

Lee District is Changing Its Name to Franconia

Supervisors' vote is unanimous.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors overwhelmingly approved two motions to change the name of the Lee District to Franconia, presented by Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) during Board Matters at the Tuesday, June 28 meeting.

"I've not worn this pin before at this board meeting, but what you'll see is that this pin says Lee District underneath," said Lusk. "I'm wearing this pin today in the hopes that I will not wear this pin again because I know the board's decision here is going to result in a change in the name of this district," he said.

Lusk's first motion that the board approved directs the county executive to "initiate the process of formally changing the name of the Lee District to the Franconia District and report back to the board on both any administrative changes necessary to facilitate that change; as well as a timeline for adoption."

His second approved motion directs the county executive to "assign the appropriate staff to undertake outreach to businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations and any other entity that may be impacted by this change and recommend possible strategies for supporting them in that transition."

Before presenting the motions, Lusk said that for many in the Lee District, the name evokes visions of the old gravel pits, the sound of footsteps along the boardwalk at Huntley Meadows, or pride in the history of Laurel Grove School. Lusk said that the name Lee District also evokes another set of images for many others.

"Whether by design or by accident, and we may never know by which, the name stands as a lasting monument to the most recognizable Confederate figure in history," Lusk said. He added that just because the connotation isn't celebrated anymore



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, June 28



Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D-at-large)



Supervisor Pat Herryty (R-Springfield)



Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill)



Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason)



Supervisor Lusk shows his Lee District, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors pin. He's never worn it to a meeting.

doesn't mean that the sounds of slavery, racism, segregation, and discrimination have gone away.

Lusk added that Franconia was the overwhelming preference of the hundreds of individuals who participated in discussions, three town halls, and the Redistricting Ad-

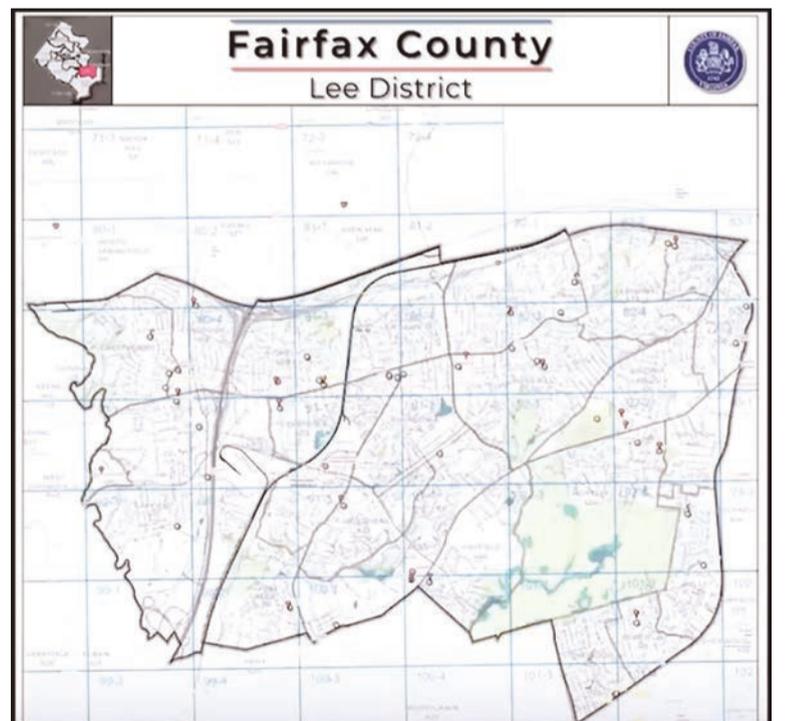
visory Committee process over the previous two and a half years. Lusk told of discussing with the community the district's history, the etymology of the current name, what it represented, and what alternatives they would like to see considered.

"The name Franconia has always been central to our identity. It's a name that makes sense. It's a name that our community has embraced, and it's a name that memorializes a place and not a person," Lusk said. From its main thoroughfare, Franconia

SEE IT'S FRANCONIA, PAGE 3



Franconia Museum



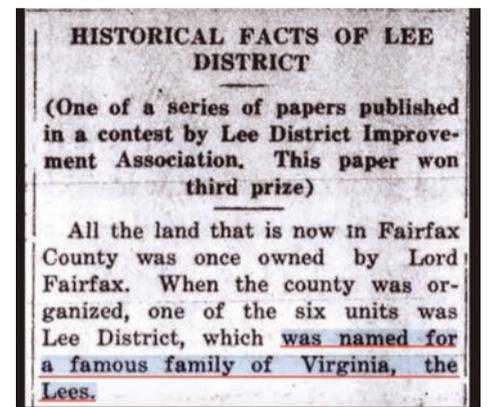
Fairfax County Lee District



Huntley Meadows



Gravel pits



Herndon News Observer, [Feb. 27, 1936, page 8] (Sourced by Lee District as viewed on YouTube)

It's Franconia!

FROM PAGE 2

SCREENSHOT PHOTOS

Road, to the Franconia-Springfield Metro, the Franconia Governmental Center, and the Franconia Museum, the name Franconia means community to him.

Lusk recognized that it was a decision that not everyone would agree with or be excited about, but they had a seat at the table, and their viewpoints were heard. "After long contemplation, I've come to the personal conclusion that the name of the Lee District should be changed to Franconia District, and I'm asking for my colleagues' concurrence today to make that happen." Following Lusk's reading of the motions, Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D-at-large) seconded.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) questioned the cost of the name change process. "I don't think we're going to decide on cost, but I think we need to understand what the cost is," he said. Lusk clarified that when directing the county executive to come back and let the board know of any administrative issues, costs would fall under that designation. "I will support taking this to the next step," Herrity said.

Supervisor Penny Gross called Lusk's proposal to change the name to Franconia District "a very elegant solution."

As a former resident of Franconia, Supervisor Walter Alcorn said Lusk had made "a very good choice on the name."

McKay concluded his remarks by calling the district "an extraordinarily diverse, caring, engaged community of people of all walks of life. ... There was diversity in the district before there was diversity in a lot of other areas of the county," he said. McKay reflected that they don't want people drawing the wrong conclusions about those who live in that district.

McKay said he understood that Lee District has three district areas, Richmond Highway, Franconia, and central Spring-



Laurel Grove Colored School and Church



Franconia-Springfield Metro stop



Franconia Governmental Center

field, and residents may not all have connections to Franconia. However, there was "a lot of rich history in Franconia," and it was one of the first established communities. McKay liked the name Franconia, recognizing a geographic area as the root of the community's history.

"Lee District has evolved over a lot of time, and I think, frankly, and rightly moved away from some of the connota-

tions. The people who made decisions about district names and their motivations may be very different than the people that we are today and the people that we represent," McKay said.

Post-Roe, Fairfax Supervisors Unanimously Forge Ahead

Speaking out, supervisors approve three-part board matter.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

For residents in Fairfax County and the rest of Virginia and the nation, the future for abortion rights and access is uncertain now that the Supreme Court has ruled that abortion laws are up to the states. On June 28, all nine Democrats and one Republican on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors passed a Joint Board Matter to make sure that residents know about reproductive resources, services, and facilities that are available to them in the county from private, non-profit, and public sector organizations.

"I have heard from many residents concerned about the future of abortion providers and other reproductive healthcare services in Fairfax County," said Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D-At-large) at the June 28 Board of Supervisors meeting.

There will be no immediate change to abortion laws in Virginia after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade (1973) on Friday, June 24, ending nearly half a century of protected constitutional rights. Virginia law does not expressly protect or ban abortion like some other states, but Virginia does have some restrictions and protections.

Supervisors reacted with horror to the Supreme Court's ruling.

"We have just taken a huge, huge step backward, unimaginable in our lifetime," said Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence). "I'm scared for many young women whose lives will be negatively impacted by this." Palchik said that she had recently gone through "a very, very difficult pregnancy."

"I must do everything I can for the safety, the health, and the well-being of all of the women and all of the children in our county, especially for those who could lose access to safe, affordable, and appropriate support," Palchik said.

According to the full text of the approved Joint Board Matter by McKay and all eight Democratic supervisors, the county's Health Department and Department of Information Technology will work together to create a website about reproductive and women's health services in Fairfax County once they have all the information they need.

Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) said that it worried him to put out a list of potential targets accessible to people who might want to do harm. "I'm sitting here having this argument with myself (that) says I don't want those people to influence what we do for doing the right thing." Herry said he had some concerns but would wait until he saw the list. "I'll support the motion to pull together this comprehensive list and have a discussion," he said.

According to McKay, the Supreme Court's ruling does not make abortion illegal in Virginia. It does put the decision into the hands of the Virginia state legislature. Some have already promoted proposals that, if enacted, would severely restrict a woman's access to abortion. "I think we have a moral obligation to make sure that we calm people's



Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D-At-large)



Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield)



Vice Chairman Penny Gross (D-Mason)



Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia)



Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence)



Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully)

fears about misinformation," McKay said.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) said in a statement on Friday, June 24, that he planned to take every action he could to restrict abortion. "The truth is, Virginians want fewer abortions, not more abortions. We can build a bipartisan consensus on protecting the lives of unborn children, especially when they begin to feel pain in the womb, and importantly, supporting mothers and families who choose life," he said. Youngkin asked four Republican lawmakers "to do the important work needed and be prepared to introduce legislation when the General Assembly returns in January."

Youngkin told the Washington Post on Friday, June 24, that he would seek legislation restricting most abortions after 15 weeks. Youngkin also said that a 20-week ban might be needed as

a compromise to get the Virginia legislature to agree on something.

In Virginia, neither party has a trifecta. The Republican Party holds the governorship and the House 52 to 48. Democrats narrowly control the Senate 21 to 19. Abortion rights will be a top issue in the 2022 elections.

Additionally, the approved Joint Board Matter directed its Legislation Director to inform the Board of any existing or possible legislative initiatives in the Virginia General Assembly that might threaten or protect reproductive rights in Virginia.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) noted the most vulnerable will be those who have the lowest incomes and are from minority groups. "Let's be frank here; they won't have the same opportunity to go to a place to receive this abortion outside of Virginia if (they) presumably make that decision. ... This will be a tragedy and travesty."

"We have just taken a huge, huge step backward, unimaginable in our lifetime."

Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence)

Supervisor Kathy Smith's voice cracked, saying that women should have the right to have medical professionals take care of their bodies. Smith (D-Sully) said that women of a certain age know what happens to women who find abortions elsewhere. "I know that many of my colleagues are going to stand up for women, and we're going to stand up in our legislative package. I'm sorry I got so emotional."

Vice Chairman Penny Gross (D-Mason) said that there is more to healthcare than whether a woman is going to have an abortion or not. There are Pap smears and breast care. "I think we all agree (that) those decisions should be private and shared with just the woman, her medical provider, (and) if she wishes to include her family."

Gross mentioned that other legislation might be overturned outside of abortion. "We absolutely need to do this here at this table today. We are staying in our lane ... We absolutely need to keep track of what may be coming along in new legislation."



10:38 AM · Jun 29, 2022 · Sprout Social

SCREENSHOT PHOTO VIA @GUTTMACHER

Abortion policies and access in the U.S. as of June 28, 2022.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Seen here in the distance, the closed landfill area has moved one step closer to becoming a park.

Proposed Landfill Park One Step Closer

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

On June 15, Lorton and other county residents moved one step closer to enjoying a gem of a new park where a landfill once stood, when the Fairfax County Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve the Overlook Ridge Park proposal. The proposal, made by Furnace Associates, fulfills a commitment made during the original landfill permitting process. Fairfax County Park Authority would operate the park, while land ownership and monitoring of the closed landfill would continue under Furnace Associates.

Presenting for Furnace Associates, district manager David Kaasa described the many park amenities proposed, the on-going collaboration with the park authority, and prior discussions and input from communities located at both ends of the proposed park area. Addressing questions from commission members, Kaasa described safety measures to separate vehicle and foot traffic and restrictions on access to the landfill's capped slopes. Since the landfill produces and burns off methane gas in two monitored "flare" areas, the county's attorney will assist in preparing an agreement between the parties on maintenance sharing and liability issues. The flare areas at either end of the park will be fenced from public access.

Public comments invited by the Commission, overall in favor of the park proposal, concerned possible noise levels at the proposed grass amphitheater and lack of potable water at the summit. FCPA committed to working with nearby communities if noise problems arise, although the site will not have electricity for amplifiers. Although available potable water was initially proposed for the summit, issues for the cap encasing landfill material created by running water pipelines and sewage collection make such water availability impossible and alternate methods, such as water trucks/tanks, impractical.

Even though Kaasa indicated some layout changes had been made to increase parking availability, com-



Mount Vernon Commissioner Walter Clark and Furnace Association's David Kaasa were pleased with the Planning Commission's approval of the park proposal.

ments questioned whether the park's 120 parking and horse trailer spaces would prove adequate for a popular park. Lack of a connecting road will shield neighborhood streets from overflow parking.

What are the next steps? The approved proposal will now go through a Site Plan approval process, during which FCPA and Furnace Associates will continue discussion on the park, its operation and management, and collaboration agreements. The parties agree that a planned 2025 park opening is on schedule.

Representing FCPA, Deputy Director Aimee Vosper, likened the proposed Overlook Ridge Park to the world renowned Mt Trashmore Park in Virginia Beach. That city park, which opened in 1974, is an example of conversion of an abandoned landfill into a popular park. Overlook Ridge Park's height at 412 feet, making it the highest point in Fairfax County, would dwarf Mt Trashmore's 60 foot height. Visitors to the summit will enjoy 360 degree views of the surrounding area, including the Occoquan and Potomac Rivers.



The aftermath of an early morning crash following a pursuit by Virginia State Police. The driver ran from the scene on foot. Police found more than four pounds of Fentanyl pills in the car.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA STATE POLICE



The aftermath of an early morning crash following a pursuit by Virginia State Police. The driver ran from the scene on foot. Police found more than four pounds of Fentanyl pills in the car.

Pursuit, Crash, Drug Arrest

A Woodbridge, Va. man faces multiple charges following a pursuit on Interstate 95 early Sunday morning, June 26. Alpha A. Kamara, 24, is being held in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center on charges of one felony count of eluding police, one felony count of hit-and-run, unauthorized use of a vehicle, one felony count of possession of a Schedule I/II drug with the intent to distribute, one count of obstructing justice by resisting arrest, and driving without a valid license.

At 2:56 a.m. Sunday, June 26, a Virginia State Police trooper attempted to stop a Dodge Charger traveling south on I-95 near Exit 163 for Lorton. The traffic

stop was for the license plate being reported stolen out of Maryland. The Dodge refused to stop and instead sped away from the trooper at a high rate of speed. A pursuit was initiated. Approximately two minutes later, the Dodge ran off the right side of the interstate near Occoquan Road, struck the guardrail and crashed into the ditch. The driver, Kamara, ran from the scene on foot. An adult male passenger remained at the scene.

Kamara was apprehended a short distance from the vehicle crash. A search of the vehicle resulted in approximately 2 kilograms (more than 4.4 pounds) of Fentanyl pills being seized by state police. The incident remains under investigation.

U.S. Supreme Court Threatens Women's Fundamental Rights

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL



Last week the U.S. Supreme Court issued three very important decisions: Carson v. Makin, New York Rifle & Pistol Assn v. Bruen and Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org. (Dobbs). The Carson case relates to taxpayer funding of religious schools. NY Rifle affects firearm violence prevention.

Dobbs eviscerates a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions. This column addresses the Dobbs decision. I will discuss NY Rifle next week, Carson and the Governor's budget amendments in future columns.

The Dobbs case overruled the landmark Roe v. Wade decision which has been the law of the land since Jan. 22, 1973. That decision held that the right to privacy, embodied in various amendments in the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights, gave women a constitutional right to make their own healthcare decisions. Justice Samuel Alito wrote that the Roe case was wrongly decided and should no longer stand.

The Dobbs decision does not change Virginia law -- yet. In Virginia, abortion is legal and in 2020 we even repealed a series of restrictions on a woman's right to make this decision, limits put in place between 2010 and 2019, including requiring an external ultrasound and a picture of the ultrasound's results given to the woman, requiring a 24-hour wait after obtaining the ultrasound, the provision of medically inaccurate information, and revoking a mandate to

the Board of Health to unnecessarily regulate abortion clinics like hospitals.

Today, a Virginia woman may obtain an abortion in the state without restriction during her pregnancy's first two trimesters or during the third trimester if three medical doctors certify that the pregnancy will lead to the woman's death or "substantially and irretrievably impair

the mental or physical health of the woman."

After the Supreme Court's decision, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that he will propose legislation to ban all abortions after the fifteenth week of pregnancy. Another Senator has announced that he will introduce legislation to state that life begins at conception. These bills will not pass the current Senate Education and Health Committee, but after the 2023 elections, if the membership and control of the State Senate changes, Virginia's laws could be significantly modified or repealed.

I support a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions. In 2020, I even introduced legislation to codify Roe v. Wade, to put that policy into Virginia's laws. Senator Dick Saslaw introduced legislation to start the process of placing Roe in the Constitution of Virginia. We withdrew our own bills at the request of several abortion rights organizations who did not want the legislation to be presented for various reasons. The current composition of the General Assembly along with Governor Youngkin's views make it impossible to pass these

bills today, but that could change after 2023 or 2025 when we could try again.

I cannot convey how disturbed I am by the Supreme Court's decisions. While past precedents have fallen before, the Court has never taken away a constitutional right. Americans rely on the Court to follow our Constitution and the law through reliance upon precedent and incremental change. Last week, the Court inappropriately behaved like a legislature.

Five of the six justices who signed on to Dobbs and the other two opinions were nominated by presidents who did not win the American popular vote. All six told Congress that Roe was settled precedent in their confirmation hearings. One was confirmed after the U. S. Senate refused to hold confirmation hearings six months before an election. Three were confirmed after the Republican majority changed internal rules and exempted Supreme Court nominations from the filibuster. All were confirmed by U. S. Senators representing a minority of America's population.

The Court's legitimacy derives from the public's trust, that the public believes that the court bases its opinions on the law and not on a judge's personal opinions or religious beliefs. This week's decisions have eviscerated public confidence and will further inflame the divisions that have plagued our country for the last five years.

I will do everything I can to protect the ability of Virginia's women to have access to contraception and make healthcare decisions without government interference.

Abortion Remains Legal in Virginia

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK



Like many of you reading this, I am outraged and heartbroken, yet obviously not surprised, over the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health

Organization, overturning Roe v. Wade last week. Four years of Trump in the White House gave us three new extremely conservative justices willing to abandon almost 50 years of precedent and turn the clock back to the 1960s and earlier when it was left up to the states to decide. Once again, that is the case. For now, the most important positive message I can share with you is that abortion is still legal in Virginia.

Starting in 2020, our Democratic majority in the General Assembly prioritized advancing reproductive freedom and abortion access across

the Commonwealth. This year, when we saw that progress threatened with rollbacks, my pro-choice colleagues and I voted down those efforts, albeit by just a one-seat majority in the State Senate, as the Democrats lost the majority in the House last

year by just two Delegates.

What were the most impactful policies that we passed while in the majority?

Eliminated medically unnecessary and restrictive laws such as:

Mandatory 24-hour waiting period

Ultrasound and counseling requirements

The need to be a hospital to perform more than 5 abortions per month

Expanded access to reproductive care by allowing:

Nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives to provide services

in the first trimester (after this period, only physicians)

Abortion services to be covered for Medicaid patients

Telehealth appointments offering first-trimester abortions and mail-delivery pills

But eight states around the na-

tion have already enacted total abortion bans, with ten others expected to in the coming weeks and months. As we see these bans take effect, those most at risk remain women of color, trans and nonbi-

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 10

Let Us Know Your View

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

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Award Winning Newspaper

CALENDAR

NOW THRU AUG. 27

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road Lorton. Explore history in different ways with this drop-in summer program. Each Saturday will have a host of different activities around a different theme. Savor history, dig in the dirt, and play games as we learn about the 18th century at Gunston Hall. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/events/summer-saturdays-2/>

JUNE 28 TO OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition. At Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach.

FILMS IN THE PARK

Thursdays at 7 p.m. At the Mosaic District's Strawberry Park, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax.

JUNE 30 The Birdcage
JULY 7 Clifford The Big Red Dog
JULY 14 In The Heights
JULY 21 Dating & New York
JULY 28 Dog
AUGUST 4 Spider-Man: No Way Home
AUGUST 11 Encanto
AUGUST 18 Under the Stadium Lights
AUGUST 25 F9 | The Fast & Furious Saga

FRIDAY/JULY 1

National Concert Band of America. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Mason District Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The National Concert Band of America will perform a wide variety of music in the character of the great American concert bands for the enjoyment of all audiences. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

FRIDAY/JULY 1

National Concert Band of America. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Mason District Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Kick off Fourth of July weekend by joining the National Concert Band of America on July 1, 2022. Founded by former members of the four D.C. military bands, the National Concert Band of America strives to perform a wide variety of music in the character of great American concert bands for the enjoyment of all audiences. Their lineup ranges from Bach to Sousa to Gershwin and everywhere across the musical spectrum. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

Rocknocoeros. 10-10:45 a.m. At Mason District Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates. Cancellations are recorded an hour before showtime. For details regarding each series, go to the Summer Entertainment Series website.



Take a tour of Historic Pohick Church on Saturday, July 2, 2022 in Lorton.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

Historic Pohick Church First Saturday Tours. 1-3 p.m. At 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton (on U.S. 1 between Telegraph Road and Pohick Road). During the Colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of our country's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give free guided tours of the historic colonial church. Call the church office at 703-339-6572 or visit our website at <http://www.pohick.org>

SATURDAY/JULY 2

NVCWDA Country Dance. 7-9:30 p.m. At Accotink Universalist Unitarian Church, 10125 Lakehaven Ct., Burke. Dance, sponsored by Northern Virginia. Lessons, 6 to 7 p.m. \$15 general admission, \$5 age 17 and under w/paying adult. Smoke-, alcohol-free. Website: www.nvcwda.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

Fireworks Celebration. 7:30 p.m. The Workhouse Arts Center will hold its annual Fireworks celebration on July 2, 2022. This year's event will include a special performance by musical performer Mark G. Meadows who will celebrate the music of Stevie Wonder in musical performance entitled "A Night of Wonder." Prior to the Fireworks display, Mark G. Meadows (an acclaimed jazz composer, pianist, music director, vocalist, jazz instructor and actor) will present a fresh take on Stevie Wonder's beloved classics like "Sir Duke," "For Once in my Life," "Superstition," and many more! You'll feel the love and the joy of Wonder's songs in Meadows' capable hands. Ticketing link can be found at <https://insidenovatix.com/events/workhouse-fireworks-2022-7-2-2022>.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattler Verein. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale. Immerse yourself in the sounds of the long alphorns, yodeling and singing, cowbell-ringing and musical saw, accompanied by button-box accordion, zither and mountain dulcimer. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

SUNDAY/JULY 3

City of Falls Church Concert Band. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Mason District

Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The City of Falls Church Concert Band is a popular 50-piece community band that features soloists and performs overtures, marches, pop tunes and musicals. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

SUNDAY/JULY 3

Washington Saxophone Quartet. 2 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, W16, McGuire Woods Gallery. Toured in Europe, throughout the United States, and now performing at the Workhouse Arts Center, this group is the most widely heard saxophone quartet in the

United States. Visit workhousearts.org/onstage.

SATURDAY/JULY 9

Prelude Chamber Ensemble. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale. This is a nonprofit group of passionate musicians who are dedicated to promoting classical music and cultural exchange, as well as encouraging the development of young musicians through the love of music. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, Burke. Featuring an incredible line-up of bands, food trucks, 2 Silos beer, and Peterson's Ice Cream. The atmosphere is informal, so bring a picnic dinner, blankets and lawn chairs, and relax with friends and family.

SCHEDULE:

JULY 13 Randy Thompson Band (Americana Country, Roots Rock)
JULY 20 The English Channel (Top 60'/70' British Hits)
JULY 27 The Skip Castro Band (Party Band)
AUGUST 3 Practically Einstein (Vintage Rock)
AUGUST 10 The Road Ducks (Southern Rock)
AUGUST 17 Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille (Rock)
AUGUST 24 The Colin Thompson Band (Blues Rock)

WEDNESDAY/JULY 13

Texas Chainsaw Horns. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Mason District Park

Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The main focus of Texas Chainsaw Horns is the tight, five-piece horn section featuring trumpeter and arranger Tony Murtha. His work has been featured on "American Idol," the NFL Super Bowl Halftime Show, the Disney Channel, Comedy Central's "Colbert Report" and more. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates. Cancellations are recorded an hour before showtime.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

Elijah Jamel Balbed and the Jogo Project. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. W15 Rizer Pavillion. One of the premiere Jazz Artists in Washington, DC., and named Best Tenor Saxophonist and Best New Jazz Musician by the Washington City Paper, The JoGo Project is dedicated to promoting and preserving the legacy of DC's unique art form.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

Hai Hua Community Center. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale. Enjoy the exotic and diverse beauty of Taiwanese culture and dance. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

SUNDAY/JULY 17

Alma Ensemble. 2 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. W16 McGuire Woods Gallery. The Alma Ensemble was birthed from a de-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
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Police Advise: Avoid, Deny, Defend in Active Attacks

Would you know how to respond in critical minutes?

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Recent news reports of active shooting events in distant locations, like Uvalde Texas and Buffalo New York, and in our own backyard, at Tysons Corner Center, have some wondering when it will stop.

Calling to mind the tragic deaths in earlier Virginia incidents at VA Tech, Virginia Beach municipal building, and at various locations around the beltway by two snipers, you also might well ask, "What should I do to survive in an active shooter situation?"

Fairfax County police have advice and training for the public to help people prepare, as best one can, for a traumatic active attacker event. Training provided on June 25th, at West Springfield District Government Building, by MPO Anthony Capizzi, from the police department's crime prevention unit, taught attendees how to respond to an active situation, learning from tragedies that happened before.

While almost all past mass killing incidents involve guns, use of knives and cars in such attacks have led law enforcement to use the term "active attacker" instead of "active shooter." The FBI and DHS still refer to "active shooters."

Most attackers, 95 percent, are male of any age, set on avenging a perceived wrong done to them in a location they have some connection with; many broadcast their plans in advance on social media or by other means. The majority of incidents occur at commercial establishments, about 50 percent; about 25 percent at schools, and 15 percent outdoors, according to police.

Regardless of the method or location, police urge people who find themselves in such situations to "avoid, deny, and defend," previously called "run, hide, fight," as the FBI still refers to the strategy.

❖ AVOID means run away from the area if you can to avoid the killer. This might include using an exit other than the one you used to enter an area.

❖ DENY means precluding the killer the

HOW TO RESPOND

WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

QUICKLY DETERMINE THE MOST REASONABLE WAY TO PROTECT YOUR OWN LIFE. CUSTOMERS AND CLIENTS ARE LIKELY TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF EMPLOYEES AND MANAGERS DURING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION.

<p>1. EVACUATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an escape route and plan in mind • Leave your belongings behind • Keep your hands visible 	<p>2. HIDE OUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hide in an area out of the active shooter's view. • Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors 	<p>3. TAKE ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger. • Attempt to incapacitate the active shooter • Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter
--	--	--

CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

Police advise citizens on how to respond to active attacker situations.



Matthew Mallory, Lorton, practices packing a gunshot wound on a "leg" during training



Joan Cephas, Lorton, applies pressure to stop the bleeding on a simulated wound

ability to see or get to you. It may be possible to hide and be undetectable, or to block access to your location by locking or tying doors, creating barriers or changing your position to remain unseen.

❖ DEFEND is the action you might need to take if "avoid" or "deny" are not possible. It means to take aggressive action to defend yourself using whatever materials may be at hand, grabbing the gun, or fighting the attacker. Police advise that you do not attempt to "play dead" as this is not likely to be convincing and is more likely to make you an easy target.

While police cannot prepare you for every situation possible, they say using the "Avoid/Deny/Defend" strategy provides your best chance of survival until they arrive on the

scene. Police response time, at a national average of three minutes from a 911 call, while short, means you may need to rely on your own preparation and deliberations for critical moments. Training yourself to make note of possible exits when you enter any area, giving prior consideration to defense, and keeping "avoid/deny/defend" strategy training in mind, could help save your life.

Capizzi also says it's important to come to your action decision quickly, to fight the denial phase; if you hear gunshots — react — don't wait to convince yourself gun fire is happening.

Should the worst happen and you or someone around you is wounded, the Fairfax County Police training includes instruction on how to stop bleeding, which saves lives. The instruction includes applying pressure to and packing wounds, and pos-

Resources of Interest

❖ Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Booklet
https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf

❖ FBI Active Shooter Resources
<https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-resources>

❖ FBI Analysis of Active Shooter Incidents in 2021
<https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-incidents-in-the-us-2021-052422.pdf/view>

❖ Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines developed at UVA
<https://education.virginia.edu/faculty-research/centers-labs-projects/research-labs/youth-violence-project/comprehensive-school>

sible use of a tourniquet until professional emergency medical help arrives. You could need to assist the wounded even as police arrive since their first priority would be to stop the killing. Only after eliminating the continued threat will police then assist with treatment of the wounded, and evacuation of the injured.

Statistically, public active shooter events are very unusual according to FBI documents, referring to them as "low probability, high impact events." For example in 2006, the average school in the U.S. could expect to see a current or former student involved in a homicide on its grounds every 13,000 years.

The next training for citizen response to active attackers at West Springfield District Station will be July 16, 9 a.m. until noon. Contact MPO Capizzi at anthony.capizzi@fairfaxcounty.gov to register for a limited number of seats.

NOVA Parks Seeks Input into 5 Year Strategic Plan

Park users invited to comment before July 8.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

With 34 parks and 12,335 acres spread over six jurisdictions in Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax, and Loudoun cities and counties, NOVA Parks serves many northern Virginia people with a variety of park amenities. Whether you look for ornamental gardens, historical sites, golf, waterparks, biking, kayaking, cabins in the woods, holiday light shows, or simply the pleasure of enjoying time in nature along its many hiking trails, you can find a special place in the NOVA Parks system. Founded as a conservation organization over sixty years ago in 1959, the organization has acquired and now boasts ownership of “more parkland adjacent to the rivers of the region than any other public lands organization.” It generates 88% of its operating revenues from park programs and events.

Touching the lives of Northern Virginia’s 2.5 million people is a challenge and a responsibility, and NOVA Parks continues to reassess their approaches and look at “conserving natural and historic resources, making parks more central to the community’s life, and funding all of these vital community needs.”

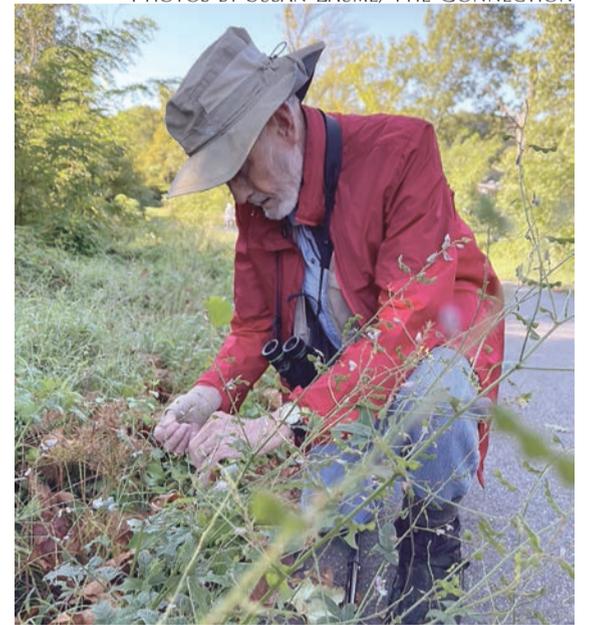
As part of that on-going reassessment, NOVA Parks is asking the public’s help to provide feedback on their draft 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The plan addresses five “pillars” of objectives: “environment, belonging, our team, building the future, and revenue and efficiency ... to help guide improvements, operations, conservation, and services in NOVA Parks over the next five years.”



Paul Gilbert, Executive Director, NOVA Parks, “We want our parks to be open and welcoming to everyone.”



NOVA Parks, a large holder of waterfront parks, looks to establish a five year strategic plan



The Regional Park System is a favorite of citizen scientists, like Jim Waggener, who monitor seasonal birds, blooms, and insects in the area of Occoquan Bay

Executive Director Paul Gilbert says, “A strategic plan sets the course for any organization. I am very excited about what our new strategic direction will mean for Northern Virginia. NOVA Parks can be a leader in a number of important areas. We can address the causes of climate change by focusing on how to make our lands absorb more carbon and how to reduce our carbon footprint. We live in a very diverse region, and we want our parks to be open and welcoming to everyone. We have a whole section of the plan called ‘Belonging.’ We can become even more welcoming by being thoughtful about creating community partnerships and developing programs and facilities that are culturally relevant to different groups. This is a plan that will make our region better and, in the process, make our world a little better.”

The online survey asks only a few minutes of your time to give input, by answering two questions related to each of the five pillars, and a couple overall questions, ranking objectives within each area. Visit <https://www.novaparks.com/StrategicPlan> to review the plan and provide feedback by July 8.

STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- Plant over 50,000 trees creating new areas of forest
- Create or improve trails with a focus on sustainability and an investment of over \$6 million
- Create a W&OD Visitor Center
- Create a new wetland park for environmental education and sustainability
- Invest in electric vehicles and mowers, and take other steps to lower carbon footprint
- Add five new parkland properties, and manage existing parkland to better sequester carbon
- Expand cultural events and festivals
- Lead effort to commemorate the Declaration of Independence with interpretive efforts focused on liberty, justice, and freedom
- Expand partnerships with community groups
- Grow entrepreneurial revenues to support park improvements
- Create a team and programs that are reflective of our changing and diverse community



The five year plan could include a new wetland park for environmental education



Parks in the regional system provide recreation and viewing an abundance of wildlife within their areas of conservation



Pickerelweed, a native aquatic plant blooms within the wetlands of Accotink Bay in the park

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AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 116' and 112.5') on the utility tower at 9620 Verdict Dr Vienna VA (20220710). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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OPINION

Krizek

FROM PAGE 6

nary individuals, those with low incomes, and people who live in rural communities where health-care may be far away and extremely difficult to access.

It is also critical to remember that just because abortion is legal, it does not mean that everyone who needs care can afford it. This includes Virginians who are uninsured or whose plans do not cover abortion. In addition, there are only 15 clinics in the Commonwealth, meaning that many Virginians must travel a long way to access care. Because Virginia is a safe haven for abortion in the south, we will now see many traveling from out of state to access care here. (If you feel called to and are able, please donate to funds such as Blue Ridge Abortion Fund.)

Now that abortion has been left up for each state to decide, to preserve these essential rights, we must remain vigilant and vote to elect (and re-elect) state legislators who will fight for the right of all Virginians to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions and want Virginians to have the right to safe and accessible abortions. Nearly 80% of Virginians believe that access to abortion should be legal. The right to conceive, carry, or terminate a pregnancy should always remain a private decision between a pregnant person and their healthcare provider. I will remain a fierce advocate for reproductive freedom in Virginia.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

sire of the founding members to create music in a way that is empowering and personally resonant by placing a high priority on playing music by women composers, in order to communicate and connect with an audience.

SUNDAY/JULY 17

Model Trains Running, 1-4 p.m. At The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK Club will display and run N Gauge Model Trains. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5 (\$6 special events); seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/JULY 23

Lesson Zero, 7 p.m. At The Austin Grill, 8430 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Visit www.youtube.com/lessonzero and www.reverbNation.com/lessonzero

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Obituary

Obituary

HAROLD A. GRAINGER

February 1, 1934 – February 15, 2022



Harold (Hal) was born on February 1, 1934, to Mae Rose Ihling and Harold Aloysius Grainger in Newark, New Jersey. He grew up in Asbury Park, NJ. He was a graduate of the APHS class of '52. Hal served in the Army for 26 years. He was last stationed at the Pentagon where he headed up the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence. Hal and his wife Ann were realtors with Long and Foster Real Estate for many years. They worked out of the Burke office. He leaves behind his wife Ann of 65 years, six children, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Hal will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on June 30, 2022. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your charity of choice. The full obituary is on this website. <https://allveterans.com/tribute/details/269350/Harold-Grainger/obituary.html#tribute-start>

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The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a distribution center on Fort Belvoir's North Area (FBNA) in Fairfax County, Virginia. The purpose of this project is to construct and operate an approximately 525,000 square foot warehouse and administrative building with associated parking and covered storage at FBNA for approximately 600 personnel. This facility would support the delivery and receipt of materials within and across the Washington Metropolitan Area, requiring close proximity within the National Capital Region to achieve distribution efficiencies. The action would also provide compliance with the federal Office of Management and Budget guidance that encourages "good stewardship of taxpayer resources" and increasing joint site usage.

The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Army's NEPA Implementing Regulations (32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions). The Draft EA is available to view in printed form at the Fort Belvoir Library; at the Richard Byrd Branch, Kingstowne Branch, and Sherwood Regional Branch of the Fairfax County Public Library system; or for view/download electronically at the project website <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/FBNA/> or at the Fort Belvoir Directorate of Public Works-

Environmental Division website: <https://home.army.mil/belvoir/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental-division>. To access the Draft EA, click "Programs & Documents" tab and scroll down to "NEPA Program" on the list. Once that is clicked, a drop down will appear with all of the NEPA documents available to the public. Search on Fort Belvoir North Area Distribution Center Draft EA.

Comments or questions on the Draft EA may be submitted by email to: FBNA@usace.army.mil, by mail to Fort Belvoir Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, or by phone to the Fort Belvoir Directorate of Public Works-Environmental Division at (703) 806-3193 or (703) 806-0020. Comments are requested to be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA. The publication date of this NOA is June 30, 2022, and the comment period closes on July 29, 2022.

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Being Naïve Is Just Plain Stupid



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Even though I was unexpectedly diagnosed at age 54 and a half with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, I never felt compelled to look for additional trouble by ever having an age-recommended colonoscopy – until recently, that is. I figured what I didn't know wouldn't hurt me or rather, I had already been hurt enough (my pre-existing cancer diagnosis). As such, I didn't consider that cancer has its own set of rules and presuming otherwise is not a prudent course of action – or in my case, inaction. Incorrectly, I also thought that having one cancer diagnosis would somehow mitigate against having another cancer. I must have thought that there was some logic to the process. I should have known better. Cancer and logic aren't usually a part of the same diagnosis/prognosis.

But I rationalized that since I was regularly being CT-scanned, MRI'd, bone-scanned and P.E.T. scanned, I thought – wrongly, that if there was cancer to be found in my body somewhere, all these scans would find it, even if they weren't exactly looking for it. I mean, who's having more diagnostic scans than a "terminal" cancer patient undergoing active treatment? Given how much diagnostic process I was already enduring, I didn't/never really grasped the importance of doing more. I figured I was already doing more than my share. Not that share has anything to do with fending off cancer. Nevertheless, it made for plausible deniability and so it wasn't until nearly age 67, almost 13 and half years after my initial lung cancer diagnosis in 2009, that I acted my age and not my shoe size. I scheduled the procedure and am relieved to report that all's well that ends well, except that I still have a "terminal" form of papillary thyroid cancer. 'Terminal' in that the medication I'm taking, and which is working to keep me stable, has a limited shelf life: three years, expiring Sept. 2023-ish. So either I'll need new medicine or a stronger shelf.

But I can't worry about any of that. I must live my life like everyday matters and that means getting scanned/examined like my life depends on it because you know what? It just might. And in the process of paying attention/following doctor's orders/age-related protocols, I just might improve my quality of life by lifting that bale and toeing that line because it's probably not going to happen by itself. I'm a humanities person, not a science person and so there are lots of substance that is lost on me. Certainly, I can keep my eye on the ball but it's the ball I'm sort of paying attention to. The problem is? There's a lot more than the ball I need to be paying attention to. Fortunately, delaying this most recent procedure hasn't complicated my life. In a way, it's sort of unencumbered me. I'm less afraid now that the next procedure will result in something bad because I've been through one that wasn't. Not that I was paranoid, but when you've been diagnosed with cancer at a relatively young/unexpected age (54 for me), your entire orientation, how you think and feel, how you prioritize and analyze and theorize changes. On the one hand, you live and learn, on the other you value each day as if it might be your last. And when an oncologist tells you your prognosis is "terminal," as mine told me in late February 2009, you take him at his word, that the next day really could be your last.

But that was a long time ago and somehow, I'm still alive. And though I've been given no assurances of anything living forward, I am grateful for each day and will try to care for myself in a way that doesn't hasten my demise but rather prevents it. And if that means having colonoscopies annually so, be it. It's a small price to pay/minor inconvenience to endure to take advantage of the blessings I've been given.

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

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