

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 29, 2021

Dissenting Board Members Told to Be Silent

Nova Parks offers a second proposal to purchase River Farm from the American Horticultural Society.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Five members of the American Horticultural Society's board of directors -- half of the voting members of the board, they say -- voiced public opposition to the proposed sale of River Farm.

"Notwithstanding our earnest efforts to convince our Board colleagues to reverse course, the five controlling Board members have asked us, the dissenting Board members, to be silent while they proceed to sell the property against our objections," Tim Conlon, Skipp Calvert, Laura Dowling, Holly Shimizu and Marcia Zech, wrote in a public statement released last week on April 23.

"While we cannot speak for the organization, we can speak for ourselves," wrote the five members of the AHS board. "We want the supporters of AHS and the public in general to know that we have opposed and continue to oppose the sale of River Farm. We believe AHS can and should continue to steward the property in accordance with the public promises made by the Society for nearly 50 years, and we will continue to do all in our power to accomplish that purpose."

American Horticultural Society went public on Sept. 4, 2020 with its plans to sell the property, and continues to defend its decision. At the time, Terry Hayes, AHS Board Chair, said the majority of the board called the sale "the most viable option to allow for



River Farm

"We have no intention of selling River Farm to a developer; as a horticultural organization we value the natural beauty and recognize the importance of River Farm."

— Terry Hayes, AHS Board Chair

the continuation of our national nonprofit during very difficult financial times."

Not so, say the other five members of the Board.

"There is growing evidence that the decision to sell River Farm is not only morally and ethically wrong, but is fraught with serious legal issues. We hope that all of those who care about AHS, about our irreplace-

able headquarters at River Farm, and the importance of non-profit charities honoring promises to donors, will support us in our efforts to save both AHS and River Farm," they wrote.

"We call on our donors, supporters, volunteers, and governmental authorities to speak out on this issue, and join us in our effort to reverse the unfortunate decision by the con-

trolling members of the Board to sell River Farm."

AT THE GAZETTE'S PRESSTIME, Wednesday, April 28, NOVA Parks, the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and their partners, offered a second proposal for purchase of River Farm from AHS, according to a release.

"AHS has been a good neighbor to the Alexandria community for many decades and has been disheartened by the flurry of false information about AHS and its stewardship of River Farm," said AHS Board Chair Terry Hayes. "As we have assured the community repeatedly, we have no intention of selling River Farm to a developer; as a horticultural organization we value the natural beauty and recognize the importance of River Farm.

"Community rumors that River Farm is at risk of being sold to someone who will subdivide our 25-acres are simply not true and only fuel fears where none should exist. We welcome honest, civil, meaningful dialogue with our neighbors and want to find a solution that will meet the needs of AHS, our Alexandria neighbors, and Fairfax County," according to Hayes.

FAIRFAX COUNTY Board of Supervisors, on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to rezone River Farm as a historic overlay district, adding a layer of protection for the property, as AHS continues to try to sell the property.

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) introduced legislation in the General Assembly to give the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors additional authority to protect River Farm under its historic zoning authority. Gov. Ralph Northam offered an amendment adding an emergency clause, so that it went into effect immediately.

"Alarming and unnecessary," AHS attorney
SEE DISSENTING BOARD, ON PAGE 5

Gum Springs Historical Marker Replaced



The players that made it happen gather around the sign after the covering was lifted.

Third sign in a location not likely to be wiped out by a car.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Gum Springs is the oldest African American community in Fairfax County, and the historical information was posted on two different historical marker signs posted there until cars came flying off Richmond Highway and took out both signs, years apart.

On April 21, local officials and Gum Springs residents unveiled another historic sign at the intersection of Fordson Road and Richmond Highway that once again

marks this historical community as a part of Mount Vernon's history.

The new sign is on a hill, above the roadway and hopefully out of danger. "It would take a Lamborghini going 100 miles per hour to knock that down," joked Del. Paul

Krizek (D-44th) who was among the local officials at the dedication.

Krizek reached out to Capital One earlier about replacing the sign, and got a donation to cover the costs. Jonathan Griffith, the Managing Director at the Capital One Center said a contribution like the sign falls in line with their corporate values of diversity, inclusion

SEE GUM SPRINGS, PAGE 5

Lucky Seven for Governor

Seven Republicans are vying for the nomination to be the party's candidate for Governor this November. Delegates to a May 8 convention will choose a nominee using ranked-choice voting. Page 6

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#WeAreAlexandria



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Fort Williams Park | \$1,795,000

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www.ThePeeleGroup.biz



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Mount Vernon | \$910,000

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Fort Hunt | \$695,000

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NEWS

Kevin Davis Appointed Fairfax County Chief of Police

Supervisors respond to a new era of policing.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Coming out of a closed-door session on Friday, April 23, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors prepared, as Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) said, “to select one of the most important hires it undertakes.”

“I am pleased to move the appointment of Kevin Davis, as the next police chief, effective May 3, 2021, with an annual salary of \$215,000,” Gross said. The motion unanimously carried. Davis is a Maryland native.

“After thorough interviews, the entire board is confident that Kevin will continue Fairfax’s work on police reform, build on the deep community involvement and relationships with stakeholders, and improve morale within the police department,” said Jeffrey McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in a statement.

Davis called in to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors’ meeting. He heard as McKay officially welcomed him in his new capacity to Fairfax County, saying that they were delighted to have him on board after the “long exhaustive process.” McKay added that the Board looked forward to working with him on this new journey.

DAVIS spoke directly to the supervisors. “This is a humbling moment for me. I take it very seriously, and I promise not to let you down,” he said. “I look very much forward to working

with the women and the men of the Fairfax County Police Department and several employee groups. You guys are a great agency; I want to say that loudly and clearly.”

Questioning if there was room for improvement in the Fairfax County Police Department, Davis said absolutely. He acknowledged change is sometimes hard and challenging.

“But if you didn’t know you were in a difficult position, you wouldn’t be here. So, we have to seize this moment and continue to get better,” he said. Davis added he looks forward to working with the diverse communities in Fairfax County.

As his first step, Davis said, the Department must establish legitimacy to earn trust, which takes hard work. “It takes showing up every day and doing the work, and we have to pay keen attention to vulnerable communities, underserved communities, and communities of color. We have to meet you where you are. We have to be better listeners. We have to be less defensive, and we have to, quite frankly, see you. ... You have my word that I am committed to doing that on behalf of Fairfax County.”

As for accountability, Davis said he would call “balls and strikes.”

“No one hates a bad cop more than a good cop (does). You have my word that those accountability systems will be in place,” he said.

Davis added that Fairfax County already had common sense police reform underway, but it would be a constant conversation. Da-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed former Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis as the new police chief effective on May 3, 2021.

vis said reform is something done for police officers, not to them. “It makes you better. It earns you a better relationship with the community,” he said.

Davis said he looked forward to the journey. It would be an opportunity to work with the community, residents, elected officials, and community leaders in the agency.

AMONG HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, Davis thanked the Board for their trust in him,

Biography

Kevin Davis is fourth-generation public safety, born and raised in College Park, Md. Most recently, Davis worked as Director of Consulting Services at GardaWorld. Davis served as City of Baltimore’s 39th police commissioner from 2015 to 2018 after the in-custody death of Freddie Gray and the riots that followed. According to a Fairfax County press release, he established a Department of Justice Compliance and Accountability Division and a fully implemented body-worn camera program during Davis’s tenure at the Baltimore Police Department. Davis worked to build trust with the community and foster transparency, providing information about internal policies and all police-involved shootings. He expanded the Department’s police chaplains’ program, which trained more than 100 faith community leaders to serve as ambassadors in the community.

Before that, Davis served as Anne Arundel County police chief from 2013 to 2014 and as assistant police chief of the Prince George’s County, Maryland police department, 1992 to 2013. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI National Executive Institute. Davis holds a master’s degree in Management from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor’s degree in English from Towson University.

County Executive Bryan Hill for his continued leadership, interim Chief of the Fairfax County Police Department, David M. Rohrer, and his predecessor Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. for his leadership. Roessler stepped down in January 2021.

SEE POLICE CHIEF, PAGE 10

Supervisors Validate Hire of New Police Chief

Aware of concerns, comments provided.

MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Media reports concerning former Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis, appointed last week as the new Fairfax County Chief of Police, raise concerns about his employment history, including allegations of excessive force and violations of civil rights in 1993 and 1999.

Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors said on Tuesday, April 27, that they were aware of the past issues, but still believe that Davis is the right candidate to serve as Fairfax County Police Chief.

According to a report by NBCWashington, “Incoming Fairfax Co. Police Chief Appointed Despite Lawsuits Over Force in Prince George’s,” dated April 27, states that Mark Spann won a civil lawsuit against Davis, who as a Prince George’s County police officer stopped Spann in front of his Temple Hill family’s home in 1993. In the NBC4 Washington report, Spann alleges that Davis threw him to

the ground and mashed his face into the pavement. The same NBCWashington report states that six years later (1999), Davis, then a sergeant, was sued again, this time “for false imprisonment and arrest of a young man who claimed Davis and other officers essentially kidnapped him for a night.” NBC4 Washington reports, “The victim won his civil suit.”

On Oct. 15, 2015, a report by WBALTV, “Panel approves Davis as commissioner amid protests,” by Kim Darcy and David Collins state, “The jury award against Davis was \$12,500,” in the Mark Spann lawsuit. As for the second lawsuit, the one in 1999, WBALTV states, “Court records indicate Brian Romjue, a teenager at the time, accused Davis and three other Prince George’s police narcotics officers of kidnapping. He claims the officers took him to a remote location and roughed him up, seeking information.”

WBALTV reported that the jury rejected the claim the officers used excessive force during the 1999 incident, but “the jury award against Davis was \$90,000 for violating Romjue’s constitutional rights.”

Catherine Pugh, Mayor of Baltimore, fired

Davis as Baltimore Police Commissioner on Jan. 19, 2018, saying she had run out of patience in the attempt to reduce crime.

Fairfax County Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) said that during his interview process, Davis made clear his commitment to police reform, data transparency, department morale, and combating inequalities in the use of force. “After extensive discussions on these and other topics with Mr. Davis, our entire Board came away confident in his values and ability to lead our police department,” Lusk said. “I look forward to working with Chairman McKay to introduce Mr. Davis to our community, and I am committed to providing opportunities for the community to directly ask him questions about his past as well as his goals for the future of policing in Fairfax County.” Lusk is chairman of the board’s public safety committee.

VICE CHAIRMAN Chairman Penelope A. Gross (D-Mason) said that the Board used a search firm for a national search for police chief. They brought several candidates to the Board for interviews, and significant background checks had been done.

“I like to say, anybody who is coming for an interview, as police chief for Fairfax County, they’re going to have some things

in their background that may raise some questions. We felt that he was the strongest candidate, would do the best job in Fairfax County,” Gross said.

According to Gross, the Board was aware of the employment issues raised in Maryland and that the mayor of Baltimore fired him. “As the mayor, she could, and we understand that’s a political decision,” Gross said. “We are aware of issues that were raised about all of our candidates. We still feel that Commissioner Davis was the best candidate for Fairfax County,” Gross said.

Kofi Annan, President of The Activated People, said: “The hire of Chief Davis feels like a gut punch considering what the Black community and our nation has experienced over the past year. While the Derrick Chauvin verdict was a step in the right direction, this hire feels like we’ve taken two steps back locally. Nothing in Chief Davis’ record indicates he is a reform-minded leader, and the revelations about his own racially-charged misconduct only solidifies our belief that he is not the leader we need at this moment. We hope that in light of this new evidence the Board of Supervisors reconsiders his appointment.”

Community Discussion Regarding New Penn Daw Fire Station, Emergency, Supportive & Affordable Housing

BY DAN STORCK

Thank you to the hundreds of residents who attended our first two virtual community meetings about the proposed new Penn Daw Fire Station, Emergency, Supportive and Affordable Housing project at Beacon Hill Road and Richmond Highway.

It was wonderful to see so many people (even if not in person yet) come together this early in the process to support, question and express concerns about this project. Between the two meetings, County staff and I answered hundreds of your questions for over three hours and read well over 1,000 questions and comments in the Zoom chat.

As outreach for these meetings, there were articles in our newsletter and the Mount Vernon Gazette, a project sign at the Beacon Hill location, mailed over 1,000 postcards to nearby residents, and posted on Nextdoor, Facebook and

Twitter.

For those of you who attended the meetings, I hope you came away with a better understanding of the proposed project, that your voice was heard and some key facts.

- ❖ The Penn Daw Fire Station is 53 years old and needs to be replaced.

- ❖ The Eleanor Kennedy building is 100 years old and must be replaced. The County leases this refurbished and antiquated pump house from Fort Belvoir and renovating it is not an option.

- ❖ Staff has spent over five years looking for new locations and this is the best location that has been identified thus far.

- ❖ County priorities include preventing and ending homelessness through support and assistance, as well as collocating facilities for functionality and cost savings.

- ❖ I will continue to listen to the community – including those who support, those who are uncertain and those who are concerned and

upset – about this proposed project, as well as to identify additional sites for emergency and supportive housing.

- ❖ The facilities proposed will be state-of-the-art, modern buildings with enhanced amenities and programming.

For those of you who were unable to attend the meetings, we will be posting the meeting videos on the project webpage in the next few days. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/penn-daw-fire-station-and-supportive-housing>

Follow ups and next steps include:

- ❖ Posting additional FAQs from questions posed at the meetings.

- ❖ Posting the meeting videos to the project website for those who missed the meetings.

- ❖ Scheduling a community in-person meeting at the Beacon Hill location.

- ❖ Scheduling a tour of the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter with all inter-

ested residents.

- ❖ Meetings with homeowners associations and community groups – let my office know if you have a group who would like to meet with me.

- ❖ The Penn Daw Fire Station and Supportive Housing Committee (which includes area residents) will continue to meet monthly and liaise with the community.

As always, I am available Thursday evenings and second Saturdays for meetings with residents on any topic. Most of all, please know your voices are being heard and there will be much more public discussion of this proposed project in the months ahead. Contact information for our office: mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-780-7518. Project specific questions can be asked to the project manager whose contact information is on the project website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/penn-daw-fire-station-and-supportive-housing>.

New Laws Empower Workers in Effect May 1

Long awaited increase in Virginia's minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to a new rate of \$9.50 an hour as of May 1.

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

It is appropriate that on May 1st, May Day - a day workers are recognized by the international labor movement, much like our Labor Day — a handful of new laws to empower workers will go into effect. It also coincides with President Biden's executive order creating a task force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, which will be charged with encouraging union organizing. This Saturday there will be four new labor laws — ones we passed last year during the 2020 session. Normally, laws that are passed during session go into effect on the first day of July. But, these laws were amended by the Governor during the 2020 Re-convened Session with a delayed effective date to this May, 2021. At a time when our working families are struggling more than ever, this year's May Day, and the pro-worker laws that come with it, cannot come at a better time.

The one that will have the most immediate and widest impact around the Commonwealth is the long awaited increase in the minimum wage from the current federal minimum of the past 12 years

of \$7.25 an hour to a new rate of \$9.50 an hour. Not until the Democrats finally won control of both the House and the Senate chambers was such a raise to minimum wage earners possible. Even so, farmworkers were not included and are still under the current federal minimum wage.

On Jan. 1, 2022, the minimum wage will rise again to \$11 an hour and again one year later to top out at \$12 an hour. The law did include a re-enactment provision that requires the General Assembly to vote for them again, to \$13.50 an hour in 2025 and then to \$15 an hour in 2026. But, those final two raises are contingent upon a new vote which is essentially the fate of any new bill. Studies show that an increase in Virginia's minimum wage will lead to increased economic activity and will greatly benefit all workers, particularly women, people of color, and seniors. This should be the first of many steps we take to treat our essential workers with more than lip service.

The second law that goes into effect on Saturday is the Prevailing Wage Act which I amended with my bill this session to clari-

fy that prevailing wage applies to transportation projects too. This law requires contractors for all state public works projects to pay workers a prevailing wage rate in accordance with the federal Davis-Bacon Act, unless the contracts are for less than \$250,000, as well as enables local governments to adopt prevailing wage ordinances. The Commonwealth's Department of Labor and Industry will be responsible for setting and reviewing prevailing wage rates, in coordina-

tion with the federal government. Numerous Northern Virginia localities, including Fairfax and Alexandria, are looking to adopt such an ordinance. Prevailing wage laws will ensure that our state and local public works projects provide good-paying jobs for local residents, benefit local contractors, and promote workforce development.

Alexandria just passed the first collective bargaining ordinance in
SEE NEW LAWS, PAGE 10

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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A Connection Newspaper



Gum Springs Historical Marker Replaced

FROM PAGE 1
and belonging.

"It made natural sense to help out," said Griffith.

The crowd at the roadside dedication included Queenie Cox, president of the Gum Springs civic association; Ron Chase, Founding Director, Gum Springs Museum; Reverend Charles Hall, Pastor, St. John Baptist Church; Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District Supervisor; Jonathan Griffith, Managing Director, Capital One Center; and Rodney Lusk, Lee District Supervisor; as well as several Gum Springs residents.

Chairman McKay grew up in the Richmond Highway corridor as well. "This is home to me, and I know the rich tradition of Gum Springs," McKay said.

The sign unveiling came a day after Derek Chauvin, a former police officer, was found guilty in the murder of George Floyd. This case has been at the center of attention for the whole world for nearly the past year, and the Gum Springs sign was loosely tied to it because it is part of the issue that has become a national focus.

Last year, there was a video of Fairfax County police tasing incident in the parking lot in Gum Springs, so the community has had questionable police enforcement measures in mind. This was mentioned by more than one speaker.

"Yesterday was a turning point in justice," McKay said.

Krizek called it an "auspicious day."

Supervisor Dan Storck said the sign was part of remembering history, to "create a new future for all of us," he said. "Gum Springs isn't just a physical presence, it's a state of mind," he said.

Pre-Civil War

Gum Springs started on a 233-



Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay (D) talks about his days growing up in the Mount Vernon area.



McKay noted the timing of the sign dedication, a day after the guilty verdict in the George Floyd case.

acre farm bought in 1833 by West Ford. A freedman's school opened on the site in 1867. (Desegregation of Virginia schools was still ongoing in the 1970s.)

The Woodlawn United Methodist church and school was started in Gum Springs in 1866, and many of the names of the early families can be seen around the Hybla Valley-Gum Springs area as streets that criss-cross the land. This includes Quander Road, after the Quander family, and "about 500 are descendants of Wes Ward," Krizek said.

Of the over 2,000 historical markers along the Virginia roadsides, there are only a small portion dedicated to African Americans, Krizek noted, but that is changing.



It's on a hill along Fordson Road, away from the Richmond Highway traffic.

"Five more are going up around the Commonwealth," he said.

Dissenting Board Members Told to Be Silent

FROM PAGE 1

ney John C. McGranahanMcGranahan called the rezoning classification.

"I reiterate my request for you to take a little more time. A historic overlay district should not be necessary," he said. "Work with AHS for 60-90 days. If successful, it certainly will be worth the time."

NOVA PARKS, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and their partners made an offer to buy River Farm earlier this year, but the AHS Board rejected the offer.

Their original asking price was \$32.9 million.

"The AHS board declined a previous proposal submitted by NOVA Parks last month, concluding the offer as written did not meet AHS's needs. Financial terms of the original proposal were well below the asking price set following a fair market value appraisal by an independent firm. And, contrary to widespread media

"The five controlling Board members have asked us...to be silent while they process the sell of the property against our objections."

-Dissenting board members

reports, the original proposal also fell well short of Fairfax County's \$17 million assessed value of the 25-acre property," according to this week's press release.

The AHS Board of Directors will review the new proposal in the coming weeks, according to the release.



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Vienna/Acadia Condo \$404,900
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the family room. 2 convenient garage spaces below are reserved for this unit. Tremendous community amenities highlighted by a wonderful swimming pool, gym, recreational room and office room. Finally, a perfect location with quick and easy access to Rt. 66, 495 and Rt. 50. If you want to leave your car behind, a quick 2 block walk will put you at the Vienna Metro Station. This wonderful property can be yours to enjoy!!



Alex/Hollin Hills \$749,900
2308 Kimbro Street

Attention!! Grab this Opportunity to buy into one of Virginia's most sought-after communities at Below Tax Value! Designed by Well Renowned Architect Charles M. Goodman, this one level 4-bedroom, 2 bath Rambler is awaiting your remodeling touches. A Beautiful 1/3-acre lot positions the home up off the road allowing Breath

Taking Views overlooking the scenic neighborhood. It also has a Rare Carport for Parking and also a Rare Shed for Additional Storage. You can turn this into one of the Crown Jewels of Prestigious Hollin Hills located between Ft. Hunt and Belle Haven in the 22307-zip code.



Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor \$564,900
8804 Falkstone Lane

Great Opportunity for a young family to invest in this lovely 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial in a wonderful neighborhood and to add their own taste and design to the kitchen and baths. The interior and exterior have been freshly painted, and the hwd floors have been refinished and look great. The yard is large, fenced in the back to allow little ones and

a dog or two to romp. Both the front and rear have been over seeded and should start coming to life in a couple of weeks. Similar model, but with a 2-car garage and totally remodeled, recently sold for \$721,250. Great location- to the South: Ft. Belvoir, 5 minutes - to the North: Old Town Alexandria, 15 minutes, National Airport, 27 minutes, Pentagon and D.C.- 30-35 minutes. Tough to find a home and good-sized lot in this area <\$600,000.



For more information: www.RexReiley.com

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Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9. This year we will continue to publish submissions through the May 5th and 6th editions. Photo submissions are due by Sunday, May 2, 2021.

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

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Gazette Packet

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7 Republicans Vie To Be Governor

May 8 convention to determine direction of party heading into November.

BY MICHAEL
LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Republicans haven't won a statewide race since 2009, when Attorney General Bob McDonnell received 59 percent of the vote against Democrat Creigh Deeds. Since then, Republicans have been shut out of the Executive Mansion. Ken Cuccinelli lost to Terry McAuliffe in 2013, and Ed Gillespie lost to Ralph Northam in 2017. Now Republicans are about to determine their statewide candidates in a May 8 convention, which will take place at 37 locations.

"This is a great year for Republicans, and we have a good chance to win the Executive Mansion," said Frank Fannon, a former Republican member of the Alexandria City Council. "A lot of people are not excited about a recycled Terry McAuliffe running for governor again."

The candidate with the most votes in the first round of counting may not end up as the winner. That's because Republicans are using a process called ranked-choice voting to make sure that the nominee has support from more than 50 percent of the delegates. When the voting ends at 4 p.m. on May 8, votes will be hand counted and then sent to Richmond, where party leaders will use mathematical formulas to give

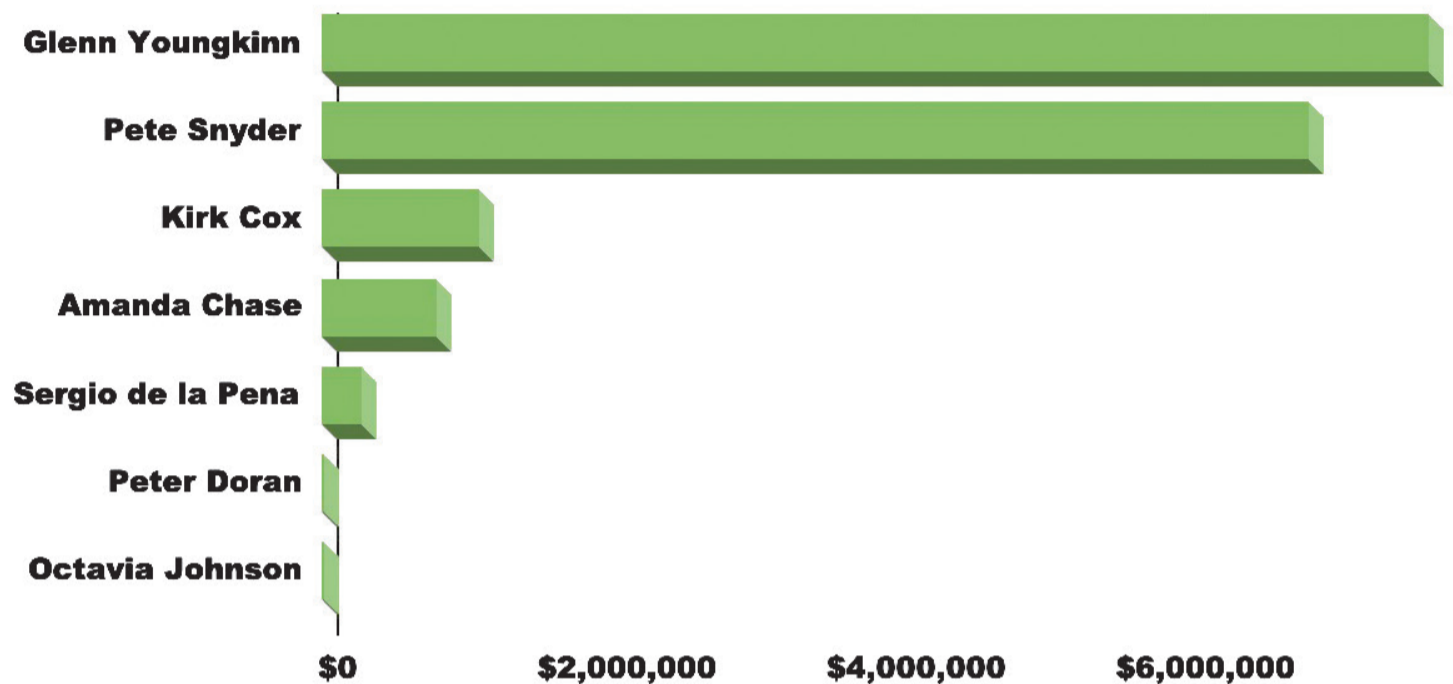
"We've seen a lot of interest in this convention. It's a sign that the two-party system is alive and well."

— Pete Benavage,
chairman of the Alexandria
Republican City Committee.

more weight to parts of the state that support Republican candidates for president and governor. They'll also be going through several elimination rounds, distributing the second choice of voters whose first choice has been eliminated.

"There is a lot of concern about one candidate in particular, Amanda Chase, who has perhaps strong support among a particular faction within the Republican Party but not broad-based support," said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government. "Some believe in a multi-candidate race she could come out as the nominee, but in a ranked-choice voting system, she

Republican Candidates for Governor



source: Virginia Public Access Project

would likely have no chance at all of winning the nomination."

Seven candidates will be on the ballot for governor, a crowded field that seems likely to send the ranked-choice voting into several elimination rounds before a winner is determined. For voters who are interested in participating in selecting which of those seven candidates for governor will be the nominee, the deadline to register has already passed, but Republican officials say they've seen out-sized interest in participation. Under normal circumstances, the convention would have a limit to how many delegates from Alexandria could participate. But this year the cap was eliminated, and candidates were allowed to help potential new delegates register. As a result, Alexandria has 703 credentialed delegates.

"We've seen a lot of interest in this convention," said Pete Benavage, chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee. "It's a sign that the two-party system is alive and well."

GLENN YOUNGKIN is a former lobbyist for the Carlyle Group who has raised more money than any of the other candidates, \$7.7 million, thanks in part to a \$5.5 million loan from the candidate. He's also received large donations



Convention Locations

- ❖ 8th Congressional District Convention Location
National Right to Work Building
8001 Braddock Road, Springfield VA 22151
- ❖ 10th Congressional District Convention Location
10th District Republican Headquarters
20098 Ashbrook Place, Ashburn VA 20147
- ❖ 11th Congressional District Convention Location
NOVA Community College, Annandale campus
8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale 22003

from real-estate developers, subcontractors and lawyers. He's never run for office before, although he's trying to use that as an asset by selling himself to voters as a candidate who's not a politician. On the campaign trail, he talks about opposing abortion rights, supporting gun rights and ending the public safety protocols put into place by the current governor during the pandemic.

"When this governor opened up massage parlors and ABC stores and kept my church closed last year, I knew he didn't share the same values I do," said Youngkin in a candidate forum. "So we're going to stand up for our First Amendment rights. But we're also going to stand up for the unborn, but we're also going to stand up for our Tenth Amendment rights and the overreach from Washington right now."

PETE SNYDER is a businessman who's probably best known for founding a social-media marketing agency known as New Media Strategies. He's raised \$6.8 million, thanks in part to a \$5.2 million loan from the candidate. He also received a \$1 million donation from CapFi Partners CEO Mark Kimsey

of Great Falls. In 2013, he was an unsuccessful candidate for lieutenant governor at the Republican convention that selected E.W. Jackson as the party's nominee that year. On the campaign trail, Snyder talks about opening schools five days a week with a teacher in every classroom and opposing efforts to use taxpayer dollars to pay for in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants.

"Illegal immigration costs taxpayers billions, and it brings crime and gangs into our communities," said Snyder in a campaign video about immigration posted to YouTube. "Northam and McAuliffe won't take violent illegals off our streets, but I will. When I'm governor, I'll enforce the law and deport violent criminals."

KIRK COX is a former Speaker of the House of Delegates who has represented Colonial Heights since he was first elected in 1989. He's raised about \$1 million, including



SEE REPUBLICANS, PAGE 7

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Republicans

FROM PAGE 6

large donations from Republican Party leaders and general contractors. During his time in the House, he supported a controversial plan to raise taxes for roads during the McDonnell administration and, more recently, expanding Medicaid to help low-income people get health insurance. On the campaign trail, the one issue that animates him more than anything else is his opposition to abortion rights.

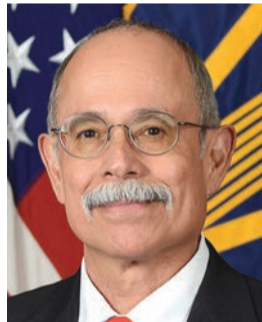
"I will stand up to the pro-abortion radicals," said Cox in a campaign video posted to YouTube. "I will never stop fighting for the promise of life."

AMANDA CHASE is a state Senator from Chesterfield who unseated incumbent Sen. Steve Martin (R-11) in 2015. She's raised about \$800,000. Chase is probably best known for speaking at the Jan. 6 rally before the insurrection at the Capitol. She later defended the people involved by saying "these were not rioters and looters, these were patriots." On the campaign trail, she's tried to cast herself as "Trump in heels," repeating baseless assertions that the 2020 election was stolen.



"What I believe I bring is something we've never had before. We've never had a Republican woman to seek the Republican nomination for governor," said Chase in a candidates forum. "You know 50 percent of the population is women, and that's a democratic we need. We also need suburban women. I am a suburban woman."

SERGIO DE LA PENA is a retired Army colonel who served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense for the western hemisphere during the Trump administration. He's raised about \$263,000. On the campaign trail, he talks about how his experience as an immigrant might help bring new people into the party and win over voters in Northern Virginia.



"I came from Mexico. I was raised in a house with dirt floors and no running water, picking cotton at 10," said de la Pena. "I fought socialists and communists the entire time I was in the Army, and I continue to do so even to this day because what we've seen is that they've gone from bullets to ballots."

PETER DORAN is a former think tank executive and author. He's raised about \$16,000. On the campaign trail, he talks about phasing out the state income tax.



"I spent my career helping countries that have been destroyed by socialism to chart a new path and to get strong," said Doran in a campaign video. "I'm running for governor because I think it's about time that we have a candidate with a winning conservative vision leading our commonwealth."

OCTAVIA JOHNSON is a former sheriff of Roanoke who's raised about \$900. In 2014, she ran an unsuccessful campaign against Sam Rasoul for House District 11.



"Everybody has heard of all the other candidates. They know what their message is," said Johnson in a television interview. "Now they're going to hear Octavia Johnson's message, and that will help them to decide who is stale bread and who is fresh bread."

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Trashing Mother Earth

Not only is trash polluting and unsightly, it is harmful, even lethal, to wildlife.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE



PHOTOS BY JANE GAMBLE

Here, an Osprey nest at Belle Haven marina shows various plastic debris lining the nest.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Discarded cigarette butts at the corner of Sherwood Hall Lane and U.S. 1.



PHOTO BY LARRY MEADE

A Willet perched on a discarded tire. (Virginia Eastern Shore)

On April 10, 82 volunteers hauled 126 bags of trash out of Little Hunting Creek and 46 volunteers collected 55 bags of trash in Dyke Marsh and along the Potomac River just south of Alexandria. Those 181 bags represent merely two of 100 trash cleanups held that day in the river's watershed.

On Earth Day, April 22, the Virginia Department of Transportation reported that nearly 75 percent of roadside litter comes from people who consciously choose to litter, at a cost to taxpayers of nearly \$3.5 million annually.

Americans generate almost five pounds of solid waste per person every year. Virginians use 320 plastic bags per person each year or three billion bags, says Litter Free Virginia. Some waste gets recycled: 31.3 percent of glass containers and 29 percent of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) soft drink and water bottles and other plastic containers, nationally.

Trash's Harm

Not only is trash polluting and unsightly, it is harmful, even lethal, to wildlife.

Larry Cartwright, Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey leader since 1994, sees more and more human-produced garbage woven into birds' nests, like a candy wrapper in a tree swallow nest, dental floss in a bluebird nest and a condom in a Baltimore oriole nest.

When animals eat plastic debris, its stomach can seem full and the plastic can lead to death. Turtles and whales mistake plastic bags for jellyfish and if eaten, bags can block digestion. Necropsies have also found plastic bag remnants in the stomachs of dolphins, manatees, penguins and other birds.

Attracted to leftover morsels, small animals get trapped inside bottles and cans. Some may crawl inside for warmth and suffocate or starve when they cannot get out. Birds and other animals get entangled in six-pack rings and fishing lines.

The Small Stuff

Cleanup volunteers often target the visible items like beer bottles, aluminum cans and plastic bottles, straws and bags. They pick up balls, tires, fast food debris, Styrofoam pieces and fishing gear, but some trash is not so visible.

Plastic breaks down into small pieces called microplastics, which includes nurdles, microbeads, plastic fragments and microfibers. Plastic degrades slowly, if ever, and small plastic particles are likely to enter the food chain. A June 2020 study found that Americans ingest at least 74,000 microplastic particles every year by eating, drinking and breathing. Last year, the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation documented microplastics in Four Mile Run water samples.

Polystyrene, known by the brand name, Styrofoam, from coolers, cups, trays and carryout food containers, breaks into pieces that end up in storm drains and waterways. Birds, fish and other animals mistake the small pieces for food. When ingested, polystyrene can cause fatal internal blockages in animals' organs and cause starvation or choking. Polystyrene products are rarely recycled or composted.

Stormwater runoff whisks cigarette butts off streets into area waters. Cigarette filters are the top item of 20 found by Clean Virginia Waterways volunteers. Most cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, a plastic that degrades slowly says Kathleen M. Register, the organization's head. Cigarette butt plastic has been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales and other marine animals.

Reducing trash in the environment requires disposing of it responsibly or not using the products in the first place.

Betsy Martin, who's led Little Hunting Creek trash cleanups since 2002, said, "We truly appreciate our legislators' efforts to adopt laws to reduce trash and Fairfax County's efforts to prevent litter, with the trash trap in Little Hunting Creek and Operation Stream Shield, but there's still too much. We hope the litter goes extinct before the wildlife does."

"We hope the litter goes extinct before the wildlife does."

— Betsy Martin, Little Hunting Creek trash cleanup leader



Osprey with streaming debris in Woodbridge, Va.

NEWS

Effective Communication Strategies for Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregivers

Thursday, April 29, 2021, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Does communicating with your loved one frustrate you? Is there a better way to reach a person with neurocognitive difficulties?

Communication is more than just talking and listening — it's also about sending and receiving messages through attitude, tone of voice, and body language. As the disease progresses, individuals living with Alzheimer's or other dementias lose the ability to use words, but families can find new ways to connect.

Join Ben Donnelly of the Alzheimer's Association to explore how communication changes when someone is living with Alzheimer's, learn how to interpret the verbal and behavioral communication, and identify strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease. Garner real-life tools you can use to navigate the difficulties of being a care partner.

<https://librarycalendar.fairfax-county.gov/event/7560909>

Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors

Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Ben Donnelly of the Alzheimer's Association hosts a presentation related to dementia-related behaviors. Some behaviors can present real challenges for caregivers to manage. Learn to decode behavioral messages, identify common behavior triggers, and learn strategies to help intervene with some of the most common behavioral challenges of Alzheimer's disease.

<https://librarycalendar.fairfax-county.gov/event/7570900>

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Am I getting old or getting Alzheimer's? Is forgetfulness a natural part of aging? When does memory difficulty signal a larger problem? This program provides an understanding of the difference between normal aging and when symptoms reveal a larger problem.

<https://librarycalendar.fairfax-county.gov/event/7582116>

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“My Thoughts to Your Thoughts”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You know the expression: Can't walk and chew gum at the same time; a disparaging characterization of a person, company or municipality unable to multi-task or even task at all? Fortunately, I've not had much interaction in any of these categories (myself included). I do however, have a similar description of yours truly: I can't write a column and eat at the same time. I can drink (not alcohol) and write. And back in college - in the 70s, while writing a weekly column for "the diamondback" (the college newspaper) at The university of Maryland, I could partake, recreationally, and still write my column. In fact, I still remember what I thought was one of the funniest lines in a column I wrote about my inability to use tools (while under said influence) : "The only power tool I ever used was a hammer." Ah, the good old daze.

Fast forward and I mean fast, to 2021, approximately 45 years, since I was a weekly columnist for the campus newspaper. Time hasn't merely flown by, it has broken all former land speed records. In fictional fact, it hasn't been mach, it has been at "warp" speed, for those of you regular readers who are still trying to "Live long and prosper" while watching cable channel "H&I" Sunday through Friday, off and on between 8pm and 1am. For us "Star Trek" fans, these five hours of nightly programming fill a void that no replicator can match.

Spock could certainly multi-task. How else could he master three-dimensional chess? Perhaps some of his skill set had its origins in the "Vulcan mind-meld" which enabled him to read other's thoughts and gain unique insights into previously unshared experiences. As I think back over the years of previous "Star Trek" viewing (and my current re-infatuation), I can't recall ever seeing Spock eat, or even drink for that matter. Maybe he couldn't eat and be First Officer/second in command at the same time? Not that I'm equating myself with Spock, he was way more intelligent and accomplished than me. But maybe we did share a common affliction: an inability to eat and simultaneously perform other tasks?

And though Spock never seemed any the worse for the wear and tear he endured while rarely eating, I, as a red-blooded human, need to eat. I just can't eat while I'm writing. It seems to take away from my focus and blunt the creative process. Maybe if I were able to "narrow the confinement beam," I could put more of my thoughts down on paper before they're lost in my head. Thoughts which occasionally are fleeting, but usually are pertinent to the column I'm writing. Unlike Spock however, my thoughts are not always logical and though I try to embrace his Vulcan philosophy: "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few," I think I'm too needy to do so. (My nephew bought me Star Trek pajamas for Christmas. It didn't exactly fill a need but it sure has made me happy to wear them. If you're at all curious they are Spock's rank and color: blue top with black pants, with proper Star Trek insignia.)

As is the case with my weekly column. I deprive myself of nourishment in order to write in a semi-coherent way. Sometimes I fail (perhaps the proof is right here in the words which you are reading), but it's never because I ate while I wrote, it's because the "inertial dampeners" (whatever they are) were not functioning within normal parameters. I just have to hope that my communicator doesn't malfunction or that an ion storm doesn't develop locally and knocks out the power to my house. I don't have a "Scotty" around to transfer power from one system to another. All I have is that hammer. And I know from limited experience, that a hammer is not going to solve my problem. I need a whole crew with all their own tools.

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

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

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Diaper Drive. 12-2:30 p.m. The Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH) will be holding a socially distant drive-through diaper drive. OPMH is located at 323 S Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314. You can drive by and drop off diapers on either the Fairfax or Royal St. sides of the church. The following day OPMH will donate all diapers to local organizations, including: Alexandria Community Services, Casa Chirilagua, and the West End Pantry, who will then distribute them to families in need. Can't make it to the diaper drive? You can also donate money toward the drive online via opmh.org/give (use the pull-down to choose "Diaper Drive Donation") and OPMH will buy diapers to donate to said local organizations. Contact OPMH Member Pamela Kicak at: OPMHDiaperDrive@gmail.com

TUESDAY/MAY 18

Mount Vernon Genealogical Meeting. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. Federal court records merit a close look by those putting together their genealogical puzzle. And there is no better guide than attorney, genealogist and acclaimed lecturer, Judy G. Russell. Nonmembers are welcome to attend one free event each year. Register by May 12. Visit the website: <https://mvgenealogy.org>

ONGOING

Local, farm-fresh produce - including straw-

berries and asparagus -and more will be featured at the now-opened McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 22), 16 local farmers and food producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT cards can be used. As a bonus, the market will match up to \$20 per market visit in SNAP dollars for fruits and vegetables.

This year's vendors are:

- Arnest Seafood - crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more
- Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch
- Great Harvest Bread - breads and pastries
- Honey Brook Farms - meats and vegetables raised with no chemicals, gluten-free baked goods
- House of Empanadas - variety of empanadas
- King Mushrooms - variety of locally grown mushrooms
- Locust Grove Farm - vegetables and herbs
- Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs
- No. 1 Sons - pickles, kimchi, sauerkraut and kombucha teas
- Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs and flowers
- Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. - variety of freshly roasted coffee
- Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more
- Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods.

Chief of Police

FROM PAGE 3

According to World Atlas, the Fairfax County Police Department, which has roughly 1,400 full-time sworn-in officers, is Virginia's largest police department and ranked 33 in the top largest police departments in the United States in August 2020.

Braddock District Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw issued the following statement regarding the Board of Supervisors' selection of Kevin Davis as Chief of Police.

"Many law enforcement leaders have learned to talk the talk of police and criminal justice reform, but very few have actually done it. In Kevin Davis, we have selected someone with

a proven track record of implementing meaningful reforms in the face of fierce resistance. That's why the Open Society Foundation -- an organization working to develop policing systems that treat everyone equally -- asked him to write the book on consent decrees and police reform. With Chief Kevin Davis, Fairfax County is poised to build on the accountability measures already in place here and lead the nation in ensuring that the law is employed as an instrument of justice."

Board of Supervisors Appoints Kevin Davis as Fairfax County's New Chief of Police. - YouTube can be found online <https://youtu.be/Ii020GkUzVM>

New Laws Empower Workers in Effect May 1

FROM PAGE 4

Virginia thanks to our third new state law, which exists in 47 other states and used to be the law in Virginia until 1977, permitting localities to enter into collective bargaining agreements with their employees. Each local governmental entity may adopt its own ordinance to expand the rights of its workers. In Alexandria, the City Council unanimously approved the ordinance that gives city employees the right to bargain about most workplace issues, including pay, benefits, grievance procedures and other disputes. This ordinance will now serve as a good example for cities and counties across Virginia. To be able to negotiate agreements covering large workforce groups is both more efficient and effective than having to deal with each worker on an individual basis that is too often subjective, less fair, and more onerous. As Virginians, how we treat our teachers, firefighters, public safety, and

general employees reflects our values as a Commonwealth. Indeed, I am glad that we are taking this important step to give our public servants a meaningful voice on the job. Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun counties are all considering similar ordinances now that they are allowed to do so.

Our fourth and final new law is the Project Labor Agreements Act that allows state and local bodies to require project labor agreements with organized labor when contracting for construction, manufacture, maintenance, or operation of public works projects. The legislation reversed a prohibition on writing this requirement into state bids. On too many occasions, the taxpayers have paid the price for cheap labor. Project Labor Agreements will give us the maximum return on our investments by ensuring our construction projects are done on-time and on-budget with maximum community benefits.



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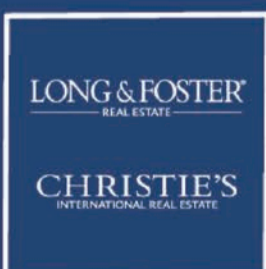
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