

CONNECTION

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Vote Nov. 2

ELECTIONS, PAGES 3, 4

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14 ♦ HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS, PAGE 2



West Springfield Government Center drew a steady line of early voters on Oct. 23 & 24

Why We Walk To End Alzheimer's
PAGE 8

Veterans in Art and Song
WORKHOUSE AND WOLFTRAP, PAGE 12

Friends Mean Everything
SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 13

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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
GRAYSON	8891	687	ROCKHOUSE RD.	ROCK CREEK	9/28/2021
MONTGOMERY	12293	669	PATTERSON DR. /ROUTE 669	BOTTOM CREEK	9/28/2021
BOTETOURT	3136	0F054	FRONTAGE RD. F054	PURGATORY CREEK	9/23/2021
MONTGOMERY	12271	643	YELL SULPH RD./ROUTE 643	MILL BRANCH	9/23/2021
BEDFORD	2754	644	LANGFORD MILL/ROUTE 644	NORTH OTTER CREEK	9/21/2021
SCOTT	16694	622	SINKS RD.	COX BRANCH	9/21/2021
ROANOKE	15082	696	APPLE GROVE LANE/ROUTE 696	BACK CREEK	9/15/2021
ROANOKE (M)	21650	0	ROUTE 0000	LICK RUN	9/15/2021
CHARLOTTE	4890	618	TURNIP CREEK RD.	TURNIP CREEK	9/13/2021
RICHMOND (M)	21280	0	BELLEVUE AVE.	ROUTE I-95	9/2/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

NOW THRU 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. 1-31

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays additional tours at 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per adult; \$14 for seniors, military and law enforcement; \$10 per child. Tour departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Follow an 18th-century costumed guide by lantern light through the charming streets of Alexandria's historic district known as Old Town. On this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. You will also hear about unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Appropriate for ages 9 and up. Visit alexcolonialtours.com

THROUGH OCT. 31

"The Madness of Poe." At Syntetic

Theater, 1800 South Bell Street in Arlington. "We watch how Poe, the inventor of American horror, created some of the most frightening and disturbing stories the world has ever known," said Syntetic Theater founder Paata Tsikurshvili. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Industry Night is Monday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$10-\$60, www.syntetictheater.org, or in-person at the box office located in the underground Crystal City Shops, or via phone at 703-824-8060 x117.

THROUGH OCT. 31

Ongoing Halloween Display. At 2508 Halterbreak Court, Herndon. Come see the punny skeletons, which are cooking up fun and ghostly apparitions appear in the windows and yard. Animated skeletons (Queen, Bruno Mars 24 karat magic, and Rick James Superfreak), talking witches and jumping spiders come out on Oct 31.

COX FARMS FALL FESTIVAL

THROUGH NOV. 7

Giant slides, hayrides, rope swings, farm animals & their babies, Cornfield adventure, farm chores, kiddie zone, apples & cider, food, entertainment, Imaginature Trail, over 90 acres. <https://coxfarms.com/fall-festival/festival-attractions/>. Fields of Fear. Not recommended for children under 12 years old. When night falls on the farm, it's time for Fields of Fear. Friday and Saturday nights until Nov. 3. Fields of Fear, the Dark Side Hayride and the Cornnightmare. The Firegrounds

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

NEW DATA REVEALS MASSIVE LEARNING LOSSES IN FCPS (SCHOOLQUALITY.VIRGINIA.GOV)

READING

↓ 8 POINTS

SCIENCE

↓ 19 POINTS

MATH

↓ 25 POINTS

Meanwhile, Democrats are focused on pushing their divisive "woke" ideology on kids.

Had enough? Vote Republican.

SOL SCORES EXPOSE THE TRAGEDY OF A LOST YEAR (SUN GAZETTE, 09/02/21)

Fairfax Students Back to School Amid COVID-19 Chaos, CRT Protests (Washington Examiner, 08/23/21)

Fairfax Schools Pay New York Consultants for Critical Race Theory Curricula (The Federalist, 05/07/21)



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Virginia at a Crossroads

Voters to determine direction of state government.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Two years ago, Democrats seized control of the General Assembly for the first time in a generation. Now Republicans are hoping this is their moment to “Take Back Virginia,” the name of a recent rally in support of the GOP statewide ticket that featured a call-in appearance from former President Donald Trump, who used the opportunity to repeat baseless claims about widespread election fraud.

Ultimately, the decision about all 100 seats in the House of Delegates and all three statewide offices will be in the hands of voters on Tuesday, Nov. 2, and it’s a decision that is likely to be driven by turnout.

Republicans do well in Virginia when turnout is low. The last time Republicans won statewide election back in 2009, turnout was only 40 percent. Democrats, on the other hand, tend to do well when turnout is high. When Democrat Ralph Northam beat Republican Ed Gillespie four years ago, voters set records for participation in an odd-year election that had 48 percent turnout. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe beat Republican Ken Cuccinelli with 43 percent of the vote, although his margin of victory was significantly smaller.

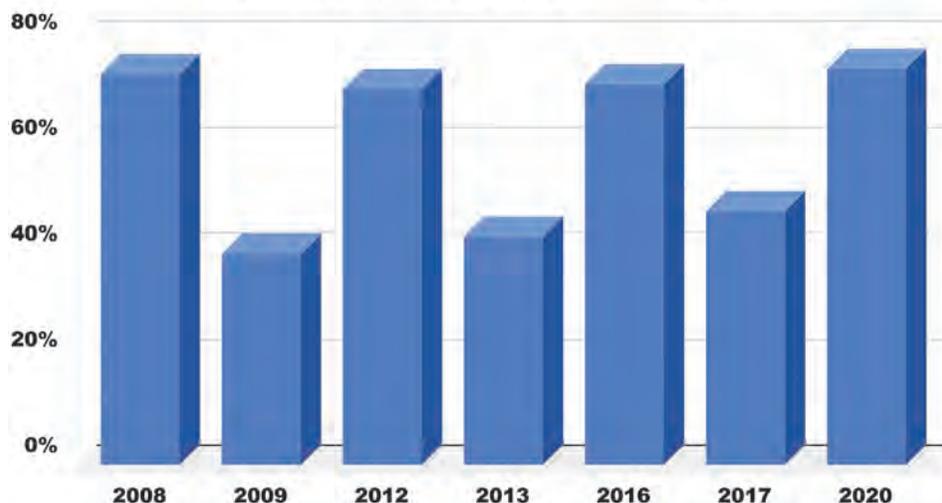
McAuliffe is attempting to do something very rare in Virginia politics: return to the Executive Mansion. Virginia is the only state in the country to have a four-year term limit, a constitutional prohibition on governors running for reelection. Only one former governor has ever been elected twice: Mills Godwin, who ran as an old-school Democrat in the 1960s and then as a Southern Strategy Republican in the 1970s. Back in the 19th century, William “Extra Billy” Smith also had two nonconsecutive terms, once appointed to the job before the Civil War and then a second term elected by voters during the war.

Now McAuliffe is hoping to pull off a similar trick, returning for a second term as governor in a Virginia that has seen a massive shift since he left office in 2018.

“Now you have a Democratic controlled legislature,” said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government. “And the Democratic Party has moved to the move progressive side of the political spectrum.”

His opponent in the race is Republican

Turnout in Virginia Elections



Glenn Youngkin
Republican candidate for governor
raised: \$7.7 million

top contributors
\$6 million from the Republican Governors Association
\$250,000 from Thomas Saunders III of Saunders Karp & Co
\$225,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond
\$210,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.
\$200,000 from Walter Curt of Power Monitors Inc.



Terry McAuliffe
Democratic candidate for governor
raised: \$44.5 million

top contributors
\$5.6 million from DGA Action
\$750,000 from Mid-Atlantic Laborers’ Political Education Fund
\$600,000 from AFSCME
\$500,000 from Priorities USA
\$500,000 from Virginia League of Conservation Voters



Princess Blanding
Liberation Party candidate running for governor
raised: \$30,000

top contributors
\$8,000 from Realtor Chrischa Ives of Sandbridge Realty
\$1,100 from Charles Peters of Water View, Va.
\$1,050 from Anthony Castellano of Angus Dentistry
\$1,050 from Landon Shroder of Virginia Commonwealth University
\$1,000 from Matt Smith of MSE Properties in Henrico



Winsome Sears
Republican candidate for lieutenant governor
raised: \$2 million

top contributors
\$125,000 from the Republican State Leadership Committee
\$32,500 from Black America’s PAC
\$25,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.
\$25,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond
\$25,000 from the Virginia Citizens Defense League



Jason Miyares
Republican candidate for attorney general
raised: \$3.3 million

top contributors
\$500,000 from the Republican Attorneys General Association
\$105,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.
\$100,000 from Dominion Energy
\$94,500 from Miyares for Delegate
\$55,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond



Hala Ayala
Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor
raised: \$4 million

top contributors
\$250,000 from the Democratic Lieutenant Governors Association
\$200,000 from Everytown for Gun Safety
\$165,000 from Dominion Energy
\$160,000 from Emily’s List
\$150,000 from Planned Parenthood



Mark Herring
Democratic candidate for attorney general
raised: \$6.3 million

top contributors
\$1 million from the Democratic Attorney Generals Association
\$200,000 from Everytown for Gun Safety
\$110,000 from Ronald Abramson of Buchanan Ingersoll
\$100,000 from Planned Parenthood Action Fund
\$100,000 from SEIU Committee on Political Education

what he would do if elected.

“The problem is he’s running against a guy who is a former governor who knows the policy issues inside and out in many ways, who’s taken very clear positions on a lot of policy issues,” said Quentin Kidd, dean of the College of Social Sciences at Christopher Newport University. “The contrast is a liability for Youngkin.”

The final days of the campaign have seen McAuliffe trying to emphasize Trump, and Youngkin trying to capitalize on the culture war over schools. Trump once again endorsed Youngkin at that “Take Back Virginia” rally in Glen Allen, which featured a Pledge of Allegiance to a flag carried at the Jan. 6 insurrection. The Youngkin campaign is trying to walk a tightrope of appealing to the MAGA crowd while also not alienating suburban voters they’ll need to win. While Democrats campaigned with President Joe Biden, former President Barack Obama and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Republican ticket has taken a different approach.

“It could be that Youngkin doesn’t feel like his election is in much trouble,” said Jatia Wrighten, political science professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. “He feels pretty confident and comfortable with this backing of Trump as enough to put him over the finish line.”

While McAuliffe has been spending millions of dollars on TV ads tying Youngkin to Trump, the Youngkin campaign has been trying to ride the wave of outrage over controversies surrounding public education. Many parents are angry about what they call “critical race theory” being taught in Virginia classrooms, even though it’s a law school concept that is not taught in Virginia classrooms.

Youngkin says he’ll ban the law school theory from ever being taught in public school classrooms. He also criticized McAuliffe for vetoing a bill inspired by parents who were upset that Toni Morrison’s Pulitzer-prize winning book “Beloved” was being taught in Fairfax County schools.

“Surveys demonstrate a pretty high level of support for performance of the school boards in the covid crisis at least,” said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media

Glenn Youngkin, a private equity executive who is a former CEO of the Carlyle Group. On the campaign trail, he’s repeatedly refused to take a position on the assault weapons ban or the ultrasound requirement. When a

reporter for the Associated Press started asking about Youngkin’s policy positions in a recent interview, his campaign aides abruptly cut off the interview. So voters are heading into Election Day without much detail about

Studies at the University of Mary Washington. “That suggests that this really is more about activating the base rather than reaching to moderate voters not engaged otherwise in the gubernatorial campaign.”



Kimberly, Ashleigh, Christopher, and Tony Hicks, Springfield. "It's tradition to [vote] together ... for the stickers. But we're missing a daughter who is away in college and is voting there."

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Nazira & Farooq Ahmadzai, and Mejgan and Daniel Schwegler, Springfield: "We live together and always try to vote together, and vote early to be safe [that our votes are cast]."

Early In Person Voting Draws Lines at West Springfield

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

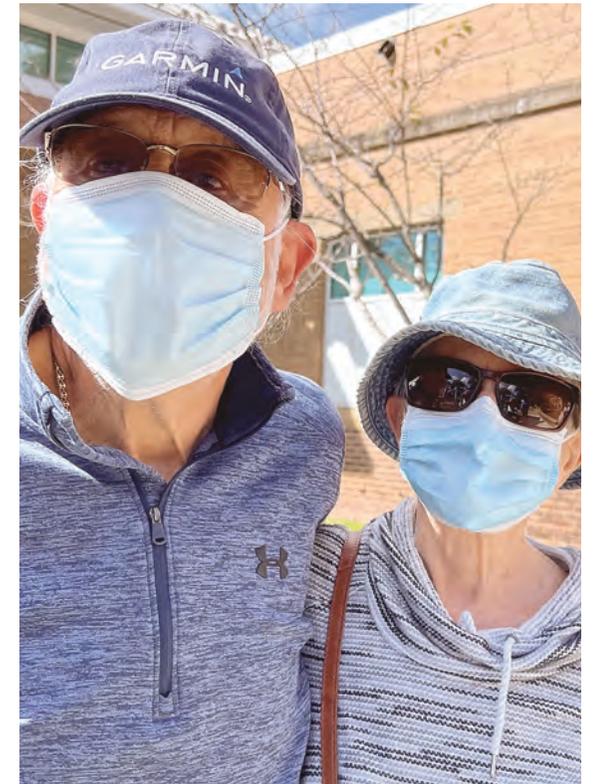
With time getting short in Virginia's early in person voting period, lines at West Springfield Government Center's voting location were steady on Oct. 23 and 24. Extending from the entrance to the end of the building, it took voters an average of 30 to 45 minutes to cast their votes. The last day for early in person voting is Saturday, Oct. 30. Why did voters come out before Election Day for the new "no reason required" early voting option?



West Springfield Government Center drew a steady line of early voters on Oct. 23 & 24



Rudy & Denise Tarlosky. Rudy said: "Before surgery; had to get it done."



Tony and Rosandra Corea, Springfield. Tony said: "To get it over with and don't die before." Rosandra shared: "It's my 84th birthday today. This is a good way to celebrate."



Nina Perlman, Annadale: "Because I can!"



Edith Roscoe, Springfield. "I run a home daycare and by the time I'm done it's late and I want to be sure my vote counts."



Morgan Collins, Vienna. "I'm a teacher, so need to be at school on voting day."



Deborah Maiorino, Burke: "Had to be out grocery shopping and running an errand."

Lorton Apiary Increasing Pollinators

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

With scientists decrying the decline of bee species worldwide, Lorton resident, Michelle Gill, is doing her part to provide a safe haven for colonies of honey bees. Gill's apiary, tucked into a fold of green space near Laurel Hill Park, provides a perfect spot near many native wildflowers and fruit trees for her bees to call home.

After noticing how much nearby farming had given way to development since her move to this area in 2005, she became interested in beekeeping out of increasing concern for the welfare of pollinators. After making a trail friend who had meadow space, their bee partnership soon was underway. Starting small with three hives, her goal is "to learn as much as possible about the nature of bees, without a focus on honey production." Leaving the honey in the hive assures her bees will have sufficient resources to survive through the winter.

Across the U.S., honey bee products and services are worth approximately \$700 million annually, however, their value as pollinators far exceeds the value of honey production.

There are about 20,000 species of bees; only eight are honey bee species. The majority of bees, 70 percent, are ground bees living solitary lives in underground tunnels,



Beekeeper Michelle Gill, Lorton, checks a frame from her hive where bees have produced wax; the darker honey (left) is made with pollen from local plants, the lighter honey on the right was produced from sugar water supplementing their diet.

rather than social bees in communal hives. Bees of both types, solitary and social, have a vital role in our food production system as pollinators. With about half of North

America's bee species in decline, even small aviaries, like Gill's, are important. In 2018, Virginia's General Assembly updated its program and created the Beehive Grant Fund



A smoke pot (below right) is used to keep worker, nurse bees, calm while the hive frames are checked.

"to promote the establishment of new beehives in the Commonwealth." The program, currently closed to applications, provides beehive equipment; beekeepers must acquire their own bees.

The apiary, from the Latin "apis" meaning bee, houses a queen bee in each hive box. Worker and drone bees within a hive are the offspring of the hive's queen. The queen, the only female to lay eggs to reproduce, is tended in the hive by female worker bees. Worker bees also perform the task of foraging; leaving the nest to collect nectar, pollen and water. Drones, male bees, without stingers, mate limited times to assure new generations, and then die. A queen lays an average of 1,500 eggs per day. Bee species are found throughout the world, except in Antarctica.

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Scott Alwine (right) and Ensar Alibali, Heavy Equipment Operators, compare notes as judges make final course adjustments for the snow plow-dump truck event at the Road-E-O competition at the former Niki missile site in Lorton on Oct. 13.



Heavy equipment operator Alwine takes the snow plow into the difficult right curve.

Road-E-O for Public Works

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Heavy equipment drivers get a chance to strut their stuff.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

County maintenance and grounds employees had an opportunity to show off their heavy equipment operating skills at the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Equipment Road-E-O. Equipment operators working for county stormwater management, public schools, and park authority vied for best skills and times on a variety of intricate courses. The competition was spread out over multiple courses at the former Niki missile site in Lorton on Oct. 13. With an eye to skills needed for coming winter snow management, events included two snow plow contests, dump truck and pick-up truck; also rubber tire loader, backhoe, knuckleboom crane, and Kubota.

See a snow plow at work on the road and one can appreciate their enormous size and power. Yet the monster trucks must navigate delicately in close spaces around cars and other property. The contest course simulates road conditions and challenges the operators to maneuver offset and serpentine patterns, tackle curves, move past obstacles without hitting them with any part of the vehicle, travel forward and in reverse, and park close to simulate an alley dock. Large snow plow course, first place winner: Ensar Alibali, Heavy Equipment Operator, Winchester; small snow plow winner: Matt Harris, Stormwater Management.

The rubber tire loader tests the operator's loading skills, moving washed stone with the huge equipment bucket into a dump truck, and driving forward and backwards through a serpentine course in a timed event. First place finisher: Tony Greene, Stormwater Management.

In practical application, the knuckleboom crane might be used to gather large amounts of yard debris, large appliances, or furniture from residential curbsides. In the contest, the operator's skill is tested by picking up a single brick, swinging it over the truck body, and placing it on a target. Penalties are awarded for knocking, dropping or breaking the brick. First place: Harold Galindo.



Takisha Cannon, with stormwater planning, explained examples of pollution problems at the Road-E-O competition at the former Niki missile site in Lorton on Oct. 13.



Tony Greene, stormwater depart., readies the rubber tire loader for a fast run through the serpentine course at the Road-E-O competition at the former Niki missile site in Lorton on Oct. 13.

Other courses, Backhoe, first place: Emery Conner; and Kubota, first place: Matt Harris.

"The day is a chance to show skills with the day off from normal work duties," said FCPS



Matt Harris, stormwater dept. uses the knuckleboom to pluck a brick and move it to the target circle on the opposite side of the truck.

office of facilities management supervisor, David Lopez. "I take roll call here, like a field day, and with a chance to make more new friends." The day's theme - "departments partnering will equal success."



Alternatives to Police Intervention

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

It's critical to have the right intervention at the right time by the right person," when responding to a person in a mental health crisis, said Abbey May, Director, Emergency and Crisis Services, Community Services Board.

The county received 9,081 mental health related calls for service in 2021 and 6,638 in 2020 and 5,189 in 2019. There were 231 calls for service for mental health crisis in the last week, Oct. 15-21, 2021, alone.

"What we don't have is real time primary response to 911 behavioral health calls," May said to the Board of Supervisors during a Public Safety Committee meeting last

month. To address this need, the county, in a "micropilot responder program," has added a field team that includes a Crisis Intervention Specialist to respond to calls with police, sometimes even taking the lead in de-escalating crises.

The initial effort "demonstrated that this approach was effective in responding to and de-escalating behavioral health crises," said Lisa Potter, Director, Diversion Initiatives.

About half the calls were deescalated in the community, and 40 percent were diverted from potential arrest or hospitalization, according to county reports. The response time to such calls averaged 11 minutes and specialists were able to de-escalate and divert with an average of 40 minutes of intervention on the scene.

The county began the second part of its study the day after the Sept. 28, 2021 meeting, and teams across the county will work seven days a week, pairing a crisis intervention specialist with an officer, and a crisis intervention specialist with an emergency dispatcher.

"It's really just a start, a starting point for us," said Captain James Krause, Fairfax County Police Department.

"This is certainly a priority for many," said Rodney Lusk, chair of the Public Safety committee.

"If the call doesn't have criminality and there's no risk of harm, at least from the assessment of the 911 dispatcher, or a threat to self or a threat to others, do we have the behavioral health person lead and have the police officer stay back?" Lusk asked.

"Yes, that's exactly what we are talking about, that's what happened in the responder pilot," said May. "Where we didn't really need law enforcement, they were there as security and kind of stepped back and let the behavioral staff take the lead."

About \$4 million will fund the 26 positions needed, including 10 crisis intervention specialists, two behavioral health liaisons, one behavioral health supervisor, eight officers, one police supervisor and four peer recovery specialists.

"I think this is something very easy to support. What you've recommended makes a lot of sense," said Chairman Jeff McKay.

By July 2022, the county expects to have a 9-8-8 number ready for people to call with mental health emergencies as an alternative to 9-1-1.

Advancing Trust Between Police and Community

Police Civilian Review Panel seeks more authority, set to get an executive director.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

The Police Civilian Review Panel asked the Board of Supervisors to enhance its ability to investigate complaints against the police.

"There probably should be a way for the panel to look at more than simply the information provided by the Internal Affairs Bureau [of the Fairfax County Police Department.] Currently, the IAB is the sole gatekeeper for an investigation and that is not a recipe for independence," said James N. Bierman Jr., chair of the Police Civilian Review Panel, at a Public Safety Meeting last month.

"The Civilian Review Panel cannot simply be seen as another arm of FCPD. and in order to be successful we need to be seen as a fair arbiter," he said.

The all-volunteer panel reviewed 67 complaints about the police the last two years, 32 in 2019-2020 and 35 in 2020-2021. Some 38 cases were brought to the Civilian Review Panel directly (18 in 2019-2020 and 20 in 2020-2021).

"The point is to make sure the police department and the community trust each other and can work well together so we have enhanced public safety," said Bierman.

BOS RECENTLY APPROVED the hiring of an Executive Director for the Police Civilian Review Panel, a position that is currently advertised, see the complete job listing. <https://www.government-jobs.com/jobs/3274483-0/executive-director-police-civilian-review-panel>
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

view-panel

"Let me tell you why I'm so excited about having an Executive Director. The new executive director will have the ability to review investigations and draft reports.

It's going to help professionalize the experience," said Bierman.

According to county documents, "The Executive Director directs, manages, and coordinates the activities of the Fairfax County Police

Civilian Review Panel (Panel). This position provides an accessible, safe, impartial and transparent intake process for complaints against officers and employees of the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD). Advises and supports the panel on all matters pertaining to the independent review of FCPD investigations."

Bierman presented the panel's annual report as well as a comprehensive four-year review of the panel's work since its origin in 2017.

"The panel's work can be placed squarely in the context of a national conversation on race and police

SEE PANEL, PAGE 15

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2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's

Taking steps toward a cure and the first survivor.

By **MERCIA HOBSON**
THE CONNECTION

Alzheimer's disease wreaks havoc on families, financial stability, and futures. It is not just memory loss; Alzheimer's kills. The disease shows no signs of slowing down. More than 6 million people live with Alzheimer's today. By 2050, the Alzheimer's Association predicts the number to rise to nearly 13 million, unless a medical breakthrough leads to curing, preventing or slowing the disease.

Just as the disease is not slowing down, neither have the estimated 738 walkers who gathered for the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Reston on Sunday, Oct. 24. "Like flowers, we don't stop when something's in our way. We keep pushing for a breakthrough in the fight to #ENDALZ," tweeted the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area @ALZNCA.

Numerous marchers carried a single flower, a Promise Garden of yellow, orange, blue, and purple. Some carried multiples. The flower colors served as virtual monuments to the marchers' personal experiences with the disease. According to Katie Roper of Alexandria, president of the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, a blue flower represents someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia; a purple flower represents someone who lost a loved one to the disease; a yellow flower represents someone currently supporting or caring for someone living with Alzheimer's, and an orange flower represents a participant who supported the cause and the Association's vision of a world free of Alzheimer's and other dementia.

In 2018, the Alzheimer's Association intro-



Nina Frymorer: "My mom passed in April, and an aunt."



"Alzheimer's is something that affects a member of my family."



From left, **John Griffin** of Herndon, **Chris Griffin** of Reston, **Diane Griffin Goldberg** of McLean, **Ron Goldberg**, and **Don Owens** of Reston. "It has touched our family like it will 50 percent of all families. It is a societal thing, [impacting] resources and family."



The **Cheifetz family** of Centreville, from left, **Craig**, **Jason**, **Tracy** holding **ABI**, and **Joel**. "We've raised \$1,500. I've seen the impact on my family's lives. My mom is in New York, a half-mile from her son, in a memory care unit."



Ruth Caldwell of Fundraising Team Elder Tree Care Management Services in Herndon. "We believe in supporting Alzheimer's [Association] for all the good work it is doing."



Zoie Barcase of Reston and family. "I'm here because my grandmother died of Alzheimer's, and I work at a community that has a memory care neighbor and am part of a Team Tribute."



The **Richardson and Lee families** of Herndon, Bristol, and Gainesville. "Our Gramma, **Loretta Reed**, battled the disease and died in June. We walk in her honor and to raise funds." The **Daydreamers' Team** raised \$1,200

duced a single white flower symbolizing the first survivor, and hope. A single white blossom rested on the announcer's podium at the Reston Pavilion.

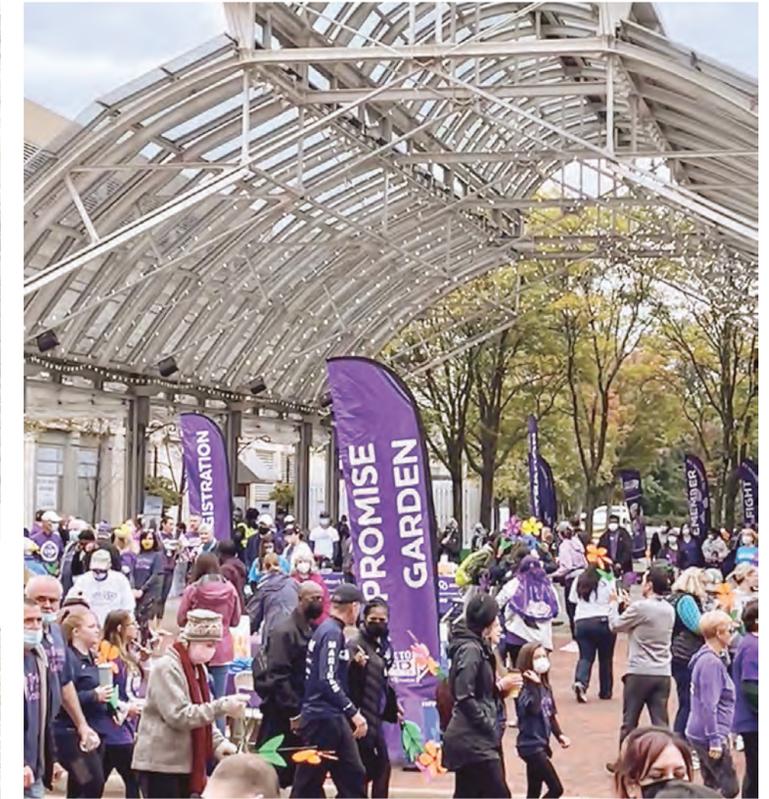
Cindy Schelhorn, senior director of communications and marketing for the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, said the Reston walk's goal was to raise \$220,000 toward Alzheimer's disease research, and to offer care and support for all those affected. Schelhorn said they would accomplish the goal. "We are very confident," she said. The top fundraiser was **Nicole Erdelyi**, at \$3,795, followed by **Meridith Hannan**, who raised \$3,780.

Roper explained that walkers come to show their support for the community and raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and all other forms of dementia. They are "here to support those who are newly diagnosed, and for those who are dealing with this devastating disease. ...

"We're here as a resource; we're here to help support the community, and we're here to raise funds so that we can put more money towards research and caring support."

Dan Cronin is the Alzheimer's local chapter's manager of programs and services. He is responsible for the educational programs locally. "We transitioned to the virtual world. We have been delivering our educational programs via ZOOM. We have everything from a 101 to Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia. We have the 10 Warning Signs. And we have Healthy Living for the Brain and Body. It talks about how the four pillars of good health can be applied to our everyday lives to help us age well," Cronin said.

Nicole Erdelyi, top fundraiser of the Reston event, is a member of **Lizzie's** team. Erdelyi said that approximately 6 million people in the United States, including 150,000 in Virginia, live with Alzheimer's disease, while over 11 million individuals in the U.S. serve



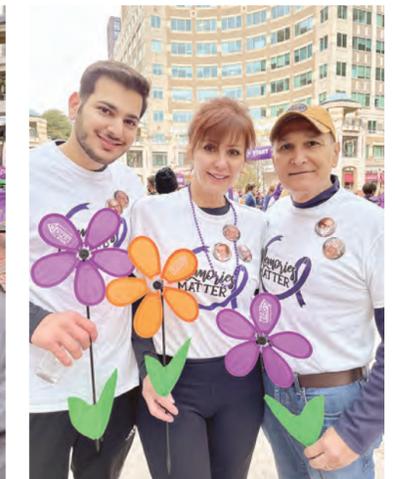
More than 700 walkers participate in the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's- Reston. Behind them, the Promise Garden bloomed with their handheld flowers, each color coded to symbolize the impact Alzheimer's had on them and those they love.



From left, **Emily Harris** of Oakton, her daughter **Aurora**, 3, and **Katie Roper** of Alexandria, president of the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter at the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Reston. **Emily Harris:** "I support the Alzheimer's Walk because I believe it is a curable disease that impacts so many families. It is heart-breaking. I have a friend with it."

as unpaid caregivers. As the disease's incidence increases, the cost of care continues to increase, already more than \$300 billion annually.

"Alzheimer's is destroying our families, our finances, and our future, and it's time to end it," Erdelyi said. "The money we raise helps



From left, **Kyle**, **Mina**, and **John Khaziram**. Their t-shirts read, "Memories Matter." Alzheimer's steals memories and lives, and breaks hearts,

the Alzheimer's Association lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction, early detection and maximizing quality care and support."

Erdelyi's grandmother, **Agatha Rappa**, died in August 2021 after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2010.

"My grief has come in stages as she progressed: not remembering me, not speaking, not smiling, and lastly, not eating or drinking. I walk because I have hope for a cure, and I'll continue to walk until there is a cure."

Fairfax Approves Collective Bargaining Ordinance

Forty-four years in the waiting.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Many people employed by Fairfax County gained new rights the evening of Oct. 20. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors passed a collective bargaining ordinance on a 9-1 vote. The action does not include Fairfax County Public Schools. Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) voted against the ordinance.

“Our county employees are hardworking individuals,” said Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. “They are why our county services are outstanding, why people want to live here, and why our economy is thriving.”

Referencing the Board’s pending decision Tuesday evening on the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 3 of the Code of the County of Fairfax, Virginia, County Employees, by Adding Article 10, Collective Bargaining, Sections 3-10-1 through 3-10-18, McKay said he knew that some people had been concerned about unions involvement in the process. All of the unions were involved, McKay said. “Twenty groups...had an opportunity every minute of every day to contact any one of us and talk about the issue.”

McKay said that the ordinance before them was “a compromise” that would help the County retain, attract and recruit the best employees. Concerns raised about keeping management rights were unfounded. “Frankly, most of the things that are in here are things we would do anyway; that this Board has done anyway ... So the idea that the sky is falling, and the world is changing, and the County will never be the same; it’s nonsense.”

McKay urged individuals to read “the actual words” [in the document]. “We’re merely putting them in writing and having a contract with our employees so that they know what the fair rules of engagement are and how they can make sure that they continue to work for one of the best employers in the region.”

McKay stressed this was “a collective bargaining ordinance,” not a “collective bargaining agreement.” Many things still need to be worked out. Approving the ordinance allows Fairfax County to go to the next step and work on establishing the agreement, something county employees had been asking for a very long time, McKay said. The General Assembly enabled this action in 2020.

“I am happy with this compromise,” McKay said. I think it puts our employees in a good place, but I think it also allows the county board to have authority over so many of the things ... others elected us to do in running the county government.”

Vice Chairman Penelope A. Gross asked the Board if they had any additional questions about the drafted ordinance before the vote, given there were “a number of red lines in here that indicate what the changes were.” She said some things got removed, others added, and “it certainly was not for lack of lots and lots of discussion” in the work and



Supervisor **Rodney L. Lusk (D-Lee)** “We have to trust the people ... at the front lines, and we have to also show our commitment to them in our faith in them. I think this ordinance does

that ... [Binding arbitration] ... that’s a pretty important positive part about this ordinance. It’s an important way for us to ensure that the parties actually reach an agreement.”



Supervisor **Dalia A. Palchik (D-Providence)** “This ... a continuation of the One Fairfax policy to support all, especially the most vulnerable employees or staff and residents in our County ... This is not a radical change or shift. It’s codifying much of what we do today... This is an incredible moment and a very historic one for our County.”

Supervisor **Kathy L. Smith (D-Sully)** “I’m happy to vote for this ordinance. It’s the beginning of the journey ... I think it’s really important as we move forward that we are sure that



Supervisor **Daniel G. Storck (D-Mount Vernon)** “This new day is, I think, an opportunity. It’s not without challenges; absolutely not. I have some concerns about what this means, but I also recognize that we put on the table all the possibilities.”

our employees have the information; they know where things are in the process.”



Supervisor **James R. Walkinshaw (D-Braddock)** “This collective bargaining ordinance is an opportunity for us to ensure that [residents] continue to get that high-quality service, and we explore every opportunity to make it even better. When they have a health emergency, they have the best trained, best-equipped fire and EMS first responders to help them. That when there’s a public safety issue in their neighborhoods, that they have the best trained and best equipped public safety professionals and police officers responding to that. When they have a mental health crisis or substance abuse issue, that they have the best trained, best equipped, highly professional counselors.”

employee groups. “I am satisfied that we have done as good a job as we possibly could do, especially for this first time out.”

Herry said that issues with collective bargaining agreements transcend public entities, whether the police, fire department, or general county employees. “I think it will be bad for Fairfax County residents and employees.”

Herry said in his private and public sector work as a chief finance officer, they “live and die off recruiting and retention.”

“We are in a period of the ‘Great Resignation,’” Herry said. “This ... is going to hurt

Chairman, At-Large - **Jeffrey C. McKay (D)** Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. “This is a historic day in the County ... We’re going to have conversations with our employees to improve the



County. And it’s a day that our County employees should rest assured that board members don’t have to say they support county employees. They can actually show it.”



Supervisor **John W. Foust (D-Dranesville)** “In my opinion, having been a member, having benefited from collective bargaining, and knowing what it’s like inside a steel mill. Watching my dad,

a member of a union, the dignity that comes with knowing that you have a collective bargaining agreement in place. You’re not subject to arbitrary and capricious conduct. I’m not suggesting that happens here, but there’s no reason not to ensure that it doesn’t happen.”



Supervisor **Daniel G. Storck (D-Mount Vernon)** “This new day is, I think, an opportunity. It’s not without challenges; absolutely not. I have some concerns about what this means, but I also recognize that we put on the table all the possibilities.”

Supervisor **Pat Herry (R-Springfield)** “I’m going to remind you when this goes to arbitration and costs our residents dearly. I’m going to remind you when we have issues with bad employees.



Trust me, I’m going to remind you. I’m not going to be supporting this.”

Supervisor **Walter L. Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill)** “I was asked recently what’s in this for Hunter Mill constituents that are not county employees ... What this does is it creates a process for collaborating with our county employees to make service delivery better, improve working conditions, and help ensure we recruit and retain the best local government workforce ... I think there is a public value moving forward with that.”



Vice Chairman **Penelope A. Gross (D-Mason)** “Our employees can bring to us their concerns about how they are, what’s going on, and also their solutions ... Now we’re going to be able to do that in a formal agreement.”



our ability to be flexible and offer things like signing bonuses ... The final turn of the document did eliminate the County’s sole authority to hire, promote, fire, transfer, discipline our employees. ... I’m really concerned about binding arbitration.”

Tammie Wondong is a 32-year county employee and President of the Fairfax Chapter of SEIU [Service Employees International Union] Virginia 512. It is a diverse union of more than 2,000 general county employees. Its members are nurses, social workers, mental health professionals, librarians, parks staff, sanitation workers,

“Tonight’s extraordinary victory is the direct result of working people joining together in our union and pushing for transformative change. This ordinance protects workers, strengthens public services, and benefits every single member of the Fairfax community. Our union is thrilled and looks forward to working in collaboration with the County to make Fairfax an even better place to live, work, and play,” said Wondong.

Only as of May 1, 2021, when the Virginia General Assembly granted local government employers the right to decide their course of action regarding collective bargaining could Virginia cities, towns, counties and school boards including Fairfax County pass such an ordinance or resolution. After a forty-four-year ban, Virginia’s collective bargaining law allows for recognizing unions or employee associations as the exclusive bargaining representatives for specific segments of their workforces.

Northern Virginia Jobs for Veterans, Military Spouses

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) is partnering with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and the Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives to host the Veteran and Military Career Fair at the United States Army Museum at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Geared toward assisting veterans, active-duty service members and military spouses/partners transitioning out of the military, the hybrid event will take place on Nov. 4, 2021, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. Eastern Time. Job seekers can also attend virtually from 1-4 p.m. Eastern Time if they are unable to attend the in-person event.

Register to attend the fair at www.workinnorthernvirginia.com/virtual-career-fairs/.

During the hybrid event, candidates can interview with more than

50 companies and organizations in Northern Virginia, from Fortune 500s to small businesses. Regional employers – including Amazon, Microsoft, Verizon, Cox Communications, Inova Health System and the U.S. Department of Justice – are collectively hiring for more than 7,000 positions across sectors ranging from IT to healthcare. All backgrounds and experience levels are welcome, and attendees do not need to live in Northern Virginia to interview with hiring companies.

“Our veterans and active-duty military members transition to civilian life with technical skills, an incredible work ethic and many more qualities that are valuable to our hiring companies in Northern Virginia,” said Victor Hoskins, president and CEO of the FCEDA.

The Veteran and Military Career Fair is the latest effort by the FCEDA initiative to attract, retain, retrain and grow talent in Northern Virginia.

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- 10/27/2021.....Senior Living Connection Families: Safe for Halloween
- 10/2/2021.....Election Preview

NOVEMBER

- 11/3/2021.....Wellbeing
- 11/10/20.....HomeLifeStyle
- 11/17/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
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Military in the Arts Initiative, Every Day of the Year

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRISTOPHER FORREN, WMAI ART THERAPY INTERN

Workhouse Arts Center, honoring military veterans and their families every day of the year.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With its Military in the Arts Initiative (WMAI), the Workhouse Arts Center “is here for our valued and honored veterans,” said Leon Scioscia, President and CEO, Workhouse Arts Center.

“The WMAI seeks to increase equity, access, and opportunities for veterans to participate in quality arts programming that is sensitive and responsive to their unique experiences,” said Scioscia.

“Our society owes all of our military personnel heartfelt thanks and support for all that they do to keep our Country safe and free. It is our desire to ensure that our Military in the Arts program addresses the needs, and hopefully improves the lives, of our military service members, veterans, their families, and caregivers through the arts,” said Scioscia.

Alyssa Goggan, Workhouse, Acting Military in the Arts Director, made clear that the “WMAI’s mission is to provide a space to those who have given and sacrificed so

much to protect our rights and freedoms.” The program offers a large range of activities and options for the participants including fine arts engagement and mental health services in the form of art therapy among many services and activities.

For Workhouse Military in the Arts Initiative, “success is seeing our program participants come and engage with the arts, their community, and being open to trying or learning something new. ... Being able to reach one individual means we are continuing our mission of providing the space for creativity, self-expression, community engagement, and addressing the needs of that individual and our military community,” said Goggan.

Workhouse Military in the Arts’s founding Managing Director Debra Balestreri: “The creation, management, and growth of the WMAI program has been the single most gratifying program I have ever had the privilege to be a part of at Workhouse Arts Center.”

“I come from a military family and to be able to give back to service members by offering them valuable, healing, experiences



Workhouse Warrior Way exhibition: Splendid Boho, a solo exhibition by Judith Arnold, who retired from the US Army to pursue her love of art in 2017. Exhibit through Nov. 7. <https://www.workhousearts.org/event/splendid-boho-by-judith-arnold/>

in the arts, has brought me such joy over the years. To me, this demographic represents the best of what makes us human beings; selflessness, honor, dedication, and the willingness to take challenges head-on.” added Balestreri

With health and safety a priority during the continuing pandemic, the Workhouse Arts Foundation will salute and honor all Veterans for their service on Veterans Day with a virtual event. The Workhouse Arts Center website will feature a special virtual salute and will share tour links of national monuments, museums, and battlefields.



Alyssa Goggan, acting Military in the Arts director and Leon Scioscia, president and CEO, Workhouse Arts Center

Where and When

Ongoing, Workhouse Arts Center, Military in the Arts Initiative. All programs and elements of the WMAI program are available and free to veterans, active-duty service members, their families, and caregivers. Workhouse Arts Center is located at 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton, VA 22079. For information, including updated health and safety guidelines for in-person visits go to: www.workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900.

Powerful Unknown

Musical tribute commemorating 100th Anniversary of founding of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, with UrbanArias and Wolf Trap.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Over 116,000 American troops perished during World War I. Many unknown. One unknown has a final resting place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. November 11, 2021 is the centenary of the Tomb. As part of events surrounding the centenary of the Tomb there will be the streaming film “UNKNOWN.” It is a commission by Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Northern Virginia’s UrbanArias, and opera companies throughout America.

“UNKNOWN” is not just an Arlington story, or even a story for the Washington region. It is a national story, one that connects with every American who has service or known someone who has served in our armed forces.” said Anne-Carolyn Bird, Executive Director, UrbanArias

The “UNKNOWN” will explore the ideas of war, honor, and memory through the eyes of soldiers, family members, and Tomb Guards. It will feature footage captured at The Barns of Wolf Trap, and dramatic footage filmed at locations in Northern Virginia.

This special online presentation commemorates the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. The presentation is set in the Barns at Wolf Trap and locations throughout Northern Virginia. Featured performers are baritones Michael Mayes and Schyler Vargas and mezzo-soprano Taylor Raven, accompanied by members of the Inscape Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Robert Wood.

Kristine McIntyre, who directs “UNKNOWN” said the presentation “allows a deep exploration of critical questions: What of the warrior who does not return? How do we as a society honor that sacrifice and what does it mean? World War I was a turning point for the United States as a nation, and the Tomb represents a reckoning with our new destiny.”

“UNKNOWN” includes songs from WWI and the Great American Songbook as well the premiere of the dramatic song cycle titled “UNKNOWN” composed by award-winning Shawn E. Okpebholo with poems by Marcus Amaker. The music ranges from solemn, sacred, and soulful, to waltzes, Latin



COURTESY SHAWN E. OKPEBHOLO
Shawn E. Okpebholo, composer



OWEN CAREY/
COURTESY URBANARIAS
Kristine McIntyre, director

styles and into military cadence.

For composer Okpebholo, “UNKNOWN” is expansive in its presentation and outlook. “UNKNOWN is not just a White American story. ‘Unknown’ looks like America. It reflects musically the diversity of those who served in the war. Those who fought and died.”

“I want to leave the audience moved... This is America’s story.” added Okpebholo. “I intentionally incorporated diverse musical styles, textures, sonorities, and colors to musically bring to life the powerful themes of services, sacrifice, waiting, home, death, and hope.”

The haunting poems by Marcus Amaker aim at piercing hearts and minds with phrases such as; “I am one of many warriors willing to fight for a country that promises freedom” and “Layers of remembrance hover over us like clouds”

And fitting for unknown dead; “If death has a sound, then I am now its echo.”



HEATHER JACKSON/COURTESY URBANARIA
From filming of “UNKNOWN” cast on location at World War II Memorial

Where and When

In collaboration with Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Northern Virginia’s UrbanArias premieres streaming performances of “UNKNOWN” from Tuesday, Nov 11, 2021 to Nov 18, 2021. Tickets: Free with registration at www.urbanarias.org. The film will stream at the Wolf Trap web site www.wolf-trap.org and UrbanArias at www.urbanarias.org. Note: UrbanArias will donate 50% of all donations made at the time of registration to the scholarship programs of “The Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.” For history about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers go to www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier

Thank You for Being a Friend

Women find comradery, support and fun through weekly art group.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

First they start with coffee, conversation and perhaps a slice of cake. Then they unzip their canvas tote bags which hold paint brushes, acrylic paint in a rainbow of colors, Mod Podge, a canvas and maybe dried flowers and a few scraps of wrapping paper. The group of six women, who have been friends for more than 50 years, meet every Friday morning at 11:30 to explore their interest in art, maintain their friendship and satisfy their need for relaxation.

"We talk about everything from our grandchildren to what's going on in the world," said Chrystal Pierce, a retired art teacher who lives in Fairfax, who organized the group. "We each work on what inspires us on a particular day. It's different for each of the women. Some paint or make decoupage art on canvas, some sketch or some just doodle. The art is secondary, the main idea is spending time together and having something to look forward to every week."

The women, who are in their early 70s have been close friends since high school and have supported each other through life changes that range from the death of a spouse to the birth of a grandchild. None are aspiring artists, but they use art as a way of maintaining their bond. They take turns hosting their weekly art and social sessions and they believe that their healthy friendships will sustain them as they age.

"I know that friend groups like ours can keep you happy and that contributes to your overall wellbeing," said Liz Best, a retired high school guidance counselor who now lives in Potomac. "Coronavirus was a tough time for us when we couldn't get together. We used Zoom, but it was only slightly better than nothing."

As a single mother of five, Dickerson got support from her friends while she was raising her children in Alexandria. "I had one son who used to give me so much trouble," she said. "He would throw these parties and mess up my house when I wasn't there. I can't tell you how many times he was suspended from school for one thing or another. I would call these friends and they would tell me that it was all going to be okay."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRYSTAL PIERCE

(from left) Gloria Black, Chrystal Pierce and Alice Dickerson have been close friends since high school. They gather every week for art and conversation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRYSTAL PIERCE

Creating art is one of the ways that Chrystal Pierce and her friends stay connected.

"Art is secondary, the main idea is spending time together and having something to look forward to every week."

— Chrystal Pierce, Fairfax

When Gloria Black was diagnosed with breast cancer the women took turns going with her for her chemo treatments. "I don't think I could've done it without them," she said. "Liz even knitted a cap for me when I lost all of my hair. They made meals and brought them to my house so that I didn't have to cook for my family. When I think about what these women mean to me, I get tears in my eyes."

Pierce says that while she sometimes gives advice and offers ideas to the other women, most of their time together is relaxed. "Nobody judges or comments on anyone else's work," she said. "There have been times when one or the other of us has wanted to create something to hang at our house, but most of the time we just want to relax and enjoy each other's company."

CALENDAR

NOW THRU 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/>

NOW THRU OCT. 31

Fall for the Book. Fall for the Book Festival featuring live and recorded events will be held virtually and in-person at George Mason's Fairfax campus. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fall for the Book events and sessions are free and open to the public. Fall for the Book is free with the generous support of sponsors including the Fairfax County Public Library, George Mason University, the Fairfax Library Foundation, and the City of Fairfax among others. On Friday, October 29 at 1:30 p.m., actor Henry Winkler will appear virtually to discuss his new children's book Hollywood vs. The Galaxy with co-author Lin Oliver. Fall for the Book returns with a new hybrid format including virtual and in-person events, including live Podcasts. For complete up-to-date schedule with details, visit www.fallforthebook.org.

NOW THRU NOV. 7

"Wicked." Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 - 7 p.m. At 2905 District Ave. #105, Fairfax. There's a "Wicked" new exhibit at Mosaic District, but wicked in a good way. In today's informal slang, the word "wicked" can mean excellent or even awesome. With Halloween in mind, it is in that spirit that the Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic is presenting its newest show titled "Wicked." Gallery artists will demonstrate the theme in a variety of mediums, including painting, fine art photography, exquisite jewelry, fabric art, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture. The Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic is a satellite gallery sponsored by the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association.

THURSDAY/OCT. 28

Disclosure Filmmaker Discussion. 8:45-9:30 p.m. Zoom link will be emailed to registrants. George Mason University's Visiting Filmmakers Series is excited to host a virtual Q&A with filmmakers Sam Feder and Stacy Goldate as they discuss their Netflix documentary film, Disclosure. Visit the website: <https://vfs.gmu.edu/events/12450>

OCT. 28-31

Concert Presentation of "Footloose." Oct. 28-30 at 8 p.m. Oct 30-31 at 2 p.m. At the GMU Center for the Arts. Presented by Mason School of Theater. Based on the 1984 film of the same name, Footloose the musical celebrates the exhilaration of youth, the wisdom of listening to one another, and the power of forgiveness. Kick off our new season with exuberant singing and dancing as everybody cuts footloose. Stage Adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie. Based on the Original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford. Music by Tom Snow, Lyrics by Dean Pitchford. Cost is \$30 adults, \$15 students, faculty/staff and seniors.

FRIDAY/OCT. 29

STEM Class. 4-5 p.m. or 7-8 p.m. At Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale. Hands-on experiences are the best way to engage young children in stimulating an interest in science and technology. Hidden Oaks is adding another STEM class to meet the demand for their popular Nature Science classes. Children will uncover clues to an animal's behavior by examining skeletons. Participants will make a glow-in-the-dark skeleton to take home just in time for Halloween. Each session is \$10 per child and a maximum of one adult may attend per child. Call 703-941-1065.

SATURDAY/OCT. 30

"Celebration of Trees." 9 a.m. At Barrett House, 8789 Lorton Road, Lorton. Tree planting ceremony hosted by Laurel Hill Park Volunteer Team. Volunteers will replace oak trees at the historic Barrett House and begin plantings in the reforestation project area of the park. Planting will follow a short poetry reading in honor of oaks. The public is invited to participate.

SATURDAY/OCT. 30

Celebrate the Return. 7:30-9 p.m. At Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Lion Run, Fairfax. The City of Fairfax Band is glad to be back and will present an evening of festive selections. The program includes Shostakovich's Festive Overture, Broughton's Southern Jubilee, Reed's complete Armenian Dances and more. Cost is Senior, \$10; Adult, \$15; Students under 25, free. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxband.org/>

SATURDAY/OCT. 30

Workhouse Community Market. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Trick-or-treating with the vendors. Free candy for all. Costumes are welcomed for guests of all ages and special prizes will be awarded to those who really show their spirit! Categories will be cutest, spookiest and most creative costumes in the following age ranges: 0-3; 3-7; 8-10; 11-14; 15-18 and Best family/group costume.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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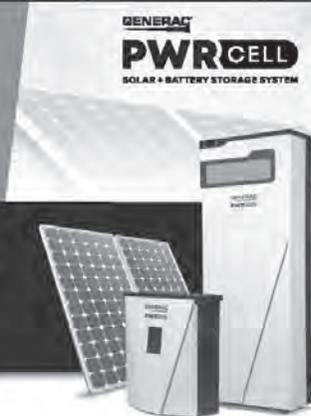
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 3
 Mason Symphony Orchestra Concert. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Enjoy a concert from the Mason Symphony Orchestra, which is comprised of outstanding string, wind, and percussion players from throughout the Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music. Cost is \$12 adult, \$8 senior, \$5 youth (through Grade 12).

THURSDAY/NOV. 4
 Picture a Scientist. 8:45-9:30 p.m. Online. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. George Mason University's Visiting Filmmakers Series is proud to present a special screening of the Netflix documentary, Picture a Scientist, followed by a discussion with the film's directors, Ian Cheney and Sharon Shattuck. Picture A Scientist powerfully chronicles the groundswell of researchers who are writing a new chapter for women scientists. They recall their own experiences in the sciences, ranging from brutal harassment to years of subtle slights. The film also offers perspectives on how to make science itself more diverse, equitable, and open to all. To learn more and to register for the event, visit: <https://vfs.gmu.edu/events/11869>

THURSDAY/NOV. 4
 Author Event. 12-1 p.m. Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask. In matter-of-fact responses to over 120 questions, both thoughtful and outrageous, modern and historical, Ojibwe scholar and cultural preservationist Anton Treuer gives a frank, funny, and sometimes personal tour of what's up with Indians, anyway. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/8428259?hs=a>

SUNDAY/NOV. 7
 Jerusalem Quartet. 4 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Featuring Pinchas Zukerman, violin/viola and Amanda Forsyth, cello. Grammy Award-winning conductor, violinist, and violist Pinchas Zukerman, and Canadian Juno Award-winning cellist Amanda Forsyth join forces with the Jerusalem Quartet for a trio of radiant Romantic-era works by Bruckner, Dvořák, and Brahms. Cost is \$60, \$51, \$36, half-price for youth through Grade 12. Bruckner: Adagio from String Quintet in F major. Dvořák: Sextet for Strings in A major, Op. 48. Brahms: Sextet for Strings in B-flat major, Op. 18

MONDAY/NOV. 8
 2nd Annual Duck Race. 10:30-11 a.m. At Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Watch the race via Facebook as Lake Accotink is invaded by rubber ducks of all kinds. 1st Place winners in each category will receive an award. For a link to sponsor your duck text DUCKRACE to 243725 or visit us online at www.braininjurysvcs.org/bisduckrace

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

FROM PAGE 2

feature several bonfires, a six-lane slide, music, karaoke, entertainment, tasty treats, Foamhenge, and more. All under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (18+). Tickets required. Last admission at 10pm. Come alone or in a group. Buy your tickets online or same-day at the door. Proof of age required. See <https://fieldsoffear.cox-farms.com/> for more details on timed entry assignments, rain policy, food options, and complete list of attractions.

OCT. 16 TO NOV. 6

"Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Set against the socially turbulent 1960s, "Wait Until Dark" follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman who, while left alone in her apartment, becomes embroiled with a group of con men hatching an elaborate scam. As the tension mounts, Suzy must fend for herself, but the phone line is cut, and the house is plunged into darkness. Can Suzy outwit her murderous visitors? Note: All patrons are required to wear a mask (even if vaccinated) for the duration of the performance. Admission: \$21 to \$24 per person. Visit the website: thelittletheatre.com.

OCT. 29, 30

Grief & Ghost Tour at Lee-Fendall House. At 7, 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Celebrate Halloween with a look at Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of tragic deaths and mysterious occurrences at the Lee-Fendall House. Customs such as draping the mirrors after a death, funeral practices, hair mementos, mourning clothing and séances will be explored. These tours offer a rare opportunity to see the house after dark. Tours groups will be limited to 10 participants and tickets must be purchased in advance. Face masks are required. Admission: \$15 per person. Visit leefendallhouse.org

OCT. 28 AND 30

Poems and Stories of Edgar Allan Poe at Ivy Hill Cemetery. 7 to 8 p.m. Tour begins at the Ivy Hill Cemetery Office, 2823 King St., Alexandria. "Even in the grave, all is not lost!" The Guillotine Theatre presents "Poe outside the Vault" at Ivy Hill Cemetery. Actors from Guillotine Theatre will read from the works of Edgar Allan Poe. This is a sell-out event in a most suitable atmosphere. Seating is limited. RSVP to info@IHCHPS.org. Admission is \$20. Visit the website: ivyhillcemetery.net

OCT. 30, 31

Halloween Pet Portraits and Trick or Treat. At Village at Shirlington, and Westpost (formerly known as Pentagon Row.) Federal Realty invites kids in costumes to trick o' treat (tickets go on sale October 15th and are required), and complimentary Halloween pet portraits by Pooch Portrait Studios. This photography experience welcomes pets in costumes to capture a Halloween moment. Details:

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at Pooch Portraits at Westpost Plaza (1201 S Joyce Street in Arlington) from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pike & Rose on Saturday, October 30, 2021 with PIKEkids Trick or Treat from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (*Tickets required).

Sunday, October 31, 2021 a Bark Social Halloween Puppy Parade at 2 p.m. (*Tickets required at www.barksocial.com) Village at Shirlington on Arlington Mill Drive in Arlington.

Saturday, October 30, 2021, Pooch Portraits on the Plaza at Arlington Mill Drive from 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Dogma Bakery Puppy Trick or Treat from 2-4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021 a Kids Trick or Treat from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 27

Vienna Halloween Parade. The 75th annual Town of Vienna Halloween Parade will take place at 7 p.m. The theme for this year's parade is "The Roaring Twenties." Children and others in costume are invited to march along in the parade, no need to register, meet at 6 p.m. at the United Bank, 374 Maple Ave., E. For sponsorship details, check out the Town's Halloween Sponsor brochure or contact Lily Widman via email or at 703-255-5738. Visit the website: <https://www.viennava.gov/residents/concerts-and-events/halloween-parade>

FRIDAY/OCT. 29

Halloween Vampire Ball. At Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; Show starts at 8 p.m. Synetic Theater, in association with the National Landing Business Improvement District, JBG SMITH, and The Freshman, is throwing a VAMPIRE BALL. The festivities start with a performance of The Madness of Poe followed by an indoor/outdoor dance party with all the food, drinks, and candy that a ghoul could ask for. Expect aerialists, Edgar Allan Poe-themed cocktails, dancing, physical theater, spooky Georgian remixes, fun-sized candy bars, and more. Tickets are \$95-\$125 and are available at synetictheater.org.

Civilian Review Panel

FROM PAGE 7

reform, happening during the middle of a global pandemic."

Following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, a car rally for justice was held outside the Board of Supervisors building. The police officer who killed Floyd was sentenced to 22 and ½ years in prison for murder.

"Chief Roessler at that time pointed out in Fairfax County we do our best to have accountability and there's even a police civilian review panel that you can go to and a police auditor in such situations," said Bierman. "The recommendations matrix, the creation of a dialogue that is open and public between the panel and the FCPD, I think, is leading to better practices and better investigations. The quality of investigation from the IAB is

improving," said Bierman.

THE PANEL MADE 11 major recommendations, including the need for an executive director, an increase in its outreach efforts to the community and to the police,

"Racial bias and racial profiling complaints still present a challenge to the FCPD and the panel. It's obvious why these cases present a challenge. These cases are hard," he said. "Let me step back a moment. These cases could be easy but they often aren't. They often don't involve something that is outward or very clear and we need to find ways to investigate allegations of racial bias and systematize such investigations."

For more on the panel, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/>

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"No, Thank You"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Really? I'm being polite to an artificially-intelligent computer now? Why, exactly? Do I risk cancelling my transaction if I'm not courteous and respectful when I sign off? This ludicrous thought crossed my eyes the other day when I was transacting some after-hours banking business through my bank's ATM. I put in my debit card, waited for the machine to click/read my details, and then proceeded to conduct my business. Though I was shown multiple/options/buttons to press to advise the computer what I needed to do, I was only making a deposit. "Yes," I was asked, the amount entered is correct. "Yes," I'm selecting my checking account. "Yes," I'd like a receipt with the check image. "Yes," I'd like a paper receipt, not one texted to my cell phone or emailed to the email address on file. Finally, after confirming all these details and completing my transaction, I was asked - via the computer screen, if I wanted another transaction. It's at this exact nearly-final moment at the ATM when I got the inspiration for this column.

If indeed I was finished with my ATM banking business, I needed to sign off (thereby freeing up the machine for the next person). However, signing off was not simply a "yes" or "no" answer. There was of course a box for me to press to end this process. The words in these boxes were my answer as provided by the computer. The box said: "No, Thank You." That's when it hit me. By pressing this box - and tacitly agreeing to its sentiment, I was being forced - indirectly, into being polite to an inanimate object, whether that object was being artificially intelligent or perhaps simply programmed to be insufferably presumptuous. Either way, I felt my humanity compromised as if I had just made the ultimate sacrifice: my independence. I wasn't a man anymore. I was a machine.

Do you mean to say that there's honor-among-thieves-type of courtesy between computer users and the computers themselves? Am I supposed to treat my fellow computer like my fellow man? Like it has feelings? And if I somehow fail to interact with my computer in the proper form/tono/inflexion/manner, could I suffer negative consequences for my oversight? What are we talking about here? The movies? The future? Real life? I just wanted to make a deposit through my bank's ATM. I didn't want to start a relationship and I certainly didn't expect to inadvertently incur the wrath of some computer network last night that might now target me as some kind of virus (I've had all my vaccinations, even my booster). In fact, I'm simply a depositor. I'm not a threat. And I definitely don't want to have to pass muster with a computer chip. Can I speak to someone real, PLEASE? Of course not. It's after hours. I guess I'll have to come back tomorrow. But as it turned out "tomorrow" is a Saturday and the branch is no longer open on Saturdays. If I have any further business to conduct, it will have to be through the ATM. Great. Can you say vicious cycle?

But if I am to believe the computer programmers, the computers are incapable of being vicious. They're simply calculating, without being calculating. They're not being "Hal" from "2001: Space Odyssey." There's no ulterior motivation. They're not making my life miserable because they can. They're tools, like a doorstop, except they're excellent with numbers. They are simply following instructions/programs, very detailed ones for sure, but nothing more. I don't have to worry about them - aside from their computations, do I? And if I don't have to worry about them then why do I have to be nice to them, considerate to them as if they had feelings? I'm the one with feelings. You should be more concerned with being nice to me, not me being nice to computers. It used to be said that "Talk is cheap;" now it's computer code that's cheap. Obviously, in today's world, computers are essential, but never more than the customers. We may not always be right but our opinions always matter.

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

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