

THE CONNECTION

CENTREVIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

Candice McKinney, left, and Winter Harris, members of Heritage Baptist Church, sing "Amazing Grace" and the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at the June 17 Juneteenth celebration in Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
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Remarkable Juneteenth

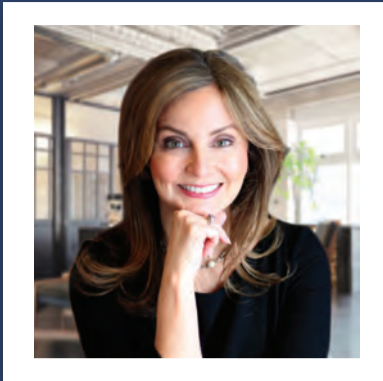
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NEWS

In 1775, a Church Where Black & White Could Worship Together

Bull Run Regional Park's emancipation history is honored.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Using ground-penetrating radar, NOVA Parks discovered that 91 people are buried in the former Harris Family Cemetery in Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville. And this year's second annual Juneteenth celebration, hosted Saturday, June 17 by NOVA Parks and the Fairfax County NAACP, paid homage to their memory and to the man who emancipated their ancestors.

The park was once part of former slaveowner Robert Carter III's 65,000-acre plantation. "But in his early 40s, he became a Baptist and had a spiritual awakening," said the Rev. Lynda Alicudo of the NAACP. "He came to a deep understanding that his slaves were his brothers – his family, eternally. Believing no man should own another, in 1775 he built a Baptist church where Black and white, slave and free, could all worship together."

The Bull Run Baptist Church is no more, but in that church's cemetery in the park is where some of those former enslaved people – and Carter's eldest son – are buried. "There are no grave markers because he believed all were equal in life and in death," said Alicudo. "In 1791, he began emancipating nearly 500 people – 70 years before the Civil War – making him probably the largest, private emancipator in American history.

"He provided them with money, transportation, land, tools, and made certain they had the skills to survive. On Jan. 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation proclaimed the freedom of slaves in the 10 Confederate states that were still in rebellion. But it wasn't until June 19, 1865, that the enslaved in Texas were told they were free." Now a federal holiday, Juneteenth commemorates that day.

Members of the Harris family were among people enslaved by Carter, and descendant Chrystal Gaskins said those buried at the cemetery descended from those freed by Carter. They included the parents of Alfred Harris, who became an Alexandria City Councilman and a four-term Virginia delegate and chartered the commonwealth's first public college for African Americans. Many of the Harrises still live in Centreville and the Washington Metropolitan area.

"When NOVA Parks was created 64 years ago, the parks were segregated, so a regional park was created that would be open to all," said NOVA Parks Executive

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THE CONNECTION



Rev. Lynda Alicudo



Michelle Leete



Anita Gill-Anderson



Chrystal Gaskins



Del. Dan Helmer



Supervisor Pat Herrity

Director Paul Gilbert. "In 1963, the Harris family gave the land for Bull Run Regional Park; and today we commemorate one of the most inspiring stories of our region."

"We're celebrating Juneteenth and the Harris family legacy on the grounds where it all happened," said Fairfax County NAACP President Michelle Leete. "Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom and resilience, despite all the odds. Today we remember the past, while looking forward to the future, as we celebrate life, liberty and legacy."

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) said they all came together that day "not only to honor the struggles and achievements of the African American community, but also to acknowledge the ongoing journey toward equality and justice for all. Juneteenth serves as a powerful reminder that the fight for freedom continues.

SEE EMANCIPATION HISTORY, PAGE 12



Candice McKinney, left, and Winter Harris sing "Amazing Grace."

'A Living Legacy that Springs from the Dirt'

Bishop Fuller encourages unity and reconciliation.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Standing on the site where the historic Bull Run Baptist Church once stood in what's now Centreville's Bull Run Regional Park, Bishop Brett Fuller shared his own story with those attending a Juneteenth ceremony there on June 17. First, though, he marveled at what an accomplishment that church was for its time.

"This wasn't just a radical church – it was dangerous," he said. "Blacks and whites worshipping together in 1775, and it made some other states want to do it, too."

As the founder of Grace Covenant Church in Chantilly – and chaplain to the Washington Commanders football team – Fuller, a Black man, is well-known in the area and well-liked by people of many races. But it wasn't always that way.

"Today, Blacks and whites go to school together, work together, ride the same buses and shop at the same stores – and nobody says anything because it's not segregated anymore," he said. "But I don't take it for granted because I re-



Bishop Brett Fuller shares his story.

member what it was like growing up in Kansas City."

Fuller's family moved to the suburbs in 1966, when he was 5. "The 'hood' wasn't the safest place for us, but I was wondering, 'Did you think the white suburbs were supposed to be safer?'" he recalled. "But I was a kid, too young to articulate that. I went to a school to which no Black kid had ever been – we broke the color barrier in our neighborhood."

SEE RECONCILIATION, PAGE 12

THE CONNECTION ❖ JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2023 ❖ 3

PERF: FCPD Lacked Crisis, Decision Making Training

5 of 7 police shooting incidents involved mental health crises, but training for such situations has been lacking for years.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Two months into 2023, on Feb. 22, the Fairfax County Police Department faced another police shooting. It led to what can be a defining junction for the department: the April 2023 Review by noted policing think tank PERF. Fairfax County Chief Kevin Davis had joined the department one year and eight months before the Feb. 22 police shooting, on April 23, 2021, after leading Baltimore's police.

Whether or not Davis incorporates PERF's recommendations, especially to quickly incorporate ICAT Training as found in the April 2023 Review, and does so expeditiously, as PERF suggests, may shape the department for years to come.

"I am convinced that by working together and providing our police officers with more and better training in this vital area, we can save lives—and we can save officers' careers and advance their well-being as well," writes Chuck Wexler, executive director of PERF in the organization's training guide, ICAT Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics.

FCPD reported that the Feb. 22 foot pursuit by department officers in Tysons ended when two officers deployed deadly force, killing an unarmed Black suspect who allegedly stole sunglasses. However, the shooting came at the heels of 2022, when the department tied its 15-year historical record of police shootings, equaling those of 2008. The department that year saw six police shooting incidents deploying deadly force at a person or vehicle occupied by a person or persons, according to the department's Officer-Involved Shooting Summaries.

"We were in contact with Chief Davis within days of the incident at Tysons Corner," said Wexler, the executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum. "The Chief wanted an independent review of the circumstances surrounding the recent upticks in shootings in Fairfax County to identify any trends or areas where department training or police responses could be improved. The goal was to look at common denominators and trends and make recommendations that might reduce use of force in the future."

According to Lt. James Curry, FCPD Public Affairs Bureau, Davis has a long-standing relationship with Wexler and has frequent conversations with him related to PERF research and the police industry. Davis asked PERF to come in and perform this review, said Curry.

PERF immediately went on task and quickly presented its findings, dated April 2023. Founded in 1976, "PERF has identified best practices on fundamental issues such as reducing police use of force, developing community policing and problem-oriented policing, using technologies to deliver police services to the community, and evalu-



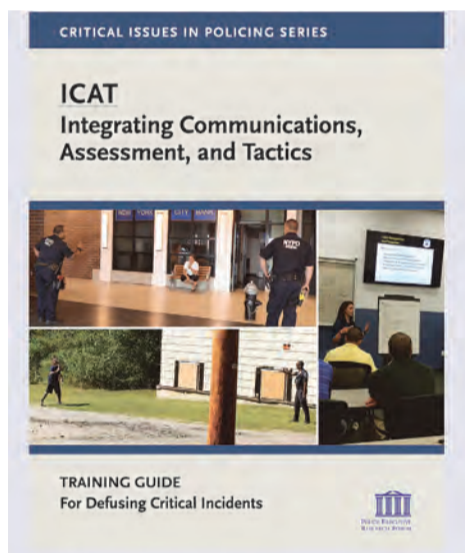
Fairfax County Chief Kevin Davis



Chuck Wexler, executive director of PERF



Chairman Jeff McKay



ICAT Training Guide

"The goal was to look at common denominators and trends and make recommendations that might reduce use of force in the future."

—Chuck Wexler,
executive director of PERF



A scenario enacted as part of the ICAT Training Guide, officers demonstrate effective approaches for handling a situation in which a woman's son is off his meds, refusing to cooperate, and is swinging a bat. The scenario is remarkably similar to a police shooting incident on July 7, 2022 in McLean that left Jasper Aaron Lynch dead.

ating crime reduction strategies," according to PERF's website.

Curry added that historically, the Fairfax department has "been a leader among law enforcement agencies when it comes to adopting industry best practices. ... We value PERF's insight and recommendations of our department and strive to always improve for the betterment of our community."

When asked what the most significant finding was in PERF's Fairfax review, Wexler said on June 26, "The most significant finding was that a person experiencing some type of mental health-related crisis was at the root of five of the seven shootings."

PERF's 16-page review of the Fairfax department focuses on seven Fairfax police shootings from 7-19-21 to 10-6-2022. It

does not include the Feb. 22 Tysons incident, at the request of Davis. But the report does comment on the shooting based on the public release of the body worn camera footage.

Wexler said, "Our recommendation was that the department steps up their training of ICAT, including suicide by cop, to give officers the ability to identify those in crisis and use communications, assessment, and tactical skills necessary to resolve incidents in a way that minimizes use of force."

PERF's ICAT training is found to be associated with decreased use of force and injuries to both officers and residents. The program has been specifically developed to address incidents where individuals may not be carrying firearms but could be in the midst of a mental health or other type of crisis. It provides officers with tools and options to safely defuse a situation. "The training program is anchored by the Critical Decision-Making Model that helps officers assess situations, make safe and effective decisions, and document and learn from their actions," according to PERF.

Curry said that Davis has a history of bringing PERF and ICAT training to police departments. "He previously facilitated the launch of ICAT training at the Baltimore Police Department."

However, in its April 2023 Fairfax review, PERF identified that in 2022, the Fairfax department recognized the need to train its officers on how to defuse critical incidents through the implementation of the PERF-developed program ICAT, but did not implement the program in 2022.

An online search verifies such. In the CY 2023 Equity Impact Plan by "Leadership Sponsor Kevin Davis, Chief of Police, and Equity Lead Major James Kraus," the department commits instead to spring of 2023. "During the spring of 2023, all FCPD officers will receive Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (iCAT) training. The training would provide officers with the tools, skills, and options they needed to defuse a range of critical incidents successfully and safely," states the CY 2023 Equity Impact Plan.

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SCREENSHOT VIA HERNDON GRANICUS

725 Elden Street, Herndon, two structures on a 70,000-square-foot lot.

Herndon Town Council Reverses Historic District Review Board

Code allows for appeal.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Town Council overturned the unanimous vote of the Historic District Review Board to deny a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of “two contributing structures in the commercial district.” The structures are on a lot, “about 70,000 square feet,” according to remarks by David Stromberg, zoning administrator for the Town of Herndon. The council’s decision was made by a narrow margin of 4 to 3 on June 13.

The structures are a two-story former residence until 2019, rezoned commercial, and a one-story accessory building at 725 Elden Street, next to the Adams Green Funeral Home and Crematorium. Kathryn Adams is responsible for managing financial operations at the funeral home. Adams Herndon Holdings, LLC is the property owner and appellant, represented by agents Michael L. O’Reilly, The O’Reilly Law Firm, and David Kipper, Golden Real Estate Services.

Town staff recommended affirming the decision of the Historic District Review Board. “There will be no new evidence presented at the hearing,” said Lesa Yeatts, town attorney. “This is what is called a

decision on the record.”

O’Reilly argued that the review board did not correctly analyze the nine “matrix requirements.” He reviewed each, noting how the criterion complied with section 78-60.3(f) standards and the Historic District Guidelines. Thus, the HDRB should have approved a certificate of appropriateness for demolition.

Does the house qualify as a historic building? “The house is not registered (on the National Registry of Historic Places), and the information that’s been provided to you that says it is, is just flat-out incorrect. The District is listed. So the building doesn’t qualify.”

O’Reilly inquired about what historical events have occurred in the building or structure. Staff reluctantly agrees it doesn’t meet the criteria, only saying it’s related to many historical people, according to O’Reilly.

Adams addressed the Council after being sworn in by the court reporter, saying she was not speaking to the appeals process completely but appreciated being heard. Adams said she had been silent during the process, and there was danger in that because many people she didn’t know started to speak for her.

“They don’t know me, and the things that they have said or assertions they’ve made are inaccurate. I’m not a real estate developer. I

SEE HERNDON, PAGE 10

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OPINION

Life's Curve Balls

Selected 2nd overall in 1971 MLB draft, before struggling with life's 'ups and downs.'

By JOHN FRANKLIN
RESIDENT, PATHWAY HOMES, INC.

My name is John Franklin and life sometimes throws you a curve ball. Since Mental Health Awareness Month finished recently and now that baseball season is in full swing, I thought this would be a good time to introduce myself since both of these have affected my life.

Like many, I have had my ups and downs. I am a lifelong Virginian and played basketball and baseball in high school at James Madison HS in Vienna. In my younger years, I was in the "show" for a short time, playing professional baseball with the San Diego Padres in 1971. I was only in the major leagues for a month, but I was fortunate enough to strike out Johnny Bench and give up a homerun to Hank Aaron. Before I was in Major League Baseball, I played at James Madison University as a student athlete.

This was a special time, but the years following also brought difficulties. Off and on mental health issues made it challenging to find housing and remain employed. I am happy to be in a good place right now — both physically and mentally.

In November, I moved into Pathway Homes' Assisted Living Facility called Stevenson Place. Pathway Homes is a mental health nonprofit that helps people like me get housing and mental health services. Before Pathways, I was in a group home in Annandale with three other people, but I needed more help. Being at Pathways makes me feel fortunate. Staff members know everyone's personality. It's like a manager in baseball, getting to know all their players.

Stevenson Place is a wonderful community and I find comfort in how the Pathway Homes team handles situations. I really appreciate the staff and the friendships I have developed. Having a stable home enables me to spend my free time doing things I enjoy such as watching sports — especially the Commanders, which is my favorite sports team. I also like watching game shows like Wheel of Fortune and The Price is Right. Of course, spending quality time with my friends is also important. One friend visits me once a week, which helps me feel better throughout the other days.

It's still not easy though. I struggle with mood swings, especially in the morning. Sometimes I feel like I'm on top of the world, and then other times I feel defeated. My goal is to keep creating special friendships and to improve my



John Franklin

confidence. Overall, things are working out. I'm excited to see what the next couple of years will bring; and I know that Pathway Homes is a great partner in my life journey.

I share my story because my friends at Stevenson Place are part of a larger community of Northern Virginians who struggle. We too have dreams. We are not nameless and faceless. Thanks to Pathway Homes, we are happy to have a home and to be your neighbors.

In 2011, the Connection named Franklin number 25 of the 100 top athletes ever from Northern Virginia.

Not Over Until It Is Over

By DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN"
PLUM

With the multitude of primary elections, both Democratic and Republican, having been held this past week with an incredible mix of results, there may be a tendency to relax or to assume you can predict the outcome of the legislative session coming up in January. Beware of any feeling of complacency, however, because the general election in November will have tough contests in most every House and

Senate district. The results of the general election will determine the course of Virginia for the next couple of years. We must work hard to ensure that candidates of our choosing are elected in November. As the old saying goes, "It is not over until it is over."

The outcomes of the Democratic primaries brought some welcome news and will strengthen the House and Senate caucuses in the General Assembly. Congratulations to Karen Keys-Gamarra for her win in the seventh legislative district over three other challengers and

to the many voters and helpers who elected her as the Democratic nominee. I am going to work hard to ensure that she is successful in November, and I am proud that she is the person who will succeed me.

There are many more retirements this year than usual, but the candidates coming forward will bring new energy and ideas to the legislature. For those who support term limits, there should be an assurance that term limits exist in Virginia — for the House

of Delegates every two years and for the Senate every four years when voters can return the incumbent to office or elect someone to replace them. There was a natural evolution where senior members and others simply decided not to run again. My retirement after 44 years of service and that of Senators Janet Howell and Dick Saslaw remove the most senior members in the legislature. One political

SEE PLUM, PAGE 11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Basic Rules of Flag Etiquette

As we approach the Fourth of July, I'd like to suggest that we all try to observe the basic rules of flag etiquette. These are the ones that seem to be violated the most frequently:

❖ Display the flag only when the sun is shining; don't leave it out at night or in the rain.

❖ Never let the flag touch the ground. Punching a row of little flags on sticks into the ground at the front of your yard may seem

patriotic, but it's disrespectful if any parts of the flags themselves drag on the ground and/or if they're abandoned there to slowly fade and - The flag is the flag, not a decorative item. Its image doesn't belong on hats, shirts, swimsuits, towels, party napkins, or -- well, anything (other than military/police uniform items, perhaps).

Jeff Carver
Alexandria

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NEWS DEPARTMENT
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Staff Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Contributing Writer
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer

Susan Laume
Contributing Writer

ADVERTISING
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

In Memoriam
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong
Production Manager
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



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“In the 20 some years I’ve been working here at Cornerstones, I have never seen such need.”

— Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones, based in Reston



At the Summer Hunger Relief Food Distribution produced in collaboration between StarKist, Feed the Children, and Reston-based nonprofit Cornerstones, a gentleman smiles broadly as volunteers load up the vehicle with shelf-stable food and other items, including books possibly for his grandchildren.



The Feed the Children truck is loaded with \$100,000 worth of non-perishable food, household essentials, children’s books, and items from Avon for 400 individuals, families and seniors.



From left, Roberta Gosling, chair of the board, Cornerstones, and Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones



Alex Iams, executive vice president, Fairfax County Economic Development; Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones; Charlie the Tuna; Julie Laird Davis, senior vice president, Feed the Children; and Chae-Ung Um, president and CEO, StarKist



“Children cannot learn if they have hungry bellies, if they don’t have nourishing food,” said Melanie Meren, Fairfax County School Board Representative, Hunter Mill



Left, Chae-Ung Um, president and CEO, StarKist, and Walter Alcorn (D), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Alcorn: “Whether you are working for StarKist or another institution, let’s not forget the folks that really need our help.”

StarKist, Cornerstones, and Feed the Children Join to Meet the Needs

Truck delivers \$100,000 in food and other necessities.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In a collaborative effort, StarKist, Feed the Children and Reston-based nonprofit Cornerstones joined hands for their second annual food distribution on Thursday, June 22. The reason behind their action is the presence of hunger and food insecurity in Fairfax County, worst than ever, even during the pandemic.

“Everybody wants to look in the rearview mirror and say goodbye [to the pandemic], but families are in greater need than ever,” says Kerrie Wilson. “Honestly, in the 20-some years I’ve been working here at Cornerstones, I have never seen such a need.” Wilson is the CEO of Cornerstones. When the pandemic-related Supplemental SNAP benefits ended, with the last issuance at the end of February 2023, many individuals relying on this lifeline to avoid hunger turned to local nonprofits and schools for assistance.

“We’ve seen a 30 to 50 percent increase in people coming to our food pantry since the Supplemental SNAP benefits ended, and it had an immediate impact ... The cost of inflation, the rising cost of rent — everything has taken a chunk out of the household budget,” Wilson adds. These factors have contributed to a significant reduction in available funds.

On the morning of June 22, Wilson crosses the parking lot of Saint John Neumann, the distribution site. A forklift repeatedly unloads pallets stacked high with boxes from the 53-foot Feed the Children truck. The contents of the delivery are valued at \$100,000. It is shelf-stable food, much of it high-protein



Charlie the Tuna and some of the many volunteers

fish from StarKist. Many in our community, one of the wealthiest in the U.S., cannot afford enough food, especially protein, to prevent hunger.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission reports, “The five largest jurisdictions of Northern Virginia all have [household] incomes higher than the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States.” Out of the 829 jurisdictions with a population of 65,000 or more in the USA, two of the ten highest incomes are located in Northern Virginia, and those include Loudoun County (1st) and

Fairfax County (3rd).”

StarKist opened its corporate and administrative headquarters in Reston on April 5, 2022. It pledged then that the company would conduct a community distribution event in partnership with Feed the Children and Cornerstones to provide food and hygiene items to 400 families at risk of being food insecure that summer of 2022, according to a news release dated the same and provided by StarKist Co.

Alex Iams is the executive vice president of Fairfax County Economic Development.



Michelle Ford Faist, head of corporate affairs and government relations at StarKist, speaks as (from left) Chae-Ung Um, president and CEO of StarKist, Roberta Gosling, chair of the Cornerstones board, and Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones, listen.

FCPS OFFERS FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH THIS SUMMER TO ALL CHILDREN 18 AND YOUNGER

Fairfax County Public Schools summer break has begun, and no-cost breakfast and lunch are available to all children 18 years of age and younger at FCPS sites across the county. There is no registration involved. The division is participating in the Summer Food Service Program, and the first meals began on Monday, June 26.

Meals are the same for all children. All sites are closed on July 3 and July 4. Meals are provided on a first-come, first-served basis at the sites and times listed below and served in the school cafeteria, with a few exceptions noted in the list below. Find a meal site at <https://bit.ly/3pjef8N>.

He thanks StarKist employees for being part of the local economy. “Having you here not only diversifies our tax base but makes our community an even better place,” he says.

The event that unfolds on June 22, 2023, marks a remarkable display of teamwork and collaboration. Countless individuals, business and community advocates, faith

partners, and volunteers from StarKist and Cornerstones unload goods, set up tents, and direct the vehicles of the 400 families, individuals, and seniors identified by Cornerstones. The cars, trucks and vans, many with multiple groups inside, queue along Lawyers Road and then snake through the church’s parking lot.

Individuals scurry about as the light rain falls, busily preparing the four tented table stations. They stack the donation boxes in a specified order. With military-like precision, the volunteers in teams 1, 2, 3, and 4 will simultaneously fill four vehicles with the precious boxes and wave them off, expediting the distribution process. The commotion unfolds, and children roll down their windows, lean out, and eagerly watch the scene. Charlie the Tuna waddles around the lot, high-fiving everyone he meets. The air fills with the pulsating beats of music compliments of the onsite DJ.

“The distribution couldn’t have come at a more important time for our communi-



Vehicles wait in line for the much-needed and appreciated food.

ty,” Wilson says. She is inside the church hall, preparing for the opening ceremony. She and Chae-Ung Um, president and CEO, StarKist mingle with Julie Laird Davis, senior vice president, Feed the Children; Marlon Dubuisson from U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly’s office; Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill Supervisor; Alex Iams, executive vice president, Fairfax County Economic Development; and Melanie Meren, Hunter Mill representative on the Fairfax County School Board.

According to Meren, FCPS can only do so much. “This is a real crisis for Fairfax,” Meren says. The division relies on federal programs that blossomed during Covid, but these have dried up.

“Schools cannot do this alone,” Meren says. “We see crisis-worthy tactics like teachers trying to get food to kids. ... We have 66,000 children in Fairfax County Public Schools who receive free and reduced-price lunch during the school year.”

To give a visual of what 66,000 children look like, if the group entered National Park, the baseball stadium in D.C. and one by one sits down so no seat is left empty, 25,000 children would remain outside the gate. Nat’s Park has 41,339 seats. Hunger hits Fairfax County especially hard because of its high cost of living, high rents, and low-paying jobs for many people trying to call this place home.



Roberta Gosling, chair of the board for Cornerstones, welcomes distribution guests.



Cars 4, 3, 2, and 1 enter the distribution staging area.



Lima, 3, and Yasmim, 10, wait for their dad, Aminshah Habibullah, at the Summer Hunger Relief Food Distribution produced in collaboration between StarKist, Feed the Children and Reston-based nonprofit, Cornerstones.

Chae-Ung Um, president and CEO of StarKist, discusses how protein is essential for growth, especially for children. Um tells how he liked the phrase used by Feed the Children. “They target a world where no child will go to bed hungry. We are honored to be partnered with them as well as Cornerstones,” he says. Um recalls how, as an “Army brat,” he was a donation recipient in



Lima, 3, watches as her car is loaded with food and other necessities.

high school. “You know, it’s good to be on the other side and give back to society.”

Wilson reports that the need is so great in Fairfax County that Cornerstones measures it by having 90 families in hotels across the county because the shelters are full. “Families are losing their homes; they have nowhere to go. When we think about those experiencing the most significant need in our community, working families who are struggling to buy that carton of eggs at the grocery store, all of this and the work of StarKist and Feed the Children helps,” Wilson says.

PERF: FCPD Lacked Crisis Training

FROM PAGE 4

PERF's Findings and Recommendations Regarding Mental Health-Related Calls in its April 2023 Review

PERF's review begins, "Mental Health-Related Calls Account for A Disproportionate Number of FCPD's Officer-Involved Critical Incidents." PERF devotes five pages to this section, which discusses in part the department's ICAT status and its cornerstone, "the critical decision-making model."

The findings and recommendations of PERF's investigation documented that in the five police shooting cases, a bullet missed one person, while three others survived their police gunshot wounds. However, an FCPD officer fatally shot the fifth individual, a 32-year-old man who was reportedly breaking items in his family home and had a history of anxiety and depression. It is worth noting that the man was not considered to be violent, according to the dispatcher. Approaching officers with a bottle and a large mask, an 11-year veteran police officer discharged his firearm and fatally shot the man.

PERF refers in its Fairfax review to the research study, "Overlooked in the Undercounted: The Role of Mental Illness in Fatal Law Enforcement Encounters," by the Treatment Advocacy Center. "A minimum of 1 in 4 fatal police encounters ends the life of an individual with severe mental illness. ... Where official government data regarding police shootings and mental illness have been analyzed—in one U.S. city and several other Western countries—the findings indicate that mental health disorders are a factor in as many as 1 in 2 fatal law enforcement encounters," the study states.

However, as of March 28, 2023, only 33 percent had completed the training program, and the department conducted its training sessions alphabetically. That meant that officers whose last names began with the letter "A," then "B," then "C," and so on, received training first, rather than prioritizing officers who frequently interact with the public.

PERF's Recommendation #1 is that FCPD speed up its efforts to provide ICAT training to officers who have not yet received it.

ICAT is PERF's Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) training program. The data-proven program gives officers more tools, skills, and options for handling critical incidents, especially those involving subjects who are in mental distress and not armed with a firearm. View the report cited in the Fairfax review by PERF Louisville Metro Police Department's Initial Findings.

PERF suggests that given the Fairfax department's significant increase in and prevalence of mental health crises in these incidents, it should consider how it can fast-track ICAT training. PERF notes this "particularly for those officers in operational roles such as Patrol, Operations Support, Violent Crimes, and Organized Crime and Narcotics."

PERF recommended in its review, "Paying overtime and running two training sessions per day are among the options worth con-

sidering to ensure the FCPD personnel who most need ICAT training receive it as soon as possible." They also recommend that the department prioritize this training for officers who will interact with the public the most.

Curry said, "The leadership of Chief Davis is a critical reason why our department began this training ... As Fairfax County Police Chief (Davis) continues to ensure this valuable training and others are provided to all our FCPD members, To date, 804 of

A person experiencing some type of mental health-related crisis was at the root of five of the seven shootings in 2022.

icers have completed ICAT training, with the remainder of the Department to finish by the beginning of October. This training is a priority for all sworn members of FCPD, to include our specialized units. "

Suicide by Cop

ICAT training covers "suicide by cop" and identifying people in crisis, according to its review. PERF found that officers should be trained to recognize crisis situations, especially suicidal ones, and avoid escalating the situation. The officers in three of the Fairfax police shootings were aware of a mental health crisis, and subjects displayed early signs of premeditated or spontaneous suicide by cop, according to the report.

Responding officers were notified that a woman had threatened to knife herself and others in one case, and in another situation, a nonviolent man was depressed and anxious. In two situations, police fired when people charged at them.

PERF's Recommendation #2 advises FCPD in its review to use the critical decision making model in training and promote the model "throughout the culture of the organization.

"Opportunities for integrating [the critical decision making model] CDM throughout the organization include departmental policy, training modules across a range of topics, after-action reviews, Performance Review Boards, supervisory use-of-force reviews, body-worn camera audits, and roll-call briefings. ... Training officers to more effectively slow down and think — rather than quickly react and respond — can affect their ultimate decisions."

PERF's Recommendation #3 is that FCPD should modify General Order 609, - Mental Health Calls for Service. The order does not currently require or recommend that first-line supervisors respond to mental health-related crisis calls. PERF noted that

supervisors can play an extremely important role in helping to resolve these incidents safely.

In its Fairfax review, PERF referred to its 2021 report, "Suicide by Cop: Protocol and Training Guide," and said that the presence of a supervisor could have a stabilizing effect on other officers. "As first-line supervisors, sergeants can also assign roles, establish perimeters and staging areas, request additional resources, and coordinate the entire response."

PERF reported on other incidents that might also benefit from the review. The department officers chased with their guns drawn. PERF discovered in its Fairfax review a 2023 public video that "appears to show a sergeant chasing a man." Ultimately, he drew and fired his gun, killing the man who allegedly stole a pair of sunglasses from a department store. PERF states the use of ICAT's cornerstone, critical decision-making, "may have led the officer to think through other available options from the start and may have inspired a different response."

Chairman Jeff McKay said on June 26 that in Fairfax County, they review their practices, training, and policies on a continual basis to ensure best practices. "Whether it is through the co-production of policy, implementing programs like Diversion First and the co-responder model, or engaging outside experts like PERF, we are committed to leading the way for what policing in the 21st century should be.

Herndon Town Council Reverses Historic District Review Board

FROM PAGE 5

don't aspire to have a fiefdom of funeral homes and don't want to destroy the historic downtown ... My business model has to change, and tonight your decision may affect the changes that I'm making ... I am out of physical space for our operations," Adams said.

According to Adams, the baby boomers have started to die; the wait time for interment at Arlington National Cemetery is over a year. "Your loved ones remain on our premises for quite some time ... The deceased take up space ... With the increasing diversity...we've seen a huge increase in new types of services ... a lot of Hindu and Buddhist."

Adams urged the council not to confuse her lack of specific plans for the property "with a willy-nilly approach" on her part. "I make very thoughtful and careful business decisions. And like any new building, the town and the committees will have a chance to comment on the structure that I propose, and I will go through the process. I fully agree that any proposed structure should blend in aes-

thetically with its surroundings."

Stromberg argued multiple points, including that the building is contributing to the historic district and according to ordinance definition and is "on the National Register of Historic Places." He added the building report does not state it is unsound and the applicant did not explore relocation.

Following public hearing comments and a lengthy discussion lasting hours, Councilmember Cesar del Aguila motioned to approve the appeal for HDRB number 23-001 upon filing evidence in the record that HDRB's decision was incorrect based on the reviewing standards. The council approved the action. Councilmembers Cesar del Aguila, Pradip Dhakal, Donielle M. Scherff, and Naila Alam voted yes to overturn the review board approval; Mayor Sheila Olem, Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick and Councilmember Keven LeBlanc voted no.

Appeal to Circuit Court

According to the Historic District Overlay section in the Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 78-60.3. - Historic District Overlay (HDO), there is an appeal process of the town council's decision to reverse the Historic District

Review Board ruling:

(9) Appeal of a town council decision to circuit court. The applicant, any person jointly or severally aggrieved with a property interest in land abutting or across the street from property which is the subject of a final decision of the town council pursuant to subsection (8) above, any person with a property interest in land in the historic district overlay, who is aggrieved by a final decision of the town council, pursuant to subsection (8) above, or the town, may appeal the decision to the Circuit Court of Fairfax County pursuant to Code of Virginia § 15.2-2306. If appealed, a petition at law shall be filed setting forth the alleged illegality of the action by the town council, provided that such petition shall be filed within 30 days after the final decision is rendered by the town council. The filing of the petition shall stay the decision of the town council pending the outcome of the appeal to the court, except that the filing of the petition shall not stay a decision of the town council denying the right to raze or demolish a historic landmark, building or structure.



GFCA voters check information as they walk into the Great Falls Grange.

Election Results for GFCA Officers and Directors

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Super local elections matter too. On June 20, the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) held its yearly election to fill the vacant positions of Executive Board officers and at-large directors. The election took place at the Great Falls Grange.

According to Bill Canis, there were a record number of voters. Canis is the current GFCA president. In the recent election, 192 members in good standing cast their votes to elect the president and vice president of the organization for one-year terms, as well as the treasurer for a two-year term. Additionally, six at-large directors were elected out of twelve seats to fill the open positions for the two-year staggered terms.

The winners will assume their respective offices on July 1. The election officials disqualified three ballots. Despite this, Canis confirmed that the election outcome would not have been affected even if those votes had been counted.

The winning officers ran unopposed. Chris Rich emerged as the president-elect with a total of 115 votes. Meanwhile, Rick Solarno secured the position of vice president-elect with 114 votes, and James Trent was elected treasurer-elect with 112 votes.

The results are in for the ten candidates vying for the six open seats on the board of directors. Jennifer Falcone received the most votes with a total of 149, followed by Karen Washburn with 114 votes and Henry Lippincott with 105 votes. John Halacy received



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Far right, Bill Canis, president of the Great Falls Citizens Association, qualifies the ballots cast in the GFCA election 2023 election with the help of (from left) Ed Phillips, GFCA board member, Rick Solano.

103 votes, David Conover received 101 votes, and Lisa Schlecht received 97 votes.

Matt Troung posed a challenge with 92 votes, as did Mark Douma and Richard Wolfe, garnering an equal number of votes at 79. Gordon Harris received 72 votes.

The GFCA is overseen and administered by a group of elected officials known as the Executive Board, which comprises seventeen members, including five officers and twelve at-large directors. Great Falls, unlike neighboring municipalities such as the Town of Vienna, the Town of Herndon, or the City of Fairfax, does not have an incorporated municipality to advocate for its local interests at county and state levels.

OPINION

Plum

FROM PAGE 6

commentator estimated that more than 650 years of experience will be lost with the retirements and election losses this year. Mr. Jefferson believed in frequent elections for they represented “bloodless revolutions” that would bring new energy and ideas into the legislative process.

At the same time, elections can turn out incumbents for causes that are important to the electorate. Senator Chap Peterson had an explanation for his vote against banning assault weapons and some of his other votes, but his voters no longer agreed with him and voted him out of office. Senator Joe Morrissey’s conduct and behavior were so offensive to voters that they denied him the nomination for another term. Senator Amanda Chase who called herself “Trump in high heels” lost a Republican

primary that would have given her a renomination to run for the State Senate.

Unfortunately the results of elections are not entirely predictable nor favorable to our perspective. The loss of Senator George Barker is a loss of one the most knowledgeable and hard-working members of the State Senate.

Keep working for democracy by supporting your candidate of choice. Always remember that it is not over until it is over!

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JUNETEENTH



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Some of the attendees listening to the singers (at far right) performing.

Emancipation History

FROM PAGE 3

“We should carry the meaning of Juneteenth with us, every day of the year. Let us educate ourselves and others, amplify marginalized voices and work together to build a future where freedom and justice prevail.”

Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) said that, although the Civil War was fought over slavery and obtaining equality for Black people, “It hasn’t yet resulted in the full recognition of that fact. Lincoln’s speech on the sin of slavery didn’t resonate for many decades. Today’s celebration is a continuation of wounds that have yet to fully heal. But by recognizing that, we can move forward toward a more perfect union.”

“It’s important to remember these stories of Carter, the Harris family and the formerly enslaved people who lived here and went on to do great things in our country,” said Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield). “We need to learn all of our history, and I thank everyone who had a part in bringing these stories to light so we can do better in the future.”

Del. Vivian Watts (D-39th) was a high-school senior in 1954 when the Supreme Court case, *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, decreed school segregation unconstitutional. “I grew up in the Midwest, and the total separation of the races is still a problem there,” she said. “So coming to Virginia, I was pleased that half the Democratic caucus was the Black caucus. Growing up, I never knew the whole history of our country.”

Del. Dan Helmer (D-40th) introduced a bill in Virginia’s General Assembly recognizing the achievements of Del. Alfred Harris and the Harris family. And Sully District School Board representative Stella Pekarsky said her colleagues want African American history taught “so children will know [Black people’s] contributions.”

Stressing that Black history “has been erased over



Holding framed copies of NOVA Parks’ signed resolution with Thunderbird Archaeological Associates are (from left) Michelle Leete, NOVA Parks Board Chair Cate Magennis Wyatt, Chrystal Gaskins and Boyd Sipe, while NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert looks on.

many generations,” Providence District School Board representative Karl Frisch said, this year, FCPS students “researched the Black stories of our county, and now markers are going up to tell these stories.”

The 50 some attendees at the Juneteenth ceremony then walked through the forest to the cemetery where the Bull Run Baptist Church once stood. Large, white carnations marked each grave. There, Anita Gill-Anderson retold the site’s history via an original poem, and two members of Heritage Baptist Church sang “Amazing Grace” and the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

Bishop Brett Fuller, founder of Grace Covenant Church, then gave an inspirational speech about racial unity (see sidebar). Afterward, Boyd Sipe of historical-research expert Thunderbird Archaeological Associates signed a contract/resolution with NOVA Parks to determine the exact location of the foundation of the church Carter built and identify whether the site contains additional graves.

For more information about Robert Carter III and the Harris Family Cemetery, go to novaparks.com/ParkHistory.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Some of the people listening to Bishop Fuller speak at the cemetery site.

Unity and Reconciliation

FROM PAGE 3

In response, said Fuller, “They egged our house. One day, my daddy brought home a beautiful, 1964, cherry-orange, ragtop Mustang. He came outside, and somebody had destroyed it – took a knife to the top, a sledgehammer to the hood, ripped the tires, pulled out the seats. It was terrible.”

Meanwhile, at school, “I got called every name in the book,” said Fuller. “They knew my first one – they just didn’t use it. My parents were so conciliatory. They said, ‘Baby, it’ll be all right; you just forgive and love.’ As a result, they created some children – my sister, brother and me – who understood something about what reconciliation looked like.”

Fast forward to 1982, when he was going into the clergy, with all the lessons of his childhood informing his intentions. “I said, ‘Lord, if You give me the privilege of ever pastoring a church, I don’t want it to look like me,’” said Fuller. “I didn’t know Robert Carter III [see Juneteenth story] existed, but I realize I inherited his vision and courage.”

“Today, we’ve got a congregation that has some Black folks, but we’ve attracted all kinds of people – including as my staff. I’ve just passed on my church to the younger generation, which has grown it even more. I’ve been in ministry for 42 years, and God has given me my dream. And what’s most important in my church is unity.”

Outside the church, Fuller said people still need to address diversity, equity and inclusion and how to obtain “fair justice for all. Inside the church, we understand what it means to deal with difficulty in a way that doesn’t divide but unites.

“I’m not going to wear my bitterness, anger and resentment on my sleeve. I’m going to understand somebody else’s either ignorance or hurt and pain. And in doing so, I can be a conduit of healing to them – which allows them to feel unthreat-

ened and to come in my direction.”

He said healing happens in his world because he doesn’t stop at justice but goes all the way to reconciliation.

“Justice only brings consequences to the offender,” he explained. “It doesn’t bring wholeness to those offended – reconciliation does. It means past injustices are forgiven, and we ask, ‘How can we work this thing out and walk together?’”

Basically, said Fuller, “It’s an extension of what Carter did. So, to the Harris family and everybody related, I’m grateful for this hallowed ground. It’s not just a place where we memorialize people who passed. There’s a living legacy that springs from the dirt, up through the trees.

“When you do the archaeology and make these [church] foundations visible, I’d love to mark them by people standing all around and then have a prayer meeting here. Because the church is beyond just borders of brick and mortar – it’s people.”

Fuller also eventually wants to see a memorial in Fairfax County and in Virginia recognizing “the enormous contributions” made here and throughout the commonwealth by the former slaves buried in this church’s cemetery. And he explained why it’s so important to do so.

“We almost want to act like these people didn’t exist,” he said. “We took away their identities when they came from Africa and gave them American identities. They were named after their slave masters – wiping away all their history – and we’re still trying to do that.”

So within the next 20 years, said Fuller, “I not only want to see congregations established in the manner in which Carter established his, but I’d like to see something on the National Mall and in Virginia that represents honorably the sacrifices, sweat and tears that came from those of African descent that helped build this state and country. May God help us through that.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Fireworks. 6-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center will present a pre-Independence fireworks event Saturday, July 1 from 6-10 p.m. on its Lorton, VA 55-acre campus. The event includes the fireworks display (beginning at dark, approximately 9:15 p.m.), live music, free access to galleries, artist studios and museum; food and beverages are available for purchase. Entrance is free; parking is \$40 per vehicle. VIP tickets are available for \$120 and includes private reception, food, wine tasting and reserved seating for the fireworks show. To purchase tickets, visit workhousearts.org/fireworks.



Independence Day Fireworks will begin on June 30 and July 1 around the region.

SUNDAY/JULY 2

Independence Day Fireworks.

At Yeonas Park, Town of Vienna. Festivities including live music, children's entertainment, games and other family fun begin at 4 p.m., and a 20-minute fireworks display will begin at 9:30 p.m. Those who plan to attend the celebration are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets. The Vienna Little League concession stand will be open offering food and beverages for sale, or residents may bring their own snacks. No alcohol, glass containers, sparklers/fireworks or dogs are permitted. Lawn chairs are not permitted on the baseball fields but may be used anywhere else in the park. Visit www.viennava.gov/fireworks.

GREAT FALLS 4TH OF JULY

At Village Centre, Great Falls. Celebrate Great Falls Foundation and get ready for the cuteness of the Little Patriots Parade on the 4th of July! This has been a local Great Falls tradition since 1955, and it kicks off the morning festivities in the Village Centre. Dress your little ones (babies through kindergartners, plus siblings) in patriotic attire and walk or pull them in a decorated "ride" around the Village Centre Green. Awards include Young George Washington, Miss Betsy Ross, Little Liberty, Best Decorated Wagon, Best Curly Hair, and Most Entertaining. Register for free on-site at 8:30 a.m., and the parade begins promptly at 9 am. Sponsored by the Women's Club of Great Falls.

JUNE 30 AND JULY 1

Independence Day Fireworks.

At George Washington's Mount Vernon. Enjoy an evening of family fun and Independence Day fireworks along with patriotic music to celebrate the nation's founding. Guests also can attend a special wreath-laying at Washington's Tomb, watch colonial ice cream-making demonstrations, and enjoy 18th-century dancing. The Mansion will be lit in red, white, and blue during this event scheduled for June 30 and July 1.

JULY 1

Independence Day at Lake Fairfax Park. At 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Ticketed entry to Lake Fairfax Park begins at noon, and the park will close to new arrivals at approximately 8:45 p.m. Parking fees are \$15 per vehicle in advance or \$20 per vehicle at the gate. Bicyclists and pedestrians are free. Lake Fairfax is a destination location providing 476 acres of parkland.

You'll find a wide range of family friendly activities. Visitors can enjoy the Water Mine Family Swimming Hole water park, skate park, pump track, several hiking and biking trails, and athletic fields. All picnic areas will be offered on a first-come-first serve basis. Food trucks will open for business from noon until 9 p.m. Live music will begin at 4 p.m., featuring Ted Garber, Frying Pan Farm Bluegrass Jam and Sonic Boom. Cap off an eventful holiday with a patriotic fireworks display beginning at approximately 9:15 p.m.

HERNDON 4TH OF JULY

Celebration and fireworks display in Bready Park, Town of Herndon. Celebration begins at 6:30 p.m., fireworks 9:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.herndon-va.gov/July4

FOURTH OF JULY IN CLIFTON

Town of Clifton, Main Street
3:45 p.m. - Parade Line-Up at Dell/Kincheloe
4:00 p.m. - Parade Start
4:30 p.m. - Ayre Square flag raising
5:00 p.m. - CBA Potluck and Celebration

RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER

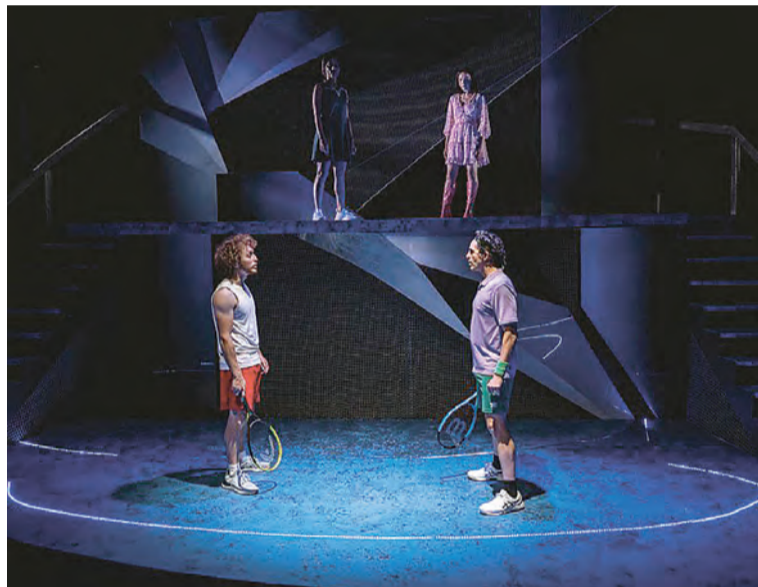
2023 SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP
Saturdays, June 17 - August 5
10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

At Reston Town Square Park, Reston
Bring the kids for magic, comedy, puppets, music and lots of laughs. Shows include Rocknocos, Lohr Family Antics, The Uncle Devin Show and Turley the Magician. See the 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, thru August 27
7 p.m. - 8 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. 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



"The Last Match" has been extended to July 2 at 1st Stage in Tysons.

Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

NOW THRU JULY 2 (EXTENDED)

"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.1st-stage.org or 703-854-1856.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Red White 'n Brew 5K Race. The second annual Red White 'n Brew 5K invites runners to celebrate the 4th of July with running, food and beer. Participants are encouraged to run decked out in red, white and blue for their 3.1 miles. The Red White 'n Brew 5K starts at 8 a.m. from House 6 Brewing Company, 44427 Atwater Drive, Ashburn. The Red White 'n Brew 5K is produced by mb LoGistics & events. New this year, runners can also participate in the Stars & Stripes Fun Run and the RWB Hot Dog Mile. The Stars & Stripes Fun Run, approximately a 1K in



The Town of Herndon will celebrate the Fourth of July in Bready Park with fireworks.

6 p.m. - Opening Music; 7:30 p.m. - Welcome by NPR's Suraya Mohamed. Announcement by Town Crier, Remarks by Mayor Justin Wilson, Poetry by Alexandria Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam; 8 p.m. - Distribution of birthday cupcakes by members of City Council; 8:30 p.m. - Performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra; 9:30 p.m. - Grand finale fireworks display with Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performing 1812
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Birthday>

JULY 15 & AUGUST 19

Summer Concert Series: Genres. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Join the Summer Concert Series featuring performance artists Keeton on July 15 for a Pop throwback and Delta Spur with Country & Classic Rock on August 19. Enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while dancing and singing along to your favorite tunes!

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT MCLEAN CENTRAL PARK
The Alden in McLean presents its annual Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park at McLean Central Park. This free outdoor concert series runs now through Sunday, July 30. Performances start at 3 p.m., and the June concerts are designed to be family friendly. McLean Central Park is located at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.

Schedule
Sunday, July 2, 3 p.m. - Capital Blend
Sunday, July 9, 3 p.m. - Czarna Wolgastar: Intergalactic Balkan Surf Jazz Trio
Sunday, July 16, 3 p.m. - Six Pack Rodeo
Sunday, July 23, 3 p.m. - Justin Trawick
Sunday, July 30, 3 p.m. - Philip Bowen
For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit The Alden website: aldentheatre.org.

LAKE ANNE'S PLAZA

CONCERT SERIES
Lake Anne Live! brings Thursday evening concerts to the plaza from now through July 27. The free concerts will feature music and dance from local musicians and dance instructors. The plaza is located at 1609 Washington Plaza North. All concerts are free.
Schedule:
June 29 (7-9 p.m.): Bruce Corsino concert

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

Third Annual Liberty Amendments Month Begins June 17

The Town of Vienna is gearing up for one of the biggest events of the year, Liberty Amendments Month. This annual celebration of citizenship highlights local history and liberties as they relate to the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments, which granted equal citizenship rights and protections to people who were previously excluded from the U.S. Constitution. Age appropriate activities and events will be held throughout the month from June 17-July 17, 2023.

The festivities began with the town's Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 17 at First Baptist Church, 450 Orchard St., NW, Vienna. Keynote address was by Dr. Gregory Washington, president of George Mason University.

The second major event is the Town's Independence Day celebration, which takes place from 4-10 p.m. on Sunday, July 2, at Yeonas Park. This beloved, patriotic, Vienna tradition features live music, food trucks and concessions, and a 20-minute fireworks show beginning at 9:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs. New this year is "Our American Liberty Stories," an interactive feature giving area residents the opportunity to share their family history with the Vienna community. The stories will be displayed at Town government buildings, local businesses and at Liberty Amendments Month events.

Closing out the month-long celebration is a Multicultural Festival on Saturday, July 15, from 3-8:30 p.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The day will be chock full of live performances, vendors, food trucks, and voting resources all while celebrating the diverse cultures and communities represented across the region. Each week, one of the four Constitutional amendments will be highlighted through additional children's programs, educational events for teens and adults and special trips. Liberty Amendments Month is presented by the Town of Vienna and partner governments, business, and non-profit organizations.

All event details are listed in the online Liberty Amendments Month calendar: www.viennava.gov/Liberty.

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22	23	24	25	26	27
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Let us know about an upcoming event
connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Legals

ABC LICENSE
Luna Hall, Inc. trading as Luna Hall, 8201 Greensboro Dr. Ste #109 McLean VA 22102-3805. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on & off premises/mixed beverage restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Zong Chen, owner/ The Veritas Law Firm. Date notice posted at establishment: 6/6/2023. 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 or 800-552-3200.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

- July 6 (6-9 p.m.): Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton
 July 13 (7-9 p.m.): To be announced on Lake Anne Plaza's social media pages
 July 20 (7-9 p.m.): Concert with the Reston Community Orchestra
 July 27 (6-9 p.m.): Salsa and Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton

FREE CONCERT SERIES AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Every Wednesday night from June 28th through August 23rd at 7p.m., Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield District) along with the Fairfax County Park Authority will be hosting the fifth annual Free Concerts in the Park series at Burke Lake Park. The series has expanded to nine shows with pop, rock and R&B music. Peterson's Ice Cream, 2 Silos beer and food trucks will be on site at all concerts. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and/or a lawn chair.

JUNE

28 Randy Thompson Band

JULY

- 5 The Nighthawks
 12 SoHo Down
 19 Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille
 26 The Skip Castro Band

AUGUST

- 2 The English Channel
 9 The Road Ducks
 16 The Colin Thompson Band
 23 Riptide

SATURDAY CONCERTS AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton • 7:30 p.m.

JULY

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

AUGUST

- 5 Workhouse Musical Event (Ticketed event. For details visit 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)

CONCERTS AT FRYING PAN FARM

Thursday Evenings 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. At Park Lawn Near Farnyard

JULY

- 6 Speidel, Goggin & Lille (Rock)
 13 Natyabhoomi School of Dance (Indian Dance and Music)
 20 Stacy Brooks Band (Blues)
 27 Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen (Bluegrass)

AUGUST

- 3 Patsy Cline Tribute Band (Country)
 10 City of Fairfax Band Alte Kameraden German Band (Music of Germany)
 17 The United States Army Blues Band Swamp Romp (Jazz)

ARTS IN THE PARKS

Experience free, fun, family-oriented alternatives to cartoons and video games with performances in parks this summer. Part of the Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series, Arts in the Parks entertains children, teaches the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduces them to live entertainment in an informal, kid-friendly atmosphere, and forges a connection between kids and parks.

Don't miss memorable shows starring The Great Zucchini, Marsha and the Positrons, Mr. Lilo Gonzalez, 123 Andres, Groovy Nate, Uncle Devin and Geoff Marsh! Free performances featuring comedy, children's songs, magic, puppets and juggling are hosted at the following locations:

Burke Lake Park Amphitheater (7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station), Saturdays at 10 a.m.

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Frying Pan Park Visitor Center Pavilion (2739 West Ox Road, Herndon), Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater (5040 Walney Road, Chantilly), Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Mason District Park Amphitheater (6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale), Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Trinity Centre (5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville), Saturdays in August at 7 p.m. (followed by outdoor movies)

Wakefield Park, in front of the Rec Center, (8100 Braddock Road, Annandale), Saturdays at 10 a.m.

For a complete calendar of summer performances for Arts in the Parks, visit the Summer Entertainment Series Arts in the Parks webpage.

JULY 21-23 SOUTH ASIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

The DC South Asian Arts Council Inc, a non-profit arts organization, unveils the 1st ever DC South Asian Music Festival from July 21-23. From the soul-stirring classical vocal and instrumental masterpieces to the mesmerizing Sufi, Ghazal, and Evergreen Bollywood, it promises to be an unforgettable musical journey. Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, open the festival with their enchanting classical traditions on Friday, July 21. Saturday, July 22 starts with a Singing Competition, a showcase of exceptional local South Asian talent, taking the stage. On Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23, the exceptional performances continue.

Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20906

For full schedule, passes and tickets, visit <https://www.dcsaaci.org>

FAIRFAX GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Get ready for a lineup of golf tournaments hosted by Golf Fairfax at Fairfax County Park Authority golf courses throughout the month of July.

First up at Burke Lake Golf Center on July 1 at 9 a.m., teams of two ages 7 and up compete in an 18-hole scramble format. There will also be a closest to the pin contest. Shotgun start. Cost \$85 per team, includes lunch. Prizes for first, second and third place teams. No rain date. Burke Lake Golf Center, 6915 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake> or call 703-323-1641.

On July 2 at 8 a.m. at Pinecrest Golf Course, teams of two ages 7 and up compete in a 9-hole scramble format. There will also be a closest to the pin contest. Shotgun start. Cost \$90 per team, includes lunch. Prizes for first, second and third place teams in three age divisions: Adult/Junior 7-12, Adult/Junior 13-17, Adult/Adult. No rain date. Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. For more <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrest> or call 703-941-1061.

Junior Club Championship at Oak Marr Golf Center on July 15. Junior golfers age 17 and under compete in a 9-hole stroke play tournament. Players will be divided into two age divisions, 12 and under, and 13-17. Cost \$35. Prizes for first, second and third place teams, as well as closest to the pin in each division. The golfer with the lowest overall score will be crowned the Junior Club Champion. Tee times will be assigned two days before the event. Rain date July 22. Oak Marr Golf Center, 3136 Jermantown Road in Oakton. For more <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/oak-marr> or call 703-255-5390.

On July 15, show your skills at the Modified Stableford Tournament at Jefferson Golf Course. Open to golfers age 18 and up, this event features a 9-hole stroke play competition using the Modified Stableford scoring system. Golfers earn points for achieving scores better than par, such as double eagles, eagles and birdies; and they will get deductions for scores worse than par, bogeys and double bogeys. The golfer with the most points at the end of the tournament wins. Cost \$35. Rain date July 22.

Jefferson Golf Course, 7900 Lee Highway in Falls Church. For more <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/jefferson> or call 703-573-0444. To register for upcoming golf events, visit Park Authority Golf's tournament webpage <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/tournaments>.

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CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped 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 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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Within the Next Month



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of the most persistent and enduring thoughts I have is very much a product of my survival. When you're told by your oncologist – and by association, your pulmonologist, your thoracic surgeon, a pathologist, and by your long-time internal medicine, primary care provider, that you have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer and have a "13 months to two years" prognosis, your life is turned completely upside down and inside out. To say your life will never be the same is the understatement of the year. To characterize it any differently would be naïve/delusional.

As such, your sense of time – and appreciation of time, changes. How do you live in the present when you've been told by several physicians that in effect, you have no future? Your perspective and orientation go to an emotional place you've likely never been to before. And oh, by the way, you pretty much cede control of your life to this most unwanted intruder: cancer, as well.

And then, low and behold, to all your doctors' surprise, you don't succumb to your disease. In fact, you live a relatively normal life, from outward appearances, going on 14 and half years. So far, that's 13 years-ish past the do-or-die prognosis you received. Eventually, since you're still living, you sort of work in, or perhaps even plan for a future. A future which has been tenuous and hardly guaranteed. Yet, in this conundrum of living after being told you were likely going to die, suddenly, sort of, the future is upon you.

But it's a future that's coated in the past. How can one look forward when previously you were constantly being pulled backward to a pre-existing grim reaper if there ever was one: "terminal" cancer. Then you don't die. Years pass and your sense and expectation of time is thrown completely out of whack. Living forward, how do you live and try to ignore all the indicators and professional opinions that say you were going to die much sooner than you or they anticipated? Somehow, you must bury the lead, as they say.

So, you put these thoughts in the vault, per a Jerry Seinfeld episode, and try to live as if you're not dying. But as simple as that may sound, if you compartmentalize, the fact and truth of the matter is there's always a nagging subconscious Ying and yang that hides in plain sight. And so, you think, what happens if and when the results of lab work diagnostic scans (PET, MRI, CT and Bone) change – for the dramatically, dare I say, inevitably worse? This is the definition of unproductive thought. But that's the battle that rages in your brain – the conscious and the subconscious.

And when this internal emotional struggle manifests for me, it's typically when my next quarterly scans are around the next quarter. As it so happens, and it serves as good fodder for this column, it is "now," as made famous by legendary football coach, George Allen, pronouncing that "The future is now." – as is mine right now. Certainly, after 14 years, I'm experienced dealing with this reality. Nevertheless, the future is now, and I can't deny that the longer I live the more intense my fear that change is coming. Moreover, neither can I deny that this process is getting more difficult to endure. I can't help thinking that one of these days, the figurative hammer is going to come crashing down on my computer when my most recent lab and/or scan results are emailed to me.

When I received notification in my email that these quarterly results have been emailed, I take a deep breath, exhale, pray to God for good news and then I click on the link (I'm physically shaking, by the way, during this process) and wait for the nearly instantaneous download. I read with trepidation and fear and hope to find enough familiar positive-sounding conclusions/assessments from the doctors. At this juncture, I am usually on my own. Dina is often working at a local barn caring for a damaged horse and my doctors are not exactly waiting on hold for my reaction, ready to answer any questions. When I am lucky enough – to have my warranty extended, so to speak, after receiving the results with which I can live, I am reminded of "Mad Magazine" and Alfred E. Newman: "What me worry?" So much to do about nothing. "What a waste of worry," I say to myself. Let me assure you, waiting for cancer-related results is hardly nothing. In fact, it is the subject for which worry was invented. I wish there was another way to get through this quarterly ordeal, but I'm afraid, on many levels, there isn't.

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



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