

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 12, 2023



Many a car was repaired in this dated garage.

Mount Vernon Auto Repair Reduced to Rubble in Hybla Valley

Leveling closed businesses is part of the modernization process in Mount Vernon.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Time finally ran short for the Mount Vernon Auto Repair in Hybla Valley and it was leveled on Oct. 10 to make way for the modernization that's taking place along Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon.

This shop was closed and unoccupied for years, and became an eyesore to many in the surrounding area. There are newer townhouses right behind it and other service companies up and down this section of highway so an "abandoned" business is not appealing.

SEE DEMOLITION, PAGE 5

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



Demolition equipment tears down the walls at 8249 Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon.



Town Meeting on Southside 'Express Lanes'

The Virginia Department of Transportation is currently studying the feasibility of extending existing High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes from the Mixing Bowl over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and into Maryland. These changes could potentially reduce the current amount of untolled access that currently exists across the bridge, create impediments to using the bridge for Metro as it was originally designed, or have right-of-way impacts at existing interchanges to allow for new exit and on ramps, says Sen. Scott Surovell

who will hold a community town hall meeting on the proposals.

VDOT is currently taking public input on these changes. Please Join us October 25 at Sherwood Regional Library from 6-7:30 pm for a meeting to learn about the proposed I-495 Express Lanes.

VDOT personnel will be there to update the community on this proposal and take questions. Information about the study can be found here:

<https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northern-virginia/495southsideexpresslanes.asp>

Pedestrian Killed by Hit and Run Driver in Woodlawn

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate a hit-and-run crash that killed a man in Woodlawn, Friday night, Oct. 6.

Friday at 10:10 p.m. officers responded to Richmond Highway near Brevard Court in Woodlawn for a hit-and-run crash involving a pedestrian. Preliminarily, detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit determined Eder Machado Aleman, 36 of Fairfax, was attempting to cross Richmond Highway outside of the crosswalk and was struck by the driver of an unknown vehicle. The victim sustained trauma to the upper body from the impact. The driver of the vehicle did not stop and fled the scene. The victim was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

A witness reported seeing a white SUV prior to the crash. Detectives continue to work to identify the vehicle involved as well as the driver. Speed and alcohol as factors in this crash are still under investigation.

This is the 7th pedestrian-related fatal crash in the County to date in 2023.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Please call our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

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Jeffery McGlothlin 703.798.0137
www.alexandria-homes.com

OPEN SUN 10/15, 2-4



Seminary Ridge | \$1,495,000

Immaculate colonial in a fantastic location! 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, open floor plan with gas fireplace, finished basement and spacious yard with gorgeous hardscape for outdoor entertaining. 3705 Fort Worth Avenue TheLynnTeamRE.com
Margot Lynn 703.973.3722
Hannah Lynn 703.973.8170



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OPEN SUN 10/15, 2-4



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Charming front porch on this beautifully renovated 4-bedroom, 3-bath home with updated kitchen and baths, refinished hardwood floors and a wood-burning fireplace. Neutral finishes, new roof, updated major utilities, and attached 1-car garage. 7819 Elba Road
Robin Stevens Arnold 703.966.5457
www.RobinArnoldSells.com

OPEN 10/13, 5-7 | 10/14 & 10/15, 2-4



West Springfield | \$730,000

This lovely bi-level home has a yard that's a certified wildlife habitat and loads of interior updates. With 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths plus a family room, there's space to spread out. 1-car garage and a super convenient location! 6621 Sandover Court
Sarah Bobbin 571.225.8716
www.SophisticatedLivingNOVADC.com



Greenhouse | \$349,000

Light, bright, & beautifully renovated two-bedroom, two-bath condo in the west end of Alexandria featuring southwest exposure with courtyard views from the balcony, garage parking, and abundant amenities. 5300 Holmes Run Parkway #1002
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
www.RealtorHeidiB.com

OPEN 10/12, 5-7 | 10/14 & 10/15, 1-4



Port Royal | \$320,000

Sunny, spacious and with a terrific view of the river... this 1-bedroom condo in North Old Town is ideal for a first time buyer, as a pied-à-terre, or as part of an investment portfolio. 801 N Pitt Street #1008

Lisa Groover 703.919.4426
www.LisaGroover.com

109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292 | McEneaney.com
10 E Washington St, Middleburg, VA 20118 | Equal Housing Opportunity



Leslie Lautenslager: 'My Time With General Colin Powell'

Local author tells international stories of her work alongside General Colin Powell.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

For Leslie Lautenslager, it started as an interest in protocol and diplomacy ultimately landing her as a first-time author recalling her years as Colin Powell's assistant.

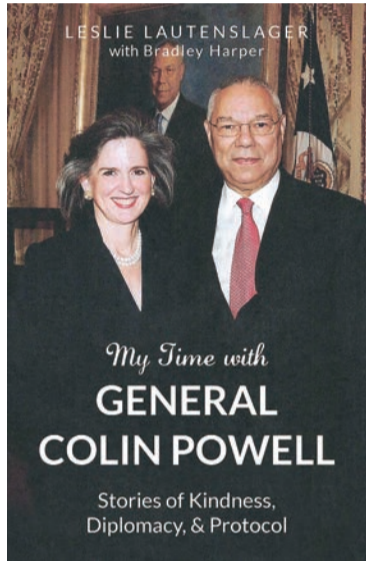
"I don't think of myself as an author," she said, but, "I had to share the side of him that I knew, not the side the public knew," she added.

Lautenslager, an expert in international protocol, was Powell's executive assistant for 25 years before his death from Covid-19 in October 2021. To honor Powell, in an effort he supported, Lautenslager put it all in a book, "My Time with General Colin Powell, Stories of Kindness, Diplomacy, and Protocol," that hits the shelves later this month.

She tells of diplomacy among the world chaos, particularly in the Middle East and Powell's role there, and traveling in Africa. He was an important figure in Desert Shield through Desert Storm and beyond.

But she also tells of Powell the person, and the lighthearted stories "were the most fun to write," she said. She brings enthusiasm to the telling. There were also international anecdotes.

One story involved a time they were on the crowded streets of Trinidad and Tobago and Leslie was in the second car with the first lady of Trinidad-Tobago when their limousine got a flat tire and



Leslie Lautenslager, expert on international protocol and first-time author, with her new book.

the two cars got separated. Powell and the president were heading in the direction of a steel-drum street show and Leslie and the First Lady "had to sprint about two blocks to catch up with them, and we were in dress heels so it was not easy," she said.

Another time, they were in Nigeria and the street was full of people when a couple of guys walked by dressed in camouflage with guns. Powell saw what was going on from the back of their chauffeured car and slowly put Leslie's purse on the floor under his feet. She could feel the tension. "Suddenly I was terrified," she said.

Leslie Lautenslager grew up in



Leslie Lautenslager's new book on Colin Powell hits the shelves in late October.

Hayfield Farm and graduated from Hayfield Secondary before going on to graduate from William and Mary College.

As she was juggling around the

book idea, a longtime friend and Fairfax Station resident, Linda Reynard Basnight, urged her to go for it. They were on a weekend trip to Williamsburg when they ran into

a fellow writer and author Bradley Harper; Basnight blurted out, "she's writing a book," and that got him involved. Harper helped Lautenslager with word-smithing and knew a publisher and all the process details. He's listed on the book as a co-producer.

Basnight referred to that meeting at the restaurant as "serendipity."

"I had always encouraged her," Basnight said, "people need heroes," she added. Basnight and her husband looked at the first chapters, but after that "she was off to the races," Basnight said.

Sitting Down to Write

For Lautenslager, sitting down and writing a book of international significance did not come naturally, but with a publisher and enthusiastic friends, she took on the task wholeheartedly. It put her out of her comfort zone but some say that's how people grow. "We're working on a big PR push," she said.

With the uneasy political situation in this country as well as the instability in some parts of the world, "people are eager for enthusiasm," she said. Maybe the enthusiasm surrounding a positive world figure like Colin Powell will be just what is needed. When the book hits the stands later in October, she may be on her way to book signings, talk shows and podcasts and she realizes only time will tell.

"I'm really excited, also a little bit nervous," she said.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.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.

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 or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9



Her quilt depicting the Woodlawn Quaker Meeting House, site of an anti-slavery colony and some of Sims's ancestors.



The Door of No Return in Senegal where Africans were warehoused, sold into slavery and shipped across the Atlantic.

Her Art Quilts Tell Stories

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

After Sheryl Sims got bored with traditional quilting, she started making story quilts and found her calling. “I paint with fabric. I quilt what is in my heart and mind,” she explained at an Oct. 2 opening reception attracting 94 admirers.

Until Dec. 31, Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House are displaying 63 of her story quilts in a free exhibit titled “Story Quilts, Inspired by Family and Faith.” Quilt sizes vary, with many around 20 by 30 inches and each recounts her family history, her faith or an African-American historical event.

She does machine quilting with raw edge appliqué. She often uses colorful fabrics and eschews patterns. Sims enjoys the creativity, what she calls “the no-rules approach.” She can make a story quilt in one day.

Stitching her family history evolved from her efforts to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), an organization that requires one “to prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence,” says the DAR website. The daughter of a military officer, Sims had lived all over the world and knew little about her ancestors beyond her great-grandparents. In six years of research, she traced ten generations, complicated by scant records for the enslaved people in her background. She found an ancestor who contributed money to the cause, a White, sixth great-grandfather. “I did not find a patriot of color,” she says. She joined the DAR in 2022.

Her Stories

Several quilts portray members of her family, including her parents. One depicts her second great-grandmother, Chancy Tillman, an enslaved Louisiana woman who was



Sheryl Sims, quilt artist.



A quilt portraying the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision.

Presentation on Quilts

On Nov. 4 at 4 p.m., Sheryl Sims will make a presentation about her quilts. Visit <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcoming-events>.

freed and lived to age 100. Another portrays the Hollingsworth family reunion. Valentine Hollingsworth, her maternal great-grandfather, came to America from Ireland with William Penn.

Especially poignant are the African-American history quilts, like a scene depicting the 1968 assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King at Memphis, Tennessee's Lorraine Motel. Another shows Rosa Parks on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, titled “Rosa Parks Takes a Seat.” In 1955, Parks refused to give up her seat to a White man as the law required.

One quilt portrays the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Brown v. Board of Education, which found that public school racial segregation was unconstitutional.

Another relates the horrors of Goree Island, Senegal's “Door of No Return.” According to the African American Registry, “Goree Island was a slave-holding warehouse, an absolute center for the trade of African men, women and children. Millions of West Africans were taken against their will. Many of these Africans were brought to Goree Island, sold into slavery and held in the holding warehouse on the island until they were shipped across the Atlantic Ocean.”

“Hope” greets arriving exhibit visitors, created after former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died in 2020. It recalls the day Sims joined a diverse crowd at the U.S. Supreme Court building and reflects Ginsburg's spirit. “She wouldn't want everyone out here crying. She would want us to maintain hope,” Sims believes.

SEE HER ART, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Garage Demolition

FROM PAGE 1

“Everything is going down,” said one of the workers on the asbestos removal team that watched as the crane ripped through the roofing, pulled down the old cement walls and tore through the infrastructure materials such as aluminum fittings and wires. The garage was built years ago when asbestos material was used so an asbestos removal crew completed work there in a period before the crane was brought in to do the demolition.

Throughout the destruction, a worker sprayed the area with a hose to keep the dust down. This is part of all operations like this.

Along this part of Richmond Highway, several improvements are underway as officials in Mount Vernon are preparing it for a highway widening project and the Embark Richmond Highway project that’s coming through in the future.

According to the Virginia Department of Transportation, the right-of-way portion of the \$465 million widening project is underway now, and in 2027, construction on the actual widening project will begin. Phase 1 will widen about 1.5 miles of Richmond Highway from Jeff Todd Way to a point just north of Frye Road, and Phase 2 is widening Richmond Highway to Sherwood Hall Lane.

The Embark Richmond Highway is an initiative focused on creating a multimodal future for Richmond Highway Corridor where residents, workers, and visitors can walk, bike, or drive to the places they want to go, Fairfax County said. This effort followed recommendations from the Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



Water is sprayed constantly to keep the dust down.

Analysis, conducted by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and includes plans for a Bus Rapid Transit line down the center of Richmond Highway. The actual timeframe for this project has not been established.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a fireworks display will take place as part of private evening events at George Washington’s Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Friday, October 20 (5 minutes) – between 9:00pm and 9:45pm
Saturday, October 21 (5 minutes) - between 9:00pm and 9:45pm

The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

GEORGE WASHINGTON’S
MOUNT ★ VERNON

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back to 2008
 are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

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Coping with Climate Change Takes Everyone

BY GLENDA BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

This article is the first of two covering the Sept. 30 Climate Action Conference, organized by Supervisor James Walkinshaw, Braddock District

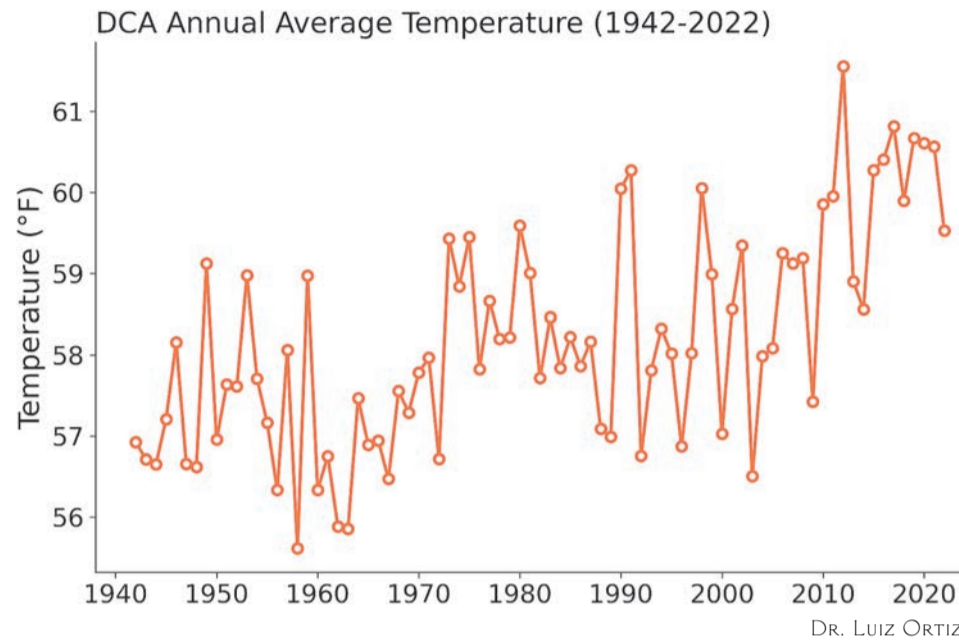
"This is not a doom and gloom conference," Supervisor James Walkinshaw announced in opening his first annual Climate Action Conference at Lake Braddock Secondary School on Sept. 30 to an audience of around 250.

Asserting that "the science is settled," his goal was to give people the tools to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and save money, not to bemoan climate change's harms.

As the country set new records for high temperatures this past summer, Northern Virginians sweltered through a very hot July. The region's average temperature has increased more than two degrees since the last century, reports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Possible effects of climate change have been evident locally, nationally and around the world.

In June, a smoky haze from Canada's wildfires shrouded this region, causing many



DCA National Airport Average Annual Temperatures 1940 to 2020

DR. LUIZ ORTIZ

cancellations of outdoor events. Scientists say that climate change is spurring more intense wildfires as some areas become hotter and drier.

The May 2023 Potomac Conservancy's report on the river's condition concluded, "... we are already experiencing the impacts of a warming climate" in the region, and these

impacts will worsen. Warmer atmospheric temperatures mean warmer water temperatures, which can adversely affect aquatic life and encourage algal blooms and bacteria growth.

Dr. Luis Ortiz from George Mason University said that "global climate changes are local problems. It's already here." Tem-

Resources

Energy efficiency, www.energy.gov/save
Carbon footprint calculator, www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/
Fairfax County resources, <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/environment-energy-coordination/>

What Are Greenhouse Gases?

Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere. The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. Carbon dioxide accounted for 79 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from human activities in 2021.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

peratures are warmer than they were 30 to 40 years ago. Severe storms and extended droughts are more frequent.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly told attendees, "We can't play games with climate change anymore. It's real. It's here."

Help Available

"Deploy, deploy, deploy" is the mantra of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), stressed the keynoter, Michael Forrester, a
SEE COPING WITH CLIMATE, PAGE 10

A GAYLORD HOTELS ORIGINAL EXPERIENCE

ICE!

FEATURING
RUDOLPH
THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

Save now on tickets to experience the must-see holiday attraction of the season! Step into a winter wonderland filled with larger-than-life ice sculptures inspired by the holiday classic, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

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LIMITED-TIME FLASH SALE
Book by 11:59pm on October 13 to save

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GAYLORD NATIONAL

Virginia Williams
High School Career Association, Inc.

HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FORUM
Grades 9-12
SAT. OCT 21, 2023
11am-1pm

Panelists will share information about careers available after high school graduation.

Register at www.vwhsca.org or scan the QR code. Space is limited, register no later than **Thurs. Oct 19**

PROJECTED PANELISTS: U.S. COAST GUARD, COLLEGE FAIRFAX CITY GOVT., STEM, STUDY ABROAD, MEDICAL, FBI, RENEWABLE ENERGY, TRADE

Door Prizes!

Lorton Community Center
9520 Richmond Hwy
Lorton, VA 22079

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Candidates for Sheriff, Fairfax County, City of Fairfax

Vote for one. Three candidates appear on the ballot in the order they appear here. Candidates were asked for a brief bio and to tell us about one voter who tried to find common ground with them regardless of their political party whose questions spurred them to action, with a tight word limit.

*Envisioned and compiled by Mercia Hobson.
For information on how and where to vote, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>
More than 8,000 Fairfax County voters have already voted as of Oct. 10.*

Sheriff Stacey Ann Kincaid

Sheriff Stacey Ann Kincaid (D) is a 36-year veteran of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and the first woman to lead the agency in its 281-year history. She serves over 1.1 million residents in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the Towns of Herndon and Vienna.

Kincaid received her bachelor's degree in political science/criminal justice from Frostburg State University in 1987. Starting as a sheriff's deputy right after college, she worked her way up to the rank of captain before being elected Sheriff in 2013.

One of her top priorities continues to be changing the way our criminal justice and behavioral health systems interact, resulting in better outcomes for individuals and a safer and healthier community for all. She helped spearhead Diversion First, the county's collaborative initiative that offers



Sheriff Stacey
Ann Kincaid

alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorders, and/or developmental disabilities who come into contact with the criminal justice system for low-level offenses.

In the Adult Detention Center, she has expanded opportunities for education, life skills programs, job training, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and re-entry initiatives to help inmates better themselves while incarcerated and increase their chances of becoming productive community members upon release from the ADC.

Within the Sheriff's Office, Kincaid has created a culture of engagement. She and her staff meet people in their neighborhoods, clubs, schools, businesses, and places of worship. She listens to their concerns and finds solutions to improve the administration and operation of the Sheriff's Office.

Response: When I was first approached about starting a Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) program in the Adult Detention Center (ADC), it was controversial. Many in law enforcement felt MAT "provided addicts with drugs." The person I was talking to was well-versed in opioid use disorder, and I had witnessed the awful effects of opioid withdrawal from my days as a deputy in the ADC.

I discussed and researched the idea further. I learned that beyond the inhumane effects of withdrawal, those leaving incarceration with opioid use disorder are much more likely to overdose within the first two weeks of their release. A well-run MAT program would reduce the impact of withdrawal and drastically reduce the chances of overdosing upon release.

Armed with my research, I embarked on

starting a MAT program at the ADC. But this program was going to go the extra mile. So, we have incorporated not just medication into the ADC but also utilized our expansive reentry services and peer support specialist to connect individuals with harm reduction tools and continued treatment once they leave the ADC. We now have one of the most robust and holistic MAT programs in the country.

kincaidforsheriff@gmail.com
staceykincaid.com

Jerry L. McMillian (I)

Jerry L. McMillian (I), 72, candidate for Sheriff, has over 17 years of experience and says he is the first Black candidate for Sheriff in Fairfax County.

As a former Reserve Deputy Sheriff, I can bring a unique and valuable perspective to the Sheriff's Office and the communities the Sheriff's Office represents. Furthermore, I utilize a calculated and methodical approach to problem-solving.

I have a vast range of experience with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office as a former Reserve Deputy Sheriff and maintaining community relationships through volunteerism.

Education and training
Bachelor of Science in Business Management and graduated from Fairfax County, Virginia Criminal Justice Academy
Northern Virginia Community College

SEE CANDIDATES FOR SHERIFF, PAGE 8



Jerry L.
McMillian (I)

Race To Be Member School Board At-Large

**Three open seats,
zero incumbents,
nine challengers.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The three Member At large seats on the Fairfax County School Board are up for election on Nov. 7. Voters in each of the nine districts in Fairfax County can vote for three At-large candidates and one district member.

This year, there are no incumbents running for any of the At-large seats on the Fairfax County School Board, although two candidates have previously served on the school board.

We asked for a brief bio and to tell us about

their interaction with one voter who tried to find common ground with you regardless of their political party and whose questions or story inspired them to take action.

Candidates are listed in the order they appear on the ballot. Party endorsements are noted.

For information on how and where to vote, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

More than 8,000 Fairfax County voters have already voted as of Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023.

Saundra T. Davis

PHOTO SCREENSHOT VIA
DAVISFOREEDUCATION.COM

**Saundra T. Davis
Candidate for Mem-
ber of School Board
At-Large; Davis did
not reply.
Davis is endorsed by
Fairfax GOP**



saundrad70@gmail.com
davisforeducation.com

Cassandra R. Aucoin 368/467

Cassandra R. Aucoin, candidate for member School Board At-Large, a military child, came to Northern Virginia as a high school senior. She earned a business management degree from Virginia Tech. She worked for the Army, Navy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and National Reconnaissance Office for 35 years. She has experience in strategic planning, budgeting, HR, program analysis, and organizational change.

SEE SCHOOL BOARD AT-LARGE, PAGE 8



Cassandra
R. Aucoin

Clerk Of Court

Two candidates are on the ballot for Clerk of Court; vote for one. Candidates were asked to provide a short bio and share a story of their interaction with a voter that led them to a commitment to take action, with a tight word limit. Candidates are here in the order they appear on the ballot. Envisioned and compiled by Mercia Hobson.

For information on how and where to vote, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

More than 8,000 Fairfax County voters have already voted.

Gerada Marie Culipher (R)

As the current Deputy Clerk for the Fairfax Circuit Court, I ask your vote to continue serving Virginia's



Gerada Marie
Culipher (R)

busiest trial court, ensuring it remains a model of good government and excellent customer service. With over ten years of experience helming this 180-person judicial administration agency, I have the breadth and depth of knowledge to keep it running efficiently and fairly for all.

After graduating from Johns Hopkins University and Tulane Law School, I started as a judicial extern and law clerk in the federal courts before joining Virginia's largest trial court in its Clerk's Office. As a military wife, mother of four, and Virginia lawyer, I know how busy life is in Fairfax.

My philosophy of smart, customer-focused public service at our courthouse means you can have confidence in our justice system.

I call us "The Court of Hearth and Home" because marriages, divorces, custody, adoptions, CWPs, protective orders, mortgages, deeds, and wills are filed in our office. As custodian of those records, I emphasize IT security standards that protect your information from data miners and other bad actors. Meaningful access to justice in the digital age is a balance between presumptively open records and protecting your data from abuse.

Response: Recently, our Land Records Team on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse (who handle deeds, mortgages, easements, etc.) flagged some unusual transactions as Deed Fraud. Identity thieves target vacant properties in western Fairfax. Exploiting innovations like e-notarization, these scams bypassed industry due diligence. But when fraudulent deals arrive at our counter, staff applies our Fraud-Prevention CheckList. Our technique stops the deals from

SEE CLERK OF COURT, PAGE 8

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Race To Be Member School Board At-Large

FROM PAGE 7

Aucoin's achievements include managing a multi-billion-dollar budget, establishing a Financial Management (FM) matrixed organization, and leading major studies and complex projects. In her last position as Chief of Staff, she ran a 1,000-plus-person global company. Aucoin and her military husband educated their two children in Fairfax County public schools. In addition to volunteering with military family support organizations, she was a senior advisor to military spouse organizations and led the establishment of two spouse organizations.

Response: A mother approached my Burke Centre Festival booth and told me FCPS helped her child socially transition to another gender without her knowing. The conversation was solemn and sad. If the school had notified her of her child's gender dysphoria, she could have intervened to ensure that her

child received medical and counseling care before making the next life-changing decision, a physical change. FCPS's protocols do not support this notification.

This conversation followed one in which a teacher expressed concern about the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program. Under SEL, children are asked inquiries that have nothing to do with academics and pertain to matters that belong to parents.

Parents are the decision-makers for their children. This school board and my opponents, who led progressive proposals for alternative bathrooms, are more concerned with special interest groups. That's why they rejected the 2023 Model Policies that I support. Those policies require parental involvement and ensure the safety of children in school bathrooms.

I have extensive leadership experience and am adept at collaborating with others to effect positive

organizational change. To alter the FCPS School Board's echo chamber, a commonsense strategy is required.

Aucoin is endorsed by Fairfax GOP
<https://www.cassandraucoin.com/cassaucoinforSchoolBoard@gmail.com>

Linda A. Pellegrino

VIA THE POLLING PLACE

Linda A. Pellegrino, candidate to serve as Member Board At-Large, did not reply.



Ilryong Moon

356 / 742

Ilryong Moon, 66, candidate for Member School Board



Ilryong Moon

At-Large: I am an experienced Fairfax County School Board veteran. I was first elected in 1995 and served for 20 years until retiring in 2019, with one intervening term of 4 years to serve on the Fairfax County Planning Commission. I am a proven leader, having served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board for three terms. I have been a practicing attorney in Fairfax County for 39 years. I am the proud father of two sons, both graduates of Fairfax County Public Schools, who pursued their education to the highest levels, both receiving post-graduate degrees.

As an immigrant from Korea, I arrived in the U.S. in 1974 at the age of 17. I am a former ESL student. I grew up in poverty and became the first in my family to go to college. My parents did not have much formal education themselves, but they believed in education. They worked hard. I studied hard and attended Harvard for college and William

and Mary for law school.

Response: I recently met a family going through a stressful student disciplinary proceeding. They shared their experiences and feelings with me, which shaped my views on how the school system and those involved should approach the process. The family described being confused, intimidated, and frightened at every turn.

The system moved like a giant machine without compassion or empathy for them. Board members and school administrators can sometimes overlook the personal toll the process takes on students and their families. We must work harder to provide more human touch and care as they undergo what may be the worst experience of their lifetime.

My highest priority is always to ensure that our students can achieve their highest level of performance and prepare them for

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 9

Clerk of Court

FROM PAGE 7

being completed. Last month, we caught a \$284,000 fraud, saving the closing company from a financial loss and the real owner a major headache.

One customer said, "I wish I could file a lien on my own property!" That stuck with me. Thinking about "Attorney Liens," "Mechanics Liens," and "Crop Liens" in Fairfax's more agrarian past, I'm proposing "A Protective Lien." This would be a creature of statute, so the bill would allow homeowners to record a lien on their home to protect it. I've shared sample statutory language with our real estate bar, the Virginia Clerk's Association, and spoken with General Assembly members from our Northern Virginia delega-

tion when I've seen them on the campaign trail. Solving actual problems has no party affiliation, and we are all united against consumer fraud. The Clerk is elected, but it works best when not politicized.

Christopher J. Falcon (D)

Christopher J. Falcon (D) serves as Legal Counsel and Civil Division Supervisor for the Arlington Circuit Court Clerk's office. He has been a practicing attorney for the past 15 years and is the founder and owner of The Falcon Firm PLLC. He earned his undergraduate degree in management from JMU and his JD from the Widener Commonwealth



Christopher J. Falcon (D)

Law School.

In 2016, Chris received the Arlington County Manager's Excellence Award for his contributions to the Arlington County jury orientation video. He currently serves as Vice Rector on the James Madison University Board of Visitors, the Fairfax County Human Services Council, the Arlington County ASAP Policy Board, and the Board of Directors of Edu-Futuro. He also served on the Virginia Latino Advisory Board from 2014 to 2018.

Response: Traveling all over Fairfax County and City this past year and a half, I have met a lot of people, but one moment sticks out. I met a person who could not afford counsel and asked me a basic procedural question about a case she had pending in the Fairfax Circuit Court. She asked me to look up her case to see if there were upcoming

hearing dates; unfortunately, it was a Saturday, and the court was closed. I explained that we can't see Fairfax Circuit Court case information since the clerk's office blocks it behind a paywall and charges \$150 for three months of access.

This public information includes case numbers, hearing dates, and times. She was upset. It was frustrating since this information is publicly available online in neighboring counties. It reminded me that access to justice begins and ends with access to public information.

I am the only candidate running for Fairfax Clerk of Court who is on record that we will move Fairfax public case information out from behind the paywall and onto the free online system every other county in Virginia uses. It's an enormous equity issue that disproportionately impacts marginalized communities.

Candidates for Sheriff, Fairfax County, City of Fairfax

FROM PAGE 7

Law courses

Gibbs College Criminal Justice courses
 Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy,
 Interaction Sensitivity Training
 Certified in Mental Health, National
 Council for Behavioral Health
 Retired

Retired from Fairfax County Government,
 Code Enforcement Branch

Volunteer law enforcement
 Former Reserve Deputy Sheriff, Fairfax
 County, over 17 years of volunteerism

Former President Plain-clothed Security
 Volunteer

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of
 Fairfax Income Tax Service LLC

Fairfaxcountyfirstblackcandidateforsheriff.com
 fairfaxsheriff2023@gmail.com

Christopher F. DeCarlo, Sheriff

Christopher F. DeCarlo (I) 64, candidate for

Sheriff, studied electrical engineering at Georgia Tech and political science and criminology at George Mason University. He is an inventor, president of DeCarlo Enterprises, Inc., the author of the teen handbook "What Now? An Uncensored Guide to School and Life," and father of five children ages 17 to 25.

Response: I have common ground with all voters whose concern is the corrupted governance that occurs from campaign contributions because the funding competes with our constitutionally vested power that originates with citizenship.

My theory is that all campaign contributions are unconstitutional, as provided in the Virginia Constitution, Article I. Bill of



Christopher F. DeCarlo (I)

Rights Section 2. People the source of power (as authored by George Mason, 1776): That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people,... This clause is known very simply as the Popular Sovereignty Clause; I believe there's a lot more to it.

To me, it means that the vested special power from citizenship that flows through the derivation in the three steps of voting, electing, and swearing-in is the only power that elected officers can constitutionally and, therefore, legally accept.

Acceptance of money, or anything other than that which is derived from the people, the source of power clause, is a violation of the Oath of Office because, via their oath, they are restricted to only the "all" power vested with citizenship.

The Office of Sheriff has the statutory authority to protect the Constitution and the rights it guarantees, even against the

sophisticated and powerful Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) that deal in entrusted power and controversy. But sheriffs and commonwealth's attorneys are reluctant to exercise their authority against it because they are in debt to whichever party and moneyed interests sponsored their candidacies. As sheriff, I will strive to see that all of your constitutionally guaranteed vested and derived power is preserved and not diluted under the color of law.

George was very concerned about the inevitability of political corruption, and, for the society of 1776, this interpretation was probably his intended mechanism to prevent it. Serendipitously, the clause originated from the 24 Fairfax County Resolves, endorsed at the Fairfax Courthouse, Alexandria, July 1774, also written by George.

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cdecarlo@fairfaxpropane.com www.honestyandethics.com

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Race To Be Member School Board At-Large

FROM PAGE 8
their future stewardship in our global economy as productive citizens. We must ensure that all Fairfax County Public Schools students, including our most vulnerable ones, have full and equal access to all programs and services to succeed. If elected this fall, I will reflect on this recent experience and have genuine conversations with school system leaders and parents to improve the experience.

Moon is endorsed by Fairfax Democrats
moonschoolboard@gmail.com <https://www.moon4schoolboard.com/>

Ahmed Mahdi Hussein

SCREENSHOT VIA
HUSSEIN FOR
SCHOOLBOARD.COM

N/A

Ahmed Mahdi Hussein, candidate for Member School Board At Large, did not reply.
info@husseinforschoolboard.com

husseinforschoolboard.com



Ahmed Mahdi Hussein

Maureen T. Brody

314/ 438

Maureen T. Brody, 60, candidate to serve as Member, School Board At Large, was PTA president at Lee High School, served on a curriculum advisory board under Anthony Lane, and has been involved in educating youth her whole adult life — from preschool to undergraduate courses at the University of Maryland. She has been a scout leader, a team mom, a room mother, a mom-mentor for mothers in special circumstances, and the HOA president of Saratoga Community Association in Springfield.

Maureen is a lifelong county resident currently living in Springfield. She graduated from Madison High School in Vienna and owns an editing business. She is widely known as a detail-oriented, get-the-job-done-well, solutions-focused person who will work with anyone in the pursuit of excellence.

Response: I randomly met a lady at a community picnic who is a retired FCPS principal and spearheaded turnarounds at multiple underperforming schools. She offered to meet with me on how she achieved stellar results, and I was able to listen for two hours as she summarized decades of successful work that led to state and local awards, national conference tours, books, and media recognition. Her depth of knowledge and the resources she provided as follow-up are part of a series of surprise interactions I've had with super-specialists as I've met with non-political groups across the county.

I have an upcoming meeting with a school transportation specialist and a screen addiction expert, and I recently met with a finance tech to learn about the logistics of

school fund inflow and distribution. I also got expert insights on the administrative burden on educators from a teacher who just completed a master's course for certification, and I have heard from parents about their IEP and AAP struggles. These valuable inputs have been a treasure trove of information that paved the way for immediate solutions that will provide long-term improvements, and I am very grateful for the generosity of these experts in sharing their knowledge.

Brody is endorsed by Fairfax GOP
mobrody@mac.com
<https://brodyforschoolboard.com/>

Robert Kyle McDaniel

Robert Kyle McDaniel is running for school board member at large to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education that promotes excellence and embraces equality in a safe and welcoming environment. He is a long-time Fairfax County resident with a history of community service. He is a George Mason University and American University graduate with public policy, budgeting, and finance degrees.

Kyle has extensive experience in Virginia state and Fairfax County local government. In 2015, McDaniel transitioned to the private sector through corporate startups. Since then, he has worked for three startups and currently owns an aviation services company. McDaniel is an airline transport pilot and flight instructor who owns a flight school with locations across the region. Kyle and his wife, Katie, live in Herndon with their two daughters. Although he has many jobs, such as business owner, pilot, and community advocate, his favorite is being a dad.

Response: I spoke with a parent who told me about their son always running out of lunch money on their student account. After a few weeks, they asked their son what was going on. The son replied, "I am buying lunch for my classmates who have no money."

The harsh reality sank in: there is an assumption in Fairfax County that everyone has money and can afford the necessities, like a school lunch for their kids. This is far from the case. Fairfax County has pockets of deep need that the School Board must focus on; this is the premise of the One Fairfax Policy and addressing problems through an equitable lens. I started looking around the country at how other school systems address the mounting lunch debt, and many simply wipe away the debt every year.

My Day One promise is a budget item to do just this: eliminate every penny of lunch debt on FCPS's balance sheets. This is around \$1 million. I will also initiate a process to phase out lunch fees completely, so no parent has to choose between a roof over their heads or a lunch for their kids at school. Kyle McDaniel <https://kylemcdaniel.com/>

McDaniel is endorsed by Fairfax Democrats

Peter C. Gabor

363/545

Peter C. Gabor, 61, candidate for Member of School Board At Large. My parents, refugees from the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, came to the US when I was two. They placed a high emphasis on education. I received baccalaureates in math, electrical engineering, and computer science from MIT and a Ph.D. in computer science and teaching certification from Princeton.

I worked for Microsoft and JPMorgan Chase on Wall Street. After studying internet programming, I became a high school teacher with FCPS in 2010, teaching artificial intelligence and upper-level math. I sponsor high school chess and ballroom dance teams. My passions include climbing the Cascade and Alps, attending balls, canyoning, and 16 x 16 sudokus. I think I'm the only person to have driven (Atlantic and Pacific Oceans excepted) twice around the world in the same car.

The lack of active teachers can be problematic when the board's primary focus is teaching and education. A teacher on the board will represent a vital school district group. I will question new rules from many vantage points; this type of questioning has been missing in the recent past. FCPS should follow federal, state, and local laws. I don't see how we can lead by example without this.

My outlook is minimalist; the school board and educational system have a single function: to prepare children to be contributing members of America. If it is outside this purview, I would question whether the school board should be devoting resources to it and being involved.

Response: Almost a year ago, there was a brouhaha when it turned out that there were issues with National Merit notifications. The superintendent then held a meeting at TJ High School to answer questions about what happened. At that meeting, I observed people passionately discussing how TJ admissions should be merit-based and involve a wide range of stakeholders. They did not discuss the notifications.

I usually take note of one person's passionate discussion of an issue. The same conclusion by multiple people on the same issue warrants further investigation. I will do my own thinking on such matters, but passion alerts me to the fact that people care. Note that TJ staff have no voice in TJ admissions; a separate agency within FCPS administers admission.



Peter C. Gabor

Ryan L. McElveen

347/347

Ryan McElveen, 37, candidate for Member of School Board At Large, served from 2012 to 2019 as an at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board, where he fought for and implemented curriculum internationalization, LGBTQ protections, sustainability initiatives, healthier school food, student mental health programs, student discipline reform, dress code reform, later high school start times, gun violence prevention, human trafficking prevention, improved college and career access, name changes for schools named after confederate figures, and excused absences for students participating in civic engagement activities. He is associate director of The Brookings Institution's John L. Thornton China Center and managing director of Global Leaders of Fairfax County. He holds a Master's of International Affairs in human rights from Columbia University, a B.A. in Anthropology and East Asian Studies from the University of Virginia, and an IB diploma from George C. Marshall High School. Raised in the Vienna/Tysons area, he lives with his wife, Xuan, and daughters, Sierra and Isla, in McLean.

Response: In 2015, I led the successful effort to change the FCPS nondiscrimination policy to protect community members from discrimination based on gender identity. The change led our district to become the first in the state to offer this kind of protection. At the time, this undertaking garnered national headlines, partly because it occurred on the leading edge of a national movement attacking the rights of the transgender community and pushing many other jurisdictions to drop their efforts to provide similar protections. Although we faced backlash in Fairfax, we persisted because it was the right thing to do. Four years later, a single interaction revealed the gravity of that policy change. At a public art exhibition, a mother approached me to share how much the nondiscrimination policy change had meant to her family. After the policy change, her transgender son felt a newfound sense of belonging in the school community, and he graduated with his preferred name on his diploma. I have no idea how many lives that policy change has touched. However, that single interaction made me realize the importance of using my position in the public sphere to improve the lives of others.

McElveen is endorsed by Fairfax Democrats
ryan@mcelveenforschoolboard.com www.mcelveenforschoolboard.com/



Ryan L. McElveen

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

ginia, 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.

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
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

Coping with Climate Change Takes Everyone

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

FROM PAGE 6

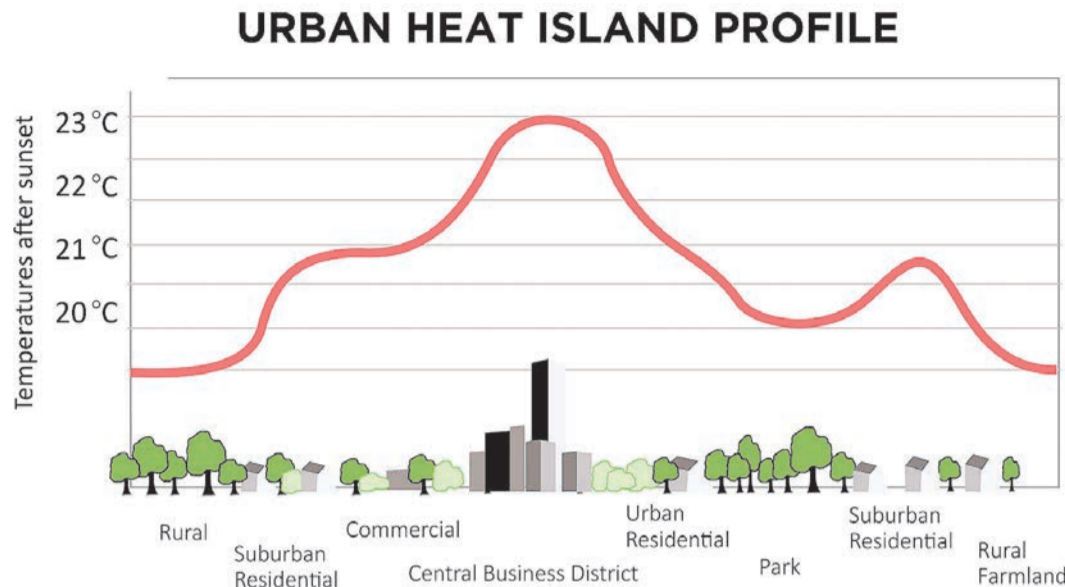
DOE official. Three federal laws provide tax credits, rebates or other assistance to encourage clean energy and energy conservation, policies that will reshape the private market and award Virginia up to \$189 million.

For homes, “the best investment is insulation,” he argued, saying that most single-family homes need at least sixteen inches in the attic. “Your money is flying out of your doors and windows and through the roof.”

He also touted heat pumps as an “efficient investment. They don’t burn anything.” He recommended home energy audits and buying only Energy Star appliances. If appliances, like water heaters, are over ten to 15 years old, they will likely need to be replaced with more efficient models, he said, adding, “If you wait for a crisis, you’ll get whatever’s on the truck.”

“Know your numbers,” recommended John Morrill from the county’s Office of Energy and Environmental Coordination. County libraries lend thermal cameras to help detect home energy losses, he reported, and Dominion Energy and Washington Gas offer energy conservation programs.

Connolly touted his initiatives



Urban Heat Island Profile showing that urban areas with buildings and impervious surfaces are hotter than parks and other greener areas.

starting in 2003 when he was elected to the Board of Supervisors. He said that the county set a tree canopy goal of 45 percent and it is now at 57 percent. In 2022, Congress passed and he voted for the “largest ever environmental bill ever,” the Inflation Reduction Act and an infrastructure bill.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck ticked off county efforts – the Fairfax Green Initiative, the Community-wide Energy and Cli-

mate Action Plan (CECAP), Resilient Fairfax and the Joint Environmental Task Force.

The CECAP plan seeks energy carbon neutrality in local government operations by 2040. A second goal is carbon neutrality in the community from all sources by 2050, with at least an 87 percent reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions compared with 2005 levels. “It will be very difficult,” Storck said, adding, “We are mak-

ing excellent progress.”

County operations are responsible for only three to five percent of overall emissions, commented Andrea McGimsey, Executive Director of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, which puts a major responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas pollution on everyone. “Collective action matters,” Connolly told the crowd.

Fairfax County for the last 20 years has been “on the leading edge” in reducing energy and emis-

sions, said Board Chair Jeff McKay. He spotlighted new solar panels on the Woodlawn and Reston fire stations, saying they will bring “thousands of dollars in energy savings. More are in the pipeline. They will pay for themselves.”

Mount Vernon resident Kem Clawson, dubbing himself and his wife Hillary as “climate action advocates,” applauded the action focus of the presentations. “You will be our messengers,” McKay challenged.



Supervisor Walkinshaw answered attendees’ questions.

NEPENTHE

GALLERY

PRESENTS

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BY A **WORLD-RENOWNED ARTIST**

OPENING EVENT

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“ART + WINE + CHEESE”

2 LOCATIONS

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7918 FORT HUNT ROAD

“COME SEE WHAT HAS POPPED UP IN OUR PARLOR”

AT NEPENTHE WE MAKE BUYING ART FUN

OPINION

Coalition for Smarter Growth: Pause, Revise 495 Express Lanes Study

The Coalition for Smarter Growth submits the following comments [summary only reprinted here] on the Preliminary Alternatives and Screening Evaluation presented by VDOT in September 2023 for its 495 Southside Express Lanes study.

In summary:

❖ VDOT's purpose and need statement – “extend and provide continuity of the Express Lanes system” – is biased, leading to a foregone conclusion, and is inconsistent with the National Environmental Policy Act direction to evaluate alternatives.

❖ VDOT handicapped the Transit and TDM preliminary alternatives by only creating piecemeal, separate elements that were each evaluated individually, rather than also creating an effective and comprehensive Transit (facilities and service), TDM, and TSM alternative that would perform well in the screening evaluation. VDOT (and DRPT's study) also failed to include transit-oriented

land use and housing recommendations in regional/local plans that would be effective components of alternatives.

❖ VDOT is rushing its study before WMATA can complete its current study of Metrorail in the corridor.

❖ If VDOT advances only highway expansion concepts, as its screening suggests, the public will not have information to compare the traffic and environmental impacts among alternatives for widening versus alternatives for transit and TDM.

We ask that VDOT pause the 495 Express Lanes study to revise the Purpose and Need; develop meaningful transit, TDM and transit-oriented land use alternatives; and allow WMATA to complete its ongoing study.

Stewart Schwartz,
Executive Director
Bill Pugh,

AICP CTP, Senior Policy Fellow
Coalition for Smarter Growth

Arrest for Murder of Brenda Ochoa Guerrero

Forensic evidence has led detectives from FCPS Major Crimes Bureau to charge a man for the murder of Brenda Ochoa Guerrero.

On April 13, a community member found an unconscious woman in a vehicle in the parking lot of Mount Vernon Hospital at 8033 Holland Road. Detectives arrested three men and a woman for the concealment of a dead body.

Last Friday, Eric Antonio Rubio, 36 of Alexandria, was charged with Second Degree Murder and Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony. Rubio remains held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

An autopsy determined the woman found deceased in her car April 14 2023 suffered from a gunshot wound to her upper body, according to police.

At 10:45 am on April 13, a community member reported an unconscious woman

in a vehicle in the parking lot of Mount Vernon Hospital located at 8033 Holland Road. Officers and fire and rescue personnel found Brenda Ochoa Guerrero, 33, of Alexandria in the passenger seat of her vehicle. She was declared deceased at the scene. Ochoa Guerrero had apparent trauma to the upper body, but no immediate cause of death could be discerned.

Ochoa Guerrero was taken to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to conduct an autopsy to determine exact cause and manner of death. Preliminarily, the Medical Examiner discovered that the deceased had suffered an apparent gunshot wound to the upper body.

Through detectives' investigation and review of surveillance footage, they saw two men park Ochoa's vehicle at 1:11 a.m. then leave the area. The men were then picked up by another SUV.

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2023 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Oct. 14
Oct. 22

Washington, DC
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ENTERTAINMENT

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.

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 debuts 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, No-

vember 12, 2:30 - 5 p.m. RSVP: ninat@ninatisara.com.

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

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 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.

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

Meet Dr. Carla Hayden. 7-8 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. The annual George Washington Leadership Lecture explores the Father of our Country's lifelong accomplishments, providing a better understanding of him as a person, as well as his remarkable leadership, professional achievements, and lasting legacy. This year's 10th anniversary event will feature a conversation with the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden. A reception with complimentary beer, wine, and hors-d'œuvres will follow the lecture.

THURSDAY/OCT. 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," 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 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).

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

Silent Witness Candlelight Vigil. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. At City Hall's Market Square, 301 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. Sponsored by the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program, the event is



The Paws in the Park 2023 will be held Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023 at Oronoco Bay Park in Alexandria.

designed to raise awareness of domestic violence and create a space of healing through a visual memorial, which includes life-sized silhouettes of the people in Alexandria who have been lost to acts of domestic violence. The event will include a private viewing for families affected by domestic violence from 6- 6:30 p.m., followed by a public program and reception. To find out more about the Silent Witness Initiative, visit www.silentwitness.net.

OCT. 13, 14, 19, 26

Jane Franklin Dance Performance.

7 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance Performance in response to Temporary Public Art Installation "Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson" by Nina Cooke John. The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund its community Artist Residency Program. The Artist Residency Program integrates visual and performing artists in the community to conduct interactive art engagements at the Waterfront Park public art initiative Site See. As part of the Artist Residency Program, Jane Franklin Dance was selected to bring interpretive movement pieces inspired by the artwork to the Waterfront Park.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Archaeology Along the Waterfront.

Guided tours: 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. (30 min. each). Celebrate Virginia Archaeology Month with Robinson Landing and Alexandria Archaeology! Archaeologists excavated a full city block prior to the construction of Robinson Landing. Learn what used to be at the site, including Hooe's 18th century warehouse and store, the 19th century steam-powered Pioneer Mill, and the remnants of three merchant ships. The event is free and open to the public, registration required for guided tours. Weather permitting.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

StepALIVE! Walkathon. 2-5 p.m. At First Christian Church, 2723 King Street, Alexandria. For the last 42 years, the community has gathered together for a day of

action to support the work that ALIVE! does to provide a safety net for Alexandrians in need. Join supporters for an outdoor kickoff, a group walk through Old Town, and a post-walk celebration. The StepALIVE! walkathon on Sunday, October 15th not only raises the funds to provide food, shelter, and emergency financial assistance, it is a moment where 50 congregations from different faith traditions demonstrate their shared values. This event is an event for all ages and stages and open to all people who support ALIVE!'s work. Visit stepalive.org

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.beatley-friends.org.

TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 17, 24, 31 Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, Tuesdays @ 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.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Second Annual Chalk Walk.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On sidewalks throughout Old Town North. Old Town North becomes an outdoor art studio as the Old Town North Alliance hosts the second annual Chalk Walk. Artists will be creating sidewalk chalk artworks throughout Old Town North, stationed throughout the neighborhood in 10 by 10 spaces, and will create new works of art in chalk. Attendees will be invited to stroll by each site and admire the artists at work or the finished work.

MONDAY/OCT. 30

Halloween Tales at River Farm.

6-7 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Acclaimed local actor (and retired Arlington Judge) William T. Newman Jr. joins Classical WETA's Nicole Lacroix and ghost storytellers Nikisha Kozik and Jimmy Meritt at River Farm to narrate suspenseful (and slightly spooky) passages from the Old Town Mystery book series by local author John Adam Wasowicz. You'll hear passages from Daingerfield Island set on Halloween night along the Potomac River and from Gadsby's Corner as The Female Stranger helps solve a crime that occurs on 'Mystery in the Museum' night at Gadsby's. Admission is free for children and adults.

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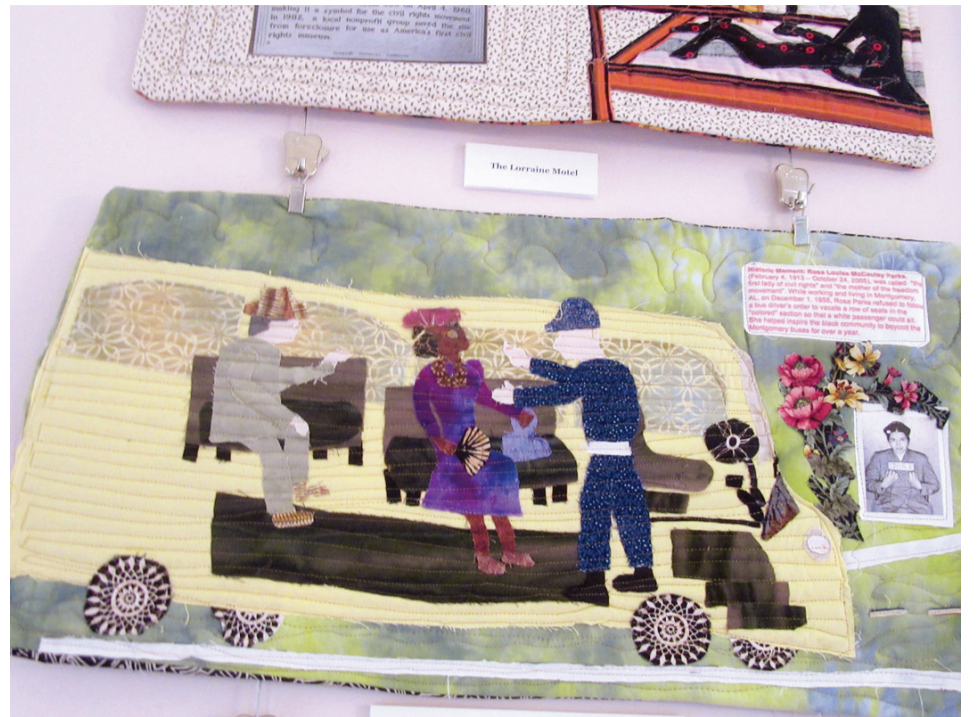
At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com.

OCTOBER

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
Mon. 23: Gene Noble w/ Diamond Pynk \$35.00 (Rescheduled from 8/24/23)
Tue. 24: The Zombies: Different Game Tour 23 w/ Wendy Colonna \$59.50
Wed. 25: Euge Groove \$45.00 (Rescheduled 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



The slaying of Reverend Martin Luther King in 1968.



Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on a public bus in 1955.

Her Art Quilts Tell Stories

FROM PAGE 4

Two quilts highlight local landmarks, the Woodlawn Quaker Meeting House and Alexandria's Christ Church.

"Here at Woodlawn, we are in the midst of a transition as we endeavor to better tell the full history," said Shawn Halifax, Woodlawn's Executive Director. "We are engaging

with our community to preserve history at this former site of enslavement, and I cannot think of a more appropriate way to do this than collaborating with Sheryl on this

exhibit."

Sims lives in the Manchester Lakes area of Fairfax County and is legal secretary in a Washington, D. C., firm.

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Saturday Evening 10/21/23

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- \$35 Round Robins Registration on day of event

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Mount Vernon Gazette

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Obituary

Obituary

Kathleen Lloyd-Braff passed away on September 27th at the age of 70, two days after her husband, Dr. Arnold Braff.

She was born in New York City on January 15, 1953, to John Edward Lloyd III and Josephine Krish Lloyd. She was the second of three children. She spent time in the summers swimming and the winters ice-skating at her grandparents' lake in Denville, New Jersey. She enjoyed dressing up and wearing make up as a young girl. She had beautiful blond hair as a child.

She attended Immaculate Conception Grammar School and St. Vincent Ferrer High School. She then went on to obtain an Associate in Arts at Elizabeth Seton College in New York, a Bachelor of Science from SUNY Geneseo in New York, and a Master of Education at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. She later received an Associate Degree in Applied Art, with a specialization in photography, from Northern Virginia Community College.

She enjoyed traveling, and traveled to Mexico, England, and around Europe. She also enjoyed going to Disney World and Bethany Beach in Delaware with her husband and daughter.

She was a talented artist. She especially enjoyed working with watercolor paints and colored pencils. She loved coloring books, especially by the pen artist Johanna Basford.

She is predeceased by her brother John Lloyd IV. She is survived by her daughter Laura Lloyd-Braff, sister Dr. Christine Lloyd, and her nephews John Lloyd, Matthew Lloyd, Alex Lloyd Brenner, and Andrew Brenner.

Her Celebration of Life will take place alongside her husband's, on October 20th, 2023, at 11am, at Jefferson Funeral Chapel (5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315).

Obituary

Obituary

Dr. Arnold Braff passed away on September 25th at age 67. He had been a dedicated optometrist for more than 35 years, as well as a devoted husband and father.

Dr. Braff was born in New York City and graduated from the prestigious Bronx School of Science.

After obtaining his optometry degree from SUNY College of Optometry in New York, Dr. Braff joined the US Navy and completed 2 terms of service as a lieutenant and navy optometrist, one in Charleston, South Carolina, and the other in the Washington DC area. After leaving the Navy, Dr. Braff remained in the Washington, DC area and worked both in private practice and for well-known companies.

One of Dr. Braff's hobbies was collecting antique radios, and various radios could always be found in his office and his home. He attended radio club meetings and was always looking for new items to add to his collection.

He retired earlier this year. His post-retirement time was spent exercising several times a week and participating in programs at the Senior Center. He especially enjoyed his theatre group. He also loved walking through the neighborhood, where he was a favorite of the neighborhood kids.

He is survived by his daughter Laura Lloyd-Braff, sister Janice Lemmo, and nephew David Lemmo. His loving wife of 43 years passed away two days after him.

His Celebration of Life will take place alongside his wife's, on October 20th, 2023, at 11am, at Jefferson Funeral Chapel (5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315).

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

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. To volunteer, contact donaledrea@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. Assis-

tance 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, or visit 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 or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

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Mount Vernon Gazette ALMANAC CENTRE VIEW

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

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has 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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Not Funny or Fun



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Rather, somber, and sad. Today, Sept. 23, I went to the cemetery to visit my parents. It is my deceased father's birthday. Born in 1919, he died in early Dec. 2006. He was a great father and my biggest booster. I miss him terribly, and for you regular readers, he's not totally unfamiliar to you as I often invoke his memory with miscellaneous memories/anecdotes. My mother lies beside him at the cemetery, having died almost exactly two years later to the day in early Dec. as well, in 2008. (As it coincidentally happened, my brother Richard died on the same day as my mother had 14 years before.)

Which brings me to the point/feeling behind this column being written. As of this past Dec. when Richard died, I am now the sole survivor of the immediate family of which I had been a part. With Richard's passing, today's visit was my first to the cemetery without any back-up. Previously, my brother or myself - or both, would make sure our parents were remembered on their birthdays with on-site visits (though we often remember them as we recall a lifetime of memories). But I'm by myself now. There will likely be no other visitors to my parent's gravesite (my brother was cremated) as their lives, as in their friends and family, were either in Massachusetts where they were born, or Florida when they moved south to retire. We moved them to Maryland - while they were still healthy, for them to be closer to us so we'd all be together.

Since neither Richard nor I had children, I really am the last in - and of, a line, extending back who knows how many generations in Russia/the former Baltic States. I only know about my grandparents, and not that much. Records of Jewish births and deaths were hardly respected and protected administratively in the former USSR. With Richard's death, yours truly (our respective wives notwithstanding, as I'm genetically referring here to blood relations) become the go-to-because-everyone-else-is-gone person (immediate family members).

And not that I haven't felt lonely since my brother died, last Dec. 3rd, but in visiting my parents today for the first time since then his passing, I really felt his loss since I am now the last man standing, so to speak. Richard wouldn't be coming by and leaving flowers as he often did, so it was just me - and my thoughts. And as I stood over my parent's graves, wishing my father a Happy Birthday and talking about Richard, his loss became even deeper than I had felt it previously. The reality of it his death hit me harder than it has in months. I'm all that's left.

This feeling, which manifests regularly, especially since my brother and I share so many interests and attitudes; none more than cancer as he had been diagnosed with colon cancer a few months before he died (and yet another subject we had in common; I have thyroid cancer) enveloped me at the gravesite. There I am standing over my parent's graves, talking about my brother having died; and the finality of our family's existence and of my position in it as being the sole survivor of the Louries (or whatever my paternal grandfather's names in the former USSR, was before he immigrated), after hundreds of years and who knows how many generations spanning across however many countries, nearly took my breath away. Heavy duty, man.

To summarize: once I was diagnosed with cancer in 2009 and given a "terminal" diagnosis (stage IV lung cancer), I never thought my brother would predecease me, even though he was almost five years older me. And I had certain feeling of security knowing I would/could always be able to count on my brother, especially since he was my second biggest booster - after my father. And now, having to live the rest of my life without the backstop of all backstops will be extremely challenging, and very unfamiliar. Losing the resource that you count on and rely upon the most, is more than just upsetting the applecart; it's destroying it. It's not exactly how I anticipated living the rest of my life. I'll just have to make the best of a bad situation. My brother wouldn't expect any less. And I certainly have no intention of disappointing him in death any more than I would in life.

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



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