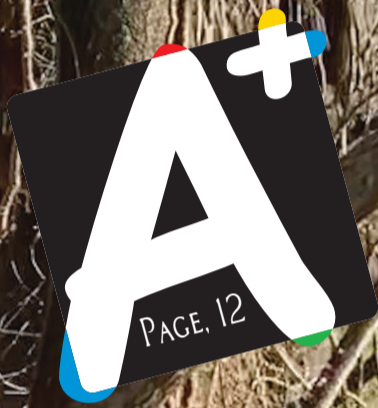


# CONNECTION

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## Volunteers Clean Up Parks, Highways

NEWS, PAGE 4



## In-Person Learning Delayed For Some FCPS Students

NEWS, PAGE 3

Laurel Hill Park volunteers clear invasive vines from a fence obscuring the historic turkey barn: Shawn Elk-lund, Justin Barnes, Joshua Miller, Livia Davidson, Grace Ametin, Caleb Elkund; also Nico Valckx (not pictured)

## Police Investigate Shootings in Area

NEWS, PAGE 10

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## In-Person Learning Delayed for Some FCPS Students

Superintendent and staff update school board on return to school plans.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

A surge in COVID-19 cases in Fairfax County forced Fairfax County Public Schools to delay its planned return of in-person instruction for an additional 6,800 students on Mon., Nov. 16. “The current health metrics for COVID-19 cases in our community now exceed the threshold to expand our in-person learning,” wrote Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand. The Virginia Department of Health reported the total number of new Covid-19 cases per 100,000 during the past 14 days as 211.2.

Earlier that day, at an 11 a.m. news conference, Fairfax Education Association President Kimberly M. B. Adams, joined by presidents from the surrounding districts of Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William, urged Governor Northam to return to phases two or one and return to virtual learning. “The safest option is to remain virtual for our schools until cases remain in a downward trend... Yesterday Fairfax was at 191 cases per 100,000. Today we are at 211 per 100,000... It is unacceptable for our districts to continue to disregard scientists and medical experts,” she said.

Brabrand wrote they would pause and delay expanding in-person instruction to Group 5, Early Head Start, pre-K, kindergarten and some special education service students and any new pilot programs and classes that had been scheduled. According to Brabrand, the school system made this decision as soon as the metrics were made available, and they were communicating it immediately as promised. “We always anticipated the need to potentially adjust our return to school plans as necessary during this ongoing pandemic... We are monitoring health metrics daily, but Group 5 will remain virtual until at least Nov. 30. We will communicate additional updates closer to that time,” he wrote. For students in Group 5, Nov. 17 would have been their first day back to in-school instruction since FCPS canceled school eight months earlier on Friday, March 13.

**BRABRAND WROTE** that students and staff who had been attending in-person classes (Groups 1-4) and the existing pilots, would continue to do so. CDC Guidelines allowed the school division to keep small cohorts of students in schools. “If metrics change that impact in-person instruction for Groups 1-4, we will update you as soon as that information becomes available,” he said.

Tina Williams, president of Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, said, “This is a good step in the right direction and will help limit COVID-19 exposure in our schools and community. However, there are still staff and students in school buildings and COVID-19

is on the rise in Fairfax County. We are shocked that FCPS wants to bring additional groups of students back on Nov. 30, directly following the Thanksgiving holiday. Experts have said this period will be a hotbed for new cases because of expected small group gatherings. We need real metrics from FCPS. We urge FCPS to transition all students and staff to virtual learning immediately until there is controlled community spread of COVID-19 and the district fully adopts our 11 Pillars of a Safe Reopening”

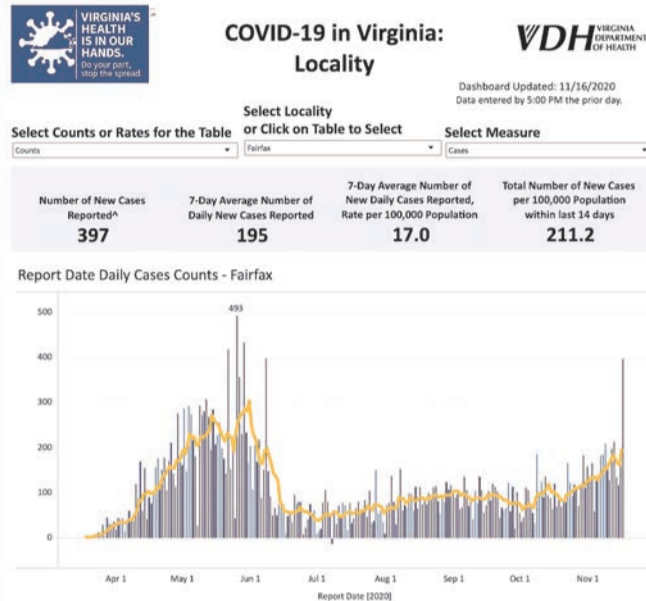
Two school days before pushing the pause button to bring the additional children back to in-person instruction, on Thursday evening, Nov. 12, the Fairfax County School Board received updates by Brabrand and County staff regarding the division’s health and operational metrics. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, all twelve School Board Members and thirty staff persons participated electronically, not in-person.

“Since the last presentation to the Board in October, we’ve been able to successfully return students to school, cohorts 2, 3 and 4, to two days a week of in-person learning,” Brabrand said. That represented approximately 8,340 children. Brabrand said health and staffing metrics supported the planned return of Group 5, totaling another 6,800 students on Nov. 17. Group 1, select specialized career prep classes, returned on Oct. 5. A spokesperson for FCPS later said, “We have had roughly 600 teachers working in our first four cohorts.”

Brabrand said FCPS projected a return for Group 6, approximately 13,500 students in grades 1 and 2, and some additional students with disabilities, on Dec. 8. Later during the discussion, Brabrand said there had been COVID outbreaks at two schools, “Justice and Woodson (high schools).” The Virginia Department of Health defined an outbreak as “the identification of two or more laboratory-confirmed cases of illness that are epidemiologically linked by person, place, and time.”

Dr. Michelle Boyd, assistant superintendent, Department of Special Services, provided an overview of FCPS’s revised recommended metrics for safe in-person learning. According to Boyd, the division planned to use a different model than risk in the community since “risk in schools” might not equate to “risk in the community.”

Boyd said when deciding to open, close, or reopen schools due to COVID, FCPS planned



The Virginia Department of Health reports the total number of new Covid-19 cases per 100,000 during the past 14 days as 211.2 exceeding the threshold to expand FCPS’ in-person learning.



Fairfax Education Association President Kimberly M. B. Adams says, “The safest option is to remain virtual for our schools until cases remain in a downward trend.”

to use the CDC’s two “core indicators,” the measures of community burden and the implementation of mitigation strategies. Community burden was defined as the number of new COVID cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days, and the percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days.

**THE IMPLEMENTATION** of mitigation strategies meant measuring the school’s ability to adhere to masks, social distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfection, and contact tracing with Fairfax County Health Department. Boyd stressed vigilance to mitigation strategies within schools would reduce COVID’s intro-

duction and transmission.

“The most important piece of our assessment of our mitigation measures, is the implementation of our audit teams. We will be implementing audit teams that will be going and conducting weekly walk-throughs of our schools to ensure the implementation fidelity of that third CDC indicator, which has been recommended by the CDC and our Health Department is one of the most powerful pieces to keeping students and staff safe throughout our pandemic,” she said.

Out of an abundance of caution, FCPS would ground in-person instruction decisions for Groups 1-6 on community transmission until it fully implemented its audit process for mitigation measures.

Boyd said one of the lessons learned during the initial re-

turn to school pilots, was the need to enhance COVID communications and processes so stakeholders were informed promptly, within one school day, regarding COVID cases occurring in their child’s school or workplace. “They (those who exhibit symptoms) will be required to submit a Return to School Form or Return to Work Form that is endorsed by their physician, for them to return to work and school,” she said. If there were a positive case, the Health Department would implement contact tracing, and staff/ families notified.

Interim assistant superintendent, Department of Human Resources, Sean McDonald, shared updates on teacher and classroom instructional support staff intent. The numbers indicated fewer employees submitted paperwork to resign, retire, or take a leave of absence than those who intended to do so. According to McDonald, two-thirds of all ADA accommodation requests had been resolved. The others were to be addressed by the employee’s anticipated return date relative to their student group.

McDonald said FCPS had sufficient staff to support Group 5 and shifted focus to Group 6. They were matching long-term substitutes in the classroom and hiring classroom monitors to support in-person instruction in situations where a teacher’s ADA accommodation necessitated a virtual teaching assignment. McDonald added that teachers who submitted a request to resign by the Nov. 11 deadline would be released from their position “without prejudice.”

The concurrent instructional model proved best after the division looked at all learning models. Sloan Presidio, assistant superintendent, Instructional Services Department, said, “This means that teachers

SEE RETURN TO SCHOOL, PAGE 14

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## NEWS



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Springfield District Democrats have adopted Burke Road, between Rolling and Burke Lake Roads for twice yearly trash pick-up. This effort yielded 19 large trash bags. Pictured, from left: Ken Wheeler, Patty Helms, Jorge Torrico, Gilly, Levi Newman, event organizer, John Wittman, Sara Helier, Cora Newman, Shaun Newman, Donald Craig, Andrew Scalise, Kimberly Davis, Dou Zhang, Jennifer & Mike Davis.

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Current Job Openings

Operational Staff Opportunities

Provide in-person classroom assistance to students when a staff member remains virtual.

## Volunteers Clean Up Parks, Highways

BY SUSAN LAUME  
 THE CONNECTION

Several volunteer groups undertook clean-up efforts around the county on Nov. 14, including the Laurel Hill Park Volunteer Team's (PVT) vine removal at the Central Green under the Park Authority, and the Springfield District Democrats' (SDDC) road clean up under the VDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program.

The Park Authority offers opportunities for volunteers across Fairfax County to form PVTs and develop and act on park programs and maintenance associated with specific parks. Teams offer volunteer service events for residents who love their parks. Each PVT is listed on the County's online volunteer management

system where volunteers can sign up, join the team or participate in an event. Learn more at [www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/volunteer](http://www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/volunteer).

The Adopt-a-Highway program offers an opportunity for civic groups, businesses, neighborhoods, and families to clean up litter on designated roadways.

Each year, more than 23,000 Adopt-a-Highway volunteers collect more than 44,000 bags of waste along Virginia's highways.

Volunteer groups agree to pick up litter at least two times a year for three years over a two-mile stretch of highway. In return, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides trash bags, vests, important safety information, and highway signs that recognize your group. Learn more at <http://www.virginia.gov/transportation/programs/prog-aah-default.asp>

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**NOTICE OF WATER RATES AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

December 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2020, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA. The meeting will also be available online for remote attendance. For more information, visit [fairfaxwater.org/meeting-schedule](http://fairfaxwater.org/meeting-schedule).

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2021, include the following:

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,320 to \$4,400<sup>†</sup>.
- An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$18,030 to \$19,610.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,370 to \$1,430<sup>†</sup>.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$14.40 to \$14.85<sup>†</sup>.
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.33 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.85 to \$3.90.
- An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$49 to \$50.
- An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
- A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 104% to 102%.
- An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$39 to \$40.

<sup>†</sup>Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$196 million budget for calendar year 2021\*. Water sales are expected to provide \$168.9 million and the remaining \$27.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

-- \$1,000s --		
Category	2020	2021
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$59,083	\$61,352
Power and Utilities	10,730	10,815
Chemicals	7,869	7,928
Purchased Water	5,014	8,364
Supplies and Materials	5,507	5,784
Insurance	1,230	1,100
Fuel	535	700
Postage	586	620
Contractual Services	13,779	14,102
Professional Services	1,336	1,298
Other	2,296	2,452
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>107,965</b>	<b>114,515</b>
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,313)	(10,763)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$97,652</b>	<b>\$103,752</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$42,358,365
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$38,409,000

\* Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at [fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://fairfaxwater.org/rates).

Those wishing to speak at this hearing (in person or remotely) or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029. Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, to be included in the record of the public hearing.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Giant presents donations to community service organizations: Kate Brown, Helping Hungry Kids; representative, Food for Others; Fairfax County Franconia District Capt. Gregory Free; Giant Store Manager Elijah Gay; Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department Sgt. Rich Machado; Erin Thompson, Hope for the Warriors.

# New Giant Opens at Springfield Plaza

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

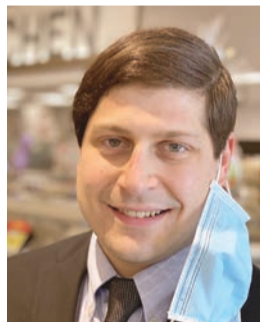
With no interruption in service to loyal Springfield Plaza customers as promised, Giant opened their new, larger, 50,000 square foot store with enhanced features at the Plaza at 6 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 13. Offering Giant's newest of formats, shoppers immediately notice the store's large, bright layout with significant space devoted to convenient prepared hot and cold foods and fresh prepared produce. Prepped food offerings set this Giant aside from other new, smaller grocers in the area.

The store sports a new facade and a completely gutted open and appealing interior. The floors sparkle in wide aisles which allow space for easy customer access to food behind glass doors on either side, for a distanced shopping experience and energy efficiency.

Gary Budd, Giant's director of planning touted the store as an opportunity for one-stop shopping; with a full-service

pharmacy, Starbucks, PNC Bank, and floral, wine and beer shops. Enhanced features include meat and seafood counter service, extensive prepared foods; and more fresh cut fruit and locally grown offerings, plus expanded natural and organic selections, in a larger produce section.

Beyond the conventional shopping experience and important to many quarantining for health, the store offers the convenience of pickup or contactless delivery through Giant's eCommerce shopping on GiantFood.com or their mobile app. Customers also have access to Giant's team of licensed in-store nutritionists for free online and phone consultations, as well as online nutrition classes and webinars ([giantfood.com/nutrition](http://giantfood.com/nutrition)). A pharmacy consultation room allows for private delivery of vaccinations.



**Store Manager Elijah Gay, Manassas, former manager of the Potomac Yard store, comes to Springfield with 12 years experience with Giant Foods.**

Headquartered in Landover, Md., Giant Foods operates 164 supermarkets in the tri-state/DC area with approximately 20,000 employees. The Springfield store has a staff of 207, including 147 new employees. The new store is located at 6364A Springfield Plaza, opening at 6 a.m.

Cheese company vendor, Mary Lyon, Fredericksburg, and Giant employee Jennifer Parker, Spotsylvania, arrange cheese products located near spacious prepped foods kitchen area.



# Affordable Housing — A Braddock District Tradition

BY JAMES WALKINSHAW  
BRADDOCK SUPERVISOR



Despite our community's incredible collective response to COVID-19, the pandemic has shined a light on the areas where we have room to improve. Ensuring access to housing that is affordable for families at all income levels is one of those areas.

In the Braddock District, you need to earn \$64,000 per year to afford the average one-bedroom market-rate apartment. To put that into context, based on 2015 figures, the average salary of a retail salesperson was \$29,552. For a security guard, the average salary was \$31,850. For too many in our community, the market is failing to provide housing that is affordable relative to their household incomes.

Many of those who have been priced out of Fairfax County or are being forced to spend too much of their monthly income on housing are the very frontline workers that we have all

been celebrating over the course of this difficult year, including home health care workers, nurses, grocery store employees, delivery drivers, and even police officers and firefighters.

To address this challenge, the previous Board of Supervisors set a minimum goal of delivering 5,000 new affordable housing units over the next 15 years.

Given that the cost of land is the most significant obstacle to building affordable housing, identifying under-utilized county-owned land is a key strategy. The award-winning Residences at Government Center, spearheaded by former Chairmen Gerry Connolly and Sharon Bulova, is a prime example. This project used a public-private partnership to provide 270 apartments affordable to teachers, police, and firefighters on the Government Center campus. The financial strength of this project came from leveraging county land and using Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for funding.

I believe a similar opportunity exists to re-

develop a portion of the existing parking lot at the main Government Center with approximately 200 to 250 multi-family units and up to 15,000 square feet of support services for future residents. With access to nearby transit, employment opportunities, retail, recreation, and an elementary school within walking distance, this site contains the features necessary for a successful neighborhood. The area is already paved, so there would be no loss of trees or other environmental features.

Here in the Braddock District, we have a proud tradition of finding creative ways to deliver affordable housing. Thanks in large part to the work of my predecessor, John Cook, we are adding 240 affordable housing units with the One University project and approximately 80 affordable units targeted to seniors on the former Northern Virginia Training Center site. We are also moving forward to add 60 new units for seniors at Little River Glen. Delivering high-quality, affordable housing on the Government Center campus would be a continuation of that Braddock District tradition, and I look forward to engaging the community over the coming months to discuss this exciting opportunity.

# School Building Closed? Try a Park

BY PAUL GILBERT  
NOVA PARKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Families across Northern Virginia are challenged with online education. This is the most challenging for elementary school children with shorter attention spans.

For those parents looking for additional resources to help their young learners, your regional park may have some of the answers. Even during a pandemic, in-person learning can happen, particularly when that learning is taking place outside, with masks and socially distanced. That is exactly the formula that is being used at Potomac Overlook Regional Park in Arlington with their Schoolyard Explorers Series.

Schoolyard Explorers is a program of in-person classes taught by a naturalist that ties in with the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs). There are two one-hour sessions on each subject and appropriate for each grade:

- Weather – designed for 1st graders
- Forces and Motion – designed for 2nd graders
- Ecosystems – designed for 3rd graders
- Water – designed for 4th and 5th graders

This is a great way to supplement online learning with some in-person instruction in a fun park setting that reinforces the materials covered in the state curriculum for science.

"I have participated in several of the Schoolyard Explorers classes at Potomac Overlook with my 1st grader," remarked Arlington mother, Mary Sanders. "The topics and content of the



Paul Gilbert

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOVA PARKS

programs are a great supplement to his distance learning, and the classes offer a fantastic opportunity to get outside and away from screens," she continued.

The Carlyle House in Alexandria recently had a program for 3rd – 6th graders called "Discoveries through Trash," which introduced children to archeology.

For those wanting a fully online or hybrid experience, the NOVA parks.com web site has a new interactive virtual tour of Aldie Mill. This innovative and interactive tool uses the 200-year-old mill to teach both history and science. There are three educational experiences available: Simple Machines, History of Aldie Mill, and Eyewitness to the Civil War. After exploring this information-rich site, you can tour the mill in person on the weekends and see where it all happened.

The remarkable historic resources of our region provide many opportunities to learn for

people of all ages. Carlyle House in Alexandria, Balls Bluff Battlefield in Leesburg, or Mt. Defiance Battlefield in Middleburg all offer a variety of tours on the weekends. Bring your face mask and hand sanitizer and explore a part of our areas that is new to you. You can find information on the schedule and registration information on the NOVA parks.com web site.

While fun and recreation is the first thing most people think about parks, they are also places of learning. With schools online and children struggling to learn, getting outdoor and learning is a win-win for everyone.

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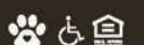
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# 'That's When You Realize this Work Means Something'

## City Jobs celebrates two-year anniversary.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**P**atrick Scholzen was used to working, and did so for 35 years, until falling onto hard times. Then he discovered City Jobs – a partnership between The Lamb Center and the City of Fairfax.

"Before, I was homeless and had nothing," he said. "But when I started working here, it was the first normal part of my life that came back." Scholzen was speaking last Thursday, Nov. 12, in Fairfax's Van Dyck Park, during the two-year anniversary celebration of the City Jobs program.

The Lamb Center in Fairfax City is a day-time, drop-in shelter providing food, clothing, showers, laundry services and spiritual guidance for the homeless, but it wanted to do more. And since November 2018, City Jobs has made that possible.

It's provided employment to people desperately needing it and added workers to Fairfax's Parks and Recreation Department maintenance crews, enabling them to improve response time and tackle deferred projects. As a result, they've beautified the City's appearance, while helping the environment. Participants also extended leaf-collection and snow-removal efforts, plus planted trees throughout the community.

During the ceremony, Fairfax Mayor David Meyer had these workers stand to be recognized and applauded. He then said, "On behalf of myself and the City Council and all the Fairfax citizens, thank you."

City Jobs was initially a four-month, pilot program before receiving annual funding grants from Fairfax City. Lamb Center guests earn \$10/hour in cash, twice a week, after working four-hour shifts. And despite logistical challenges posed by COVID-19, City Jobs has kept running.

"This program is successful because The Lamb Center and the City are united by a common purpose and trust," explained former Lamb Center Board Chair Tara Ruskowski. "When the pandemic forced the City to lay off temporary staff, most of Fairfax's public restrooms were closed. So the City Jobs crew stepped up to clean the restrooms at Stafford Park, returning in the evening to secure the facility, at no additional charge to the City."

**THE LAMB CENTER** Board Chair Cathy Liverman said the center is "deeply thankful for the seasonal work opportunities the City provides our guests." City Jobs also helps many of them, like Norman Dixon, re-enter the workforce. Dixon is now part of Fairfax City's leaf-removal crew. Similarly, guest Joseph Fowlkes said, "You get out what you put into it. I couldn't have gotten my foot in the door at my current job if it wasn't for City Jobs giving me a platform to showcase my hard-work ethic and leadership."

The Lamb Center Executive Director John MacPherson said the program has "provid-



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVAN REYLE  
Some of the 71 City Jobs employees in FY '20 pose for a photo.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
(From left) are Tara Ruskowski and Chris Fleming at City Jobs' anniversary event.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE PLANERT  
City Jobs workers pick up litter and remove invasive plants by this stream.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE PLANERT  
Workers getting rid of invasive plants in Van Dyck Park.

ed a path to self-sufficiency for some, and dignity and pride to all involved. Everyone involved feels better about themselves – and it isn't because of the \$40 they get each day. We're wired to work. Our guests benefit from it, the City gets tasks done that might be neglected, and the community receives safer and better-looking parks and trails."

During the celebration, the workers wore masks saying, "Believe in the Lord," and Meyer told them, "I've seen through you, actual acts of goodness, grace and mercy. We need to keep this program going. When this pandemic ends, please stay with the program because it can lead to jobs, homes, healthcare and transforming lives." He also acknowledged Parks and Recreation Director Cathy Salgado for her support in "making this a priority for the City; it's a great partnership."

City Councilmember So Lim said she sees all the hard work when she walks along the Daniels Run Trail. And Councilmember Tom Ross called the workers "an inspiration to us. You've been a tremendous credit to this community and continue to be – and this program is exactly what we should be doing."

"Programs like this make doing our jobs so much more rewarding," said Salgado. "And I thank our park staff working with the crews. They've taught new skills, and we've really gotten a lot of work done. Our City streams have never looked so clean."

"When we can make a difference in your lives – and in that of the people using our parks – it means we're fulfilling our mission," she continued. "Thank you so much for all you're doing for our community, and let's keep up that good work."

Evan Reyle, the center's workforce development manager, said, "It's been the greatest, career privilege of my life to steward this program. This year, our workers collected over 1,000 bags of trash – including many things, such as an old mattress, that wouldn't fit into trash bags. They also filled 60 bags of invasive plants and leaves and kept them from getting into our streams."

He said they've also done weeding, mulching and landscaping, as well as installing a retaining wall at the dog park. But, said Reyle, "Even more important than that are the lives City Jobs has transformed."

He then called Scholzen to stand and

share his story with those attending the anniversary event. After noting he'd previously worked for more than three decades before coming to The Lamb Center, Scholzen said, "City Jobs was humbling – my resumé didn't include picking up trash. But when you see the trails start looking good, people notice – and that's when you realize this work means something to the community, and to you."

"The guys and ladies I work with come from different backgrounds, situations, cultures and races, but we all come together," explained Scholzen. "Everybody learns a little about each other, and it builds a camaraderie. But when we were homeless, if we'd see each other on the street, we'd walk right by."

"I work for the county Park Authority now. I've got an apartment and a car – thanks to the car ministry – and I reconnected with my family. Good things are happening." He then thanked Fairfax City for supporting City Jobs and praised City arborist Chris Fleming for telling the workers why specific tasks need to be done, such as eliminating invasive species.

SEE CITY JOBS, PAGE 13  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



## PEOPLE

# Show Biz Author Got His Start in Fairfax

Marshall Terrill has written more than 25 books and he's not done yet.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Whether he was escaping from an island prison in "Papillion," or in a car jumping the steep hills in San Francisco in "Bullit," Steve McQueen was the "King of Cool," in his time. His achievements in the cinematic world were captured in several books by author Marshall Terrill through the years, including a recent book of McQueen photographic quotes in "Steve McQueen: In His Own Words."

"He was such a complex character," Terrill said.

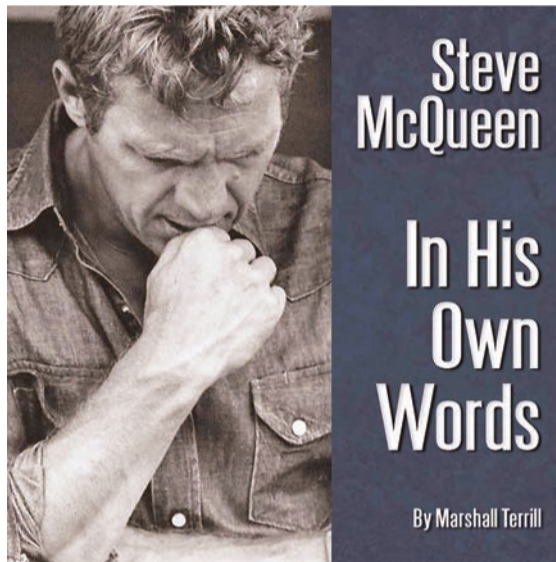
Terrill is an author that grew up in Fairfax County and graduated from Robinson Secondary School years ago and now lives in Arizona. This latest book is the seventh book on McQueen that Terrill has written through the years on this star that built quite a reputation of coolness in the 1960s and '70s. "Over the years, I've collected so much information on him," Terrill said, and he's been working on this last book for seven years.

He's matched 450 quotes with more than 500 photographs, personal documents and memorabilia, many of which are seen here for the first time. They illustrate McQueen's early life and movie career, as well as his passion for automobiles, motorcycles and antique planes. "It's finally finished," Terrill said.

Steve McQueen started his career in the movies in the 1950s, starring in some westerns and getting bit parts in television shows



Marshall Terrill



Pages are filled with quotes and photos of the "King of Cool."

such as Family Affair, Alfred Hitchcock Presents and the Magnificent Seven, before moving on to the movies that boosted his fame, namely The Great Escape in 1963. Later in the 1960s, there was "Bullit," "The Getaway," "Papillon," and The Towering Inferno before he died in 1980. Terrill liked the fact that McQueen loved his fans and fellow actors and actresses on the set, but when it came to the movie executives, it was a different story. "He put them in their place," he said.

If there were any stars these days to compare him to, it would be Kevin Costner or Brad Pitt, Terrill said. "Older and wiser characters," he said.

Terrill's writing career started with McQueen, and he's written about him on several occasions, but he evolved into a career writer that has written other non-fiction

books on Johnny Cash, Billy Graham, Pete Maravich and Elvis Presley. He's written 25 books in all and continues writing from his home in Arizona.

## Before the Books

Terrill grew up in a military family, and his father was an Air Force officer, so they moved around as the military transfers sometimes do. He ended up living in Hayfield Farm and attending Hayfield Elementary and Secondary School until eighth grade, when the family moved out to Fairfax, where he attended Robinson Secondary, graduating in 1982, and going on to college. After graduating from the University of Phoenix in 1989, he was in the musical memorabilia

business, and sold hot items like a John Lennon lithograph, and a record album signed by all four of

the Beatles "with a purple pen," he remembered. "I did quite well doing that," he said.

He brought up the book writing idea to his father, who encouraged him adding that sometimes you have to stick your neck out and gamble in life. It turned out to be good advice and the first book was a hit so he's enjoyed the writer's life ever since. "I really had to pay my dues," he said.

Terrill currently works full time as a reporter for Arizona State University, writing for "ASU Now," and writes books in his spare time. "I like the discipline of a full-time job and the deadlines with a book," he said.

His father was in his 80's and died this past summer after getting the corona virus.

Next up for Terrill is a book on the Dallas Cowboys, "America's Team," as they were known in the 1970's and 1980's. "Steve McQueen: In His Own Words," can be ordered from [www.daltonwatson.com](http://www.daltonwatson.com).

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# Detectives Investigate Three Shootings in Area

**M**ajor Crimes Detectives continue to investigate three shootings that have occurred over the 36 hours on Nov. 10 and 11. To provide transparency to the community and to highlight the exhaustive work of officers, crime scene technicians, and detectives, FCPD has provided updates on the following cases:

❖ On Nov. 10 at 9:41 p.m. officers from Franconia District Station responded to a shooting at the Motel 6 at 6868 Springfield Boulevard in Springfield and found a juvenile boy deceased. <https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/2020/11/11/springfield-motel-homicide-investigation-underway/>

❖ On Nov. 11 at 11:45 a.m. officers from West Springfield District Station responded to the 10300 block of Steamboat Landing Lane in Burke for a reported shooting. Upon their arrival they found a 17-year-old boy suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the upper body. He was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries and remains hospitalized. An 18-year-old man, known to the victim, was also in the home and is cooperating with detectives. There is no ongoing threat to public safety.

❖ On Nov. 11 at 8:51 p.m. officers from our Franconia District Station responded to a shooting at the Sharpshooters Range at 8194M Terminal Road in Lorton. Officers located two adult men suffering from gunshot wounds to the upper body. Both men were taken to the hospital. One man was determined to have injuries that were considered to be life threatening, both remain hospitalized. Preliminarily, it is believed that the shooting was domestic-related and there is no ongoing threat to public safety.

Victim specialists from Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure appropriate resources and assistance are provided.

Major Ed O'Carroll, Bureau Commander of Major Crimes stated, "All three of these cases remain under active investigation and our team of detectives are working extra hours to methodically examine evidence and interview all witnesses. I am deeply appreciative of all they have done on each of these important cases and the others they are assigned. The women and men of the Fairfax County Police Department work tirelessly to safeguard our community against any act of

violence as we recognize how detrimental they are to the stability of our community."

Anyone with information on any of these crimes is asked to contact the Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text - Type "FCCS" plus tip to 847411, and by web - Click [HERE](#). Download our Mobile tip411 App "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers". Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

## Father Charged in Lorton Shooting

Detectives from our Major Crimes Bureau continue to investigate last week's shooting at Sharpshooters Range in Lorton. Officers responded to 8194M Terminal Road on Nov. 11, just prior to 9 p.m. and discovered two men with gunshot wounds to their upper body. Both men were taken to the hospital, one with injuries that were life threatening. Varun Srivastav, 23, of Vienna, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital on Friday night. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner ruled the death a homicide following an autopsy yesterday morning.

Detectives determined Varun's father, Ajay Srivastav, 63, of Vienna, shot his son inside a car before shooting himself. Ajay was treated for non-life-threatening injuries and released from the hospital on Friday afternoon. Due to Ajay being released from the hospital prior to Varun's death, he was charged with aggravated malicious wounding and firearm use in the commission of a felony. Detectives anticipate Ajay's charges will be amended to reflect Varun's passing.

Ajay is currently being held without bond at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. This remains an active investigation and



FCPD PHOTO  
**Ajay Srivastav, 63,  
of Vienna**

detectives continue to examine evidence and interview witnesses.

Victim specialists from Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure the family is receiving appropriate resources and assistance.

This is the 13th homicide year-to-date in Fairfax County.

## Two Juveniles Charged in Fatal Shooting in Springfield

Two 16-year-old boys from Annandale are facing charges following Tuesday night's shooting at the Motel 6 in Springfield. Officers initially responded for a juvenile who was found suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the upper body. Several other juveniles were determined to be in the motel room at the time of the shooting. Following a thorough investigation, detectives believe one of the boys was handling a firearm when he accidentally discharged a single round, causing fatal injuries to the victim.

On evening Nov. 13, one juvenile was

charged with felony reckless handling of a firearm and unlawful possession of firearm by a juvenile. The other was charged with unlawful possession of firearm by a juvenile. Both juveniles were taken into custody and processed at the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center.

Per Virginia Code 19.2-11.2, police are prohibited from providing information about juvenile victims unless parental consent is provided. It prohibits Virginia law enforcement agencies from directly or indirectly identifying deceased juvenile victims of a crime.

## FRESHFARM Markets Open

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

### SATURDAY MARKETS

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

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Fatal Pedestrian Crash in Springfield Investigated

A 63-year-old man died as a result of injuries from a crash that occurred around 12:05 a.m. Nov. 15 near the intersection of Loisdale Road and Loisdale Court in Springfield. Detectives from Crash Reconstruction Unit have preliminarily determined that Maurice Lewis, of Woodbridge, was crossing Loisdale Road near Loisdale Court. The driver of a 2017 Toyota Camry was traveling southbound on Loisdale Road and struck Lewis who was in the vicinity of a crosswalk. The driver remained at the scene and is cooperating with detectives. Rescue personnel pronounced Lewis dead at the scene. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol do not

appear to be factors for the driver. The investigation remains active.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone -1-866-411-TIPS ( 866-411-8477 ), by text - Type "FCCS" plus tip to 847411, and by web - Click [HERE](#). Download Mobile tip411 App "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers". Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

This is the 13th pedestrian fatality in the county to date in 2020.

## West Springfield Rotarians Warned About 'Phishing'

**C**yber crooks are out to steal our critical data - bank accounts, passwords, even tax refunds. Michael Drobnis, the CEO of OptfinITy, briefed the West Springfield Rotary Club's virtual meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 4, about the techniques used by cyber criminals and measures we all can take to protect ourselves.

Risks for both companies and indi-

viduals are greater today than ever before because so many people are working from home, where their Internet security is generally not as effective as when working at the company location. One of the most common threats is "Phishing," where an individual receives an email that appears to be from a legitimate site but isn't. For example, the email may appear to be from your bank saying that their system

has been hacked and asking you to verify your account information. When you do, the scammer may then know your account number and password.

A few things to look for to be sure you don't get "phished" are:

❖ If the email is addressed in a generic way (i.e. "Dear Sir") - your bank or any organization that knows you would address you by name.

❖ If the email says action is "urgent," remember if it really was urgent, the organization would probably have called you.

❖ Watch for misspellings - responsible senders check spellings and grammar. Many scammers are overseas and often English is a second language, so their scam emails often have glaring mistakes.

A good rule to protect yourself is "When in doubt, throw it out."

# NEWS

## Fairfax City Program Helps Small Businesses

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION



David Meyer

Fairfax City's Economic Development Authority (EDA), in partnership with the Fairfax City Office of Economic Development, is launching the Fairfax City ReConnected+ (FCR+) program this Friday, Nov. 20. It's part of the City's strategy to accelerate the recovery of its businesses following the devastating impacts of COVID-19.

The ReConnected+ program will subsidize gift card/certificate purchases made at locally owned and operated, retail brick-and-mortar, fitness and exercise, personal care and grooming businesses, plus restaurants. It runs through Dec. 20 and allows shoppers to buy gift cards/certificates at participating city businesses at half their cost. The EDA will pay for the difference via CARES Act funds.

FCR+ is designed to provide immediate support to 100 Fairfax City businesses negatively impacted by the pandemic with a \$1,000 maximum of matching funds per business. Eligible City businesses will sell gift card/certificates valued at \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100, and business participation is on a first-come, first-approved basis. The EDA has allocated \$100,000 for this program.

"As we continue our efforts to stimulate our City's economy, the Fairfax City ReConnected+ program helps highlight Fairfax's business community and the need to shop local," said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "It coincides perfectly with Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28 and provides direct financial support to our locally owned businesses during these difficult times."

Economic Development Director Chris Bruno called the ReConnected+ program a "unique initiative

**"As we continue our efforts to stimulate our City's economy, the Fairfax City ReConnected+ program helps highlight Fairfax's business community and the need to shop local."**

— Fairfax Mayor David Meyer

connecting businesses with shoppers, establishing lasting relationships and quickly getting recovery funds into the hands of City businesses. It's yet another example of how Fairfax City has been supporting its small-business community, and I'm excited that our team can bring this program to Fairfax during the holiday-shopping season."

"This program will go a long way to help encourage shopping local," added Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Rose. "We're happy to see the City take this initiative to help our small businesses get through these seemingly impossible times."

For more information, go to [fairfaxcityconnected.com/reconnectedplus](http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/reconnectedplus).

### Community Notes

#### MULTIPLE EXPOSURES GALLERY AT MOSAIC DISTRICT

Multiple Exposures Gallery will present a new group exhibition of photography by MEG member artists at the Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic gallery. Located in the Mosaic District in Fairfax, the Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic gallery is an art venue and venture by the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA). Visit <http://www.mosaicdistrict.com>.

#### FAIRFAX NAACP PROVIDES \$19,350 IN COVID ASSISTANCE

Fairfax NAACP announced that they will distribute \$19,350 in COVID-19 relief funding to several community-based nonprofit organizations. The pandemic has disproportionately impacted communities of color, from higher infection and death rates to housing and employment insecurity to inequities in distance learning.



## Public Meetings Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2021-2026 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will consider your comments as it develops the FY2021-2026 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds. Meeting materials were made available on Nov. 13, 2020 and continue to be at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/default.asp>.

The public is able to provide feedback on the FY2021-2026 Six-Year Improvement Program Update at the virtual fall meeting on Nov. 24, 2020, which is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and will be conducted using electronic communications in accordance with Item 4-0.01.g. of Chapter 1289 (2020 Acts of Assembly), as the COVID-19 emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble in a single location.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operation of the CTB and the discharge of its

lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities. All board members will be participating remotely. The public may view the meeting via live stream by clicking the "View stream" button at the following link: [http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/public\\_meetings/live\\_stream/default.asp](http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/public_meetings/live_stream/default.asp). There will be opportunity for public comment. When announced, public comment can be made by calling 470-285-4495, followed by PIN 392 182 855#. Callers will be placed on hold until others in queue ahead of them have had the opportunity to speak. In the event there is an interruption in the meeting broadcast, call 804-729-6495.

The public is invited to share feedback on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding through participation in this virtual public meeting or by submitting comments through the online form, by email, or by posted mail by Dec. 3, 2020.

For information on roads and highways projects: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or online form found at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/default.asp>.

For information on rail and public transportation projects: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

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# Addressing the Demands of Virtual University Classrooms

## Marymount psychology professor offers solution to distance learning obstacles.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

For some students and professors, the loss of in-person contact has disrupted higher education and the experiences that often accompany it.

“I have found that distance learning is riddled with challenges,” said senior Sophia Jaimes, a psychology major at Marymount University. “Personally, I am very much a student who learns best when I am in a learning environment with a teacher who I can ask immediate questions to. When I have to use Zoom I find myself often being distracted or, at times, feeling awkward to talk on Zoom since I may not know my peers.”

As Marymount and other universities and colleges prepare for all-remote learning after Thanksgiving, students and professors are pondering the ways in which academics will be affected. Linda McKenna Guly, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Marymount, has written a paper that addresses some of the problems that her colleagues and students might be experiencing in the uncharted territory of virtual campuses.

“Colleges and universities are faced with the need to adapt and evolve without a script,” said Linda Guly, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. “Hundreds of experienced and highly regarded professors feel like clunky beginners as they redesign and deliver their courses online.”

Some professors put undue expectations on students, says Jaimes. “An issue that I have seen recently is where professors and teachers voiced their demands that students have their cameras on during class,” she said. “However many students have voiced that they may be uncomfortable doing so and that having cameras on during class is violating their privacy. Professors have said that if students don’t respond to their questions, in addition to not having their cameras on, they will kick the student out of the Zoom call.”

Dealing with such an obstacle requires mutual trust and awareness, suggests Guly. “It’s easy to



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Marymount University will suspend all in-person classes after the Thanksgiving break, says University spokesman Nick Munson.

feel suspicious of our students, and I’m pretty sure they can feel the same way,” she said. “Pay attention to such messages, because we want our students to feel welcome, accepted and appreciated.”

**“My virtual attendance this semester appears to be higher than my typical face-to-face attendance in previous semesters.”**

— Alice E. Petillo, Ph.D.,  
Marymount University

The sudden expectation that one be technologically savvy can cause instructional challenges, particularly in classes where visuals are essential, says Alice E. Petillo, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and Marymount University. “For one session my students could hear me but not see the visuals,” she said. “I was not able to hear them as they tried to let me know. Once I realized there was an issue, I apologized and let them know I would post a video recap after class.”

Accepting that the current level of distance learning requires an unprecedented set of skills can help quell angst around new expectations, Guly advises. “Model poise, problem-solving and self-regulation skills for students

to succeed in the workplace,” she said. “When I goofed-up my class technology for the 20th time, I gratefully received a solution from one of my freshmen.”

While college students might not need parental supervision in the way that an elementary or middle school student does, they can face challenges that are equally as daunting. “I think our students are finding it difficult because they are often juggling a lot of other concerns and commitments at the same time as our classes,” said Brian P. Flanagan, Ph.D., professor of theology and religious study at Marymount. “Many of my students are watching other siblings or helping them learn while they themselves are in class.”

As a result of distance learning, some students are facing new concerns about a lack of necessary resources. “[They] are struggling with access to technology and the internet,” said Michael Mills, Ph.D., Vice President, E-Learning, Innovation and Teaching Excellence at Montgomery College. “While the college has done an exceptional job meeting these needs in terms of financial and technological support, the issues are real for our students.”

The quality of instruction delivered by video conferencing platforms is not always equal to that of in-person classes. “I, along with many other friends, have discussed this and feel as though the education we are receiving is below what we could be getting,” said Jaimes.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### NOW THRU DEC. 13

Holiday Greenery for Delivery. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thru Assistance League of Northern Virginia, P.O. Box 209, Herndon. The holidays are just around the corner and Assistance League of Northern Virginia has teamed up with Lynch Creek Farm to offer holiday décor. Purchase wreaths, garlands, and centerpieces for your home or as gifts for family and friends. Your orders will be sent directly to the recipients. Shipments to Northern Virginia should take about 5 business days. Assistance League will receive 15% of the cost of every purchase and 100% of any donations. Those funds will help the charity provide food, new clothing and books to many needy children in our community. Here’s the link to shopping: <https://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/teams/250781>. Shipping is free. Contact [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org). Visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

devastating impacts COVID-19. The ReConnected+ program will subsidize gift card/certificate purchases made at locally owned and operated retail brick and mortar, fitness and exercise, personal care and grooming, and restaurant sector businesses beginning Friday, November 20 through Sunday, December 20, 2020. The FCR+ program allows shoppers to purchase gift cards/certificates at participating city businesses at half their cost with the EDA supporting the difference through an allocation of CARES Act funding. FCR+ is designed to provide immediate support to 100 Fairfax City businesses that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 with a maximum amount of matching funds of \$1,000 per business. Visit [fairfaxcityconnected.com/reconnectedplus](http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/reconnectedplus).

#### NOW THRU NOV. 23

Operation Christmas Child. More than 4,000 locations will now offer a curbside drop-off option for the Samaritan’s Purse project, Operation Christmas Child. Volunteers are preparing to collect shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 16 – 23. Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts—filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys—to children worldwide for more than two decades. For the nearest drop-off location, visit [samaritanpurse.org/occ](http://samaritanpurse.org/occ) and clicking on “drop-off locations”.

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 20

Fairfax City’s Economic Development Authority, in partnership with the Fairfax City Office of Economic Development, will be launching the Fairfax City ReConnected+ program. The ReConnected+ program is a component of the Fairfax City ReConnected strategy which has been developed to accelerate the recovery of Fairfax City businesses following the

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 21

Showing Up! Artists Banding Together for Artists. 7-10 p.m. Online “telethon” will feature Peter Mayer, Emma’s Revolution, Glen Thomas Rideout, Wendel Werner, Lea Morris and others. Being an artist has never been easy. But the current pandemic has turned difficult into desperate for singers, musicians, actors, visual artists and countless others whose livelihoods depend on bringing audiences together or showing their work. Eager to help their fellow artists in the Washington, DC, area, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, (UUCF) Music & Arts Program is presenting “Showing Up! Artists Banding Together for Artists.” This first-of-its-kind online “telethon,” which will be available on Facebook Live and YouTube, will combine a non-stop all-star lineup of live hosts, pre-recorded video performances and surprise guests – all to raise money for performing and visual artists in need. Visit: Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/UUCF/UUCongregationFairfax/> or visit YouTube: [tinyurl.com/showingup2020](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tjyurl.com/showingup2020).

“I do want to emphasize, however, that this feeling isn’t due to the professors ability to teach, but the stress from having to learn online only without any real connection to your professors or peers.”

Such challenges can be addressed through collaboration, says Guly. “Pull groups of students together to brainstorm about staying satisfied at our colleges [and] listen to them,” she said. “Along the way, they can initiate critical friendships and loving relationships all while taking care to stay healthy.”

Instruction by video conference has had some unexpected advantages, notes Flanagan. “I’ve been really impressed by how committed many of my students have been this semester to their own learning in the face of so many challenges,” he said. “Another silver lining is that we’ve been able to invite colleagues and experts from around the country and world to join us in our [virtual] classroom in a way

that was harder to imagine before the pandemic.”

Distance learning offers the flexibility of location from which classes can be attended. “Some of my students are able to be more engaged because they don’t have to spend time commuting, said Petillo. “My virtual attendance this semester appears to be higher than my typical face-to-face attendance in previous semesters.”

Instructors have been forced to gain new skills as a result of distance learning, says Petillo. “I have had to learn new presentation and teaching skills in a compressed time frame,” she said. “I am growing in confidence and ability with teaching online. There is more of a personal connection with the class than I had expected.”

“I think when we return to our in-person classrooms, we’ll both appreciate how much we were able to do online, but also some of the advantages and joys of learning together in person,” added Flanagan. [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU NOV. 23

Operation Christmas Child. More than 4,000 locations will now offer a curbside drop-off option for the Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child. Volunteers are preparing to collect shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 16 - 23. Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts—filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys—to children worldwide for more than two decades. For the nearest drop-off location, visit [samaritanpurse.org/occ](http://samaritanpurse.org/occ) and clicking on "drop-off locations".

## 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.

## NOW THRU 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>

## 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](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## WEDNESDAY/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.

## 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](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 21

Scotch Whisky Tasting. At 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Colvin Run Mill hosts a "Scotch Whisky Tasting" on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020. Enjoy a sampling of fine Scottish single malts from different whisky-producing regions. Budding connoisseurs will learn about the ancient history of Scotch whisky and the fine art of making and tasting it. Delicious Scottish accompaniments will be served as you assess the unique characteristics of the water of life of the Highlands. This program runs from 3 to 5 p.m. The cost is \$45 per person, and participants must be age 21 or older. Call 703-759-2771.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 21

Snack and Paint. 1-3 p.m. At The Old Firehouse, McLean. 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. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

# City Jobs Celebrates Anniversary

FROM PAGE 8

"Being homeless is never something I thought would happen in a million years," said Scholzen. "And now, my life has had an amazing transformation, and I really appreciate it."

REYLE said the program's also been blessed to have veterans participating, and said it wouldn't exist, at all, if not for Ruskowski's hard work. He then presented her with flowers, plus a card signed by all the workers. Overwhelmed with City Jobs' success, he added, "It's hard to dream when everything's fallen apart. And to see these guys dream again makes me want to cry

[with joy]."

Pleased, as well, Fleming said, "I don't have a crew, so I couldn't get all this work done without these guys. Ten people work, Tuesday and Thursday, from 8 a.m.-noon, and it's great to have so many more arms. They can fan out, all over a park, to pick up trash much faster than just one person could. And with brush removal and mulching, they work as a team."

"The residents notice how much better the parks look and tell the workers they appreciate it," he added. "So not only do the workers learn to cooperate and work together, but we all have fun, the entire time - while being incredibly productive."

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## CALENDAR

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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-Werner Heisenberg

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THE CONNECTION  
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## I'm Here to Report



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As my brother, Richard, has often said: "If the oncologist is happy then I'm happy." Let me update that sentiment slightly: If the endocrinologist is happy then I'm happy." And so we should all be happy. Yesterday, I had my post CT scan telephone appointment with my endocrinologist to discuss the previous day's lab work and the two days previous scan. She was "very encouraged." "News," as I told her, "with which I can live." And more than just the words she spoke, it's the manner in which she spoke them. Her tone was positive, uplifting; she was very pleased. I could almost see her smiling. After hearing it all, she didn't need to tell me to have a nice weekend. I was well on my way. Oddly enough, I have learned to take good news in stride. It's the bad news that has a tendency to knock me off my gait.

Prior to this Friday morning call, I had received, electronically, as I usually do, the automated releases of both my lab work and the radiologist's report. Having been down this road for nearly 12 years now, I am not unaware of discouraging results. The words I read and the numbers I see always tell a story. And even though I'm somewhat experienced, the interpretation and meaning of it all doesn't automatically jump out at me. Oh sure, I'm familiar enough and certainly know what lab results (levels) generally speaking are problematic (creatinine and bilirubin particularly). But there's so much more that I don't know. Moreover, there is no real breakdown-type summary to clarify beyond all my reasonable doubts as to what is happening in/to my body. I'm sort of left to my own devices. Devices which have proven to be unreliable - and certainly ones not very educated on the matter at hand. If this were about baseball, I wouldn't be clueless at all. But it's cancer and science and medicine; all the subjects I know very little about.

Released automatically, I receive the same document that the doctors do. That means what I'm reading is the actual report, written by a doctor for a doctor. The report is full of medical jargon. And though there are "impressions," provided as well as an organ-by-organ characterization, until I speak with one of my doctors and have them review the report with me, I'm never quite sure if what I think I understand is wishful thinking or whether my worst nightmare is happening during the day.

As a result, there are lots of words and medical assessments that are lost on me. It's not like reading a baseball box score when I know what everything means and its significance. Sure, there are many familiar words, but there are more that are not. Obviously "no new sites of metastatic disease I can understand and appreciate, literally. But "aortic atherosclerotic calcification" and intrathoracic and axillary lymphadenopathy" I don't. Understand them? I can barely pronounce them, let alone spell them. And as much information is provided in these reports, I feel as if I need a scorecard to identify all the players and determine what it all means.

Now when I have that follow-up phone call with the endocrinologist/oncologist, the report is explained. However, the explanations are not chapter and verse, they are more like sentence and paragraph. They're short and hopefully, as it was time, sweet. Of course, I could ask more questions but as the comedian Dennis Miller once joked on the radio: "I don't care how the popcorn is popped, I just want it to pop." So too am I less concerned with the popping (details). I want to know if I'm going to live or die. Unfortunately, the reports - and the conversations don't really offer a glimpse into the future as much as they attempt to clarify the present - which apparently is as good as it is likely to get. If 11 years - and nine months as a cancer patient has taught me anything, it has taught me to be grateful for any good news, however indeterminate.

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

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## NEWS



A teacher monitors student progress during concurrent instruction from behind a plexiglass screen.

# Return to School Town Hall Nov 19

FROM PAGE 3

are going to be working with students who are learning at school and students who are learning at home... We're not expecting that every minute of a class is going to be synchronous or that teachers are going to be able to provide the same amount of interaction with their in-person students than their online students, as we begin to implement this model."

ONE OF THE BIGGEST STRENGTHS of the pilot concurrent program, according to Principal Mary Duffy, Bush Hill Elementary School in Alexandria, was the availability of various technology tools- cameras, microphones, amplification equipment, monitors, projectors, and more. However, staffing and teacher workload concerns proved to be significant challenges. "They (teachers) have worked tirelessly to make this happen for our students. Duffy mentioned a second-grade teacher at her school, Ambler Goddin, who

was logging 70-hour work weeks since the pilot began in October.

Tammy Derenak Kaufax, Fairfax County School Board Member representing the Lee District said to the teachers present, "For those of you who are working 70 hours a week, and it is unsustainable, do you see an end in sight...Is this something that is going to continue in this concurrent model?" Goddin said that it had definitely been "pretty crazy" and while she was not going to let her students fail, she did not see an end to hours. "We're thrown back in the deep end... every time we start to get our feet under us and that's kind of the nature of COVID," she said.

Visit <https://www.fcps.edu/return-school/person-instruction-update-small-groups> to view a video of concurrent instruction in action. FCPS will hold a Return to School Town Hall Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6-7 p.m. Questions can be submitted in advance to [returnschool@fcps.edu](mailto:returnschool@fcps.edu) or call in during the Town Hall at 1-800-231-6359.



View of concurrent instruction in progress as teacher uses her laptop as part of her facilitation station and projects in the back of the room to show students interacting at home bringing the two groups together.

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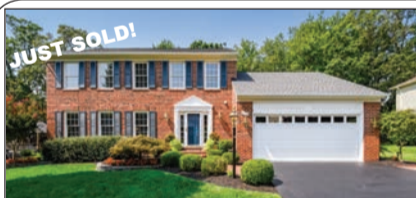
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