

Why We Walk To End Alzheimer's

CURE, PAGE 6

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."

Friends Make All the Difference

SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 8

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

County's Mature Trees Have Little Protection

INFILL, PAGE 2

Fighting an Invasion

EAGLE PROJECT, PAGE 5

Building Trust with Police

CIVILIAN REVIEW, PAGE 8

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McLean's Mature Trees Threatened



Tree canopy protection as viewed on the video Infill & Tree Canopy Forum on Oct. 19.



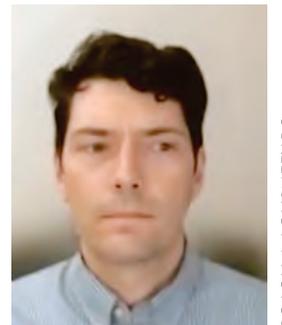
Paul Kohlenberger, president of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce.



Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville)



Jim McGlone is a Virginia Department of Forestry urban forest conservationist.



Mathew Hansen, P.E. is the Site Development and Inspection Division director of the Department of Land Development Services, Fairfax County.

SCREENSHOT PHOTOS

Infill development can wreak havoc on the tree canopy.

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Some McLean residents do not want to see the area's mature trees on infill properties fall when existing older houses are demolished to make way for new homes. McLean Citizens Association and Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Infill & Tree Canopy Forum on Oct. 19 to discuss

concerns. Several state and county authorities discussed infill development and its impact on the tree canopy. Rob Jackson, MCA president, moderated.

Supervisor John Foust said that reconstruction of older neighborhoods is inevitable, but it is "upsetting when mature trees are cut down for a construction project." According to Foust, the county passed a tree conservation ordinance in 2008. Because Virginia is

a Dillon rule state, the county can only exercise as much power as it has been specifically given by the General Assembly. "They did not give us enough power," Foust said.

The ordinance sets out procedures for monitoring inspections, violations, and fines.

"Many developers do a fantastic job and follow the guidelines, but I think we have all seen cases when builders, and frankly, the county, should have done more

SEE MCLEAN'S MATURE, PAGE 4

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.

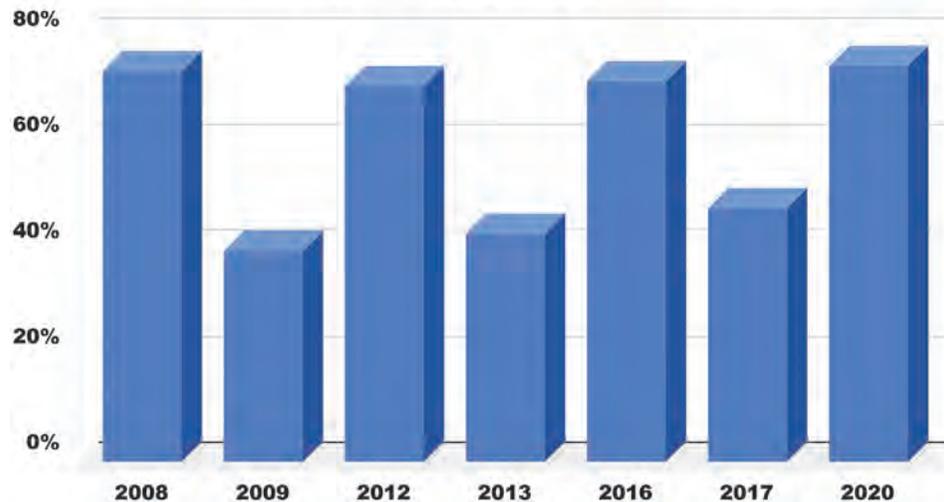
McAuliffe is attempting to do something very rare in Virginia politics: return to the Executive Mansion. Virginia is the only state in the country to have a four-year term limit, a constitutional prohibition on governors running for reelection. Only one former governor has ever been elected twice: Mills 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

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

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

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.”

McLean's Mature Trees Threatened

FROM PAGE 2

to avoid land disturbance to save trees," said Foust. He added that staff has become more aggressive in enforcement. An urban forester reviews all new plans, and site inspectors are stricter than before.

Paul Kohlenberger, president of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, said they worked with the McLean Tree Foundation for tree-lined streets in planning principles of the comprehensive plan for the McLean Community Business Center.

Jim McGlone, Virginia Department of Forestry urban forest conservationist, said some legislative rules create elements of the development process that compete with trees for space. "It's not just the house and the trees. There are a lot of other things that have to go into that lot according to state code, and they compete." Stormwater mitigation is one example.

McGlone said there are only two primary county codes for infill development and trees. The Fairfax County tree conservation ordinance is the discretionary authority that is only available to Northern Virginia communities.



SCREENSHOT PHOTO

New construction as infill as viewed on the video Infill & Tree Canopy Forum on Oct. 19.

The state code sets canopy requirements.

The county does not have any say over tree canopy requirements. That is written in the state code. However, under 15.2-96.1 and the ordinance that follows, the coun-

ty can require that the canopy requirements be met through planting and preservation, but McGlone says the state code determines how much tree preservation is required.

"Fairfax County is currently using all of the discretionary author-

ity that they have had given to it by the state legislature," McGlone said. He added that Fairfax County has the toughest tree preservation regulations.

Mathew Hansen, P.E. is the Site Development and Inspection Division director of the Department of Land Development Services, Fairfax County. The department is tasked with protecting the county's tree canopy, he said. Infill development is "a local issue," according to Hansen. Infill, for the topic of this discussion, he said, is "a single-family home redevelopment ... a house that is probably on a teardown and rebuild situation," he said.

"Infill starts at 2,500 square feet, with most work done above 5,000. The vast majority of [permits], 650 per year, about half of those in the Dranesville District, are infill plans. " Infill Lot Grading Plans are the most common plan type.

Stormwater management, grading, erosion and sediment control, septic fields and driveway are some of the physical elements Hansen mentioned that compete with trees on infill lots. Unlike larger developments, there are no

public hearings or notice requirements built-in for infills. Instead, the Site Development & Inspections Division, Urban Forestry, and VDOT inspect them.

According to Hansen, the county is updating its permitting system so that the public can subscribe geographically and be notified when applications are submitted. The notifications, Hansen said, are being built into the permitting system so the public could check the submitted applications for demolition permits on the County website. Building permit information can be found on FIDO (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fido/>).

Notification could give residents a chance to talk to the builder about concerns before the trees come down.

According to Urban Forest Management Division Director Brain Keightley, many of the properties developed in Dranesville and McLean are by right. "That is when you see older homes demolished and replaced by larger, taller, or different style homes. Many homes are over 50, 60, or 70 years old. This is not fun to watch, and ... trees fall."

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Kannan giving a presentation on invasive plants to a group of volunteers.

Against the Invasion

Female scout from BSA Troop 1983 battles invasive plants for her Eagle project.

Sathiya Kannan, a female scout from Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 1983, isn't fighting against zombies or aliens, but against invasive plants.

She recruited community members, Boy Scouts of America scouts, and Girl Scouts to help in the battle against invasive species like Japanese barberry, wineberry, multiflora rose, Japanese stiltgrass, and pachysandra. These plants are originally from another part of the world, and they grow aggressively here, pushing native plants, like the Virginia creeper, ferns, dogwood, and spicebush, out of the habitat. This has serious negative effects on the native wildlife, soil composition, water, and air quality, which can destabilize the entire ecosystem.

With the help of Sara Holtz, a lead volunteer with the Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area program, Kannan planned an event to remove these invasive plants for her Eagle Project. She created a presentation with examples of invasive plants in Fairfax County. She had displays at the Herndon, Oak Marr, and Reston Farmers markets and Oakton Day community event to share this information with the public and recruit volunteers from the community.

On Saturday, Aug. 21, nearly 30 volunteers removed invasive plants from Difficult Run Stream Valley Park in Oakton, filling an entire FCPA Dumpster with invasive bushes and vines.

Want to help fight against the invasion? Clear your backyard and neighborhood of invasive plants, choose to buy only native plant species from plant nurseries, and check out the Invasive Management Area and Vol-

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Oakton community volunteers.



Kannan posing at the top of the filled-to-the-brim Fairfax County Park Authority Dumpster.

unteer Fairfax websites for future volunteer opportunities.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-plants>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/invasive-management-area>

Oakton community volunteers.

Vienna Metro Station Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Fairfax County

Virtual Design Public Hearing

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7 p.m.
<https://www.virginiadot.org/ViennaMetroBikePed>

Find out about planned bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the area of the Vienna Metro station along Country Creek Road/Virginia Center Boulevard between Sutton Road and the ramp to westbound I-66, and along Sutton Road between Blake Lane and Country Creek Road. Proposed interim improvements include creating a separated two-way cycle track on eastbound Country Creek Road/Virginia Center Boulevard between Sutton Road and the Metro North Parking Lot entrance by restriping and installing posts or barriers for separation, adding a buffered bike lane on Sutton Road between Sutton Green Court and Country Creek Road, upgrading pedestrian signals and installing related signs and pavement markings. Proposed final improvements include constructing shared-use paths along Blake Lane and Sutton Road from the I-66 bridge to Country Creek Road, adding a separated two-way cycle track with adjacent sidewalk along Country Creek Road/Virginia Center Boulevard, consolidating and relocating bus stops for improved transit access, and realigning the I-66 westbound ramp to Country Creek Road.

The public hearing will be held as a virtual/online meeting. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/ViennaMetroBikePed>. The project team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

Review project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-1794 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion was prepared under agreement with the Federal Highway Administration and is now available on the project webpage. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included in the environmental document.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by December 3, 2021 via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Zamir Mirza, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Vienna Metro Station Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements" in the subject line.

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State Project: EN18-029-423, P101, R201, C501
UPC: 113611
Federal: TAP-5A01 (964)

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Thursday, December 2, 2021 at the same time.

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back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

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."

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



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.

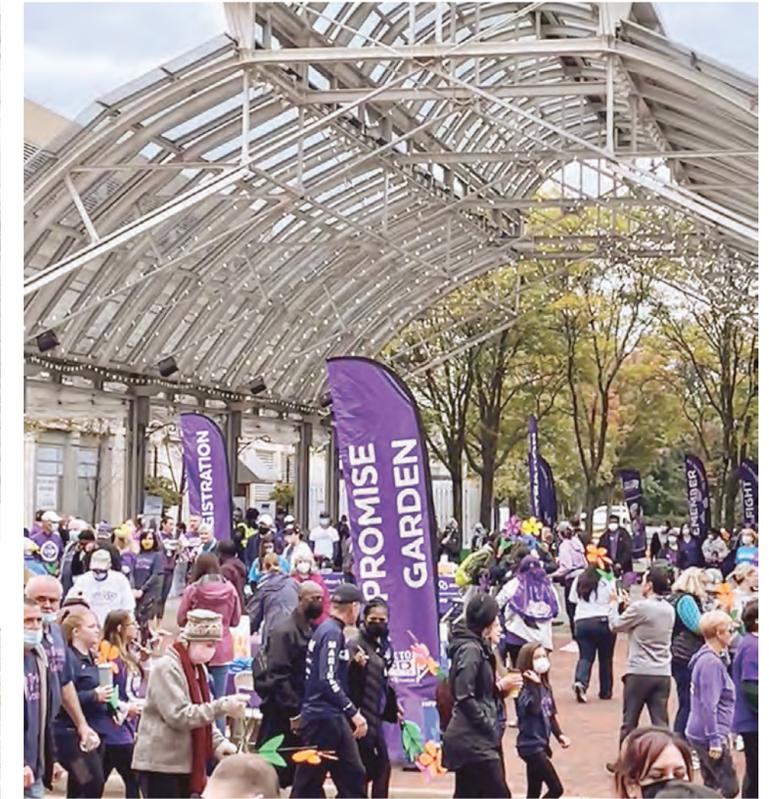
Cindy Schelhorn, senior director of communications and marketing for the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, said the Reston walk's goal was to raise \$220,000 toward Alzheimer's disease research, and to offer care and support for all those affected. Schelhorn said they would accomplish 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."

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



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

call these friends and they would tell me that it was all going to be okay." 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."

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>

"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 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/>

CALENDAR

NOW THRU NOV. 1

Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival. 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Cost is \$28 per child and \$6 per parent, children 2 and under free. The event will feature a range of activities, including several moon bounces, a petting zoo, the Express Train for both adults and children to ride. Visit www.restonfarm.com. Call 703-759-0000 or email info@RestonFarm.com.

Choreography by Ashleigh King. Music Direction by Elisa Rosman. Visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

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. Fall for the Book returns with a new hybrid format including virtual and in-person events, including lively Podcasts. For schedule visit www.fallforthebook.org.

NOW THRU OCT. 30

Art Show. At Reston Art Gallery-Lake Anne Plaza. 11400 Washington Plaza WB -Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Julia Malakoff's solo show, "Good Juju" is a collection of mixed-media collages, displaying bright colors, nature inspired shapes, textures and organic papers fused with hand painted acrylic paints. "Colorful comfort and visual stories that inspire and bring a sense of renewal, joy and magic." this is the goal of my current collection of work, says Malakoff. The gallery is open on Saturdays, 10-5 and Sundays, 12-5 and by appointment. Visit the website: www.juliamalakoff.com

NOW THRU JAN. 2, 2022

LuminoCity Festival. 6-9 p.m. At Roer's Zoofari, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The LuminoCity Festival, a one-of-a-kind, immersive light display experience, will be a festive experience for guests of all ages. Be ready to enter a world straight out of your wildest imaginations as you step into an unforgettable spectacular night of lights. The festival includes African, Asian, Arid, and Ancient-themed exhibits of spectacularly lit art displays set up in the zoo's walk-through area. Visit the website: www.roerszoofari.com.

NOW THRU NOV. 7

A Disco Musical Comedy - Disaster. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. By Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick. Concept created by Seth Rudetsky and Drew Geraci. Additional material by Drew Geraci. Directed by Evan Hoffmann.



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.

Special Connections Calendar 2021

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursdays unless noted.

OCTOBER

10/6/2021.....Wellbeing: Senior Living Focus
 10/13/2021.....HomeLifeStyle
 10/20/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
 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
 11/24/2021.....Senior Living
 Connection Families: Celebration & Gratitude
 Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I

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Legals

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Notice of Realty Action: Proposed exchange of Federally owned lands for publicly owned lands located Fairfax County, Virginia.

I. The following described Federally owned land, which is administered by the National Park Service (NPS), has been determined to be suitable for disposal by exchange. The authority for this exchange is 54 U.S.C. § 102901(b), which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property within a unit of the National Park System in exchange for Federally owned property under the Secretary's jurisdiction that the Secretary determines is suitable for disposal and that is in the same State as the non-Federal property to be acquired.

The selected Federal land is currently managed by the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and is not required for inclusion in the GWMP. The land has been surveyed for cultural resources, endangered species, and threatened species. Deed restrictions limiting development, protecting resource areas, and requiring GWMP review and Superintendent approval of certain actions will encumber the property upon conveyance of title to the non-Federal exchange party, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA).

The Federal interest to be conveyed to the FCPA is fee title to GWMP Tract 114-005A, which is a 52.17 acre, more or less, parcel of land, which will be subject to the deed restrictions referenced above. Tract 114-005A is a portion of the land that the United States of America acquired by deed from John R. Simpson et al., dated 11/23/1940, recorded 11/26/1940 in Deed Book L-14, Page 548 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia; by deed from Louise A. Simpson, widow, dated 11/22/1940, recorded 11/26/1940 in Deed Book L-14, Page 550 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia; and by deed from George W. Herring and Junita J. Herring, his wife, dated 11/29/1940, recorded 01/27/1941 in Deed Book P-14, Page 106 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia. GWMP Tract 114-005A is also known as Langley Fork Park. The United States of America will convey title by quitclaim deed.

II. In exchange for the lands identified in Paragraph I, the United States of America will acquire GWMP Tract 114-110, which is a 101.65 acre, more or less, parcel of land currently owned by the FCPA. GWMP Tract 114-110 is also known as Langley Oaks Park. The lands are being acquired in fee simple subject only to encumbrances of record.

Neither of the properties described in the foregoing paragraphs is located within a designated floodplain.

The value of the properties to be exchanged has been determined by a fair market value appraisal. The value of the land or interests in land to be conveyed by the FCPA to the United States is greater than the value of the land or interests in land to be conveyed by the United States to the FCPA. The FCPA plans to donate the difference in values to the United States. The FCPA will convey title by quitclaim deed.

Detailed information about this exchange, including precise legal descriptions, survey plats, and the Finding of No Significant Impact documenting the NPS's compliance with applicable Federal law, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, are available at the National Park Service, National Capital Regional Office, 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington D.C. 20242. For questions or additional information please contact Melissa Mooza, Chief of Lands, at (202) 619-7079 or Melissa_Mooza@nps.gov.

For a period of 45 calendar days after the date of publication of this notice, interested parties may submit comments to the above address. The NPS will evaluate all timely comments and may modify or vacate the realty action in response to them. In the absence of any action to modify or vacate, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of Interior.

September 21, 2021

Date

KIMBERLY HALL

Kym A. Hall
 Area Director
 Region 1 - National Capital Area
 National Park Service

Digitally signed by KIMBERLY HALL, Date: 2021.09.21 13:50:18 EDT

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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 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



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.wolftrap.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

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."

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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 doormat, 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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