

# CONNECTION

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## Homecoming for Fairfax High

PAGE 3

Costumed actors promote "Peter and the Starcatcher" in their float in the Fairfax High School homecoming parade on Friday, Sept. 23.



OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6,9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

### Missing Teen Identified Decades Later

PAGE 2

### Truly Frightful at Workhouse

PAGE 6

### Thousands of Students Protest

PAGE 8

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## OBITUARY

### Fairfax's Christopher Bruno Dies at 66



Christopher Bruno

Christopher Bruno, age 66 of Fairfax, died on Aug. 6, 2022, at Inova Fairfax Hospital after a brief battle with cancer. Bruno was born in the Bronx, New York on Feb. 29, 1956, the son of Carmine and Maryann (Mascola) Bruno. He later moved with his family to Poughkeepsie, New York where he grew up. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School and Poughkeepsie High School, where he played football and baseball.

The son of a police officer and college administrator, Bruno was always active in the community playing many different sports, but especially baseball. When not playing himself, Bruno spent time mentoring younger players and coaching various Little League and Police Athletic League teams, often coaching his younger brother.

Bruno left Poughkeepsie to attend college and law school graduating from SUNY Brockport, where he also played baseball, and Quinnipiac University School of Law. In 1979 he married his wife and best friend Jane Degenhardt and together they had three children. He took great pride in providing a full and active life for his family while serving as a role model to his children.

Bruno found energy in the practice of law. He worked in both the private and public sector and spent a significant amount of his career in public service at the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. In 2002, with his wife Jane, he formed the white-collar criminal defense firm Bruno & Degenhardt. Throughout his career he enjoyed close friendships and the respect of his colleagues.

He was passionate about his work, but his family was at the core of everything he did. With a great enthusiasm for his life and

for those he loved, he was a fiercely supportive husband, father, and grandfather. Many of his fondest moments were spent coaching his children and grandchild and introducing them to the game he loved so much. In 1997 he coached the Fairfax American Little League All Star team to the state tournament in Southern Virginia.

Bruno believed in the resilience of his family and would add his colorful sense of humor to even the most challenging of situations. Bruno leaves behind a commitment to his profession, a devotion to family, and an enduring love for the New York Yankees.

Bruno is survived by his wife of 43 years, Jane; his son Christopher and wife Kimberly of Arlington; and his son Matthew and daughter Katie, both of Fairfax. Bruno was an adoring grandfather to Declan Bruno. He is also survived by his brother Laurence and his wife Stacey of Gilbert, Arizona, along with numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Memorial donations may be made in Bruno's name to Fairfax Little League Inc. in Fairfax, VA via PayPal @FairfaxLL or by check to: Fairfax Little League, P.O. Box 543, Fairfax, VA 22038.

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## Teen Missing Since 1975 Is Identified

Modern DNA technology aids police in unraveling a mystery.

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It's been 21 years since Fairfax County police discovered the remains of a female near a drainage ditch in McLean. But actually, nearly a half-century has passed since former Fairfax City resident Patricia Agnes Gildawie vanished at age 17.

During all that time, no one was able to identify the bones found in the ditch – or connect them to the missing teen. But now, thanks to modern DNA technology, county Cold Case detectives have identified the remains as those of Gildawie, who was also known as “Choubi.”

SEE IDENTIFIED, PAGE 5  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# NEWS



Crew team members carry their oars in Fairfax High's Homecoming Parade.



New Principal Georgina Aye



The Fairfax Lions Dance Team

## Fairfax High Celebrates Homecoming with Parade

Fairfax High's homecoming parade was Friday, Sept. 23.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Fairfax High's marching band



The Junior Class float



Theater students and Director Chris Whitney, waving.



Costumed actors promote "Peter and the Starcatcher."



Girls field hockey players

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 9

# ‘Is This the Fast I Desire?’

## Reflections on Yom Kippur and the Fight for Workers Rights.

BY DAVID BRODER



Next week, my family will join Jews around the world in observing Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year. Known as the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur is a time for prayer, reflection, repentance and fasting.

Every year, we read from the Book of Isaiah, in which God sends the prophet Isaiah to admonish those whose wicked acts undermine their fasting and prayers.

The people ask, “Why, when we fasted, did you not see? When we starved our bodies, did you pay no heed?”

Through Isaiah, God answers:

“Because on your fast day, you see to your business and oppress all your laborers! Because you fast in strife and contention, and you strike with a wicked fist! Your fasting today is not such as to make your voice heard on high.

“Is such the fast I desire, a day for men to starve their bodies? Is it bowing the head like a bullrush and lying in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call that a fast, a day when the Lord is favorable? No, this is the fast I desire: to unlock the fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke. To let the oppressed go free, to break off every yoke.”

In selecting this text for Yom Kippur, the rabbis were clearly making two points: our prayers are meaningless if our actions undermine them,

and how we treat workers is central to our faith.

These lessons are as critical today as they were in Isaiah’s time of the 8th century BCE.

In recent years, the pandemic has shone a spotlight on the inequities that have always existed in our economy. Frontline workers – disproportionately Black, Brown, API and immigrant – are called essential but not treated as

essential.

However, in response, essential workers are rising up and demanding better. From Starbucks baristas to Amazon workers to Fairfax County employees, working people are now forming and joining unions in record numbers.

According to data from the National Labor Relations Board, workers across the country have won 80% more union elections in 2022 than the year before, with twice as many workers represented. Meanwhile, here in Virginia, tens of thousands of county and city workers – mental health workers, educators, sanitation workers, and first responders – have won collective bargaining rights for the first time in Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, Loudoun and Richmond.

The benefits of unionization are clear. Joining together with your co-workers to bargain a contract is the best way to improve your pay, benefits, and working conditions. While raising standards for all workers, collective bargaining also closes racial and gender pay gaps, ensuring

a more equitable, resilient economy for all. By improving recruitment and retention, collective bargaining enhances the quality of public services. So, it’s no wonder that 71% of Americans support labor unions, according to the latest Gallup poll.

Unfortunately, just as in the Book of Isaiah, we see those who “strike with a wicked fist” against working people. Rather than recognize their workers’ unions and sit down at the bargaining table, massive corporations like Starbucks and Amazon are attacking working people. Here in Virginia, many jurisdictions still refuse to pass union rights for their frontline employees.

Earlier this year, the NLRB accused Starbucks of 29 unfair labor practice charges, including over 200 violations of the National Labor Relations Act. The complaint accuses Starbucks of threatening and intimidating workers, firing workers, closing stores that voted to have a union, reducing workers’ pay, and more.

The lesson of Isaiah, central to the Yom Kippur holiday, is that for our prayers to be heard above, we must take action and live our values here on earth. It’s time for Starbucks, Amazon and all employers to live their supposed values and come to the bargaining table with their workers.

Doing so will mean a more just, more prosperous, and brighter future for us all. As the Book of Isaiah says: “If you banish the yoke from your midst, the menacing hand, and evil speech ... then shall your light shine in the darkness.”

*David Broder is the President of SEIU Virginia 512, whose union members are county and city employees, and home care workers, dedicated to building an economy that works for everyone. He lives with his family in Oakton.*

## Project Community Connect Addresses Inequities

### In Health, Education and Economic Opportunity.

BY ROSIE ALLEN-HERRING

On average, in the DMV region, less than half of our households earn above the Federal Poverty Level yet are not eligible for assistance and cannot afford the basic household necessities such as housing, child-care, food, transportation, health care, and even a basic smartphone plan. These three characteristics are causing these households to struggle from paycheck to paycheck, or worse, in the red line of debt with little opportunity to advance beyond it.

Your United Way of the National Capital Area (NCA) identifies these households as ALICE (Asset, Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) populations. They are working households trapped in systemic inequities. For example,

39 percent of households in Virginia cannot afford essentials.

United Way NCA conducts ALICE reports every two years and uses the data to analyze the real cost of living as a way to identify the need for innovative and comprehensive solutions to attain equity for all in the areas of health, education and economic opportunity. For example, our community schools program focuses on meeting ALICE students and families where they are at, focusing on the middle school to college and/or career success pipeline. According to Madelyn Giblin, Site Director, Communities in Schools of NOVA, “United Way NCA is a wonderful partner. They’re constantly looking for ways to support our work through their education pillar and empower the work that we’re doing by connecting us to resources.

Sometimes that means bringing community partners in to support school supply drives or through Project Community Connect.”

Project Community Connect (PCC) is an event that provides equitable access to resources needed by ALICE populations and for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness. At this year’s 8th annual PCC, October 3-8, 2022, United Way NCA and its partners will host three regional pop-up events. Locations include Prince George’s Community College (10/3), Kelly Miller Middle School in Washington DC (10/6), and Francis C. Hammond Middle School in Alexandria, VA (10/8). The events will feature in-person resource fairs offering much-needed services such as medical screenings, including COVID testing/vaccinations; rental and utility assistance; workforce

resources and opportunities; legal services and counseling, clothing and food distribution, and more.

United Way NCA will also be working with its regional partners to deliver more than 4,500 kits of basic needs items throughout the week to community members, including general hygiene, feminine hygiene, healthy snacks and warm clothing kits.

PCC has served more than 1,500 participants, to date. United Way NCA will continue to look for innovation to touch the lives of those in need. We invite you to join us as we advance toward equity for all people across the DMV. We strongly believe that when none are ignored, all will thrive.

For more information on Project Community Connect, please visit <https://unitedwaynca.org/pcc>.

*Rosie Allen-Herring is the President and CEO of United Way of the National Capital Area.*

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# Fairfax City Teen Missing Since 1975 Is Identified

FROM PAGE 2

“Identifying this young woman solves a mystery that has been more than 47 years in the making,” said police Major Ed O’Carroll, bureau commander of Major Crimes and Cyber and Forensics. “Our community should take comfort in knowing that our detectives never stop working these cases.”



Gildawie

According to police, Gildawie’s skeleton was found Sept. 27, 2001, in the 5100 block of Lincoln Circle. They were alerted after a construction crew discovered it, plus some clothing, behind an apartment complex there.

Both the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and an anthropologist examined the skeletal remains. Police say their initial findings determined the young woman died from a gunshot wound to the head, and they’ve ruled her death a homicide.

That autopsy report also indicated that the remains were like those of an African American female in her late teens to early 20s. But earlier this year, Cold Case detectives connected with Othram Inc. – which does advanced DNA testing and forensic-grade, genome sequencing – and learned otherwise.

Again, with Othram’s help, detectives were able to track down a possible relative of the mystery woman. The resulting DNA testing then identified the relative as a half-sister, which led to the ultimate identification of

Gildawie. The half-sister also shared Gildawie’s story with the police.

Detectives learned Gildawie was born in France in February 1958, coming to the United States when she was 8 months old. In the early 1970s, she moved to the City of Fairfax and would often drive a white, Cadillac Eldorado with red interior. Gildawie was last seen Feb. 8, 1975. Prior to her dis-

appearance at age 17, she was dating an older man in his 30s who owned that vehicle. Police say he worked at an upholstery store near the intersection of Church Street and Lawyers Road in Vienna.

Now that Gildawie’s identity has come to light, detectives are continuing to investigate her case with new information provided by the family. They’d like to know more about the man she was dating, as well as the circumstances of her death.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to submit tips via Fairfax County Crime Solvers. Tips may be submitted anonymously by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Funding for the DNA testing and identification process of Gildawie was provided entirely by anonymous donors through the database DNASolves. Said O’Carroll: “Advancements in technology have given my Cold Case detectives an opportunity to pursue fresh leads and bring some relief to families that have been long suffering with the unknown.”



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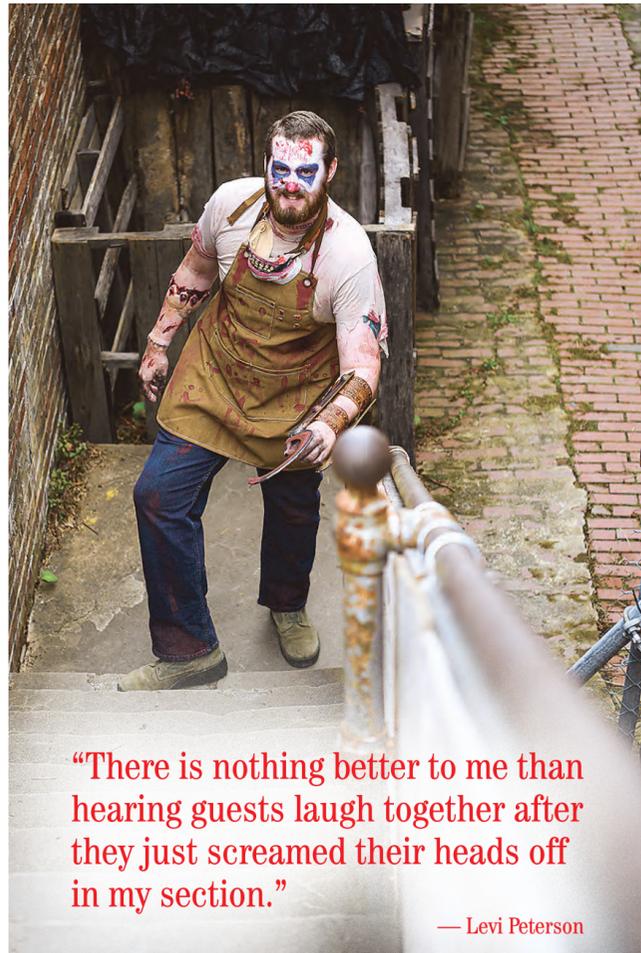
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# HAUNTED HOUSE



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**“There is nothing better to me than hearing guests laugh together after they just screamed their heads off in my section.”**

— Levi Peterson

Levi Peterson coming out of the depths to scare at The Haunt at Workhouse Arts Center.

## Working Up the Scares at The Haunt

**Workhouse Arts Center’s Haunted House in Lorton is a work of theatrical proportions.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION



As far as haunted houses are considered, the haunted house at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton is one of the best, and this is due to the seasoned scare veterans that use their horror skills in a productive way.

Levi Peterson is one of those scare professionals. He was into the haunts of Halloween when he was a child, and now he dons a butcher’s outfit at the Workhouse, scaring everyone with his razor gloves similar to Ed-

ward Scissorhands.

“There is nothing better to me than hearing guests laugh together after they just screamed their heads off in my section,” Peterson said.

His horror skills came in handy years ago when he was in the Air Force, volunteering



The make-up has to be just right.



This time, it’s a meat tenderizer from the kitchen.

PHOTOS BY BRAD BEHLES PHOTOGRAPHY AND JAY’S FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO BY BRAD BEHLES PHOTOGRAPHY AND JAY’S FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY  
Rachael Norberg runs over 25 miles each night in the haunted house, scaring all those who dare.

for the haunted hallway with his squadron. He learned to use power tools and sew when he was young, so these skills come in handy at the Workhouse’s haunted house, where he enjoys the screams.

Last year, a couple was so scared, the boyfriend started running and tripped up his girlfriend. Peterson made sure the woman was okay, and then chased the boyfriend through several rooms. “All in all, I think myself and my fellow actors chased him the equivalent of half a city block, and he was screaming the whole time,” he said.

Scare actress Rachael Norberg was in on that chase too. Armed with knives, hammers and power tools, she also remembers the guy shoving his girlfriend out of the way. “I see this guy sprinting out with my buddy chasing him screaming, so I grab one of my power tools and start chasing him with it, and we ended up with like four actors chasing this guy into the next section of the haunt,” she said.

Norberg is in her third year at the Workhouse Haunt and has a life-long obsession with Halloween and the horror genre. Like Peterson, she also works on both the creative



The leaf blower is a favorite accessory for Rachael Norberg.

### If You Go ...

**Workhouse Haunt 2022  
Nightmare Harvest  
Weekends from October 1st -  
November 5th  
Fridays and Saturdays, 7-11 p.m. and  
Sundays, 7-10 p.m.  
Rizer Pavilion, 9518 Workhouse Way,  
Lorton, VA, 22079**

team and as a scare actor.

Norberg worked in theater for many years and now has a “regular” job in Washington, D.C. but still manages to put in the hours at the Workhouse in October. “I was able to dabble in this as a teenager and during college, but I hadn’t really had the chance as an adult until the Workhouse,” she said.

It’s a lot of fun each night, but one time, Norberg tracked how much running with a pedometer, the meter recorded between 26-29 miles each night, which is marathon length, plus. “I used to be an avid runner and after the first few nights it felt similar to when I ran marathons,” she said.

Both Peterson and Norberg like volunteering at the haunted house because it raises money for the arts at Lorton. “Knowing that I have been able to give back in some way to our local theater community has been an incredibly rewarding experience and has allowed other opportunities for many of us as creatives,” Norberg said.



Two knives for the big chop-chop in Lorton.

### Volunteering Is Easy

At the Workhouse well before Halloween, everyone is welcome to apply for a role. “It’s a very welcoming group,” said Joseph Wallen, Director of Performing Arts at the Workhouse Arts Foundation. He’s seen new castmates who didn’t know a soul at the beginning but quickly made friends when they bonded as a team. “Everyone is welcome to apply and learn more,” he added.

The hiring process is done over a period of a couple of weeks, starting in late summer. There’s a detailed application and an orientation process where they get to know one another. Some end up working for the season and get the option of choosing between paid roles or receiving documented credit for volunteer service hours. Some schools in Fairfax County require service hours. “Others just join because they enjoy being involved with the team experience,” Wallen said. It’s an ongoing process. Safety protocols are the first part of training, followed by character and story elements.

### Roll Call

“The Haunt” is intended to be experienced as a storyline that’s presented in media res, a technical term out of Theater 101 for the actors to begin in the middle of things, rather than at the very start of the story. It is important that the performers know each part of the story arc as it unfolds, Wallen said. This fits the Workhouse, which started as a prison, where suffragists were jailed and tortured, and now is home for the arts. As with all Halloween attractions, people are ready to get scared and each night is full of screaming and laughter. “Many on our team are returning performers and bring their friends and family that want to join the fun, so they have a good idea of what to expect,” Wallen said.

Rumor has it all the volunteers get rewarded just after Halloween with a big party, but each night there’s a mini party too, Wallen said. After a night of running and screaming, the crew is all fired up so they find ways to blow off the steam. “When the season is over, we do have a cast party where we share laughs and memories of experiences during this season and share informal ideas about next season’s ideas and theme,” said Wallen.

## Fairfax Fall Festival: Food, Crafts, Music

**46th annual celebration is Saturday, Oct. 8.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Grab your comfy shoes and get ready for a good time – the 46th annual Fairfax Fall Festival is Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The fun includes crafts, food, beer gardens, children’s rides and activities, plus three stages of live entertainment.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
Toddler Anthony Juba chills with Sparky the Fire Dog at last year’s event.

Admission is free, and there are activities for all ages. (However, pets are discouraged). Vendors and the carnival will close at 5 p.m. But the musical entertainment will continue with Scythian performing reinvented folk rock from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Old Town Square, at University Drive and North Street.

More than 400 crafts booths and displays will line both sides of University Drive, Main Street and Sager Avenue. And at Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive, the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department will host Sparky’s Harvest Bash with Sparky the Fire Dog, teaching children fire prevention and safety.

A wide variety of food will be offered at two food courts – one at University Drive and Sager Avenue, and the other at University Drive next to the

Truist Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive. In addition, three beer gardens will be at the Main Stage at University Drive and South Street, in Old Town Square, and at University Drive and Sager Avenue

The Children’s Stage in the Truist Bank parking lot will feature singers, dancers and magicians. Carnival rides and face painting will be there, too. (Rides are weather-dependent).

A full slate of entertainers will perform at the Main Stage and in Old Town Square, as well as on the front porch of Earp’s Ordinary. (See Entertainment Schedule for details and addresses). And Flippenout Productions will bring its extreme trampoline shows to the festival, right next to Fire Station 3.

Open houses will also be at the City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, Historic Blenheim and Civil War Interpretive Center, and the Fairfax County Circuit Court historic records area. For details and addresses, go to [www.FairfaxFallFestival.com](http://www.FairfaxFallFestival.com).

Festival parking is at The Judicial Center parking garage B on Page Avenue and the Old Town Village parking garage (Chain Bridge Road between Whitehead and North Street). Accessible parking is at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. (accessed via Chain Bridge Road) and Old Town Village parking garage on Chain Bridge Road.

In addition, handicap-accessible shuttle buses will travel to the festival from Fairfax High, 3501 Lion Run, and GMU’s Rappahannock Parking Deck, 4393 University Drive, and back again, from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

First Aid stations are at the Old Town Hall entrance and at Fire Station 3.

### ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

**MAIN STAGE**  
University Drive and South Street  
11 a.m. - Robbin Kapsalis & Vintage #18  
2:30 p.m. - The Reflex

Old Town Square Stage  
University Drive and North Street  
10:30 a.m. - Main Street Community Band  
12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. - Newsy Nicky

**CHILDREN’S STAGE**  
Truist Bank parking lot, 4020 University Drive  
10 a.m. - McGrath School of Irish Dance  
10:30 a.m. - Turley the Magician  
11 a.m. - McGrath School of Irish Dance  
11:30 a.m. - Turley the Magician  
Noon - Bach 2 Rock  
1 p.m. - C4 Performing Arts  
2:30 p.m. - Kids Nature Show with Caroline Seitz  
3:30 p.m. - Virginia Ballet Company and School  
4 p.m. - Sundays on Tap  
4:30 p.m. - Virginia Ballet Company and School

Earp’s Ordinary Porch  
10420 Main St.  
Various live-music performers

After-Festival Concert  
Old Town Square  
5:30 p.m. - Scythian.



A student waves a pride flag at the walkout at Fairfax High School on Tuesday, Sept. 27.



A student, Andy, is invited to speak about his experiences as a transmasculine student at Fairfax High School.



Two students hold hands after a speaker recounts the abuse they have faced for their gender identity.

# ‘Hateful, Ignorant, Wrong’

Thousands of students around the state protest Youngkin revisions to 2022 VDOE policies.

PHOTOS BY CARYS OWENS

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

It’s not about bathrooms like it was never about water fountains. That is what a hand-made protest sign held by two Herndon High School students said the morning of Sept. 26 during a school-allowed protest activity. Approximately 300 students gathered in front of the school at 9:45 a.m. as part of a county and state-wide protest demonstration organized by Pride Liberation Project in response revisions to transgender policies in public schools that some called “cruel and anti-trans.”

According to a communication from the principal of West Potomac High School to parents, 1,400 students walked out there.

“As a transgender student, I just want a safe and accepting environment where my peers and I can thrive,” said Beatrice Stotz, a student at Fairfax High School, where hundreds of students walked out of class. “These proposed regulations do not ‘protect students’ as they are touted but instead actively harm us and erase our existence for political gain. I’m fortunate enough to have a supportive community, but many of my friends and peers cannot say the same, and these policies would put their lives at risk.”

On Friday, Sept. 16, the Virginia Department of Education released its revised 18-page 2022 Model Policies, a revision of the Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia’s Public Schools (the “2021 Model Policies”), adopted on March 4, 2021 under Gov. Ralph Northam (D).

The VDOE’s revisions include banning transgender students from using restrooms that align with their gender identity, banning gender-neutral pronouns, and banning social transitioning and expressing their gender identity and require school districts to out students to parents. In addition, the revisions allow people to maliciously misgender students and allow parents to deny a student access to school counseling services, regardless of the student’s wishes and mental health.

The revisions remove provisions requiring school districts to minimize gender segregation in extracurriculars and train school mental health professionals to support LGBTQIA+ students.

“On Tuesday, Sept. 27, over 12,000 students at 100 Virginia schools walked out to oppose Glenn Youngkin’s hateful LGBTQIA+ guidelines,” said the Pride Liberation Project in a release. “Students walking out called for the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to revoke these draft guidelines and for school boards to protect all students by rejecting the VDOE’s draft guidelines.” The organization describes itself as a 500+ member student-run group of Queer and allied students in Virginia who advocate for the rights of LGBTQIA+ students.

Natasha, a student who walked out at Oakton High School in Fairfax County, highlighted the political motivations of these attacks:

“Governor Youngkin says that he cares about parental

rights and Virginia, but he’s just attacking Queer students. If he truly cared about our students,



Two hundred students walked out for Fairfax High School to show support for Virginia trans students.

he wouldn’t be putting us at risk for depression, harm, abuse, and harassment. Students know

we have the potential to build schools that let everyone succeed, but we can’t do that with these policies.”

A tweet on Sept. 26 from U.S. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-11) @GerryConnolly said, “This policy is fundamentally wrong and its outcomes tragically unacceptable. It helps no one, but it harms many. There is no justification for such transparent cruelty in Virginia.”

Connolly and others said that what the VDOE proposed would have tragic consequences.

“There is one data point to keep in mind as this egregious new policy is debated and im-

plemented: a young LGBTQ person attempts suicide every 45 seconds in America,” according to the Trevor Project. “Among trans or non-binary American youth, the outlook is darker still. Transgender and non-binary youth are more than twice as likely to seriously consider or attempt suicide compared to their other LGBTQ peers ... A peer-reviewed study published in 2021 found the transgender and non-binary youth who reported gender identity acceptance from at least one adult in their lives were 33 percent less likely to report a suicide attempt in the past year.”

Public Comment is open for comment concerning the new policy on trans students in Virginia by Governor Glenn Youngkin (R) at <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/Comments.cfm?GDocForumID=1953>

# CALENDAR

**THROUGH-NOV. 15**  
Fruit Sale Signup. 7-11 p.m. Signup now for Fairfax Lions notices and discounts for Lions Club Fruit Sales in November and December. They sell fresh Florida oranges, mandarins, grapefruit; maple syrup, peanuts to raise funds for charity. Website: <https://www.fairfaxlions.org/citrus-sale-notification/>

**SEPT. 13 TO NOV. 17**  
ESL Class. 7-9 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced level English classes. Classes will be in-person or online. Classes will meet twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Books are included in class cost.

**FAIRFAX ALLIANCE FOR BETTER BICYCLING (FABB)**  
Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a volunteer-led organization working to make bicycling fun, safe, and accessible for people of all ages in Fairfax County. Since 2005 FABB volunteers have been an effective voice among local and state transportation professionals, elected officials, and community advocates and leaders. FABB works tirelessly towards the goal of making bicycling transportation safe, accessible, and commonplace in Fairfax County for all ages,



VIVA MOMIX will appear at GMU Center for the Arts on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022.

abilities, and skill levels. For more information: <https://fabb-bikes.org>.

Next Reflex Dance Collective presents "Flight, A Migratory Performance Series" at 5 p.m., Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 1**  
VIVA MOMIX. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Wish MOMIX a "Happy Birthday!" with VIVA MOMIX, a compilation of the company's most dazzling vignettes from the past 40 years of inventive dance and acrobatics. The program is a mix-and-match variety of sections from Botanica, Alchemia, Remix, Opus Cactus, and Lunar Sea.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 1**  
Christ Church Children's Consignment Sale. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Christ Church, 7600 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Your one day, one stop shop for all your kids needs—all at bargain prices! Over 60,000 items from 200+ families! Up to 90% off retail. Visit website: <https://www.christchurchsale.com>.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 1**  
Next Reflex Dance. 5-6 p.m. At Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Next Reflex Dance Collective presents "Flight, A Migratory Performance Series" taking place at parks throughout the City of Fairfax. Performances include a sampling of art mixed right into the landscape of Van Dyck Park (October 1) and Providence Park (October 15). For more information on this and other Cultural Arts events in the City, visit: Cultural Arts | City of Fairfax, VA ([fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov))

**SATURDAY/OCT. 1**  
AFTER JACK. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Location – W16, McGuireWoods Gallery. After Jack is a musical celebration of togetherness, combining one's most beloved musical memories with a foot-stomping string band and topping it off with harmonies that spring straight from the soul of the mountains. Visit [workhousearts.org/onstage](http://workhousearts.org/onstage).

**NOW THRU OCT. 9**  
12th Annual Clay International, Vulcan Gallery, Aug. 6 - Oct. 9 2022, Workhouse Arts Center, 12th Annual Clay International exhibition. The juried exhibition represents the depth and breadth of contemporary functional and sculptural ceramic artworks being created throughout the country. <https://www.workhousearts.org/clay-international-2022>

**SUNDAY/OCT. 2**  
MARCOLIVIA. 2 p.m. Location – W16, McGuireWoods Gallery. Marcolivia has performed chamber music at the Kennedy Center, the Ravinia Festival, Merkin Hall, Symphony Space in Manhattan, as well as Carnegie Hall. Now they are performing at the Workhouse Arts Center.

**OCT. 1 TO NOV. 5**  
Workhouse Haunt: Nightmare Harvest. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. This year's Haunt, titled "Nightmare Harvest," will run on weekends from Saturday, Oct. 1 through Saturday, Nov. 5. Friday and Saturday hours are 7-11 p.m. and Sunday hours are 7-10 p.m. The Haunt will also perform on Halloween night, Monday, Oct. 31, from 7-9 p.m. Each Friday and Saturday night from Oct. 7 through Oct. 29, live bands will perform in the Rizer Pavilion near the Haunt Bar, where guests can purchase snacks and beverages. Tickets are now available for purchase and prices start at \$30 per person. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org) for schedule and event details.

**MONDAY/OCT. 3**  
Faya Dayi Film. 6 p.m. At GMU's

Johnson Center Cinema, Fairfax. Film at Mason and the Visiting Filmmakers Series. Visiting Filmmakers Series: Faya Dayi with Filmmaker Jessica Beshir. Free and open to the public.

**FRIDAY/OCT. 7**  
A Taste of the Vine. 6:30-9:30 p.m. At Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Wine tastings provided by Slater Run Winery. An Historic Fairfax Fundraising Event.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 8**  
Second Saturday Art Walk October 2022 6 - 9 p.m.  
Visit the Workhouse Monthly Featured Artists. All campus studio buildings will be open from and the artists there will be thrilled to chat about their works and processes. <https://www.workhousearts.org/>

**NOW THRU 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. At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria,

## Fairfax High Celebrates Homecoming with Parade

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/  
THE CONNECTION



Girls volleyball team members



Latin Club members



Chinese Honor Society members with a dragon.



City Schools Superintendent Jeff Platenberg about to toss candy to the crowd.



The Sophomore Class float.



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Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide great service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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# Take a Moment

## Pedestrian, bike, and safety campaign: will it be enough?

By **MERCIA HOBSON**  
THE CONNECTION

**M**otor vehicle crashes, bicycle safety and pedestrian safety in Fairfax County; a new campaign called "Take a Moment," will attempt to address them all at once.

On Sept. 27, Chairman Jeffrey McKay (D); Walter Alcorn (D), Hunter Mill supervisor; Steve Steiner, Hunter Mill resident; Police Chief Kevin Davis; John Lynch, VDOT district engineer; Melanie Meren, school board member; and others gathered at the intersection of Wiehle Avenue and the W&OD Trail to introduce the "Take a Moment-Pedestrian, Bike, and Traffic Safety Campaign."

"This is not just a marketing campaign," McKay said. "We are putting our money where our mouth is."

According to Chief Davis, in a county of 1.2 million and 400 square miles, traffic fatalities today stand at 22. "That's two more than this time last year. Year-to-date, our pedestrian fatalities stand at 13. That is three more than the county had at the same time last year," Davis said. He added that overall, throughout Fairfax County, crashes are down by 400, but the county still has a long way to go. Fairfax County Police issued 5,000 more traffic citations this year compared to the same time last year.

"But we want you to put us out of business. I am sure Chief Butler and the Fire and Rescue Department want you to put them out of business as well when it comes to responding to these often very horrific crashes that happen too often in our community," Davis said. He added that while the number one traffic citation issued in Fairfax County is speeding, the number two traffic citation is failure to obey a traffic device or traffic sign.

McKay says Fairfax County will spend \$100 million on pedestrian safety over the next six years. That total includes \$25 million this year from the county's carry-over budget that the board will consider in the next few weeks.

The Take a Moment campaign is multifaceted. Disconnect while driving, walking, or cycling. Note that school zones and neighborhoods require extra caution. Stop for school buses and let the children board and

disembark safely. Drive, walk, and bike with awareness. Make eye contact with pedestrians and cyclists. "All these things are so important and literally only 'take a moment' of our time," McKay said.

McKay described his recent near-miss, pedestrian-vehicle crash that occurred as he was about to cross a street in Alexandria. A driver was looking in the opposite direction from where McKay stood. Before looking around to see if a pedestrian was nearby, the driver pressed the gas pedal and missed him by inches. "I'm one of the lucky ones who took a moment and looked at that car (and) knew that person wasn't making eye contact with me. ... I had to take action to protect myself," McKay said. "We must all take a moment as a community together to stop tragic accidents that are occurring throughout not just our county but really throughout the region and throughout the country."

Steve Steiner, 73, who lives in the Hunter Mill District and is an experienced cyclist, talked about his crash with a car that left him with a concussion, internal injuries, broken ribs, \$100,000 in medical bills, and a \$36,000 airlift to Fairfax Hospital by medivac. It happened at the Fairfax County Parkway Trail intersection and Dulles Toll Road Exit 11. According to Steiner, he entered the intersection and saw an SUV coming toward him. He said the driver was not looking at him because she was preparing to turn on the Fairfax County Parkway. Steiner veered right, but the car's bumper crushed his bike broadside. He hit the car's windshield, and landed in the southbound parkway lane. An off-duty federal officer behind the car that hit him turned his vehicle around and blocked him.

Steiner had plenty of time during his recovery to consider what else could have been done to prevent a similar crash. Jersey barriers, traffic signals, trail signs, and more were present where he was hit. According to Steiner, a driver's default behavior at this intersection and others like it is to prioritize the right turn and keep moving. "Their attention is focused left rather than right, where a cyclist or pedestrian may be attempting to cross the intersection," Steiner said, in his opinion, that significant safety improvements would result if authorities approved a modest financial investment to install signage prohibiting such right turns at locations where trails intersect.

"We need our residents to be part of this team, and that's what this campaign is all about," McKay said. "Take a moment and potentially save a life."

## Son Charged in Father's Death

**L**ast night, a 36-year-old local man was arrested in the death of his father. Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 2:37 p.m. officers responded to a home in the 5500 block of Justis Place, 22310, for a death investigation. Talat Hassanein, 82, was found unconscious at the bottom of the basement stairs. Fire and rescue personnel arrived and pronounced Talat deceased at the scene. Talat resided in the home with his adult sons, who were present during the investigation.

As detectives began investigating, they identified significant trauma to Talat's upper body. Detectives from our Crime Scene Sec-

tion responded to the scene and discovered evidence to indicate Talat's death was not accidental. Following interviews and further processing of evidence at the home, detectives determined Samy Hassanein, 36, fatally assaulted his father. Detectives arrested Samy Hassanein, and he was charged with second degree murder. Samy Hassanein was taken to the Adult Detention Center and held without bond.

Detectives are asking anyone with information regarding this incident to call our Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2.

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Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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## As I Was Saying Last Week



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

I was venting about the difficulty I was having locating a specific Entenmann's cake: the "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake" for what seems like my lifetime. Whatever timeline actually applies, it minimizes the impossibility I was experiencing finding this staple of my diet. However, let me state for the record before you read and I write any further: I am not undernourished and, I am, generally speaking, able to satisfy my sweet teeth. Nevertheless, there was something definitely missing from my diet. I wouldn't say I was deprived, more that I was chronically disappointed; especially when I would walk by the Entenmann's display at my local Giant, and occasionally at Safeway or some other less conveniently located supermarkets (Aldi's, Magruder's, Food Lion, et cetera). Now that you're reminded of the context and of my perspective/need, let me set the scene as to how this cake (times two) made its way into my house in Maryland on September 10th, 2022. A date that will be long remembered in Burtonsville, Md. (If I was Klingon, we'd sing songs about it.)

My wife, Dina and I were day-tripping to Phoenixville, Pa., approximately 130 miles north, to visit some close friends, Shelley and Fran. It was late afternoon on that Saturday as we sat in their living room after spending an enjoyable day together preparing to say our good-byes when I asked Fran (the husband) quite casually if there was a supermarket nearby. I then mumbled something in Dina's direction about looking for the cake since we were a few hours from home. I was thinking (hoping) that we were far enough away from Maryland that this cake might be available here somewhere. (After all, I'm a Red Sox fan; I know about hope.) When I mentioned cake/my need, Fran perked up and asked what kind of cake I was looking for. Shelley, his wife chimed in that Fran loves sweets. I didn't need to be asked twice: Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake," I said. To which Fran asked: "Is that a vanilla frosted cake?" Then I perked up. "Yeah," surprised by his familiarity, I again reiterated my desire for this cake. "I saw that cake in my local supermarket last week. It was a 'BOGO,' I almost bought it," Fran recalled. I immediately asked/insisted on directions to that store and/or asked Fran if he would mind driving us/driving ahead with us following him - so there would be zero chance that I'd get lost. (I was too close to take any chances now.) To which Fran responded with the following words which will endear him to me for the rest of my cake-eating life: "Don't bother. I'll just drive down there myself. It's only two miles away and see if they have any left." Incredibly hopeful, and appreciative, I said: "Sure, if you don't mind?" "Don't be silly." He says. "I'll be right back" Fran then happily grabbed his car keys and headed out to his car.

It couldn't have been more than 10 to 15 minutes before Fran came walking back into the living room smiling as he moved closer to where the three of us were still sitting on the living room couch and deposited two Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cakes" on the coffee table right in front of me, almost like magic. (My over-the-top salivation for this cake had convinced Fran to buy one for himself, he offered.) I wasn't totally dumb founded by the cake's appearance; we're only talking about cake here, but I was nearly speechless nonetheless while gushing my gratitude and excitement over his effort, and his awareness even for noticing this cake in the store in the first place. It's not exactly my white whale but locating it has been the bane of my existence as well as a reoccurring void in my dessert selections.

Now I have a resource/outlet, at least, one place I know where I can, for the moment anyway, buy this cake. Unfortunately, its location is a two hours-plus drive from home and as for mailing it, it's an item that I don't think would travel very well, considering its packaging, if you know what I mean? Still, my future (cake wise) looks brighter than it has in years. I am finally going to have my cake and eat it, too; literally and figuratively; thanks to Fran in Pennsylvania, (my new favorite state).

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

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**SERVICE & PARTS HOURS: MON-FRI 6A-7P & SAT 7A-5P**

|   |   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>BATTERY SPECIAL</b><br/><b>FREE</b><br/>BATTERY CHECK-UP<br/>INCLUDES: CHECK COLD CRANKING AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT.<br/>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 10/31/22.</p> | <p><b>LUBE, OIL &amp; FILTER SPECIAL</b><br/><b>\$39.95</b><br/>\$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE<br/>INCLUDES: CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.), INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT &amp; ADJUST ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT.<br/>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 10/31/22.</p> | <p><b>ALIGNMENT SPECIAL</b><br/><b>\$89.95</b><br/>4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT<br/>INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT, INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS, STRUTS &amp; SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.<br/>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 10/31/22.</p> | <p><b>BRAKE PAD SPECIAL</b><br/><b>\$99.95</b><br/>BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT<br/>INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT &amp; REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TCMC PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95<br/>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 10/31/22.</p> | <p><b>TOYOTACARE PLUS</b><br/><b>\$329.00</b><br/>SPECIAL<br/>MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLIMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!<br/>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 10/31/22.</p> | <p><b>SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT</b><br/><b>THE MORE YOU SPEND, THE MORE YOU SAVE!</b><br/>\$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99<br/>\$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199<br/>\$20 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499<br/>\$50 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+<br/>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 10/31/22.</p> |
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