

Burke CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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From left, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and supervisors Kathy Smith, and John Cook are recognized during the opening ceremony of the Out of the Darkness Fairfax Walk to prevent suicide held on Oct. 5 in Fairfax.

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Station: Local
History Tales

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Building
Community that
Works for Everyone

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Walking Out of Darkness

NEWS, PAGE 3



Need for REAL ID Getting Real

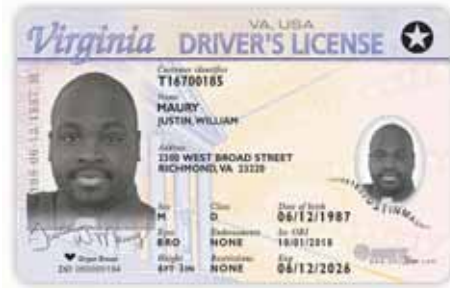
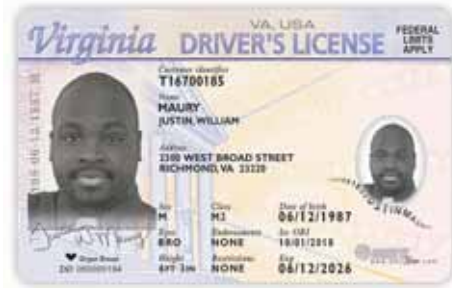
Crowds at DMV impact wait times, but officials are looking for solutions.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Complaints came to Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) about four-hour wait times at the local Division of Motor Vehicles so he brought it up to the Board of Supervisors, and now the wheels are turning for some sort of relief.

A new identification mandate is sweeping the nation in the form of new standards for identification called "REAL ID" and everyone in Virginia has one year to get the new ID from the DMV. The requirement has caused a backup at individual branches. Herrity said the wait is "not acceptable," and as time goes on, it's "going to get worse before it gets better." When he brought it up at the meeting, other "supervisors echoed the need."

"The Board unanimously approved my motion to ask the DMV to address the unreasonable wait times at its offices



PHOTOS BY DMV

These examples of REAL ID's are the compliant ID with the star in the corner. The non-compliant ID that soon will not be able to be used for boarding a flight or getting on to secure federal bases.

countywide," he said in his newsletter.

The need for a REAL ID began at the federal level. The REAL ID Act was enacted in 2005 in a response to the 9/11 terrorism strikes, and the need to get a more accurate handle on the identification process in the country. According to Herrity, Fort Belvoir is already turning to the REAL ID when admitting people to the base.

Anyone having to go to the DMV for a variety of reasons expects to wait, but this new ID requirement is hitting everyone, resulting in an "incredible increase in volume," Herrity said. There are a couple of stopgap solutions Herrity is eyeing, including an increase in the "DMV 2 Go," program which is a mobile unit where the ID's can be made, or hiring a contractor to provide more help at the local offices.

"My office is coordinating with DMV to have its full service DMV2GO Bus for a day at the West Springfield Government Center as an alternate location for DMV processing needs," he wrote in his latest newsletter. These solutions are going to cost a certain amount of money, and Herrity realizes this but feels it's the state's obligation. "The state has a responsibility to provide services to the citizens," he said.

DMV Says Not So Fast

But according to the DMV, it is not only the REAL ID applicants causing the crowds at offices in Northern Virginia. DMV spokesman Brandy Brubaker said the growth in Northern Virginia adds to it. "DMV is work-

SEE REAL ID, PAGE 5

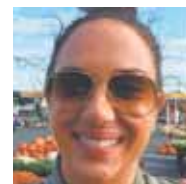
What Do You Know About the REAL ID?



Adam Caner, Springfield, contractor: "I haven't got mine yet, I am familiar with it."



Mark from Springfield: "I don't know if it's a good idea, causing a lot of problems at the DMV, maybe a push to come down harder on immigrants."



Eva Pacilio, Alexandria, Teacher: "I get it but it makes it harder to travel, I don't know too much about it."



Marion Moser, Springfield, retired: "Don't know a lot about it, seems like an extra hurdle that I don't know is necessary."

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The Fairfax County 911 Call Center team before the start of the Out of the Darkness Fairfax Walk.



Ellen Shannon, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) National Capital Area Director, delivers the opening remarks.

Out of the Darkness Walk in Fairfax

The Out of the Darkness Fairfax Walk to fight suicide occurred on Oct. 5 in Fairfax. The Fairfax Walk began at Fairfax City Hall and continued through the surrounding neighborhoods. The two-mile journey brought the community together and drew attention to the ways in which suicide and mental illness have affected their lives and loved ones. More than \$100,000 was raised by 90 teams and 718 participants for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to use towards new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. AFSP has set a goal to reduce the annual suicide rate 20 percent by 2025. The best way to prevent suicide is through early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of depression and other mental health conditions.

—TOM MANNING



Team 'Allie's Wonderland' from Alexandria honors Allie who died in 2006 at the age of 17. From left, Allie's mom Marge McConnel, Allie's sisters Beth and Kelly, along with their sons.



Brad Masters who lost his dad and brother to suicide is acknowledged during the Honor Bead Ceremony. Colored honor beads are worn to represent loved ones lost to suicide or a personal connection.



Dave Kerrigan and his wife Sarah from Centreville at the start of the Out of the Darkness Fairfax Walk to fight suicide on Oct. 5. Team 'Together for Tyler' honors their son Tyler Masters and was the top fundraising team with more than \$15,000 raised.

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION



Participants gather at the Veterans Amphitheater for the opening ceremony.



Out of the Darkness teams depart Fairfax City Hall to begin the two-mile walk.

Capstone to Four-Years of Police Reform

BY PHIL NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER AND
ADRIAN L. STEEL JR.

Just in time for the Oct. 8 fourth anniversary of the 2015 release of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report, the Board of Supervisors approved full implementation of body worn cameras (BWC) by the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD). This is one of the Commission's most significant and consequential recommendations. While a potential aid to criminal prosecution, the body worn camera's equally important contribution is to foster greater transparency and accountability of all parties during the interactions of the police with the public. Full implementation will begin in May 2020 and take three years to phase in countywide.

The Board's decision followed the completion of a 2018 pilot study chartered by Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. and conducted by the American University, which found that there was "... overwhelming support among community members for the widespread adoption of body worn cameras..." and "... consensus among the officers involved in the pilot that body worn cameras will increase the gathering of evidence and help settle complaints against officers."

The Board's decision is a fitting capstone to a four-year successful effort by the Board to oversee the transformation of the Police Department from one that was excellent to now being on a clear path to becoming "best in class."

The Commission's formation by the Board of Supervisors followed a few high-profile po-

lice use of force incidents, with the ultimate catalyst being the August 2013 shooting death of unarmed Springfield resident John Geer in his doorway.

Board Chair Bulova formed the Ad Hoc Commission and her office closely oversaw the Commission's work over an intensive five-month period in 2015. Charged with "... assessing the (Fairfax County) Police Department's performance against national best practices," the Commission made more than 200 recommendations for strengthening the public's trust and confidence in the Department.

Public Safety Committee Chair Supervisor John Cook combined forces with Board Chair Bulova and Chief Roessler to drive the Board and Police Department to embrace the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations. As they complete their many years of service to our community, Bulova's and Cook's police-reform efforts will certainly be a key legacy.

The significant reforms for which all can be proud will increase police accountability, divert those who suffer from mental illness into treatment rather than incarceration, reduce use-of-force injuries and deaths, open public access to incident information, and engender public confidence.

Body worn cameras will now complement the dashboard cameras mounted in each FCPD patrol vehicle. The Department's policy enshrines sanctity of human life as an organizing principle, with de-escalation as the strategy of first resort when confronted with a threat rather than the use of force. Constraints and strengthened supervisory oversight are now in place on police use of vehicle pursuit.

"Diversion First" offers alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

An Independent Police Auditor (IPA) automatically reviews investigations of death or serious injury cases as well as uses of force when a citizen complaint is filed. A Civilian Review Panel reviews investigations of civilian complaints regarding "abuse of authority" or "serious misconduct" by an FCPD officer and holds public forums to hear from the community. Policies regarding release of information provide for increased public visibility into the Department's daily activities and performance, with a predisposition to disclose information, regardless of incident controversy. Intense efforts are underway to recruit talented personnel that better reflect Fairfax County's population diversity.

Sustained effort and energy are still required to move decades-old engrained practices into a "new normal." Further, those who are "best-in-class" constantly seek to improve.

Tough questions still need to be asked as the County implements body worn cameras. Should an agency other than the Department, for example, control access to the massive amount of data to be collected? Should the IPA or an independent third party audit the program? Heightened expectations alone should give our policymakers pause, particularly when we know that no technology deployment is mistake and error free. Not collecting video data during a controversial use of force incident is bad, missing video data under the Department's control is worse.

SEE POLICE REFORM, PAGE 11

Evolution of American Democracy

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Four hundred years ago is a long time, but what happened four centuries ago has implications for us today. Virginia is in the midst of a year-long series of programs and experiences based on events that happened a dozen years after the first permanent English colony was settled at Jamestown in 1607. All the activities taken together are referred to as American Evolution 1619-2019. There are many events scheduled for the remainder of this year. (americanevolution2019.com).

The planners of the commemoration are to be commended for recognizing that while the historic events that occurred are noteworthy and interesting, the real lessons to be learned come after the actual dates of historic events as we discuss and consider their resulting impact. Many references are made to America's beginning as being 1776, but it can be argued that the beginning of America as a representative democracy began in the Virginia colony with the meeting



COMMENTARY

of the first representative body meeting in Jamestown in 1619. Remembering that date in 1619 should cause us to reflect all that has happened after that date that led us to the society and government we have evolved into today.

Similarly, the arrival of 20 or so Africans at Old Point Comfort just down the James River from Jamestown Island four hundred years ago in August of 1619 must be noted. They came not with steamer trunks of fancy dress; they came in shackles having been captured in Africa and brought here at the beginning of a slave trade that would fuel the economy of the colony and then the Commonwealth of Virginia for the next 250 years. To look at African Americans then and now without an examination of what happened in between is to miss a tragic part of our evolving history—the racism that gripped our country for its entire history and is still with us today.

Those Africans who arrived in 1619 were slaves. Soon after their arrival that first legis-

lative body passed laws that defined their enslavement and the limitations on their very existence. The few efforts like Nat Turner's rebellion that attempted to gain freedom for slaves were put down harshly with further slave codes being passed to limit them from being taught how to read and write and allow for more cruel punishments to keep them in line. When the constitution was written for the new country after the Revolution, slaves were to be counted as three-fifths of a person, despite Jefferson's words in the Declaration of Independence proclaiming that "all men are created equal." It was not until the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s that the descendants of the slaves of 1619 could claim anything close to equality.

We did not start with a perfect union; we have not achieved one today. We have been on an arc of history that in another context suggests that it is bent towards justice. The American Evolution 1619-2019 program is providing an important context for understanding the stream of history that is our past and upon which we must strive to build a more perfect union.

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NEWS

REAL ID Getting Real

FROM PAGE 2

ing hard to keep pace with the growing population but it has been a challenge because of the sheer volume," Brubaker said.

To prepare for REAL ID specifically and address facility constraints in the Northern Virginia region, DMV has renovated many of the customer service centers, reconfiguring front counter stations to be more efficient. Upgrades included putting cameras at every window, scanners for REAL ID documents, and printers in between each window. The renovations resulted in an increased number of service windows.

Renovations have been completed at the Arlington, Fairfax, Westfields, Franconia, Fredericksburg, Tysons Corner, and Woodbridge CSCs.

The Alexandria CSC will be renovated before the end of 2019.

According to Brubaker, the staffing has been increased in response to the coming ID requirement.

The agency was granted authorization by the General Assembly to recruit and fill 42 full-time employees in June 2018, and ap-

proved to fill an additional 71 existing positions in December 2018 to support REAL ID. Recognizing the tremendous volume of transactions in Northern Virginia, 61 of those positions were dedicated to the Northern Virginia customer service centers.

Mobile Offices Expand

According to officials, DMV's mobile offices are expanding to serve even more customers in all corners of the Commonwealth.

* DMV Connect can process title transactions but cannot print titles. Titles processed by DMV Connect will be mailed to customers.

DMV 2 Go Schedule

In Fairfax County, the mobile DMV 2 Go will be at:

- ♦ SELECT @ Springfield - Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 6506 Loisdale Road, Suite 105, Springfield, VA 22150-1800
- ♦ Tysons-Pimmit Library - Oct. 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ♦ Fairfax Government Center (Hollin Hall Senior Center) - Oct. 28-29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ♦ Reston Town Center - Oct. 29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. DMV 2 Go will be parked on the side street near Ice Rink
- ♦ Sherwood Regional Library - Oct. 30, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Located inside of the Library in Conference Room

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

The Big Sit. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, 10702 Harley Road, Lorton. The Big Sit is an annual, international birding day sponsored by Bird Watcher's Digest and Swarovski Optics. It is a bird-athon—participants tally bird species seen or heard within a given time period. It's called the Big Sit for a good reason — it's like a tailgate party for birders. Bring a chair and your binoculars. Snacks will be provided. You also may go with us on a guided bird walk or participate in a kid-friendly activity. This event is free of charge and open to the public.

MONDAY/OCT. 14

Supervisor Candidates Debate. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Rolling Valley Elementary School, 6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield. Debate between incumbent Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity and his challenger Linda Sperling. Learn the candidates' positions on local issues that are important to you before the November 5 elections. Sponsored by the Springfield District Council.

TUESDAY/OCT. 15

Fairfax Lions Club Dinner Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, upper level. 939 Oak St., Fairfax. Visit a Lions Club dinner meeting. Enjoy a buffet dinner, speaker, and club announcements. Guests are cordially invited — meet members and learn about Lions community service. Free. Visit www.fairfaxlions.org or call 703-879-5795.



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HomeLifeStyle



PHOTOS BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Alexandria based designer Quintece Hill-Mattauszek designed this "Boys Club" space using vintage finds.

Local Designers Create Dream Home for Charity

Proceeds will help preserve historic sites such as an Underground Railroad stop and one of the first public schools for African Americans.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A few of the area's top interior designers were tapped to transform a grand home into a showcase house to raise money for charity. Designers Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs, Rhonald Angelo of Rhonald Angelo Interiors and Sheryl McLean of McLean and Tircuit Designs will unleash their collective creative talent to create a library, a teenage girl's bedroom and a lounge space for a family of six.

"I envision this to be a sophisticated ... entertaining space, but not necessarily a man-cave," said Alexandria-based Hill-Mattauszek, who used vintage finds to bring-to life "The Boys' Club," the space she was tasked with transforming. "I envision poker nights [and] Oscar parties."

"I designed the library for how a family of six will actually function within it," said Angelo. "New walnut flooring and paint changed the look. The room felt unbalanced beforehand, which I corrected in the final design."

Sheryl McLean of Bethesda, Md. added bold artwork and vibrant colors to the home's sitting room.

Interior design aficionados who are up for a short road trip can see the creations of the three local designers and others during the Historic Ellicott City, Inc.'s 33rd Annual Decorator Show House. Proceeds go toward preserving historic sites including a stop along the Underground Railroad and one of the first public schools for African Americans.

Twenty-one designers decorated 24 rooms and spaces in the stately French Provincial private home that is the future home to a couple with four young children.

The house will be open to visitors through Oct.



Bethesda-based designer Sheryl McLean, of McLean and Tircuit Designs, created this sitting room.

20, 2019 with hours Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 at the door or online are available online at <http://historicec.com/show-houses/>

Any remnants of the old station might be under the Backlick VRE Station.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE SALMON/
THE CONNECTION



Springfield Railroad Station: Local History Tales

Civil War soldiers and former postmasters once occupied this whistlestop station.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Nearly 170 years ago, Springfield had its own railroad station and the site of a Civil War skirmish, putting the Springfield on the map for local historians.

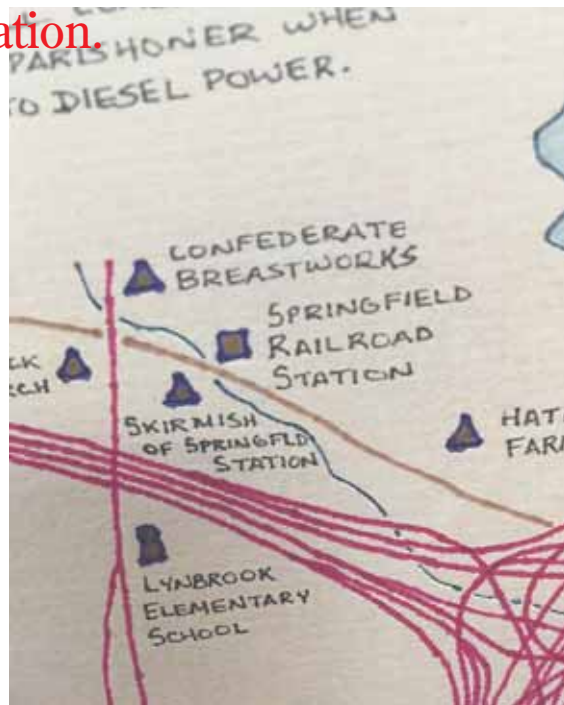
The station was not much more than a little wooden shack along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad tracks, but it was labeled “Springfield,” on a piece of lumber attached to the roof in an area east of present-day Backlick Road near the current Backlick Road Virginia Railway Express station. Backlick Run is a creek that runs through the area, and goes under the tracks.

There is one picture of the station at the Virginia Room in the Fairfax County Library, taken by Richard Burnett in 1948. According to documents in the Virginia Room, the station became the first Springfield Post Office in 1866, and then the “combination depot was no longer needed,” said a land record from 1953, so it was combined with a tool house from Burke, and the materials from Burke were “placed at Springfield for use as a passenger booth and freight room,” the record stated. It remained a post office from 1866-1953.

There was a local effort to erect a historic sign near the VRE station along Hechinger Road, named after the hardware store there that is no longer in business. On the sign, it states the station was the “site of a Civil War skirmish on 3 October 1861 and a Confederate raid on 3 August 1863.”

Local historian Don Hakenson had a little more information on the small battle at the station.

“On Saturday night, Aug. 1, 1863, a Confederate raid was conducted at Springfield Station. A company of guerillas from Prince William and Fairfax counties (the Chincapin Rangers or Company H, Fifteenth Virginia Cavalry), under the command of Cornelius Kincheloe, of Fairfax with Francis C. Davis of Prince William as first lieutenant, were involved in the attack. They tore up some of the rails, but a



The station and the skirmish are both on the hand-drawn map at the Franconia Museum.

Historic Movie Showing

The Road to Happiness, Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m. at Old Town Hall, Fairfax, 3999 University Drive.

The showing of a 1924 silent movie produced by the Ford Motor Co. and filmed in this area.

train of U.S. soldiers came up and the rangers disappeared.”

“The Springfield Station was like a little whistlestop,” said Chris Barbuschak, the president of the Fairfax Historical Society and also the Archivist/Librarian at the Virginia Room at city of Fairfax Library. “The original railbed is now part of the Accotink Trail,” he said. The Burke Station, a little further down the tracks, is still there, and at the Devereux Station which is now Clifton, there was another Civil War battle.



PHOTOS BY CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

A fawn crosses the road earlier this summer.

More than Half Deer-Vehicle Crashes Occur October to December

Fall is breeding season for deer and you can expect to see more of them on our roads. Please be aware that deer are unpredictable and crashes with them are a safety concern.

From 2015 through 2018, there have been 244 deer involved car accidents in Fairfax County. Over half of those crashes occurred during the months of October, November and December. Deer are most active before sunrise to mid-morning, as well as dusk to early evening. This is also the time when many of us are headed to and from work or school.

WATCH: Deer Safety in Fairfax County https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=86&v=2sPa65OFd1Q

We urge motorists to pay attention, drive carefully and remember these safety tips:

- ❖ Always wear your seat belt
- ❖ Drive the speed limit.
- ❖ Do not text and drive.

Avoid distractions!

❖ Watch for eyes shine along roadsides. If you see one deer, it is likely that there are others nearby.

❖ Use high beams as traffic allows to spot deer further away. Be careful not to disrupt

oncoming cars.

❖ If a deer is stopped in the roadway, slow down and flash your headlights. Deer can become mesmerized or blinded by bright steady lights.

❖ Slow down or stop if necessary to avoid hitting a deer but you should never swerve out of the lane to miss one. A crash with another car or anything along the roadside is likely to be more serious.

❖ Take your foot off the brake at the time of a crash. This reduces the chance of a deer crashing through a windshield or windows when hit.

❖ If you get into a crash with a deer, try to move your car off the road and out of traffic.

❖ If your car is immobilized in the roadway, turn on your flashers and immediately call police. Try to wait at a safe spot off the road.

❖ Rely on your own senses. Never depend on hood whistles, car horns or other devices to scare deer out of your path.

❖ Pay attention to deer crossing signs and be careful in areas where deer are known to travel.

If a deer is injured or killed, immediately report the crash to us on our non-emergency line at 703-691-2131.



Fall is breeding season for deer, and a buck like this could be unpredictable in crossing the road.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Shir HaLev, the Community Jewish Chorale of Northern Virginia. Rehearsals are held select Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax. The Chorale is a friendly, welcoming, adult volunteer choir. Membership in the group is open to all, members of Congregation Olam Tikvah and other Northern Virginians. Their repertoire consists mainly of Jewish liturgical music and also some contemporary Jewish music and some secular showtunes, too. Visit carolboydleon.com/shir_halev for more.

2nd Annual Fall Craft Show. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold its 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show and LEGO (TM) Train Show on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019 ,10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. Fridays, through Oct. 25, 4-7 p.m. in the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Farm fresh eggs, local honey, berries, fresh picked vegetables, fresh local fruits, baked breads and treats, chicken, tamales, salsa, hummus, gourmet sausage, fresh roasted coffee beans, and much, more. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne.

Wakefield Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m. through Oct. 30, at Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Eleven local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will be there each week, providing horticultural information to home gardeners in Fairfax County. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield.

Lorton Farmers Market. Sundays, 9 a.m.-noon, through Nov. 17, in the VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton.

Springfield Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit www.community-foodworks.org or call 202-697-7768.

Sweet but Psycho. Through Nov. 30, at Olly Olly, 10417 Main St., 2nd Floor, Fairfax. Olly Olly presents Sweet but Psycho: an avant-garde fairytale. Strangeland is a performance duo, made up of Bunni (Andiland) and Goatface (Strange Lens), that explores the superficial construct of reality. Call 703-789-6144 or visit ollyollyart.com for more.

Burke Farmers Market. Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 10-12

Fall for the Book. This year Fall for the Book welcomes a lineup of poets, historians, novelists, memoirists, children's authors, YA writers and more at George Mason University and locations around Northern Virginia. Headliners include essayist and novelist, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, novelist Delia Owens, young adult novelist Rainbow Rowell, and true crime writer, David Grann. Fall for the Book is Northern Virginia's oldest and largest festival of literature and arts. All events are free and open to the public. Visit fallforthebook.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 11

“Shot in the Dark Nite Tournaments.” 7:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Golf Course, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Teams of two play a nine-hole scramble using glow-in-the-dark balls. Prizes will be awarded to teams finishing first, second and third, and there will be closest-to-the-pin contests. Dinner will be served, beginning at 6 p.m. \$70 per team, and golfers must be age 12-adult. The price includes one glow ball and a flashlight. Additional glow balls are \$5 each. Limited to the first 18 teams. Call 703-323-1641 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 11-13

Haunted Trail 2019 – Breakout. Friday-

‘Haunted Trail’ at Workhouse

Workhouse Arts Center presents the “Haunted Trail” at 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton, on weekend nights thru Halloween Night. Dates and times: Oct. 11, 7-11 p.m., Oct. 12, 7-11 p.m., Oct. 13, 7-10 p.m., Oct. 18, 7-11 p.m., Oct. 19, 7-11 p.m., Oct. 20, 7-10 p.m., Oct. 25, 7-11 p.m., Oct. 26, 7-11 p.m., Oct. 27, 7-10 p.m., and Oct. 31, 7-10 p.m. Tickets: \$20. For more information visit www.workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900.

Workhouse Haunted Trail: “Scare Actor”

Saturday, 7-11 p.m.; Sunday, 7-10 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center presents Haunted Trail 2019 – Breakout – running each weekend during October and Halloween night. A storyline has been crafted on a prison Breakout theme with inmates running out of control through the woods and around the prison grounds (including through the only building on campus that still has jail cells), guards trying to capture them, and an army of terrifying clowns attempting to take over the prison. \$20. Visit www.workhousearts.org/event/haunted-trail.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Open House at the Fire House 10a.m.-4p.m.

All Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will be open in celebration of Fire Prevention Week. Stop by your local station to meet firefighters, see the fire trucks, join in the activities and learn about fire safety.

Vendor/Craft Fair. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Start your Holiday shopping at this Vendor and Craft Fair. Handmade items including jewelry, cards, pottery, knit items and more. Reps from Thirty-One, Pampered Chef, Noonday Collection, LulaRoe, Discovery Toys and many more. Contact Jeanne Jones at 703-913-9863.

43rd Annual Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in downtown Fairfax. More than 400 vendors, three stages of entertainment, lumberjack show, amusement rides and more. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/fall-festival for more.

Second Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Discover all the Workhouse Arts Center has to offer. Whether it's your first visit or your hundredth, the Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet 80+ resident and associate artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Thrilling performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulgent classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works.

Virginia Opera: Tosca. 8 p.m. At Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. Virginia Opera opens its 45th season with one of Giacomo Puccini's most acclaimed and performed works, Tosca. This tour-de-force opera features some of Puccini's best-known lyrical arias, including “Vissi d'Arte” and “E lucevan le stelle.” Set in Rome on the brink of military invasion, this gripping story of romance, jealousy, intrigue, and murder follows a trio of tragic figures—a heroic painter, Cavaradossi; his jealous lover, Tosca; and a sadistic Police Chief, Scarpia, who sets the plot in motion by arresting Cavaradossi. The action is taut and lethal, spanning less than a single day, during which time no one—neither hero or villain—survives to the end. Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Tickets: \$110, \$70, \$40.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 12-13

Model Train Show and Craft Fair. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax

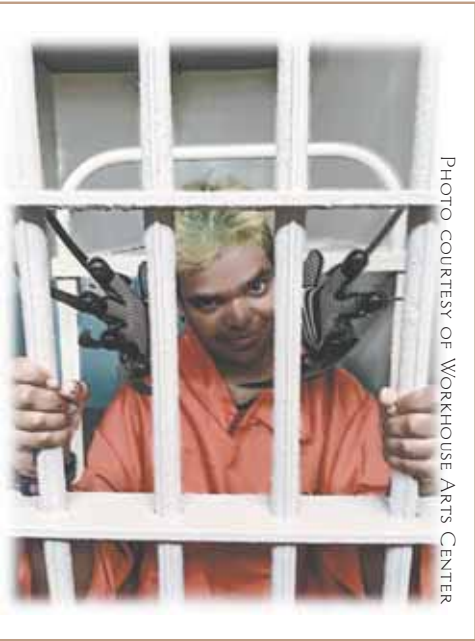


PHOTO COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area LEGO (R) Train Club (WamaL TC) will hold a two-day display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. In addition, Saturday will feature a Craft Fair with local artisans displaying and selling their crafts. Bring any unwanted LEGO pieces and sets for donation. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

5K for Missing. 8 a.m. at Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children will be holding their annual 5K race. Participants will raise much needed awareness and funding to support NCMEC's efforts to help recover missing and exploited children worldwide. Register by Oct. 1 to be guaranteed a shirt. \$35 until Friday, Oct. 11, 8 p.m. Visit www.milesforthemissing5k.org or call 703-837-6111.

Clifton Day Festival. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Town of Clifton, 7144 Main St., Clifton. The 2019 Clifton Day Festival will feature a marketplace with around 150 vendors. Live music, train rides, children's activities and delicious food and beverages will add to the fun. Clifton Day is the only day of the year when the train stops in the town. Admission is free. Parking starts at \$5 per car. Call 703-968-0740 or visit www.cliftonday.com.

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Irish immigrants were crucial in building the railroad that put Burke on the map. Learn the background of Irish immigration and the immigrant processing center at Castle Garden, Manhattan. Cost is free. Visit the website: www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 14

Funday Monday. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Crafts, music, movement, and fun with Mr. Skip, My Gym, Paint Your Own Pottery and a new VIP series featuring community helpers and leaders. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts or call 703-385-2712.

TUESDAY/OCT. 15

Aging Rainbows Coffee Talk. 6-7:30 p.m. At Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Join this new dynamic and fun group to discuss topics and challenges facing the 50+ LGBT community and their allies. Karen McPhail, a SageCare credentialed facilitator will lead the group in conversation exploring supportive aspects and topics such as financial, legal, and inclusive caregiving as they relate to members of the LGBT community as they age. Free. Visit the website: www.agingrainbows.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

Celebrate “Hitchcocktober.” 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. The Birds (1963). Every Thursday night in October, a classic film by Alfred Hitchcock will be featured culminating with a showing of Psycho on Halloween. \$14.50. Visit

www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 18-20

Haunted Trail 2019 – Breakout. Friday-Saturday, 7-11 p.m.; Sunday, 7-10 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center presents Haunted Trail 2019 – Breakout – running each weekend during October and Halloween night. A storyline has been crafted on a prison Breakout theme with inmates running out of control through the woods and around the prison grounds (including through the only building on campus that still has jail cells), guards trying to capture them, and an army of terrifying clowns attempting to take over the prison. \$20. Visit www.workhousearts.org/event/haunted-trail.

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

NV Rides Celebration. 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

At Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. It's been five years since NV Rides began coordinating and supporting volunteer driving programs throughout Northern Virginia. Help to celebrate NV Rides' fifth birthday. They will honor dedicated partner organizations and the most devoted drivers. Prizes, food, and raffles. Mingle with local politicians and learn more about volunteer driving opportunities. RSVP at 703-537-3070. Visit the website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2428226453910420/>

2019 Arts Awards. 12-2 p.m. At Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Presented by ARTSFAIRFAX, the event recognizes the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, corporations, foundations and individuals that support the arts. Sharon Bulova and Shashikant and Margaret Gupto will receive the Jinx Hazel Awards. To buy tickets or learn more about the Arts Awards, visit artsawards.org/artsawards.

Cocktails by Candlelight. 6-9 p.m. At George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Have an evening out, 18th-century style! Sip and sample period cocktails and food. Go on a candlelight tour of George Mason's historic mansion and enjoy an evening with friends. Cost is \$35/\$25 members. Visit : <https://gunstonhall.org/event/cocktails-by-candlelight>.

Oktoberfest Dinner/Dance. 6-8 p.m. At American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. Cost is \$20/person. Oktoberfest music presented by Renee Music Masters. Door prizes, dancing and fun.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Children's Consignment Sale. 8 a.m. to 12 noon. At Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. The semi-annual Children's Consignment Sale is sponsored by Grace Weekday Preschool. The sale will make it simple for you to shop for all types of infant and children's clothing, toys, furniture and maternity items at affordable prices. Does not accept credit cards, but will accept cash (no \$100 bills please) and in-state personal checks with a current in-state driver's license or valid military ID only. Call 703-451-3314 or visit the website: www.gracepresby.org/preschool

Help the Homeless 5K Walk. 8:30 a.m. At Veterans Amphitheater, 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax. Pathway Homes, Inc. is hosting its 20th Annual Help the Homeless 5K walk to help provide non-time-limited housing and support services for adults with mental illness and co-occurring disorders. 100% of registration fees and donations in support of Pathways' walkers go directly to support residents of Pathway's homes and consumers of Pathway's supportive services. The 5K walk costs \$35 for adults, \$20 for youth, and \$15 for canines. pathwayhomes.akaraisin.com/ui/Walk2019

FACETS Gala. 6:30-10 p.m. At INOVA Center for Personalized Health, 8100 Innovation Park Drive, Fairfax. Cost is \$150. FACETS' A Very Special Taste of Fall Gala offers a specially curated, locally-sourced fall tasting menu, delicious wine and local craft beer, fabulous live and silent auctions and so much more. The event supports FACETS work that help neighbors experiencing homelessness, poverty and hunger, and celebrates its commitment to a County where everyone has a place to call home.

OCT. 19-20

Family Campout. 2 p.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. On Saturday, your family will enjoy a naturalist-led night hike, a family movie in the campground and a live animal talk. On Sunday morning, wake up and head to the marina for a tour boat ride and fishing from the banks. The cost is \$78. One registration per family. Activities are designed for campers age 5 to adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake

ENTERTAINMENT

For Season Opening: 'Shades of Autumn'

Virginia Chamber Orchestra
opens its 49th season.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A fascinating musical program awaits audiences at Virginia Chamber Orchestra's "Shades of Autumn." Under the baton of VCO Music Director David Grandis the concert arrives at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College.

Virginia Chamber Orchestra concert will include a program of works by Claude Debussy, Arnold Schoenberg, and Vittorio Giannini performed by the string musicians of the Virginia Chamber Orchestra. Musical instruments will include violins, violas, cellos and bass. Featured with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra will be harpist Isabelle Frouvelle. She recently performed for Virginia Chamber Orchestra audiences as a soloist for Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp.

Since moving to this area in 2015, Frouvelle has divided her musical activities between the U.S.

and France. Frouvelle will be featured in the work of influential French composer Claude Debussy. Debussy, composed the admired, well-known work "Claire du Lune." Frouvelle will perform Debussy's popular "Danses sacree et profane" ("Sacred and Profane Dances").

"I look forward to collaborating with Isabelle Frouvelle on the Debussy," said Grandis. "She has studied with Pierre Jamet who performed this piece with the composer [Debussy]. So she has gathered crucial information on style, tempi and articulation from her professor and indirectly from the composer."

Frouvelle will also play one of Arnold Schonberg's early, romantic, very atmospheric compositions, "Notturmo" ("Nocturne") for Harp and Strings. "I love this piece; so delicate, subtle, and very representative of the impressionistic style. It is a palette of sounds as a painter on his canvas," noted Frouvelle.

According to the VCO, Schonberg's "Notturmo," was long

Where and When

Virginia Chamber Orchestra present "Shades of Autumn," at Ernst Community Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performance: Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019 at 4 p.m. Tickets \$25 adult (if purchased in advance). \$30 if purchased at the door. \$25 seniors. Students with ID free. Note: The VCO does not mail tickets; tickets may be picked up at the concert. Free parking; complimentary reception follows the concert.

believed to have been lost. It was only recently discovered under a different title at the Library of Congress.

"Transfigured Night" is a popular piece by Schonberg. It was written in an "earlier, more romantic style, when his musical heroes were Brahms and Wagner," noted the VCO's marketing information. It was inspired by a poem of the same name by Richard Dehmel. The subject matter of the poem created a stir when this musical work premiered in Vienna over a century ago. The first line of the poem is this; "Two people walk through the bare, cold grove."

Another program highlight will be a modern spin on "Concerto



Featured artist, harpist Isabelle Frouvelle, performing with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra.

PHOTOS COURTESY VIRGINIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



PHOTO BY LOUIS SICA/COURTESY VIRGINIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

David Grandis, Music Director, Virginia Chamber Orchestra conducting several VCO string orchestra members.

Grosso" by the distinguished neoromantic American composer Vittorio Giannini. For Grandis and the Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Giannini is a composer who "deeply deserves to be rediscovered."

Nine Inspirational Women Share Their Stories

Leadercast Women is a one-day leadership event bringing together people from all walks of life to hear inspirational stories from women leaders. This year's speakers will talk about having courage in one's daily life.

It will be held Friday, Oct. 18, at American Legion Post 177 at 3939 Oak St. in Fairfax. Doors open at 8 a.m., with the pre-show beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the first speaker live streaming at 9 a.m. The program will run until about 3:30 p.m.

This event is hosted by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, and Prince William Chamber of Commerce. All the speakers are women, but the experts deliver leadership insights for both male and female leaders.

Speaking will be: Luvvie Ajayi - best-selling author and digital strategist; Deshauna Barber

- Miss USA 2016 and U.S. Army Reserve captain; Glennon Doyle - best-selling author, activist and founder of Together Rising; Kate Delaney - Emmy award-winning journalist and host of "The Kate Delaney Show;" Francesca Gino - researcher and professor, Harvard Business School; Laura Ling - award-winning journalist and TV host; Kendra Scott - jewelry designer and founder of Kendra Scott; Susan Packard - co-founder, Scripps Networks Interactive and former COO of HGTV; and Priya Parker - author and founder of Thrive Labs.

The show will be broadcast live from Atlanta and heard by people around the world. Purchase tickets at <https://www.cfcc.org/events/#!event/2019/10/18/leadercast-women-2019-simulcast-of-women-apos-s-conference>.

—BONNIE HOBBS

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Building Community that Works for All

Maj. Gen. Carl H. McNair Jr. receives community leadership award.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia held its 2019 Raise the Region Gala at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner on Friday evening, Oct. 4. Organizers described the gala as a homecoming, an elegant, uplifting event that brought together business, community and philanthropic leaders to celebrate the Community Foundation and raise critical funds to support its work in the region.

Under the theme, Building a Community that Works for Everyone, 650 guests celebrated the charitable work of The Community Foundation and supported the organization's mission to respond to need; seed innovation, and lead and convene the community.

"This gala is so important to The Community Foundation. It is a mission-critical event," said Tara Nadel, of The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. "The gala is also an opportunity to celebrate this community in particular, the 650 plus guests who attend are only a small sample of the number of people it takes to build a community that works for everyone." The Foundation gala honored Major General Carl H. McNair Jr. (RET) with the 2019 Community Leadership Award for his lifetime of community leadership and public service.

According to The Community Foundation, the award is the longest standing community-based recognition award in Northern Virginia and is presented annually to an individual for outstanding commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for all Northern Virginians.

ON STAGE, Honorary Chair, Ki Ho Kang, CEO of KIHOMAC, asked the crowd if they ever wondered if they made a difference. Turning to Major General McNair, who Eileen Ellsworth, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia described as "one of the most generous local philanthropists Northern Virginia has ever seen," Kang said, "Sir, be assured you have made a lifetime of difference to your family, to your friends, to the United States Army, to your community, to your country and all of us."

McNair, who was awarded two Distinguished Service Medals, three awards of the Legion of Merit, four awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with "V" devices (denotes bravery), among commendations. When he retired from the Army, McNair joined DynCorp. Surrounded by family and friends seated at his banquet table, McNair sat ramrod straight, eyes focused forward. When he walked on stage, Kang presented him with the award, which McNair graciously accepted. However, in his remarks, McNair, the first Chief of the Army Aviation Branch, turned the spotlight off himself and onto others.

McNair spoke highly of the guests present,



Major General Carl H. McNair Jr. (RET) joins his tablemates, Saffiatu Janneh and Kadiatu Kamara, before the start of 2019 Raise the Region Gala produced by The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia held at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner on Friday evening, Oct. 4.



From left, Fairfax County Park Foundation supporters Kathryn Falk, Cox Communications; Del. Mark Sickles (D-43); Bobbi Longworth, Fairfax County Park Foundation; Lynn Tadlock, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation; and Del. Ken Plum (D-36).

their unceasing generosity qualified once again as seen during the evening's Live Auction and Stand Up and Pledge, led by Matt Quinn of Quinn's Galleries.

Guests flashed their bidding cards with flurries of multiple cards in the air, bidding against one another, raising bid after bid. In thirty minutes, Quinn broke last year's record by nearly \$10,000, raising \$57,500 to support the critical needs of the Northern Virginia community.



Cathleen Kennedy and Brad Jeter of Great Falls at the Silent Auction

"We want to support The Community Fund of Northern Virginia and raise funds so organizations can reach their objectives in the community."



Ki Ho Kang of Vienna and Honorary Chair; CEO of KIHOMAC:

"There is no one else like Major General Carl H. McNair Jr. I don't think I've ever come across anyone in my life so incredible. His military records are mind boggling. Very successful businessman and an incredible philanthropist."

MCNAIR praised The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia. "The Northern Virginia Community Foundation is our good friend... It's been a tremendous asset to northern Virginia and also an example for all of Virginia...The Community Foundation raised \$400,000 worth of grants and provided critical service to the residents of Northern Virginia," he said.

Not forgetting who did the work, McNair praised staff. "None of this

would've been possible without the great and significant staff of The Foundation... What they do here is well beyond our imagination... I give a special thanks obviously to Eileen, Tara and all the staff for their work." Jokingly McNair added, "And I'm so grateful for somebody out there who had the gumption to at least nominate me to be this year's awardee...Eileen told me now I have to work for them every Saturday."

AREA ROUNDUPS

H Mart's Grand Opening, Oct. 18

A new H Mart has replaced the old Giant Foods store at 11200 Fairfax Blvd. in Fairfax City, and the public is invited to its ribbon-cutting and grand-opening celebration. It's set for Friday, Oct. 18, at 9:30 a.m. The event includes a VIP tea, speeches and, from 10:15-10:30 a.m., performances of traditional Korean dance and the Chinese lion dance. Afterward, the store will officially open for business.

Trade Show & Conference to Be Held Oct. 20

Pakistan America Business Association, George Mason University and the Prince William Chamber of Commerce and twelve other sponsors will host a Trade Show & Conference on Oct. 20, 2019 at the Fairview Park Marriott.

More information at <https://pabaevents.com>

PABA 2019 Trade Show & Conference is an excellent opportunity for cross-industry groups, as well as small and medium size businesses to build contacts and develop prospects for lucrative trade deals.

This event, with breakfast at 8:30 a.m., and many other events and dinner is at the Fairview Park Marriott.

Pakistan American Business Association is located at 9302 Old Keene Mill Road – Suite B, Burke.

Email: info@pabausa.org, PABA's website: <https://pabausa.org/>

Police Reform

FROM PAGE 4

As to the revised vehicular pursuit and stopping policies, it will be important for the FCPD to provide a detailed report to the Board and the public in early 2020 as to the effects of the revised policies, details of 2019 pursuits and vehicle stops, and whether any further changes are needed. It will also be important for the Board to monitor and take any appropriate action with respect to the racial disparity study underway by the Independent Police Auditor.

On this fourth anniversary of the Ad Hoc Commission Report, Fairfax County and its Police Department have achieved many reforms of which to be proud. The temptation will be to declare the mission accomplished. This would be a mistake. The new Board of Supervisors come January must provide vigilant monitoring through performance expectations and progress reports. Not because enough has not been accomplished, though more improvements are needed, but because that's the norm for best-in-class police departments.

Niedzielski-Eichner and Steel were chair and vice-chair of the Ad Hoc Commission's Use of Force Subcommittee and spent many hours with a small, loosely configured group of former Commission members dedicated to implementing Commission recommendations, working with FCPD leadership. Steel oversaw as chair the formation of the Civilian Review Panel.

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Apparently, Not a Stable Genius



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Let me get this out of my system because until I do, I won't be able to write about anything else. Not to worry. This is not a cancer column. I am fine until they tell me otherwise which occurs every eight weeks after my bi-monthly CT scan tells the tale of the tape.

No, this column is about my lack of understanding and business acumen which twice has led me down the garden path only to be asked to leave before I got to smell any of the pretty flowers. Once (twice, actually) had to do with attempts at refinancing this old house (carbon dated to approximately 1750, according to a plaque the previous owner hung to the right of the front door), and most recently (also twice) to do with reverse-mortgage financing this same now older house.

With respect to the attempts at refinancing, I will make this short and not particularly sweet. Without getting into the lead paint, bathrooms, roof, door and window issues, it always perplexed me that if I could afford to pay \$1800 per month at 6.75% interest, I could probably afford to pay \$1400 per month at 3.75% interest. However, and this is where my lack of common banking sense manifests itself; my presumptive inability to pay \$400 less per month was problematic for the lenders to be. And an over 800 credit rating did nothing to dissuade the lender's notion that whatever financial wherewithal I had exhibited over the previous 30-plus years was irrelevant borrowing forward.

As concerns the current issue: the reverse mortgage. To say my financial life depends on its approval might be a bit of an exaggeration, but not if you're in my shoes, even occasionally. I can understand the need for the installation of safety rails on the left and right side of the staircase going down to the basement. And grudgingly, I can understand the need for the structural integrity fix relating to the five wooden pillars sitting atop the cracked concrete slab which floors our front porch and apparently prevents the house from falling forward. But I can't understand why the old stable matters so much to the appraiser/underwriter.

It is not used or functional in any way other than as a repository for junk and as a landing spot/vantage point for the Turkey Vultures who nest there. This building is approximately 50 yards from our house and 10 to 15 yards from our neighbor's house. If it fell, like our barn did years ago, it would land on part of our two acres. Given its age, likely over 100 years, it was not, nor has it ever been covered by our home owner's insurance. "Too old," they said. The structural engineer who submitted the report about our house did a walk-around the stable with me and made note of its peculiar structural fixes which included cinder blocks and some rocks. However, in response to my "What do I do?" question; his answer: "We don't certify the structural integrity of 100 year-old buildings." Now I'm being told by my reverse-mortgage banker that I have to fix/secure the foundation of the stable or else the deal is likely dead. Dead over an out-building that nobody uses and was likely built before two century's turned?

The whole point of this application was to spend nothing and get something. It was not to spend something and get nothing. This stable, either structurally sound or not provides me nothing as a living benefit. We're not moving into it. Nor are we selling the property. We're here for the duration. The stable, if it matters at all, will matter to whomever sifts through our financial remains, and since we have no children, those 'remains' are not really our concern. Yet according to the most recent email I received, either I make it my concern or stew in my own juices and slowly wither away.

When I began this process, I had hoped there would be an end in sight. I didn't realize it would be my own.

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

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