

THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna



Veronica Sachse, 12 of Vienna, wears her second-place medal in the 12-15 category at the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh. It is her ticket to the Irish World Championships.

Vienna Harper Off to Ireland

PAGE 9

Beloved Officer to Retire

PAGE 4

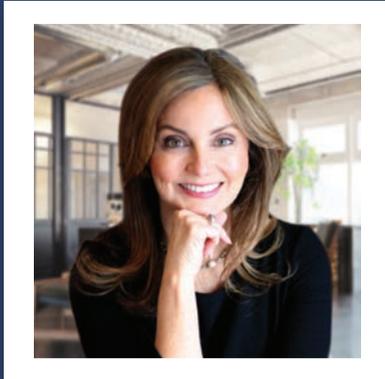
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
REQUESTED IN HOME 07-27-23

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT #322

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
OPINION, PAGE 6 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

JULY 26 - AUGUST 1, 2023

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



DIANNE VAN VOLKENBURG



Work with the #1 Realtor

Twee Ramos, Susan Canis,
Joe Trippi and Justin Scango

No One Prepares a Home Better



Vienna

\$3,249,500



Manassas

\$1,250,000



Great Falls

\$1,050,000



Great Falls

\$2,099,000

CALL ME TODAY!

703-757-3222

Sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

LONG & FOSTER®
REAL ESTATE

Forbes
GLOBAL PROPERTIES

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066
703-759-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

2022 Top Sales Team
Northern Virginia Region



Dianne Van Volkenburg donates a portion of each sale to the Embry Rucker Community Shelter



Director of Police Review Panel to Resign

Richardson served less than 18 months in the newly created position.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Steven Richardson, executive director of the Fairfax County Police Civilian Review Panel for slightly less than 18 months, will resign voluntarily on Aug. 1, 2023, a county spokesperson confirmed on Monday, July 24. No reason for Richardson departure was given.

“I am extremely disappointed to learn of Steven Richardson’s resignation. Steven has been a very strong advocate and champion for transparency in the work of the panel, and relentless as it relates to community engagement,” said Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Vienna. “While I am not aware of all the day-to-day operations, I am extremely concerned about the narrative around the reason for the abrupt resignation and whether or not it was voluntary.”

Walton serves on the Fairfax County Police Reform Matrix Working Group. He and nine other members presented a proposed action plan on May 12, 2023, to Rodney Lusk, chair of the Safety and Security Committee of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The plan was titled “Community Recommendations for More Equitable Policing in Fairfax County.”

The Board of Supervisors appointed Richardson effective Feb. 28, 2022. He previously served as operations captain for the George Washington University Police Department and also served as criminal magistrate for North Carolina’s Judicial District 26; project manager and courts and corrections senior advisor for the Cook County, Illinois Sheriff’s Office.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will not designate an interim director. The panel’s work will be continued under the coordination of the Chairman of the Panel, the remaining panel staff members, and the

help of the Office of the Independent Police Auditor, the county spokesperson said. The panel will continue to function normally and have access to all information to avoid delays in reviewing investigations.

According to Walton, the panel’s effectiveness will largely be determined not by its executive director, whoever it is, but by its ability to function with full independent investigative authority, which the Board of Supervisors must authorize. The state statute now permits the panel to have independent investigative authority, but did not at the time the panel was formed.

“If Fairfax County wants to remain in the forefront, this must be done immediately. A framework has been provided by the Police Reform Matrix Committee established by Supervisor Lusk,” said Walton.

“Steps have already been taken to ensure a seamless transition until a review of the position is completed and the Board of Supervisors determines the next steps,” the spokesperson said.

The nine-member panel reviews completed Police Department investigations into complaints alleging abuse of authority or serious misconduct.

The matrix working group recommends expanding the panel’s authority:

“Effective July 1, 2021, the Virginia General Assembly gave localities the authority to substantially increase civilian oversight. Other Virginia jurisdictions of Arlington, Alexandria, Richmond and Virginia Beach have passed ordinances providing expanded authority, as have many large urban jurisdictions nationally. The State of Maryland enacted a law similar to Virginia’s, but made oversight boards mandatory.

“As such, the MWG is recommending a two-pronged approach that grants some expanded authority immediately, while also directing the CRP [Civilian Review Panel] and the IPA [Independent Police Auditor] to draft a coordinated plan for implementing full expanded authority by a certain date.”

Richardson could not be reached for comment.

For more on the Police Civilian Review Panel, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilian-reviewpanel/>



Steven Richardson, executive director of the Fairfax County Police Civilian Review Panel, will resign on Aug. 1.

The Closet of The Greater Herndon Area, Inc. Announces 2023 Scholarship Recipients

In 8 July 2023 (Herndon, VA) - The Closet of The Greater Herndon Area, Inc. (“The Closet”), recently announced the distribution of scholarships totaling \$48,000 to 34 local students. The 2023 recipients include:

Dominion High School

Nevaeh Evian Boykin
Kayla Anne Cooper
Selvin Alexess Hernandez-Martinez
Kamaya Renee McLendon
Muad Abdulrahman Nashnoush
Sara Isabella Paz
Yennifer Rodriguez Barrera
Melanie Vasquez

Herndon High School

Sneha Aryal - UVA
Allison Pamela Dubon-Abrego
Cora Kwilowski
Eduardo Naula

Mountain View High School

Fani Benitez Gonzalez
Abdulai Kargbo

Park View High School

Kevin Josue Guillen-Ruiz
Tajryan Sultana Haque
Kyle Mirra
Zam Zam Mohammed
Cynthia Mora
Sarah Osborne
Madeleine Seang
Elizabeth Zapeda Contarero

South Lakes High School

Harris Adam
Martha Afoakwa
Shanneil Dixon
Mason Linck
Adelaide Takyiwaa
Natnael Tsige

Westfield High School

Anderson Garcia
Olamide Jennifer Gbadawiyu
Alexis Morgan
Pranav Praveen Kumar
Xavier Robinson
Bhargav Garre Venkata

In total, The Closet has donated close to to \$2.4 million in grants over the past 49 years and \$779,000 in scholarships.

The Closet is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. through 5 p.m., and Monday and Thursday evening from 5 – 8 p.m.

The Closet is a non-profit thrift store located in Herndon, VA. Founded in 1974, The Closet currently has twenty faith-based congregations participating. The Closet donates to the community by providing grants and scholarships to benefit low-income families in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

For more information about The Herndon Closet, visit <http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org>.

Some Very Big Shoes to Fill

MPO Sabrina Ruck is honored before retiring.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For MPO Sabrina Ruck, the last couple months have been quite eventful. First, she was honored as both the Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Month and Quarter. And then her colleagues and the community feted her at a luncheon in honor of her impending retirement.

Her awards were announced at a recent meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). During the presentation of Officer of the Quarter for January, February and March, CAC Co-Chairman Tom Pickett praised Ruck's "common sense about people." He also described this Crime Prevention Officer as "humble, not concerned about status and someone who shares her successes with others."

In her letter nominating Ruck for that honor, then station commander, Capt. Rachel Levy, wrote, "Sabrina is a dedicated member of the FCPD and the Sully District Station. It has been my privilege to work with her since I arrived at Sully in March of 2022. Sabrina is an instrumental part of the team at Sully and diligently works to keep this community safe."

Furthermore, added Levy, "She constantly goes above and beyond in her job, whether it's helping members of the community or her fellow officers. She anticipates the needs of the station and often puts plans into action before many of us have even thought of them. Sabrina is retiring this summer and is going to leave some very big shoes to fill."

Speaking directly to Ruck during the ceremony, Levy told her, "It's truly been an honor to be your commander and see how you've transformed this community. Thank you for everything you've done."

In nominating Ruck for Officer of the Month for May, 2nd Lt. Scott Reynolds, the station's Neighborhood Patrol Unit supervisor, also stressed her dedication and the many ways she's helped "create a safer community" in the Sully District.

"Her outreach on [digital platform] Nextdoor keeps the community informed of crimes happening within

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Sabrina Ruck with her award and Bill Keech at her retirement luncheon.

their neighborhood, and she often will provide safety tips, as well," wrote Reynolds. "She informs her supervisors and officers of what's going on throughout the Sully District, so everyone is aware of what to look out for."

He also noted that Ruck attends several community meetings and helps advise community members about crime trends or issues within their neighborhoods. "She has been a great asset as the Crime Prevention Officer and to the Sully District Station," said Reynolds. "She is well-deserving of this award."

Her colleagues and local residents agree, and they expressed their appreciation for Ruck during a retirement luncheon for her at the station. Carol Robinson knows her through the Centreville Day Planning Committee.

"She's been part of the committee for many years," said Robinson. "We're so fortunate to have had her for so long in the Sully District. She's brought such enthusiasm and commitment to helping all of us in the district. Because of her participation in Centreville Day, the Safety Expo portion has enlarged exponentially. And she's also ensured the attendance of McGruff the Crime Dog for the parade and for photo ops."

SEE RUCK HONORED, PAGE 11



Flanked by Capt. Rachel Levy and Lt. Matt Dehler, MPO Sabrina Ruck (center) is honored as Officer of the Quarter.



Sabrina and Brian Ruck



John Greenhaugh gives Sabrina Ruck a framed certificate from the CAC.

MPO Ruck Looks Back at Her Career

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Growing up in the Sully District, Sabrina Ruck's parents were both Fairfax County school teachers. And while that wasn't her chosen profession, she knew she wanted to do something that involved working with people.

"When I entered college at Radford University, I was open to many ideas for a career," she said. "I'd always enjoyed reading crime novels and watching television shows centered around law enforcement. So in my first year, I took an Introduction to Criminal Justice class."

After that year Ruck declared Criminal Justice as her major. She later had an internship with the Blacksburg Police Department, and that solidified her decision to become a police officer.

"Since I grew up in Fairfax County, the FCPD was my first choice," she said. "How-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

MPO Sabrina Ruck (back row, far left) joins Brookfield parents and children at a past National Night Out celebration.

ever, I applied to many other departments in the Northern Virginia area. Fairfax County hired me in March 1999, and I began the Criminal Justice Academy that June."

Ruck started her career that December as a patrol officer in the Mason District, primarily patrolling the Seven Corners and Baileys Crossroads areas. She was there until February 2012, when she went to the Criminal Justice Academy as a Basic Recruit Instructor. Her next move was in May 2017, when she came to the Sully District Station as its Crime Prevention Officer.

"I was already very familiar with the area and still live in this district," she said. "I really enjoyed being involved in the community. I interacted with residential neighborhoods, businesses, civic associations, houses of worship and schools. We're very lucky to have a strong community."

SEE LOOKS BACK, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Herndon Swim League Founders, from left, Bonnie Bunting, Mary Sides, Bill Liedtke, Rose Keelor and Becca Kuhns, daughters of Jean Kuhns.

Herndon Swim League Celebrates 40th Anniversary and Scholarships

On Saturday July 22 the Herndon Swim League gathered for the 30th Annual All-League Meets. All swimmers in the league are eligible to swim in this two-tiered meet.

The league was founded in 1983 as a developmental league by six community swim teams. Currently the league consists of nine teams from Herndon, Fairfax and Centreville. Four of the six founding members were present or represented and recognized at the meet. They included Bonnie Bunting from Reflection, Mary Sides from Hunters Creek, Bill

Liedtke who is from Meadows and is now the Commissioner, and Becca Kuhns and Rose Keelor, daughters of Jean Kuhns from Four Seasons. They represented their mother who passed away a month ago.

The Herndon Swim League awards scholarships to swimmers who graduate from high school each year. This year's eleven recipients of scholarships were Annalise Williams, Jonathan Leon-Guerrero, Amelia Bollerer, Claire Babka, Zach Babka, Sam Kilkeary, Cecelia Meunier, Daniel Moon, Matthew Kim, Audrey Eng and Rachel Jansky.

Weigh In On Reston Comp Plan

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn will hold a town hall on Thursday, July 27, at 7 p.m. at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr., Reston, ahead of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors public hearing on the Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment, (RCP) scheduled for Sept 12.

County staff and Planning Commissioner John Carter, who represents the Hunter Mill District that includes Reston, will discuss and answer questions about the plan amendment at the July 27 meeting. On July 19, 2023, the Fairfax County Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment as modified.

During the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday,

July 11, Alcorn said that due to new State statutory amendments (Code of Virginia, § 15.2-1427 regarding public notice and hearing requirements), the County needed to adjust the public hearing schedules on several items, including the proposed RCP. Changes to the Code force the county to reschedule its public hearings on the plan into September.

The good news for Reston residents, Alcorn said at the Board meeting, was that they would have more opportunities to provide additional comment, at Town Hall on July 27, via email and telephone on the mark-up of the plan in late August through early September 2023, and finally at the Board's public hearing on Sept. 12, 2023.

— MERCIA HOBSON

Run for RCC Board of Governors

Reston Community Center (RCC) is seeking interested candidates to run for seats on its Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is a nine-member body responsible for oversight of RCC. All residents of Small District 5, ages 18 or older, are eligible to run for appointment to the RCC Board of Governors. Candidates must complete a Candidacy Statement to have their names placed on the Preference Poll ballot. Candidacy Statements will be available at RCC facilities or online at www.restoncommunitycenter.com beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

The deadline for candidacy filing is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

This year's Preference Poll will fill three positions for three-year terms. Online and walk-in voting will be available from Sept. 8 through Sept. 29 until 5 p.m. Mail-in ballots must be received by RCC's counting agent no later than Sept. 28 at 5 p.m. A Candidates Forum will take place at RCC Hunters Woods on Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m. The forum will be broadcasted via RCC's Facebook Live feed.

For more, see www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500

Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to all of our papers
www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe



State Farm Insurance G. STEPHEN DULANEY

IN GREAT FALLS



AUTO • HOME • LIFE
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Like A Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There.®

Open Saturdays

Complementary Insurance and Financial Review

Visit www.gstephendulaney.com



703-759-4155

731-C WALKER RD. · GREAT FALLS, VA

State Farm Insurance Companies
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois

Proud Supporter of Military Appreciation Mondays

Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates **703-999-2929**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Examining and Correcting School Funding

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

The underfunding of Virginia's public schools recently made headlines, when a new study concluded that Virginia's K-12 education system receives 14 percent less funding than the average system in America even though Virginia has the 10th highest median family income. This independent analysis collides with Governor Youngkin's persistent call for more tax cuts.

This year, the state legislature should be adopting budget amendments to reflect adjusted revenues, but we have been unable to agree because of the Governor's insistence on more tax cuts. Cutting taxes means less revenue for state responsibilities like education and mental health.

As someone whose 20 years of education were subsidized by Virginia taxpayers from kindergarten through law school, I fully appreciate the importance of robust investments in public education.

Schools Are Underfunded

Two weeks ago, Virginia's nonpartisan independent auditor, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission or JLARC, published a long-awaited analysis of the adequacy of funding for Virginia K-12 education. The study found that Virginia's system receives 14 percent less funding than the average U.S. public education system after adjusting for labor costs or about \$1,900 per student. Among neighboring states, we also invest less than West Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland and slightly more than Tennessee and North Carolina.

The report highlighted several disparities baked into our existing education funding approach that hurt our area. First, existing fund-

ing underweighs Northern Virginia's higher increased labor costs and caps state funding for school support employees like guidance counselors, nurses, social workers and teachers' assistants — an approach that pushes these costs onto local government.

State funding also does not adequately account for English as a Second Language (ESOL) students, special education or children in poverty, students we broadly label as "At-Risk Students." This is significant because public schools must teach whoever walks in the door and Fairfax County Public Schools report that elementary students speak 182 different languages or dialects at home.

Schools cannot control the number of at-risk students in their classrooms and Northern Virginia has a disproportionate share of ESOL students compared with the rest of the state and FCPS At Risk Student population would be the 5th largest school division in Virginia if it were its own school division. In addition, state funding for at-risk students has declined on a net basis while actual expenditures have risen, costs funded by local governments.

Fourth, while we do have a program to supplement localities with high labor costs called "cost to compete," this funding is insufficient. Arlington receives nine percent more funding while its labor costs are 40 percent more than average.

JLARC did find that the formula currently used to allocate funds called the "local composite index" (LCI) does work. The LCI measures a locality's ability to pay by comparing each locality's relative income, real estate taxes and student population. Wealthier jurisdictions receive less state funding and less-wealthy divisions receive more.

The study also highlights concerns unique to rural areas. It is important to realize that we must construct policies for jurisdictions as large as Fairfax County's 1.1 million residents and 180,000 students and a system like Highland County, Virginia, with 2,295 residents and 195 students.

The JLARC analysis basically leaves two questions. First, how do we craft a funding system that more equitably distributes more funds to elementary-secondary education in Virginia. The solution must ensure that ESOL, special education and low-income students are accurately assessed and accounted for in the funding formulas. We also must correctly account for localities' true labor costs and needs.

The Senate Moved Forward

This year, the Senate Democratic Caucus took a first step by proposing to eliminate the cap on state reimbursement for support employees, investing significantly more funds in at-risk students and proposing higher teacher raises. Sadly, the House of Delegates Republicans and the Governor are prioritizing tax cuts. Hence, the budget stalemate.

The second issue is finding more resources to invest in education. Annual tax cuts like those proposed by the Governor will not help us make longer-term investments in schools. Virginia's tax system also needs serious modernization so that revenues keep up with demands for the high-quality services the public expects.

I am fortunate that public education gave me a foundation for success that I have enjoyed in life and I will continue to fight for policy choices that make those opportunities available to everyone. Please email your views to me at scott@scottsuovell.org

Obligation of Citizenship: To Be Informed

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

In last week's column I referenced Richard Haass' new book, *The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens*, in which he writes that the greatest threat to our democracy comes not from foreign adversaries but from within as we as citizens support or dismiss our form of government. The new constitution gave us a form of government, but for it to endure requires citizens to recognize not only the rights enumerated in the amendments to the document but also the obligations of citizenship that come with our government.

The first of his ten "obligations" of citizenship he suggests is to be informed. Being informed is not a passive action but is one that requires frequent nurturing. Studying the documents of government at whatever level of schooling is but a beginning. Events over time have shaped and reshaped the interpretations of what those documents provide. As a former teacher of history and government I felt

it necessary to teach my students about the stories of how our form of government came about but also the skills of the social scientists and historians that they could use to understand our government and its meaning and impact throughout their lives.

While in the earliest days of our republic it was difficult to find information about the daily operation of our government because of the lack of media, the opposite is the case today. We are saturated with all forms of media from the traditional to the twenty-four-hour broadcasts to digitized media from endless sources. There is an abundance of "information" but a serious question as to what you can believe. Evaluating information as to its biases, truthfulness and value is an important skill we need to ensure that all citizens acquire when there are numerous individuals and organizations in the political arena who specialize in misleading and misinforming others as a way to promote their point of view or cause.

Supposed quotations from the Bible were used by slave owners to

justify their ownership of another human being and by opponents of slavery to end slavery. The Bible is often quoted to support a myriad of causes and actions. The United Christian Parish Church of Reston, of which I am a member, has a summer series of sermons examining commonly used expressions that are attributed to the Bible to support their perspective. The series is called "The Bible does not say that

... or does it?" It is rather surprising the number of supposed biblical quotes that are not in the Bible after all. A recent Washington Post article was entitled "Be careful when you quote a famous person from history — it could be fake."

Public officials have an obligation to provide accurate information to citizens. I have been partic-

SEE PLUM, PAGE 10

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

Send letters

Online www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/
By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

By mail to: **Letters to the Editor The Connection**
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter

www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>
<https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette>
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

Never miss an issue, get a free digital subscription,
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe/>



SUNRISE OF VIENNA

Now That We Are Open, It's Time to Celebrate

Join us for our **Grand Opening event.**

SATURDAY
**JULY
29**

2023

**10:00 A.M.
—
2:00 P.M.**

Please be our guest for an exclusive open house event to celebrate the Grand Opening of Sunrise of Vienna. You'll be among the first to tour our brand new community, meet our leadership team, and enjoy delicious bites and refreshments from our talented culinary team. Come experience our vibrant community for yourself and see what makes Sunrise of Vienna a delightful place to call home.

Space is limited, reserve your 30-minute tour today.

Call **703-495-2372** or email vienna.mec@sunriseseniorliving.com.

Sunrise of Vienna
374 Maple Ave. W, Vienna, VA 22180

Assisted Living | Memory Care

© 2023 Sunrise Senior Living 



VIENNA

ENTERTAINMENT

JULY AND AUGUST

Pups in the Pavilion. Wednesdays from 5-7:30 p.m. At Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Reston Town Center Kicks Off "Pups in the Pavilion" this Summer; Pavilion transforms into a leash-free play area during the dog days of summer. Enjoy treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Visit <https://www.restontowncenter.com/>

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 Rocknoceros, 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 Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

Capital One Center is hosting special events all month at our new baseball stadium in Tysons, Capital One Park, and we wanted to make sure you were in the know. Capital One Park is located at 1820 Dolley Madison Drive Tysons, and steps away from the McLean Metro.

Military Appreciation Night Out -- July 26th with game times at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Free admission for all active and former members of the military.

JULY 31 – AUGUST 28

FUNDAY MONDAY in the heart of Fairfax City! 10:30-11:15 a.m. Enjoy free family programming that's perfect for the preschool set, but is open to children of all ages! On any given Monday there will be music, movement, storytelling, crafts and more. All performances and programs are held inside Old Town Hall located at 3999 University Drive, in the heart of Fairfax City. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> for more information. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts.

July 31: My Gym

August 7: Drew Blue Shoes Magic

August 14: Storytime with the Fairfax Regional Library

August 21: Miss Mollie's Bubble Party (held outside)

August 28: My Gym

THE TRAVELING PLAYERS

At Tysons Corner Center Plaza



The Traveling Players will present "Romeo & Juliet" at Tysons Corner Center Plaza July 27 to Aug. 2, 2023.

Jul. 27 – Aug. 2 – at 7 p.m. – "Romeo & Juliet"

Shakespeare's tale of star crossed lovers

Jul. 29 – "Erros & Psyche"

An ancient tale in modern language

Aug. 3 – Festival of 3 Plays. "Miser" at 4 p.m. "Green Bird" at 5 p.m.

A family-friendly festival of comedies, fairy tales, and joy!

JULY 29 – AUGUST 26

KIDZ KORNER in Old Town Square in Fairfax City! 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Join us outside for a morning of Free Family Fun on Saturdays in Old Town Square (near the Splash Pad!) located at 10415 North Street in historic Fairfax City. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> for more information. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Department of Parks and Recreation.

July 29: Oh Susannah! Music
August 5: Mad Science! Things that Go Boom

August 12: My Gym

August 19: Superhero Training with Captain America!

August 26: Miss Mollie's Musical Fun

AUG. 3-6

4-H Fair and Carnival. Get ready for the ultimate farm-fun experience at the 4-H Fair and Carnival at Frying Pan Farm Park. From Thursday, Aug. 3 until Sunday, Aug. 6, enjoy action-packed days of activities for the whole family. Witness livestock displays and 4-H exhibits; indulge in mouth-watering fair food; enjoy live performances and carnival rides; and get up-close and personal with adorable farm animals.

Carnival Hours

Thursday, Aug. 3: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 4: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Big Truck Night: 5 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 5: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 6: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Carnival ride specials are available online. Save \$5 per person by purchasing before Aug. 3. Ride specials are \$20 per person for unlimited rides on Thursday, Aug. 3 and Friday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For a full schedule of activities and information on buying ride specials, visit the 4-H Fair and Carnival webpage.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

"Civil War History Where It Happened." 1 p.m. At Mercer Tavern Antiques, 39359 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. The Aldie Ruritan Club Presents "Civil War History Where

it Happened." Hear historians and authors Don Hakenson and Carl Sell describe Mosby's Flour Mill raid, Captain George Custer's fall into the Little River and the Battle of Aldie right where it all happened. Books on sale benefit Aldie Ruritan Club and Clinton Hatcher Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans. Contact Carl Sell at sellcarl@aol.com or 703-971-4716 or Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net or 703-971-4984.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Poetry Beneath the Stars. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Turner Farm Park, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Calling all stargazers. Join up at Turner Farm Park to contemplate the cosmos through poetic form. Attendees will be provided with examples of star-gazing poetry and then given writing prompts to generate poems of their own while staring up at the marvelous Milky Way. This event will include a telescope viewing in the Roll Top Observatory, weather permitting. This workshop is limited to 25 participants. Visit [ArtsFairfax.org](https://www.ArtsFairfax.org) to register.

AUDITIONS FOR "ON GOLDEN POND"

Presented by Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation. Dates: Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 14 and 15 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Callbacks by Invitation on Thursday, Aug. 17 from 7:30-10 p.m. Performances Oct. 20 to Nov. 5, 2023 Visit: www.viennatheatrecompany.org/audition/

BACK TO SCHOOL

FALL BOOK SALE

At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville.

Aug. 4, Friday, 1-5 p.m.; Aug. 5, Saturday, 10-5 p.m.; and Aug. 6, Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

Bag sale on Sunday; fill a grocery bag with books for just \$10. Sponsored by Friends of Centreville Regional Library.

'DRIVE-IN' TO THE STARLIGHT CINEMA

Enjoy an all-new season of family-friendly entertainment at the Starlight Cinema at Trinity Centre, in Centreville, every Saturday evening in August. Come to watch the movies "drive-in" style from your car or bring chairs and blankets to watch from the lawn. As part of the Summer Entertainment Series, the Starlight Cinema



Funday Monday will be held July 31 to August 28, 2023 in the heart of Fairfax City.

brings the community together for wholesome family entertainment with live pre-show entertainment and feature film after dark. The schedule features:

Aug. 5: "Minions: The Rise of Gru" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by The Great Zucchini at 7 p.m.)

Aug. 12: "Lightyear" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Rocknoceros at 7 p.m.)

Aug. 19: "The Bad Guys" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Geoff Marsh at 7 p.m.)

Aug. 26: "DC League of Super-Pets" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Marsha and the Positrons at 7 p.m.)

Grab your picnic and enjoy the free entertainment that your family will remember. Gates open at 6 p.m., so come early to get a good spot. The Starlight Cinema is hosted at Trinity Centre, 5860 Trinity Parkway, in Centreville. For details, visit the Summer Entertainment Series' Starlight Cinema webpage.

AUG. 11-12

"The Addams Family." 7 p.m. At Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Presented by the Metropolitan School of the Arts Music Theatre Company. The Addams Family theatre performance will feature 29 student-actors from the DC area, including Metropolitan School of the Arts and surrounding high schools. The performance is recommended for ages 10 and older, and will be supported by a 12-piece mentoring orchestra, consisting of professional musicians and the top youth orchestra players in the DC area. To get tickets to watch the comical antics of The Addams Family, go to www.metropolitanarts.org. Cost is \$25 per adults and \$10 per student.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance. 4-6 pm. At Herndon Friends Meeting House, 2263 Cocquina Drive, Reston. Join in this remembrance of the victims and effects of the 1945 bombings. Outside 4-5 p.m. vigil; inside 4-6 p.m. learning and reflecting through art (painting and peace crane making). Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available at the meeting house via Locust Street and nearby public parking is located across the street from the Herndon Depot. Visit the website: <https://www.herndonfriendsmeeting.com>.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta. 12 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Sail or splash -- it's all fun. Register or sponsor Reston Museum's

2023 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard-preregister>. You must register to race; spectating is free and open to the public.

AUGUST 19

Summer Concert Series: Genres.

7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Join the Summer Concert Series featuring 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 30, 3 p.m. – Philip Bowen
For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit The Alden website: [aldentheatre.org](https://www.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:
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 Herry (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.

JULY

26 The Skip Castro Band

AUGUST

2 The English Channel

9 The Road Ducks

16 The Colin Thompson Band

23 Riptide

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

HARPER

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Student harper Veronica Sachse, 12 of Vienna, and her teacher, Shyamali Roy Hauth of Reston

Vienna Harper To Compete in Irish World Championships

12-year-old learned to play by ear.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Veronica Sachse, 12 of Vienna, is heading to the world championships of traditional Irish music in Mullingar, Ireland. It is the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2023, from Aug. 6 to 14.

Veronica started playing the harp at the tender age of seven, under the tutelage of Shyamali Roy Hauth of Reston. To secure her spot in the 2023 competition, Veronica faced the challenge of achieving either a first- or second-place position within her instrument and age category during the regional Fleadh Cheoil in the United States.

The age categories were under 12, 12–15, 15–18, and over 18, based on a student's age on Jan. 1. Veronica, at 12, would be one of the youngest contenders in her age group.

Veronica secured second-place in the 12–15 category at the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh and qualified to compete in the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Ireland.

“All the songs I learned, I learned by ear. I don't know how to read sheet music,” Veronica said. “If you were to tell me to read a song and play it, I wouldn't be able to do that.”

In Ireland, harp players are instructed by ear. It is the most common way, and the results are quick and effective. When playing the harp, the strings are drawn in with the fingers and pushed out with the thumbs.

Hauth and Veronica sit side-by-side during lessons. When Hauth plays music on her harp for Veronica to try on hers, Veronica knows which strings to play.

Veronica explained that when she plays the harp, time perspective is relative. “It depends on what I'm playing. If it's a tune that I am working on and I just can't get it down, or a tune that I don't like, it seems to slow down a lot. But if it's a tune that I know really well, it seems to be really fast.”

The young harper plays Irish music as it is traditionally performed on a lever harp. The lever harp can be distinguished from a pedal harp by standing

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Veronica Sachse, 12 of Vienna, wears her second-place medal in the 12–15 category at the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh. It is her ticket to the Irish World Championships.

around four and a half to five feet tall at the top of each string. A lever can be raised or lowered, allowing for faster playing.

According to Hauth, the melody, usually played with the right hand, is critical in Irish music. “On the harp, we have the left hand, the accompaniment. You play the melody, and you play ornamentation around it to embellish it and make it more interesting. The accompaniment is completely your own creation.”

Veronica said that her friends think it is “cool” that she plays the harp, but they don't bring it up in their conversations. Veronica plays the harp because she has liked Irish music since she was four, when she started Irish dancing. Eight years later, at age 12, she rates playing the harp on a scale of 1 to 10 as “probably 9.5, very high.”

“I enjoy playing the harp because it makes me feel happy,” Veronica said.

Your hometown home & auto team



Kyle Knight Ins Agcy Inc
Kyle Knight, Agent
11736 Bowman Green Drive
Reston, VA 20190

ACROSS FROM RESTON TOWN CTR
WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG
703-435-2300

When you go with State Farm®, you get neighborly service and a local agent — all for a surprisingly great rate. Give me a call and get a quote today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.



THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Alexandria Gazette Packet
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac ALMANAC

ATTRACT NEW CUSTOMERS IN 2023

Turn to the Connection Newspapers digital and print advertising options to reach customers in your community!

- Email Blasts
- Digital Billboards
- Front Page Shoutout
- Social Media
- Sponsored Content
- SEO Enhancements

For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Sign up for

FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to all of our papers



www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE when tackling your roof!



ERIE Metal Roofs
FREE ESTIMATE
1.844.902.4611
 Expires 8/30/2023

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriemetalroofs.com/erie-licenses/. VA License Number: 2705029944.

Limited Time Offer!
SAVE!

50% OFF
 ON YOUR INSTALLATION
 +
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% OFF

Additional savings for military, health workers and first responders



MADE IN THE U.S.A.

CLASSIFIED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Employment

Salesforce IT Analyst - Masters deg in C.Sci, Info Sys, Engg or rtrd flds reqd. Knowledge of atleast 4 of follwng reqd: Sysms Design, Opertng Sysms, Softwre Engg, Databse Mgmt Sys, Data Structrs, Prgrammg, Compu netwrks. Exclnt verbl & wrttn communctn skills reqd. Trvl &/or relocn to unantcptd locs in US reqd. Wrk loc: Reston, VA & unantcptd locs in US reqd. Apply - Attn. HR, Agility Technologies Inc. 1900 Reston Metro Plaza, #609, Reston, VA 20190. EOE

Employment

Proj. Leader 2, Tysons, VA. Dvlpmnt of electrical & control system plans mainly in area of water & wastewater treatment. Oversee Instrumentation, Controls & Automation, electrical systems construction commissioning & startup. Eng'r of Record for diff projects. Proj. Mgmt. Business Continuity. EOE. Apply online w/ M.C. Dean, Inc. at <http://www.mcdean.com/careers>.

Legals

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS, INC. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sustainable Innovations, Inc., a Virginia corporation (the "Corporation"), filed Articles of Dissolution with the Virginia State Corporation Commission on July 14, 2023. All creditors of and claimants against the Corporation are required to present their respective claims and demands immediately to the Corporation so that it can proceed to collect its assets, convey and dispose of its properties, pay, satisfy, and discharge its liabilities and obligations, and do all other acts required to liquidate its business and affairs. With respect to all claims, please take notice of the following: 1. (a) the legal name, address, and contact information of the entity or individual asserting the claim; (b) the amount of the claim; (c) a short summary of the basis for the claim; and (d) any other information useful to verify the nature and amount of the claim including copies of any relevant documents. 2. Claims should be mailed to the Corporation at 1225 E. Arques Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4701. 3. Any claim against the dissolved Corporation will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced prior to the earlier of the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations or three (3) years after the date of publication of this notice, as appropriate. This 14th of July, 2023. SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS, INC. By: Rick Bacon. Title: Chair of the Board.

Legals

Plum

FROM PAGE 6

ularly concerned that the Youngkin administration has taken down a website that contained important health information on being transgender that could be invaluable for persons needing it and have adopted a policy statement on the same subject that will lead to confusion and bad conduct in our schools.

Individuals have an obligation to be informed as citizens, and our government and political leaders have an obligation to present truthful and helpful information to our citizens.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More on Herndon Historic District

I read with interest the article entitled, "Historic Districts Divide Residents," (July 12, 2023). There was one part of the article that I want to clarify. The article said,

"Cesar del Aguila] and his Fortnightly neighbors have to go through the HDRB. The district's border includes their street. 'I think just about 100% of [my] neighbors want out of the HD; it makes no sense for us to be in there.' The homes were constructed in 2005 before the district was formed."

Herndon's Historic District boundaries were drawn well before the Fortnightly neighborhood (of townhomes and condos) were built. In 1977 the first survey of historic homes was conducted in Herndon. In 1987 Herndon was designated a Certified Local Government (CLG), a program that is jointly administered by the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Offices. In 1989 Herndon's Historic Overlay District was adopted. In about 1991 Herndon's Historic District was accepted into the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Most of the Fortnightly neighborhood was constructed between 2005-2007, with the final section built in 2012. Therefore, the Fortnightly homes were not constructed before the district was formed. They have an HOA.

Additionally, only a portion of the Fortnightly neighborhood is included in the Historic District, predominantly some of the homes that abut the W&OD trail. Mr. del Aguila's home is not one of those homes. The section of Fortnightly land in the historic district previously included historic buildings plus the W&OD railroad's wye, a triangular section of railroad track where locomotives would turn around, much like a three-point turn.

Barbara Glakas
 Herndon, Va.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
 CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(844) 947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
 - A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

LeafFilter CLOG-FREE GUTTERS
 GUTTER PROTECTION **FOREVER**

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

THE NATION'S #1 GUTTER GUARD

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + **10% OFF** + **0%**
 YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* SENIORS & MILITARY! APR FOR 24 MONTHS**

USA Promo Code: 285

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST A COMPANY OF LEAFHOME

**Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99% Effective: 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-5921 for complete details. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." *For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMTherac Group in Ohio. AR #0366920922, CA #1035795, CT #HIC-0649905, FL #CBC056678, IA #C127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #559544, MA #176447, MD #MHC148325, MI # 2102212986, #262000022, #262000403, #2106212946, NY #R731804, NY #226192, ND 47304, NE #50145-22, NJ #134105953900, NM #408693, NV #0889590, NY #H-19114, H-52223, OR #218294, PA #P0069383, RI #GC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFFNW822JZ, WY #W056912

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY

\$1000 OFF*
 AND
No Payments & No Interest For 18 Months**
 OFFER EXPIRES 9.30.2023

BCI BATH & SHOWER
 CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 9/30/23. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2023 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

Human Trafficking? NOT IF I'M AROUND

Let's be human-traffic heroes! Help stop abuse in Virginia by calling #77 as soon as you see it.

HVA

MPO Ruck Honored

FROM PAGE 4

Former Auxiliary Police Officer John Werderman, now with VIPS (Volunteers in Police Services), said Ruck's been "a great asset to the community, always reaching out to the citizens and lending an ear to their issues."

Acknowledging that Ruck is also a wife and mother of two, with a life outside the Police Department, Pickett said, "She does that with the same passion and enthusiasm she brings to her job as a police officer."

CAC Co-Chair John Greenhaugh recalled when Ruck spoke to his homeowners' association. "She was phenomenal in her subject matter and in the way she responded to the questions from the residents," he said. "Her leaving will be a loss for the community; the CAC wishes her well, going forward."

Agreeing, Levy said, "Sabrina is a true professional and has made such an impact here at the Sully District Station and across the whole county. The leadership she brings to the station will be missed. I wish her the best of luck in retirement and have thoroughly enjoyed working with her over the past year that I've been here."

Capt. Ryan Morgan, commander of the West Springfield District Station, worked at Sully with Ruck for a year when he was a first lieutenant and Capt. Dean Lay was the commander. "Sabrina holds a special place in my heart," said Morgan. "We were classmates at Centreville High and graduated together in 1994."

Once they became police officers, though, she worked on the east end of Fairfax County in the Mason District, and he worked in the west at both the Fair Oaks and Sully district stations. "So it was like a reunion when we came back to Sully in 2017," said Mor-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Little Rocky Run's neighborhood watch coordinator Marjorie Ham presents a crystal award to Sabrina Ruck.

gan. "We had a great team here, and I'll miss her dearly."

"We always helped each other out, through the years," he continued. "She's been a great friend, and her husband Brian [also an FCPD officer] is a good guy, too. I submitted him for the Meritorious Service Award that he received around 2018 and really deserved. I wish them both the best. In the police world, you never say goodbye, you just say, 'See you later.'"

During the luncheon, Bill Keech, president of the Westfield Business Owners Assn., gave Ruck a crystal award from his organization in recognition of her many years of service to the Centreville-Chantilly community. "She's worked closely with all our business and property owners here and told them what to do to prevent crimes," he explained. "She's also been a great liaison between the police and the community."

"She lets us know what's going on and enables us to share with the police the property owners' concerns. We wish her the best and will miss her, but we'll also look forward to continuing our long relationship with the FCPD and the Sully District Station."

Later on, at the June 21 CAC meeting, Ruck was again honored, receiving a framed certificate from the CAC, plus a crystal award from Little Rocky Run's Neighborhood Watch. Thanking them, she called her departure "bittersweet," adding, "I've had a good career, but I'm excited about my next chapter."

Ruck Looks Back

FROM PAGE 4

The toughest part of her job, said Ruck, was that "It's hard to shut everything off. I care deeply for the community and especially victims of crime. Police officers are human; and at the end of the day, we want the best outcome for everyone."

As for some of her career's most memorable moments, she said there are so many, it's difficult to choose. "The overall experience of being a police officer is a highlight of my life," explained Ruck. "There are many ups and downs to the job. However, I get great satisfaction by helping people - from the smallest of things to the much larger things."

"I hope that, when I interact with people, they feel heard and have a positive opinion of law enforcement," she continued. "Most of the time when someone calls the police, it's because something bad happened. But even when that's the case, I want to make them feel a little better from when they first made that call."

Now, though, Ruck is turning a page in www.connectionnewspapers.com

her life. Although she'll officially retire Sept. 9, her last day of work was June 15 because of the leave she accrued throughout her 25-year career with FCPD.

"My plan right now is to just be Mom," she said. "I have two kids, and I want to be more present for them and volunteer more in their schools. However, I'm always open to other opportunities, should something present itself."

Nonetheless, said Ruck, "I'll miss my co-workers; I've worked with the most amazing people. I'll also miss the community and want to say thank you to everyone. The Sully community is absolutely the best. It was an honor serving as its Crime Prevention Officer."

And while no longer wearing a uniform, she just can't stop caring about all the residents she's served for so long. So it's no wonder she wants to leave them with a parting reminder to keep them safe: "Always remember to remove all your valuables every night from your car and make sure it's locked before you go to bed."

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	
K & D ELECTRIC	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting	Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Ceiling Fans	Office 703-335-0654
Phone/CATV	Mobile 703-499-0522
Computer Network Cabling	leltrkman28@gmail.com
Service Upgrades	
Hot Tubs, etc...	

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
Landscape Drainage	Landscape Drainage

ProDrainage
A JES Services, Inc Company
Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts
Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More
Your Neighborhood Company since 1987!
703-772-0500 www.ProDrainage.com
VA. Licensed Class A Contractor

Sign up for
FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
to any or all of our 15 papers
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE

We Need Your Help Again
We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784

And affiliated newspapers:
THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Mount Vernon Gazette
POTOMAC ALMANAC
CENTRE VIEW

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 Con-

nection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

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.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>
Connection Newspapers—Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac
1606 King Street • Alexandria, VA • 703-778-9431

An Inadvertent Friend-Type Request



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This column has nothing to do with Facebook, though the title is a bit of a tease, to encourage you to read further. And what you're reading about is not exactly a surprise that it happened, it's more a flashing, neon-type sign that shopping online has matured from a transactional one between a buyer and a seller to something so much more. Not so much more as to make it sinister, but enough to make it more personal. Personal in that your online/website searches/inquiries are in essence, the beginning of a friendship. A friendship whereby the company (the seller) is becoming more like a friend in its willingness (algorithm) to offer opinions, dare I say encouragement to you (the buyer) to spend money on merchandise you've recently clicked on as sort of a starting point. But it's interpreted by the computer/website host (AI, I suppose) to be one which - with some electronic prodding, views this interaction as a potential final sale with only a credit card required to consummate this new/budding relationship.

The problem/reality is, I wasn't necessarily looking to buy and/or consummate this retail partnership/purchase just yet. This initial process when I'm searching, clicking, perusing, calculating, perhaps even actually contemplating, is my time, honestly. It's not the company/seller's time. Just because I'm looking, doesn't mean I'm ready to be leaping. To my way of thinking, this initial search is simply a consideration, not a calculation per se. Granted, I'm likely doing some math while I'm reading and then writing. But I don't need the website host hounding/gently nudging (depending on your perspective) me any more than I want to be accosted/offered assistance (again, depending on your perspective) when entering a retail establishment where merchandise can actually be touched and examined while up close so the purchase becomes personal, not merely professional.

What precipitated this most recent rant are the almost daily reminders I receive in my inbox from sites I visited previously. Their intent being to try and consummate our computer relationship by getting me to enter my credit card information/cozying up to me in an increasingly familiar manner, as if we were friends, and that by researching and clicking on their website I have somehow brought us closer together than merely a buyer and a seller, but rather more like friends in the pursuit of wholesale/retail justice.

I guess if I were to be naive and gullible, I would interpret these electronic reminders as I would indeed respect and appreciate a friend's suggestion/recommendation about whether I should be making a particular purchase. But that's not how I'm reacting to these many missives. I'm reacting to them as attempts at hostile take-overs - of my money. Moreover, I feel their reach is intrusive and presumptive. Certainly, when I read their heading in the subject box I can press delete and completely ignore their communication. At that point however, the psychological damage has already been done. By simply reading their headline and understanding its lineage, I have already been hooked, so to speak. I know why the email is there. It's not to ask how I'm adjusting to my late brother's semi unexpected death or asking if I think the Red Sox will be buyers or sellers at the trade deadline. Oh no. They're asking for money/commitment. They want to know how and when, not why and where I'll be otherwise spending my money - or not at all. They're not understanding. They're manipulating. And once they're through with me, they'll move on to the next site-clicker. I'll merely be a blip in their artificial computer code. Code that reacts to my computer research in their products/services as an inevitable buy and sell opportunity. It views my soliciting their help/information as a buying signal and the more help they offer/email, the more inevitable the sale becomes as it believes more is more rather than less is more.

But I object to this presumption of facts not yet agreed to. And I further object to presuming a familiarity which absolutely does not exist. I don't know this caller from Adam. Like my disdain for cold-callers - for whatever solicitation - whether for business, charity or community when the caller addresses me by my first name. That's a no-no, never a yes-yes. It's an automatic click. As for these computer emails that remind me of a previous interest/inquiry on their site/for their product or service, we are not in any kind of relationship. If anything, we might be in the middle/the beginning of a transaction. If this 'relationship' is about anything, it's about business, not pleasure.

Transact this!

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



JD CALLANDER & ED BLANCHARD

Direct: (703) 606-7901 | (703) 712-1757

JDCallander@gmail.com

Ed@NewNovaHome.com

www.NewNovaHome.com

#1 Agent Companywide
Top 1% Realtors Nationwide
NVAR 90+ Million Dollar Sales Club

#1 Virginia Agent 2020 - NEWSWEEK



JD Sold More Homes Last Year in 22101 Than Any Other Agent!

Per MLS



Under Contract!

Offered for...\$1,349,000

1405 Layman Street, McLean
FABULOUS 4BR/3BA, 2-level home, nestled in nature in sought-after **Potomac Hills!** This amazing home features a light/bright updated kitchen with herringbone tile backsplash, 6-burner gas cooktop, breakfast bar and more! Elegant living room with huge picture window, fireplace and custom built-ins with lighting. Primary bedroom w/ luxury bath and two add'l BR's on main level. Walkout LL features an inviting family room with fireplace, wet bar & huge picture window overlooking the patio; 4th bedroom, full bath, and large laundry rm. Custom deck off dining room, overlooks parkland! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**



Under Contract!

Offered for...\$1,399,000

1390 Ingleside Avenue, McLean
GORGEOUS & SPACIOUS 3BR/4.5 BA end-unit townhome on 3 fin levels, located in the heart of McLean. Sparkling hardwoods, light/bright living space with large windows, large, eat-in gourmet kitchen with huge island & breakfast bar. Breakfast room with walkout to private patio, inviting family room with gas fireplace and separate formal dining room. Upper level includes primary bedroom suite w/ sitting room, built-ins, luxury bathroom with soaking tub. Large 2nd BR w/ full bath. Private guest suite above 2-car garage with full bathroom. Great location, walking distance to downtown McLean. **McLean High School Pyramid!**



FRANKLIN PARK!

FOR SALE!

Offered for...\$4,695,000

2049 Rockingham Street, McLean
Another ***PHENOMENAL*** new home construction by **MR Custom Homes** - the premier local builder in McLean! This ***SPECTACULAR*** 6BR/7.5 BA home will feature breathtaking high ceilings, hdwd floors, 3-car garage & elevator-ready floorplan. Gourmet Chef's kitchen; sunny morning rm; kitchen opens to the family room with cedar beams along the ceiling, dramatic 42" stone hearth fireplace plus built-ins and doors leading out to the large screened porch with flagstone decking, outdoor gas fireplace, ceiling fan and speakers; incredible primary suite; expansive walkout LL! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2022



SOLD!

1741 Fairview Avenue
McLean, 22101
\$1,570,000



SOLD!

6013 Woodland Terrace
McLean, 22101
\$1,399,000



SOLD!

6631 Tucker Avenue
McLean 22101
\$1,824,750



SOLD!

1562 Forest Villa Ln
McLean, 22101
\$1,550,000



SOLD!

2336 N. Oak Street
Falls Church, 22046
\$2,000,000



SOLD!

1639 Macon Street
McLean, 22101
\$2,215,000



SOLD!

2204 Beacon Lane
Falls Church, 22043
\$1,795,000

Curious what your home is worth? Call to chat with JD and Ed today!