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Mount Vernon Gazette

HOME LIFE STYLE

PAGE, 9

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 11, 2020

FCPD Officer Charged with Assault Against Community Member Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Police Chief: 'These acts are unacceptable.'

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

The body-worn camera video I am releasing shows a Fairfax County police officer deploying force in violation of our use of force policies ... They are criminal acts which violate our oath of office, and they ignore the sanctity of human life," said Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Police Chief the day after one of his officers deployed an "electronic control weapon," multiple times on an African American male who did not appear to be a threat. In a released video, the officer is shown using the weapon numerous times and in one instance with his knees on the man's back, the officer tases the man's neck. The victim calls out, "I can't breathe."



A Fairfax County Police Officer deploys an electronic control weapon, shooting an African American male after other county officers and paramedics had been working on getting him into an ambulance.

Steve T. Descano,
Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney



Fairfax County Police Officer First Class Tyler Timberlake, assigned to the Mount Vernon District Station for eight years, was charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault and battery, on Saturday, June 6, at the direction

of the Fairfax County Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney,

According to police, officers responded to a call for service around 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 5, involving a man in crisis wandering in the roadway. As other offi-

cers attempted to de-escalate the situation working with paramedics to help get the man into an ambulance, PFC Timberlake arrived and used unacceptable force. Based on this action, Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Chief of Police, initi-

ated criminal and administrative investigations.

The day after the incident, shortly before 11:30 p.m., Roessler hosted a press conference. He along with Steve T. Descano, Fairfax County Commonwealth Attor-

ney and Jeff McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors updated the community on the investigation regarding the inappropriate use of force and the deployment of the taser that occurred in a Mount Vernon neighborhood.

Descano verified that the Commonwealth had filed three different charges of assault and battery against Officer Timberlake, and as a result, he faced up to 36 months in incarceration.

"First, we will seek justice in this case ... Second, I cannot overstate the value and role that body-worn cameras have played in our investigation into this matter ... and lastly, this county, Fairfax County is our home, and we hold ourselves to a much higher standard than what we see in this video ... We will not tolerate this."

The Mount Vernon police district has body worn cameras because it was part of a pilot study, but the Board of Supervisors recently defunded plans to expand the body worn cameras to the rest of the

SEE FCPD OFFICER, PAGE 8

Hundreds Come Out to Fight Racism and Police Brutality

Mount Vernon was ground zero for the latest incident involving Fairfax County Police.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Hundreds of peaceful protesters gathered at the Walt Whitman Middle School in Mount Vernon on Tuesday afternoon for the local Beyond the Walls March For Justice, led by Reverend Dr. Keary Kincannon



The marchers were on target with the messages.

and Pastor Brian Brown, giving the national movement against police brutality a local voice.

Organizers described it as a

nonviolent protest for every Black brother and sister who has lost their life to police brutality and to promote a change for our future.

"We are looking for more accountability from the police department," Kincannon said.

A few weeks ago, police brutality lead to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, which sparked protests across the country.

But Friday afternoon there was a taser incident in Gum Springs that had captured the marchers attention. "The community is upset," Kincannon said, who called it an "unprovoked overreaction."

Mount Vernon resident Dan Moon saw the Gum Springs incident on the news, so he was there with that on his mind. "Keep the pressure on to take action," he said.

There were a few signs addressing that incident as well, including one that said "Fire and Arrest Timberlake Now," referring to Police Officer First Class (PFC) Tyler Timberlake who arrested for assault.

SEE HUNDREDS COME, PAGE 6

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ColleenCoopersmith.com



VIRTUAL OPEN SAT 6/13, 12:30PM

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Jen Walker 703.675.1566
JenWalker.com



Old Town | \$1,175,000

Beautiful in-town elegant living. 2 ample bedrooms, 2 baths plus a den upstairs with original spiral staircase. Historic residence was modernized in 1990 restoration & addition. Family room off-kitchen. Porch/balcony overlooks garden.

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paulvander.com



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LaurelConger.com



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Overlooked Primary

Three Republicans on the ballot this month in primary for U.S. Senate.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Don't look now, but Virginia is in the closing days of a primary. You might not have heard about it because of the global pandemic and the economic crisis. But buried beneath all the headlines about police brutality and racial injustice, Republicans are about to decide which candidate they want to appear on the ballot this November against incumbent U.S. Sen. Mark Warner. Many Republicans are struggling to figure out which candidate they are going to support in an election that almost seems like an afterthought in the midst of everything else that's going on right now. Even though Warner narrowly won his last reelection to Ed Gillespie six years ago, he seems to be in a solid position now.

"This is beyond an uphill race for any Republican running, especially candidates who have never held elective office and have no name recognition," said David Ramadan, a former Republican member of the House of Delegates who now teaches at George Mason University. "Mark Warner wins this one with a landslide."

Campaign finance records show Warner has more than \$8 million cash on hand. By contrast the three Republicans in the race are struggling. Daniel Gade of Mount Vernon has been the most successful, raising about half a million dollars. Thomas Speciale of Woodbridge has raised \$80,000. And Alissa Baldwin of Lunenburg County has raised less than \$8,000.

"Warner is going to run ahead of the Democratic ticket, maybe not by as much as he would historically but he'll outpoll the Democratic presidential candidate," said Ben Tribbett, Democratic political strategist. "For the Republicans to have a chance at winning the Senate race, they need Donald Trump to carry Virginia. And I don't think many people think that's going to happen, including the Trump campaign, which is not investing here."

DANIEL GADE, 45, is a professor at American University. A native of Minot, N.D., he has a bachelor of science from United States Military Academy at West Point, a master of public administration and policy from the University of Georgia and a doctorate in public administration and policy, also from the University of Georgia. After graduating from West Point, he was commissioned as an armor officer. In 2004, he was deployed to Iraq, where he was wounded in combat twice and lost his right leg. He served in the White House Domestic Policy Council during the Bush 43 administration, and he was a senior advisor to the Department of Labor in the Trump administration.

"I view this run as an extension of my military service," said Gade. "For far too long, there are people in these political positions who are serving themselves or serving their parties and too few of them are serving the Constitution."



Daniel Gade



Thomas Speciale



Alissa Baldwin

Gade says Warner has done little for Virginia, focusing instead on being a "reliable rubber stamp vote for his party." If elected, he says, he would support legislation that would give veterans the ability to use their VA benefits anywhere rather than limiting them to VA hospitals and clinics. He says he would also support the REINS Act, a proposal intended to cut down on regulation by requiring congressional approval of major agency regulations before they can be implemented. He says he would introduce a bill that would require every member of Congress to place all of their holdings in a blind trust, outlawing the kind of financial transactions that some lawmakers engaged in after getting privileged briefings on the COVID-19 crisis.

"Right now all they have to do is report their transactions, which is how we knew about the fire sale of stocks," he said. "It ba-



The Republican primary is June 23.
The deadline to submit an application for an absentee ballot is June 16.

employees if the business dies because it gets evicted," he said.

THOMAS SPECIALE, 51, is an intelligence officer for the Director of National Intelligence as a government contractor. A native of Peoria, Ill., he has a bachelor of arts in political science from Illinois State University and a master of arts in international relations from American Military University. He enlisted in the Army in 1987, and he's served on active duty or in the Army Reserves since then except for the time he was in college. He's currently in the Army Reserves, where he serves as a human intelligence technician.

"Our country is being torn apart by hyper-partisanship and lies by career politicians, and ultimately there is a very real threat of socialism emerging in the United States," said Speciale. "Democrats want to do away with the Electoral College. They want to seize people's firearms. And they want to tamp down on what they call hate speech, which is any speech they don't like."

Speciale says Warner works for the Democratic National Committee instead of Virginia, raising money in New York, California and Florida rather than focusing on Virginia. If elected, Speciale says, he would advocate for strengthening Second Amendment rights by eliminating so-called "gun free zones" and reducing requirements for gun owners to have concealed-carry permits in multiple states. He says he wants to "re-invent" the Department of Education, but he was unable to provide any specific details other than "hold schools accountable" and "hold teachers accountable." One the issue of immigration, Speciale supports reforms that are outside of the current Republican mainstream — allowing DACA students to receive student aid through the CARES Act, for example, or supporting a path to citizenship

for undocumented immigrants.

"I don't think it is logical to think that you are going to evict 30 to 50 million illegal immigrants that our feckless leadership in the past have allowed to move here," he said. "And if you won't give me immigration reform, we'll have to build a wall."

He says he would have voted for the CARES Act, although he disagrees with the additional \$600 weekly benefits for people collecting unemployment insurance during the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Ultimately, though, he believes COVID-19 is what he calls a "fake pandemic" because he believes the original estimates for fatalities were overstated.

"I believe it's psychological terrorism," he said. "This is nothing more than a new flu."

ALISSA BALDWIN, 42, is an adjunct professor at Longwood University and a civics and economics teacher at Nottoway Middle School in Crewe. A native of Manassas, she was raised in Nokesville and Lunenburg. She has a bachelor of arts in political science and leadership studies from the University of Richmond and a master of science in educational leadership from Longwood University. She was a paralegal for several years before switching careers to become a high-school history teacher.

"I have gotten to a point where I'm so frustrated with the career politicians and the liberal progressive push on so many issues I hold near and dear, like life and liberty and gun rights," said Baldwin. "So I just decided to live my teaching and enter the race as truly a political outsider, someone who cares about people and is used to bringing people together to solve tough problems."

Baldwin says she would offer a contrast to Warner on issues like abortion, taxes and guns. If elected, she says, she would champion federal legislation that would outlaw the ability of business owners to prohibit firearms in their stores. On the issue of abortion, she is in favor of outlawing it even in cases of rape and incest. On the issue of education, she says she wants to dismantle the federal Department of Education using a phased approach that transfers all its operations to the states.

"They've actually created a lot more problems for teachers and created more inequity in the schools because of their funding formula and their regulations, which are actually unfunded mandates," she said. "It's quite burdensome on local school divisions in rural communities and urban communities that don't have the tax base for local matching funds."

Baldwin says she would have voted for the CARES Act, although she says she would have pressed for increased means testing to limit stimulus checks to people who are most in need rather than the widespread program that was approved by Congress.

"I don't believe that anyone who is here violating our rule of law should receive federal benefits," she said. "You are entitled to protection of your rights under our Constitution. But not benefits."

"This is beyond an uphill race for any Republican running, especially candidates who have never held elective office and have no name recognition."

— David Ramadan, Republican strategist

sically makes it a form of felony insider trading. The same kind of thing that got Martha Stewart in trouble should get legislators in trouble when they do it."

He says he would have voted for the CARES Act, although he adds that he believes it should not have included money for Planned Parenthood or the Kennedy Center. As for the Paycheck Protection Program, he feels that the requirement that businesses spend 75 percent of the forgivable loan on payroll might be too rigid. He says business owners should be able to spend that money on utilities and rent.

"It doesn't matter if you can still pay your

The Time to Act is Now

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that “a riot is the language of the unheard.” The centuries-long pain and suffering of black communities across this Commonwealth and our nation is clearer now to majority whites than ever before. Now, finally, we must dismantle the racial inequities that led to the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, inequities that should have been eliminated decades ago. The murderous 8 minutes and 46 seconds of Officer Chauvin’s knee in Mr. Floyd’s neck has shown white Americans what America’s black citizens have endured all along. The time for action is now.

It is time for white citizens, who as a race have never endured this treatment, yet benefit from white privilege, to act. It is time for all of us who want to do the right thing and truly demand equity, but are unsure of what to do to move forward against four hundred years of institutionalized racism to speak out. The quote I remember best from Dr. King was his admonition, seemingly, to me: “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

As your elected official, I am duty bound to try to change our laws after listening and learning, especially from black leaders in our community as we act together to dismantle the broken system that led to the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rodney King, Eric Garner, among countless other black and brown citizens. Closer to home, we can add to that list 25-year-old

Bijan Ghaisar, who was shot multiple times with impunity by the U.S. Park Police, without facing any accountability, on a quiet Tauxemont community street two and one half years ago.

We cannot be complacent with a return to normalcy. The status quo was never equitable for black Americans, was it? We will try harder, and we will make our society more just and fair. Racism is a systemic problem. We each have a personal duty to call out racism wherever we see it in our daily lives, and to actively consider our own behavior through an equity lens. I am encouraged to see so many white youths around the country and in our own Mount Vernon community this past Friday evening, standing up and using their privilege to march down Richmond Highway in solidarity with black Americans to denounce racism in all its forms.

To all others, I need you to listen, learn, read books by black authors, donate your time and your money if you can, and even to attend peaceful demonstrations (using your masks and maintaining social distancing inasmuch as possible). As white allies, we must use our privilege to demand change and reconciliation for 400 years of suffering. One thing that is abundantly clear is that silence and inaction are not the answer and the time to act is now.

For all of us, watching the news has been heartbreaking and tough to take. Over the weekend, we witnessed yet another disturbing use of force incident in the Gum Springs community when a black man in obvious distress, who did



Krizek

not appear to be a danger to himself or others, was tased by a Fairfax County police officer. The officer then put his knee on the back of this man’s neck and tased the man additional times as he lay face down in the street and cried out that he couldn’t breathe. While I commend Fairfax County Police Chief Roessler and Commonwealth Attorney Descano’s quick response in arresting and charging the officer with assault and battery, this incident shows that we have a police officer here in our community who is too quick to escalate the use of force, and just how critical body-worn cameras are for transparency and holding our law enforcement accountable.

As both a member of the General Assembly and of the Virginia State Crime Commission, I stand ready to work with my colleagues and the Governor to recommend specific policy changes to ensure that law enforcement in Virginia is not just held accountable but is transformed and trained into peace enforcement agencies that emphasize de-escalation and nonlethal force, and employ empathy with a focus on mental health. It is important to work towards limiting the interactions between armed law enforcement officers and communities of color. Today, we call the police for everything, from welfare checks, to mental health crises, to seeing a person experiencing homelessness sleeping on a bench. While often well-intentioned, these interactions often have deadly consequences due to lack of training, as was the case for Atatiana Jefferson, who was shot in her own

home by police during a check on her welfare. These situations could be better served by public safety employees who are trained social workers who are better able to diffuse a situation without the added dynamic of a deadly weapon.

We will eliminate those laws which contribute to the systemic racism in our Commonwealth that exist not just within the criminal justice system, but in healthcare, in housing, and so many other areas. We made some progress in this last General Assembly by passing legislation to remove all of the old Jim Crow language throughout the Virginia Code, and to allow localities to remove powerful symbols of hate, like the Robert E. Lee statue on Monument Avenue in Richmond and the statue of the Confederate soldier in Alexandria, that no longer stands after 131 years in the middle of South Washington street. We also eliminated another potent symbol, by no longer celebrating Lee-Jackson Day and instead making Election Day a state holiday, something I have long advocated for. Those monuments do not belong in our public places. They are totems to racism and must be dismantled altogether.

I hear — and encourage you to contact me — from constituents with hearts broken by witnessing police brutality, but now also with hope and legislative ideas on reforming our criminal justice system, as well as how to address better access to health care, workforce skills development, training for incarcerated black youth with real job skills, and affordable housing. There were many bills that I supported in past sessions like

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 10

Community Comes Together for Equality and Justice

BY DAN STORCK

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Beyond the Walls March for Justice, Tuesday, organized by Pastor Brian Brown and his youth church. It was a powerful demonstration of strength and solidarity that our community came together with one voice to embrace justice and equality for all. I am heartened by so many coming together peacefully to promote change and understanding. We are standing on the edge of history and with a multitude of peaceful demonstrations here and around the world. I am particularly inspired by the many

high school students organizing rallies in their neighborhoods. It is often our young people who spark the most change and these young leaders are embracing it and charging forward. They will lead us on.

Last Friday, Fairfax County Police Officers responded to a call for service involving a man in crisis wandering on the street at Fordson Court. A police officer’s body worn camera shows an officer deescalating the situation when PFC Timberlake arrived on scene and used inappropriate and excessive force. Based on this



action, investigations were immediately initiated at the direction of Police Chief Roessler. PFC Timberlake has been charged with three counts of assault and battery against a community member, and all officers on the scene have been placed on administrative leave. I strongly support Chief Roessler’s actions and these charges. The victim was taken for medical treatment and released.

I have watched the video (link below) and I am shocked, saddened and deeply troubled by this officer’s actions. I have spoken

many times about the sanctity of life, opportunity and fairness for each of us and this officer’s actions do not reflect these values, our policies, or the law. Our County police have hundreds of practices and policies that our community, the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and I have worked hard to put in place to create high standards.

Violence, regardless of the source, has no place in our community. I continue to believe that we have the highest quality police leadership and officers, who are highly trained in de-escalation and diversion first. They understand

SEE STORCK, PAGE 7

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OPINION

Fairfax NAACP: Police Must Be Held to a Higher Standard

Fairfax NAACP calls for major changes for FCPS following assault charge for FCPD.

On Friday, June 5, Fairfax Police responded to a call about a man in distress in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County. Body-cam footage and bystander video reviewed by the Fairfax NAACP appears to show a man in distress, however, he does not appear to be a danger to himself or others. FCPD Officer Tyler Timberlake arrived on scene and immediately deployed his taser. The first officer on scene, who spent the first few minutes of the tape trying to calm the man down, is confused and says, "Does he have warrants?"

Timberlake then put his knee on the back of this man's neck, while both cops and at least two EMTs piled on to the man as he cries out:

"Deedee, I can't breathe."

Timberlake used his taser on the man at least two more times while he was already facedown on the ground.

The Fairfax County Police and Commonwealth's Attorney moved swiftly to charge officer Timberlake with assault and battery, announcing the charges at press conference on Saturday night.

Fairfax NAACP President Sean Perryman:

"I commend Chief Roessler and Commonwealth At-

torney Descano for moving quickly to charge and arrest the officer that assaulted a man clearly in distress and in need of help. This latest video is a testament that Fairfax County is not immune to police violence. We already know that use of force is disproportionately used against Black members of the community.

"Although we saw the county move swiftly to arrest this officer, we do not know what the official story would be without body cam and bystander video. Most officers in Fairfax are not equipped with a body camera and the Board of Supervisors has chosen to delay the roll out of body-worn cameras.

"The community needs increased accountability and transparency for its officers. And we need to reduce the interaction of Black people with armed officers because we see time and time again that we are viewed as a threat. This incident should never have happened."

The Fairfax NAACP is working with individuals and ally organizations to develop a host of changes to the way policing is conducted in the county. Advocating for how police respond to people in mental health distress is just one such change, and we will be unveiling the full list of our proposals in the coming days.

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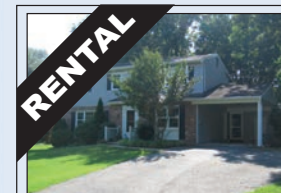
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Mt. Vernon/Wessynton \$759,900
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Alex/Mt.Zephyr \$515,000
4100 Woodley Drive
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News



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The toddler in the wagon had a message.

Hundreds Come Out to Fight Racism

FROM PAGE 1

The rally started on the stage with Greg Wright singing "Hallelujah To Our God," before one of the march organizers, Pastor Brown, took the microphone. "It's time to pool our resources and use our leverage. It is time," he told the crowd. "Thank you for being here, the time is now."

One of the speakers was Shirley Ginwright who said she marched with Martin Luther King Jr. and noted the similarities to now, but nothing has changed in a way, she said. This included education of African Americans, and noted the racial makeup of Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology. TJ didn't admit any black students for next year's class. "We need to change that now," she said.

When it came to Col. Edwin C. Roessler Jr., the Fairfax County Chief of Police, he got right to the point with the atmosphere at the police force. "It needs to change," he said.

Virginia Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax (D) got a round of applause when he talked about the collaborative effort with Governor Ralph Northam (D) to take

Protest Signs Speak Volumes

The following messages could be seen on the various signs at the protest march:

- ❖ My Black Sons Matter
- ❖ Less Talking, More Action
- ❖ Always Challenge Racism
- ❖ Justice For All
- ❖ Black Lives Matter
- ❖ How Many Weren't Filmed?
- ❖ Respect Existence
- ❖ VOTE
- ❖ Love Thy Neighbor
- ❖ Say Their Names
- ❖ Justice Demands Action Now
- ❖ Fire + Arrest Timberlake Now



Cara and Catherine Stankewick from Mount Vernon.

down some Civil War statues in Richmond. "We will no longer tolerate what that statue stands for," he said.

The crowd reflected the diversity of the community. Nearly everyone wore masks as protection from the coronavirus. Alice West came from Fauquier County with her church, and her Bishop Sharma Lewis. "I felt I needed to come out to support that," she said.

There were local families, and mother and daughter pairs in the crowd, including Cara and Catherine Stankewick from Mount Vernon. Catherine Stankewick will be a sophomore in the fall.

"It is very important, I saw the video of excessive force and started crying," she said. "It's very important to have our voices heard and lead to change, there's been too many that don't lead to change," she said.

Lianne and Grace Lafleur were there. Grace will be a senior at West Potomac High School in the fall. "I'm excited to have her take part in it," Lianne Lafleur said. Lianne Lafleur is a teacher at Stratford Landing Elementary School.

When the speeches were done,

the marchers were ready, with a drum beating and signs in hand. They were led by a few vehicles out to Richmond Highway, and headed north to Mount Vernon Square. Midway, they stopped for another set of speakers including Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon). Storck saw the video of the Gum Springs violence, and issued a response on his e-news. "I have watched the video and I am shocked, saddened and deeply troubled by this officer's actions," he wrote. "The actions of this officer do not reflect these values, our policies, or the law," said Lee District Supervisor Rodney Lusk, who spoke after Storck.

The officer, Tyler Timberlake, was charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault and battery. Timberlake has been an officer for eight years and assigned to the Mount Vernon District Station, police said.

Once at their destination, Mount Vernon Square, speakers included Queenie Cox, an activist with roots in Gum Springs. She was joined by school officials and church officials.

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Community Comes Together

FROM PAGE 4
their commitment to our communities and believe strongly in transparency. In times like this, our actions must be as clear as our words and individuals held accountable. I am committed to ensuring our neighborhoods are safe for each person in our diverse community.

To the hundreds of you who joined Tuesday's march and last Friday's marches, the community leaders who spoke and inspired, the local police and fire departments who kept everyone safe, and the local businesses and churches who supported our efforts – thank you! Together we sent a strong message to all in our community that injustice and inequality will not be tolerated! Regardless of skin color, ethnicity, gender, income, neighborhood, or education, all are welcome in these United States, and particularly in our vastly diverse County and District. It is our shared experiences that bring us together in understanding and acceptance of all. Peaceful demonstration is part of the fabric of our democracy, but looting and rioting are wrong, take away the power of the message, and, in many instances, bring more pain to those already struggling with injustice and financial hardship.

Yesterday, the Board unanimously approved a statement about racial injustices occurring both nationally and here at home. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/board-supervisors-statement-racial-eq>

uity We also endorsed Chairman McKay's Task Force on Equity & Opportunity. The Task Force will be guided by the community and will explore a range of situations and policies that contribute to inequity and lack of opportunities. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/board-issues-joint-statement-announces-task-force-on-equity-and-opportunity/

In my address to the marchers Tuesday, I quoted the words of former President Obama on the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Marches. Obama said: "This is work for all Americans, not just some. Not just whites.

Not just blacks. If we want to honor the courage of those who marched that day, then all of us are called to possess their moral imagination. All of us will need to feel as they did the fierce urgency of now. All of us need to recognize as they did that change depends on our actions, on our attitudes, the things we teach our children. And if we make such an effort, no matter how hard it may sometimes seem, laws can be passed, and consciences can be stirred, and consensus can be built."

Please be aware that this video is graphic. Watch Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Police Chief Update the Community on Charges Placed on FCPD Officer [fcpdnews.wordpress.com/2020/06/07/fcpd-officer-charged-with-assault-against-community-member/](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/board-supervisors-statement-racial-eq)

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FCPD Officer Charged with Assault

FROM PAGE 1

county. FCPD's annual budget is more than \$220 million.

Chief Roessler said, "Our nation is righteously angry at the law enforcement profession as am I ... The Fairfax County Police department is engaged with its communities, and we value transparency, accountability and as evidenced by our civilian review panel." Roessler said the video erodes the public trust of police officers in the county and throughout the world. "These acts are unacceptable," Roessler said.

According to Roessler, the victim was treated at a local hospital and released. "I thank God through my prayers that he is alive and resting at home with his family. I've personally reached out to the victim and spoke with his mother to express my disgust with my officer's unacceptable criminal actions and assured her justice will be served. ... I plead with our community to understand they are seeing transparency and accountability. I will ensure the police department serves justice."

Roessler said that in addition to the criminal investigation, he launched an administrative investigation. "The officer's horrible use of force shall be subjected to independent review by the Fairfax County police auditor," said Roessler. He added that all officers at the scene were relieved of duty, pending the outcomes of both the criminal and administrative investigations. Roessler said,

"[Timberlake] was relieved of duty and all his law enforcement authority." He noted that the administrative investigation would be swift; however, personnel regulations had to be abided for due process.

Supervisor Dan Storck, who represents the Mount Vernon District where the incident occurred helped to organize a march on Tuesday. "I am shocked, saddened and deeply troubled by this officer's actions," Storck said.

"The community needs increased accountability and transparency for its officers," said Sean Perryman, president of the Fairfax NAACP. "We need to reduce the interaction of Black people with armed officers because we see time and time again that we are viewed as a threat. This incident should never have happened."

The Fairfax NAACP is working to develop a host of changes to the way policing is conducted in the county, including how police respond to people in mental health distress. Fairfax NAACP will hold a virtual town hall on Facebook live with the Board of Supervisors and Roessler on Tuesday, June 16 at 7 p.m., where they will propose action on transparency and accountability locally.

Fairfax County Police most recent Use of Force Report for 2018 shows that while 9.7 percent of the Fairfax County population in 2018 was African American, police use of force incidents involved African Americans in 248 of the 510 cases, which is 48.6 percent of the incidents. FCPD has not yet released the 2019 report.

Police are currently working with a research team to study racial disparities in use of force incidents, said Chairman McKay in a general email sent on Saturday. Researchers from the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Cincinnati anticipate a report at the end of January 2021.



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Another Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership

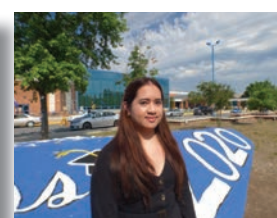
The Rotary Club of Alexandria awards three scholarships of \$ 2500 each to recent graduates of local high schools.

The Annual Awards were presented at a meeting of the Club on June 2nd. Since 1993 the Club has awarded over \$ 90,000 in scholarships to deserving local students who have preformed exceptionally well in Career and Technical Education (CTE) at T.C. Williams, Edison Academy, and West Potomac Academy. The keynote speaker, Dr. Tricia Jacobs of Alexandria City Public Schools, highlighted the recent initiatives of the Virginia Department of Education as CTE programs continue to increase in their participation and importance in the Commonwealth.

This year's three scholarship winners are:



Waleed Ahmed
Edison High School.
He will study Computer Science at George Mason



Zoe Bangachon
West Potomac High School.
She will study Nursing and Pharmacy at George Mason.



Jason Reyes
Mt. Vernon High School.
He will study Business Management at George Mason

President Sharon Meisel of the Rotary Club of Alexandria sends a special congratulation to these three deserving students and wishes them well in their future careers.

Another Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership

HOME LIFE STYLE



PHOTO BY JANET SHALESTIK

Sunflowers make great backdrops in summer gardens.

Summer Blooms

Heat tolerant flowers that add bursts of color to gardens and landscapes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

As spring flowers begin to wither under the heat and humidity of summer, the vibrant blooms that once graced yards and gardens begin to fade. It's during this time that landscapers and gardeners rely on a bevy of color rich flowering plants that are hearty enough to stand up to the relentless summer sun.

It's during this time that landscapers and gardeners rely on a bevy of flowering plants that are hearty enough to stand up to the relentless heat from the summer sun.

"There are many annuals that keep blooming and producing more flowers, so you have constant color and constant flowers throughout the summer," said Janet Shalestik, Plant Specialist, Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks, Virginia.

"They can all be planted either in the ground or in containers."

One of the most popular is Lantana, which can be variegated in two-toned red and orange and Salvia, which can grow to be two to three feet tall. Both flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies, says Shalestik. "Salvia are often purple and blue and sometimes red. What a lot of people like to do is put them containers on their patio, deck so they can see the hummingbirds and butterflies while they're sitting outside."

Orange and pink Begonias, Petunias in deep purple and fuchsia, towering Sunflowers and Zinnias with blooms that burst in colors like orange, pink and yellow and deep pink are also top summer picks, said Shalestik. "Zinnias can get nice and tall so people sometimes want to use them as a backdrop in their garden."

Summer-Flowering Vinca are a low-maintenance choice. "They're very heat tolerant, they don't have to deadhead and they're very deer-resistance," said Shalestik.

"Hydration is key, especially for flowers that are planted in containers," said Janet. "It's important to water when it's hot and we're not getting much rain. We recommend watering in the morning so they're hydrated when the intense heat starts."

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

"The News of My Death ..."



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... is greatly exaggerated." So said Mark Twain. So said W.C. Fields. And so said Kenny Lourie. And the reason I am now saying it is because of what correspondence I received in my personal inbox accessed through my HMO's online site. What I received was a condolence letter (sort of a form letter, quite frankly), addressed to the Lourie family from my oncologist expressing his sadness at my "passing" and his "privilege to have participated in the care of Kenneth Blacker Lourie" (me). Then, a bit later in the day, I received a cell-phone call from an unknown number (so I didn't answer it) but apparently, it knew me as a voice mail message was indicated. I entered my code and listened in associated shock as I heard my oncologist speak in a very heartfelt way about his "sadness" yet again concerning the death of yours truly. He spoke for nearly a minute, hemming and hawing and occasionally hesitating as if at a loss for words. Compared to the email, this message was personalized. Reading and then hearing what I have just written was an out-of-body experience of sorts, almost as if I was attending my own funeral and listening to the eulogies while standing off in the distance.

This experience was not totally unfamiliar to me. In fact, once before, pre-cancer, something similar happened though it was more curious than morbid. Scanning the Obituary section of The Washington Post, I noticed - for the first time, photos of the many of the deceased were a part of the page. They were located above the agatetype and mostly in black and white. Catching my attention as they did, I randomly went to the top right corner of the right-side page where I saw a photograph of an African-American man. Unknown to me except for his date of birth: 9/30/54. The same as mine. It took my breath away. I have to tell you, seeing one's date of birth listed in the obituary section is a peculiar kind of the-future-being-now.

Subsequently, I was diagnosed with "terminal" non small cell lung cancer, stage IV and given a "13 month to two year" prognosis. And though my presumptive death was not listed in the obituary section, its inevitability was implanted in my brain where it has been gnawing at me since late February, 2009. And for the last 11-plus years, as you regular readers know, I have ebbed and flowed with the varying medicines and protocols which have amazingly managed to extend my life way beyond my oncologist's expectations, and never once had I being given last rites, so to speak, or advised to "get my things in order." Until today, that is.

After I thought a bit about what I had read and heard, a part of me drifted back in time to the 1999 Bruce Willis movie "The Sixth Sense" and whether unlike Haley Joel Osment, I was actually dead already. Being alone in my house with nobody to snap me out of my delusion, for all I knew, this is what death feels like. Nevertheless, I continued with my normal routine, presuming I was still alive and sure enough, it soon became clear that I was indeed still alive.

But my oncologist and maybe even my endocrinologist - with whom I have an appointment Monday, June 8th might think otherwise. And not that their thinking 'otherwise' will change their lives, but knowing what they think they know rather than what is actually true might blip their radar and cause some emotional misdirection. After all, they're only human and even though I might not be their most memorable patient, given my unexpectedly long life post diagnosis, I feel I'm not so easily forgettable either. Not dying does that to a person's "pagh," to invoke "the spiritual force inherent in all sentient beings" as believed by the inhabitants of Bajor. (See Major Kira Nerys from "Deep Space Nine.")

For the moment/immediate future though, I am still present and accounted for. I just hope all my medical appointments haven't been automatically cancelled since I'm still a living and breathing cancer patient, and that's no exaggeration.

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

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OPINION

The Time To Act is Now

FROM PAGE 4

bringing back parole, expungement of ten-year-old plus nonviolent crimes, ending the death penalty, community policing, giving judges the discretion to reduce and drop charges after jury sentencing, eliminating mandatory minimums, and other laws to tackle structural inequality.

I am committed to equity and to help those who are struggling, which has been especially difficult in the context of this pandemic. Our nation is under tremendous stress, pain, and anxiety.

But, as I watch the peaceful protests—a determined and blended mosaic of young people of all races—I am more confident that we can come together to honor the essential cause of reconciliation and racial equality. We cannot unsee what we have seen with our very own eyes, or unlearn what we have finally learned over the past few days. This is our moment.

We cannot fail our children. They are showing us the way.

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

RIISING HOPE'S VIRTUAL 5K

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church is holding its first Virtual 5K on Saturday, June 27, to raise much needed funds to help those in greatest need during the current pandemic. More than 300 families depend on Rising Hopes food pantry each week- that's more than 200,000 meals provided each year. For a \$25 registration fee, participants get access to weekly training and mission tips through a private Facebook group and great swag. There's also an opportunity for participants to donate additional funds through the same site. The first \$5,000 raised will be matched by a generous donor. Sign up for the Virtual 5K at: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/rising-hope-virtual-5k>.

FARMERS MARKETS OPEN

Fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods and more will soon be available at four additional Fairfax County Park Authority Farmers Markets. Markets at Oak Marr, Annandale, McLean and Kingstowne have now been scheduled to open.

Openings of the county's 10 producer-only markets were delayed this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Market openings were phased as health conditions allowed and volunteers became available to serve at the markets. Four more markets will open and operate on the following schedule:

Oak Marr, 3200 Jermantown Road – June 10 – Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon
 Annandale, 6621 Columbia Pike – June 11 – Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon
 McLean, 1659 Chain Bridge Road – June 12 – Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon
 Kingstowne, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center – June 19 – Fridays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**



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"Incredibly helpful in helping us sell our father's house after his death. The house was in very poor condition & we were at a loss as to what to do. Chris, Michael & Mark are extremely personable, & knowledgeable about the neighborhood & the housing market. Was able to tour the house after renovation & could not be more pleased at their accomplishments. The house sold quickly, which made us, & the neighbors, very happy"



3111 McGeorge Terr

"The Chris White Team exceeded expectations. If we had not lived it, my wife and I would not have believed that within one week we could prepare our house to sell, list the house, and receive multiple offers, even above the listing price! We also went to settlement in less than three weeks! This could not have happened without the market acumen of Chris and family and their vast network of contacts, who breezed through the "make-ready" and the minor repairs from the home inspection. If you want your house sold, go to Chris, Peggy, Mark and Michael!"



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"Chris White & The White Real Estate Team listed/sold/settled our home in 50 days (in the midst of coronavirus)! The White Team offered very unique advantages in the sales process. The White Team puts together a complete sales brochure which offers specific dates of all updates to your home enabling home buyers to understand the state of the home they are buying. Additionally, part of the sales process was "virtual staging" which enables potential buyers to see what the rooms of the home look like online thus enabling home buyers to cull which homes to visit. The White Real Estate Team has the experience and creativity to move your home as efficiently as possible."

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