

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

Members of the kayak flotilla haul plants they pulled from the water to shore.



OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13 ♦ SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 15

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Police Kill Man at
Springfield Town Center

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Housing Discrimination
Alive and Well

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Hunting
The Invasive
Water Chestnut

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JULY 28 - AUGUST 3, 2022

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Fairfax Man Charged: Juvenile Sexual Assault

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

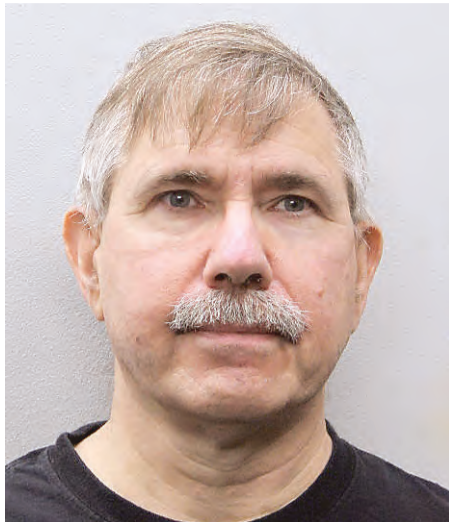
Fairfax County police have charged a former church-youth leader with sexually assaulting a juvenile and possessing child pornography. He is Thomas Weaver, 61, of Fairfax.

Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau's Child Abuse Squad were notified in June by a family member of the juvenile that the alleged victim was sexually assaulted. The relative said the perpetrator was a member of St. Matthews United Methodist Church in Annandale.

Detectives determined that Weaver joined that church in 2001 and had periodically been a leader in youth activities but had not held that position since 2020. However, say police, "On multiple occasions since 2020, Weaver [reportedly] coerced the victim to meet him in a secluded area in Annandale. Once there, Weaver [allegedly] sexually assaulted the victim."

Last Wednesday, July 20, detectives executed a search warrant at Weaver's home and seized numerous images of child pornography. They then arrested Weaver and charged him with 20 counts of possession of child pornography and five counts of taking indecent liberties of a minor by a custodian. He was held in the Adult Detention Center without bond and has a Sept. 22 court date.

According to police, the church also notified Fairfax



Weaver

County Child Protective Services with concerns about Weaver and has been cooperating fully with police. Furthermore, detectives believe there may be additional [alleged] victims, since Weaver possibly worked as a youth leader at other churches in the past.

Police are asking anyone with information about this case or who believe Weaver had inappropriate contact with them or their child to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Britepaths' Emergency Pantry Needs Community Support

Since hunger in Fairfax County never takes a vacation, Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths works hard, all year 'round, to feed local individuals and families in need. But it can't do it alone; it needs the community's help to stock its Emergency Pantry.

Currently, the most-needed food items are: Applesauce cups/fruit cups (unsweetened/in own juice); dried beans, cooking oil, jam and jelly, pancake mix and syrup, pasta sauce, peanut butter, oatmeal (unflavored, in canisters) and rice. Greatly needed, as well, are shampoo and adult-sized toothbrushes, plus reusable grocery bags to distribute the food.

Britepaths is at 3959 Pender Drive, No. 200, in Fairfax, and accepts donations on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. To arrange to make a drop-off, please contact Britepaths in advance at 703-273-8829 or info@britepaths.org.

❖ To order needed items via Britepaths' Amazon Wish List page, go to <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30LSP2LLWHRPV>.

❖ To make a monetary contribution to Britepaths' Food Bridge program, go to <https://britepaths.org/donate/>.

— BONNIE HOBBS

NEWS BRIEFS

Man Arrested in Widespread Theft from Churches

A 61-year-old man has been arrested for stealing from churches throughout the region. On June 28, Fairfax County police officers responded to the Saint Mary's of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax for a man who stole a purse from a car in the parking lot. The man

used stolen credit cards from the purse at several stores nearby. On July 4, the same suspect returned to the church and stole from two donation boxes. At least one stolen check was cashed from the donation box.

Detectives reviewed surveillance footage and distributed flyers of the suspect throughout the region to other law enforcement agen-

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 14

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NEWS

Disturbing Video of Police Shooting

Police release video of police shooting death of Reston man at Springfield Town Center; chief defends officers' actions.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Police hoped to apprehend Christian Parker, 37, before he entered his car parked outside Springfield Town Center.

"Best case scenario; we get him before he even gets into that car," said Fairfax County Police Department Chief Kevin Davis.

But the seconds that permitted Parker to get into his car as police vehicles blocked his car from both sides also gave Parker time to reveal a Glock semi automatic pistol, a weapon officers knew he had stolen from his brother, pointed at a family member, and discharged in their parent's Reston home four days before.

"Obviously, he was in some type of crisis," said Davis.

Parker was the first of two men shot and killed by the police in apparent mental health crises. Police shot and killed Jasper Aaron Lynch, 26, in a McLean home on July 7.

Police's fugitive task force made appre-

hending him a priority, Davis said. Officers knew he and his car were outside the Springfield Town Center on June 30, 2022.

"It's an absolute priority of the Fairfax County Police Department to take that person into custody because he remains a danger to himself, and his family and others. It was a priority for us to find him and apprehend him," said Davis last week at a press conference on July 22, 2022.

Three officers who surrounded Parker's car ordered Parker to drop his gun.

"Hands, hands, show me your hands," they said. "Put your hands in the air."

"Put your hands in the air, I will shoot you," an officer warned.

"Gun, gun, he's got a gun," they warned each other.

"Drop your gun, drop your gun," said another.

"You're going to get shot," said another.

"They're begging him to drop his gun and he just doesn't."

—Kevin Davis,
Fairfax County Police Chief



SCREENSHOT FROM POLICE VIDEO

Fairfax County police officers with guns drawn approaching Christian Parker in his car.

First-Class Daniel Houtz and Officer Ryan Sheehan discharged their firearms, according to police reports. PFC Houtz is an eight-year veteran of the Franconia Police District Station and OFC Sheehan is a two-year veteran of the Mount Vernon Police District Station. Both officers were assigned to the Summer Crime Initiative Team.

Police called Fire and Rescue, and after

determining Parker was no longer a threat, broke into the car and attempted to render aid. Parker died at the scene.

"They're begging him to drop his gun and he just doesn't," said Davis.

In Fairfax County, police release body worn camera footage within 30 days of a police involved shooting except when to do so would interfere with the investigation.

"The officers were faced with a very dangerous situation," said Davis. "They are protecting the community, they are dealing

SEE POLICE SHOOTING, PAGE 12



This is one of the 10,700 vehicles a day that cross this bridge on Alban Road.



Deteriorating concrete is one reason for the reconstruction.

Bridge Rehabilitation Will Mean Five Weeks of Detours

Alban Road in south Springfield will be closed at Accotink Creek bridge.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Beginning Aug. 13, drivers that use Alban Road to access points in Lorton or southern Springfield need to look at other options when traveling through this area when the Virginia Department of Transportation closes a section of Alban Road for bridge rehabilitation.

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Traffic will detour via Alban Road, Rolling Road, Fullerton Road and Boudinot Drive back to Alban Road, VDOT said.

There are a few businesses along Alban that will be impacted and the word about the closure hasn't yet gotten around. The residents on Mazzello Place, a residential street about 200 yards from the bridge, had not heard about nor had the manager of Crown Fried Chicken north of the bridge.

"Lunch time is busy, this is not good for business," the manager said.

A few doors down at Bozelli's Deli, Conner Feysa behind the counter overheard some customers talking about it. "Not that big of a deal," he said.

This bridge was built in 1950 and repaired in 1991. Wear and tear from the crossing of 10,700 vehicles a day has caused some of the concrete to deteriorate, so VDOT will

replace the concrete, reinforcing it with steel. VDOT plans to re-open the bridge in late September. Officials have not come up with a final price tag for this bridge repair.

This is not the first bridge in this area to undergo reconstruction. In March 2021, another bridge carrying Old Colchester Road over Pohick Creek in the Lorton area was reconstructed. It was falling apart and was

SEE BRIDGE REHABILITATION, PAGE 12

Fairfax, Library Host Point 50 StoryWalk

Event encourages children to read, supports local businesses.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Reading can always provide a fun, summertime diversion. But when it's joined with an outdoor clue-hunting activity, plus a chance to win prizes, it turns into something exciting, as well. And in Fairfax City, it's called StoryWalk.

The City's Economic Development Office has partnered with the City of Fairfax Regional Library to create a free, 15-stop StoryWalk. Families may explore it throughout August at the Point 50 Shopping Center, 10334 Fairfax Blvd.

StoryWalk is an international event that makes literacy interactive in an unexpected way by combining exercising and reading. And the book highlighted in the City's walk was chosen to get young students excited about returning to school.

From Aug. 1 through Aug. 31, pages from the children's book, "Fang and Nugget Go to School" – written by Tammi Sauer and illustrated by Michael Slack – will be displayed on business storefront windows and yard signs. This ocean-themed story was also selected to fit with the library's summer-reading theme of "Oceans of Possibilities."

"In looking for a good book for the Point 50 StoryWalk, 'Nugget and Fang Go to School' was chosen because it's entertaining while also holding deeper messages about embracing differences, facing challenges and valuing good friends," said Pamela Coughlan, the library's youth services assistant. "The Point 50 StoryWalk is taking a book and making it an experience, and the City of Fairfax Regional Library is glad to be a part of that."

The walking route is less than a mile long, and each display will contain infor-

mation about where to find the next page, as well as an activity associated with it, to encourage interactive conversations. Maps of the route and activity sheets may be picked up at the library, at 10360 North St, or at participating businesses. They may also be obtained digitally by scanning the QR code on the pages or by downloading them at fairfaxcityconnected.com/story-walk22.

The businesses taking part in this event include Slice of Matchbox, Compass Coffee, Big Buns, Orangetheory Fitness, Amazon Fresh, Organic Nails and Spa, and TPG Pediatrics.

To read the story and complete the activity form in order, it's recommended to start at Slice of Matchbox. The pages will be in numerical order following the first stop, with the next destination identified. The last page of the story will be at TPG Pediatrics. Children will be able to bring the story to life by doing the activities; and if they get hungry or thirsty along the way, Point 50 offers a variety of places to eat and drink.

The StoryWalk at Point 50 also encourages people to shop at City stores for the entire



The Point 50 Shopping Center is at 10334 Fairfax Blvd. in Fairfax.



Map of the StoryWalk route in Fairfax City's Point 50.

month. As an extra incentive to complete the walk, when a proof of purchase from a Point 50 business is submitted, along with a completed activity sheet, participants will be entered into a raffle to receive one of two \$50 gift cards to a Point 50 business of their choice, plus a copy of the book.

"We are excited to partner, not only with the City of Fairfax Regional Library, but also

with the many businesses located at Point 50 to provide an engaging literacy activity that enables us to support shopping local," said Danette Nguyen, the City's assistant director of Economic Development. "The Point 50 shopping center has become another City destination where people want to go."

"You can take a fitness class, spend time in restaurants, relax with personal services and explore public art. As more businesses open and programming develops at the shopping center, it really adds to the vibrancy and strong economy of the City."

Proof of purchase and activity sheets may be emailed to the Office of Economic Development at economicdevelopment@fairfaxva.gov. For more information about this event, go to fairfaxcityconnected.com/storywalk22.

Fairfax Resolves Receives Two National Awards

Members of the Fairfax Resolves, the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, received top honors at the 132nd annual national SAR Congress, held July 10-14 in Savannah, Ga.

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter was given the Liberty Bell Award for having the best program of outreach to the local community in support of the Sons of the American Revolution for a chapter of its size. It also won the President General's Cup, awarded annually to the chapter presenting the most complete program of activities for the previous year. The Fairfax Resolves win in this category made it the best,

large SAR chapter in the nation for 2021-2022.

The SAR is the largest, male-lineage organization in the United States, comprised of descendants of patriots who participated in the American Revolution. It's a nonprofit, nonpartisan entity dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and promoting education to future generations. The Fairfax Resolves Chapter conducts various patriotic, youth, public service and historic programs throughout the area.

Men who believe they may be eligible to join the SAR and are interested in membership may contact the Fairfax Resolves registrar at registrar@fairfaxresolvessar.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID HUXSOLL

From left are Fairfax Resolves members Jay DeLoach, Forrest Crain, David Cook, David Huxsoll, Jeff Thomas, Tim Dioquino and Ken Bonner.



Participants in the ribbon cutting included (from left) Chris Bruno, Councilmembers Jon Stehle and Tom Ross, David Meyer and Michael Haft, plus Steven Pongrace (third from right).



From left are Tabitha Niemann and her parents, Shawn and Kristin Niemann.

Hub for Social Interaction and Pedestrian Activity

Compass Coffee is a hit in Fairfax City.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Compass Coffee hit the ground running, becoming an instant hit in Fairfax City as soon as it opened this spring in the Point 50 shopping center. And during its recent ribbon cutting, City officials and customers alike sang its praises.

“We’re thrilled that Compass Coffee has come to Fairfax City,” said Mayor David Meyer. “Coffee shops do more than serve beverages – they’re special places where people meet to make friendships and share new ideas. They create a third place outside of work and home.”

Furthermore, he said, “Compass Coffee at Point 50 in our Northfax activity center will bring people together as the City continues to support commercial development in this area. With the opening of Compass Coffee and other new businesses at this center, Point 50 will become a hub for social interaction and pedestrian activity.”

Agreeing, Fairfax’s Assistant Economic Development Director Danette Nguyen said, “Coffee shops are where business is conducted, friends communicate and families come together over a cup of Joe.”

Co-owners Michael Haft and Harrison Suarez are former Marines. “We became friends at Camp Lejeune and we both served in Afghanistan,” said Haft. “And we’re very proud of our coffee.”

The pair has 14 Compass Coffee cafés, including three in Virginia. They import beans from all over the world, roasting them at their flagship shop in Washington, D.C., to create a variety of espresso drinks, signature blends, cold brews and other handcrafted beverages, including teas.

“Our Cardinal Blend is our most popular coffee,” said Haft. “And we have a whole barista training program teaching cof-



Steven Pongrace (in glasses, beard and gray shirt) waiting on some customers.

fee-making, customer-service, managing and leadership skills to those interested so we can promote from within.”

The Fairfax City café is at 10400 Fairfax Blvd. at the University Drive intersection and also serves fresh pastries and other snacks. Hours are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Saturday-Sunday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

“Buildout took 12 weeks – our fastest ever,” said Haft. “The Fairfax City team was fantastic; everybody was amazing and very professional. We chose Fairfax because it’s a beautiful City and our customers are here. A lot of people from Fairfax work in downtown D.C. and kept asking, ‘When are you coming to my neighborhood?’ So we knew this would be a popular place to be.”

And, he added, Compass couldn’t have had a better reception here. “Our vibe is a fun, community-gathering space. We get young families with kids, college students hanging out and multiple generations here having coffee,” said Haft. “We designed and built all our furniture. And not only do we roast our own coffee, but we also blend our own teas – and even the coffee flavorings, such as the vanilla syrup and chocolate sauce. We want everything to be as good as the coffee.”

For café Manager Steven Pongrace, be-

ing here means coming home. “I’ve lived in Fairfax for over 15 years,” he said. “And I’m excited to connect with this community in a real, tangible way. My team is committed to delivering legendary service to every customer. We can’t wait to build a strong community of regulars at the Point 50 shopping center.”

He said customers were happy to see Compass open. “Before then, we introduced ourselves to various City organizations to let them know we were here,” said Pongrace. “And we gave gift cards to all the teachers in the four City schools. Now, word has spread that we’re here to offer some good coffee and, hopefully, a great experience. As more people learn about us, we see new faces in our café daily.”

Tabitha Niemann is a regular at the Compass in Ballston but checked out the Fairfax location while in the City visiting her parents. “I like that it’s locally owned, the coffee is good and the overall vibe of the store,” she said. “The employees are friendly, the music’s good and the café is bright and airy with lots of natural light.”

And that’s on purpose, said Joel Shetterly, head of design for Compass. “It’s about providing connection over coffee,” he explained. “From the second you walk in the



Ra Davis with his iced cherry blossom cold brew.

door, everything – from the music to the incredible customer service our teams provide, to how the light fills the café, to how the peak-roasted coffee tastes in your cup – just clicks.”

Niemann was enjoying a mocha, while her dad, Shawn, had an oatmeal cappuccino. “It’s the perfect balance of oat milk and coffee with a little bit of foam,” he said. “It reminds me of Italy.”

Her mom, Kristin, was savoring a hot chocolate. “It’s my favorite,” she said. “They mix the chocolate and milk first – rather than pouring the milk into the chocolate – and it’s just the best.”

Meanwhile, Ra Davis was sipping his iced cherry blossom cold brew. “It’s flavorful,” he said. “And I’d recommend this place to others because it’s clean and lively and the coffee’s good.”

City Councilmember Tom Ross called Compass “a wonderful addition to the Fairfax community,” and Economic Development Director Chris Bruno agreed.

“It’s a business that values the quality of its product, space and community,” said Bruno. “Compass provides an important piece of the vision for our City’s Northfax area and is a welcoming space for people to be together and enjoy exceptional coffee.”

Workers Must Benefit Too

BY: DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

I am a glass half full kind of person. As volatile as our economy is, I try to be optimistic, yet still realistic. And, with our COVID-economy in transition, I see the light at the end of the tunnel, especially for our workforce here in Virginia, even though it is unclear whether we are headed towards a recession in an attempt by the Federal Reserve to curb inflation with sharp interest rate hikes. So, even though the world may feel more chaotic than ever, I am determined to stay positive, and you should too, because we live in a wonderful community in the greatest nation on earth, where it is still possible to live the American middle-class dream. Yes, we have war in Ukraine, gas topping \$5 a gallon, and volatility in the financial markets. But the Ukrainians are persevering under tremendous odds, and with help from the West, gas prices have been dropping every day for well over a month, and the stock market is stabilizing. Most significantly, the labor market is tightening, and workers have the opportunity to flex their muscles by organizing to up their pay, improve their working conditions, and increase safety on the job. Moreover, during the 2022 session of the General Assembly earlier this year, we won the legislative fight to protect the good labor reform laws we passed in the sessions of 2020 and 2021 from getting repealed or watered down. For example, the minimum wage is still going up (In fact, this week marked the anniversary of when the federal minimum wage was last raised to \$7.25, which was too long ago - 2009) from its current \$11 an hour to \$12 an hour next January



1st. Even more important for worker empowerment is that this week saw the Richmond City Council join our Northern Virginia jurisdictions (as already has occurred here in Fairfax County) to vote for providing its employees with the power to collectively bargain. I am also encouraged that Northern Virginia localities are passing ordinances requiring prevailing wages for construction workers and piloting Project Labor Agreements for our public works.

Indeed, we are amid a national labor resurgence. After decades of declining union membership, labor organizing is on the upswing. The reasons why are many, but it looks like workers are finally in a position to benefit. It's not that workers have not wanted better working conditions, higher wages, and better benefits before. But now you are seeing young people, especially, taking jobs to organize workers, like Starbucks' baristas are doing at over 250 locations across the country. Union representation petitions (to have the NLRB conduct an election to determine if the workers wish to be represented by a union) filed this fiscal year are up 58 percent, already far beyond the number from last year. In May, nationally, there were more than 11 million job openings - 4.5 million more than before the pandemic. Currently, robust hiring is broad-based across all sectors of the economy.

Meanwhile, here in Virginia, we have a strong labor market, which has produced 61,000 jobs in the first three months since January, driving strong growth in payroll withholding to give our state budget a surplus. There were 113,000 more Virginians employed in April 2022 than

there were in April 2021, an increase of 2.7 percent year-over-year. Payroll employment was estimated to have grown 3.2 percent in April versus the prior year. While Virginia has underperformed the nation in jobs recovered since the pandemic, ranking 47th overall, momentum is building. For the first four months of this year, Virginia ranked 16th among the states for employment growth.

The outlook for continued job growth is positive as more Virginians are returning to the workforce. After falling much more than the nation during the pandemic, Virginia's labor force participation rate has increased 0.9 percentage points since December. In Virginia, payroll employment rose 3.2 percent in April from April of last year. Employment in Northern Virginia rose by 3.0 percent, Hampton Roads rose 1.8 percent, and Richmond-Petersburg rose 2.1 percent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.0 percent and stands at 1.3 percentage points less than a year ago. (All statistics are from the Secretary of Finance's May revenue report.)

So, it's no coincidence that we're seeing waves of support for unions. While companies are posting record profits, workers in essential industries have not seen their wages keep pace with inflation. According to the AFL-CIO's Executive Paywatch Report, in 2021 real wages for workers fell by 2.4%, while CEO pay rose by 18.2%. Labor unions give workers the opportunity to come together and bargain for wages and benefits that are fair for workers. The public knows that union members were at work during the worst of COVID, keeping our economy from tanking and dedicated to getting the job done. The bottom line is that this economy is giving workers a chance to balance the power dynamic between them and their employers by organizing and sharing with businesses their financial success. And this progress is long overdue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter at Large:

Global climate change is our reality and it is forcing us to rethink urban design to accommodate increased variability in the weather. Part of rethinking design will be attempting to channel and control water. However, the idea that funding should be spent on building flood walls or levees in a drained flood plain does not represent sound decision making. The time and money spent

on these projects would be better served designing communities and controlled flood zones, as opposed to maintaining unsustainable systems well past their environmental due.

In the case of the flood control measure discussed in the last issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette, the overarching premise that flood walls and a levee system will protect communities in and around Bellevue from increased flooding is mis-guided. The Bellview commu-

nity sits on a drained marsh/flood plain. Portions of the plain are below river level requiring the building of canal networks. Flooding occurs simultaneously from the river rising, but also from the drainage of water from the surrounding communities into Dyke Marsh. Even the best designed flood wall and levee system can not compete with this kind of geography.

If there is concern about housing stock in and around this section of Northern Virginia, a suggestion for a solution comes in the form of the Route One corridor. Portions of the Route One corridor are significantly above the Potomac River and away from marsh land that accompanies it. Furthermore, there are already plans in the works for increasing mass-transit and multi-modal transit infrastructure in that space, which would lead to an overall decrease in the cost of living at these locations.

If the funds from the levee and

flood wall project were to be divided into projects attempting to better utilize the Route One corridor, including but not limited to the development of multi-modal and mass transit systems, plus developing green infrastructure poten-

tial along Route One and in the Bellview community, this would reframe the issue of global climate change and flooding into a potential regional economic driver.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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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Members of the Burke Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol pose with the crew of Fairfax One July 7 at Washington Irving Middle School.



D. Andrew Edgerton, Chief Pilot Fairfax County Police Helicopter, briefs the Burke Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol during a July 7 visit to Washington Irving Middle School.

Fairfax One Visits Burke Cadets

Team places third in national CAP competition.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Burke Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol were given an inside look at Fairfax One, the Fairfax County Police helicopter, July 7 at Washington Irving Middle School with a squadron team going on to take third place overall in the recently completed National Cadet Competition in Dayton, Ohio.

Chief pilot D. Andrew Edgerton briefed the squadron on the role of Fairfax One in search and rescue missions which was followed by an opportunity for cadets to sit inside the aircraft.

The Burke Composite Squadron is comprised of senior members 18 and older and cadets 12 to 18. It is one of 22 squadrons in the Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, which is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

Cadet members went on to compete at the Civil Air Patrol National Cadet Competition, which included 16 teams from across the United States and Puerto Rico.

SEE CIVIL AIR PATROL, PAGE 12

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Working to Control Water Chestnuts

Volunteers needed to pull the non-native invasive aquatic plants from local waters.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Describing the action of non-native invasive plants in the environment can sound like the stuff of a science fiction movie plot. The aliens land here from far away foreign lands and soon take over large territories since there are few effective natural weapons that can stop their spread. One of those aliens, not a movie character, spotted in Fairfax County is the water chestnut plant, *Trapa bispinosa*. The county's manager of invasive plant management (IMA) Patricia Greenburg wants to prevent the nightmares this alien invader could create.

This year the county's Board of Supervisors approved an \$102,927 in the FY 2023-2027 budget "for the first phase of a three-year project to fund a multi-agency water chestnuts early detection rapid response control program." Greenburg's team and invasive plant management volunteers are working in collaboration with the US Geological Survey (USGS), Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD), volunteer groups and private landowners to control and eradicate the aquatic weed.

Game and Inland Fisheries employees, Park Authority employees, and volunteers met at Burke Lake Park on July 25 to remove plants found growing in Burke Lake. The plants are easily located and can be removed by hand-pulling. Some work crew members paddled kayaks to locate smaller patches of the plant along the lake's long shoreline. Others waded from the shoreline near larger patches, collecting the plants in baskets, then floating them to shore. They also pushed large masses of plants closer to shore to speed the extraction process, and used canoes as collection and transport vehicles. Although their efforts were well timed to the plants' growth cycle, some plants were found with the sharp horned nuts from which the plants reproduce. Those in the larger patches, with more established plants, were more likely to be found with the fruit.

According to the USGC, Water chestnut "is typically managed with hand-pulling or treatment with herbicides. In both cases, the ideal time to control the annual, aquatic plant is before fruits are produced. Management between May and early-July has been very successful in eradicating the plants, but it may take several years of effort if seeds drop prior to harvest or lay dormant."

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District agrees and suggests "removal should be timed as flowers bloom. ... For best results, harvested plants should be carefully removed from the water body to limit loose plant propagules and keep oxygen levels at natural levels."

For larger patches, removal can be especially difficult. The Soil and Water Conservation District will provide management advice specific to the situation to property owners with large areas of impact. Designated funding also "will support engagement efforts with private pond owners and operators and the suppression of water chestnut plants at up to 30 infested ponds on property owned by the Park Authority, Homeowners Associations, or places of worship," according to county budget documents.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Manager of invasive management instructs county employees and volunteers who will use kayaks to search for and remove plants along the Burke Lake shoreline



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

John Odenkirk of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries working from the water bringing a basket of plants in for volume sampling

tion District will provide management advice specific to the situation to property owners with large areas of impact. Designated funding also "will support engagement efforts with private pond owners and operators and the suppression of water chestnut plants at up to 30 infested ponds on property owned by the Park Authority, Homeowners Associations, or places of worship," according to county budget documents.

Why not use herbicide for large patches? Odenkirk, of Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, says, although proven safe for



PHOTO BY PATRICIA GREENBURG

Burke Lake with invasive water chestnuts (*Trapa bispinosa*) shown with young low growth in foreground and larger plants in the cove



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

John Odenkirk of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries holds up a plant to show the long root system supporting the leaves and flowers.

use in water, herbicides are very expensive and must be used multiple times. Therefore, if volunteers are available, hand-pulling is a much less costly means of removal.

Why should it be removed? Water Chestnuts grow in dense, unsightly mats and impact the functionality and aesthetics of ponds, including those at stormwater facilities. As with other invasive species, its growth can block out native plants on which wildlife and the ecosystem depends.

The National Park Service advises, "Once established, it can reduce oxygen levels, increasing the potential for fish kills. It competes with native vegetation and is of little value to waterfowl." The USGC notes large seeds even can cause painful injuries to people and animals walking in the water near

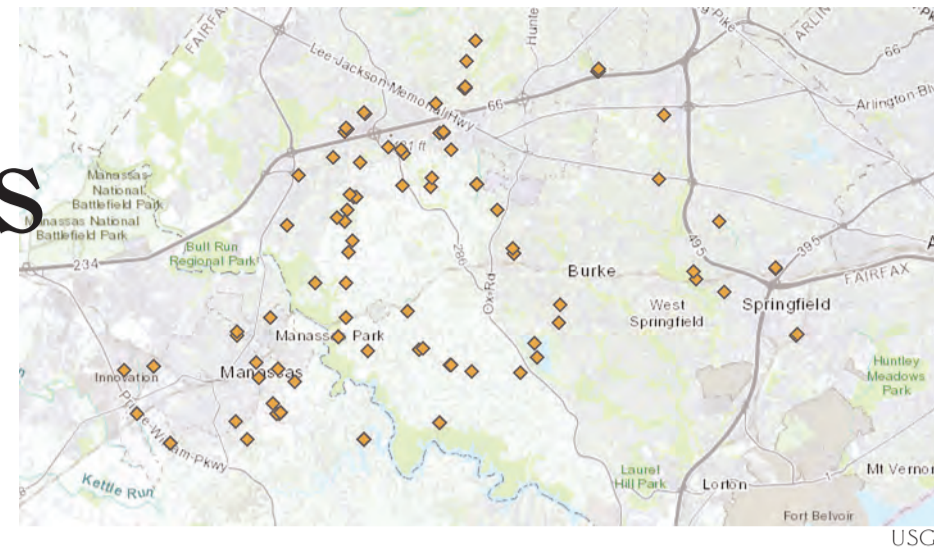


PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Summer county Park Authority employee Thomas King of Oakton works to remove invasive water chestnut growing in a large patch.

the shore.

The first discovery of this particular variant, *Trapa bispinosa* var. *iinumai*, of the Water Chestnut in the United States occurred right here in the tidal area of the Potomac River in 2014. It was recognized as different from varieties previously found growing in the Northeast for about a hundred years, since the 1880s. This plant variant, believed only occurring in Virginia's Potomac River watershed in the U.S., is recognized by its two-horned fruit; likely related to a variety from Taiwan. The species found in the Northeast has a four-horned fruit. "Field surveys in local waterways showed that *T. bispinosa* had spread, unnoticed until recently, into private and public ponds, including a pond upstream of Pohick Bay. The barbed seeds can disperse long distances by floating or by adhering to the feathers and fur of wildlife," as



USGS
Map shows water bodies where water chestnut (*Trapa bispinosa*) has been found in Fairfax County



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Byrce Sayre, John Harris, Alicia Simmer, Thomas King, and Kirsten Bauer pull and load plants into a canoe to more easily transport the plants to shore for destruction.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries biologist John Harris and tech Bryce Sayre work from the water's edge and identify water chestnuts' horned fruit which can attach to water birds and mammals, moving the plant to new locations.

explained by the Maryland Invasive Species Council, which keeps watch for the plant in their waters. The U.S. Geologic Survey verified *Trapa bispinosa* in 33 Northern Virginia



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Pulled plants are brought to shore for sampling and volume measurement recording before being hauled away from the water area

locations by fall 2018, and the number of sites has doubled each year for the last three years. All of the recent reported locations (2000 to 2018) are in Fairfax and Prince William counties.

What does the plant look like? It's an annual aquatic plant with both floating and underwater leaves forming a rosette pattern. Leaves are triangular and toothed, green above and reddish underneath. It bears a



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Flotilla of kayaks embarks to search eastern areas of the lake



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Members of the kayak flotilla haul plants they pulled from the water to shore.

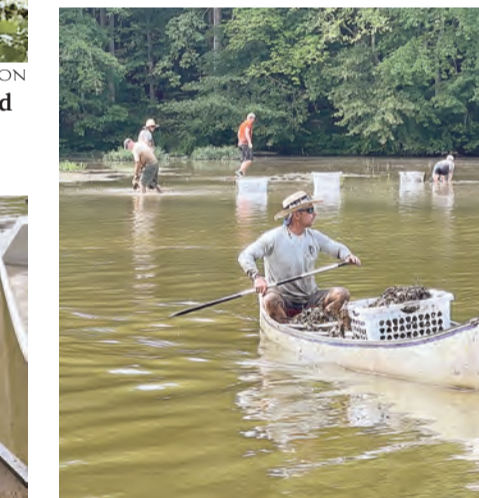


PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

John Odenkirk of Department of Game and Inland Fisheries paddles plants to shore from the area where volunteers work.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Park Maintenance Operations employee Sebastian Erb assists with hauling plants away from the water for disposal.



NANCY RYBICKI/USGS

Horned fruit of the water chestnut *Trapa bispinosa* var. *iinumai* can inflict injuries and hitchhike on animals, spreading the problem.

eradicate it in local waters. Report sightings at <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/SightingReport.aspx>. Also watch for and consider participating in group volunteer removal efforts by various conservation groups.



Valter L. Alcorn
Board Matters

Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) presents the Joint Board Matter he and Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) brought forward.



Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia)



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



Bryan J. Hill
Fairfax County Executive

Bryan J. Hill, Fairfax County Executive

Can't Get a Foot in the Door

Housing discrimination found in Fairfax County.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Recently released findings by the Equal Rights Center, contracted by Fairfax County, observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of White and Black testers in eight of 25 rental tests. The Equal Rights Center observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of White and Black testers in eight of 15 Mortgage Lending tests. And ERC observed discernable differences between real estate agents' treatment of White and Black testers in six of 14 sales tests.

The testing showed housing providers were more likely to give white testers more detailed information, respond more frequently to their messages, and offer more favorable terms than their matched-pair counterparts, said Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) on June 7, at a regular meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Testers reported certain housing providers lacked the training to provide the same level of treatment to deaf individuals as they do to hearing individuals.

"The numbers reported for the lending and sales markets were more troubling," Alcorn said. "They clearly show that historical practices of segregating neighborhoods through steering or offering no or worse loans to Black individuals are still very much an issue today."

At the June 7 meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the Joint Board Matter, Review of Enforcement Program for Fair Housing, which was proposed by Alcorn and Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia). The vote was unanimous.

"This should not be happening. This is horrible," said Lusk during the discussion at the board meeting. "It's making my stomach

turn to even talk about it."

Lusk said the Board must educate the community, adding he never thought he would be treated differently when going through the housing process. "It is unfortunate this sort of activity is still occurring," he said.

Lusk said they needed to identify what they were doing and how to partner with others. "There might be a role that Fairfax County takes, even separately, to make sure we are protecting our residents," Lusk said.

"The numbers reported for the lending and sales markets were more troubling. They clearly show that historical practices of segregating neighborhoods through steering or offering no or worse loans to Black individuals are still very much an issue today."

— Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill Supervisor

The board directed the Fairfax Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs to review its enforcement program for fair housing and provide the Board with a plan to enhance its education and training activities that includes an ongoing review of the effectiveness of these activities.

Fairfax County's policy is to provide housing throughout the County without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin; marital or familial status; disability; sexual orientation and gender identity; elderliness; military status; or source of funds, said Alcorn.

In 2019, Fairfax County contracted with the Equal Rights Center (ERC) to provide

email, phone, and in-person testing services in the rental, lending, and sales housing markets. During the contract term, June 2019 to March 2021, the Equal Rights Center conducted and analyzed 122 tests in the county based on race, national origin, and disability. The Fairfax County Human Rights Commission recently provided a summary of the results of these tests in the Fair Housing Rental, Sales, Lending Testing Report (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/humanrights/sites/humanrights/files/assets/documents/pdf/fair%20housing%20testing%20report.pdf>).

According to the report, the Equal Rights Center's core strategy for identifying unlawful and unfair discrimination is through civil rights testing, an investigative tool used to gather evidence, usually to compare conduct to legal requirements or a policy. In the fair housing testing, individuals posed as home-seekers and inquired about housing units. The information provided to the tester was recorded on a report form.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SAMPLE DIFFERENCES

Source: Fair Housing Rental, Sales, Lending Testing Report, Fairfax County Human Rights Commission, Fair Housing Program

RENTAL TESTS

Equal Rights Center analyzed 25 rental tests based on race, which compared treatment between a Black tester and a White tester. The ERC observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of White and Black testers in eight tests. The Leasing Agent:

- ❖ Quoted the Black tester a higher rent amount than the White tester
- ❖ Told the White tester the apartment they were viewing was available now, but told the Black tester it was not available until later
- ❖ Told the Black tester about more fees

LENDING TESTS

Equal Rights Center analyzed 15 lending tests based on race, which compared treatment between a Black tester and a White tester. The ERC observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of White and Black testers in eight tests. The Loan Officer:

- ❖ Only offered the Black tester first-time homebuyer loan products
- ❖ Gave the White tester a loan quote without asking their income
- ❖ Only generated a quote for the White tester

RENTAL TESTS

Equal Rights Center analyzed 13 rentals based on disability, all of which compared treatment between a Deaf tester using either an IP relay service or a video relay service and a hearing tester using a traditional phone service. The ERC observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of Deaf and hearing testers in six tests. The Leasing Agent only:

- ❖ Questioned the Deaf tester on how they found out about the complex
- ❖ Asked the hearing tester for their contact information
- ❖ Offered the hearing tester a live tour
- ❖ Told the Deaf tester about more stringent application requirements than the hearing tester

OPINION

Life and Struggles after Roe

DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



The history of our country has been one of ever-evolving rights and freedom to fulfill the promises contained in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The one notable exception occurred last month when the Supreme Court overturned the Roe v Wade decision of almost 50 years ago that had given women some control over their reproductive health decisions. It was, as so many have cried out in horror, the first time the Supreme Court had taken back a right that had been granted to citizens! The decision was concurred in by justices who had lied to get confirmed in their positions by saying that the issue of abortion was settled law.

Vice President Kamala Harris came to Virginia last Saturday to hold a roundtable discussion with state legislators and community organization members on the steps that need to be taken to overcome the ramifications of this unfortunate Supreme Court

decision. She was adamant that the administration was going to be taking all the steps it could to get the standards in the original Roe decision to be written into federal law and to protect those innocent victims who in the meantime would be hurt by the reversal. She is also encouraging states to take action to protect women and their rights to control their own health care decisions. I was honored

to be part of the discussion. The public part of the roundtable can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/fdrnGwCcSYs>

Virginia women legislators provided pointed testimony that their own daughters would have fewer rights than they did in growing up. At a time when women are achieving such incredible success in the business and political worlds this setback was unwarranted. A majority of members of the Democratic caucus in the House of Delegates are women. Virginia is the first state in the South to be a safe haven for abortion. That came about when Democrats controlled the legislature and the governorship. It has not always been so.

In the half century since the Roe v Wade decision, the Republicans in the state put into place a number of measures designed to make it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion since they could not prohibit it outright. There was the requirement for an ultrasound examination that medical doctors testified was unnecessary, but the requirement was passed anyway along with waiting periods and counseling requirements. Already 15 states have passed laws to ban abortions, and the governor in Virginia has indicated support for a ban after 15 weeks without exceptions for rape, incest, or health of the mother.

In the years I have been in the legislature I have heard incredibly moving testimony as to why abortion as an option must be left in place. Real stories of rape and incest told by the victims, fetal abnormalities, and health threats to women are realities as well as the myriad of circumstances that women face in making decisions about their reproductive health — all of this makes it clear that the government must not make the decisions for them. Support and vote for candidates for office that will keep Virginia the safe haven that it is for women and their reproductive health decisions.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK, AUG. 7-13

Fairfax County Farmers Markets will join farmers markets across the nation in celebration of National Farmers Market Week, August 7-13. Farmers Market Week highlights the role of farmers markets in supporting healthy communities, stimulating local economies, and supporting local farmers. The mission of the Fairfax County Farmers Markets is to provide residents access to locally grown products and create market opportunities for area farmers and food producers. Join us as we celebrate the contributions our local farmers and food producers to the Fairfax community!

Visit each of the 10 farmers markets August 7-13 to support local farmers and businesses, learn how to prepare fresh ingredients at our cooking demonstrations, participate in fun & educational activities, listen to live music, and enjoy delicious foods from local producers. Farmers Market Week is also Bike to Market Week in Fairfax County. We invite you to bike to your local Fairfax County farmers market. To find a safe route, see the Fairfax County Bicycle Map. While you're at the market, stop by the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) table to learn about safe biking strategies and more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

It is easy to imagine a time in the not too distant future where land is allowed to go to prevent flooding in other spaces, combined with different kinds of urban farming programs, alternative energy generators, to create a community that is conscious of global climate change and is also using that change as a means to create a more healthy and sustainable future. This is the future that we must place our capital into. Not into preserving an antiquated understanding of place and design.

Northern Virginia has the opportunity to be a national leader in green infrastructure projects and reinvigorating an economy to benefit, not fleeing, from global climate change. The proposal at Bellview is flawed not only from an engineering sense but also from an ideological sense; and we, the community, vote no.

Colin Chaddock
Alexandria 22314

Criminal Conspiracy To Undermine Our Freedom

To the Editor:

The January 6th hearings have wound down for the moment but I

won't forget what I learned — that what happened that day wasn't an isolated attack on our Capitol. It's part of an ongoing criminal conspiracy to undermine our freedom to vote and to choose our elected leaders.

Trump and his pals worked together to try to stop the peaceful transfer of power because the 2020 presidential election didn't go their way. Now, they're working to make sure all of our elections go their way in the future, whether we vote in their favor or not.

Never before have we seen so many candidates running for office on a platform that promises to destroy our democracy from the inside out. Worst of all, many of these right-wing extremists are looking to take over election administration, running for offices like secretary of state and county clerk. Once they're sworn in, many won't hesitate to overturn future elections if they or their MAGA allies lose.

The only way we are going to protect our elections is to fight back and make our voices heard. If our vote wasn't powerful, insurrectionists wouldn't be working so hard to take our freedom to vote away. It's up to us to hold election deniers accountable at the polls and elect democracy defenders up and down the ballot on November 8th.

Patricia Rowell
22308

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Disturbing Video of Police Shooting

FROM PAGE 3

with a person who is armed and dangerous, and they are in a crowded shopping center parking lot filled with mothers, fathers and children,” said Davis.

“I think these officers did the very best they could,” he said.

Civilian members of police oversight groups have called for the chief of police to maintain a neutral position on police actions until after the internal affairs and police auditor investigations are complete.

TACTICAL POSITIONING is a tool police use to try to prevent officer-involved shootings, using time and space to de-escalate situations involving mental health crises.

But in this case, concerns about families walking in the parking lot prevented that approach, Davis said.

“If we were to have backed up or if we were to have tactically repositioned ourselves, retreated, it would have afforded him the opportunity to do a number of different

Three of the four police shooting incidents this year involved people in mental health crisis, including Christian Parker.

things that would have been very dangerous to the community at large,” Davis said.

“There were many, many civilians who were walking right by this scene as it unfolded,” Davis said. “It could have been a much more dramatic situation if he got out of the car with a gun.”

POLICE SHOOTING video “is never pretty, especially when somebody’s life is lost,” said Davis.

Police released body worn camera and dash cam footage; viewers were warned that the footage could be disturbing.

Davis said: “There now exists an absolute expectation that police chiefs do two things that we never before were afforded

the capacity to do,” he said. “Number one, provide an assessment regarding the performance and conduct of police actions in real time and, number two, publicly release body worn camera footage to the community and to the media in a timely manner.”

There have been four officer involved shootings in 2022, even though the yearly average has been 1.5 a year the last decade, and last year there was only one, Davis said. Three of the four incidents this year involved people in mental health crises, including Parker.

“That’s not lost on us,” said Davis.

Davis was asked if a mental health clinician could have been on scene. He said they are working in a co-responder model with

mental health clinicians.

But in this case, Davis said, a clinician would not have been used because of the danger of the situation.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk held a July 21 virtual town hall meeting on public safety to discuss recent police activity and concerns by residents.

A criminal investigation into the use of force is being conducted by the Major Crimes Bureau. The officers have been placed on restricted duty pending the outcome of an administrative investigation by the Internal Affairs Bureau.

An independent review will be conducted by the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor, Richard G. Schott. The Office of the Independent Police Auditor was established by the Board of Supervisors on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, in the wake of the police shooting death of John Geer of Springfield in August 2013. The recommendations of the commission also led to the timeline for release of information.

Bridge Rehabilitation Will Mean Five Weeks of Detours

FROM PAGE 3

part of a larger area of transportation assets that received a C-minus from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

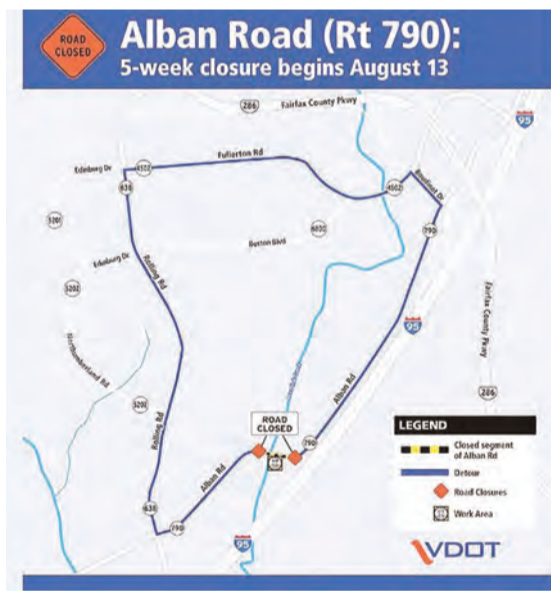
VDOT has a “State of Good Repair,” program that provides funding for deteriorated bridges in “Poor Condition,” or otherwise known as structurally deficient for bridges that are owned by the VDOT and/or localities, their information stated.

VDOT looks to rehabilitate, reconstruct, or replace deficient elements in the most practical and cost-effective manner and must also include measures to mitigate future deterioration. Bridge replacement projects are generally expected to be “in-kind” replacements. SGR funds are not intended to pay for increases of traffic capacity of a bridge or roadway.

Bigger Bridge Picture

The Federal Highway Administration has an Office of Bridges and Structures that provides national policy and technical guidance related to the design, construction, inspection, evaluation, management, and preservation of the nation’s inventory of highway bridges, tunnels, culverts, walls, and other ancillary structures. This is done through regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations and in supporting policy documents such as memos and technical advisories, the FHWA said.

The Office of Bridges and Structures manages over 610,000 highway bridges, more than 500 tunnels, and numerous other structures across the entire USA. Under the Federal-Aid Highway Program, FHWA annually distributes funding of approxi-



There will be signs but no alternate creek crossing at the construction site.

mately \$7 billion to assist transportation agencies plan, design, build, repair, rehabilitate, and inspect such bridges and structures.

VDOT’s bridge reconstruction announcement comes right on the heels of over \$330 million in new funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for construction on critical projects throughout the county, including the purchase of electric buses, widening of key roads, and commencing work on “The One,” the new Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit system. While this particular bridge is not part of that, transportation improvements have a trickling effect on the whole transportation picture.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Burke Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol pose for a photo after finishing third overall at the Civil Air Patrol National Cadet Competition July 18 in Dayton, Ohio.

Civil Air Patrol

FROM PAGE 7

The Burke cadets were announced as third place finishers July 18 behind the teams from Florida and Alaska.

Burke cadets competed over two days in various aspects of cadet life, including indoor posting of the colors, outdoor posting of the colors, drill, a written exam on leadership and aerospace, a team leadership problem, uniform preparation, fitness testing and public speaking.

“The competition was the perfect opportunity for our team to excel and have fun,” said Cadet Team Commander Cadet Major Lucas Bottorff, a senior at Edison High School. “Our hours of preparation work paid off, and we made timeless memories and connections along the way.”

The national competition was the first for the Burke Cadets, with the team placing in the top

“The competition was the perfect opportunity for our team to excel and have fun.”

— Cadet Team Commander
Cadet Major Lucas Bottorff

two in the following events: First Place – Written Exam; First Place Highest Individual Score Written Exam – With a perfect score – C/CMSgt Robert Kammerer; Second Place – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems; Second Place – Indoor Posting; Second Place – Outdoor Posting.

For more information about Burke Composite Squadron, contact: va-130informationgroup@vawg.cap.gov

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

cies. Detectives from Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) identified the suspect as a Maryland resident. MCPD was investigating Phelan for similar crimes.

At 10:50 p.m. on July 14, officers responded to the 5700 block of Columbia Pike for an unresponsive man in a white truck. Officers found the suspect in the same vehicle used during the larcenies. Officers determined the truck was stolen from Montgomery County. The suspect was treated by medics then taken into custody. He was charged with unauthorized use of a vehicle and possession of burglarious tools. Four days later, detectives obtained and served warrants for three counts of credit card fraud, three counts of identity theft, theft of a credit card and petit larceny. He was held without bond.

Detectives view him as a suspect in several other larcenies at churches and businesses throughout Fairfax County. Detectives continue to review surveillance footage and anticipate additional charges are forthcoming.

Detectives believe there may be additional victims. Anyone with information about this is asked to call detectives at 703-277-2361.

9-8-8 and Emergency Services

A new 9-8-8 crisis and support hotline is now active across the United States, including in Fairfax County.

In 2020, Congress designated a new 9-8-8 dialing code to operate through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network, which comprises over 200 locally operated and funded crisis lines across the country.

PRS, Inc. operates the local network in our area.

Dialing either 9-8-8 or the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), will connect the caller to behavioral health care and support 24 hours a day. Virginia continues to invest in building capacity to enhance community-based crisis services. Further updates will be provided in the upcoming months.

In addition, county services include emergency services (open 24/7) at the Sharon Bulova Center for Community Health, operated by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. You may access emergency services by calling 703-573-5679 or going to 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive in Fairfax.

Before coming to the Sharon Bulova Center for Community Health, please call ahead to emergency services to see if you can be seen via telehealth services – phone or video.

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Legals

Legals

Notice is hereby given that LUX LIMO CAR SERVICE INC, 6408 Andrew Matthew Ter, Springfield, VA 22150, has filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity that would authorize the transportation of passengers for compensation as a common carrier over irregular routes on an irregular schedule throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Any person who desires to protest the application and be a party to the matter must submit a signed and dated written request setting forth (1) a precise statement of the party's interest and how the party could be aggrieved if the application was granted; (2) a full and clear statement of the facts that the person is prepared to provide by competent evidence; (3) a statement of the specific relief sought; (4) the name of the applicant and case number assigned to the application; and (5) a certification that a copy of the protest was sent to the applicant. The case number assigned to this application is MC2200346ST.

Written protests must be mailed to DMV Motor Carrier Services, Attn: Operating Authority, P. O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001 and must be postmarked on or before August 11, 2022.

Any protest filed with competent evidence will be carefully considered by DMV. However, DMV will have full discretion as to whether a hearing is warranted based on the merits of the protest filed.

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SENIOR LIVING

Seniors Surviving the Heat

Staying hydrated, remaining indoors can help prevent heat illness in older people.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

On a recent sunny and sweltering day, Dawson Colman parked his car and began to walk the three blocks to a restaurant in Old Town where he was meeting his daughter for lunch. By the time he reached the middle of the second block, the 82-year old had begun to feel nauseous and dizzy. He had to stop and text his daughter Alyssa Williams.

"I knew something was wrong, but I couldn't figure out why I suddenly started to feel sick. I never get sick," he said. "It felt like it came out of the blue."

"When he described what he was feeling, I knew right away that it was due to the heat," said Williams, who is a nurse practitioner in Vienna.

When temperatures soar, elderly people are more likely to fall victim to heat related illnesses than any other age group, according to the National Institute on Aging.

"Physically, the body of an older adult does not adjust as well as young people to sudden changes in temperature," said Lucy H. Caldwell,

Fairfax County Health Department. "Older adults are more likely to have a chronic medical condition that changes normal body responses to heat and are also more likely to take prescription medicines that affect the body's ability to control its temperature or sweat."

Nausea, dizziness and muscle cramps are among the symptoms of heat stroke, heat exhaustion and similar ailments, said Kurt Larrick,

Assistant Director, Arlington County Department of Human Services.

"Heat stroke is a life-threatening form of hyperthermia [that] occurs when the body is overwhelmed by heat and unable to control its temperature," Larrick said. "Emergency medical attention is critical for a person with heat stroke symptoms, especially an older adult."

When it comes to recognizing and working to prevent heat-related illnesses, Colman's case serves as a cautionary tale. "No



PHOTO COURTESY ALYSSA WILLIAMS

Dawson Colman's daughter Alyssa teaches him how to use his phone to keep track of his daily water intake.

matter how healthy, energetic or self-sufficient you feel, don't underestimate the power of extremely high temperatures. You can go from feeling fine to feeling faint in minutes," said Williams.

When temperatures spike, hydration is your first line of defense, said Williams. "You have to drink water throughout the day even if you don't feel thirsty," said Williams. "I bought my dad a water bottle with a cross body strap, so he can have water with him at all times. I also downloaded a water tracker and reminder app on his phone to remind him to drink water throughout the day, even if he's not thirsty."

One way to beat the heat is to stay out of it.

"On hot and humid days, especially when an air pollution alert is in effect, older adults, particularly those with chronic medical conditions, should stay indoors in cooler places," said Larrick. "If at all possible, people without air conditioners or fans should go to places that do have air conditioning, such as senior centers, shopping malls, movie theaters and libraries."

When venturing outdoors, wear wide-brimmed hats, sunscreen and lightweight, loose fitting clothing made from breathable fabrics in light colors.

Stay connected to others or use a buddy system. "Check on neighbors, especially older adults," said Caldwell.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: prsinc.org/caring-volunteering. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke

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The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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No Guessing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm having a difficult time this week finding a topic to write about. I don't think it's writer's block, although after nearly 25 years a of publishing columns, I imagine it's possible. No, the problem is that the topic I want to write about weekly, whether it's cancer related or not, is what I feel. And this week, what I feel, I can't write about out of respect for the subject. I just can't discuss it publicly. I can only deal with it privately. If it were about me/my health, I'd feel free to elaborate. But it's not. And so, writing about what I couldn't write about seemed like a compromise of sorts. Given the intensity of my feelings right now, it would be impossible for me to write about anything else other than what I'm not writing about. I hope you all understand. If not, see this space in the future for an update. I'll try to be more clear next time.

Not that you all read my column for breaking news or Jack Anderson-type muckraking, but I know you expect honesty. And in this column, I am being honest. I just can't talk about what I'm not being honest about. I can only admit to remaining silent, on the advice of counsel you might say, and try to write between the lines in a way that communicates to you regular readers the weight I'm carrying. Though I am not alone in this burden, I can only mention, indirectly, how it's affecting me.

My late father used to say about me that I have broad shoulders, that I can take it. Well, the subject that I'm not talking about this week will definitely test my father's very reassuring assertion about his baby son. And in an odd way, though his statement goes back more than 20 years (he's been deceased since Dec. '06 and suffered his first stroke approximately 18 months prior), it's helpful to repeat it to myself and to write about it as well. Because what it is I'm not writing about is the fear of the unknown.

The unknown to which I vaguely refer is future feelings. I'm not exactly worried per se, as I've held up pretty well over these last 13 and a half years of being a cancer patient, and one who might have been misdiagnosed at that; and previous to my diagnosis, having both my parents die within two years of one another. Still, life goes on and it has gone on so I'd like to believe it will continue to go on even if this worst-case scenario plays out and reaches its ultimate end.

I remember when my father, the first of my parents to die, finally succumbed to his illness/age (he was 87). I was nervous and afraid how I'd respond, how I'd live my life without one of the most important influences in it. I survived it. But I think I survived it because my mother (another major influence in my life) was still alive, as she was for another two years until she succumbed to her illness/age (she was 86). However, when she died, my brother Richard I became orphans, as it were. That feeling of finality, the end of an era, both parents being deceased, never quite leaves you. There's always a missing piece, but it is sort of the natural progression of things, so over time, at least for my brother and I, you find a place for your grief and eventually wonderful memories come flooding back and you smile when you think of them.

Well, I'm trying to smile now. That's all I'm not going to say.

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

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