

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 17, 2021



The ghost bike at Franconia Road and Telegraph Road, where bicyclist Fatima Del Carmen Alvarez Romero, 24, was hit and killed.



Bicyclists holding signs during a moment of remembrance at the crash site where Fatima Del Carmen Alvarez Romero was killed.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities Rise in the Area

Road design, speeds, lighting and negligence are factors.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

This spring has seen several fatal pedestrian accidents, possibly signaling a warning to drivers, pedestrians and transportation engineers that more could be done to lessen these fatalities in Fairfax County.

In early June, a 64-year-old cyclist died following a crash that occurred just after 10 a.m. at the intersection of Hidden Canyon Road and Bluemont Drive in Centreville. Detectives from the



About a mile south of the site of the June 4 fatality, there is a multi-use path being constructed as part of an intersection modification project at Lee District Park. This should enable pedestrians and cyclists to safely enter the park.

Fairfax County Police Crash Reconstruction Unit have preliminarily determined that Raymond Buza, of Centreville, was on his bicycle traveling east on Hidden Canyon Road and was hit by a 2017 Hyundai Sonata turning left in front of

Buza resulting in the fatal crash. The driver of the Sonata remained at the scene, and was later charged with infliction of injury on a vulnerable road user, the police said.

On June 3, Reynaldo Quinteros Alfaro, 54, of Alexandria, was

crossing South Kings Highway when the driver of a 2017 Dodge Journey was traveling southbound on South Kings Highway, a posted 35-mile-per-hour roadway, and struck him. Virginia law, §46.2-924, requires drivers to stop for pedestrians at any intersection when the driver is approaching on a highway where the speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour. Quinteros Alfaro was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead, police said.

On June 4, Fatima Del Carmen Alvarez Romero, of Alexandria, a 24-year-old cyclist, died in a crash just after 11 a.m. at the intersection of Telegraph Road and Franconia Road. According to the FCPD, she was on her bicycle and entered the crosswalk to cross Telegraph Road on the south side of the Franconia Road intersection. Alvarez Romero proceeded east through the intersection in front of a 2020

GMC Savanna which was traveling north on Telegraph Road and had a green traffic signal which resulted in the crash. The driver of the GMC Savanna remained at the scene.

In April, pedestrian Choon Yoo, 77, of Annandale, died following a crash at 10 p.m. near the intersection of Little River Turnpike and Backlick Road. Detectives determined that Yoo was crossing Little River Turnpike and the driver of a 2011 Toyota Corolla on Little River Turnpike and struck Yoo.

Police Presence

The Fairfax County Police Department is increasing patrols to increase police visibility and enforce laws that make the roads safer, according to Sgt. Hudson Bull. "While enforcement and education efforts are underway, the Department relies on its partnership with the community in shar-

SEE PEDESTRIAN, ON PAGE 14

Study Highlights Pandemic's Food Insecurity

By Glenda C. Booth
Mount Vernon Gazette

The coronavirus pandemic exacerbated inequities, especially food insecurity, for many families along Fairfax County's U.S. 1 corridor, concluded the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, a nonprofit based at Woodlawn Estate.

Before the 2020-2021 covid-19 pandemic, 58,000 people in Fairfax County were

food insecure. During the pandemic, the number doubled.

Titled "Route 1 Lived Experiences Report, Food Insecurity during the Covid-19 Pandemic," the 20-page study relates the experiences of 15 residents along the corridor, people who the authors say are representative of many struggling families.

"The pandemic affected some members of our community more than others both financially and physically," said Matt Mulder, Arcadia's Director of Operations. "It

To Learn More

The report:

<http://arcadiafood.org/RT1Report>.

Arcadia's webinar on the report: June 29, 1:30 p.m.

Register at <https://route1livedexperiencesreport.eventbrite.com>.

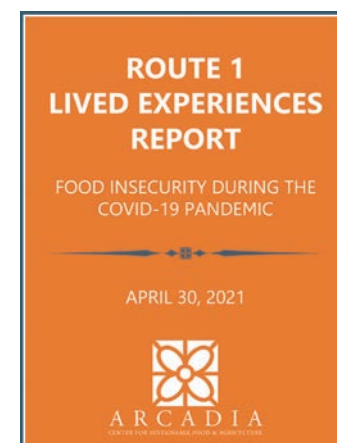
will take a concerted effort by government, community organizations and the business sector to identify, acknowledge and address the root causes of deep systemic inequities that contribute to food insecurity. It is clear that listening to community members' voices and involving them in fostering solutions is vital

to creating a more food secure environment along Route 1."

Diverse, Low Income

The U.S. 1 corridor is racially diverse, home to many immigrants and one of the poorest areas in Fairfax County, the report contends:

SEE STUDY, ON PAGE 12



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New Owners Take over Hollin Hall Auto

They have “big shoes to fill”

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

The walls inside Hollin Hall Auto are lined to the ceiling with plaques, certificates, resolutions, articles, photos and more memorializing the Harvey family's 60 years of business success and their multiple contributions to the community. New owners Raheel Sheikh and Usman Nasin will keep all the accolades on the walls, keep the same 12 employees and continue the Harveys' friendly service, says Sheikh.

Tom and Judy Harvey are retiring and moving to their next chapter on Maryland's Nanticoke River. In May, they sold the business that Tom's father, Leon, started in 1961.

“It is time for the Harvey Family to say goodbye to all of our wonderful customers and friends who have supported us over the decades,” Tom wrote on Facebook. “Over 70 million gallons of gas, hundreds of first jobs, three generations of customers and employees and in excess of \$1 million put back into the community, thanks to your generous support of our business.”

Knows the Business

Sheikh started with a Texaco station in Fairfax City in 2003 and now adding Hollin Hall Auto, manages five. He does it because he likes running his own business and engaging with the public. “It's energizing,” he said recently.

For his wife, Aeshah, “It's like coming home,” she added. She grew up in Mount Vernon and graduated from West Potomac High School. She fondly recalls holding a Sandburg Middle School fund-raising, car wash at the station.

“We have big shoes to fill,” Raheel commented. “You can't do much better than Tom Harvey.” Few Hollin Hall customers would dispute that. On Memorial Day, as three flags fluttered at half-staff, Tim Koch, a Wessington resident filling up his lawn mower gas can, commented, “I love this place. The service is exceptional. They help you out. And you can dispose of old gas here.”

Brendan Melley from Wayneswood, loves the air pump. “The air is the best part,” he raved. Customers can fill tires in the middle of the night without a fee, he said, denouncing other stations that limit customers to one minute with timed coin machines.

Harvey History

Leon and Ruth Ann Harvey bought the business in 1961. Living in the Plymouth Haven community, they had seven sons between 1947 and 1965: Cleveland (Butch), who died in 1970 in Vietnam; Leon Jr., who died in 2001; Tom; Michael; Steve; Bob and Jimmy. The boys attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Alexandria through eighth grade and then Fort Hunt High School. Every son worked at the station at one time.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Salman Raza raising the Virginia flag on Memorial Day.



The American flag was flown at half staff on Memorial Day.



Raheel and Aeshah Sheikh, are the new co-owners, along with Usman Nasin.



Raheel and Aeshah Sheikh talk to Brendan Melley and his son, continuing the Harveys' tradition of friendly service.



Tom Harvey has moved on from 60 years at Hollin Hall Auto to retirement.

A photo of his mother, Ruth Ann Harvey, a local legend, is displayed in the station reception area.



Leon had a rule. No boy could pump gas until age 13. When Tom turned 13 and start-



The station's sign is a familiar landmark to locals.

Hollin Hall Automotive

Service Station is at:
7926 Fort Hunt Road,
Alexandria 22308;
202-930-8826;
<https://hollinhallauto.com/>



The station is always cheery with flowers in season, like these pansies next to tires for sale.

ed pumping, “I thought I'd died and gone to heaven,” he chuckled.

In 1966, Leon died after several heart attacks. Somehow, Ruth had done some of the station's bookkeeping at home between seven sons' diapers, meals and baths, but she had no driver's license. She was the first woman allowed to take over a Gulf franchise, Tom said. Many locals fondly remember Ruth behind the cash register where she cheerfully worked until age 90. She died at age 93 in 2016. “She sent all seven sons to college,” Tom recalled. “Her entire life was dedicated to her boys.”

Through the Years

Tom started helping Ruth manage the business in 1970. He laughs remembering the days without credit cards or a cash reg-

ister. He had a chrome coin changer on his belt, a wad of bills in his pocket and doled out green and Top Value, coupon-like trading stamps. The family has endured gas lines and gas shortages. Until 2009, the station had three employees who pumped gas and washed windshields. (They still do it for elderly and disabled customers.) As oil companies regrouped over the years, the station had to rebrand several times, including one phase as an independent, and as a franchisee of Gulf, Chevron, Shell, Chevron again and then back to Shell.

Growing up in the area, “Everyone knew everyone,” Tom recalled. “The girls came to check out guys working there. The guys came to check out the girls.” During their full-service days, they had a rubber hose across the

SEE NEW OWNERS, PAGE 13

President Nominates Local Carlos Del Toro for Secretary of the Navy

President Joe Biden has nominated Carlos Del Toro, Mount Vernon resident, retired Commander in the U.S. Navy and business leader for Secretary of the Navy. Del Toro has nearly 40 years' experience in national security and naval operations, budgeting, and acquisition.

According to the White House, over the course of a 22-year career in the U.S.

Navy, Del Toro held a series of critical appointments – including Senior Executive As-



Carlos Del Toro

sistant to the Director for Program Analysis and Evaluation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; First Commanding Officer of the guided missile destroyer USS Bulkeley; and Special Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget – before founding SBG Technology Solutions, Inc. He has served as CEO and President of SBG Technology Solutions for the last 17 years. As CEO and President of SBG Technology Solutions, with offices

on King Street in Alexandria, Del Toro has supported defense programs across a host of immediate and long-term Navy issue areas, including shipbuilding, AI, cybersecurity, acquisition programs, space systems, health, and training. Having earned a Masters in National Security Studies from the Naval War College and a Masters in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University, Del Toro has also supported military programs addressing policy and strategic studies.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Carlos Del Toro immigrated to the U.S. with his family as refugees in 1962. Raised in the Hell's Kitchen

neighborhood of New York City, he attended public schools and received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. He was the first Hispanic President of the White House Fellows Foundation and Alumni association and serves on the Board of Directors of the Stimson Center.

He was recently appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association's Special Commission on Culture, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Del Toro is married to Betty Del Toro; they have four children and a granddaughter.

Ona Judge Historic Marker To Be Unveiled at Mount Vernon

A new historical marker recognizing Ona Judge, the African-American woman who fled enslavement by the Washington household and escaped to freedom, will be unveiled at a ceremony at Mount Vernon on Juneteenth — Saturday, June 19 — at 10 a.m., hosted by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck.

The event will feature guest speakers including Virginia Secretary of Education Atif Qarni and Dr. Erica Armstrong Dunbar, author of "Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge."

Judge's story was nominated for recogni-

tion with a historical marker by the students in Maura Keaney's fifth grade class at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. The class wrote nomination letters as part of Gov. Ralph Northam's Black History Month Historical Marker Contest. They will attend the ceremony along with Keaney.

According to the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, Ona Judge, often called Oney by the Washingtons, was born at Mount Vernon in around 1774. She was the daughter of Betty, an enslaved seamstress living on Mansion House Farm, and Andrew Judge, a white

English tailor whom Washington had hired. She fled the Washington home in Philadelphia in 1796 as they prepared to return to Virginia, eventually making her way to New Hampshire. She went on to marry and start a family, evading several attempts to recapture her over the years.

Attendees of the unveiling are also welcome to attend a noon presentation of "Freedom Skies" by Brenda Parker, Mount Vernon Character Interpreter & African American Interpretation & Special Projects Coordinator. "Freedom Skies" is a narrative reflecting the experiences of four of those freed after George

Washington's death. Told through story and song, it uses the gospel hymn "I'll Fly Away" to bind together the stories of Frank and Lucy Lee, Caroline Branham, and Sambo Anderson on Manumission Day — January 1, 1801 — when Martha Washington freed her late husband's slaves.

"Freedom Skies" and the Lives Bound Together: Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon exhibition are both free with general admission to Mount Vernon.

The marker unveiling ceremony will be streamed live on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/SupervisorDanStorck>

Colonial Era House on Telegraph Road Is Going Up for Sale

It dates back to 1766, and has seen a slice of American history.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The River Farm is not the only historic place in the Mount Vernon area with ties to George Washington. A few miles east lies the Belvale House in Fairfax County, and its current owners are ready to sell.

After years of living amongst the historic lore of the Belvale House on Telegraph Road, the residents are downsizing and putting this historic house on the market, saying goodbye to the wooden, two-story farmhouse that was built in the 1763-1767 timeframe.

According to documents in the Virginia Room at the Fairfax County Library, the property dates to a 1698 land grant to Richard Carpenter, and then George Johnston, who built the house before he died in 1766. Johnston was a friend of Patrick Henry, and affiliated with the Stamp Act of colonial fame, and both worked with George Washington. "George Johnston succeeded George Washington's brother Lawrence as Trustee of Alexandria in 1752," it said in an old 1965 newsletter story from Franconia. Several of George Johnston's sons fought in the Revolutionary War.

In a property description on the "Historic American Buildings Survey



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The Belvale House dates back to the 1700s, and it will be for sale soon.

Inventory," dated January 1971, there was a one-story wing to the house that was destroyed in a fire, it said, and a black marble mantel in the drawing room, and an Italian pink mantel in the library. "According to the present owners, the old library is now the kitchen and dining room," it said.

In addition to a connection with colonial history, the house saw many activities that were common in those times, including a possible duel, bodies buried in the yard, and spirits lurking. According to one story about

the house, there was a duel where one of the guests was killed and buried under a cedar tree. "On the second night of each month the ghost appeared in the grove south of the house. Under a tall cedar tree lies his body, that of a young man killed in a duel," the story said.

The other version of the ghost origins said it was a guest at Mount Vernon, who was at a ball in the Belvale house, and was killed somehow. Whatever the origin of the spirits in the house, "everyone in the neighborhood

knew of the ghost," said the writer of this Franconia newsletter, dated September 1964.

The house at Belvale, stayed in the Johnston family until 1925 when it was sold to Dr. A. B. Weldeford, and when their family lived in the house, that's when the first stories of the ghost were recited.

On Halloween around that time, the Weldeford's had a costume party, and Dr. Weldeford dressed up like a ghost, as did one other party-goer, and they entertained the guests until looking over to the cedar tree in the side yard. "Just as the guests discovered these two, a misty apparition was seen in the woods near the cedar tree, and all were convinced the real ghost had come to the party," the story read.

In 1947, the present owners moved in on the second day of the month and "at midnight they climbed the attic stairs to catch a glimpse of the ghost from the south window, whereupon they clicked the light switch and all the lights in the house blew out," the story said. This was the Richards family, and there were bumps in the night, an invisible rocking chair creaking, and young Diane, a seven-year-old that saw "none other than

SEE COLONIAL ERA HOUSE, PAGE 14

NEWS

Environmental Expo: Get Outdoors, June 26

The 3rd Annual Mount Vernon District Environment Expo: Get Outdoors! Learn and Do! is on Saturday, June 26, 2021, from 8 a.m. – noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. We are excited to announce that this year's event will be held in partnership with the National Park Service. This event will educate and inform local residents on environmental challenges that we face on a daily basis, including ones that are unique to the Mount Vernon area. Attendees will leave the Expo with simple actions you can take to make an impact on climate change and our environment.

This FREE Family Friendly Event will include: Exhibitors, Workshops, Live Music, Live Reptile and Owl Programs, Electric Vehicles, Nature Walks, Junior Ranger Program, Touch-a-Truck Recycling, History Tours, Purple Glass Monster (bring your glass recycling for drop off!), Food Trucks and more! Please share this information with your family, friends and neighbors!

This event will adhere to COVID-19 restrictions and protocols in place on June 26. In order to meet any outdoor event size limits, pre-registration is recommended. If COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, walk-ups without registration will be permitted. Please visit the Expo registration site to reserve your FREE ticket today <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/environment-expo-get-outdoors-learn-and-do-tickets-151993062341>.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

ONGOING

Local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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Collective Bargaining: A Step to 'One Fairfax'

BY LISA SALES

At age 20, I took on a job as a grocery-bagger. I balanced my work alongside my full-time college studies, caring for my father who was dying of cancer, while living with an abusive boyfriend, sadly my first serious relationship. Amidst all of the chaos and trauma associated with this period of my life, my job provided an outlet, a sense of stability, and gave me agency. This was because I had the protection of a union and the right to collectively bargain alongside my colleagues.

Although my career has since spanned a number of jobs across public and private sectors, it was this role at the grocery store that taught me early on the importance of listening to workers – and especially the voices of women. Women are the most marginalized of the marginalized. While we're over half the population, over a third of American women are heads of



Lisa Sales

households with children, living in poverty. As a survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault, and lifelong fighter for women's rights, I know that there is a link between the lack of equality for women in the workplace and the violence perpetrated against us. Safe working conditions, fair pay, and strong benefits have cascading effects that extend far beyond the workplace.

I'm writing as an equality advocate and active Fairfax County community member in full support of collective bargaining for Fairfax County employees. I am urging the Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance that empowers our essential workforce. This ordinance must give workers a real say in their wages, benefits, and working conditions. It should not create barriers for organizing. It should not create a two-class system by excluding so-called "non-merit" workers, like School Aged Child Care (SACC) providers who are majority women and make up an

essential workforce caring for the future of Fairfax. Passing a meaningful and inclusive collective bargaining ordinance is a necessity if we want a Fairfax that supports women, people of color, people with disabilities, other marginalized communities, and all working families.

THE FIGHT FOR EQUITY is a global battle, but I'm a firm believer that all politics is local. I'm choosing to be an ally in this push for collective bargaining for county employees because I want to change future outcomes for women and the next generation here in Fairfax. We need to create conditions for women to be successful and to be lifted from poverty. Many county workers are mothers and care-providers, doing it all, and we need to make sure they have what they need to thrive.

As an Economic Policy Institute study noted, a "promising way to address both gender-specific disparities and the broken link between all typical workers' pay and economy-wide productivity growth is through the resuscita-

tion of collective bargaining." Providing better working conditions is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars that strengthens the social fabric of Fairfax. We can avoid the huge costs associated with high rates of attrition, retraining, and wellness issues. If we invest on the front end, we will not only get more productivity on the back end, our families and our communities will prosper.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING is inextricably tied to the fight for an equitable and compassionate "One Fairfax." To not provide meaningful and inclusive collective bargaining to our county workforce would be the antithesis of a "One Fairfax." Elected leaders should be strong champions for workers and legislate accordingly. Community members should rally behind the very workers that take care of us. We need to make the Commonwealth's counties number one for workers and not just businesses. We can start here.

Lisa Sales, Mount Vernon, equality advocate and Fairfax County community member.

Virginia Primary Election Results

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

Last Tuesday the Virginia Democratic party held its primary election, whose winners are now the Democratic nominees for the statewide offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. Former Governor of Virginia Terry McAuliffe won the nomination in a crowded race, defeating strong candidates like Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy and Sen. Jennifer McClellan. McAuliffe won with 62% of the vote, with Carroll Foy and McClellan taking 20% and 12% respectively. McAuliffe won Fairfax County with 64.3%. His highest percentage in the 44th district was in Hollin Hall precinct at 72%.

Overall turnout across the Commonwealth for the primary was 8 percent of registered voters, down from the all-time record 9.9 percent recorded four years ago in 2017 but still among the highest that it has been since the early 1990s. Approximately 480,000 votes were cast in the primary, showing strong enthusiasm for this year's elections. Of those votes cast, over 120,000 votes were cast early, before election day. In Fairfax County, 81,114 voters cast their ballots. In the 44th district, we had

solid voter turnout. In Stratford and Hollin Hall precincts, 348 and 342 voters respectively braved the heat and downpours to cast their ballot. In my home precinct of Kirkside where I cast my ballot, I joined 298 fellow voters.

McAuliffe is no stranger to the governorship—as Governor from 2014 to 2018, he was instrumental in the expansion of Medicare for over 500,000 Virginians who are now able to visit their doctor, obtain life-saving prescriptions, and receive needed treatment for cancer, high blood pressure, diabetes and much more. He pushed for universal pre-kindergarten and brought investment to the Commonwealth through Amazon's HQ2. While Governor he helped us to eliminate five SOLs and invest a record \$1 billion in Virginia's K-12 public schools. He garnered the endorsement of current Governor Ralph Northam during the primary and will ensure the continuation of the present Virginia Democratic agenda. I am excited about McAuliffe as a candidate and the potential of the Commonwealth under his leadership. If he wins the election,



Krizek

he will be the second Governor of Virginia to serve a second term since the Constitution was amended in 1830 to change the thrice renewable one-year term length to a non-renewable three-year term (the 1851 Constitution of Virginia lengthened the term to our present-day four years). The other was Governor Mills Godwin who was our 60th and 62nd Governor, first

as a Democrat in 1966 and then as a Republican in 1974. McAuliffe will be bidding to become not just our 72nd but our 74th Governor of the Commonwealth too.

The former Governor will be running against Republican nominee Glenn Youngkin, a wealthy business executive, also from Northern Virginia, making his first foray into politics. With the donor power of Youngkin and McAuliffe, this governor's race is shaping up to be a very expensive one. Be

SEE VIRGINIA, PAGE 7

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

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Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://www.facebook.com/TheismannMedia)

Marcia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Contributing Writer
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://www.facebook.com/MaryKimm)

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



News

Virginia Primary Election Results

FROM PAGE 6

prepared for a barrage of television commercials, mail, and even advertisements on social media. Campaigns for Governor usually begin in earnest around Labor Day, but this one is already heating up.

Also on Tuesday, Hala Ayala won the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor with 38% of the vote. Delegate Sam Rasoul took 24%, and all other candidates received 11% or less. Delegate Ayala won Fairfax County with 33.5%; and Ayala, who is Afro Latina, Lebanese, and Irish, would be the first woman to be Lieutenant Governor. Her best precinct result was the 59% she garnered in Kirkside. After graduating from Woodbridge High School, Ayala started her career as a cybersecurity specialist and later as Delegate representing Virginia's 51st District. As Delegate, she was instrumental in increasing funding for special education programs and working to cap prices of insulin and inhalers for Virginians, among other important initiatives. She will be running against Republican nominee Winsome Sears, who is also a woman of color and a former one-term Delegate from the 90th District (Norfolk and Virginia Beach). So, despite who wins the election in November, a glass ceiling will be broken.

Mark Herring rounds out the Democratic slate as the nominee for attorney general. Herring beat rising-star Delegate Jay Jones, with 57% to 43% of the vote respectively and he dominated up here in Fairfax County with 70% of the election day vote. Attorney General Herring, the incumbent, has served the Commonwealth well since 2014, with his first term as Attorney General alongside Governor McAuliffe, and second

with Governor Northam. One of his more prominent actions during his time in office was his strong stance against the Virginia Marriage Amendment, which denies same-sex marriage. He refused to defend the discriminatory amendment in federal court, and it was later ruled unconstitutional. This November, Herring will be running against Republican nominee, Delegate Jason Miyares, whose mother fled Cuba in 1965. He is a former criminal prosecutor from Virginia Beach who joined the General Assembly when I did in 2016.

All eyes are on Virginia as we are one of the few states holding statewide elections this November. It will be seen as a temperature check for the nation as a whole, but it is, more importantly, an opportunity for us to shape the future of our Commonwealth.

As I drove to the many polling locations in the 44th district last Tuesday I was struck by the steady number of voters and the many outdoor Democratic party poll watchers helping to sign up new volunteers and answer any questions.

It was great to chat with so many neighbors, activists, and volunteers. I would like to personally thank all of the volunteers and the inside poll workers, and voters who participated in the primary elections, or convention process, in the case of the Republican party's selection process. Voting is an incredibly important responsibility in a democracy like ours and it is good to see so many fellow Virginians participating. Between now and November I look forward to working with the slate of Democratic candidates on both policy issues and rallying civic engagement.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

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.

ADULT ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) is hosting beginning-level adult English language classes from February to May. Due to the continued situation of COVID-19, classes for the spring semester will be held on virtual platforms only, which require students to have a computer, tablet, or smartphone and internet access to participate. Registration runs through February 5, with options to register via text message, phone calls, or in-person at certain locations and times.

Classes offered this spring include:
* Beginning English Class: provides

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

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Crowd present at the ceremony.



Leaders in the 13 jurisdictions of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission gather at the Remembrance Ceremony held June 9 for those lost to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Holding Dear: 2,364 Local Souls Lost to the Pandemic

Northern Virginia Regional Commission holds a Remembrance Ceremony.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

On March 21, 2020, the Fairfax County Health Department reported its first death of a resident due to COVID-19. Four hundred and forty-six days later, on June 9, 2021, at the Fairfax County Government Center, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission held a solemn Remembrance Ceremony for those lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. Community leaders gathered to remember the 2,364 souls thus far and reflect on the pandemic's terrible toll on the region. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission is a consortium of 13 local governments representing more than 2.5 million residents.

"We come together to grieve... for all the lives that have been cut short. We mourn our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, grandparents, children, friends, and neighbors," said P. David Tarter, Chairman, Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

Jeffrey McKay, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors said, "Today... we're gathered specifically to honor those who we have sadly lost. Behind me, you will see 236 flags. Each flag represents ten people we lost to COVID-19 across our Northern Virginia region, totaling 2,364 people. This number, of course, isn't complete."

REGIONAL COOPERATION in fighting the pandemic had been critical, McKay said. He told those gathered they may have noticed when they came into the County Government Center that county flags remained at half-staff to honor those in the community who died and thank the first responders and front-line workers for the sacrifices they made.

"They have been relentless heroes throughout this pandemic. ... We hope to honor all of those who have died and who gave so much during this crisis through a permanent memorial that's in its very early stages of planning," McKay said. "We will never forget the real human toll of this pandemic, the people, the personalities that these flags behind me represent, and we will always honor those who we have sadly lost."

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Fairfax Health District said that as the community



Jeffrey McKay, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.



The haunting mournful sound of pipes is heard at the June 9 Northern Virginia Regional Commission Remembrance Ceremony held at the Fairfax County Government Center for the 2364 residents in the region who died of COVID-19 complications thus far.

begins to heal and recover from the "unprecedented season of loss," people must do everything in their power to protect the most vulnerable who remain at risk for severe disease and death. "The vaccine is the best tool available for ending the pandemic. ... We haven't reached the level of immunity required to stop the COVID virus from circulating in our community."

While many have been vaccinated, many others have not yet had access to the vaccine or decided to get vaccinated. "Children under 12 are not yet eligible. So, our work is far from over... We need everyone's participation, government, schools, business-



P. David Tatter, Chairman Northern Virginia Regional Commission.



Kevin Davis, Chief, Fairfax County Police.

es, nonprofits, faith leaders, and parents, to achieve the highest level of immunity within our community."

Fairfax County Chief of Police Kevin Davis spoke of a man he never met, Lawrence "Larry" Magni of Reston, who died on Aug. 25, 2020, from complications related to COVID-19. Magni served in the challenging role as the Police Department's Resource Management Bureau Director of Facilities and Security.

"All the leaders of the police department that I spoke to asked me to tell you a little bit about Larry. And Larry's name and Larry's story are not unlike the ten names that each



Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Fairfax Health District.

"The vaccine is the best tool available for ending the pandemic. ..."

— Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Fairfax Health District

American flag behind me represents. His story is not uncommon, but it is worth telling." Magni was "beloved" by the Fairfax County Police Department family just as each of the 2,345 other individuals who died from COVID-19 complications was also beloved by those who knew them best.

Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler compared his three weekly morning calls with "Dr. G," [Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Fairfax Health District] as a time of "global war."

"We've all lost loved ones and watched as our lives and lives of many other friends and family were turned upside down. Earlier this year, President Biden said to heal us, we must remember. Remember those we lost and those who are left behind. So today, we recognize the profound loss we've all suffered, and we remember. We remember those who are no longer with us," said Butler.

THE TRADITION of firefighters ringing a bell is symbolic and used to represent the end of an emergency and return to quarters. When a firefighter dies in the line of duty, the mournful toll of the bell announces the passing and shows great honor.

"Today, we adapt that symbolic ceremonial act in a slightly different way," said Butler.

One by one, Tarter called out the 13 jurisdictions, the bell ringing three times for each: "Arlington County, Fairfax County, Prince William County, Loudoun County, City of Alexandria, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, Town of Dumfries, Town of Herndon, Town of Leesburg, Town of Vienna." Following, he said, "You'll now hear Amazing Grace from our bagpiper. This concludes our ceremony. Thank you, and let us always hold dear the many we have lost."

A video of the ceremony can be viewed on Chairman McKay's official Facebook page.

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Congratulates the Class of 2021!



Back Row L-R: Kai Sage, Seneca Baytosh, Marcus Craig, Camilo Gomez, Jack Cordell, Finn Moore, Jack Snowden, Colin Carpenter, Ben Moore, Jake Clark

Second Row L-R: Atticus Ackley, Nicholas Danshaw, Ty Bransford, Avery Evans, Gigi Lisaius, Lauren Feeley, ChloeSymone Robinson, Harry Tanger, Alex Eissenstat

Front Row L-R: Andrew Torborg, DJ Heiber, Micah Gura, Josie Jones, Chloe Deweese, Sophia Stine, Sophie Anderson, Carter Lytle, Charlie Cassidy

Members of the Class of 2021 have been offered admission to and/or will be attending the following high schools:

Alexandria City High School, Bishop Ireton High School, Bishop O'Connell High School, Bullis School, Christchurch School, DeMatha Catholic High School, Elizabeth Seton High School, Episcopal High School, The Field School, Flint Hill School, Gonzaga College High School, Maret School, Mercersburg Academy, Neenah High School (WI), St. Albans School, Randolph Macon Academy, St. Andrew's School (DE), St. John's College High School, St. Margaret's School, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Washington Waldorf School, West Potomac High School

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Fordham University ♦ Franklin & Marshall College ♦ Furman University ♦ George Mason University ♦ Georgetown University ♦ Gettysburg College
Harvard University ♦ Howard University ♦ James Madison University ♦ Johns Hopkins University (2) ♦ Kenyon College ♦ Lafayette College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology ♦ Morehouse College ♦ New York University ♦ North Carolina Central University ♦ Northeastern University (3)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute ♦ Rhodes College (4) ♦ Seton Hall University ♦ Sewanee: University of the South
St. John's College (Annapolis) ♦ Stanford University (2) ♦ Syracuse University (3) ♦ Texas Christian University (2) ♦ Towson University
Trinity College (CT) ♦ Tulane University (5) ♦ Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (Madrid) ♦ University of Alabama (4)
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University of Richmond ♦ University of Rochester ♦ University of Southern California ♦ University of St. Andrew's (UK) (3)
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Wake Forest University (3) ♦ Washington & Lee University (2) ♦ Wesleyan University (2) ♦ Worcester Polytechnic Institute

This Summer Will Be a Balancing Act

Parents face a dilemma give much needed mental break vs. boosting skills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

As camps, swimming pools and simply spending time with friends were cancelled last summer and then followed by a tumultuous school year filled with uncertainty, parents are left to grapple with how to walk the fine line between catching up academically and tending to the overall well-being of their children. Students from preschool to high school might benefit from less focus on summer brain drain and more on brain breaks.

"[Students] are absolutely experiencing exhaustion and burnout from this school year during the pandemic," said Dianne Galasso, LMSW, a mental health therapist with an on-line practice. "They have been pushed to their limits. In order to give your child an emotional and mental break, parents could try to lower expectations and really listen to what they are needing."

Creating that balance requires creativity, said Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives at Montgomery College, who suggests enrolling in activities that are designed to offer fun experiences while also adding a subtle element of academics such as summer reading or other programs. "There are activities that families do within the home and outside of it that can be turned into fun, intentional learning experiences at no cost," said Pruneda-Hernandez. "Allowing a child to help with cooking ... [and] grocery shopping while having conversations about what they are doing not only promotes learning but can strengthen the relationship."

"For older children, an activity like cooking with a simple recipe is a great way to learn fractions. Learning a new musical instrument cultivates

creativity and improves memory," said Lisa Turissini, Ed.D., Director of Marymount University's School of Education.

"High school students can always start researching colleges and creatively draft those college essays.

"Over the summer, children need time to reconnect with friends and to practice their social skills. Summer programs and camps provide an opportunity for kids to socialize, visit new places, explore and engage in activities that connect to academics. But parents can create these same experiences with their children over the summer by visiting parks, the zoo or other places of interest."

While underscoring the need to maintain and develop writing skills, parents can do so in a way that is light-hearted and fun, said Brandon C.S. Wallace, Associate Professor, Montgomery College School of Education.

"Children may want to explore writing short stories or scripts for their favorite television show or YouTube influencer, ensuring that whatever is written richly describes main characters, settings as well as uses vocabulary from the character's typical speech patterns," Wallace said. Additionally, many museums are opening or, at least, providing virtual tours; that may be an opportunity to either physically or virtually visit museums near and far."

While enjoying unstructured free time children, Wallace warns parents to be mindful of excessive screen time. Developing and maintaining a schedule is one way to create a healthy balance between activities.

"Have your child create a comic strip with paper and coloring supplies," he said. "Think about helping your child write a letter and send it through snail mail to relatives that they may have not been able to see because of the pandemic."

Not all students have academic deficiencies this summer. "Parents know their children best, but I would advise to not overly focus on learning lost," said Turissini. "Some students actually excelled academically during the pandemic. Many will quickly pick up what they've missed once things resume in the fall."



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANNE GALASSO.

Therapist Dianne Galasso, pictured here with her grandchildren, says that many children are burnt out after the pandemic school year and supporting their emotional and mental wellbeing should be the priority this summer.

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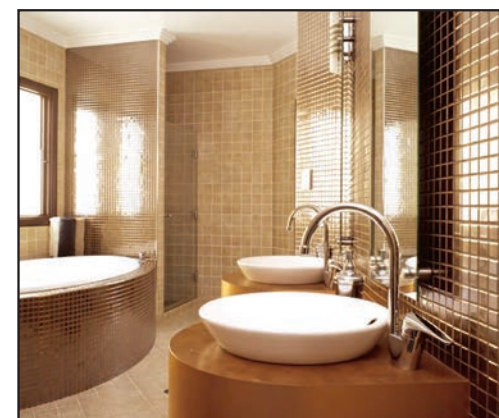
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Study Highlights Pandemic's Food Insecurity

FROM PAGE 1

Median incomes were below the county average of \$124,831 in 2019. For example, in census tract 4216 median income averages \$41,859.

Over half (51.6 percent) of the population in census tract 4214 lives below 200 percent of the poverty level. (Poverty level for a family of three is \$21,960 for 2021)

Of the county's total population, 51.6 percent is White; 28.6 percent were infected by covid-19. Hispanics are 16.2 percent of the population, but represent 31.8 percent of covid-19 cases.

Measuring Vulnerability

With the pandemic's onset, requests for county services increased by 65 percent, most of which were for housing and food. Likewise, requests to nonprofit organizations, like food pantries, rose between 30 percent to as high as 400 percent. United Community's new clients, for example, surged by 300 percent.

Real Life Stories

Losing jobs and working fewer hours are common themes in the report. Many lower-wage job hold-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCADIA

Arcadia is one of many organizations that coordinated the distribution of food boxes in the Route 1 Corridor during the pandemic. Here, Terri Siggins is distributing boxes of fresh produce at the Gum Springs Community Center.

ers could not shift to online work. The nature of many jobs put people at higher risk for exposure to the disease. Quarantining resulted in lost income. Parents had to quit jobs to care for children normally in school. People comparison shopped for food and free food distributions became major food suppliers. Family food costs increased

because children at home ate three meals a day.

Kevin lost his construction job, took an entry-level job earning less and now receives SNAP benefits and accesses food banks. The family walks or uses public transportation to get food.

Camilla's husband left her and her school-age child and provides

no support. She cannot find work, has no income and relies on food pantries.

Manuel, a taxi driver in the Hybla Valley community, lost riders and thus income. His family relies heavily on food banks.

Pre-pandemic, Jose worked six 10-hour days weekly in construction, but now works only three days a week and goes outside Virginia to find work. His wife was exposed to COVID-19, quarantined and lost her nursing assistant job.

Teresa rents a townhouse with her husband, two children, her mother and three adult brothers. The whole family tested positive for COVID-19. All the adults lost their jobs in food retail or construction.

Fixing Problems

Mulder commended local responses. "The safety net in Fairfax County was certainly stretched by the pandemic, but the County agencies and staff, nonprofits, businesses and community volunteers stepped up in a major way to keep these crucial services operating."

Emergency food assistance, however, is "a band-aid approach that provides only temporary relief," the

report observes.

Arcadia officials see the study as a call to action to address the "root causes of disparity" and build more food security "by identifying the systems that perpetuate food insecurity and working to dismantle and recreate them."

Responding to the findings, Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck said, "I greatly appreciate the report's broad view and the personalized pictures of Route 1 life and challenges for our neediest residents during the past year. Their experiences are not new, but COVID-19 certainly made it much harder for our corridor's individuals and families. I especially support that our focus must be on a wellness model versus a deficiency or scarcity one. I am committed to working with and supporting Arcadia and other corridor nonprofits to activate the report's strategies moving forward to promote food security."

Among other steps, the report calls for a multi-pronged "food equity plan" that addresses food prices, housing, transportation, education, health care and other factors.

The Northern Virginia Health Foundation funded the project.

Be the One Who Makes the Difference

Sometimes it's hard to get away from the clichés like "one person can make a world of difference" or "it takes a village," but at United Community we see the difference one person can make every day.

OPINION

We see it in the smiling faces of children as they enter United Community's Early Learning Center (ELC). We see it as a

weight is lifted for a mother getting back to work after COVID, because she knows her children will be well-cared for and safe. We see it as our community comes together to return to normal – only better.

We see it in each and every one of our supporters, without whom our work would not be possible. You are the one who inspires us to not only believe that we will meet our goals for ending multi-generational poverty in our Route 1

Community, but also empowers us to do it.

This work is ongoing and so United Community requires ongoing support. As parents return to work and children struggle to catch up, the Early Learning Center is ready to provide the support our community desperately needs. We're counting down to summer!

On July 1, the ELC will open its doors to little ones excited to see their teachers and friends. We will

welcome families back to this community of care and learning. One month of tuition at the ELC costs \$1,500 for one child. That means one young mind engaged, one family back to work, one community on the path to progress.

We're asking you to be the one who makes the difference. Please donate as you are able so we can keep forging ahead with our current programs and continue working toward our long-term goal:

ending multi-generational poverty. To learn more about United Community programs and the road we are on, or to donate, please visit www.dona-teuc.org/betheone.

Thank you for being the one who makes a difference as we countdown to summer.

Alison DeCoursey
CEO, United Community

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

adult English language learners the fundamental skills to understand and communicate in English, helping them to better engage in the community and advance their careers.

❖ Family Learning Programs (FLP): provides English language instruction for parents or caregivers, so that they can better communicate with their children and support their education.

Classes are \$85 with books and assessment included. Registration is required for enrollment. Please understand that no children are allowed at in-person registrations. If possible, please bring your interpreter for the process. Strict social distancing precautions will be enforced. Face masks will be

provided. Registration times and dates are available at LCNV's distance learning page (<https://lcnv.org/distance-learning-session/lcnv-classes/>), or call 703-237-0866.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org

g, or visit www.alnv.org. United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors

seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older.

RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer

Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

News

New Owners

FROM PAGE 3

front pavement to alert employees inside that a gas customer had arrived. Local pranksters rode their bikes back and forth across the hose to ding the bell.

Today, for services like a tire rotation, oil change and repairs, the station has five bays, 12 employees and regularly pays to update mechanics' training. On fixing cars, Tom argues that 90 percent is diagnosis and 10 percent is repairing. The station was named the number one Gulf Oil station in the mid-Atlantic several times for the highest volume of gas and accessories sold. "It was always a fun business," Tom remarked. "I could not have asked for a better place to do this because of our wonderful customers."

A fixture in the Fort Hunt neighborhood, Hollin Hall Auto has supported numerous Little League teams, the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association, (the organization's longest continuous supporter), scouts, PTAs, schools, preschools like Tauxemont and Aldersgate and other local groups and causes like Wounded Warriors. During the Bosnian refugee crisis, they employed two refugees and helped their families find furniture, clothing and other necessities.

New Owners

Raheel and Aeshah Sheikh married in 1997. After working for MCI in information technology and serving clients like Dell and Amazon, Raheel decided to try the gas station business. Starting out, he worked from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. most days. Aeshah took him lunch and relieved him at the cash register while he ate with their three children.

They live in Prince William County where one son attends Hynton High School. Another son and a daughter are at George Mason University. Aeshah's father has managed a Texaco station in Alexandria's Del Ray community since 1980. Raheel is on the Prince William County school system's Career and Technical Education Board and was appointed to Virginia's Workforce Development Board by Governor Ralph Northam.

Their partner, an accountant, Usman Nasin, also owns three gas stations, a restaurant and a truck stop.

On the next phase, Tom reminisced, "It will be strange not to wake up and worry about employees and customers," but he acknowledged that he is "adjusting every day." When he announced the station's sale, he was touched by warm outpouring on social media, concluding, "Maybe we did do it right."

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Navigate This

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



(All these times are approximate- or they're not. It depends. It's sort of an all hands on deck kind of thing. Everybody, everywhere has to be flexible. All of the following appointments/procedures have to be completed this day - or else. If not, it could adversely affect the timing and suitability of my treatment going forward. Not to exaggerate too much but, my life could be at risk if all of the following are not adhered to:)

Lab work at 9am-ish required for my every-four week-bone-strengthening shot. Nuclear medicine at 9:30 for the isotope injection for my 12:45 bone scan. After leaving Nuclear Medicine, I head to Radiology where I have a 10:30 am CT scan. When my scan is completed (it only takes a few minutes but generally speaking, they're not on time), I then go to the Infusion Center where I will get my every-four-week bone strengthening shot. (Again the shot itself and vitals only takes a few minutes, but again, the process can take up to 30 minutes depending on the activities of the oncology nurses and the pharmacy's availability to prepare the medicine and the printing of my usual and customary paperwork.) Next - and finally, I go back to Nuclear Medicine for my actual bone scan at 12:45. This scan will read the nuclear isotopes injected into my body at 9:30. The scan takes about 40 minutes as it crosses my body head to toe to assess the condition of my bones. (The condition of my bones is not great. Unfortunately, it's a side effect of my thyroid cancer medicine as well as the 11 previous years of miscellaneous chemotherapies.) When this last scan is completed, my medical day is done and I will then be free to go. I will likely get home at approximately 3 pm, seven hours after I left home.

This jam-packed day is a first and hopefully will be a last. On occasion, I have had a CT scan and a brain MRI on the same day (BOGO I jokingly refer to it), but never have I had medical madness (five separate appointments) as I will on June 24th, the consequences to my health notwithstanding. Hopefully, by the end of the week - before the weekend of worrying, I will have heard back from my oncologist and then we'll deal with the consequences of all these previous actions. The waiting is not a huge deal. I have been there and done that for 12 and half years going back to late February, 2009 when I was initially diagnosed.

However this is not "concierge care." Any one of these five appointments could be missed for any number of to-be-expected complications when medical care is scheduled. Emergencies, double-booked appointments, staff shortages and longer than anticipated appointments could all affect my day of semi-judgment. And if any one of these appointments/procedures doesn't occur as scheduled, my care/my life expectancy could be jeopardized. From experience I can tell you, when this cancer patient has experienced delays and rescheduled appointments due to lab work (low white blood count, high creatinine levels, high or low calcium, above-normal potassium and on occasion low magnesium), treatment is stopped until levels return to a more normal number. In the interim, after your treatment has been stopped, your life begins to pass by you as you (at least I did) think that a delay in treatment puts your survival at risk. I mean, if your treatment is stopped at all, how does that stop the cancer from damaging you worse than it already has? Whether a week or two delay really matters, no one can say for sure. However, for the patient, especially yours truly; despite the reassurances from medical staff, in my head anyway: IT REALLY MATTERED.

After receiving a "terminal" diagnosis in February, 2009, I just didn't feel I had any margin, life expectancy-wise, for error, missed appointments, rescheduled treatment, et cetera. I figured that the information about my health - and as a result, any subsequent change in that treatment, needed to be known in an extremely timely manner. And when it wasn't - or isn't, I feel my pain, if you what I mean? Nevertheless, there are no guarantees in the cancer-treatment world. One has to learn to go with the flow and hope that flow doesn't turn into a flood.

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

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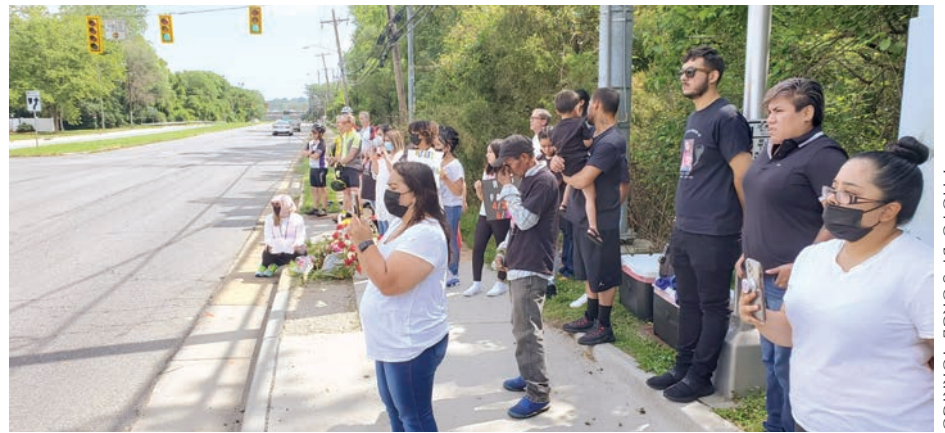


PHOTO BY JORGE TORRICO

On Saturday, June 12, family gathered at the crash site.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities Rise in the Area

FROM PAGE 1

ing our message to increase public safety," Bull said. Although many fatalities have occurred in early June that makes it seem like a large amount, "to date, fatal crashes, and all crashes, are lower compared to 2020 and 2019," Bull said.

Many states are taking part in the "Vision Zero," traffic safety program. "Vision Zero starts with the ethical belief that everyone has the right to move safely in their communities, and that system designers and policy makers share the responsibility to ensure safe systems for travel," the policy information stated. In this area, the Vision Zero program is active in Alexandria, Montgomery County, Md. and Washington, D.C. Fairfax County is not part of Vision Zero, and some members of the bicycling community feel the county should sign on to Vision Zero.

"The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling calls on Fairfax County to join its neighboring jurisdictions in adopting Vision Zero and acknowledging that the injuries and deaths of vulnerable road users are preventable," FABB stated.

Outdated Street Design

In many cases, "it's the design of streets

that needs to be updated to prioritize street safety over motorist speed where pedestrians and bicyclists are likely to be present and accommodate all users with safe, welcoming, and context-appropriate facilities and networks," said Melanie Bowzer at the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals.

Other factors affect the severity of injuries too, including road design that lends itself to people driving faster and the increase of larger vehicles on the road. Both speed and vehicle size increases the likelihood of fatal and serious crashes. Distracted driving is also a relevant factor in pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities, Bowzer noted.

VDOT works closely with Fairfax County to administer projects through the county's prioritization and funding processes, following the comprehensive and multimodal plans for the County.

"Safety is always our top priority and is a vital consideration at each stage of project design," VDOT said. At the project development stage, VDOT will initiate all highway construction projects with the presumption that the projects shall accommodate bicycling and walking, their planning document states.

Colonial Era House on Telegraph Road Is Going Up for Sale

FROM PAGE 4

George Washington sitting on the living room sofa reading a book."

According to this newsletter, and a Fairfax County Historic Landmark Survey document, dated January 1971, the graves did exist on the property. "On the property is a cemetery which may have been a slave burial ground," the survey document stated.

Dolbert Richard owned the house at that time.

It is being listed by the owners' son Sean Vermillion, an agent with PropLocate Realty.

Vermillion is familiar with the stories, and has seen the original wooden walls underneath the siding. "Some of the windows have that wavy look," he said.

Historic houses are hot on the market to some, said Sharon Hinson of HistoricProperties.com. "They have lovely woodwork, beautiful floors, gracious rooms, fireplaces

with mantels, moldings, ceiling medallions, wainscoting, and wide baseboard. Most of these things cannot be found in new houses, even if you are shopping with unlimited funds," she said in an email.

According to the county, just because the house is historic and on the National Register, it still isn't safe from developers. Historic designation does not "prevent an owner from renovating or demolishing buildings," the Virginia Department of Historic Resources said on their website. Vermillion doesn't want to see the house demolished and tried for years, hoping the county would buy the home, but he's been unsuccessful.

As to the ghosts, the historic figures that came through the front door, and the discussion of the Stamp Act in 1765, there aren't any signs to the naked eye. But, "You never know what's behind the plaster," Vermillion said.

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