

# CONNECTION

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## Vice President Harris in Springfield

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Vice President Kamala Harris addresses supporters of gun violence prevention at John R. Lewis High School in Springfield.

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

## Disney-themed Princesses, with Beer

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**NEWS**

**Fairfax City, Local Church Celebrating Juneteenth**

The City of Fairfax is partnering with Mount Calvary Baptist Church for a free, inaugural event to celebrate Juneteenth National Independence Day, the day in 1865 when enslaved people near Galveston, Texas first learned they were free.

Set for Saturday, June 17, it'll include a formal ceremony and a march, followed by an afternoon of music, dance, information sharing about African American history and genealogical resources, family activities, crafts and food.

Initiated by the Rev. Jeffery Johnson Sr., Mount Calvary's pastor, and his congregation, the day will begin at 10 a.m. at Veterans Amphitheater outside Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. Opening ceremony will be led by the Rev. Nelson Sneed, moderator of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association.

Joy Burgess will sing the National Anthem, and D.C. Washington of the Washington Nationals will perform the "Negro" National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and



The celebration will be June 17 in Fairfax City.

Sing." Both Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read and former Mayor David Meyer will also participate in the ceremony. Esther Johnson-Jackson, former Job Corps national director, will speak on the importance of Juneteenth and how celebrations have continued and grown with themes of Faith and Freedom.

Attendees will then walk together along Armstrong Street and George Mason Boulevard to Mount Calvary's School Street entrance. Inside, the celebration will feature music by the church's children's choir, a liturgical dance and selections from other musical groups. Rev. Johnson will reprise Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream"

speech given at the Lincoln Memorial during the August 1963 March on Washington.

Giving a talk will be local Civil Rights activist James Mott. He and his wife began their activism after officials turned them away from picnicking at Lake Fairfax Park in 1965. The Motts subsequently sued in U.S. District Court in Alexandria and won equal access to Fairfax County facilities for Black people. They also gained prominence by promoting voting rights and equal access to accommodations.

For more information, go to <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/juneteenth>.

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# Vice President Kamala Harris Marks Gun Violence Awareness Day in Springfield

Harris notes importance of young leaders and commonsense change.

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

To mark Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 4, Vice President Kamala Harris traveled to Springfield to deliver remarks on the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to preventing gun violence. The large crowd of local residents that gathered at John R. Lewis High School to hear see and hear Harris speak was enthusiastic in their approval of her message. Harris listed the common sense measures of the administration's approach. She also emphasized the importance of young leaders and youth engagement in continuing to call for strengthened gun violence prevention measures.

Orange was the color of the afternoon as the crowd filled with students, teachers, parents, change advocates such as members of Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action, and Springfield residents, filled the gym. Entertained by the Lancers band as they awaited the start of the pre-program speakers, the crowd's camaraderie and shared purpose was in evidence, not only in the shared orange clothing, but in interactions, capped off by impromptu bleacher waves.

Preceding the vice president in

speaking were several education leaders, including Erin Headson, a special education teacher at John R. Lewis High School; Dr. Michelle Reid, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools; and Secretary Miguel Cardona, of the U.S. Department of Education. Also speaking, Virginia Senate majority leader Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35), and Angela Ferrell-Zabala, executive director of Moms Demand Action. Jada Hughes, Lewis graduating senior who introduced the Vice President, received huge cheers. She lamented that gun violence "is still a conversation," adding that students are concerned about gun violence when they should be concerned about homework and tests. "We must regain a sense of safety in our schools," Hughes said.

Vice President Harris said it is right of every person in a civilized society to "know they can shop in a grocery store, walk down the street, or even sit in a classroom, and know that they will be safe from fear and from violence. And so that is why we are all here today: to mark Gun Violence Awareness Day and to address the moment that we are in."

"The number one cause of death for the children of America is gun violence," Harris said. In this very moment in our country, one in five

Americans has lost a family member to gun violence. In 153 days of this year, there have been more than 260 mass shootings. And because of everyday gun violence in communities across our nation, every single day, on average, 120 Americans are killed with guns."

"These are not just statistics or another headline," she said. Citing tragedies in Virginia, "it is a six-year-old boy who has access to a gun, and shoots and wounds his teacher just a few months ago in Newport News. It is the three student athletes who were shot and

killed at UVA last fall. It is the 32 students and faculty who lost their lives at Virginia Tech."

Despite the tragedies, Harris argued that there are solutions in common sense reforms. She outlined reasonable measures of legislation. SEE VICE PRESIDENT, PAGE 6



Vice-President Kamala Harris addresses invited supporters of gun violence prevention at John R. Lewis High School in Springfield.



Staff members of Moms Demand Action celebrate their Springfield event, one of more than 400 scheduled across 50 states and the District of Columbia.



Fellow gun-violence-prevention advocates crowded the bleachers and floor of John R. Lewis High School gymnasium to hear the Biden-Harris administration plans for further gun violence prevention.

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PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

# ‘Remember Their Courage, Bravery and Heart’

## On Memorial Day, Fairfax City honors the fallen.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

The threat of rain moved Fairfax City’s annual, Memorial Day ceremony from Old Town Square to inside American Legion Post 177. But the May 29 event, hosted jointly by Post 177 and VFW Post 8469, was heartfelt as the City paid homage to America’s fallen servicemembers.

Giving the invocation was VFW Post 8469 Chaplain Marcus Keiper. “We pray for those who gave their last, full measure of devotion for their country,” he said. “They made the ultimate sacrifice to protect us all.”

Nearly 100 people attended the somber ceremony, including U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11th), Del. David Bulova (D-37th), Sen. George Barker (D-39th), Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read and City Councilmembers Billy Bates, Kate Doyle Feingold and Tom Ross.

Quartermaster Ken LaPlante, of VFW Post 8469, was the emcee. “Memorial Day is the day we honor and remember all the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military and answering the call of the nation,” he said. “Gen. John Logan conceived the idea of a national day [of remembrance] to honor military members who died during the Civil War. His vision was to place flowers and other decorations on their graves.”

Logan chose May 30 because it wasn’t associated with any particular battle, and also because he figured enough spring flowers would be in bloom by then. It was called Decoration Day; and on May 30, 1868, future president James Garfield spoke in Arlington National Cemetery while 5,000 volunteers decorated 20,000 graves.

The name, Memorial Day, wasn’t used until well after WWI. And in 1971, it was declared a national holiday. Now, said LaPlante, many Americans visit cemeteries and memorials, hold parades and do other patriotic activities on this day. “In cemeteries across America and around the world, people will pause their busy lives to place flowers and decorations on the graves of those lost in war,” he said.

Yet Memorial Day shouldn’t just be about sorrow, said LaPlante, but also about giving thanks that such people lived. “As we remember and honor the men and women who gave full measure to protect what we hold dear, let us not forget that it falls to all of us to remember them and carry their memory onward,” he said. “We can never fully repay them for their sacrifices, but we can try by living for what they died for – freedom, equality, opportunity and unlimited promise.”

Next to the podium was Connolly, who explained that, when Decoration Day was first proclaimed in 1865 “and the country was ripped apart by the Civil War – and 650,000 were dead – it meant something to people because they’d been touched by the war personally. People believed this country was worth fighting for, and we began referring to the United States as ‘is,’ not ‘are,’ and ‘indivisible’ – one. It was a war to decide whether free people could make a go of it.”

Connolly also noted that, a few weeks ago, he was at an overseas meeting commemorating the war in Ukraine, and he and others laid a wreath on Gen. George Patton’s grave in Luxembourg.

So, he said, “When we talk about Memorial Day and those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we remember the brave men and women who gave their lives for our Constitution and the freedoms contained therein. One million Americans have given their lives for it, and we should always remember the courage, bravery and heart those men and women had – and all they went through – so we could be here today.”

Next, Del. Bulova related how he and his family had just celebrated his oldest son’s engagement and all the possibilities that lie ahead for him and his fiancé in the future. But, he said, America’s war dead didn’t get to see their own possibilities come true.

“So today, we think of the sacrifices they made, and the memories of a lifetime – being able to grow old together with a loved one and see your children grow up – they never got to have,” said Bulova. “We’re resilient and strong, and we’re bound by the ideal of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness made possible by those who gave up their possibilities for us.”

He said we can also respect their memory by honoring their families. And, he added, “Thank you to those who’ve chosen to follow a [career] path in the military – putting themselves in harm’s way to protect the possibilities we all hold



Fairfax City Councilmember Kate Doyle Feingold listens to Isabella Cosgrove, 8, read some names of fallen soldiers.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly.



Jeff White.



Ken LaPlante.



Del. David Bulova.



From left, Councilmember Billy Bates reads names while Ken LaPlante, bellringer Scott Henry and Marcus Kuiper listen.

dear. So thank you to the young people for stepping up.”

Sen. Barker reminded people to not forget about war’s lasting effects on the families of the fallen. He spoke of a friend who was “never the same” after her son died in battle. But, said Barker, “She gets comfort on Memorial Day by being at his grave with other Gold Star mothers and remembering him.”

Mayor Read also addressed the crowd, but first acknowledged American Legion Post 177 Com-

SEE MEMORIAL, PAGE 14  
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City Mayor Catherine Read.



Sen. George Barker.

# Changes Coming to Busy Springfield Intersection

Lanes over I-95 going through safety study.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Cyclists navigating through a busy part of central Springfield could see some improvements in the future as the Virginia Department of Transportation is looking to expand the bicycling trail network along Old Keene Mill Road and Commerce Street where they both travel over I-95.

An area that used to be part of the “mixing bowl” is now a major thoroughfare for the Springfield area and bicycling just doesn’t seem to be part of the equation through here.

The bike lanes are part of a bigger safety project where VDOT is conducting a STARS study, Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions, to assess potential safety and operational improvements for a half-mile of Franconia Road (Route 644) between Backlick Road and Commerce Street/Loisdale Road, and for a half-mile of Commerce Street between Amherst Avenue and Franconia Road.

Within the study limits, Franconia Road averages about 69,000 vehicles a day and Commerce Street averages 19,000. The option for bicyclists is to implement “sharrows,” as part of the project which are on-road bike lanes.

People don’t know what the chevrons in the sharrows mean “and there does not seem to be much of an education effort to teach motorists and bicyclists how they should be used,” said Bruce Wright of Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling. When the sharrows are out in the lane and people don’t know what it means, this could be dangerous to cyclists. VDOT is looking for options, so for the next week, everyone will have a chance to fill out their questionnaire as part of this project.

According to People for Bikes advocacy,



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

The study area in central Springfield.

sharrows aren’t the best option. Riding on a road with traffic is dangerous “but a shoulder — even a striped bike lane — on a street with fast traffic isn’t an appealing place to bike for most people,” they said, and the bike symbol in the middle provides little protection.

## Crash Stats

VDOT information slides shown at a public meeting, there were 171 crashes along Commerce Street between January 2015 and October 2022. Only a few of these resulted in severe injury; a majority were

listed as property damage only, followed by nonvisible injury, and visible injury. Most of the crashes were right at the Franconia Road intersection.

On Franconia Road/Old Keene Mill Road across the highway, there were 162 crashes in the same timeframe.

Changes and improvements under consideration include “innovative” intersections possibly with audio beacons, improved lane configurations and traffic signal changes.

Separated bike lanes are an option bike advocate Wright would like to see. “VDOT has some very smart engineers and if it were a high priority, they could figure out how to

implement protected bike lanes,” he said.

VDOT is looking for users’ input before coming up with a plan. To provide input, go to STARS Franconia Road and Commerce Street Corridor Study - PublicInput <https://www.publicinput.com/franconiacommercestudy>

The comment period ends June 15.

### Project Timeframe:

- ❖ Spring 2023 – Study Start
- ❖ Summer 2023 – 1st Public Outreach & Feedback
- ❖ Winter 2023 – 2nd Public Outreach & Alternative Selection
- ❖ Spring 2024 – Final Deliverables & Study Completion

# Car Used to Burglarize Smoke Bazaar in Springfield

Detectives seek community’s help after four burglarize Springfield store with stolen vehicle.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department’s Major Crimes Bureau are asking community members to help identify four males involved in a commercial burglary that occurred early Sunday, May 21.

Around 12:40 a.m., officers responded to the Smoke Bazaar at 6715 Backlick Road in Springfield after a stolen 2013 silver Hyundai Elantra was driven through the storefront. The four males entered the business, stole merchandise and left the area in a stolen 2019 black Hyundai Elantra. The suspects are described as 15 to 20 years of age wearing black face masks; one was wearing a green jacket, police said.

During the course of the investigation,

detectives learned the silver Hyundai Elantra used in the commercial burglary had not been reported stolen yet. Detectives determined the vehicle was stolen between Friday night and Saturday night from a parking lot in the 8900 block of Lorton Station Boulevard in Lorton.

According to FCPD, the black Hyundai was reported stolen around 11:36 p.m. on Saturday from the 8900 block of Lorton Station Boulevard in Lorton. It was recovered unoccupied on Sunday morning in the 9200 block of Wildwood Lane in Lorton.

Anyone with information regarding this incident or others is asked to call the detectives at our Franconia Police District at 703-922-0889.

Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).



PHOTO FROM FCPD NEWS RELEASE

View from inside Smoke Bazaar; the suspects plowed through the front with a stolen car and grabbed what they could.

# Vice President Kamala Harris Marks Gun Violence Awareness Day in Springfield



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

PHOTO COURTESY S. NEWMAN  
John Lewis High School graduating senior Jada Hughes introduced Vice-President Kamala Harris.

FROM PAGE 3

islative action saying “it is a false choice to suggest that we have to choose between either supporting the Second Amendment or passing reasonable gun safety laws. We can do both.” Among reasonable approaches she listed: checking if someone has been found by a court to be a danger to themselves or others before they can buy a gun. “Common sense would suggest background checks and red-flag laws might avoid that danger.” She called it common sense to believe, “teachers should focus on teaching - and children on learning,” rather than have teachers carry firearms and appear in the front of a classroom armed.

Harris spoke of the damage to the human body caused by “weapons of war,” designed to kill a lot of people quickly, which she witnessed as a District Attorney. Such weapons have “no place on the streets of a civil society and that it’s time to renew the assault weapons ban,” she said.

Praising voters who elected legislators sympathetic to gun safety reform and the advocacy of voters and those too young to vote, Harris lauded last year’s bipartisan legislation as “the first significant piece of federal gun safety legislation in 30 years.”

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (P.L. 117-159) enacted June 25, 2022, requires young people ages 18 to 21 to undergo enhanced background checks; narrows the “boyfriend loophole” to keep guns out of the hands of convicted dating partners; funds crisis interventions, including extreme risk protection order (red flag) laws; makes significant investments to



Vice President Kamala Harris acknowledges Jada Hughes and the Lancer band before beginning her address at John Lewis High School in Springfield.

address the mental health crisis in America, including in schools; clarifies who needs to register as a federally licensed gun dealer and run background checks before selling a weapon; and makes gun trafficking and straw purchases distinct federal crimes.

The law includes \$2.35 billion for behavioral and mental health service programs at the local level, including \$750 million to fund implementation of red flag laws.

Harris called on young leaders to take up the issue, calling students’ attention to the work of leaders like John Lewis, for whom the Springfield high school was named. She recalled that Lewis was just 23 years old when he spoke during the March on Washington. Harris spoke of the Parkland students who inspired a national movement, and Maxwell Frost, 15 years old when he became involved with the movement and now the first Gen Z member of the U.S. Congress. Finally, she mentioned the two expelled members of the Tennessee Three who are both in their twenties. Addressing young leaders, she said, “We hear you. We support you. And we need you.”



Fairfax County Police motorcycle officers wait to clear traffic for the Vice President’s motorcade

## VIEWPOINTS

Questions and photos by Susan Laume at John R. Lewis High School

**Q: As a gun violence prevention proponent, what resonated with you about Vice President Kamala Harris’ speech on Gun Violence Prevention Day?**



**Melissa Chabot, with her 9-year-old son, Howard**

“Kamala Harris said that it’s a human right to feel safe in schools, and she’s right. We have to enact common sense gun laws. It’s on the ballot every year and the way we can create change to keep kids safe.”

**Albert Vega**

“We have the power to address gun violence, especially with the growing political influence of our young voters. I left inspired by the speech and the entire event to be an even stronger advocate for gun violence prevention and support candidates that share our values.”



**Shawn Newman**

“Happy to hear the White House will push to make significant progress on gun violence prevention. Appreciated the Vice President’s comments on ‘false choice’ and her making clear we don’t have to make a choice between better control and using guns responsibly. Also in favor of an assault weapon ban because of the devastating impact on the human body, whether or not the injured person dies.”

**Donald Craig**

“Vice President Kamala Harris’s gun violence speech was direct as to what needs to be done for common sense gun safety. The high energy, and the support of the VP’s comments by the students, was very encouraging, engaging and positive.”



PHOTO COURTESY M. SINGH

**Menisha Singh with Vice-President Kamala Harris**

“The comment that put things in perspective for me, was that one in five Americans have lost someone they love to gun violence, and on an average we lose 3000 children per year to gun violence. Alarming stats. Also VP Harris, in her ultimate wisdom, said we don’t have to either protect 2nd amendment or pass common sense legislation — we can do both.”

# Beer, Live Music and Disney Characters

Fairfax City's Disney-themed Beer in the Burbs event was Saturday, June 3, in Old Town Square.



From left, Joseph Paredes and Ed Foxwell (holding a Sour Finnish Lemonade Beer) representing Chubby Squirrel Brewing Co.



Both Mike Mazzarella and his dog Frank, an American foxhound, are happy to be at the event.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Jimmy Hink with his own princess, daughter Harper, 1 (as Belle), plus his mom Barb.



Faustina Antwi-Boasiakoh, 4, wearing a princessy skirt, will be a big sister in 4 months.



Jennifer Smith and Eric Hembree with Audacious Aleworks' Thirsty Work IPA beers.



Portraying Princesses Aurora, Jasmine and Ariel, respectively, are (from left) Allie Blanchet, Haley Kim and Abba Kodiaga, of the Vienna Singing Princesses.



Getting their hair braided are the Weitz sisters, (from left) Dahlia, 11, and Leah, 8.



Serving up some suds are (from left) Randy Barnette and Chris Jacques of Ornergy Beer Co.



From left, sisters LeighAnne and Cassie Baxter enjoy Wingman Raspberry Cider from Lost Boy Cider.

SEE MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 12

# Another Perspective: FCPD's BWC Video of Fatal Police Shooting

Accountability, transparency, and neutrality deconstructed in contrast between video presentation for press conference and unedited video.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n May 11, a Fairfax County Police officer shot and killed Brandon Jerome Lemagne, 38, of Newport News, Va. A felony traffic stop by an FCPD officer in the Mount Vernon District on May 11 began by detaining Lemagne to further the investigation. The incident quickly escalates and leads the officer to call out, "Signal 1. Signal 1, Signal 1, He's going for my gun ... Sir, get off my gun."

A license plate reader alerted officers to a stolen U-Haul in the area. An officer saw the U-Haul in the 6300 block of Richmond Highway, in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County. Lemagne pulled the U-Haul into

**"The packaged release shared with the community on May 25 was intended to show the perspective of the officers involved in the assault, abduction, and rescue efforts of their fellow officer. It is important to see the incident through the eyes of the officer."**

— Lt. James Curry, Public Affairs FCPD

the gas station parking lot, exited the vehicle then walked away. The officer can be seen on surveillance footage speaking with Lemagne then the two walk towards the officer's cruiser. The officer told Lemagne

he was going to be detained for driving the stolen U-Haul. Lemagne then attacked the officer.

The Fairfax County Police Department held a Press Conference on May 25. Katherine

Hayek, director of public affairs at FCPD, says, "The following is a simultaneous compilation of the body-worn camera footage from the three officers directly involved." The department shows the OIS 5.11.23 BWC (Body Worn Camera ) Release Video and makes it available to the community. It runs for 10 minutes and 10 seconds. In the video shown at the police press conference, the body worn camera (BWC) footage from the officer who was attacked and abducted is identified as "BWC Officer #1."

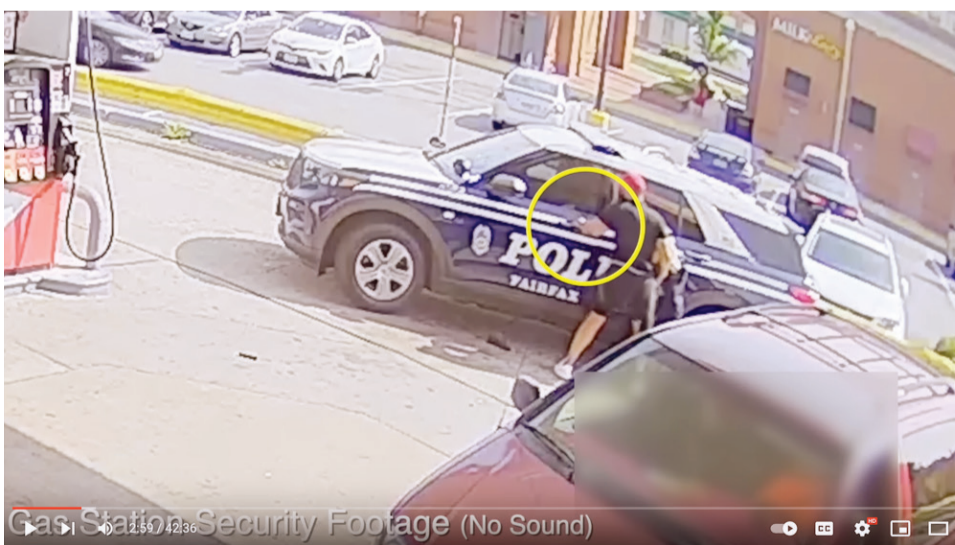
According to Lt. James Curry, Public Affairs FCPD, who responded on Sunday, June 4, "The packaged release shared with the community on May 25 was intended to show the perspective of the officers involved in the assault, abduction, and rescue efforts  
SEE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE, PAGE 9



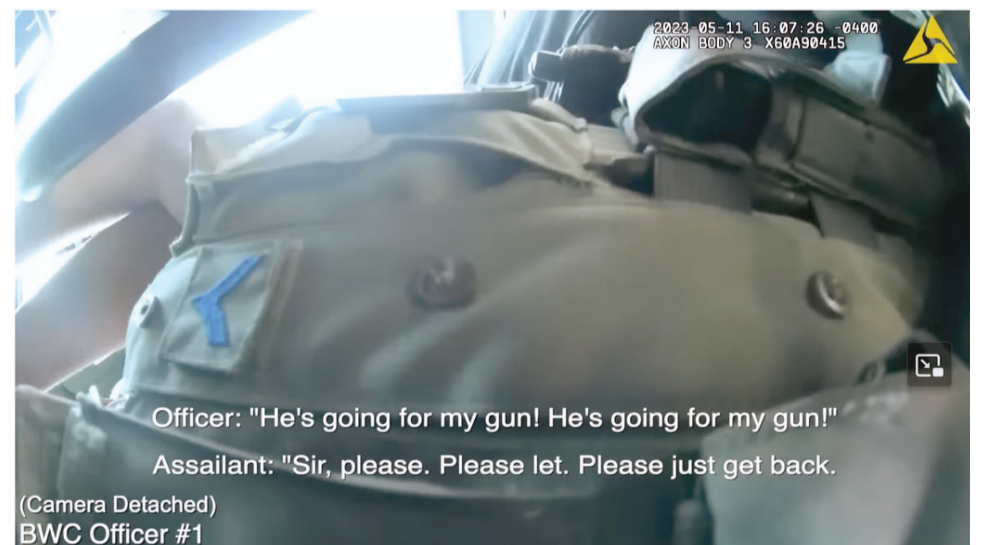
Officer #1's bodycam: Suspect Brandon Jerome Lemagne, later shot and killed, is approached by Officer #1, Fairfax County Police Department at Mount Vernon area gas station in connection with a traffic stop after being flagged driving a stolen U-Haul. 6300 block of Richmond Highway.



Gas station security footage: Officer #1 attempts to detain Lemagne to further the possible theft investigation, but the incident deteriorates as he fails to cuff Lemagne. They struggle as Lemagne attempts to grab the officer's service revolver.



Gas station security footage: Lemagne opens the door of the FCPD SUV with his left hand, enters, and pulls Lemagne into the vehicle with him.



Officer #1's body cam (detached)- Forced inside his FCPD SUV by Lemagne and with him, Officer #1's words and those of Lemagne are recorded.



# FPCPD's BWC Video of Fatal Police Shooting

FROM PAGE 8

of their fellow officer. It is important to see the incident through the eyes of the officer. We understand and respect the desire of the community to see all angles ... That is why we share the full body-worn camera release as well."

Consistent with department policy, FCPD also releases the names of the officers involved in the shooting who discharged their firearms. They are Master Police Officer Kenyatta Momon, a 24-year veteran (whose body-worn camera is Officer #3), and Police Officer First Class Christopher Grubb, an 8-year veteran of the department (whose body-worn camera is Officer #2). Both officers are assigned to the Mount Vernon District Station and are on restricted duty status until the investigation is complete.

Curry adds, "When Chief Davis joined FCPD, a 30-day body camera release policy was implemented. FCPD is committed to being transparent during critical incident investigations."

The video shown at the press conference, however, does not show a clear, close-up image of Lemagne being shot or all the perspectives leading up to that. This article looks at the perspective presented at the press conference and the perspective shown on the second FCPD body worn camera (BWC) video, FCPD OIS: 5.11.23 Full BWC Release Video [https://youtu.be/M\\_bfuDedWhI](https://youtu.be/M_bfuDedWhI)

The perspective of the officers in this video shows a clear view of the fatal shooting for the public to assess transparency and accountability.

However, it is challenging to find the second video on the FCPD website due to the circuitous route required. Without a direct link, provided here by the Connection, one interested in viewing the video must go to the "Critical Incident Updates" link on the department's home page, go to that page, and then select May 2023 updates. From there, the viewer finds the sentence in the text below the video box: "For the link to the unedited version of the body camera footage, click here."

The second video is 11 minutes and 28 seconds long. It holds body-worn camera footage from multiple officers, including Officer #2, Grubb, and Officer #4. Grubb's video shows him shooting across the gas station parking lot and toward the FCPD SUV that has halted beside the windows of a McDonald's. Eighteen pops consistent with gunfire can be heard, and community members are visible beyond.

Momon runs toward the FCPD SUV with Lemagne inside and the abducted officer beneath him, both in the front seat. It shows Momon at the SUV and events through the fatal shots that left Lemagne pronounced dead at the scene. It also has footage from Officer #3 and Officer #4.

Another officer goes to check on Lemagne after he is shot. "He's 10-61. Don't worry about him, He's dead," says Momon at 9:21 of 11:28. Officer #4 video cam captures the abducted officer coming out of his FCPD SUV, grabbed by Momon, who helps him around Lemagne body. "Come here, brother, Let's go," cries out Momon (10:20/11/28).

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SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

### Simultaneous video of three body-worn cameras in real-time:

- ❖ BWC Officer #1, camera detached, (top): Officer #1 is inside the SUV with Lemagne on top of him; Grubb has fired 18 shots while Officer #1 is screaming to cease fire.
- ❖ BWC Officer #3 (bottom left): The SUV crashed, stalled, the front half is in a curbed garden bed and back half in the parking lot; the driver's door is partly open; Lemagne's foot remains on the gas pedal as the left back rear wheel spins and smokes, the engine revs; the SUV is parallel to the McDonald's windows and its door.
- ❖ BWC Officer #2 (bottom right): Officer Kenyatta Momon runs toward the SUV, his gun in both hands; Grubb's arm is visible, and he continues to hold his gun in both hands.

Officer #1 is inside the SUV with Lemagne on top of him; Grubb has fired 18 shots while Officer #1 is screaming to cease fire.



SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

### Simultaneous video of three body-worn cameras in real-time:

- ❖ BWC Officer #2 (bottom right): Officer Kenyatta Momon shoots Lemagne; three shots are heard. The image in this frame is difficult to make out of the actual shooting details due to the angle of the BWC.



SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO NOT SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

**BWC #1: Officer #1 approaches Lemagne at the gas station and says, "Hey sir, are you driving the U-Haul? Can you talk with me over here, real quick?" (0:48)**

**Officer #1 was inside the SUV with Lemagne on top of him; Officer Grubb fired 18 shots while Officer #1 is screaming for him to cease fire.**

Questions from other officers swim around the victim officer. Blood is on his arm. (10:59:11:28)

On Sunday, June 4, the FCPD body cam and surveillance video released at the news conference had "29K views 9 days ago," according to its post, the second, complete video had "116 views 9 days ago."

What is the significance of the second body cam footage, the FCPD OIS: 5.11.23 Full BWC Release Video?

Officer #2 and Officer #4's body cam footage in the second FCPD video could undermine the department's claims of transparency and accountability. According to the FY 2024 Fairfax County Advertised Budget Plan, "Community trust is built incrementally with each interaction the FCPD has with all community members." Examples of continuous outreach opportunities, communication and data transparency, and accountability measures include the "Body-Worn Camera Program."

"I often say that these body-worn camera videos speak for themselves," Davis says. The perpetrator Lemagne was trying to dislodge his gun from the officer's holster; the officer was assaulted and taken hostage. Davis tells how the perpetrator kept his foot on the gas pedal of the officer's SUV, the engine revving even after it crashed. "He's not done," says Davis.

Davis puts the potential to harm others and the accountability in the chaotic scene "squarely on the perpetrator. ... He chose to do this. In my opinion, his intent, rather, was to kill that police officer. ... The two responding officers (Master Police Officer Kenyatta Momon and Police Officer First Class Christopher Grubb, who discharged their firearms), I believe, [their actions] were more than appropriate given what we know then and now."

Neutrality until an investigation is complete in such situations is considered a best practice.

Davis then states the investigation is ongoing and will answer questions. "Some of them are forensic questions with forensic answers. So the investigation is not complete. The investigation is ongoing."

### Highlights of the Second Video's Content

An early segment of the second video, content not included in the press conference, FCPD OIS 5.11.23 Full BWC Release Video, shows Officer #2, Christopher Grubb,

SEE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE, PAGE 10

# FPCPD's BWC Video of Fatal Police Shooting

FROM PAGE 9

exiting his cruiser at (4:52/11:28). He holds his gun in front of him with both hands. A volley of 18 pops, consistent with gunfire, is heard. Grubb is aiming his weapon across the gas station parking lot and toward the FCPD SUV, which is speeding backward and striking two vehicles and a business. The driver's door is open, and the suspect, Lemagne, is inside, as is the abducted officer, who is beneath Lemagne who is still attempting to pull the officer's service revolver from his holster. The weapon has two restraints.

Officer Momon is shown at the crashed FCPD SUV on Officer #2's body cam. Momon's gun is drawn, SEE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE, PAGE 11



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO NOT SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

**BWC: Officer #1:** Officer #1 has grabbed the car radio microphone but drops it.



SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO NOT SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

**BWC #1:** The struggle in the parking lot leads to Lemagne (in shorts) entering Officer #1's FCPD SUV first; the key is in the ignition. Lemagne pulls Officer #1 into the vehicle with him.



SCREENSHOT VIA OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

**BWC: Officer #2-** Grubb sees the FCPD SUV speeding backward out of the gas station parking lot; driver's door is open; Grubb has his service weapon drawn held in both hands; another vehicle enters the station's lot to his right.



SCREENSHOT VIA OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO NOT INCLUDED AT PRESS CONFERENCE

**BWC: Officer #2:** Officer Grubb is about to fire a volley of 18 shots. Three community members are visible as the FCPD SUV has crashed in reverse into the brown vehicle. On the left is a person in a red shirt, and another person is behind them; at the third vehicle from the rear of the FCPD SUV, the third person has their car door open. Grubb's shadow shows him with his gun drawn.



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

**BWC: Officer #2-**Lemagne's left hand is empty as he tumbles out of the SUV onto his back. Shots fired can be heard at (9:54/11:28) followed by what sounds like a woman screaming at (9:59-10:01 /11:28).



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

**BWC: Officer #2-** "He's gone man (unintelligible) don't even bother — leave him how he is," says Officer #2, Momon says, to the officer holding Lemagne's arm. "He's 10:61; don't worry about him; he's dead."



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

**BWC: Officer #4-** At 10:11, play speed 0.25, a pop is heard. Momon is pulling Lemagne out of the vehicle by his clothing onto his back. Blood is visible at Lemagne's left front temple before his head and full body hit the ground with him on his back. There are three more pops, consistent with gunfire, follow.



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

**BWC: Officer #4-** At (10:14/11:28) Lemagne is on his back; legs down. Officer Kenyatta Momon has the barrel of his gun farther down. Three additional pops are heard between 10:13 and 10:14. Blood and wound visible on Lemagne's temple.



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

**BWC Officer #4:** At 10:18, Momon calls out to Officer #1, "You good, Ryan? Come here, brother. Let's go."



SCREENSHOT

**BWC Officer #4:** Other officers assist Officer #1, tearing and cutting his clothing off, looking for wounds. Officer #1 is rushed to the hospital and later released.

# FCPD's BWC Video of Fatal Police Shooting

FROM PAGE 10  
the SUV's back wheel is still spinning, and smoke is rising from it. The car has come to a halt halfway in a parking lot tree bed, right next to the sidewalk, beneath the windows of a McDonald's.

Momon is seen reaching into the open driver's door of the FCPD SUV and grabbing Lemagne's black clothing. Momon yanks him from the SUV. Lemagne's legs and arms fly up as he tumbles. In the video frames, Lemagne's left and right hands are empty, and he lands on his side. Momon immediately bends down and presses the barrel of his gun against what appears to be the lower neck of Lemagne. Three gunshot-like pops can be heard and the visual depicts blood flowing above Lemagne's left temple at ( /11:28). On the ground, Lemagne is motionless.

The abducted officer staggers out the driver's door of his FCPD SUV, Lemagne's body is directly in front of him. Momon says, "Don't worry about him [Lemagne] ... he's dead."

## Report on Officer Involved Shooting Incidents

According to Curry, FCPD had six officer-involved shootings in 2022, with three officer-involved shootings this year. The [www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



SCREENSHOT VIA M.E. FISHER FUNERAL HOME, INC.

**Brandon Jerome Lemagne (1984-2023)-** The obituary for Brandon Jerome Lemagne reads in part, "He was a person that was loved by all and would give the shirt off his back if you were cold."

department asked the Police Executive Research Forum to prepare a report about the increase in these incidents. "Once finalized, FCPD will share the results of the Police Executive Research Forum's (PERF) report on its platforms. We hope the report will be finalized in the coming month," Curry said.

Chief Kevin Davis and the Police Execu-



SCREENSHOT

**Chief Kevin Davis, Fairfax County Police Department.**

tive Research Forum (PERF) have agreed to an examination of Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) incidents in Fairfax County since the start of 2021. PERF will examine incident details and identify any performance patterns, deficiencies, or trends. PERF will also provide FCPD with guidance regarding foot pursuit policy from best practices across the



SCREENSHOT

**Katherine Hayek, director of public affairs at FCPD.**

nation. PERF will share training and policy recommendations to ensure FCPD continues to adopt industry best practices. PERF will begin its work immediately and will present its findings and recommendations to FCPD in a brief report. Chief Davis will share the findings and recommendations with the Board of Supervisors and the community.

# Beer, Live Music and Disney Characters

Fairfax City's Disney-themed Beer in the Burbs event was Saturday, June 3, in Old Town Square.

FROM PAGE 7



Ariel from The Little Mermen entertains the crowd.



Dressed as (from left) Ariel, the Cheshire Cat, Aladdin and Moana, The Little Mermen perform "Part of Your World."



Members of the McGrath Morgan Academy of Irish Dance performing onstage.



Beth, the Tie-Dye Lady, sells colorful T-shirts and jewelry.



Fairfax City's Beer in the Burbs is a family-friendly.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## THURSDAYS, JUNE 1 – AUG. 31

### Take a Break Concert, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

At Reston Station, Reston. Beginning with Don't Back Down, a Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers tribute band, the Take a Break concerts fill the plaza atop the Wiehle-Reston East Metro station. Other performers include Texas Chainsaw Horns, Loudoun Jazz Ensemble, Scott Kurt and Memphis 59.

## FRIDAYS, MAY 26 TO OCT. 13

**Darden Purcell and Friends.** 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. At Reston Town Square Park, Reston. Jazz vocalist and series curator Darden Purcell brings her group to open the summer series of "Darden & Friends" in Reston Town Square Park. This concert will feature exciting new arrangements of Great American Songbook repertoire and jazz standards.

## JUNE 2 – SEPTEMBER 1

**Fab Fridays. 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** At Reston Station, Reston. Kick off the weekend with Fab Fridays featuring the U.S. Army Blues Big Band, festive rhythms from Dogo from Togo, merengue with Latin pop band Ocho de Bastos and many more. See the full concert schedule here: RCC Fab Friday Concerts. Three hours of free parking are available in the ParkX garage with validation. Concerts are presented by RCC in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc., and are hosted by Reston Station.

## NOW THRU 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).

### SATURDAY CONCERTS AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton • 7:30 p.m.

#### JUNE

10 Daryl Davis (Swing)  
17 Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)  
24 Christylez Bacon (Progressive Hip-Hop)

#### JULY

1 Workhouse Fireworks Festival (Ticketed event. For details visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org))  
Rain date is July 8th.  
8 The Radio Sparks (Modern Rock) This will be a ticketed event if the July 1st Fireworks Festival is postponed to July 8th.  
15 Project Loceca (World Music)  
22 Bachelor Boys Band (High Energy Cover Music)  
29 Bobby Blackhat Band (Traditional/Contemporary Blues)

#### AUGUST

5 Workhouse Musical Event (Ticketed event. For details visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org))  
12 Quin Tango (Classical Argentinian Tango Music)  
19 Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone (Rock, Blues)  
26 The United States Army Field Band Six-String Soldiers (Country)

### RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER 2023 SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP Saturdays, June 17 – August 5

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
At Reston Town Square Park, Reston  
Bring the kids for magic, comedy, puppets, music and lots of laughs. Family Fun begins on June 17 with Guava Jelly. Other shows include Rocknrocros, Lohr Family Antics, The Uncle Devin Show and Turley the Magician. See the [www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



The Clifton Caboose Twilight Run will take place Saturday, June 10, 2023 in Clifton.

## Clifton's 5K Celebrates 25th Anniversary

6 p.m. Area residents looking for a fun weekend activity won't want to miss the Clifton Caboose Twilight Run, a 5K run and a 1-mile run/walk held just outside the scenic town of Clifton. The Clifton Betterment Association (CBA) will host the Caboose Twilight Run, whose name reflects Clifton's railroad history as well as the event's early evening starting time. A post-race party with refreshments, live music and an awards ceremony will take place at the Red Barn near Clifton's Main Street area. Online registration closes on Thursday, June 8 at 8 pm. Participants may also register on-site at the Red Barn on Friday, June 9 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, June 10 from 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. To register online, go to <https://potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2023-clifton-caboose-run-5k> or the Clifton Caboose Twilight Run's Facebook page.

June 8 – 25, 2023

## The Last Match



By Anna Ziegler,  
Directed by Alex Levy  
**1st STAGE** ■

"The Last Match" can be seen June 8-25, 2023 at 1st Stage in Tysons.

### "The Last Match."

At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road Tysons. Played out under the bright lights of the U.S. Open Semifinals, The Last Match pits rising Russian star, Sergei Sergeyev against American great, Tim Porter in an epic showdown that follows two tennis titans through pivotal moments in their lives both on-and-off the court. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. The first 20 tickets sold for every performance will cost only \$20. Thursday evening tickets are \$35. Purchase online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

full schedule here: Family Fun Entertainment Series. Family Fun Entertainment is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc. Reston Town Center garages offer free parking on Saturdays.

Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory

Sundays, June 11 – August 27

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Reston Town Square Park

Wind down your weekend with classical, jazz and cabaret-style music provided by faculty and students from Shenandoah University's acclaimed music conservatory. The series starts June 11 with Ellington Caravan paying tribute to Duke Ellington. This series will run through August 27. Visit Sunday Art in the Park for the complete schedule. Reston Town Center garage parking is free on Sundays. Sunday Art in the Park is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

#### JUNE 7-10

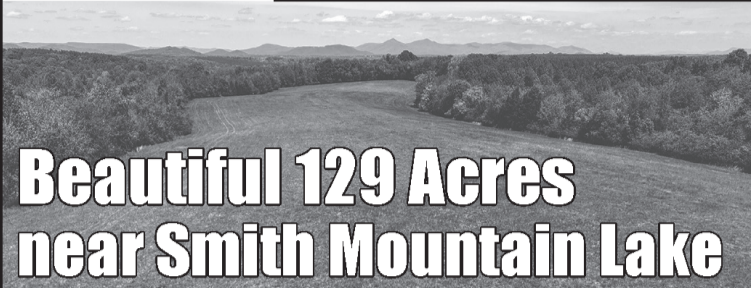
**Rise Against Hunger.** At Christ Church, 7600 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. In partnership with Rise Against Hunger, several faith partners across Fairfax County purchase, pack and distribute meals. Will you join this 7-year tradition of service to fight world hunger and deliver hope?

There are four meal-packing dates for the 2023 rally, with two shifts each day to choose from:

- ❖ Wed, June 7: evening shifts from 6–7:30 p.m. and 8–9:30 p.m.
- ❖ Thu, June 8: evening shifts from 6–7:30 p.m. and 8–9:30 p.m.
- ❖ Fri, June 9: evening shifts from 6–7:30 p.m. and 8–9:30 p.m.
- ❖ Sat, June 10: morning shifts from 8:30–10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Visit the website: <https://www.christchurchva.org/hunger>

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

**Premier Land AUCTION** Fri, Jun.23 at 12:30pm next to Post Office at 14211 Moneta Rd, Moneta, VA



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# NEWS

## On Memorial Day, Fairfax City honors The fallen

FROM PAGE 4

mander Jeff White. "Having him step up and provide this post for community events – and make veterans feel welcome here, every day – is really wonderful," she said.

She then encouraged attendees to also honor the memories of "the people whose lives have been lost due to veteran suicide. We need to remember those who've [died afterward] because of battle and keep them in our thoughts."

Speaking last, White noted that the tradition of putting the American flag at half staff on Memorial Day morning, and raising it to full staff at noon, is a metaphor signifying that it's both a sad and happy occasion. "In the morning, we're solemn and remember what happened," he explained. "And in the afternoon, we enjoy ourselves and raise a glass to those we've lost."

Next, White read the WWI poem by John McCrae, "In Flanders Fields." Reflecting the voices of soldiers in a graveyard in Belgium, its last two verses are as follows:

"We are the dead. Short days ago, we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved and were loved, and now we lie in Flanders fields. Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields."

Afterward, Hank Roeder, of VFW Post 8469, played "Taps" on the bugle while everyone stood. Then the names of Fairfax City and County residents who died in wars and acts of aggression, ranging from WWI through 9/11 to today's war on terrorism, were read aloud as a bell was rung for each one.

In his closing prayer, Chaplain Kuiper asked God to bless "the worthy men and women who gave their best when called to serve. Please bless these veterans and their families and fill their homes with Your strength and love. Bring healing to those who still hurt and help them find peace and happiness in their hearts."

**CALENDAR**

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)



Net proceeds benefit Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

The Tinner Hill Music Festival will take place Saturday, June 10, 2023 in Falls Church.

## Tinner Hill Music Festival

11 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Historic Cherry Hill Park in the City of Falls Church. The Tinner Hill Music Festival Lineup includes: Dumpstaphunk, Joe Louis Walker, The Boneshakers, Shamans of Sound with special guest Gordon Sterling, Gaye Adegbalola, and Rocknoceros. Along with great music, there will be an enticing array of activities and vendors throughout the park in the Interactive Villages. Food Village: Savor local restaurants and food trucks offerings such as succulent barbecue, pizza and other tasty fare. Tickets & information: [www.tinnerhill.org](http://www.tinnerhill.org)

FROM PAGE 13

### RCC SUMMER CONCERTS

- Thursday, June 8 at 7 p.m.** -- Take a Break: Jarreau Williams Experience
- Friday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m.** -- Happy Hour with Darden and Friends
- Friday, June 9 at 7 p.m.** -- Summerbration Fab Friday: Moonlight Drive
- Sunday, June 11 at 7 p.m.** -- Sunday Art in Park with Shenandoah Conservatory: Ellington Caravan
- Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m.** -- Take a Break: Texas Chainsaw Horns

### SATURDAY/JUNE 10

**Children's Summer Reading Festival.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Come one, come all, to the launch of an exciting free event to kick-off Fairfax County Public Library's summer reading program. The inaugural Children's Summer Reading Celebration is designed to encourage young readers to continue their enthusiasm for reading straight into summer vacation. There will be games and crafts, a bounce house, snacks, face painting, a deejay, photo booth, food trucks, a mini zoo, and more. Visit <https://www.fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org/events>

### SATURDAY/JUNE 10

**Pancake Breakfast.** 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road Vienna. SPARC, a non-profit that provides day programs for adults with disabilities, is hosting its 2nd Annual Pancake Breakfast in Vienna. The family-friendly event raises funds to support SPARC's cost-effective, unique program serving young adults who have aged out of the special education support provided by the K-12 system and are not eligible for other community-based programs that serve individuals with severe disabilities.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 10

**Workhouse Gallery Walk.** 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Every Second Saturday of the month come join them for a Gallery Walk to meet the featured artists of the Arches Gallery, 6-9 p.m. The Workhouse artists are all there to share their work and meet the community!

### SUNDAY/JUNE 11

**T-TRAK Model Trains on Display.** 1-4 pm. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Tabletop N Gauge model trains (T-TRAK) will be on display and running. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages

5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), 703-425-9225.

### SUNDAY/JUNE 11

**Paths of Freedom Seekers.** 5:30-6:30 p.m. At Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Chantilly. Listen to stories of African Americans who were forced to live and work on this farm. Reflect on individuals' stories of resistance and survival. Learn how enslaved communities and freedom seekers have forged a path of resiliency throughout American history. The cost is \$8.

### SUNDAY/JUNE 11

**The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra Concert.** 3 p.m. At Capital One Hall, Tysons. The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra's spring concert, "International Favorites," will feature one of our favorite soloists, soprano Olga Orlovskaya. Her amazing voice will help us on our journey, including stops in Spain with Bizet's "Habanera" and Albeniz's "Granada." Ticket prices: Adults \$30; Seniors and Military \$25; Students \$15; children (under 12) \$5. Tickets for either concert may be purchased by visiting [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org).

### SUNDAY/JUNE 11

**Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park:** Tim Kubart and the Space Cadets. 3 p.m. At McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Tim Kubart and the Space Cadets are Grammy Award-winners whose heartfelt songs celebrate real life kid and family moments and milestones. Bring a picnic and chairs or a blanket.

### SUNDAY/JUNE 11

**Free Concert.** 4-5:30 p.m. At Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 3439 Payne Street, Falls Church. NoVA Lights Chorale presents An American Song, music from American composers—Ellington, Gershwin, Bernstein, and lesser known artists who have contributed to the American songbook. Funded in part by ArtsFairfax. Visit the website: [novalightschorale.org](http://novalightschorale.org)

### TUESDAY/JUNE 13

**McLean Historical Society Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program will feature two noted historians, Don Hakenson and Chuck Mauro, who will address John Singleton Mosby's combat operations in Northern Virginia. Everyone is invited. There is no charge. For further information contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

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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## "Learning to Fly"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This is not a Tom Petty reference. This is about my brother, again.

Two weeks ago, I was "winging it;" this week I'm "learning to fly," figuratively speaking – in both titles. What I'm actually referring to is living my life without my most important, dare I say, most ardent supporter, in it/alive. Moreover, with my brother Richard's passing, he died a bit unexpectedly on Dec. 3rd after a nearly three-month hospital stay (I'll spare you regular readers yet another re-telling of this extremely sad tale), I have lost my biggest booster. Much like our late parents, especially my father, Richard was a super-positive, kind, generous and motivated self-starter who by virtue of his familial responsibilities – and nature, nurtured his younger and only sibling: me in ways that I imagine few siblings have ever been treated. How does one navigate life without your favorite compass? I'm finding out how every day. It is, to quote Benjamin "Hawkeye" Pierce from a long-ago M\*A\*S\*H episode dealing with loneliness: "all it's cracked up to be."

I wouldn't say I've hit bottom or anything; it was never that kind of emotional trauma. And even though his loss is a kind of fundamental upheaval, the likes of which I can never, ever have again, I will soldier on (even though I never served) and find a path forward. However, as much as I've droned on this week and in more than a few previous weeks/columns, it's clear that my road ahead will be fraught with all sorts of emotional, spiritual, and physical challenges/my ongoing battle with cancer. All of it to be adversely impacted by my not having my usual support system/backstop to deal with the inevitable health hurdles likely to occur. My brother was rock solid, exactly the kind of resource we'd all be lucky to have, especially in a crisis/life or death situation.

Unfortunately, there's no guidebook or podcast, that I know of, to provide the nuts-and-bolts-type advice the lone family survivor needs to navigate the road ahead. It's way more substantive than "put your head down/ put one foot in front of the other." It's so much more complicated than that because the preferred solution is totally beyond the realm of possibilities: return to the life and dynamics I shared with my brother before his death; meaning he's still alive.

Since that can't happen, except in a few rare dreams I've had, I must accept the circumstances, as I did with my original non-small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis (now papillary thyroid cancer) and go forward, not backward; at the very least, try not to remain stagnant. Much easier said than done when the one resource one has had to overcome this kind of stumbling is the exact reason one is stumbling. It's difficult to right the ship when the rudder is missing. I guess I should be grateful that I'm not sinking.

Which I most definitely am not. Neither am I losing control. I'm more adrift than anything. I'm still attempting to find/create/imagine a replacement for the one person who absolutely cannot be replaced. As you can maybe tell I'm having difficulty with my brother being gone for good. Certainly, he's not forgotten – by me or anybody whoever met him (he was a big presence/big personality), but I need more, somehow. And unfortunately, finding it seems increasingly unlikely.

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

# Fairfax High Graduating Seniors Say Goodbye

**O**n Monday, June 5, Fairfax High seniors did their annual graduation walk through the halls of their middle and elementary schools in Fairfax City, high-fiving the young students and saying goodbye to their former teachers. This group visited Daniels Run Elementary and then joined the rest of their classmates at Old Town Square to enjoy complimentary treats from Old Dominion Pizza and Woody's Ice Cream.



Josh Williamson eating his ice cream in the shade.



From left, Eunice Kim, Mariam Mneimneh and Sabrin Yasin pose for a photo during the pizza party.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Daniels Run third-graders reach out their hands to these senior boys.



Fairfax High seniors bid farewell to these third-graders.



## Fairfax's Rock the Block Gets Rousing Kickoff

Playing familiar covers, plus original songs, Eclectic Company entertained a large crowd in Old Town Square, May 26, to kick off Fairfax City's first Rock the Block event of the season. Food trucks, beer, ice cream and Italian ice were also part of the fun, as was a small community marketplace. Rock the Block happens the fourth Friday of the month, through October. Next up, June 23, from 6:30-9:30 p.m., will be Part Time Cowboys.

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION