

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station ♦ Lorton ♦ Clifton

Fall Festival Coming

PAGE 10

Haus of Marzipan will entertain the crowd with a dazzling array of aerial choreography, comedic acrobatics and whimsical dance at the Fairfax Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 14.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12-13 ♦ PIZZA, PAGE 16

Huge Whole Foods Opens

PAGE 2

Candidate Connection

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Police Chief Resists Some Recommendations

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OCTOBER 12-18, 2023

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Grocery Store Switch-a-Roo in Process at Central Springfield

New Whole Foods opens to much fanfare.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

The Springfield grocery store switch-a-roo took a major stride on Wednesday, Oct. 4 when the doors of the new Whole Foods store opened in Springfield Plaza and the crowds were there on opening day.

“Beautiful, very organized,” said Jackie Soletto who lives around the corner. “Bigger than the other one,” she noticed.

The new 49,449 square foot store is nearly twice the size of the old store, said Whole Foods communications representative Larissa Dalton Stephnoff. The move was a timely upgrade. “The Springfield store was one of the oldest in the DMV,” she said. “It was time for us to upgrade.”

In that one aging shopping center in central Springfield, there is a Giant Food Store which was upgraded last year, and a Trader Joe’s, so there are plenty of grocery options. Reportedly Trader Joe’s is moving to the location at Rolling Road and Old Keene Mill Road where the Whole Foods was since the mid 1990s.

That’s just fine with Aroosa and her brother Ahsan. They liked the old location and the following that went with the old Whole Foods store so they are planning to go to Trader Joe’s when the switch is made. “It was convenient,” Aroosa said.

Fresh food and organic is what it’s all about at Whole Foods and the new store in Springfield is supplied by 14 local farmers and businesses including Hess Broth-



Frying up the bacon.

ers Fruit Company, Mountain View Orchards, Firehook Bakery, the Virginia Chutney Company, Picnic Gourmet Spreads and Port City Brewing Company.



When the doors opened the local crowds were anxious to see the new store.



There are eight self-checkout registers.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

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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 4



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
DAVISFOREducation.COM

Saundra T. Davis
Candidate for Member 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 4



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 4

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Race To Be Member School Board At-Large

FROM PAGE 3

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.cassandraaucoin.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 7

Clerk of Court

FROM PAGE 3

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 3

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

NEWS

Victims Targeted After Withdrawing Funds

Detectives are investigating several incidents of victims being targeted after visiting a bank or financial institution. Here is some information on how to avoid and stay safe.

In several incidents in Fairfax County, suspects have observed victims withdraw a significant amount of cash from a bank. The suspects then follow the victim as they drive away. The victims in these cases park their cars at another location, leaving the money in the vehicle. The suspects then break the window of the car and steal the money.

At 3:13 p.m. on Sept. 15, a victim withdrew \$9500 from a local bank. When the victim entered his vehicle and began to drive off, his tire pressure sensor illuminated. The victim exited his vehicle and noticed one of his tires was punctured. The victim was approached by a Hispanic man in his mid to late 30s, wearing a black

t-shirt and carrying a backpack. The suspect advised that he had a fix-a-flat kit in his backpack. As the victim was tending to the tire, the suspect stated that he needed another kit and left. The victim checked his vehicle and realized the money, which was in the center console, was gone.

Through investigations, officers determined the suspect was watching the victim as he arrived and left the bank. The suspect punctured the tire of the victim's vehicle and followed the victim as he drove away.

Detectives are asking anyone who may have information about this incident to call the Franconia Police Station at 703-922-0889 and ask to speak with a detective. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

SEE VICTIMS, PAGE 14

Date	Police District	Organization of Withdrawals
April 27	Mason	Hanmi Bank/Annandale
June 14	Mason	Hanmi Bank/Annandale
June 15	Mason	Hanmi Bank/Annandale
June 29	Mason	Hanmi Bank/Annandale
July 15	Franconia	Chase Bank/Groveton
August 18	Franconia	Wells Fargo/Annandale
August 22	Franconia	BOA/Springfield
September 1	West Spnngfield	Capital One Bank/Springfield
Seotember 6	Franconia	American Bank/PWC

A year-to-date chart of suspected juggling scams being handled by our Criminal Investigation Division.



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ART WALK

Bringing an Artistic Flair to Old Town Fairfax

Local artists displayed their work on Fairfax City's Main Street Sept. 30, during the annual Old Town Art Walk.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Yelenna Angeles shares two of her colorful paintings.



Kelly Snyder creates paintings and a variety of crafts.



An "abstract expressionist," Cy Fortunato mainly works with acrylics, but also uses house paint.



Brian Legan creates paintings with meaningful imagery.



Fritz Treyz with his oil painting of a Ukrainian mother holding her baby.



Artist Jessica Berry incorporates mixed media into her art.



Samuel Fountain III does photography, animation and mixed-media artwork.

Let Us Know Your View

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

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CANDIDATE CONNECTION

School Board At-Large

FROM PAGE 4
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-
FORSCHOOL-
BOARD.COM
N/A



A h m e d
Mahdi Hus-
sein, candidate for Member School Board At Large, did not reply.
info@huseinforschoolboard.com
huseinforschoolboard.com

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/>

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 spear-headed 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

Robert Kyle McDaniel

Robert Kyle McDaniel is running for school board member at large to ensure all students



Robert Kyle McDaniel

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

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 15

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2023 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

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- \$15 Reunion and Social (no raquet play)
- \$35 Round Robins Registration on day of event

Register online: <https://swingforpinkmtvac.wordpress.com/join-the-fight/register/>

Donate online: <https://swingforpinkmtvac.wordpress.com/join-the-fight/donate/>

Volunteer to help: Email Deb Oelschlager SFPdonate@gmail.com

Another **CONNECTION** Community Partnership

- New Indoor Venue
- Tennis Round Robin
- Pickleball Round Robin
- Snacks
- Wine Tasting
- Silents Auction
- 50/50 Raffle
- Room to Socialize
- And have Fun!



SFP Website



Police Chief Resists Some Recommendations

Foot pursuit delayed even after death of Timothy Johnson in police shooting incident.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

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 total, 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 total, 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."



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."

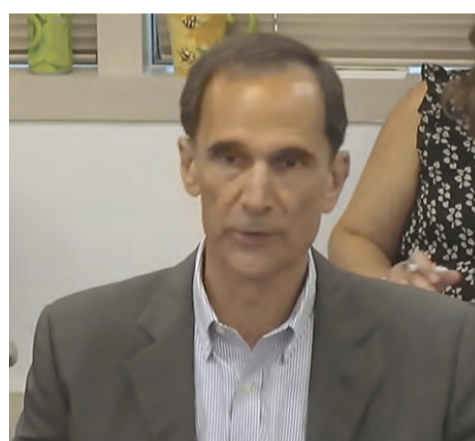
Davis said the change would contradict the "Graham v. Connor" case standard as decided by the Supreme Court in 1989. According to Davis, the case recognizes officers do not need to use the minimum amount of force in a given situation but rather must use a force option that is reasonable based upon the 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



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."

throughout the country."

#1: In process: FCPD is completing mandatory 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



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."

supervisors to respond to mental-health-related crisis calls. Davis said "FCPD General Order 609 (Mental Health Calls for Service) 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?"

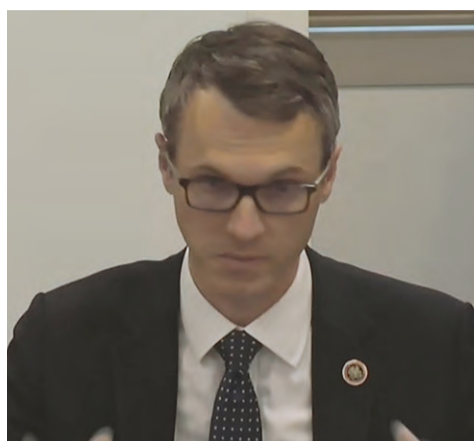
#5 PERF recommends that FCPD conduct sentinel event reviews of police shooting incidents and in-custody deaths. The April 2023 FCPD report states, "FCPD is currently in the process of reviewing this recommendation ... to determine practicality and feasibility."

#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

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



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."

and more restrictive on what officers are permitted or not permitted to do than PERF's 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 in-



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."

vestigation of a police shooting incident, 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.

CELEBRATION



Perfekt Blend will perform a mix of high-energy dance music and tender ballads on the main stage.



Haus of Marzipan will entertain the crowd with a dazzling array of aerial choreography, comedic acrobatics and whimsical dance.

Fairfax Fall Festival: Food, Crafts, Music

47th annual celebration is Saturday, Oct. 14.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When the leaves start changing color and the weather cools down, it's time for the Fairfax Fall Festival. This year's event, the 47th annual, is Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The fun includes three stages of live entertainment, food, crafts, beer gardens, plus children's rides and activities.

Admission is free, and there are activities for all ages. (Except for service animals, pets are discouraged). Vendors and the carnival will close at 5 p.m. But the musical entertainment will continue with Scorpion Rose performing rock, country and reggae tunes from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Old Town Square, at University Drive and North Street.

More than 400 crafts booths and displays will line both sides of University Drive, Main Street and Sager Avenue. And at Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive, the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department will host Sparky's Harvest Bash with Sparky the Fire Dog, teaching children fire prevention and safety.

A wide variety of food will be offered at two food courts – one on Sager Avenue and the other on University Drive next to the fire station. In addition, three food vendors will be at Old Town Square. And a trio of beer gardens will be at the Main Stage at University Drive and South Street, in Old Town Square, and at University Drive and Sager Avenue.

The Children's Stage in the Truist Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive will feature singers, dancers and magicians. Carnival rides and face painting will be there, too. (Rides are weather-dependent).

A full slate of entertainers will perform on the three festival stages (See Entertainment Schedule for details and addresses). And Haus of Marzipan is set to wow the crowd



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Synnai Mann with her balloon animal and fire hat at last year's event.

with its aerial dance/acrobatics shows, next to Fire Station 3.

Open houses will also be at the City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, Historic Blenheim and Civil War Interpretive Center, and the Fairfax County Circuit Court historic records area. For details, times and addresses, go to www.FairfaxFallFestival.com.

"The second Saturday in October, for the City of Fairfax, means the Fall Festival," said City Mayor Catherine Read. "This event draws vendors and artisans from around the region. Good food, lively music, activities for the kids, and the start of the holiday shopping season. It's one of my favorite events of the year."

Festival parking is at The Judicial Center parking garage B on Page Avenue and the



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Vendor Lynette Reed with her hand-marbled paper at last year's festival.

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Special Featured Performers

4081 University Drive (next to Fire Station 3)
11 a.m. & 2 p.m. - Haus of Marzipan
A dazzling combination of aerial choreography, comedic acrobatics and whimsical dance.

Main Stage

University Drive and South Street
11 a.m. - Riptide
3 p.m. - Perfekt Blend

Old Town Square Stage

10415 North St.
10 a.m. - Main Street Band

Old Town Village parking garage (3925 Chain Bridge Road). Accessible parking is at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. (accessed via Chain Bridge Road) and the Old Town Village parking garage.

In addition, handicapped-accessible shuttle

Noon - Rob Hornfeck Enterprise
2:30 p.m. - Zac Quintana Band & the Sages

Children's Stage

4020 University Drive (parking lot)
10 a.m. - Virginia Ballet Company and School
10:45 a.m. - Turley the Magician
11:30 a.m. - McGrath School of Irish Dance
12:30 p.m. - Crickett
1:15 p.m. - C4 Performing Arts
2 p.m. - Eric Energy
3 p.m. - Center for Ballet Arts
3:45 p.m. - Groovy Nate
4:30 p.m. - Bach to Rock

buses will travel to the festival from Fairfax High, 3501 Lion Run, and GMU's Rappahannock Parking Deck, 4393 University Drive, and back again, from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. And a First Aid station will be at Fire Station 3.

VSP Seek Info on Man Lying along 495 at Braddock Rd.

At 2:02 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, Virginia State Police responded to a report of a man lying on the shoulder along the northbound lanes of Interstate 495 near Exit 54 for Braddock Rd. in Fairfax County. The man was suffering from multiple gunshot wounds and was transported to the Inova Fairfax Medical Campus for treatment of life-threatening injuries.

The Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Fairfax Field Office is actively pursuing leads related to the circumstances leading up to the discovery of the 21-year-old Baltimore, Md. male. No vehicle was located near him on I-495.

Anyone who may have seen a vehicle stopped on the side of the interstate around 2 a.m. and/or has any information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Virginia State Police at 703-803-0026 or by email at questions@vsp.virginia.gov.

This Month's Workhouse Art Walk Second Saturday at the Workhouse

Oct. 14, 6-9 PM

Every Second Saturday of the month, our artists stay late (usually until 9pm) so you can stroll the campus, admire each gallery's featured artists, talk to painters, ceramicists, fiber artists, and so much more—and select your favorites. Perhaps a treat for yourself, maybe get started on the holiday shopping list. The October Artwalk is always particularly fun because the Haunt includes a live band in the quad. Lorton Workhouse 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton, VA 22079

Britepaths Holding Drive for its Pantry

In partnership with Volunteer Fairfax's VolunteerFest, nonprofit Britepaths will hold a food drive Saturday, Oct. 21, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Fairfax Walmart at 11181 Lee Hwy. Volunteers will ask shoppers to donate greatly needed household cleaning and personal hygiene products, along with Walmart gift cards, to help stock Britepaths' emergency pantry to help local people in need.

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ENTERTAINMENT



“The Pirates of Penzance” can be seen Friday, Oct. 13, 2023 at McLean Community Center in McLean.

NOW THRU NOV. 10

Into the Hothouse Exhibit. At Gillespie Gallery of Art, GMU's Art and Design Building, 4515 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Mason Exhibitions presents Into the Hothouse, an immersive site-specific installation by Chicago-based artist Aimée Beaubien. The exhibit is a category-defying constellation of dozens of gathered, printed, and handmade works that explore botanical and environmental subject matter. Natural forms, technological interventions, and laborious craft techniques abound. The gallery is free and open to the public from Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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/>

FUNDAY MONDAY

“Funday Monday is open to children of all ages, however is best suited for the preschool set! Funday Monday runs from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and — unless otherwise noted — is held at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There are plenty of free parking lots/garages in Old Town Fairfax. Stroller access is available at the side entrance Old Town Hall facing Route 236/Main Street. For more information visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts.”

SCHEDULE

Oct. 16 -- Music together Sing and Groove
 Oct. 23 -- My Gym
 Oct. 30 -- Kids Nature Puppet Show “Creepy Creatures”
 Nov 6 -- Miss Mollie's Musical Fun
 Nov. 13 -- No Program
 Nov. 20 -- My Gym
 Nov. 27 -- Drew Blue Shoes Magic

Dec. 4 -- Music Together Sing and Groove
 Dec. 11 -- My Gym
 Dec. 18 -- TBD

SATURDAYS THRU NOVEMBER

Reston Museum. See how Reston's founding principles were implemented by joining the upcoming walking tour. Tour will be held 10 a.m. every Saturday through November. Sign up at: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/event-details/guided-walking-tour-restons-founding-2023-09-09-10-10>

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Spooky Fall Festivities. At Go Ape Zipline & Adventure Park, South Run RECenter, Springfield. This ground-based experience will take guests on a hike through the park, navigating various creatures from your deepest, darkest nightmares. Participants will be immersed in the natural environment, never knowing what might be waiting around the next curve in the path. Is that just the wind through the branches? Definitely not! This guided, anxiety-filled adventure will take 20-30 minutes with a cost of \$14.95 per person. Go Ape is also expanding the Frights at Height experience! Launched in 2022, this autumnal aerial activity is now available on select evenings in both September and October. Guests will find zombies, ghosts, and ghouls hiding in creepy corners under the Treetop Journey zipline and ropes course. Only \$39.95 per person for this 1-hour gravity defying, scream-filled adventure after dark...if you dare. Visit www.goape.com.

NOW THRU NOV. 7

Cox Farms Fall Festival 2023. At Cox Farms, corner of Braddock Road and Pleasant Valley Road, Centreville. The Fall Festival is filled with family-friendly entertainment and attractions including slides, swings, animals, hayrides and more. From the world-famous hayride to our corny Cornundrum and giant slides, our Fall Festival has something for the whole family. The Fall Festival is open Sept. 16-17, and then Thursday through Monday Sept. 23-Nov. 6, plus Tuesday, Nov. 7. Hours Sept. 16 – 17; Thursdays through Mondays Sept. 23 – Oct. 30: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Nov. 2 – 7: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (last entry one hour before closing). Market is

open daily through Nov. 7. The Fields of Fear Hours: Friday and Saturday nights Sept. 22 – Nov. 4 (plus Sunday, Oct. 8) 7:30-11 p.m. (last entry 10 p.m.) Featuring more than 20 acres of fear and spooky attractions.

NOW THRU OCT. 29

Fall Fest 2023. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston. Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Fall Fest schedule spans weekends from September 23rd to October 29th, with the Columbus Day special on October 9th, operating from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per child and \$5 per parent, while children aged two and under enter for free. The festival offers a variety of activities, including inflatables such as a corn maze, two 20' slides, two pumpkin bounce houses, and a basketball game. There's also a charming petting zoo, the Reston Farm Garden Market Express Train, and live music for entertainment. The market features seasonal items like chrysanthemums, pansies, fresh produce, natural jams, local organic honey, farm-fresh products, pumpkins, seasonal decor, and our famous Apple Cider Donuts. You can also savor offerings from local food trucks throughout the weekend. Book your tickets on our website: <https://www.restonfarm.com/fall-fest>.

SEPT. 28 TO OCT. 22 (EXTENDED)

“The Chosen.” At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Chosen by Aaron Posner and Chaim Potok, directed by Alex Levy. Tickets: \$25-\$50 general admission, \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

OCT. 6 TO OCT. 31

The Haunted Trail. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night starting at 6:30 p.m. At The Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center celebrates its 10th annual Haunted Trail by bringing scares and laughs to the Halloween season. Haunt: Game Over immerses guests through a highly themed walk-through experience,



The Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia is hosting a Mini-Golf Fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 in Falls Church.

as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups via a timed entry for a frightening experience that brings them next to abandoned, historic buildings where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. The spirits will get loud with live music on Fridays, Saturdays, and Halloween night, with a rotating schedule of band performances in the Rizer Pavilion, which also serves as the check-in area and “virtual line” for Haunt entry. Food trucks, soft drinks, snacks, wine, beer, and themed-specialty drinks will be available for purchase on campus. Gates open at 6:30 p.m.; Final groups will be dispatched by 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 9:30 p.m. on Sundays.

FARMERS MARKET

FALL HARVEST FESTIVALS

Join the Fairfax County Park Authority at this year's Fall Harvest Festival to be hosted at four participating Farmers Market locations this October! Enjoy delicious foods from local farmers and celebrate the fall harvest with fresh produce, including apples, greens, broccoli and, of course, pumpkins. Shopping at the farmers market is a great way to celebrate all that the season has to offer, while supporting local farmers, businesses and communities.

Enjoy live music, free samples of warm apple cider, pumpkin decorating, trivia games, prizes and more. This activity is free and open to the public, but activity supplies are limited. To participate in this year's Fall Harvest Festival, visit any or all of the following market locations on the designated dates:
 Oak Marr (3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton) Wednesday, Oct. 11, 8 a.m. to noon
 Annandale (6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale), Thursday, Oct. 12, 8 a.m. to noon
 McLean (1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean), Friday, Oct. 13, 8 a.m. to noon
 Lorton (8994 Potomac Bend, Lorton), Sunday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 For additional information, contact the Community Horticulture Office at 703-642-0128 or visit the Farmers Market website.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

Foreign Language Film. 6:30 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden's foreign language

movie series is curated by Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern Treff, with more than a little help from you, our audience members! The series has a few surprises thrown in. Visit mcleancenter.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

“The Pirates of Penzance.” 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Presented by The Alden; \$20/\$17 students and seniors/\$15 MCC district residents. Everyone has pretended to be a pirate at some point! Set sail with this classic, abbreviated, musical comedy and a cabaret of favorites from the G&S canon. Visit mcleancenter.org.

OCT. 13-15

Farm Harvest Days and Carnival. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy Big Truck Night on Oct. 13; watch the cider press in action, milk a cow, shell corn, peel apples and play old-fashion games on Oct. 14-15; and enjoy food, games and rides at the carnival all weekend long! Admission is free; carnival ride tickets are available for purchase. Visit the Frying Pan Farm Park website or call 703-437-9101.

OCT. 13-15

Capital Art & Craft Festival. At Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly. Friday, Oct 13 and Saturday Oct 14: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday Oct 15: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Capital Art & Craft Festival will feature handcrafted, one of a kind art in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood. It is the largest indoor arts festival in Northern Virginia. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door Senior discount available; children under 12 free. Ticket information: www.CapitalArtAnd-CraftFestivals.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Centreville Day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A Historic Centreville Park, 5714 Mt. Gilead Road, Centreville. The 31th Annual Centreville Day celebration features live music, a colorful parade, children's activities and fun galore. The opening ceremony is at 10 a.m. on the Abogados En Virginia Main Stage, where Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) will present Centreville Day's Citizens of the Year awards. Remote parking is available on Rt. 29 near Carrabba's. Free shuttles will take you from parking on Rt. 29 to

ENTERTAINMENT



”Disney’s Mary Poppins” will be featured by the Hayfield Dramahawks on Oct. 19-21, 2023 at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria.

Braddock Road. Admission is free. Entertainment is free. Children’s rides are free. The theme this year remains: “Communities Working Together” See how you can work together to help overcome some of today’s challenges by learning about recycling and composting at the new Eco Expo!

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Jazz4Justice Concert. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Celebrating the legacy of Anthony Maiello, the event raises funds to directly support vital legal services for low-income Northern Virginians as well as financial support for the Mason Jazz Studies department, including scholarships, trips, recordings, and student projects. The performance will include classic jazz standards performed by the Mason Jazz Ensemble and Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble. In addition, there will be an open jam session hosted by Mason students following the concert. Visit cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Mini-Golf Fundraiser. 12-5 p.m. At Jefferson District Park in Falls Church. Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia will be hosting their inaugural Mini Golf Celebration as a fundraiser in honor of International Day of the Girl. This event will help raise critical funds to support future programming as the number of participants receiving program scholarships continues to increase. In addition to serving as a fundraiser for GOTR NOVA, this event will serve as a community celebration, bringing individuals together, as well as bring awareness to the Girls on the Run mission. Girls on the Run reaches girls at a critical point in their lives when society begins to tell them they can’t and. GOTR provides the skills and resources that helps kids navigate life’s challenges. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit GOTR NOVA programming. Tickets are available for purchase through Friday, October 13th, and can be purchased here: GOTRNOVAMiniGolfCelebration.com

FALL CARNIVAL FUN AT FRYING PAN FARM PARK

At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon.

Friday, Oct. 13 from 5-7 p.m. Big Truck Night: See an assortment of

big trucks throughout the farmyard from huge tractors to giant fire engines.

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 14-15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Farm Harvest Days: Free. Watch the cider press in action, milk a cow, shell corn, peel apples, meet farm animals, play old-fashioned games and watch farm demos.

Fall Carnival: Games and rides and tasty fair food. Carnival tickets are \$1.25 each; 24 for \$25/ and 48 for \$50. Carnival rides take 3-5 tickets each

DATES: Friday, Oct. 13 from 5-9 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Halloween on the Farm. Trick or treat on the farm. Visit with farm animals, create crafts, games, tour the decorated farmhouse and enjoy the fall on the farm. The program runs in one-hour time slots.

DATES: Friday, Oct. 27 at 4:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.; 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 28 at 4:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.; 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Open House. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., S, Vienna. Join them for food, games, interactive learning, live demos, safety workshops, prizes and more. Learn more at VVPD.org

OCT. 14-15 AND 21-22

Goblin Golf. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Halloween arrives early at the Burke Lake Park mini golf course. Enjoy a festive-themed experience with Halloween treats included. Our ghosts and goblins will be appearing throughout the day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring a date, a friend or the whole family. This mini golf experience is fun for everyone! Buy your tickets before they sell out! Cost is \$10. Call 703-323-6600.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Solar Eclipse Extravaganza. Join our experts to view the partial annular solar eclipse. At noon, watch as the moon partially eclipses the sun as they both travel across the sky. A limited number of eclipse viewing glasses and sun spotting scopes will be available to view the eclipse. As we await the eclipse and after it has passed, enjoy various themed games, activities and demonstrations.

- ❖ Partial Solar Eclipse Celebration, noon to 2 p.m., at Burke Lake Park
 - ❖ Partial Solar Eclipse Celebration, noon to 2 p.m., at Sully Historic Site
 - ❖ Safely See the Partial Eclipse, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Historic Huntley
- Visit the Astronomy website for more information.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Howl-a-ween. 2-5 p.m. At Brown’s Chapel Park, 1575 Brown’s Chapel Road, Reston. A free dog festival, featuring a costume contest, pet vendors, and goodie bags.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Better Said Than Done. 6:30 p.m. At Clare and Don’s Beach Shack, 130 N. Washington St., Falls Church. Join in-person storytellers Better Said Than Done with Nick Baskerville, Bonnie Gardner, John Kreul, Giselle Ruzany, Jack Scheer, Allison Stevens, and Andrea Young, and emcee Jessica Robinson. Tickets are \$15, plus a \$1 handling fee. Full dinner and bar menu available. Reserve your seat or table here: <https://www.bettersaidthandone.com/2023/09/17/surfs-up/>

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Skate the Wake. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Wakefield Skate Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Enjoy a day filled with skating, music and all-around fun at Skate the Wake. Come dressed in your best Halloween costume and enjoy food, music, vendors, and fun activities. Skateboarders are invited to bring their gear to learn new tricks from the professionals in the Learning Zone and compete in the Best Trick Contest.

Visit Skate the Wake webpage for more information.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood LIVE King for a Day! 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. At GMU’s Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$50, \$40, \$25. The popular Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood LIVE! has delighted live audiences on stages across the country. Now, in its fourth year of touring, your favorite characters are hopping back on board Trolley and coming to Fairfax. Visit cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

Hot Lanes Jazz Orchestra Concert. 3 p.m. At Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church Festival, Annan-

dale. Free. A two-set program featuring The Hot Lanes Big Band, led by Bobby Jasinski, celebrating the music of jazz’s greats, as well as featuring original music. The event is sponsored by Diocese of Arlington.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

NTRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors 65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. Call 703-425-9225 or visit www.fairfax-station.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

McLean Pet Fest. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. At McLean Central Park, McLean. Have fun at the park and bring your furry friends (leashed, please)! Enjoy free music, Fido’s Bone Bar, a photo booth, pet tricks, gourmet food trucks, giveaways and demonstration shows. Find valuable pet-related resources including pet rescue, adoption, pet sitters, groomers and trainers. Costumes are welcome for the Pet Parade at 3 p.m. Visit www.mclean-center.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 16

A Screening of “We Feed People.” 7:30 p.m. At CenterStage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Oscar-winning director Ron Howard spotlights renowned chef José Andres and his nonprofit World Central Kitchen. Screening followed by a discussion with Restonian Nathan Mook, executive producer. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 17

Practicing the Fundamentals of Ikebana Design. 11 a.m. Noreen Linnemann, club member, will speak at Five Hills Garden Club meeting October 17, at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, N.E. Noreen will demonstrate the art of Ikebana design, drawing on her years-long practice of this ancient Japanese art form. The community is invited to join the club as Noreen distills her wisdom and the Ikebana tradition into a few key concepts applied to creating simple, exquisite arrangements.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 18

Nefesh Mountain – Jewish/Bluegrass Band. 8:00 p.m. At CenterStage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Nefesh combines elements of Appalachian bluegrass, Celtic folk and Eastern European melodies with messages of inclusivity, diversity and hope. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 19

Pickleball Mixer and Fundraiser. 12:30-3:30 p.m. At Worldgate Health Club & Spa, 13037 Worldgate Drive, Herndon. Join the Shepherd’s Center of Northern Virginia for their 2nd annual Pickleball Mixer & Fundraiser. Attendees of all playing levels are welcome. There will be a tutorial for beginners, competitive play for advanced players, two golf simulator stations, health refreshments, a smoothie bar, a silent auction, and lots of fun! The price is \$60 per ticket in advance and \$75 at the door. Call 703-281-0538 or <https://scnova.org/event/2023-sc-nova-pickleball-mixer-fundraiser> to register today.

OCT. 19-21

”Disney’s Mary Poppins.” 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Oct. 21. At Hayfield Secondary School 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The Hayfield Dramahawks present Disney’s Mary Poppins! It will be SUPER-CALIFRAGILICIOUS! Tickets can be purchased at hayfielddrama.com or at the door and concessions are also available.

FALL BOOK SALE

At Centreville Regional Library 14200 Saint Germain Dr., Centreville. Fiction, nonfiction, DVDs and audiobooks. Bag sale on Sunday; fill a grocery bag with books for \$10. Oct. 20, Friday, 1-5 p.m. Oct. 21, Saturday, 10-5 p.m. Oct. 22, Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

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Enjoy an evening of music showcasing a variety of genres in the elegant interior of historic Old Town Hall (3999 University Drive) in the heart of Fairfax City. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and performances begin at 8 p.m. and run from October to April. Admission is free. Visit: www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts.

SCHEDULE

October 20: Barclay Brass - Brass Ensemble
 November 3: Swingology - Jazz Bossa Nova, Manouche and Swing
 November 17: Graham Breedlove – Blues
 December 8: Marcolivia – Classical String Duo
 January 5: Baltimore Composers Forum – Modern
 January 19: Navy Band Wind Quintet – Classical
 February 2: Kadencia – Puerto Rican Orchestra (part of the Chocolate Lovers Festival!)
 February 16: Matt Trkula – Classical Guitar
 March 8: Mandoleers – Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra
 March 22: James & Victor – Jazz Duo/Steel Pan
 April 5: Francesca Hurst – Solo Piano
 April 19: Sylvan Waters Duo – Harp/Brass

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Legals

ABANDONED WATERCRAFT

Notice is hereby given that the following watercraft has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of South Riding Golf Club, 43237 Golf View Dr, Chantilly, VA 20152 703-327-6660.

Grady White, 20 ft, 1988, white color, registration number VA 7868 BK, HID number NTLBG614G788

Application for Watercraft Registration/Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication of this notice. Please contact the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources with questions.

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Victims Targeted After Withdrawing Funds

FROM PAGE 14

To protect oneself from becoming a victim, the FCPD encourages community members to take precautions such as:

1. Be aware of your surroundings: Pay attention to anyone who may be observing your activities outside a bank or financial institution.
 2. Conceal cash and bank-related items: Store cash in a discreet manner, such as in a purse or wallet, and avoid displaying bank bags or envelopes that may draw attention. Do not leave cash unattended in your vehicle. If you do, consider locking it in the glove box.
 3. Vary your routine: Criminals often look for patterns, so it is advisable to change your habits regarding banking and cash withdrawals.
 4. Secure your vehicle: Ensure that your vehicle is locked, windows are closed, and valuables are not visible, reducing the likelihood of becoming a target.
 5. Report suspicious activity: If you notice someone acting suspiciously or believe you are being followed, report it to the police as soon as possible.
- It is important to remember that jugging robberies can occur in different locations and circumstances, so remaining vigilant and taking appropriate safety measures is essential to minimize the risk of becoming a victim.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

THURSDAY/OCT. 12
 MCA Local Candidates Debate. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. There will be two 45-minute debates in the following order: Dranesville Supervisor – Puneet Ahluwalia and Jimmy Bierman; Dranesville School Board Rep. – Robyn Lady and Paul Bartkowski. All residents in the area are welcome to attend. The Community Hall doors will open at 7 p.m. Plan to arrive early to ensure you get a seat. The debate will be hybrid – in person and via Zoom. Visit www.mcleancitizens.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13
 FACETS' 35th Anniversary Benefit. 7-9 a.m. At Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping parents, their children, and individuals who suffer the effects of homelessness, poverty and hunger in Fairfax County, is hosting its 35th Anniversary Benefit Breakfast to share with the public, local businesses and elected officials. FACETS' life-changing work to help residents who are struggling. Several FACETS' clients will be sharing their courageous stories about homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Attendees will be inspired as they renew their commitment to a Fairfax County where everyone has a place to call home. Register at www.FACETSCares.org.

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

School Board

FROM PAGE 7

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 bachelors 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.

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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.

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



Peter C. Gabor

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POTOMAC ALMANAC 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.

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.

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



The exterior of Old Dominion Pizza on University Drive.

Cutting the ribbon are (from left) Jennifer Rose, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce; Catherine Read; John Rodas; City Treasurer Tom Scibilia; Tara Borwey, Economic Development Office; and Tess Rollins.

Old Dominion Pizza Opens in Fairfax City

Pizza, meatballs, wings, beverages and more.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Whether craving just a slice or two of pizza, a whole pie – either round or rectangular – or something with a cauliflower crust baked in its own dedicated oven, Old Dominion Pizza in Fairfax City can fulfill customers' dining desires. It recently opened at 3950 University Drive (across from the library) and has already garnered loyal fans.

During its official ribbon cutting, Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read said how pleased she was that owner John Rodas decided to open his business here. "I had the pleasure of eating his pizza at [the City's] Rock the Block and Funky Flea, and I loved the fact that his introduction to the community was showing up for community events," she said. "We welcome you, and we hope you'll find a home here."

Tess Rollins, executive director of the Old Town Fairfax Business Association, said there's "a feeling of friendships and relationships" at Old Dominion Pizza. And while she's happy about the options for a cauliflower crust and vegan cheese, she said her son, a wrestler, was "excited about the meatballs" on the menu.

Rodas has worked in the pizza business for 30 years and, in 2017, was vice president for 75 Domino's pizza stores. "But I wanted to leave the corporate world," he said. "So I opened my own pizza business in Arlington, five years ago, and this one in Fairfax is my second location."



Old Dominion's cheese pizza

He said a friend of his who lives here told him, "Fairfax City needed a good pizza place." And, added Rodas, "It's a friendly city with a hometown feel, the EDA [Economic Development Authority] was very helpful and GMU college students are nearby."

Noting that Old Dominion is known for its pizza by the slice – which isn't always offered in pizza places – he said his whole pizzas come in 12- and 14-inch sizes, with the traditional one being a New York style with a large, thin crust. The Grandma style comes in 10- and 14-inch sizes, plus a personal 8-inch size. It's rectangular and has a heartier sauce containing chunky tomatoes, onions and green peppers.

Customers may choose their own sauces, including red (tomato), pesto, garlic parmesan, barbecue and olive oil. And among their topping choices are roasted mushrooms, jalapeños, caramelized onions, arugula, roasted red peppers, spinach, olives, pepperoni,



The house-made meatballs with marinara sauce and parmesan cheese.



A close-up view of some chicken wings.

meatballs, Italian sausage, grilled chicken, Virginia baked ham, bacon, fresh mozzarella, ricotta, garlic and hot honey.

Old Dominion's gourmet specialty pies are named after local, high-school and college mascots. For example, the Lion (Fairfax

High) features red sauce, mozzarella, pepperoni, sausage, bacon and ham; and the Ram (Robinson Secondary) comes with red sauce, mozzarella, meatballs, onions and honey whipped ricotta.

The Cavalier (Woodson High) features garlic parmesan sauce, smoked mozzarella, ham, bacon and hot honey. And in honor of GMU, the Patriot is topped with tomato sauce, pepperoni, hot honey and oregano. Fresh basil may be added for free on any pie.

But that's not all. Old Dominion also offers house-made meatballs with marinara sauce and parmesan cheese, Italian hero sandwiches – including caprese, wings in various flavors and sauces, salads, fries, cookies, and beverages such as soda, juice, beer and wine.

Inside, there's plenty of table space for large groups; and outside, there are tables on the patio for dining al fresco. Hours are daily, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; phone: 571-407-5218.

And although there are other pizza restaurants in Fairfax City, Rodas said people should come to his because "We use really quality ingredients, and many items – like our meatballs, chicken wings, veggies and cookies – are made in-house."

Customer Doug Church especially likes Old Dominion's pepperoni pizza on a cauliflower crust. "I can't believe it's cauliflower because it's really good," he said. "The crust on the New York style pizza is also amazing and is the perfect crispness. And the wings are wonderful and just hot enough."

As for Jennifer Rose, she enjoyed her cheese pizza. "A good, cheese pizza says a lot about the quality of everything else," she explained. "And this one had a tasty sauce with the right amount of cheese – and the crust was delicious."