

# CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station



Stefie Pratt-Green and Levi use an improvement to the fair-weather crossing on the Pohick Stream portion of Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail. (June 2021)

## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2021-2022

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

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## NEWCOMERS GUIDE



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

### New Park Authority Executive Director

New Fairfax County Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole celebrated National Public Lands Day at Laurel Hill Park on Sept. 25. Cole who joined the hour work session with gloves and shovel before speaking at the brief ceremony, has pledged to visit all of Fairfax County's parks within the next year. Cole is shown here sharing a moment with volunteer Blake Cambey.

## 'Close-Knit Relationships Create True Community'

BY DAVID MEYER  
FAIRFAX CITY MAYOR

The City of Fairfax is the Best Kept Secret in Northern Virginia. It has all the best attributes of the globally connected Washington Metropolitan region and is a community where close-knit, personal relationships create a true community among its residents.



With 24,000 people in 6 square miles, Fairfax City has neighborhoods with a broad spectrum of housing types to meet the different needs of singles, couples and families at different stages of life. We're a community that affirms and celebrates its diversity, with more than 30 percent of its residents having been born outside the U.S. This mix of many cultures and traditions, coupled with our relatively small population, allows for rich and supportive relationships in our daily life.

The City is intentional about creating and maintaining access to natural spaces, where residents live close to and can connect with

the outdoors and with each other on many trails and in our numerous parks. These open spaces are complemented by recreation programs for all ages and abilities, including youth sports programs and our Senior Center. Fairfax is actively planning for and will construct a new, state-of-the-art Recreation Center, to open in 2026.

Fairfax City is home to George Mason University, the largest state university in Virginia. With 40,000 students at three campuses in Northern Virginia, GMU is one of only 100, Tier 1 research institutions in the nation. The Fairfax campus is the center of university life, and many of its students and faculty live in the City, enriching our cultural and intellectual life and making Fairfax a fun place to live. The City is also home to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, extending GMU's learning to all generations.

The City of Fairfax is also notable for its

SEE MEYER, PAGE 7

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Construction is well underway on The Moxley (formerly Fairfax Gateway) at Kamp Washington.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Some of the almost-completed, multifamily apartments at The Moxley at Kamp Washington.

## Fairfax City Looks to the Future

**Multifamily homes, stores and businesses are planned.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City is proud of its historic Old Town, while welcoming new residents, businesses and commercial development throughout the City. Here are details about what's on the horizon:

### The Moxley (Formerly Fairfax Gateway)

Construction work is continuing on 8.33 acres of the Kamp Washington triangle between Fairfax Boulevard and Lee Highway. It's being transformed into a modern, community-serving, mixed-use project called The Moxley (formerly Fairfax Gateway). It will contain 403 multifamily apartments, 24 of which will be affordable dwelling units.

Also planned are 21,249 square feet of commercial space, including 4,000 square feet dedicated to the nonprofit CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates). The remaining 17,249 square feet of commercial use is proposed as a restaurant, plus ground-floor retail and office space. There'll be a six-story parking garage, plus on-street parking, a pool and a dog park.

The project also contains a through street with a connection at the Bevan Drive signal at Fairfax Boulevard, as well as a new, un-signalized entrance on Lee Highway. Also planned are trails connecting to adjacent properties, plus open space including a 5,600-square-foot contemplative space next to the Jermantown Cemetery.

The Moxley will maintain this space and the cemetery for 30 years. And the utilities



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City's new Fire Station 33 is slated for its grand opening on Oct. 16.

will be underground. The new neighborhood is estimated to yield 53 students, but developer FF Realty IV LLC has proffered \$200,000 to the City schools in mitigation.

### Fire Station 33

The brand-new Fire Station 33 has arisen on the site of the old station at 10101 Fairfax Blvd. Ground was broken in November 2019 and, while it was under construction, its fire-and-rescue personnel operated out of Station 3 and the fire department's training facility.

Originally constructed for a single-engine company, the old building's design no longer met the needs of a modern fire station. It lacked the space to adequately store equipment, and its ready-reserve apparatus had to be housed off-site. Besides rectifying these things, the new facility will increase the Fire Department's operational readiness and improve safety, health conditions and quality of life for the staff.

The new station is three stories and almost 21,000 square feet, in contrast with the old, 7,800-square-foot building. It has a secure vestibule and three engine bays, instead of two, like its predecessor. There will also be a much larger support area, a spacious control room and 25 parking spaces.

The second floor has three offices and a conference room, plus a training area. The third floor houses the dining and kitchen areas, plus bunks for 14 people. Total project cost was \$9.6 million, and the new facility will have its official, grand opening on Oct. 16.

### Boulevard VI (Paul VI Site)

Now that Paul VI High has moved from its 18.5-acre home in Fairfax City, developer IDI Group Cos. is redeveloping this land



Artist's rendition of the Boulevard VI project, on Paul VI High's former site. It shows some of the housing units, plus an aerial view of a courtyard and pool.

SEE FAIRFAX CITY, PAGE 12

## Braddock District Welcome

**D**ear Neighbor,  
I am honored to serve as your District Supervisor, and to call Braddock home -- alongside my wife, Yvette, and my son, Mateo. My role is to be your voice in local government and your advocate when problems arise. The Braddock District is the heart and soul of Fairfax County, including areas of Burke, Springfield, Annandale, and Fairfax from the Beltway to George Mason University and beyond.

Braddock is home to beautiful parks and trails, friendly neighborhoods, high-quality restaurants, premier schools, and much more. COVID-19 undoubtedly interrupted some of our annual community events this past year, but residents and visitors found relief in Braddock's abundant parks and miles of trails. I highly recommend enjoying one of our beautiful lakes. Lake Accotink Park boasts 493 acres of relaxation and entertainment, from mini golf, to kayaking, hiking, and mountain biking. Park visitors find it hard to believe the tranquility found there is less than a mile from the Beltway.

Between Sideburn Road and Ox Road sits the secluded Woodglen Lake Park, a 50-acre environmental haven. With a paved running trail, it's a perfect spot for walkers, joggers, and those seeking peace and quiet.

Not far from the intersection of Guinea Road and Burke Road, you will find Royal Lake Park, which includes a J-shaped 38-acre lake with hiking trails accessible from the parking lots. Royal Lake Park features several ball fields and a beloved playground enjoyed by local children.

The Audrey Moore RECenter, with its exercise classes, camps, and swimming pool, is a well-known community favorite. Members enjoy access to cardio machines, free weights, and strength training equipment. Many residents play basketball, volleyball, pickleball, and racquetball at the RECenter. You can even visit a dedicated pottery lab where beginners and experienced potters alike enjoy developing their creative ideas in an inclusive environment. With 11 outdoor lighted tennis courts and a skate park, the Audrey Moore RECenter is truly a one-stop shop for active fun.

The Braddock District features three top-rated secondary and high schools -- Lake Braddock, Robinson, and W.T. Woodson. Inside the beltway, students attend the storied Annandale High School, home to the Atoms. All of our schools offer a top rate learning experience by providing a rigorous educational curriculum, athletic opportunities, and music and fine arts.

The Braddock District also hosts Virginia's largest public university, George Mason University (GMU). Having earned its R1 Research Designation in 2016, GMU is nationally recognized as a prime public research institution.

Northern Virginia Community College's (NVCC) Annandale Campus, part of the second-largest community college system in the United States, also calls Braddock District home and provides affordable high-quality education for students.

GMU and NVCC partner to offer students an exciting partnership called ADVANCE.

This program provides personalized support services for NVCC students seeking a degree from GMU. Students who take advantage of this program see major cost savings, receive guidance from success coaches, and experience special internship opportunities while ensuring all their class credits transfer from NVCC to GMU seamlessly.

One of our most popular local events is our annual summer concert series, Braddock Nights. This year, after a hiatus due to the pandemic in 2020, we welcomed the community back to in-person performances. Our featured professional artist lineup included the Soul Crackers, Mars Rodeo, Karl Stoll & the Danger Zone, and more. We also hosted our first ever Arts in the Parks Children's Entertainment Series. Children, parents, grandparents, and guardians enjoyed fun performances by Marsha and the Positrons, The Great Zucchini, and Rocknoceros, to name a few. In total, the community enjoyed 20 live performances this summer!

Looking for a quiet place to study, read, or perhaps surf the internet? The Braddock District is fortunate to have two great libraries, Burke Centre and Kings Park. Both libraries carry diverse book selections and serve as centers of learning for the community. Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) regularly holds events, enrichment opportunities, and educational activities for people of all ages at both branches.



**Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw, with wife Yvette, and son, Mateo.**

If you have not signed up for my weekly email updates and our monthly Braddock Beacon Newsletter, you can do so by emailing us at [Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov). If you would like, follow me on Facebook @SupervisorJamesWalkinshaw, Twitter at @JRWalkinshaw, or Instagram at @SupervisorJamesWalkinshaw. I hope to meet you soon!

Sincerely,  
**Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw**

## Welcome to the Springfield District

BY SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY



**S**pringfield District encompasses everything from the historic town of Clifton, to the bustling shops of Fair Oaks Mall, to miles of trails at beautiful Burke Lake Park. Our district offers a variety of attractions for the whole family throughout the year. From our nationally ranked parks, fine restaurants, and shopping there is something for everyone in Springfield. For this year's edition, we are highlighting ways for the family to continue to enjoy the best of Springfield District as we emerge from the ongoing pandemic.

My top 10 favorite places in the District (it's hard to pick just 10):

Burke Lake Park was named "Best Public Park" by NoVA magazine and is the most visited park in Fairfax County's Park system. The park contains a trail that goes around the lake and is great for walking (with or without your dog), running and cycling. American Hiking Society has named these trails in the top ten in the nation. There are also fishing, boat rentals, camping, disc golf,

mini golf, an 18-hole golf course, a newly renovated driving range, volleyball courts, a miniature carousel, and miniature train. Burke Lake Park is free for Fairfax residents to use. Under current guidelines, campgrounds are currently open, as well as the Ice Cream parlor and the marina for fishing. You may also continue to reserve facilities at the Park, but please note that there may be lower than advertised reservation capacity due to social distancing efforts. During the summertime, you can also visit our renowned concert series. 7315 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

One of the region's largest shopping destinations in Fairfax, Fair Oaks Mall features a collection of 200 shops, services, and dining establishments in a two-story retail center. The mall offers one of the most diverse and compelling retail and dining collections under one roof and is the perfect destination on a sweltering or rainy weekend afternoon. 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax, VA 22033

The Children's Science Center Lab in Fair Oaks Mall is a fantastic museum that allows children (and their parents) to get hands on

experience with STEM concepts (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Education is so important, and this museum, which is designed for kids between 2 and 12 years old, does an excellent job of challenging and shaping young minds. While the facility is currently closed to the public, the Children's Science Center Lab continues to host virtual camps, field trips, and events through their website. For more information, please visit [childsci.org](http://childsci.org).

The newest addition to Fair Oaks Mall, Dave & Buster's is a great time no matter what age you are. With a full arcade and an entire room of potential prizes, plus you can get half-priced games all day, every Wednesday. After playing your favorite arcade games, you can make it a complete afternoon or evening by stopping by the restaurant for dinner or bar for drinks and snacks. Under current guidelines, Dave & Buster's is open and works to maintain the facility clean by requiring masks from guests and providing gloves upon request. Staff works to maintain a safe experience by separating tables, providing disposable menus and some games are currently unavailable due to social distancing. 11958 U Fair Oaks Shopping Center, Fairfax, VA 22033

One of our most visited one-stop shops is

South Run RECenter. Not only does it feature a two-story fitness center with heated indoor pool and poolside spa, but the surrounding park offers soccer and baseball/softball fields, two tennis courts, two outdoor basketball courts, a field house with newly installed athletic turf playing surface, accessible playground, and an off-leash dog area. In addition, the newly opened Go Ape ropes and ziplining course is another great feature of South Run Park. South Run RECenter facilities are currently available through a reservation system on the Fairfax County Park Authority website. To access the fitness center and the pool, please make reservations online. Guests will undergo a temperature check, health screening at entry, and masks/face coverings are required for entry. Go Ape has also reopened in accordance with social distancing guidelines. (7550 Reservation Dr., Springfield, VA 22153)

Peterson's Ice Cream Depot is a family owned and operated business in Historic Clifton, and let me tell you, they serve some of the best gourmet ice cream in Northern Virginia. Peterson's is currently open for take-out orders in Clifton. (7150 Main St, Clifton, VA 20124)

SEE HELPING, PAGE 7

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# NEWCOMERS GUIDE

## Herrity

FROM PAGE 4

Don't miss Fairfax's own little slice of paradise: the award-winning Paradise Springs Winery. The land the winery is built on has remained in the same family since it was granted to them by Lord Fairfax in 1716. Paradise Springs is now open! Guests are asked to abide by social distancing guidelines and wear masks/face coverings when visiting the winery. (13219 Yates Ford Rd, Clifton, VA 20124)

Acres of undisturbed woodland, quiet trails, splashing streams and a tranquil pond are just a few of the reasons to visit Hidden Pond Nature Center. The nature center, which is accessible to everyone, features exhibits and live displays which orient you to the park and the natural world of Fairfax County. Hidden Pond is currently open in accordance with distancing guidelines and continues to host events for children and families to study and foster interest in nature enthusiasts of all ages. (8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, VA 22152)

Looking to catch up on some reading? Pohick Library is open for booklovers, bookworms, and casu-

al readers alike. Open most days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Pohick offers one of the largest collections in the Library system at 140,000 volumes. (6450 Sydenstricker Rd Burke VA 22015-4274)

Hemlock Overlook Regional Park in Clifton offers a convenient day hike location to explore nature without having to drive too far! While facilities at the Park are currently closed, the hiking trails are open. Enjoy a scenic day hike through the Bull Run-Occoquan Trail which runs through Hemlock to the Fountainhead Regional Park. 13220 Yates Ford Road Clifton, VA 20124

If there is ever anything my office can do for you, do not hesitate to ask. I have always agreed with Thomas Jefferson's notion that government closest to the people is best, and you cannot get much closer to the people than being a Supervisor. Our jobs are multi-faceted; I would go as far to say that somewhere around 80% of an individual's contact with government at any level is at our level. Whether it's land use, transportation, education, public safety, or tax related, my staff and I are always here to answer your questions.



# MOUNT VERNON

## DISTRICT

### Meet Your MVD TEAM!

Our office is here for you! Did you know you can contact us with any County concerns or issues, and we can connect you with the answers? Here are just a few ways we can help:

- Connecting you with County services.
- Sharing information about issues in our community.
- Communicating meetings and events happening near you.
- Answering questions about voting, property, roads, taxes, public safety, health & human services, solid waste, recycling and more!
- Bilingual staff in Spanish and Greek.



**There are many ways to  
CONNECT WITH TEAM MVD!**

**Stop by:** Mount Vernon Governmental Center  
2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon, VA 22306

**Keep informed! Sign up for the Mount Vernon Advisor and follow us on social media!**

**Visit:** <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/>

**Call:** 703-780-7518 (TTY 711)

**Email:** [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**Office Hours:**  
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Thursday: 5 p.m. -7:30 p.m.  
Second Saturday Each Month:  
MV District Office: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Walk-ins and by appointment





**TOUR de MOUNT VERNON 2021**

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# Lucky To Call Fairfax County Home

BY JEFF MCKAY  
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Welcome to Fairfax County. You are moving here under unusual and unprecedented times. That said, this last year and a half reminded me why I'm proud to lead Fairfax County as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and why I have been so fortunate to be able to call it home for all of my life.

In Fairfax County, we take COVID-19 and vaccinating our population seriously. As of Sept. 24, 2021, we are proud to have 81.2% of people over the age of 18 vaccinated with at least one dose and 83.6% of adolescents 12-17 vaccinated similarly with at least one dose. While we have made great strides in slowing the spread of COVID-19, Fairfax County is experiencing a high transmission of COVID-19 cases due to the infectious Delta variant. Unfortunately, there are many (particularly young students) who are not eligible to be vaccinated. We need everyone to do their part and get vaccinated to help protect those who are not able. This is especially important to keeping our students in school. Schedule your appointment at <http://vaccine.gov/>

As we navigated (and continue to navigate)

the pandemic, Fairfax County has been on the frontlines of providing the support our residents and businesses need. Thanks to federal dollars, our Board of Supervisors has invested millions to help get people back on their feet through emergency rental and food assistance. We have awarded \$87 million in grants for small businesses and non-profits who have been impacted. We deliberately targeted

businesses that historically don't have access to these types of funding opportunities, including veteran- women- and minority-owned organizations.

Now, it's time to look to recovery. We will continue to target our efforts to make sure families have the access to assistance they need. This is particularly important in the portions of the County most hit by COVID.

We have exciting projects down the pipeline for our businesses including the Fairfax Founders Fund which will provide capital to entrepreneurs in the County who are focused on emerging technologies and will be targeted towards those who have less access to capital.

In addition, in line with the One Fairfax policy I co-authored in 2017, which puts equity at the center to every decision we make, I convened a Task Force on Equity and Opportunity. It was clear from the inequities of the pandemic

coupled with the movement fighting for racial justice that it was time to take the next step. My Task Force looked at systemic obstacles standing in the way of equity and recently provided its recommendations to the Board.

Despite all the uncertainty around us, we are lucky to live in Fairfax County. We have a caring and diverse population and great resources. For example, we have 23,000 acres of parkland, which includes 427 public parks and 325 miles of trails to enjoy when you want to be outside safely. One of my favorite escapes has been Huntley Meadows Park in my neighborhood. It makes me thankful for our continued investment in our greenspaces and efforts to protect the environment.

Navigating this pandemic has not been a straight path forward. We have had to pivot to save lives. Over time we have made significant investments in our infrastructure that have well positioned us to respond. Our sophisticated Health Department, first responders, and County frontline workers are all dedicated to our community. Their work has been exceptional and remind us why a responsive, well-run government is essential in times like these.

As we navigate a world beyond COVID-19, we will continue to fight for what's important: investing in people, programs, education, and creating a Fairfax that works for everyone, just as we have always done. Our community will make it through this together. Fairfax County is a great place to live and work and I hope that you quickly feel at home.

# FCPS: Opportunities to Shine in Every Area

BY DR. SCOTT BRABRAND  
SUPERINTENDENT, FCPS

Welcome to Fairfax County Public Schools! We are so glad you are here. No matter where you are coming from, or what your children's interests may be, we are confident we can meet your family's needs.

FCPS is home to students from 204 countries, who speak more than 200 languages. Our more than 180,000 students come to us from a variety of backgrounds: 15 percent receive special education services, 19 percent participate in English for Speakers of Other Languages classes and 31 percent are economically disadvantaged.

While here, there are opportunities for students to shine in every area: These past few months alone, we were home to a student who placed 21st in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, multiple National Science Bee winners, a Time for Kids student journalist finalist and an International Society of Bassists solo performance competition winner.

Our students are also having a positive impact on our communities: Some have succeeded in getting historical markers erected to honor Black Virginians, digging into history to find and nominate people worthy of recognition by the state. Stu-

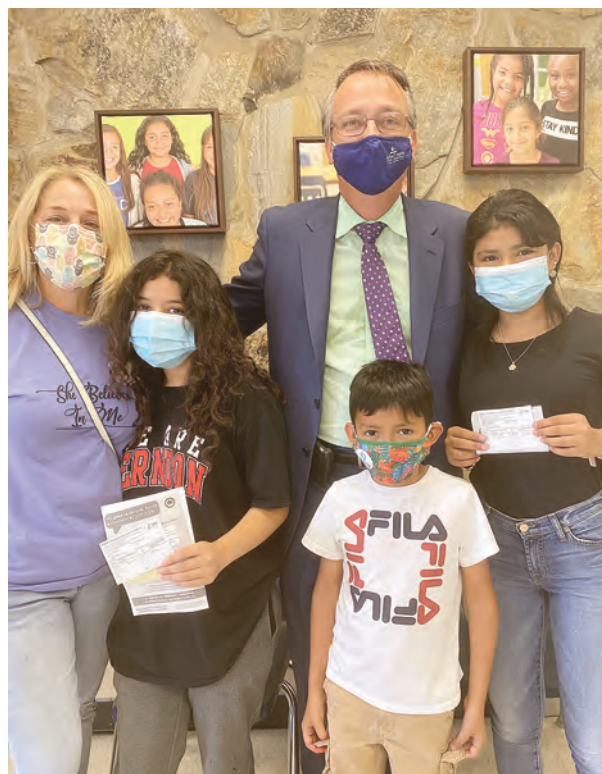


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON

**From left, Renee Gorman; Kimberlin Jimenez, 13; Scott Brabrand, superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools; Hansel Molina; and Jeimmy Molina take a congratulatory photo after Kimberlin and Jeimmy receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in August.**

dents in elementary and high schools alike spent the past year growing produce on school grounds to help supply local food banks amid food security issues exacerbated by the pandemic. This month alone, some have created a guide to help Afghan refugee students acclimate and assist our staff in meeting their needs.

They conclude their time in our district with impressive accomplishments too. FCPS students last year took almost 16,000 advanced placement exams that can result in college credit. They outperformed their Virginia and national peers this year with an average SAT score of 1201; and 214 students from 16 high schools were named National Merit Semifinalists. Those enrolled in our Career and Technical Education program helped build a new home in Springfield that sold for more than \$1 million, staffed emergency rescue teams and repaired vehicles.

We still cheer for our students after they graduate too. This summer we had the pleasure of rooting for FCPS grads in the Tokyo Olympics: our Olympian alums competed in swimming, track and rifle shooting.

I truly believe there is a place for everyone within FCPS.

We look forward to your children joining our community and helping them reach their potential and find their passion.

# Welcome to Mason District

(Special to the Connection Newspapers)

It is a pleasure to represent, and welcome you, to Mason District. The Mason District is the most compact and diverse magisterial district in Fairfax County, stretching from Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, with Route 50 as a northern border, around the Beltway through Annandale on the west, and southward to Lincolnia and Springfield. Within this area are the diverse business centers of Bailey's Crossroads, Skyline, Seven Corners, and Annandale. Residential neighborhoods are diverse as well, from Edsall Park and Landmark Mews, to Lake Barcroft and Parklawn, all the way to Camelot and Ridglea. Dynamic neighborhoods, mature trees, county parks and playgrounds, three public libraries, four public high schools (including the nation's #1 rated Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology) and a myriad of excellent public and private schools are located in Mason District.

As you get acquainted with Fairfax County, be sure to include visits to some of our Mason District highlights – Green Spring Gardens, the county's crown jewel and award-winning horticultural center; Hidden Oaks Nature Center, which delights adults and children alike with creative indoor and outdoor programs; Mason District Park, with its Thursday morning farmer's market and the free summer concert series, Spotlight by Starlight, at the Newton Edwards Amphitheatre, which musicians tell me is the best outdoor performance venue in the county! Pinecrest Golf Course provides a 9-hole challenge in a beautiful public setting.

## Meyer

FROM PAGE 2

historic downtown. The 1799 courthouse anchors a historic district of unique and fascinating stores and businesses. And with over 180 restaurants, the City's culinary scene is also a regional attraction.

Fairfax sponsors the area's best, recurring, special-emphasis programs throughout the year, including live music events at Rock the Block in Old Town Square, the annual Chocolate Lover's Festival, the Classic Car Show, the Fall Festival, the Asian-American Festival and our new Funky Flea Market. Our premier event is our Independence Day Parade and fireworks – the finest celebration in Virginia of our country's birthday.

Our services are unsurpassed in Virginia, with trash and recycling that are the gold standard of jurisdictions in our region. Our police services make Fairfax City one of the safest communities in Virginia, and our fire and EMS response teams have an impressive record of saving lives and protecting property.

Penelope A. Gross is the Mason District Supervisor. She has lived in Fairfax County for over 20 years and has a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from George Mason University. She has worked for the Fairfax County Government for over 15 years, most recently as the Director of the Office of the County Manager. She is currently the Supervisor of the Mason District, which is the largest district in Fairfax County. She is a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Board of Public Works. She is also a member of the Fairfax County Board of Education and the Fairfax County Board of Health. She is a past president of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and the Fairfax County Board of Economic Development. She is a past president of the Fairfax County Board of Public Works and the Fairfax County Board of Health. She is a past president of the Fairfax County Board of Education and the Fairfax County Board of Health. She is a past president of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and the Fairfax County Board of Economic Development.

If you like to eat and I'll bet you do, Mason District restaurants offer cuisine from around the world – Ethiopian feasts, Korean bulgogi, Peruvian chicken, American and Southwestern fare, halal markets, and traditional Chinese. If you want sushi at 2 a.m., you can find it in Mason District. Ethnic bakeries serve up tasty breads and beautiful desserts, and our many ethnic markets stock the necessary ingredients for the home cook, too.

On behalf of all the residents of Mason District, I urge you to come and discover the people, places, and opportunities that have attracted families and businesses here for decades. I'm sure you will find it exciting and delightful, as I do.

PENELOPE A. GROSS  
MASON DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

erty. Citizens continually express their appreciation for the support they receive from these dedicated public servants.

The City provides a superior program of public education for our students at Daniels Run and Providence elementaries, Katherine Johnson Middle School and Fairfax High. These nationally ranked schools provide students with superior instruction in a safe, stimulating and inclusive environment.

Fairfax also boasts an impressive tax base of \$7 billion, enabling it to provide these superior services with the lowest, overall tax requirements of any NOVA jurisdiction. The City and GMU sponsor the Mason Enterprise Center, a small-business incubation hub. And Fairfax is friendly and supportive of new businesses.

Being only 15 miles from downtown Washington, D.C., our City is one of the best communities in the nation. People can be engaged with the world, while experiencing authentic and rewarding relationships in a caring and supportive place, connected with each other.

## THESE FLOWERS HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THEM.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

It's time to add your flower to the fight.



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Additional Walks available. Find one near you at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk)

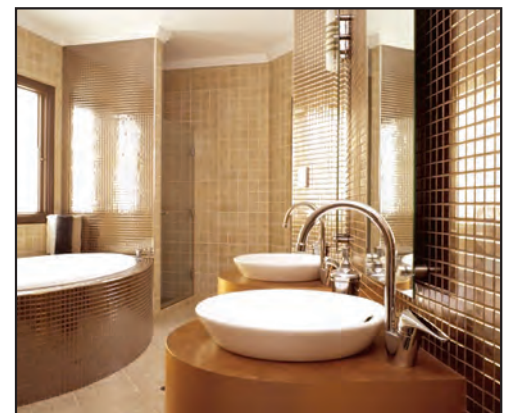
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# Cross County Trail Connects Pathways, History, and People



Friends J.J. Dickinson, Susan Lesley, and Kim McCleskey, meet regularly to walk the cross county trail for exercise and friendship. (Aug. 2020)

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

Stretching in a long, meandering ribbon of green, the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail runs north and south for the length of Fairfax County from the Potomac River to the Occoquan River, linking parks, stream valleys, nature trails. The trail was conceptualized by citizen activists and supported by then Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly, for whom the trail is named. In 2000, the Board allocated \$900,000 to link what had

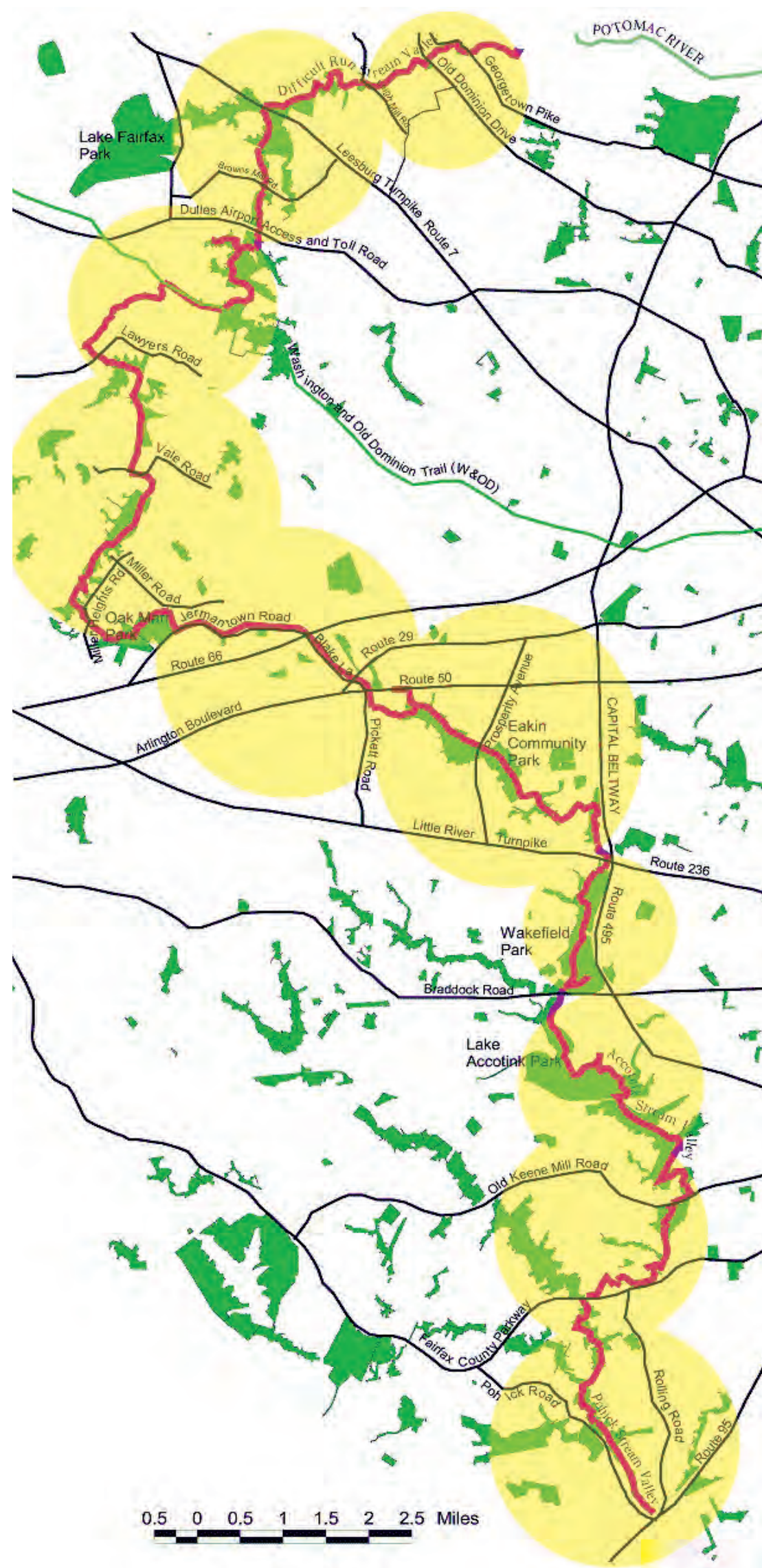
been green islands of parkland and trails. Today the trail system, over 40 miles long, provides a meandering green oasis within a county undergoing rapid urbanization. The trail helps protect streams and wetlands as it passes along water, meadows, and through development, often linking people as well as parkland.

Most of the Cross County Trail runs through stream valley parkland, including some of the county's best and wildest parks, Great Falls, Wakefield and Laurel Hill. Walking provides a good opportunity to see cross country. PAGE 10

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



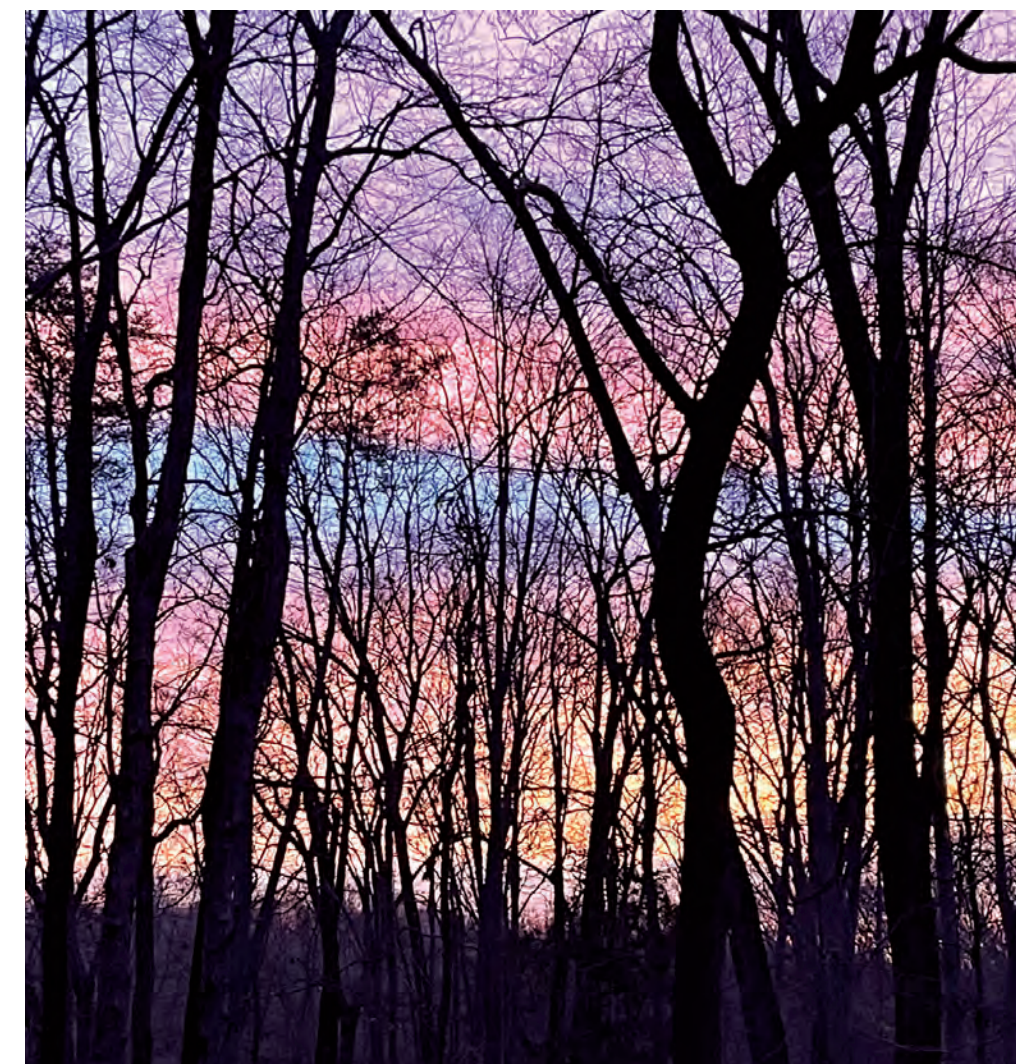
Geologist Cynde Sears points out metagraywacke formed in the Potomac Gorge. (March 2020)



The Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail links green space and parks along Fairfax County stream valleys. More detailed maps are available online. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/cross-county-trail/maps>



The historic Barrel Bridge, built by inmates, now serves cross county trail users where once a rail line moved materials across the Occoquan Workhouse/Lorton Prison grounds (March 2020).



The trail exhibits the beauty of nature to be discovered in all seasons of the year from dawn to sunset. (Jan. 2021).



Friends, Nora deGroot and Kaitlyn Meriowsky, volunteer together to have fun while keeping the cross county trail beautiful and building their community service hours (Oct. 2020).





Stefie Pratt-Green and Levi use an improvement to the fair-weather crossing on the Pohick Stream portion of Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail. (June 2021)



Dog walker Kristen Furman and Carter, are familiar faces to other regular trail users in the Laurel Hill Park section sometimes treating cross county trail friends to homemade doggie ice cream (July 2021).

## Cross County Trail Connects Pathways, History, and People

FROM PAGE 8  
nity to view a cross section of the county's topography and development, and to get a glimpse into the changes that have occurred to the land over time. Hikers near the Potomac River can see evidence of early geologic shifts that changed the course of the river and created large rock formations, seeing river rock now high on overlook ridges.

The trail is a haven for wildlife of all kinds, making it attractive for those who desire a leisurely stroll observing nature, as well as those using the trail for faster paced exercise, jogging or cycling. In the Spring, midway on the trail within Wakefield Park, Virginia Bluebells blanket the forest floor with their blue and pink flowers. Tadpoles wiggle in vernal trail pools; and one might spot a fawn stashed napping in tall grasses awaiting its mother's return.

All year, in the southern section, the history of the area comes quickly to mind as the brick watchtowers and dairy silos rise high, marking the past of the former Lorton prison and workhouse that operated from 1910 through 2001, now Laurel Hill Park. Evidence of inmate enterprise remains visible in the old buildings scattered through the park, many made from bricks manufactured from clay taken from the nearby Occoquan River.

The Cross County Trail plays a role in building community too. Regular trail users make new acquaintances and strengthen the bonds of existing ones, using the trail as a meeting place for friends exercising together. The park authority notes that users might



Bluebells brighten the cross county trail along Accotink Creek in April/May, (April 2018) one of many species of native wildflowers found along the trail throughout the seasons.

“walk or run, with a child or a pet, ride a bike or a horse.” Many friendships have blossomed on the Cross County Trail, along with the wildflowers.

More <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/cross-county-trail>

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

## About the Connection in 2020

This year, 2021 in the time of the pandemic, has been brutal for so many.

Life is vastly different than it was pre-pandemic.

Families of all backgrounds are facing food insecurity and demand at food pantries has skyrocketed.

Thousands of families could be facing eviction.

Many small businesses are still in economic crisis, and some employees facing unemployment.

Local newspapers, including the Connection newspapers, are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide downturn in newspaper advertising that has been worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis of coronavirus.

We turned to GoFundMe at a critical point, and our readers answered, raising nearly \$50,000 to get us through a terrible time until we received some PPP funding. We thank all who gave, as well as all who wished us well.

Now, though, we are back to great difficulty. Revenue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going. We have applied for Rebuilt VA funds, but the timing is uncertain and certainly not when we needed it (in the summer). We will renew calls for contributions shortly to try to carry on. We will also likely begin a membership program soon, so watch for new links. Here is the link to the past GoFundMe which is still working. <https://www.gofundme.com/save-america-oldest-newspaper>

**IN THE MIDST** of this, we at the Connection hear the call to continue to serve our communities. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, even with reduced resources. It's still our mission to provide information about where to get help and how to help; to disseminate information about the virus and efforts to stem its spread; to tell the stories of those who are helping, of those who are hungry; of those who have gotten sick with the virus, of those who are caring for the sick; and those who are performing essential jobs, from grocery clerk to firefighter to nurses and doctors. It's still our mission to tell the stories of those working for social and racial justice, and battling income inequality in the time of COVID.

Perhaps most of all, it is still our mission to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for commu-

nity good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives. It is still our mission to cover the normal news of the local communities.

We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. Tell us: how are you surviving in the pandemic?

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome.

For many months, there were no calendar listings in our papers. Everything was cancelled. Now there is a return of many face-to-face events. If you are planning an event, we appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md. Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

At the Connection, we suffered a tragedy recently, the unexpected death of our beloved Managing Editor Kemal Kurspahic. He died of a stroke following minor surgery.

Kemal Kurspahic was the legendary wartime editor of the daily newspaper in Sarajevo, Oslobođenje. You can read some of the story of his life and how we came to be lucky enough to have him in our newsroom for decades in his obituary, <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/sep/22/courage-journalism/>.

### CONTACT

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— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

## Every Year Is Election Year in Virginia

### Early voting options expand; you can vote now.

BY SUSAN LAUME AND MARY KIMM  
THE CONNECTION

Every year is an Election year in Virginia. And as one of only two states to have gubernatorial elections the year after the presidential election, Virginia's off year turns out to have national implications.

But this Election matters to local residents for so many reasons, including bond questions and representation in the House of Delegates. In a rare occurrence, every delegate race in Fairfax County is contested by two major party candidates. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General have been critically important in recent years in directing policy as well. Turnout can be lower in the off year, but given how much easier it is to vote in Virginia now, it shouldn't be.

As calendar pages turn toward the Nov. 2 election day for Virginia's State-wide offices nears, voters have many voting options. Driven by COVID-19 work around considerations, Virginia's legislature has authorized new contactless voting options, including in person early voting, voting by mail and voting by dropping your completed ballot in a secure drop box. Early voting in person begins Sept. 17 at three locations.

County voters should begin thinking about their candidate selections, and how they will place their votes.

On the ballot: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, your member of the House of Delegates, and a School Bond Question for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Sample ballots are posted <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/elections/sample-ballots>.

**DROP BOXES** will be available at Fairfax County early voting locations, and on election day, at all polling places, during voting hours. Voters may return their completed, sealed "mail in" ballots to a secure drop box, without involving the U.S. Postal Service. The drop boxes, located either outside of regular voting rooms or near building entrances, provide a quick, contact-free way to assure one's ballot is received, and without need to affix postage to return it. The Fairfax County Government building also has a secure drop box installed outside, permitting voters to drop off their ballots there 24/7; providing a return option when early voting sites are not open. Drop boxes are available for use on election day at all polling places from 6 am - 7 pm.

### School Bond Question

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$360,000,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from school bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of school improvements, including acquiring, building, expanding, and renovating properties, including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishings and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system?

Those wishing to vote early, by mail, can request a ballot starting now. Ballots are sent to requestors as received, beginning 45 days before the election; that's beginning mid-September. Once marked and sealed, ballots may be returned by mail, or to the special secure drop boxes at the early voting locations outside of the mail stream.

Details on voting by mail are available here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee-voting-mail>

**EARLY IN-PERSON** voting locations are open Sept. 17 - Oct. 30 at three government center sites: Fairfax County, Mount Vernon, and North County.

Any registered Fairfax County voter may vote early at any Fairfax County early voting location.

Early in-person absentee voting is available for the November 2021 General & Special Elections at the following three locations from now through Oct. 30.

- ❖ Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax 22035
- ❖ Mt. Vernon Governmental Center  
2511 Parkers Ln, Alexandria 22306
- ❖ North County Governmental Center  
1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston 20190

Thirteen additional early in-person voting sites are open Oct. 21 - Oct. 30.

- ❖ Burke Centre Library  
5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke
- ❖ Centreville Regional Library  
14200 St. Germain Dr, Centreville
- ❖ Franconia Governmental Center  
6121 Franconia Rd, 22310

SEE EVERY YEAR, PAGE 15



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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



The Lucy Burns Museum, located in the Workhouse Arts Center, helps visitors to explore the suffragist movement and exhibits items from workhouse life and work production. (Jan. 2020)



Dedicated in May 2021, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, is located in the Occoquan Regional Park. (Sept. 2021)

## Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

Located within the Occoquan Regional Park, is the nation's first monument to the women's suffrage movement. Recently dedicated in May 2021, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, uses a garden with 19 information panels to honor the struggles and tell the story of women committed to

passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right to vote for women.

The monument's location is adjacent to the workhouse where women incarcerated for picketing in front of the White House, the first protestors to picket there, endured

forced feeding and violence. The Lucy Burns Museum, housed within the former prison, turned into the Workhouse Arts Center, tells the story of their imprisonment and workhouse operations.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is located within Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton, Va., on part of the historic prison grounds where scores of suf-

fragists were jailed in 1917 for picketing the White House.

The Memorial is free, self-guided and open year-round during the park's normal hours of operation that change seasonally.

<https://www.novaparks.com/parks/turning-point-suffragist-memorial>

— SUSAN LAUME

# Fairfax City Looks to the Future



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Workmen apply commercial wrap to the under-construction Capstone Collegiate apartments.



Artist's rendition of the Capstone Collegiate apartments in Fairfax City.



Northfax West site plan showing the townhouses, senior-living facility and future-development area.

FROM PAGE 3

along Fairfax Boulevard. The property also includes two, adjacent, single-family lots on Cedar Avenue.

IDI will build 266 residential units – 115 townhouses, 144 condos in a four-story building, and seven, single-family homes. The plan also contains 20,000 square feet of retail in two buildings, plus 24,000 square feet of commercial and/or community uses in the retained, original portion of the school building. Fifteen of the townhouses along Fairfax Boulevard will be live/work units with retail on the bottom.

IDI will build the condos and commercial portions, and a development partner will construct the townhomes, IDI will also add

a shared-use path along McLean and Cedar avenues and a 10-foot-wide walkway along the Fairfax Boulevard frontage. The site will also contain pocket parks and a village green.

Drivers will access it all via Oak Street, plus four points along Fairfax Boulevard. IDI will also contribute \$133,000 to mitigate impacts to City schools, provide 60 parking spaces for Pat Rodio Park and underground McLean Avenue utility poles. Construction is anticipated to take some three years.

### Capstone Collegiate Communities

Aimed at providing housing for GMU students, Capstone Collegiate Communities is being constructed on 6 acres bounded by Democracy Lane and University and Layton

Hall drives. Entrances will be from Democracy and Layton.

It replaces an existing office park with two, connected, four- and five-story multifamily buildings containing 275 housing units. Ranging from studios to one, two, three and four bedrooms, some may be double occupancy, provided the number of building residents does not exceed 825.

Each rental unit will come fully furnished and will have a common living area, kitchen, washer and dryer, plus one bathroom per bedroom. And no more than four, unrelated people may occupy a single unit. In addition, a swimming pool is proposed for an internal courtyard.

Some 737 parking spaces will be provided – 680 in a parking garage, plus 57 on-

street and surface spaces. Parallel parking will be along Democracy and on a future, private street, and all streets will have sidewalks. And Capstone Collegiate Communities LLC will contribute \$30,000 for two bus shelters. It's expected to be finished in 2022.

### Northfax West Revitalization

The Lann Co. will revamp and revitalize the City's Northfax West area.

\* Phase One includes construction of a storm-drainage culvert, utility relocations, realignment of Orchard Street, three new crosswalks, a walking trail, sidewalks and bike lanes.

SEE MULTIFAMILY HOMES, PAGE 13  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Welcome to the Lee District

BY RODNEY LUSK  
LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



**O**n behalf of Fairfax County, and especially Lee District, I welcome you to our community. Lee District is a uniquely diverse and vibrant community. As a 20-year resident of the district, I never cease to be amazed by the strength of the relationships throughout the neighborhoods in Lee. I take incredible pride in representing such an invested and engaged community.

I'm particularly proud of the beautiful parks and recreation amenities in Lee. Huntley Meadows in Alexandria, for example, offers fantastic opportunities for observing

wildlife and experiencing our County's truly unique natural resources. The Lee District Recreation Center boasts many outdoor activity spaces, including tennis and softball fields, as well as an indoor pool, fitness center, and gymnasium.

Additionally, there are several exciting projects underway in Lee District: First is the expansion of the Inova Springfield Hospital. The patient-centered medical campus will bring many new jobs and opportunities to the area while also expanding and elevating the level of care provided to the community.

Another project currently underway is the redevelopment of the Historic Richmond Highway Corridor. It will begin with the ad-

dition of the Bus Rapid Transit. The BRT, as we call it, will increase connectivity between the two ends of the highway, provide safe, reliable transportation for those who do not own a vehicle or cannot drive, and offer a convenient alternative to reduce carbon emissions along the corridor.

Richmond Highway will also soon feature an Emerging Tech Center focused on attracting business and talent in the tech industry. In addition to providing job training to residents who are looking to switch careers or level-up their skills, this innovative center will expand the boundaries of human learning and serve as an inspirational, creative space for the designing and launching of new technologies. The goal is to shift the mostly retail job market the corridor now offers to a robust, high skill, high paying job market.

The Emerging Tech Center will be housed in a newly renovated 50,000-square-foot facility that will serve as a community center, providing recreational amenities, youth programming, and other needed services to residents in the surrounding communities. My office will continue to provide updates as we move through different phases of the various projects.

Finally, I want to highlight the hidden gem that is the Franconia Museum. Located at the Franconia Governmental Center, the one room museum features artifacts, books, and pictures that trace the history of Franconia and surrounding neighborhoods since the early 1900s. I encourage anyone, and especially newcomers, to visit. The Franconia Museum is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

## Welcome to the Mount Vernon District!

BY DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

**W**elcome to the Mount Vernon District! While it has been a challenging COVID year, and an eventful one in Lorton, we have come together as friends and neighbors to protect and support each other. Thank you to everyone who has gotten their vaccine – over 80% of Fairfax residents over the age of 18 are vaccinated! If you are not, please consider doing so as soon as possible.

Recently, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the new South County Police Station and Animal Shelter and the ribbon cutting for the Central Green at Laurel Hill and the Turning Point Suffragists Memorial at Occoquan Regional Park.

We anticipate welcoming Lidl to Liberty and Amazon Fresh to Lorton Marketplace.

Alpine X is considering building an indoor ski facility, boutique hotel and sky bar on the closed Lorton Landfill. While the Lorton community continues to evolve, it also continues to be a tight-knit community with a strong South County identity.

The many amenities that have and contin-

ue to open in the area – the Workhouse Arts Center, the Laurel Hill Golf Club, new homes and retail at Liberty and expansive mountain bike trails, just to name a few – make Lorton an ideal place to live, work, learn and play. With all this in mind, my office is leading the Lorton Visioning 2040 effort with community members to ensure Lorton retains its character while growing in ways the community wants.

Even if you are new to the area, you likely know that Fairfax County has one of the best school systems in the country, but for us it goes beyond that. Life-long learning is important to many of our residents and I am proud to say we are bringing more opportunities through our future partnerships at Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/original-mount-vernon-high-school> with the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). In addition, the synergy created by collocating Teen and Senior Centers, the Library, Neighborhood and Community Services, and the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) in the new Lorton Community Center will pro-

vide many more active and passive learning activities for residents of all ages and abilities.

Our area abounds with parks and recreational opportunities. Put on your walking or running shoes and head to Laurel Hill Park or Fountainhead Regional Park. Spend the day paddling on one of the many rivers and creeks at Pohick Bay Park, Occoquan Regional Park or Mason Neck State Park. Ride some of the best bike trails in Northern Virginia at Laurel Hill Park and Meadowood Recreation Area or use the many trails along our roadways for your daily commute. Frisbee golf, foot golf and regular golf opportunities are abundant as well. To find your adventure, checkout our parks page on the Mount Vernon District webpage: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/).

My number one priority is always you and our office is here to help. I strive to engage deeply and frequently with the people of Mount Vernon. TEAM MVD provides timely constituent service as we continue to build the ideal community in which to live and thrive. We are here to answer your questions and will respond within two business days. Email us at [MTVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:MTVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov).

gov, call 703-780-7518 or stop by our office at 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon. I also have extended office hours to meet with you on Thursdays and the second Saturday of each month, walk-ins and appointments are always welcomed.

I invite you to join us for our upcoming annual signature events: Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride on Oct. 23; Holiday Open House on Dec. 9; Mount Vernon District Town Meeting on Feb. 12; and Environment Expo on April 23.

You have chosen a great place to live, educate your family, grow your career and engage with your neighbors. Welcome to the Mount Vernon District, where history, heritage, outdoor living, educational opportunities and public safety come together to support our exciting future! Visit our website ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/)) to sign up for our newsletter, follow us on Facebook and Twitter and learn about the myriad of District projects, important topics, area activities and upcoming events in your new community. More information about the Mount Vernon District can be found in our Newcomer Guide <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/about-us>.

## Multifamily Homes, Stores and Businesses are Planned

FROM PAGE 12

\* Phase Two will be 56 townhouses built by Madison Homes along Farr Avenue and Orchard. They'll be 44 feet high and have 112 parking spaces (two per unit), plus 22 surface spaces for 134 parking spaces total.

\* Phase Three will be construction of a seven-story, senior-living facility by Brightview. It'll contain 114 independent-living units, plus 86 assisted-living

units and structured parking.

\* Phase Four is the future development of 3.3 acres along Orchard and Chain Bridge Road. Planned are 25,000 square feet of office, retail and restaurant uses, 180 housing units and a 140-room hotel.

The project also includes extending Farr Avenue, restoring part of Accotink Creek in Van Dyck Park, and creating an 8-foot trail to Perry Street and Howerton Avenue, as well as a pocket park and tot lot for the townhouses.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 6

Night of Terror: Suffragists at the Occoquan Workhouse. 4 p.m. Virtual Discussion. Burke Historical Society Treasurer Cindy Bennett will present a virtual talk hosted by George Mason Regional Library: Bennett will discuss the story and fate of 33 suffragists imprisoned at the Occoquan (Lorton) Workhouse in November 1917. The tenacity of these fearless women led to the 1920 passage of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote. Registration is available here: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/8232354>

#### THURSDAY/OCT. 7

Pathways To Wellness Annual Conference. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Recovery Pro-

gram Solutions of Virginia will sponsor the Pathways to Wellness Conference, an annual event that celebrates mental health recovery. This virtual event's theme is Still Striving, Still Thriving Through it All. The event is planned and hosted by the Wellness and Recovery Committee, a group of representatives of government and nonprofit organizations in Northern Virginia whose work and lives involve mental health recovery. Attendees include individuals with mental health concerns, their loved ones, professionals in the field, and anyone interested in wellness. Attendance is free but guests must register. To learn more, visit [www.PathwaysToWellness-Conf.com](http://www.PathwaysToWellness-Conf.com). Call Will Schermerhorn at (703) 338-1776 or contact him via email [coordinator@pathwaystowellnessconf.com](mailto:coordinator@pathwaystowellnessconf.com).

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### Legals

In accordance with New York law, the National Rifle Association of America announces that its Annual Meeting of Members will be held October 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Charlotte, North Carolina in the Symphony Ballroom at the Sheraton & Le Meridien Charlotte Hotel Complex.

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**-Werner Heisenberg**

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# THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008 are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

## Bike Tour of Fair Oaks/Fair Lakes

The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) and the Coalition for Smarter Growth are sponsoring a 7-mile bike tour of Fair Oaks and Fair Lakes on Sunday, Oct. 3. Participants will discuss future re-development, plus existing and planned walking and biking improvements. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-of-fair-oaksfair-lakes-area-tickets-173949255907>.

## Coffee with a Cop Events

Fairfax City residents are invited to have coffee and relaxed conversations with Fairfax City police officers, during two events slated for Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 8 a.m. One is at Cameron's Coffee and Chocolates at 9639 Fairfax Blvd. (at Fairfax Circle), and the other is at Foundation Coffee Roasters at 9650 Main St., Unit 46, (at Fair City Mall, behind the left side of the shopping center).

## Burke Historical Society

At 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, BHS Treasurer Cindy Bennett will present a virtual talk hosted by George Mason Regional Library: The Night of Terror: Suffragists at the Occoquan Workhouse. Cindy Bennett from the Burke Historical Society will discuss the story and fate of 33 suffragists imprisoned at the Occoquan (Lorton) Workhouse in November 1917. The tenacity of these fearless women led to the 1920 passage of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote. Registration is available here: <https://librarycalendar.fairfax-county.gov/event/8232354>

**CALENDAR**

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

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

# CALENDAR



Participants at Centreville Day enjoy vendors as they head down Mt. Gilead Road to learn more about the history of St. John's Episcopal Church.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 1

Concert Event. 7:30 p.m. Featuring David Phelps, Cana's Voice and Geron David. At Immanuel Baptist Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Cartography. 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall in Northern Virginia. Co-created by Kaneza Schaal and Christopher Myers. Cost is \$46, \$39, \$28, half-price for youth through Grade 12. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Five young refugees set out searching for a new place to call home in this stunning and timely theatrical work. Inspired by the artists' creative work with refugees worldwide, this interactive performance charts a new map for its characters using visual arts, storytelling, and filmmaking.

## OCT. 3-NOV. 6

Workhouse Haunt. 7-11 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year's Workhouse Haunt immerses guests through a highly-themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups for a frightening 30-minute experience that brings them next to the site's abandoned, historic buildings and into the dark woods where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. Cost is \$25. Occurs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each weekend from Oct. 3 through Nov. 6. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/workhouse->

events/2021-workhouse-haunt-the-collection-2/

## OCT. 8-11

Folklore Society Online Getaway. 12 to 5:30 p.m. Online. Folklore Society Online Getaway. Imagine a party with some of the finest singers from the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Australia, and the farthest parts of the globe—that's the Getaway. Visit the website: <https://www.fsgw.org/getaway>

## SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Lesson Zero. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At the Fall for Fairfax Main Stage, South Street and University Drive, Fairfax. Fairfax City presents the music of Oasis recording artist Lesson Zero. For additional information see: [www.youtube.com/lessonzero](http://www.youtube.com/lessonzero) or [www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero](http://www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Centreville Day 2021. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Centreville Park, Braddock and Mt. Gilead Roads, Centreville. Entertainment, food, crafts, vendors, historic locations, parade, children's rides and games, Cavalcade of Pets, Safety Expo. Great day for families. Spaces still available for vendors and sponsorships. Satellite parking will be available in the Carrabba's (Rt. 29) parking lot beginning at 9 a.m. and ending with last pickup at the Braddock stop at 5 p.m. Overflow available if needed in Trinity Centre. Shuttle buses provided by Fairfax County Community and Neighborhoods. Visit the website: [www.centrevilleday.org](http://www.centrevilleday.org).

## Every Year Is Election Year in Virginia

FROM PAGE 11

- ❖ Gerry Hyland Government Center  
8350 Richmond Hwy, 22309
- ❖ Great Falls Library  
9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
- ❖ Herndon Fortnightly Library  
768 Center St, Herndon
- ❖ Mason Governmental Center  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
- ❖ McLean Governmental Center  
1437 Balls Hill Rd, McLean
- ❖ Providence Community Center  
3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax
- ❖ Sully Governmental Center  
4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly
- ❖ Thomas Jefferson Library  
7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church
- ❖ Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library  
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
- ❖ West Springfield Governmental Center  
6140 Rolling Rd, Springfield

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Weekdays:  
Fairfax County Government Center 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
All other locations 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. (check beginning dates)  
Saturday (Oct. 23, and Oct. 30)  
All locations 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday (Oct. 24)  
All locations 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The list of early voting sites, their addresses, and days/hours of operation and more can be found on the Board of Elections website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections).

Another early option, in-person curbside voting is available at every early voting location for people 65 or older or with a physical disability. But the elections website warns: curbside voting doesn't put you at the front of the line, and voters should expect to wait. Voters are encouraged to go to the Fairfax County Government Center which has 20 curbside spaces set aside. Curbside voting also is available on election day, Nov. 2. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/disability-services>

On Election Day polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you will be able to vote.

Questions about early voting, including voter registration, voting options, damaged ballots, and ballot tracking may be addressed to the Board of Elections at [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov), or by calling 703 222.0776, Monday- Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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## Scan Hardly Believe It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Life goes on. My warranty has been extended for another 90 days as all three scans from Sept. 23rd indicated stable and/or no new metastases. News with which I am extremely fond of saying, I can live. Though the radiologist's report that I received lists both non small cell lung cancer and papillary thyroid cancer as "the indication," my endocrinologist feels what I have is thyroid cancer and likely have always had thyroid cancer. I wish I could say that will be for the lawyers to argue. but peculiarities of law and the three-year statute of limitations in Maryland makes a final resolution unlikely. Therefore, I will continue to live with my amazing good fortune and possible misdiagnosis as part and parcel of how I roll.

And how I roll, as you regular readers know is chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy once again - in that order, and diagnostic scans every three weeks in the beginning and eventually and presently, every three months. As such, over these nearly 13 years of being a cancer patient, I figure I've probably had at least 50 CT scans and another 20-plus MRIs, plus an occasional PET scan. The point being that over the years, I've done an awful lot of waiting for scan results with my life/immediate future hanging in the balance. And 'balance' is exactly what one needs to endure these incredibly anxious situations. Though I'm fairly experienced at this juncture, the actual moment of truth when I receive the email containing my results is oft-putting to say the least and downright heart-stopping to say the most.

However, my personality is perfectly suited for these ongoing challenges. I never presume the worst. I never woe is me. I never bemoan systemic delays in communicating the results to me. As my close friend John would most definitely say: "It is what it is, and it will be what it will be." I never put the proverbial cart before the horse. I can take it. No problem. My wife, Dina, on the other hand, cannot. For her, the results cannot arrive soon enough. Granted, immediate feedback would be much preferred. But, that's never been the process. I can accept it. Dina, not so much.

That being said, I will admit that after all these years/scans/waiting for results, I have become less able to take it all in stride. It's as if a layer of patience and understanding of the process has been worn away with time. Even though I've mostly received good news (unexpectedly given my original "13 month to two year" prognosis - in Feb., 2009), I have had my share of disappointing news. But on the whole, I've been one of the luckier cancer patients. Still, each scan I wait for results is hardly an adventure in wonderland. I am constantly wondering and worrying when the other shoe will drop (the bad news). In fact, opening up the email that contains my scan results literally takes my breath away.

Not to be negative, which I'm not, but during the Team Lourie meeting in late Feb., 2009 when I first met my oncologist and were given all the medical reports/assessments of my recent X-Rays, CT scan, PET scan and surgical biopsy from the pulmonologist, thoracic surgeon, pathologist and internist, it was clear and convincing from all these doctors that I had lung cancer. And my prognosis? Grim, and it was no fairy tale. It was surreal to hear and nearly impossible to process. I have what? When I was told the survival statistics by my oncologist of stage IV non small cell lung cancer patients (me): 2 percent survive beyond two years, my brother asked if there are exceptions. To which my oncologist replied to me: "Could you be the one? Sure." Little did I know that the doctor was being literal. One was the answer. Ever since I heard that, I felt my days were numbered. All these several years later, I'm not exactly counting days, but neither am I counting chickens. I live quarter to quarter and am grateful to do so.

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

*Jack Taylor's*  
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