

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 5, 2023

## 'Fort Hunt Lives' Alumni Hoda Kotb returns for FHHS 60th reunion.



NBC Today Show anchor Hoda Kotb walks onto the stage at the Fort Hunt High School 60th Reunion Sept. 30 at Carl Sandburg Middle School. Kotb was a 1982 graduate of Fort Hunt.



Hoda Kotb poses for a photo with Fort Hunt class of '79 alumni James Kirkman, right, and Gayle Petro.



Hoda Kotb shows off her Fort Hunt High School novelty glasses.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The school may have ceased to exist in 1985 but the spirit of the Fort Hunt High School Federals is alive and well as hundreds of alumni turned out for the 60th reunion with a special guest appearance by NBC Today Show anchor Hoda Kotb, a 1982 graduate of the school.

"Walking back into this building is wild," said Kotb of the reunion held at what is now Carl Sandburg Middle School. "It brings back the same feeling you had back in the

**"I have a million fond memories of Fort Hunt."**

— Hoda Kotb,  
NBC Today Show  
anchor and FHHS alumna

day. It all comes washing back."

Kotb was the featured speaker at the event, which served as a reunion for all FHHS classes. She enthusiastically led the audience in cheers of "Fort Hunt Lives."

"I have a million fond memories of Fort Hunt," Kotb said. "I feel like I was the school cheerleader even though I didn't have a uniform -- that was my jam and it still kind of is. I am so excited to see what people have become, what they're up to, what they're doing."

SEE ALUMNI HODA KOTB, PAGE 10



Hoda Kotb family members attend the Fort Hunt High School 60th reunion Sept. 30 at Carl Sandburg Middle School. Pictured are: Hala Kotb (sister), Hope Kotb (daughter), Hannah Kotb (niece) and Adel Kotb (brother).

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Hoda Kotb, center, poses for a photo with Nena Lee Kobayashi, Patricia Kosciuscko Collette, sister Hala Kotb and daughter Hope Kotb.



Hoda Kotb, second from right, poses with fellow Fort Hunt High School alumni Patricia Kosciuscko Collette (cheerleader), Broc Pertuchie (football player), Frank Creneti (football coach) and Jim Dietz (former director of student activities).

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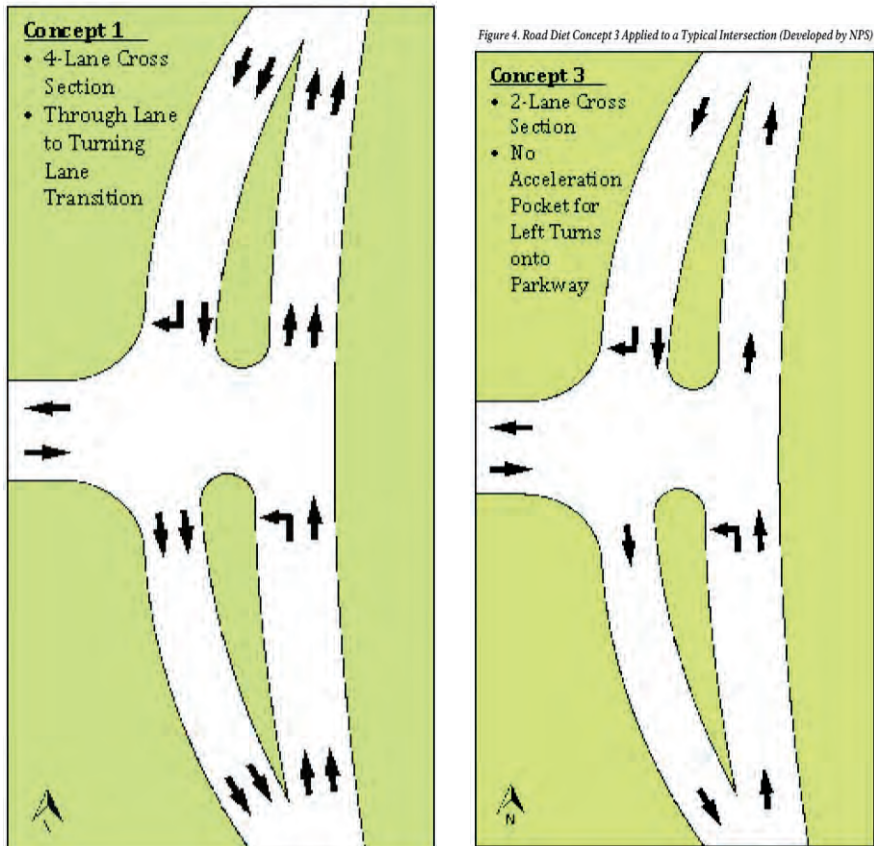
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Concept 1 incorporates lane adjustments for safety.

Concept 3 is more lane adjustments.

At Belle Haven Road, the bollards have already gone up.

## GW Memorial Parkway Examined in Road Diet Study

Changes to travel lanes, intersections and crosswalks explored.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

The National Park Service recently released details of a new plan for the George Washington Memorial Parkway, reducing the number of travel lanes south of the beltway at 10 intersections between Belle Haven Road in the north and Stratford Lane in the south.

The study is called the “George Washington Memorial Parkway – Southern Section Road Diet Traffic Impact Analysis,” and is divided into “Concept 1,” between Belle Haven Road and Morningside Lane, and “Concept 3,” between Morningside Lane and Stratford Lane. “Reducing the number of lanes on a roadway can improve safety, calm traffic, and enhance the overall quality of life,” it said. It involves more crosswalks for increased visibility and reduced crossing distances.

Historically, road diet benefits include:

- ❖ Reducing the number of rear end crashes
- ❖ Reducing the number of right side crashes of vehicles crossing the lanes
- ❖ Reducing the number of lanes pedestrian

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ans and bicycles would need to cross

- ❖ Creating a pedestrian refuge island in the middle
- ❖ Calming traffic
- ❖ Creating a more community focused “Complete Streets,” environment that accommodates the needs of all the road users

“The analysis indicates that intersection changes can be made at the 10 intersections along the parkway that would help improve overall safety of the corridor,” the study concluded. It would impact sections of road between Tulane Drive and Belle Haven Road, Tulane Drive and Morningside Lane and the area around Morningside Lane. Traffic counts in 2019 showed there were 170 cars turning left out of Belle Haven Road in the morning and 98 in the afternoon, and 107 turning right out of Belle Haven Road in the morning and 126 in the afternoon. Similar statistics were shown for each intersection.

### Out on the Street

The configuration at the intersection with Belle Haven Road has already been changed by the park service and there are white traffic bollards installed.

“Something needed to be done,” said Kellie Murray, a resident who noted the number of crashes she has seen there. “Some entrances are pretty dangerous,” she added.

Wes Yeary, a Stratford Landing resident, likes the parkway as-is and feels the changes aren’t needed. “It’s going to lengthen every-



The parkway is wide open in areas, making it easy to speed.

one’s commute,” he said.

The NPS is looking for comments on this study, and the comment period closes

Oct 24, 2023. To make a comment, go to <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/comment-form.cfm?documentID=131948>



The Masons planted vegetables in the middle of the garden and boxwoods and flowers on the sides.

Officials cut a gold ribbon at a September 28, opening event.

# Gunston Hall to Open Restored Garden Oct. 7

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

American statesman George Mason not only authored several documents that rejected Great Britain's rule and created a new democratic nation, he even asserted American independence in designing his garden. Mason's garden is an "Americanized version of a traditional English walled garden," with some elements of Italian villa and theater set designs, say Gunston Hall officials. The restored, 1780s garden will open to the public on Oct. 7.

Mason was the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Fairfax Resolves and Virginia's constitution. He refused to sign the U.S. Constitution because it had no Bill of Rights. The Masons' son, John, described the garden as a place of "meditation," so it was likely here that George Mason pondered the colonies' predicament and framed some of the fundamental principles of American democracy, still enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

At a September 28 reception, hosting the Board of Regents and other guests, Executive Director Scott Stroh called the garden

"a retreat, a place of reflection where Mason cemented enlightenment principles."

For the plantation's enslaved people, it was not a respite of peaceful contemplation. They only entered the space to work.

#### Bringing History Alive

The garden project took two decades of archaeological research, planning and fund raising. No written plan from Mason's time exists, but some of his and John's letters and seed orders offer hints. The lead archaeologist, Dave Shonyo, found ungerminated, 18th century seeds in the plot.

Owners following the Masons made many changes. In 1880, it was a pear orchard; in the 1920s, a plowed field. In the 1950s, it was intended as a "colonial revival" garden, but "was not fact based," said Shonyo.

The one-acre plot of four rectangles today has vegetables, ornamental plants and small apple trees. Eventually, it will have over 80 different perennial flowers and bulbs, over 30 types of annual flowers, 34 different vegetables, 16 apple varieties and roses common in the 18th century. The Masons collected seeds, cuttings and plants "from around the Atlantic world," notes a press release. Vegetables grow in the center and ornamentals along the sides, typical of the



Guests entered the garden from the mansion's back door.

1700s according to landscape historians.

In Mason's day, plants bloomed from March and to the first killing frost. The Masons also used hotboxes with glass tops and decomposing manure to raise the soil tem-

perature and extend the growing season. With hotboxes, wealthy colonials could eat foods like kale, collards and chard in the winter while the less affluent likely ate salt

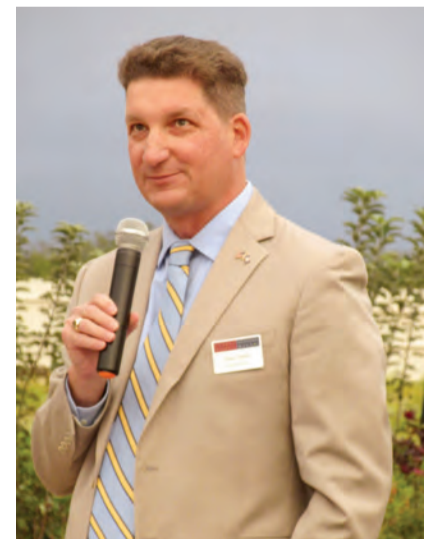
SEE GUNSTON HALL, PAGE 5



Nicole Ryan had the scissors ready for the ribbon cutting.



Nicole Ryan, Virginia Nicholson and Scott Stroh welcomed visitors.



Executive Director Scott Stroh described the garden as a "retreat."

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



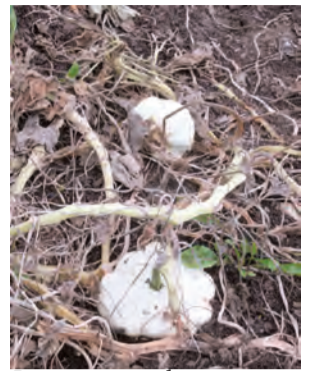
Hotboxes could extend the growing season.



Chard is thriving in today's garden.



Gourds growing today resemble melons.



Pattypan squash were commonly grown in the garden.

# Gunston Hall to Open Restored Garden Oct. 7

FROM PAGE 4

pork and cornmeal, one panel explains.

Visitors this fall can see vegetables like okra, chard, tomatoes and squash and herbs, including borage and fennel. Among fall-blooming plants are amaranths, celosias, coneflowers and asters.

The Masons grew Hewe's crab apples and Newton pippins. Today's caretakers are using free-standing espalier to shape the trees.

Gravel walks separate the four sections and one-foot-or-so boxwoods line the central corridor and the mansion walkway. The Masons fenced the garden to keep out wildlife and free-roaming cows, sheep and pigs. The fence also separated beauty from the labor in the nearby kitchen yards.

**“George Mason was a central figure because what he wrote ensures our liberties. The garden will draw more people to his home to learn about him and his contribution to the Bill of Rights.”**

— Holly Dougherty,

President of the Mount Vernon-Springfield Chamber of Commerce

The Glave and Holmes architectural firm prepared the garden's master plan and Rob McGinnis was the landscape architect.

At the Sept. 28 event, Stroh called the opening a “monumental occasion.” Virginia regent and Arlingtonian Ann Taylor Schaefer

visited Gunston Hall frequently growing up and sees Gunston Hall as “one of the most fabulous historic houses in the United States.”

Del. Kathy Tran commented, “Gunston Hall is a hidden treasure, waiting to be discovered. The restoration of the garden is a perfect opportunity to learn about George Mason and our history.”

Holly Dougherty, President of the Mount Vernon-Springfield Chamber of Commerce, concurred: “George Mason was a central figure because what he wrote ensures our liberties. The garden will draw more people to his home to learn about him and his contribution to the Bill of Rights.”

Visit [www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org).

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GUNSTON HALL

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# OPINION

## Well-Being Matters

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

**C** OVID's impact on our families and communities has reminded us all of the importance of our health and well-being and Fairfax County's role in protecting it. Nationally and locally this has been especially true in our responsiveness to behavioral health services and support. My background in running non-profits and providing health care services, as well as life experiences, have helped me to be particularly attuned to our residents needs and the health challenges many experience.

The County has an interdisciplinary, inter-agency and holistic approach that varies for each individual. With our Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department (FCFRD), Fairfax County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) and other community partners we have been creating a system of care that is improving the tailoring of services to individual needs. These efforts are far reaching, and some examples include:

Partnering a CSB Crisis Intervention Specialist with a FCPD officer to respond to those in



Fairfax County's Behavioral Health Crisis Response System.

crises (Co-Responder Program).

Embedding a CSB Behavioral Health Liaison within DPSC to assist in identifying callers who may benefit from a behavioral health response.

Providing a mobile crisis response to those experiencing a crisis.

Partnering with the Sheriff's Office to provide care to those who are incarcerated with behavioral health needs.

A new Telehealth Pilot program is also coming, in which FCPD and CSB are equipping some patrol officers with tablets that connect them with a CSB behavioral health specialist while responding to an incident. Enhancements such as these add to the impact and reach of services while minimizing staffing and costs.

These efforts go beyond caring for those in

need by also having a positive impact on public safety. Co-responder teams help free up patrol officers to focus on criminal activity in the County. Our County has been making great strides in better supporting those with behavioral and mental health needs, while more aggressively and effectively catching those committing crime in our neighborhoods. As always, we must continue to rethink and innovate how we help all in our community reach their full potential.

If you or someone you know needs help call 1-866-903-3787 or the CSB at 703-383-8500. More information about supportive services can also be found at Healthy Minds Fairfax - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthyminds-fairfax/finding-supportive-services>.

## The Fight for Affordable Access to Healthcare

### Breast Cancer Awareness Month

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

**O** ctober is a month that holds significance beyond the colorful autumn leaves and pumpkin-spiced lattes. It's a month dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer, a disease that touches the lives of countless women and their families. With staggering statistics showing that 1 in 8 women will face breast cancer in their lifetime, with 240,000 new diagnoses each year, the need for awareness and affordable access to care is more crucial than ever.

Tragically, breast cancer claims the lives of 42,000 women annually in the United States alone. These numbers are not just statistics; they represent mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends who are taken too soon. While rare, men can also develop breast cancer, accounting for 1% of annual diagnoses. In addition to the emotional toll, the financial burden of breast cancer care is a harsh reality. In 2019, patients paid a staggering \$3.14 billion out-of-pocket for breast cancer

care, more than any other type of cancer care.

Furthermore, it's important to recognize that not all individuals face the same financial hardships when it comes to breast cancer. Younger patients, those without health insurance, those with lower incomes, and Black or Hispanic individuals are disproportionately affected. These disparities in access to care and the financial toll of breast cancer are deeply concerning and highlight the urgent need for change.

A startling fact is that a majority of cancer patients and survivors find it challenging to afford their care. This includes the often exorbitant costs of prescription drugs and treatments. A survey reveals that 37% of these individuals struggle to pay for the vital drugs and treatments associated with their care. It's a dire situation when the very treatments that could save lives are financially out of reach for those in need.

In addition to the high costs, breast cancer patients and survivors also encounter obstacles re-

lated to insurance coverage. Sixty percent of them have taken steps like delaying treatment, taking money out of savings, paying for care with a credit card, delaying paying rent and other household expenses, working extra hours, or selling personal belongings to cover costs, and nearly half have faced delays or difficulties accessing their prescribed medication or treatment due to insurance-related reasons. These are unnecessary

hurdles that impede the path to recovery and survival.

In the face of these challenges, Democrats have taken up the mantle to fight for more affordable access to medical treatment, prescription drugs, and more. We understand that anyone suffering from illness should be able to receive life-saving treatments, regardless of the financial burden.

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 14

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# NEWS

## Drones Fly For Public Safety

By **MERCIA HOBSON**  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Police Department says it is revolutionizing policing with its Unmanned Aircraft System. While it has been using drones for small jobs since 2019, “in the past year, FCPD’s drone program has expanded to assist the department’s helicopter program with a lot more detailed work,” states the county’s website. On May 21, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Manual,

When asked if the 2019 UAS manual is the “official policy” and if it has been updated, Fairfax Police Department media responded via email on Sept. 23: “The Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) policy was drafted by the County, see the link for additional details of the policies guiding drone usage. It is the policy that our department follows.” <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas/unmanned-aircraft-systems>

In response to a question about civilian oversight, Fairfax Police Department media stated, “Regarding public input into our policies, FCPD has historically sought community input since 2015 on several core General Orders, to include Human Relations (002), Release of Information (402), Vehicle Pursuits (504), Vehicle Stopping Techniques (505), Body-Worn Cameras and In-Car Video (509), Use of Force (540), Arrest Procedures (601), and Immigration Status, Citizenship, and National Origin (604).”

According to Fairfax County, the most recent public comment on the UAS Manual is a series of public meetings held in 2019 with written comments on the draft program previously submitted by Feb. 8, 2019. They are part of the official public record. The public presentation occurred in January and February of 2019, with the Presentation to the Public Safety Committee on March 12, 2019.

On Dec. 2, 2022, the Office of Aviation Services of the U.S. Department of the Interior revised its Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations and procurement policy. On Jan. 1, 2023, those revisions went into effect. The policy is based on the Department’s completion of a comprehensive review of the UAS program, as required by Secretary’s Order (SO) 3379. It addresses the Department’s critical need for UAS capabilities while en-

SEE DRONE, PAGE 10  
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# Police Challenge Some Professional Recommendations

Chief gives status implementation to supervisors.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE GAZETTE

Police policies, training, and procedures in 2023 are changing at a national level in terms of de-escalation tactics, appropriate use of force, foot pursuit policies, shooting at vehicles, and approaching people in mental health crises, to mention a few. In Police Chief Keven Davis's presentation to the full Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at the Safety and Security Committee Meeting on Oct. 3, he chose a subset from the total of 315 police reform practices and policy recommendations offered to the county police department by two groups since May of this year to assess and respond to the status of implementation.

Davis explained to the supervisors that the FCPD took a lot of time and carefully considered each recommendation that the PERF (Police Executive Research Forum) and the Matrix Working Group made to it this year. "We're very pleased to note that FCPD has either adopted, partially or in totality, or is currently in the process of adopting the vast majority of recommendations" [306 out of 315]. PERF is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency focused on police research and policy organization. Among other things, it conducts requested reviews of police departments with a full listing of recommendations and actions.

A discussion and question-and-answer session with the supervisors would follow the chief's presentation. Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D), committee chair, said, "We're not going to be able to address all the recommendations, but he will give us an update on those included in the report today." A follow-up session will occur regarding recommendations by the matrix group. According to staff, the pending draft document on those recommendations should be available in the next two to three weeks, before the end of October.

According to Davis, the status of "13 of the 15" recommendations made to the FCPD by PERF had been either adopted, partially or in totality, or currently in the process of being adopted. The two recommendations that do not meet those metrics include #15, "requiring officers to capture all calls that include some type of mental health or behavioral health component in its Records Management System. Further, FCPD should use a designation other than 'mental case' — such as 'mental health' or 'mental/behavioral health'—to categorize these calls."

Davis said that the department is currently evaluating how to better record this data in its new Records Management System.

The other PERF recommendation the department is not implementing include #7, "FCPD should update its use-of-force policy to indicate that force may not be used against a person unless, under the totality of the circumstances, that force is necessary and proportional."

Davis said the change would contradict



Chief Kevin Davis, Fairfax County Police Department



Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill)

on the foot pursuit policy: "Is it correct to say that, as of today, we don't have an explicit policy on this — that our policy will be guided by what other departments are doing, but we know they don't have particularly good policies on this? So, in fact, we might be creating a sound policy here in Fairfax. Can you give me a timeline?" Chief Davis: "When we put a policy forward, we want it to actually be a policy and not a regurgitation, referring to your training manual ... We average about six foot pursuits per week, and we've learned a lot about time and day. We're happy with the data collection policy, but we realize that is not the policy that folks are talking about. [The timeline], early 2024."

the "Graham v. Connor" case standard as decided by the Supreme Court in 1989. According to Davis, the case recognizes officers do not need to use the minimum amount of force in a given situation but rather must use a force option that is reasonable based upon the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time force was used.

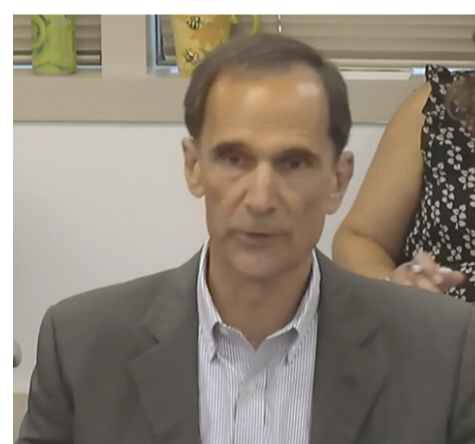
#### Responses to Recommendations by PERF

Davis ticked off the department's responses to PERF recommendations, adding how the department adjusted policies, practices, and procedures as necessary. Davis began with Recommendation #1, which he considered "by far the gold standard on the use of force training deescalation diffusion throughout the country."

#1: In process: FCPD is completing man-



Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk (D), chair of Safety and Security Committee, said to Chief Davis that on the use of force study by the University of San Antonio (2019), "you've been pretty specific in saying we've been able to reach 80 percent of those recommendations. I think what we need to do is show and document where that 80 percent is ... for us to be able to know which things have already been checked off."



Supervisor Daniel G. Storck (D-Mount Vernon)

"I want a high-level view of what direction you're going with CACs (Community Action Committees). Davis: "The CAC, like the government and the police department, should reflect the community ... For the first time ever, we have a CAC chair and vice chair who are African American females. We want to be a little more inviting to members of the community who might be apprehensive about walking into a police station."

datory ICAT training, [Integrate, Communications, Assessment, and Tactics]. It is a guide that PERF developed for defusing critical incidents.

#2: FCPD is "seeking," Davis said, to reinforce ICAT with the Critical-Decision Making Model [CDMM]. According to PERF, it is the backbone of ICAT. To collect information; assess situations, threats, and risks; consider police powers and agency policy; identify options; determine the best course of action; and act, review, and re-assess.

#3: PERF recommended that the department "require or recommend" first-line supervisors to respond to mental-health-related crisis calls. Davis said "FCPD General Order 609 (Mental Health Calls for Service)



Chairman Jeff McKay (D), made a request. "We've been told there are shortcomings in our existing, antiquated records management system ... if you could provide a memo that will outline the features of the [new] management system."



Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik (D-Providence)

"I'm finding it a little bit tricky and difficult to, first of all, easily find where all the data is stored. We have a few different websites up there; the open.org website is called the state website and is not always the prettiest. I think we have some excellent staff who can maybe help with that — make sure that they are more user-friendly, can share them with the community, and can be targeted in that data approach."

requires that "whenever possible."

#4 The department is committed to the co-responder program and Critical Intervention Training. Will the department "allocate the requisite officers needed to support this initiative as the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board makes officers and field clinicians available?"

#5 PERF recommends that FCPD conduct sentinel event reviews of police shooting incidents and in-custody deaths. The April 2023 FCPD report states, "FCPD is currently in the process of reviewing this recommendation ... to determine practicality and feasibility."

#6; See #7. Add "proportionality" to the definitions in its use-of-force policy.

#7: Not implemented.

#8: Update the policy on shooting into vehicles. According to Davis, the current policy language of General Order 540 prohibiting officers from using deadly force at, into, or from moving vehicles is significantly clearer and more restrictive on what officers are permitted or not permitted to do than PERF's



Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw (D-Braddock)

"I think this would have been more productive if we had the report in advance and then responded to it today." On Use of force, asking Richard Schott, Independent Police Auditor. Walkinshaw: "So your recommendation is still no change on general orders related to use of force?" Schott: "Yes. And what I indicate in my explanation is that I think officers should be trained to attempt a minimal amount of force, but I don't think it should be a written policy that you have to use a minimum amount of force because I'm not yet convinced that there is one minimum amount of force that can be attempted."



Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield)

"If I have any concerns, it is that we don't handcuff ourselves as we did with the Trust Policy ... My other concern that we need to dig into is our ability to continue to hire the best and brightest officers. It's recruiting and training that I'd like to see the department focus on." Davis: "During the month of September, we welcomed over 70 new FCPD recruits. In terms of quality, education is one of them; 70 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher."

recommendation. FCPD prohibits officers from shooting at, into, or from moving vehicles unless there is a threat of serious injury or death to the officer or another person. Additionally, the policy requires officers to move out of the path of an oncoming vehicle whenever possible and strictly prohibits them from intentionally placing themselves within the path of an oncoming vehicle.

#9: All operational FCPD members and specialized units are now equipped with body-worn cameras and required to utilize them by department policy.

#10: Answering PERF's recommendation that when conducting an administrative investigation of a police shooting incident,



Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville)

"Have you met with the [matrix] working group?" Davis: "Our work inside the police department has been able to evaluate and respond to the many recommendations that were made." Foust: "I don't understand why the two groups, Matrix and the police, didn't get together and agree ... So we have one place to look for all this. You're in the draft form... I would ask you to meet with the matrix group and see what you can resolve between the two of you so that we're not dealing with 'he said, she said.'" Davis: "With all due respect, I'm unfamiliar with the work done by the people who gave up their time, their passion, and their talents to put together the report to submit to this body ... We wanted to get that report back to the Board of Supervisors, and that's what we've done." Foust: "So you will or will not meet with them [the matrix working group]?" Davis: "I will meet with anybody, anytime."

Internal Affairs detectives should examine all related actions to determine whether personnel acted according to departmental policy, Davis responded that the FCPD Internal Affairs Bureau conducts thorough, complete, and objective investigations into all allegations against department members.

#11: According to Davis FCPD, it now meets the 45-day time limit for convening the department's Performance Review Board in the aftermath of any reviewable critical incident. As noted in the department's May report, the bureau had inadvertently not deliberated on some of the reviewable officer involved shooting incidents.

#12: Given the recommendation that a tactical debrief take place no later than 72 hours after a police critical incident or in-custody death, according to Davis in his May report, the Standard Operating Procedure 12-045 (Police Affiliated Critical Incidents) will be further revised in the near future to formalize this ongoing practice.

#13: Executive and administrative staff meet along with agency SMEs, the morning of the next workday following a critical incident.

#14: Responding to the recommendation that the department should adopt a foot pursuit policy, one that guides officers when deciding whether the risks inherent in pursuing a subject on foot weigh against the alternatives or ultimately justify a pursuit, FCPD adopted a foot pursuit data collection policy applicable to all sworn Department members, but not a foot pursuit policy.

#15: Not implemented

## Fairfax County NAACP Condemns Chief Davis's Action

Chief rejects recommendations and measures to save lives.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police chased and killed Timothy Johnson during a foot pursuit seven months ago; he was suspected of stealing sunglasses. Community leaders, Fairfax NAACP, ACLU People Power, and faith leaders say Fairfax County must prioritize police reform before another death.

On Oct. 2, the Fairfax County NAACP issued an "urgent statement" on behalf of community leaders, condemning Police Chief Davis' rejection of "life-saving measures." According to the release, Timothy Johnson would be alive if the best practice policy had been established earlier this year.

The two-page document states that Davis would share his vision of a "progressive Fairfax police force" in a presentation to the Board of Supervisors the following day, Oct. 3. The Fairfax NAACP, ACLU People Power Fairfax, and faith leaders questioned Davis's position: Do Black lives matter? According to the release, Davis asserted that there are "few areas where consensus has not been reached" on the Police Reform Matrix Working Group (matrix) and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

"Consensus with whom?" the release questions. According to the release, the chief refused to meet with the working group's faith leaders, Fairfax NAACP and ACLU People Power Fairfax, to discuss their concerns. At Tuesday's Safety & Security meeting, Supervisor John Foust asked Chief Davis about the topic in a question-and-answer exchange after the chief's presentation. Foust pressed for the chief's response.

"Have you met with the matrix working group?" Foust questions. "Our work inside the police department has been able to evaluate and respond to the many recommendations," Davis says.

"I don't understand why matrix [group] and the police didn't get together," says Foust. He adds, "I would ask you to meet with the matrix, work, and see what you can resolve between the two of you."

Davis says, "We wanted to get [the police response] report back to the Board of Supervisors, and that's what we've done."

Foust pushes back, "So you will or will not meet with them [the matrix working group]?"

Davis answers, "I will meet with anybody anytime."

According to the release, Chief Davis is not solely responsible. Police shootings and disparities have increased under this Board of Supervisors, which "failed to address these problems."

"It has the authority and duty to set public safety policy and must act now. Awaiting newly elected members to take charge is unacceptable."

The release listed five issues the chief ignored that the board must address according NAACP, ACLU People Power, Voices of Black Fairfax and others:



Fairfax County NAACP PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP

Use of force: Guns, tasers, and other uses of force were twice as common on Black people in a June 2021 FCPD independent study. Overusing force, especially against people of color, has increased since then. Fairfax has been part of nine police shooting incidents since 2022, six in 2022, and three this year. Four shooting victims died. This is a 300 percent increase from the 10-year 1.5 shooting average.

Arrest rates: FCPD ignored disparities in arrest rates. Chief Davis says, "FCPD actively monitors arrest trends to promptly identify and correct any evident disparities." However, Fairfax's data found that Black and Latino residents were 4.2 and 2.9 times more likely, respectively, to be arrested than white residents.

Non-coproduction: There is no real engagement with communities of color and their advocates on other issues, as well as the matrix group. The chief also prevented advocates and community leaders from meeting with his staff on foot pursuit and data policies.

Expanding civilian oversight: FCPD and the Fairfax Civilian Review Panel "have had only one disagreement" over six years, so Chief Davis opposes expanding its authority. NAACP et al call for expanding the Civilian Review Panel's power now that the Virginia General Assembly has made that possible. The Fairfax County review panel cannot investigate or make discipline recommendations like the Alexandria and Arlington review panels. PERF also found flaws in FCPD's internal investigation of police shooting incidents.

PERF's foot pursuit recommendations: Chief Davis announced he adopted "a foot pursuit data collection policy."

"Data collection is not enough. PERF (report pp. 13-15) provided detailed recommendations for when a pursuit is appropriate, as have community advocates," according to the release.

Publicizing the Chief's detailed responses on all recommendations and providing them to the Board is next.

Fairfax NAACP et al call for holding countywide public forums to gather oral and written community input on the matrix working group's recommendations and other police concerns; co-producing police policies with affected communities and promptly meeting with the matrix members on their recommendations.



# Alumni Hoda Kotb Returns for FHHS 60th Reunion



Former Fort Hunt High School band members play at the school's 60th anniversary reunion Sept. 30 at Carl Sandburg Middle School.



Jim Carmalt, vice president of the Fort Hunt Class of '71, with Hoda Kotb.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Hoda Kotb gives remarks at the Fort Hunt High School 60th reunion Sept. 30 at Carl Sandburg Middle School.

FROM PAGE 1

Fort Hunt High School was a public high school from 1963 until 1985, when it was converted to what is now Carl Sandburg Middle School.

In 1985, Fort Hunt was combined with Groveton High School to form West Potomac High School, located on Groveton's campus. The Fort Hunt campus was converted into Carl Sandburg Middle School, which replaced the older Stephen Foster and Bryant Intermediate Schools.

The event was organized by the

Fort Hunt High School Alumni Association, which organizes several alumni events and grants annual scholarships to graduating seniors of West Potomac High School.

"Can you believe our little school?" Kotb said. "Everywhere we go we are looking for each other. We went to a fantastic school. We went to a school that won district championships, regional championships, state championships.

We have people who graduated from here that are NFL players. We have Pulitzer Prize winners who

graduated from here."

Rocky Belk, Class of '79, played in the NFL and Rick Atkinson, Class of '70, and Carolyn Cole, Class of '79, are Pulitzer Prize recipients.

Kotb humorously described driving throughout the southeastern U.S., naming all the TV stations where she was rejected before finally beginning her broadcast career in Greenville, Miss.

"You don't have to be the best, you have to be the one who doesn't quit," Kotb said. "And that kind of defined my whole career. I wasn't the best. I wasn't the smartest. I

wasn't any of those things. My secret was I refused to quit."

The audience included both student and teacher alumni. Also attending the event were Kotb's family members, including her sister

Hala Kotb, daughter Hope Kotb, niece Hannah Kotb, and brother Adel Kotb.

"Fort Hunt was a very special place," Kotb said. "It's been great being back."

## Drones for Public Safety

Fairfax Police Department began flying UAS (Unmanned Aerial System), or drone missions in 2019, and by 2020, it had 30 trained drone pilots.

FROM PAGE 7

ensuring that necessary security measures and related mitigations are met per Executive Order (EO) 13981.

Fairfax Police Department began flying UAS (Unmanned Aerial System), or drone missions in 2019, and by 2020, it had 30 trained drone pilots. According to the department, they fly drones under certain conditions, such as with a search warrant, to serve a felony arrest warrant at a wanted subject's primary residence, when in pursuit of someone actively sought for an arrest, when there's an amber, senior, or blue alert; to investigate a reportable traffic crash; in a location where they have consent to be; for training pilots and evaluating equipment; and to "alleviate an immediate danger to any person," such as

an active shooter.

According to Captain Mike Shamblin of the Fairfax County Police Department, the department had 12 drones by mid-2021: six for the SWAT team, one for the Technical Investigation Unit, one for Fugitive & Apprehension, two for the Crime Scene Unit, and two for Helicopter Search & Rescue. There are logs of drone activity and lists of what the drones can and cannot do on the county's website.

The use of drones has raised concerns. "There is no national framework governing their use and how police make use of the data collected by the thousands of the machines across the United States," according to the Brookings Institute. "In the absence of a federal framework for governing the technology, cities, [counties], and states have written a patchwork of rules and regulations for police drone use that, taken together,

FCPD flies drones:

with a search warrant; to serve a felony arrest warrant at a wanted subject's primary residence; when in pursuit of someone actively sought for an arrest; when there's an amber, silver or blue alert; to investigate a reportable traffic crash; in a location where they have consent to be; for training pilots and evaluating equipment; and to "alleviate an immediate danger to any person," such as an active shooter.

er, show what a more transparent and just set of laws governing police aerial surveillance might look like."

Brookings cites the George Floyd protests as an example, calling them the largest protests in the US since the 60s. Law enforcement across the country gathered personal data on peaceful protesters by means of drones, as well as social media, body cameras and facial recognition.

While Virginia and some other

9/1	Homicide Investigation	8000 Block of Sacramento Dr	PD
9/6	Flight Training	9000 Block of Furnace Rd	PD
9/6	Assist patrol on warrant service	6000 Block of Springfield Mall	PD
9/6	Crash Reconstruction	Lee Highway/Clifton Rd	PD
9/7	Barricade	9000 Block of Piney Grove Rd	PD
9/7	Flight training	FS40	FD
9/9	Flight Demo	3700 Block of Stonecroft Blvd	PD
9/10	Critical Mission Person	8000 Block of Reflexion Ln	PD
9/11	Flight Demo	13000 Block of Route 50	PD
9/12	Flight Training	FS40	FD
9/12	Marine Patrol Operation	10000 Block of Hampton Rd	PD
9/13	Dive Team Training	14000 Block of Compton Rd	PD
9/15	SWAT Search Warrant	14000 block of Smithwood Dr	PD

September 2023 Unmanned Aircraft System Mission Schedule.

states require a warrant for many law enforcement use of drones, it also exempts police from the warrant requirements if they're using drones for non-law enforcement

purposes, like taking photographs of accident scenes, disaster response and for assessing traffic levels, Brookings says.

SCREENSHOT

# NEWS

## United Community Thanksgiving Food Drive

### Help Create a Happy Thanksgiving for Families in Our Community.

United Community expects to provide 450 families in our community with a bag of Thanksgiving must-haves and a \$25 grocery card so families can purchase their protein of choice and perishable items.

- ❖ Canned carrots
- ❖ Canned corn
- ❖ Canned fruit cocktail
- ❖ Canned green beans
- ❖ Canned peas
- ❖ Cornbread mix
- ❖ Cranberry sauce
- ❖ Dessert mix
- ❖ Gravy (no glass please)
- ❖ Macaroni and cheese
- ❖ Mashed potato mix
- ❖ Stuffing mix

#### How You Can Help

Shop locally to purchase items from our Thanksgiving list and drop them off at our Fordson Road office with your \$25 grocery card. While you are there sign a Thanksgiving notecard to be included in the bag.

Or shop the AMAZON WISH LIST and food will be delivered directly to United Community.

#### Or MAKE A DONATION

You can drop off your contribution:

7511 Fordson Rd.  
Alexandria, VA 22306  
Mon: 1pm – 4pm  
Tues: 10am – 12pm  
Wed: 10am – 12pm  
Thurs: 10am -12pm

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

#### MT. VERNON FARMERS MARKET IS NOW OPEN

A mix of new and familiar vendors will be selling local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries and asparagus – and more at the McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 20), 21 farmers and local food producers will sell fresh vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane.

This year's vendors are:

- Arnest Seafood – crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more
- The Big Brine – Fermented foods, pickles and pickled vegetables
- The Fermented Pig- charcuterie and gourmet bacons
- Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch
- Great Harvest Bread - breads and pastries
- Honeycomb Heroes – Honey and beeswax-based products
- House of Empanadas –variety of empanadas
- King Mushrooms –variety of locally grown mushrooms
- Layla's Lebanese Restaurant – Lebanese hummus, eggplant dip, garlic sauce and more

- Linda Vista Farm - fruits and vegetables, specializing in Asian and Latin produce
  - Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs
  - Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs and flowers
  - Pasta Ilgatto – Fresh, handcrafted pasta and sauces
  - PorkStork – Forest-raised heritage pork products, including bacon and sausages
  - Salsa Las Glorias - fresh salsas, guacamole and chips
  - Sharkawi Farm - herbs, spices, teas, plants and flowers
  - Three Way Farms – vegetables, melons and herbs
  - Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. – variety of freshly roasted coffee
  - Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more
  - Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods
  - WeGrow - Microgreens.
- All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. The McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon market is one of 10 farmers markets run by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA); for more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

#### FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit [fcsvanow@gmail.com](mailto:fcsvanow@gmail.com) or [www.FCSVA.org](http://www.FCSVA.org). Or call 703-817-9890.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

## FOR EVERY GENERATION. THIS IS WHY WE WALK.

At the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, we're fighting for a different future. For families facing the disease today. For more time. For treatments.

We're closer than ever to stopping Alzheimer's. But to get there, we need you. Join us for the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease.

REGISTER FOR A WALK NEAR YOU AT [ALZ.ORG/WALK](http://ALZ.ORG/WALK).



### 2023 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Oct. 14  
Oct. 22

Washington, DC  
Reston, VA

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TO  
END  
ALZHEIMER'S**  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## GWHS CLASS OF 1963 REUNION

The George Washington High School Class of 1963 will celebrate their 60-year reunion on October 5 and 6 in Alexandria. For additional information and registration please contact Viloa Miller at [vem1006@verizon.net](mailto:vem1006@verizon.net), Bud Mayo at [mayo5304@cox.net](mailto:mayo5304@cox.net) or Jackie Bridges at [jhuetbridges@gmail.com](mailto:jhuetbridges@gmail.com)

## NOW THRU OCT. 8

**Progression Exhibit.** At Multiple Exposures Gallery (MEG), at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union Street, Alexandria. The exhibition features a sequence of photographs, with each one chosen for its relation to the previous image. The relationships among the 56 included images may be based on composition, color, geography or other characteristics — the choice was left to each of the 14 contributing artists. Exhibition visitors are invited to observe each image as it appears in the sequence and consider what the connection to the previous image might have been. Exhibition Artists: Soomin Ham, Tim Hyde, Eric Johnson, Clara Young Kim, Irina Lawton, Sandy LeBrun-Evans, Matt Leedham, Francine B. Livaditis, Maureen Minehan, Van Pulley, Sarah Hood Salomon, Alan Sislen, Tom Sliter and Fred Zafran. Exhibition hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

## ALEXANDRIA COLONIAL TOURS' GHOST & GRAVEYARD TOUR

Wednesdays through Sundays in September at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. Nightly in October at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 for adults; \$10 for children; free for children under 6 years old. Tours meet at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street, Alexandria. Walk your way through the charming streets of historic Old Town Alexandria. Follow a colonial-costumed guide by lantern light for an engaging history tour on Alexandria's original Ghost and Graveyard Tour. During this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends, folklore, unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Visit [alexcolonialtours.com](http://alexcolonialtours.com).

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## NOW THRU OCT. 15

**Every Rock Has a Story – Anne Stine.** At The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Award-winning painter Anne Stine

debut her latest collection of encaustic works titled, Every Rock Has a Story, in September, at the Athenaeum Gallery. Her collection of 20 geological paintings explores the interconnection between Earth and humanity through representational and abstract imagery. "Every rock has a story", a popular geological phrase, meaning history is captured within the Earth's formations from the majestic mountains to the tiniest pebbles that reside beneath our feet.

## OCT. 2-29

**Cascades Art Exhibition.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center (Gallery 311), 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Van Landingham Gallery presents a solo exhibition from Gregory Logan Dunn entitled Cascades, a collection of oil and acrylic paintings created during his studio residency at the Torpedo Factory this past year. Original paintings and print reproductions of the artist's work will be available for purchase.

## OCT. 3 TO NOV. 13

**"The Spirit Within" Exhibit.** At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Drive, Alexandria. Mosaic artist Nina Tisara and artist-photographer Steven Halperson will exhibit their art work in the Fireplace Art Alcove. MVUC members and friends are invited to an artists' reception on Sunday, November 12, 2:30 - 5 p.m. RSVP: [ninat@ninatisara.com](mailto:ninat@ninatisara.com).

## OCT. 6-8

**Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour.** 6-9 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Taste samples from Virginia wineries after hours at George Washington's estate. Bring a blanket and relax on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River and meet General Washington. Admission: Friday: \$49 for members, \$59 for general public; Saturday: \$53 for members, \$63 for general public; Sunday: \$43 for members; \$53 for general public. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

## OCT. 6-28

**The "Curses! Foiled Again! The Art of Swords and Sorcery" exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that evokes the fantastic and swashbuckling. Opening Reception: Friday, October 6, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on October 29, 2023). Details on the art exhibit and related creative programs at [DelRayArtisans.org/event/curses-foiled-again](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/curses-foiled-again)

## OCT. 6 AND 12

**Staged Readings of "The Laramie Project."** 8 p.m. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. The LTA will present staged readings of "The Laramie Project" on Oct. 6 and 12, observing that it has been 25 years since the horrific abduction and death of Matthew Shepard. This is a play by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project, written in response to the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man, in Laramie, Wyoming. Kaufman and the other company



**THE GREAT PUMPKIN PATCH – The Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch will run now through Halloween. Hours are noon-6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. on weekends and Columbus Day. All proceeds support charitable ministries of the church. The unloading of the 18-wheelers attracts a crowd and will take place with trucks on Oct. 14 and Oct. 21. At 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. [www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org](http://www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org)**



**The Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour takes place Oct. 6-8, 2023 at George Washington's Mount Vernon.**

members visited Laramie on six occasions and interviewed residents, members of the police force, and Matthew's friends, to understand what happened, and why. Tickets are \$20.00. For further information regarding tickets, call 703-683-5778 (Ext.1).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**28th Annual Art on the Avenue.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Mount Vernon Ave. between Hume Ave. and Bellefonte Ave., Alexandria. The 28th annual arts festival held in the Del Ray features more than 350 juried artists, from quilters to card-makers to cartographers, displaying their one-of-a-kind wares. Arrive with an appetite and grab a bite from 20+ food vendors and set to the soundtrack of live music along the avenue. Trolley transportation will be available from the

Braddock Road Metro. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane.** Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Fall Plant and Garden Sale.** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Shop for seasonal color and

heirloom plants along with native perennials, trees and shrubs grown at Mount Vernon. Members receive a 10% discount on plants. The cooler fall weather makes it a great time to plant perennials, trees, and shrubs. In addition to heirloom plants, we sell many plants native to our region that are beautiful and support the local insect, bird, and wildlife population.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Oktoberfest Festivities.** At Alexandria Bier Garden, Alexandria.

Live bands and DJs Saturday and Sunday starting at 10 AM, with festive German music playing all day long Stein Holding Contests will give guests a chance to win a \$50 gift card on 9/30 and 10/7

Oktoberfest Trivia on Thursday 9/28 and 10/5 at 7 p.m. (will be Oktoberfest themed), featuring fantastic prizes

Alexandria Bier Garden will end the Oktoberfest festivities with the unveiling of its much-anticipated Paulaner event room and Rooftop Bar.

Oktoberfest brunch, featuring an array of German dishes to savor, will take place on 10/1

Sausagefest the next two Saturdays and throughout Oktoberfest, guests can enjoy traditional German dishes, including a hearty 2 lb. pretzel that's perfect for sharing with friends

## OCT. 10 TO NOV. 19

**"Reflection Unknown" Photography Exhibit by Fred Zafran.** At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. Opening Reception: Sunday, October 22, 2023, 2 - 4 p.m. Fred Zafran has long been interested in photography as a distinctive means

# ENTERTAINMENT

of storytelling. His work examines the artistic possibilities of photographs that combine the poetic with a representational view of the world. The resulting photo essays which Zafran calls "poetic narrative," are post-documentary in that the stories are open ended, subjective, rich in symbolism and metaphor, and encourage consideration and interpretation by the viewer.

**TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 10, 17, 24, 31**  
**Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, Tuesdays @ 10. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Simpson Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe Ave, Alexandria.** Meet and talk with Extension Master Gardeners in the Simpson Demonstration Gardens to learn the best uses for fallen leaves and other organic garden waste. Free.

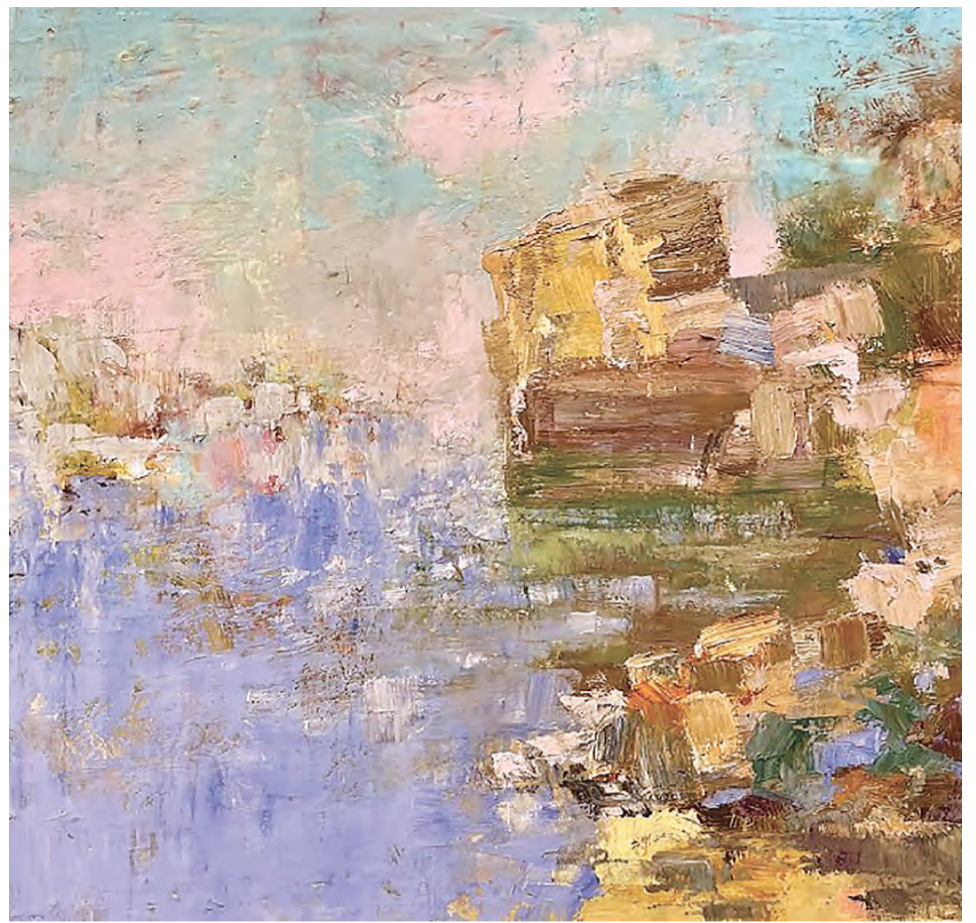
**SUNDAY/OCT. 15**  
**Paws in the Park 2023.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, Alexandria. Paws in the Park brings together shopping, music, food and drink, and of course lots of adoptable animals. The event is free to attend. Additional activities include a silent auction and Family Fun Tent, sponsored by TTR Sotheby's International Realty. Event proceeds benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Find more details on parking, vendors, and more here: <https://pawsintheparkva.com/>

**OCT. 17-23**  
**Fall Book Sale – At Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria.** The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Fall Book Sale from Tuesday, October 17 through Monday, October 23. Members' Preview on Tuesday, October 17, 3 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, October 18, 10

a.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 19, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, October 20, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, October 22, Half Price Day, 1-4:30 p.m.; Monday, October 23, \$10 Bag Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA; info: 703-746-1702; [www.beatleyfriends.org](http://www.beatleyfriends.org).

**THE BIRCHMERE**  
**At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria.** All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

**OCTOBER**  
 Wed. 4: Eric Hutchinson "Sounds Like This" 15th Anniversary Tour w/ Skribe \$39.50  
 Thu. 5: Edwin McCain w/ Danielle Howle \$39.50  
 Fri. 6: Marcus Johnson \$35.00  
 Sat. 7: The Bacon Brothers w/ Cindy Alexander \$55.00 SOLD OUT!  
 Sun. 8: The Bacon Brothers w/ Cindy Alexander \$55.00 SOLD OUT!  
 Mon. 9: The Bacon Brothers w/ Cindy Alexander \$55.00 SOLD OUT!  
 Tue. 10: Iris DeMent \$45.00 Rescheduled from 8/30/23. All 8/30/23 tickets honored.  
 Wed. 11: Eric Benet \$79.50  
 Fri. 13: Jeffrey Osborne \$95.00 SOLD OUT!  
 Sat. 14: Jeffrey Osborne \$95.00 SOLD OUT!  
 Sun. 15: Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra \$39.50  
 Tue. 17: Chris Knight (Band) \$29.50  
 Wed. 18: Rodney Crowell w/ Rob Ickes & Trey Hensley \$59.50 (Rescheduled from 7/16/23)  
 Fri. 20: Phil Vassar w/ Martin & Kelly \$49.50  
 Sat. 21: Raven's Night presents "Masquerade" \$35.00  
 Sun. 22: The Secret Sisters w/ Amy Stroup \$29.50



**Every Rock Has a Story by Anne Stine will be on view at The Athenaeum Gallery in Alexandria from now through Oct. 15, 2023.**

Mon. 23: Gene Noble w/ Diamond Pynk \$35.00 (Rescheduled from 8/24/23) \$129.50 SOLD OUT!  
 Tue. 24: The Zombies: Different Game Tour 23 w/ Wendy Colonna \$59.50  
 Wed. 25: Euge Groove \$45.00 (Resched from 6/7/23)  
 Thu. 26: Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin \$129.50 SOLD OUT!  
 Fri. 27: Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin \$129.50 SOLD OUT!  
 Sat. 28: Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin \$129.50 SOLD OUT!  
 Sun. 29: Tom Paxton & The DonJuans and John McCutcheon \$45.00



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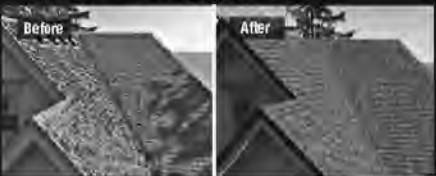
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**OPINION**

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

FROM PAGE 6  
 In 2021, the General Assembly passed legislation introduced by Delegate Mark Sickles to establish prescription drug price transparency. We must further build upon this effort by creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board, which would evaluate the affordability of high-cost prescription drugs and set reasonable rates to further protect consumers.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is not just about wearing pink ribbons; it's a call to action. It's a time to reflect on the dire statistics, to honor the lives lost, and to support those currently fighting the battle. It's also an opportunity to advocate for change in the healthcare system, making it more equitable and affordable for everyone.

So, what can you do to make a difference? First and foremost, educate yourself and others about breast cancer and its impact. Support advocacy groups that are pushing for changes in healthcare policies to reduce the financial strain on patients.

Additionally, consider donating to breast cancer research, which is instrumental in developing new treatments and early detection methods. Encourage regular mammogram screenings and self-examinations to catch breast cancer in its early stages when it's most treatable. In fact, with early detection, the 5-year survival rate of breast cancer patients is 99%.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a time for unity and action. Let's remember the sobering statistics, honor the lives affected by breast cancer, and work together to ensure that every individual, regardless of their background or financial situation, has affordable access to the care they need to overcome this devastating disease. This October, let's turn awareness into meaningful change.

**CALENDAR**

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

**Let us know about an upcoming event**  
[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

# BULLERTIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

## LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**STEM VOLUNTEERS.** The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at [www.seniorscientist.org](http://www.seniorscientist.org). To volunteer, contact [donaledge@aol.com](mailto:donaledge@aol.com).

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at [ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities) or email [volunteer@ucmagency.org](mailto:volunteer@ucmagency.org).

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriend-A-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See [www.ophrescue.org](http://www.ophrescue.org) for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email [Carly.Hubicki@chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:Carly.Hubicki@chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org) or call 703-246-3460.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers

are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm) for more.

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm) for more.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Gum Springs Senior Program in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs Instructors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Woodworking, Italian and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs front desk volunteers and patient Card Players. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

Mount Vernon At Home is a community Village, providing support, services, and community to seniors in the area. Volunteers are needed for a variety of services, with transportation to medical appointments are greatest need. They can also use help with in-home handyman work and handling IT problems. If you are interested in volunteering, contact us at [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org) or call 703-303-4060.

Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/), or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

Hollin Hall Senior Center is looking for a DJ ballroom and dance instructor. The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center is looking for social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4:30 p.m. Located at 8350 Richmond Highway. For these and other volunteer opportunities call 703-324-5406 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

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**CENTRE VIEW**

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

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

Please, help save these historical papers.

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

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk.

The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

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

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

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

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## Certain About Burton



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The little dog, affectionately referred to as, recently celebrated his first birthday. And as I anticipated when I wrote my initial column about him/me having gotten a puppy for the first time in 28 years or so: "Burton For Certain," he has been everything a dog owner could want. He's a sweet and loving golden retriever (it's rare that the breed is anything else) who still believes - at almost 75 pounds, that he's a lapdog. Have you ever tried eating off a snack table with a big dog sitting on your lap and sniffing your plate/fork? It's not easy. Part of what brings me joy about Burton is the story of how and why he was christened, so to speak, with his name. I'm always interested in pet names and their stories, if any, which people are only too happy to share about their pet's given name. And Burton, as with Brandy and Bailey before him (both liquor-related), has a good backstory which I will now share.

My wife, Dina surprised me with puppy-Burton on a Saturday morning in early October one year ago. Dina was helping a neighbor, or so I was told, that morning, when she got up at 6 am to drive four hours to Lexington, Va. What little did I know?: As Sergeant Schultz said so often on "Hogan's Heroes" so too did "I know nothing." Of course, I didn't have a dog name at the ready since I was clueless what Dina had started planning three months earlier in June when she first met the breeder in Harper's Ferry on a Saturday when we took a day trip with some friends. Fast forward, when she arrived home later that afternoon, puppy in tow, with the associated puppy paraphernalia, some of which had been spread around the neighborhood - to maintain the surprise, I was nearly speechless at the sight of him. He was adorable and lovable. Dina placed him in my arms, and I very nearly started to cry. I really hadn't thought much about a puppy. Ever since I was diagnosed with cancer, I had always thought that with the indeterminate issues with my health and life expectancy, especially factoring in the side effects - and demands of chemotherapy, that adding to the family when we might be subtracting from it was a risky proposition. Nevertheless, here I was back in the dog business for the first time in 14 years. Having not considered a canine addition, given the cancer diagnosis and the five cats we already had in house, I was not thinking expansion. As such, I was totally unprepared for Burton emotionally (physically I could mostly manage, although occasionally a little challenging on some days when I felt the effects of 14 years of chemotherapy), and since I had no inkling as to what Dina was planning, I certainly didn't know what to call him.

For the next day, we struggled to give him a proper name. We did agree that his name should begin with the letter "B," given the names of our two previous goldens, but other than that, we were stuck. The only name we could produce was "Buddy," but other than the "B" part, we weren't all that enamored, particularly Dina. I can still see her sitting on our living room couch that morning, cellphone in hand, scrolling pet name lists on the internet, as we tried to resolve this pet-naming dilemma. Frustrated by the choices we were considering; we were temporarily at a loss. Then, out of the blue, as I'm sitting in a wingchair perpendicular to the couch, I get a text from Dina's father in New York - who rarely texts. He knew about the puppy surprise but had no idea that we were focused on finding a name at that moment or were as stuck as we were, struggling to find a suitable name and beginning quite frankly to get a bit frustrated. Granted, it was barely a day, and we hadn't had much time to get our arms - and head around the changes to our life (me more so than Dina obviously since she was the "surpriser"), but we wanted to call him something other than "puppy." And until we had a name, it's almost as if the surprise wasn't quite finished and therefore, we couldn't move on and/or plan for our new future as dog owners once again.

Then I hear my phone-text ring, look down on my lap, and see a text out of the blue/unsolicited, from Dina's father. I click on his name and read the message. I immediately smile and look over to the Dina on the couch, still scrolling/researching names. I snicker and say, "Dina, your father has just come up with the dog's name: Burton." And since we live in Burtonsville and live in the Isaac Burton House and the name begins with "B," we had found/been given Burton's name. And when I said so, Dina smiled back at me and chuckled: "Perfect," and so he was officially named. Soon thereafter, his AKC registration confirmed it: "Sir Isaac Burton of Burtonsville."

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



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*“The White Family was fantastic throughout our entire selling process! We knew right away that the Chris White team was the way to go based on our previous experience with them and their outstanding reputation around Mt. Vernon. They absolutely lived up to our high expectations, and had our sale completed in record time with no issues. There is no doubt their experience helped move things along much faster than we expected and we are grateful for their help. Highly recommended for anyone buying or selling in the Mt Vernon and greater Fairfax area.”*

703.283.9028

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