

# CONNECTION

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## Half a Century For Children

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3rd Annual Asian  
Festival Keeps Growing

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Ideas for Policing  
From Matrix Group

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The Leung sisters, from left, Emily, 5, Audrey, 3 and Katie, 7, inside a foam truck from Fire Station 3, part of the 50th anniversary celebration for Main Street Child Development Center in Fairfax City.

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MAY 25-31, 2023

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# NEWS

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left are Catherine Read and Carol Lieske with a proclamation from Fairfax City.



James Walkinshaw presents a resolution to Carol Lieske.

## ‘Empowering Children to Achieve Fullest Potential’

### Main Street Child Development Center celebrates 50th anniversary.


BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Half a century is an important milestone, and Main Street Child Development Center in Fairfax City celebrated its 50th anniversary, May 12, with a schoolwide event honoring the students, teachers, staff and community. Sure, there were serious speech-

es – but the occasion also featured balloons, singing children and lots of fun.

After the official ceremony, children and parents went outside to enjoy pizza and shaved-ice drinks and participate in several activities, including rock painting, making clay necklaces, getting sticker tattoos, coloring, magnetic fishing, face painting, playing



SEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 3



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From left, James Walkinshaw, Catherine Read and Carol Lieske on Main Street Child Development Center's 50th anniversary.



Main Street preschoolers sang their ABCs, complete with hand motions.

## Center Celebrates 50th Anniversary

FROM PAGE 2

with a parachute, going through an obstacle course and exploring a fire truck from Fairfax City's Station 3.

In addition, parents could attend a resource fair showcasing local organizations serving the community. First, though, came some speeches and proclamations – plus an entertaining performance from some enthusiastic preschoolers.

"I'm so grateful to be part of an organization that has served its mission, the community, local families and their children for five decades," said Main Street Board President Jeff Gander. "Main Street is an anchor of the Fairfax community and provides so much for so many."

He noted that the school has "relentlessly" offered early childhood education, programs and support "to society's most-valued demographic – young children." And, he added, "For all of us who have children, you know that's no easy feat."

Open since 1973, Main Street Child Development Center provides affordable, quality childcare and early education for children from low-income families in Fairfax City and Fairfax County. And because it's open from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., it also enables their parents to maintain full-time employment.

Some 80 percent of the children are from low-income families, 70 percent of these families speak English as a second language, and 50 percent of the children are from single-parent homes. Their teachers equip them with the critical school-readiness skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Housed in the City's Green Acres Community Center – a former elementary school – it offers preschool for children ages 2-5, and currently has an enrollment of 110. Main Street also provides a school-age program for children attending Daniels Run Elementary and includes before- and after-school care. It typically serves 25 children, in grades

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The Leung sisters, from left, Emily, 5, Audrey, 3 and Katie, 7, inside a foam truck from Fire Station 3.



Staff members giving students sticker tattoos.



Students trying to catch magnetic fish.

K through five, before and after school, all summer and on holidays.

It has a staff of 30 – mostly teachers, three mental-health support personnel and administrative staff. Main Street also prides itself on celebrating its diversity and commitment to inclusion, so each child's needs are met and everyone feels seen and valued.

During the anniversary celebration, Gander had attendees applaud the teachers and staff. Calling them the school's "real stars," he said, "They show up every day and do heroic work to serve our children." He also gave a special shout-out to longtime teacher, Vicky Mendoza.

"Miss Vicky has worked here for 30 years, and her former students still come back to see her and give her a hug," said Gander. He then thanked the families and community "who do so much to support [Main Street] and make it feel like one, big, extended family," as well as the board members, sponsors, local officials and others "who make the time, effort and financial commitments necessary to allow us to serve generations of children."

Executive Director Carol Lieske said everyone at the school was excited and proud and had worked hard toward this anniversary celebration. "Main Street has made quite an impact," she said. "During our first 50 years, we've educated and nurtured over 5,000 children and given supportive resources to the 15,000-20,000 people in their families."

"Because we're a public/private partnership, we've been able to distribute school supplies, holiday gifts and food, plus gas and grocery gift cards. We've also provided mental-health services, and scholarships totaling in the millions and millions of dollars. We've served nearly 2 million meals and snacks – and perhaps, most importantly, we've given and received billions and billions of hugs."

But, stressed Lieske, "We couldn't have done it without our tremendous teachers

SEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 11



# Community Matrix: Path to More Equitable Policing

## Police Reform Matrix Working Group shares recommendations at public safety committee meeting.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**E**quitable policing is, in part, an agency's policy and regulation designed to create unbiased and fair treatment of everyone law enforcement encounters. But how to get there can be complicated. Jurisdictions and police departments across the United States are struggling with how best to accomplish it. Fairfax County is no exception.

On May 16, Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner, convener of the Police Reform Matrix Working Group, and Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Vienna, presented "Community Recommendations for More Equitable Policing in Fairfax County" to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Safety and Security Committee. Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia), chairman, Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock), vice-chairman, and all board members serve on the Safety and Security Committee. The proposed action plan by the Police Reform Matrix Working Group presented eight topics, from rethinking policing to independent oversight and more.

Lusk noted that the "Community Recommendations for More Equitable Policing in Fairfax County" would inform a series of presentations later this year. Fairfax County Chief Kevin Davis would have an opportunity to respond to the matrix group's recommendations.

### Opening Remarks

Niedzielski-Eichner said when he chaired the Use of Force subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission (2015), the board and police department followed the subcommittee's recommendations. Niedzielski-Eichner recalled in his presentation that rewriting use-of-force policies emphasized "de-escalation as a first response to provocation; giving officers access to tools less lethal than firearms; supplying and requiring body-worn cameras; and strengthening the use of force reporting and transparency."

The subcommittee realized it would be a mistake to declare "mission accomplished," Niedzielski-Eichner said. Other initiatives, such as this one, Community Recommendations for More Equitable Policing, should follow.

To set the stage for the upcoming "matrix" discussion, Walton said that when the country faced twin pandemics, Supervisor Rodney Lusk, chair of the Public Safety Committee, requested community input and police reforms. "We were wrestling with a major health crisis compounded by racial unrest," he said. Walton described the assassination of George Floyd, a Black man, by a white Minneapolis police officer.

"This awareness and level of heightening sensitivity were felt here in Fairfax County," Walton said. He added that Black and brown

individuals are more likely to experience a force disparity in arrest. Demographics of the population can reveal a pattern of "police behavior or racial profiling."

"A dramatic rise in police shootings [in Fairfax County] over our ten-year average is cause for concern and warrants reflective conversation about the sanctity of life. Trust is paramount, and where there is an erosion of trust, it is difficult for a community to be its best self," Walton said.

Lusk explained that the ten members of the citizen-led Police Reform Matrix Working Group helped synthesize the more than 300-plus recommendations from the community compiled in the matrix. "The hope is that we will craft those into a set of policy recommendations," said Lusk.

He named the Working Group members: Diane Burkley Alejandro, Sadaf Atashbarghi-Nehr, Dirck Hargraves, Prince Howard, Mary Kimm, Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat, Philip Niedzielski-Eichner, Convenor Adrian Steel, Eric Ubias, and Vernon Walton.

Suggestions captured in the spreadsheet dubbed "the matrix" by Lusk and maintained by Fairfax County Police Department grew into a "cumbersome compendium" of over 300 ideas, according to Niedzielski-Eichner. They were reviewed and commented on by the police. The Working Group met to synthesize the matrix's recommendations into a proposed action for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

The action plan recommended that the initiatives meet four criteria:

- ❖ Does it provide policy or program-level direction that can be acted upon by the board or the police chief?
- ❖ Is it a policy- or program-level initiative with the potential for significant positive impact?
- ❖ Is it evidence-based, which can include a member's lived experiences?
- ❖ Is it consistent with national best practices, or does it have the potential to become national best practices?"

### Policing Use of Force

"The public, through the matrix, understands that historically, police have largely, by default, been tasked with being first responders when a behavioral health crisis arises ... (This) criminalizes the affected population," Niedzielski-Eichner said. A summary statement on policing and the use of force calls for a rethinking of policing. It assigned non-safety responsibilities to clinical and social service professions, expanded Diversion First and co-responder programs, and identified and is open to other policing models.

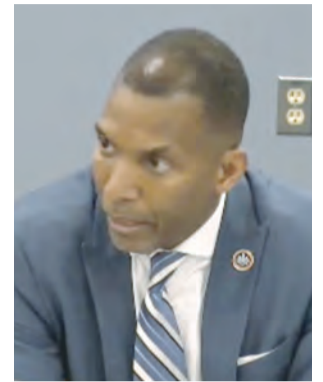
The use of force policy and accountability is a work in progress, based on findings from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and evaluated by Fairfax County's Use of Force Community Advisory Committee. "They warrant active reconsideration,"



Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner, convener of the Fairfax County Police Reform Matrix Working Group.



Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Vienna and one of ten members of the Fairfax County Police Reform Matrix Working Group.



Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia), chairman of the Safety and Security Committee.

Niedzielski-Eichner said, referring to an alternative standard to the "objective reasonable" standard.

"We recommend moving to a standard where the use of force must be, in principle, necessary and proportional," Niedzielski-Eichner said. "We recommend that pointing a firearm be considered and documented as a use of force." They recommended that the county implement key policy and program reforms, such as the de-escalation policies that are currently in place.

Walton noted that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and General Order 540 (2022) adopted several recommendations, but most still need to be fully implemented.

"Pointing a gun or any other threatening weapon should be a reportable use of force action and subject to review ... We're asking that the board direct that a foot pursuit policy be established with community participation," Walton said. A Fairfax County Police Officer shot and killed Timothy Johnson, an unarmed shoplifting suspect, during a foot pursuit in Tysons earlier this year.

### Oversight

Even though Fairfax County was among the first jurisdictions to establish a civil review panel, Walton said that "the panel is only as good as the authority the panel has."

"This body is responsible for the parameters of the panel. The community is asking, the committee is asking that you open the lanes ... Give the civilian review panel independent investigating authority that is now permitted by the Virginia General Assembly," Walton said.

### Police Officer Excellence

The Fairfax County Police Department's recent recruitment success, according to Niedzielski-Eichner, must be followed by the retention of highly effective officers. They must be held accountable for their actions, accept responsibility for the "total community," and have access to physical and mental fitness to perform their demanding jobs. He recommended conducting regular "customer survey audits" of police department personnel to facilitate dialogue between officers and supervisors.

### Community Engagement

Research and national best practices support

the benefits of authentic community engagement and the likelihood that a solution will be widely accepted, Niedzielski-Eichner said.

Most importantly, community engagement encourages the development of a trusting relationship. While the FCPD has designed and implemented numerous programs, more needs to be done, particularly to engage community members who perceive themselves to be marginalized. This policy would build on the One Fairfax policy.

"Engagement is how we build trust," Walton said. "People love to be heard, and there's a tremendous sense that many voices are not being heard."

### Data

Although FCPD has made "great strides," as Niedzielski-Eichner stated, "current public data discourages year-over-year comparisons ... Standardized formats rarely include measures of disparate treatment among classes of community members."

He said FCPD leadership "needs to be consistently careful about offering premature judgments or information about an incident that is either exculpatory outside the scope of an officer's behavior or judgmental about a person of interest due to previous law enforcement history."

### Specialized Police Units

Following the recent shootings by Tyson's Urban Team officers, Niedzielski-Eichner said the community and CAC recommend looking at the FCPD's specialized units for their policy frameworks. The Working Group suggests that a subset with the greatest community interest be examined for value-impacted practices, particularly those affecting people of color.

### Evaluating Program Progress

The fundamental questions, according to Niedzielski-Eichner, are whether the program is intended to improve policing in Fairfax County; whether it achieves the intended purpose(s); whether resources are well-allocated; and "what lessons are learned through the implementation that will make the program much better?"

Walton concluded his presentation by saying that he reluctantly agreed to participate in this process. "I didn't want to serve on another



# Pham Now Charged with Federal Crime

## Man allegedly assaulted two Connolly staffers.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION



Xuan-Kha Tran Pham

After the local community – and the nation, as well – was shocked last week by a violent attack at U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly’s (D-11th) office in Fairfax City, the man accused of doing it has now been charged with a federal crime in connection with this incident.

According to the charging document filed May 17 in U.S. District Court in Alexandria by Special Agent Nicole Miller, the FBI charged Xuan-Kha Tran Pham, 49, of Chantilly’s Greenbriar community, with assault on an employee of the United States, inflicting bodily harm.

Authorities say he wanted to speak with Connolly, last Monday morning, May 15, and became enraged to learn he wasn’t there. Then, say police, Pham allegedly hit the congressman’s outreach director, plus an intern on her first day of work, with a baseball bat.

After being alerted, Fairfax City police quickly responded, subdued and arrested Pham and charged him with aggravated malicious wounding and malicious wounding. He was then taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and held without bond. His parents – with whom he lives – have said their son has mental illness but hadn’t been taking his medication.

In her document, FBI Agent Miller said Connolly’s two staffers were working when “Suddenly, the front door swung open and Pham, wielding a baseball bat, charged through it.” She wrote that, after he reportedly struck the outreach director on the head, she fell to the floor – and he allegedly told her, “I’m going to

kill you” and “You’re going to die,” before reportedly striking her some seven more times.

Miller wrote that, when the intern tried to escape toward the back of the office, that’s when Pham reportedly hit her in the ribs. At that point, said Miller, a mailman who’d witnessed the attack from across the hall entered the office, distracting Pham, and enabling the outreach director to run away from him. Later, Connolly called that mailman “one of the heroes in this story” for going into the office when he did. Afterward, wrote Miller, Pham used his bat to destroy various objects in the office.

Later that day, authorities executed a search warrant at Pham’s home, seizing several items, including a computer. He was arraigned last Tuesday, May 16, in Fairfax County and has a preliminary hearing date of July 17 in General District Court. He’s currently scheduled to be represented by a Fairfax County public defender.

Meanwhile, praise continues to come in for the local police and their quick actions that day. “I’m grateful that the City of Fairfax Police Department arrived onsite in a matter of minutes and got the assailant in custody,” said Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read. She also has her own thoughts about what transpired.

“An attack of this nature on congressional staffers in a district office is unprecedented,” she said. “When something like this happens, we collectively feel less safe – as if the places that haven’t seen violence before are suddenly vulnerable in a way we hadn’t imagined. The thought of two people being assaulted in an office – including a young intern on her first day – is horrifying.”

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ASIAN FESTIVAL

# Celebrating Asian Culture Via Entertainment and Food

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

An estimated 26,000 people attended the third annual Asian Festival on Main, Sunday, May 21, in downtown Fairfax City. Event organizer Jinson Chan called it a “joyous occasion allowing us to appreciate diversity, promote understanding and strengthen the bonds within our community.”



Annie Chan and Tony Tran holding fried oysters and oyster pancakes.



The view on Main Street during Fairfax City's third annual Asian Festival.



Colorful lanterns hang above the bustling beer garden.



Halau Hula O Ke Anuenue Punahele danced the hula at Old Town Square.



Chin Daiko played taiko drums for the crowd at Old Town Square.



Caroline Ta, of Sweets by Caroline, offers macarons with character faces.



Selling tasty baked goods are (from left) Olivia Hooper and son Davi, 10, friend Priscilla McKinney and Hooper's mom Sharon, of LB's Desserts.



Anthony Eam eating glazed, fried chicken with sons (from left) Max, 6, and Niko, 3.



Cosplay: Marlee Seivwright dressed as Krul Tepes from the anime cartoon, “Seraphs of the End.”



Performers from KC Dance Center do a Nepali dance.



Sonthaya Kamonkhorn feeds sugar cane into a crushing machine to make sugar-cane syrup for iced drinks.



From left, Tanmayi Alaparti and Chelsea Tan selling CHIBOO bakery's macarons.



Craftsman Joseph Kim displaying his ceramic bottles and mugs.



Enjoying ube ice cream from Toby's are Nick Suk and Cameron Joiner.



From left, Cousins Jasmine and Joane Chavez serve gumbo from Jujy's Kitchen.



Indonesian dancers, Nusantara Budaya, waiting to perform at Old Town Square.



# Apartments Coming to Backlick Road Instead of Hotel

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Strip mall fenced off, ready for demolition.

By MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Before a bridge carried Backlick Road over Old Keene Mill, there was a simple stop light at the Backlick-Old Keene Mill intersection, and the area was more pedestrian friendly. Then came the “mixing bowl,” and the Amherst Avenue bridge, and a little strand of Backlick Road became obsolete. Now the strip of dated shops is fenced off and bulldozers will eventually clear the way for a 220-unit apartment community right next to I-95.

It is owned by Schupp development companies, based in Vienna, but they are currently selling it to an apartment developer to turn it into housing instead of the hotel originally planned.

Before Covid put the brakes on the hotel plan, Schupp called it the Springfield Gateway, featuring a new hotel, a 156-space garage, double queen rooms, king rooms and a fitness area, indoor pool and spa, and on-site meeting rooms. It was still on the website.

According to the Schupp information, this was approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2016 and is on the planning district description dated 2017. Then Covid came into the picture a few years ago and put a damper on the hotel industry, changing the plan.

Business owners along that stretch of Backlick Road keep hearing one thing or another about the site but



Pete's is still going despite the closed stores a block away.

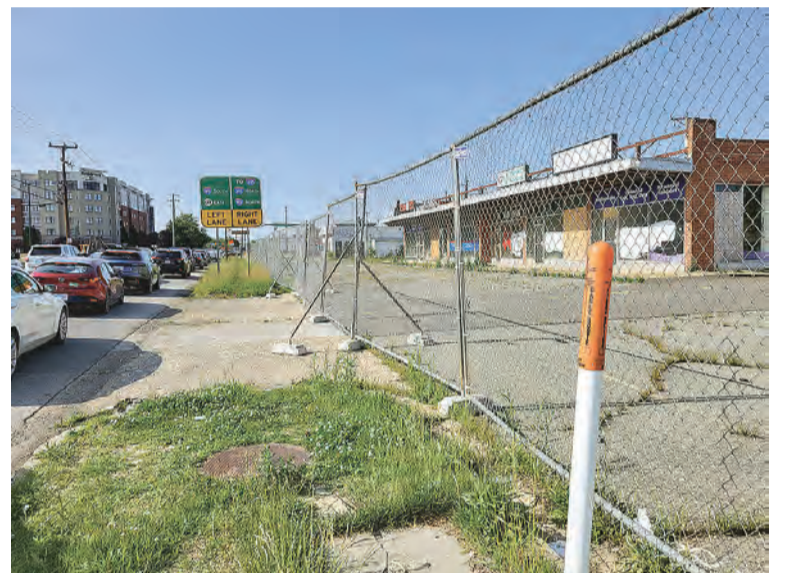
will see no action in the near future. This includes Pete's Tavern that has country music, Lash and Brow salon, Presto Cleaners and Carquest. Moe's Peyton Place was there too, but they just closed a few weeks ago.

“Some of the customers are concerned,” said the manager at the cleaners that she owns with her husband. As far as the plans, “he doesn't know,” she said. Over at Carquest, it's looked the same, said one employee. “That sign has been there a while,” he said about the “Coming Soon” sign. At Five Guys burgers, they said condos are coming. There is a four-story gray building closer to Old Keene Mill that is empty but the owner does not want to sell, they said.

Across I-95 on Loisdale Court, there are several hotels including the Springfield Hilton that have been there since the late 1970s. One of the office buildings there is currently being renovated and fencing restricts traffic flow.



The ramp to I-95 is just a few feet away.



This strip mall will make way for new apartments, according to the latest plan.



The surrounding business employees don't know the plans for this building on Old Keene Mill Road.

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# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU JUNE 25

### Falls Church Arts All Member Show.

More than 155 artists will be featured in the All Member Show at the Falls Church Arts gallery from April 22 to June 25. To handle the expansive show, the exhibit will be held in two parts this year: submissions from members with last names from A-K will be on view from April 22 to May 21. Submissions from artists with last names from L-Z will be on view from May 27 to June 25. The show features the work of emerging and established member artists from Falls Church Arts and encompasses an extensive range of media from the more traditional watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastel, fused glass, oil, photography, and sculpture to a wide variety of mixed media and printing techniques. The Falls Church Arts gallery is at 700-B West Broad St. (Route 7), Falls Church. Admission is free and the gallery is open Tuesdays-Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Artworks can be viewed online at [www.fallschurcharts.org](http://www.fallschurcharts.org). All pieces can be purchased at the gallery or on the website.



The Falls Church Arts All Member Show L-Z will be held May 27 to June 25, 2023 in Falls Church.



A Memorial Day Ceremony will take place Monday, May 29, 2023 at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial in Great Falls.

## THROUGH JULY 27

### Senior Slow-Pitch Softball Seasons.

9 a.m. to noon. At Braddock, Wakefield, and Nottaway Softball Fields. Join NoVa Senior Softball, men 50+, women 40+, average age 66. Skill-level assessment. 24 teams, three levels of play. Tuesday/Thursday morning double-headers. Begin Spring Training now. 703-663-7881. Visit the website: [www.nvss.org](http://www.nvss.org)

## NOW THRU JUNE 3

"Urinetown." 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom! Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/urinetown>

## NOW THRU AUG. 23

**Art Wednesdays.** 5 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. The first four Wednesdays starting May 3 watch live graffiti art come to life. The Lorton Workhouse and Live Art International introduces alternating art concepts for participants to take a drawing class, take home personalized airbrushed swag and more. All materials will be provided.

## NOW THRU AUG. 31

**Game Night Thursdays.** 6 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Starting May 11th, DC Fray will host a free game night every other Thursday. Game concepts will rotate between Cornhole, Roller Skating, Ping Pong, Bingo, RC Racing and Pickleball. Prizes will be awarded!

## NOW THRU AUG. 11

**Music & Dance Fridays.** Classes: 6 p.m. or 6:45 p.m. At The Plaza

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at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Join Silvia and La Musica the first two Fridays of each month starting May 5 through August 11 for salsa lessons and a musical workshop. For beginners, Salsa lessons start at 6 p.m. and bachata lessons begin at 6:45 p.m. The La Musica: World of Encanto music workshop for kids will feature musical genres from successful Disney films: Coco, Saludos Amigos, The Three Caballeros and Encanto for karaoke session with live percussion instruments.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 24

**Holy Happy Hour.** 6:15 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The featured artist will be Irene Castillo, a graduating senior from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Castillo will perform violin works of Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky.

## THURSDAY/MAY 25

**Performing Arts Movie.** 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Will it be a documentary? A filmed Broadway show? Maybe a monumental concert? Regardless, our performing arts movie series will bring you closer to the arts and your neighbors. For more information, call MCC at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## THURSDAY/MAY 25

**Business Startup Essentials.** 7:30-9:30 a.m. At Mason Enterprise Center, Office Evolution, 205 Van Buren Street, Suite 120, Herndon. Mason Enterprise Center in Herndon will be hosting a three-week start-up cohort in May for small business owners and aspirants in the Town of Herndon to learn about the essentials required to launch your business. This program is ideal for early-stage business-



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es looking to grow. Experts and mentors from the Mason SBDC who will lead you through the key steps and practices to successfully start and run your business. Call 703-261-4105.

## FRIDAY/MAY 26

**Learning Lunch: Myths.** 12-1 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Lorton Prison Complex inspired many stories and tall tales. Professor and author Alice Reagan sets out to set the record straight. attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/learning-lunch-myths>

## SATURDAY/MAY 27

**Bug Fest.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Lewinsville Historic House, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Calling all bug enthusiasts! Bug Fest is back and bigger than ever. Have a passion for the creepy-crawly creatures? This event is fun for the whole family and is designed to appeal to learners of all ages who love insects! Bug Fest will feature

lots of exciting and creepy bug-themed programs, activities and demonstrations. Join an insect safari, explore live insects, observe insect collections, roll logs to find bugs, play in soil stations, go for a bug walk and even make your own bug! You can also use technology to explore the world of insects. Registration is required and enrollment is \$8 per person.

## MAY 27 TO JUNE 25

**Falls Church Arts All Member Show L-Z.** At the Falls Church Arts gallery, 700-B West Broad St. (Route 7), Falls Church. Eighty-eight artists with last names from L-Z will be featured in the second part of the All Member Show at the Falls Church Arts Gallery. An opening reception will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 27. The reception is open to the public. The show features the work of emerging and established member artists from Falls Church Arts and encompasses an extensive range of media from the more traditional watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastel, fused glass, oil, photography, and sculpture to a wide variety of mixed media and printing techniques. Visit the website [www.fallschurcharts.org](http://www.fallschurcharts.org).

## SUNDAY/MAY 28

**Burke Historical Society Meeting.** 3-4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Citizens of Oakton, known as Flint Hill during the American Civil War, endured much angst much throughout the war years, no matter which side of the conflict one supported. Email: [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com)

## MONDAY/MAY 29

**Memorial Day Ceremony.** 11 a.m. At Great Falls Freedom Memorial, behind Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The

annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial to honor the residents of Great Falls and all others who have given "the last full measure of devotion" to their country. The event will feature patriotic songs, a Boy Scout color guard, a bagpipe performance of "Amazing Grace" by Great Falls student MacPhearson Strassberg, a keynote speech by Historic Congressional Cemetery Director of Public Engagement A.J. Orlikoff, Taps bugler Boy Scout Henry Lin, Memorial Day poppies, and a bell-ringing and name-reading for natives of Great Falls killed in battle. Visit the website [www.gffreedom.org](http://www.gffreedom.org).

## MONDAY/MAY 29

**Memorial Day Observances.** 10 a.m. At Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon. Featuring Avenue of Flags, Dawn to desk. Sponsored by the American Legion Post 184. Call 703-481-1200.

## JUNE 1-4

**Tysons Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale.** At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Thursday, 1 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday, 2 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 3 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 4 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests.

## JUNE 1-4

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Thousands of like-new books to choose from. Thursday, June 1st, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, June 2nd, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, June 3rd, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Contact Friends of Richard Byrd Library at [rbfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rbfriends@gmail.com)

## SATURDAY/JUNE 3

**Gardens of Note.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Presented by the Reston Chorale in partnership with the Reston Garden Club and Hidden Lane Residential Landscapes. Enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of five beautiful, private Reston Gardens, open to the public for one day only. Cost is \$20 in advance; \$25 on tour day. Tickets are available online at [RestonChorale.org](http://RestonChorale.org).



# Community Matrix

FROM PAGE 4

er task force that would produce a body of work that would ultimately sit on the shelf without the possibility of becoming a living document," Walton said. He added that he came because of his belief in political will and that this body, the Board of Supervisors, has the political will to do what is right.

Walton said he felt compelled by moral conviction to present the document and the enclosed recommendations on behalf of Fairfax County residents, hoping that the supervisors would give it full consideration and eventually adoption. Walton said, "We respectfully ask that you are bold and courageous and do it without delay."

Lusk said the board must allow Chief Davis to look at the recommendations and provide feedback. As for rethinking policing, they have been working hard to hire the mental health clinicians the county needs for the co-responder implementation. "This is a tough task," Lusk said. "We do have three of our four units up and running. So we need one more unit to cover the county."

Lusk said that they must work on training, de-escalation, and determining patience, time, and distance — all of which are critical to reducing the use of force.

They have been working with the civilian review panel under independent supervision and have hired an executive director and an assistant to that director to help them build out their infrastructure. The issue of granting the civil review board additional and expanded authority was raised by Lusk, and the board discussed it last year.

According to Lusk, transparency and data are critical. "If you want trust and accountability, you need to have transparency in the data ... We can continue to make progress ... This is a document that's not completed; it will continue to evolve over time and improve over time. I've read [recommendations] clearly and carefully and understand what the request is, and we will be working to bring back to this body the responses from the department and then the responses from this board."

Readers can access the video starting at minute 38:11 at [https://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/player/clip/2890?view\\_id=9&redirect=true&h=aa406817dd910e-9c28e63c0a2dedf8b7](https://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/player/clip/2890?view_id=9&redirect=true&h=aa406817dd910e-9c28e63c0a2dedf8b7) and a text overview of the recommendations is available at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/community%20recommendations%20for%20more%20equitable%20policing.pdf>.

# CLASSIFIED

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## Obituary

## Obituary

### Max Bullock

March 28, 1932 - May 2, 2023



Max passed away at 91 peacefully in his sleep at his home in Springfield, Oregon on May 2nd, 2023, after succumbing to the long-term effects of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease. He left this world with his wife, Eleanore Ann Bullock, of 65 years by his side. He was at home where he wanted to be, surrounded by family, comfort, and love. Max is survived by his wife, Ann; sons, Robert, Stephen, and Phillip, and daughter Deanne as well as his Grandchildren, Kelton, Andrew, Nicole, and Kerry.

He was born on March 28, 1932, in Rickreall, Oregon to Charles and Florence Bullock. He spent his early life growing up in Independence Oregon. After graduating from High School, he attended the Oregon College of Education for two years. His desire to travel and serve his country drove him to enlist in the US Army in 1952. He served for two years overseas and after his honorable discharge, Max returned to Oregon. He still had a strong desire to travel so he entered Government service and moved to Virginia. During his first overseas duty, he was stationed in West Berlin. It was there that he met Eleanore Ann Lawlor. Max and Ann were married, August 30 1958 in the US Army Chapel in West Berlin. Their first son, Robert was born in Berlin. In 1960 the family returned to Virginia. His other children: Stephen, Phillip, and Deanne were born there. He took his family on tours of duty at US Embassy's in Taiwan, West Germany, and England. Max and Ann traveled Europe extensively with their children during the summers. After nearly 30 years of government service Max retired. He continued to travel working as a contract employee on short-term assignments at US embassies around the world. Max loved to visit the local markets in whichever country he worked, often returning to Ann with sculptures, artwork, and unique surprises. After both Ann and Max retired from government service, they moved to Springfield, Oregon in 1994 where they built a home. In retirement, they owned and operated a Blueberry Farm in Santa Clara which is now run by their son, Stephen. Max and Ann are long-term parishioners of St Paul's Catholic Church and Max was a volunteer with St Vincent De Paul assisting families in need. Late in life, Max enjoyed attending University of Oregon Duck Football games with Ann, his son Bob and daughter-in-law Kristie. The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the extraordinary caregivers who provided years of comfort, nurturing, and support allowing Max to stay at home. Max's dedication to his country, his work ethic, and devotion to his family were an inspiration to his children who have worked hard to live up to the standard he modeled for them. It's with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to a wonderful husband, father, and friend with appreciation for all of the years we were fortunate to have been part of his life. The Funeral service will be held at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1201 Satre St., Eugene, OR 97401 on June 24, 2023, at 11:00 am.

## Legals

### ABC LICENSE

Bohemish LLC trading as Bohemish, 7701 Southern Dr., Suite R, Springfield, Fairfax County, VA 22150-3643. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine Wholesaler & Wine Importer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Nataliya Georgieva, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8
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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Staff members giving students sticker tattoos.

# 50th Anniversary

FROM PAGE 3

and support staff, plus our volunteers, supporters, community organizations, local churches and GMU interns, all committed to our mission. As we enter the second half of our first century, we're looking forward to continuing Main Street's vision as a place where children are inspired to learn, encouraged to explore and empowered to achieve their fullest potential."

Next, Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read addressed the crowd. "Main Street is an important part of our community and a real gem," she said. "There's nothing more important than early childhood education, and I wish universal pre-kindergarten was nationwide."

She then read a proclamation from herself and the City Council commending the school for being a "great asset" and "delivering high-quality, early childhood education

and support services to children and their families, regardless of financial circumstance, for 50 years."

Then, noting that Fairfax County just added more money into its FY 24 budget for early childhood education, Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock) also congratulated Main Street's "dedicated teachers and staff" on the school's 50th anniversary. "Thank you all," he said. "A place like Main Street is a launching pad for the future generation of American leaders."

He, too, presented a proclamation – this one, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. Praising the school as a "pillar of the community" and a "shining example" of the impact pre-K education can have on a child's life, it said Main Street "helped lay the foundation for countless children to achieve academic success, build strong social skills and become lifelong learners."

## TAX NOTICE CITY OF FAIRFAX

### REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due  
**Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

We continue to receive a high number of tax complaints that either no paper tax bill was received, or that mailed payments did not make it to city hall.

**When paying, please consider using our 24-hour drop box located at 10455 Armstrong Street (at the front of City Hall, next to the flag poles) in lieu of the USPS. (Checks only, no Cash)**

### LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid incurring a 10%, \$10 minimum, late payment penalty and interest of 10% per annum, **payment in full must be received or postmarked by close-of-business on Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

Taxes may be paid online, by mail, or in-person to the City Treasurer's Office (City Hall, Suite 234)  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)

### IMPORTANT

**Even if you do not receive a physical bill, to avoid late payment penalties you are still responsible for requesting a copy and remitting payment by Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

For Additional Information, please check the City website at [www.FairfaxVA.gov](http://www.FairfaxVA.gov) or call (703) 385-7900

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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.

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 or historical 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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## Winging It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Without my wingman, my recently deceased brother, Richard, I have no doubt that living forward, there will be many occasions when I would have loved to consult the manual; that manual being my older, wiser, more experienced, and reliable brother. If ever there was an ideal resource to have at the ready, I nominate – in arrears, my brother, Richard. Losing his counsel, compassion and understanding of most things KBL (me) seems almost like a physical loss/handicap because the emotional loss is so massive (to quote the Brits), it feels physical, if that makes any sense?

And unfortunately, losing a foundational piece of your emotional architecture is not easily replaced. Let me be more specific: it's impossible, never to be replaced, always a void, and I feel diminished somehow and less interesting by his death. Though we weren't exactly joined at the hip, we were entangled nonetheless with all manner of likes, dislikes, preferences, motivations, and most of all: familial responsibilities; to one another, our deceased parents (every day one of us visited them for a few hours when they lived in Leisure World), our wives and miscellaneous other extended family (neither one of us had any children).

As close as Richard and I were, that bond was solidified even more during our parent's brief stay in Maryland. When our parents first arrived in Maryland, my mother was unexpectedly in a wheelchair, unable to walk at all. It wasn't physical, but emotional, she didn't have the physical strength. Something happened when she boarded the plane for Washington, D.C. from Florida. After months of pills (to treat her presumptive depression), we took a more aggressive route: E.C.T., electroconvulsive therapy. After only four treatments, my mother regained her form and once again, became the mother she had always been: loving, nurturing and focused on her family.

A few months after my mother's recovery, my father suffered the first of his two strokes. Though he wasn't totally incapacitated, speaking, as often happens, became challenging for him. Given these two conditions, Richard, and I both felt our place, as often as possible was with our parents. We had encouraged their move from Florida with this exact scenario in mind: what if something happened to them? How could we manage their care long distance? We couldn't so they agreed to move north. And without any hesitation, Richard and I happily welcomed their arrival and remained committed to our parents for the rest of their lives.

As a result of this arrangement/commitment, Richard and I spoke at least once a day for a parental update. And as you can imagine, life got way more complicated after my father had his first stroke. Though my mother was back to her old self (affectionately referred to), she had her own challenges: she had suffered hearing loss due to nerve damage years earlier and it had taken a toll. She (I can still hear my father admonishing me: "Don't call your mother 'she'") really couldn't take care of my father any longer so we ended up hiring a live-in caregiver, Maria, who was, as we were fond and sincere in saying: "an angel of mercy." She couldn't have been more kind, loving and dedicated to my parents. She treated them with respect and dignity and enhanced their lives; especially as their health failed. Still, Richard and I didn't convince our parents to move to Maryland to leave them alone with a caregiver, no matter how wonderful she was, so we alternated our days (evenings actually) and did a split-shift on Sundays (Maria's day off) for the rest of our parent's lives to assure them that there would always be family in the house.

When my brother went into septic shock in mid-July, Vanessa (his wife) and I organized a similar daily schedule to what Richard, and I had committed to for our parents. And after six weeks of his being in a coma of sorts, and on a ventilator, a dialysis machine – and so much more, he finally woke up. A month or so later he was transferred to a rehabilitation hospital and a few weeks after that he was discharged. I met Vanessa and Richard at home to help her transport him into their home. He could barely walk. Given his initial prognosis (not good), it was a miracle that he was home. Vanessa didn't need me to come over every day, but I certainly called Richard once a day, at least. And so it remained that way for the next two months or so until he died at age 73. I lost so much more than a brother, I lost part of my universe, too.

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



# County Trails and Comradery Highlight Bike to Work 2023

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Riders left with green tee shirts and granola bars.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**A**t the Kingstowne Bike to Work Day pit stop, cyclists continued to trickle in all morning, and most had their eye on the granola bars, water and the green tee shirt to commemorate this year's event. At this pit stop, some were heading south to jobs at Fort Belvoir, while others were going the other way to Old Town or Arlington.

Margo started off in Shirlington, brought her bike on the Metro, got off at the Franconia-Springfield stop, and headed over to Fort Belvoir after stopping at the pit stop. She liked her multi-modal transportation method, and bringing her bike on the Metro helped. "They let you do that even during rush hour," she said.

Chris Wong came in from Lorton and was headed to his job nearby. Some of his ride was on the road. "Most people could bike if it wasn't so dangerous," he said.

In the Kingstowne-Fort Belvoir part of the county there are a fair number of trails so biking is possible almost everywhere. Once across Telegraph Road, there are links to the Mount Vernon Trail which leads into Washington, D.C. and many trail links along the way. Last week, a bike bridge across Dogue Creek opened in the Mount Vernon area, creating a safe venue for that ride.

The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) supports Bike to Work Day, and they had members at 14 of the 28 Fairfax pit stops across the area, including this stop in Kingstowne. The number of riders is nearly back to the pre-covid times, said Bruce Wright of FABB. "It's a great event and I think it encourages a lot of people to use their bikes for transportation," Wright said.



Cyclists trickled in all morning in Kingstowne.

**"Most people could bike if it wasn't so dangerous."**

— Chris Wong, Bike to Work participant



Chris Wong gets some bike tips from one of the volunteers at the Kingstowne stop.



The coveted Bike to Work tee shirts.