



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Attendees listen at the opening ceremony of the Flags for Heroes display June 28 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant. More than 300 flags will be on display overlooking the Potomac River through July 11.

Bagpiper Adam Tianello performs Amazing Grace at the Flags for Heroes display June 28 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant.

‘Flags for Heroes’ Hundreds of flags on display through July 11.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

A lone bagpiper stood among hundreds of American flags as the strains of Amazing Grace wafted through the air during the opening ceremony of the 3rd annual Flags for Heroes display June 28 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant along the George Washington Parkway.

Local Scouting Troops joined volunteers the previous day in erecting more than 300 flags in the field overlooking the Potomac River. A project of the Rotary Club of Alexandria, the display will remain in place through July 11.

Local officials, first responders and hospital workers were among the heroes recognized at the ceremony for their service.

“What an awesome day,” said Rotary Club president Sharon Meisel. “All of the presentations were heartfelt and authentic and my sincere thanks go out to Mount Vernon district Supervisor Dan Storck for coming down and recognizing the folks that keep us safe.”

The project was made possible by the Androus Foundation in honor of Arthur “Tommy” Androus. A card attached to each flag bears the name of a hero along with the individual who sponsored the flag



The Androus Foundation, in honor of Arthur “Tommy” Androus, is the presenting sponsor of the Flags for Heroes display.

in honor of a friend, family member, veteran or other hero in their life.

“We had a beautiful musical tribute with our National Anthem sung by Bill Colosimo of the Alexandria Singers,” said Jim Carmalt, coordinator of the dedication ceremony. “And the fantastic closing music on the bagpipes by Adam Tianello provided for a tearful exit as he disappeared into the flags

playing Amazing Grace.”

Members of the Rotary Club of Alexandria were joined by Rotarians from Mount Vernon and Alexandria West in assisting with the set-up of the display.

“This was a great, patriotic program, Meisel said. “And the flags are magnificent with the Potomac as a backdrop. We are humbled to honor all the individual heroes who are remembered here today.”



Rotary Club of Alexandria president Sharon Meisel, second from left, is joined by Rotary Club officers Paul Anderson, John Moorman and Marita Alabaster at the Flags for Heroes display June 28 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant.



Members of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue are recognized at the Flags for Heroes opening ceremony June 28 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant.

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

#WeAreAlexandria



Plymouth Haven | \$1,784,000

Beautiful 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath, Craftsman home built in 2014 with extensive landscaping and hardscaping creating a natural oasis. Main level flow mixes formal and casual spaces with living areas extended outdoors by screened porch and large patio with stone fireplace. **Tracy Dunn 571.212.3658**
www.tracybdunn.com



Kirkside | \$1,150,000

Absolutely gorgeous colonial on a spectacular large lot in a beautiful quiet cul-de-sac with 5-bedrooms, 3.5-baths. Incredible master and hall baths, new hardwood floors, glorious sunroom and deck. This house has it all!!! **Robin Arnold 703.966.5457**
www.RobinArnoldSells.com



Del Ray | \$995,000

Charming 4-bedroom, 2-bath bungalow updated from top to bottom. Gourmet kitchen opens to a glorious family room addition with breakfast area and fireplace. Enjoy entertaining on the wonderful wrap-around deck. Minutes to Del Ray's best! 3 W Uhler Avenue **Julian Burke 703.867.4219**
www.JulianBurke.com



COMING SOON

Annandale | \$649,000

Light & airy updated colonial split in Canterbury Woods. Open kitchen, updated baths, replacement windows, newer roof, family room with fireplace, large screened porch, wood floors entire upper level, new carpet lower level. Woodson school pyramid. Available soon. **Joel Miller 571.277.1321**
www.McEneaney.com



OPEN SUN 7/5, 1-4PM

Waynewood | \$599,000

Great 3-bedroom Waynewood home! Needs some creativity to update kitchen & baths. Big items already done: new roof, furnace & A/C; recent windows & sewer line. Corner lot across from community pool. See you Sunday! Prize for best mask! 1010 Waynewood Blvd. **Peter Crouch 703.244.4024**
www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com



Valley Park | \$165,000

Large 1-bedroom, 1-bath, open floor plan with large balcony. Ample storage & freshly painted. Community amenities include pool, tennis, tot lot, & basketball court. Great location close to Metro, 395 and 495. Walk to shopping & restaurants. 5608 Bloomfield Dr #201 **Jen Walker 703.675.1566**
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SUN 7/5, 2-4PM

Old Town \$949,500

Circa 1880, this sparkling 2 bedroom, 2 renovated bath home radiates timeless charm including hardwood floors, exposed brick walls, high ceilings and wood-burning fireplace. Updated eat-in kitchen with granite countertops and premium appliances. Deep private garden. 313 Queen Street

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com

McENEANEY ASSOCIATES
IS PLEASED TO WELCOME
**SHANNON
MAHONEY**
TO THE ALEXANDRIA OFFICE

If you are thinking of buying, selling or renting,
call Shannon today at **703.244.2015**, or email
her at **SMahoney@McEneaney.com**.

ShannonMahoneyRealtor.com



Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.
703.549.9292 | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | McEneaney.com



Use of Force Rises in 2019

Disproportionate treatment of African Americans recorded in every police district in the county.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

While Black people are less than 10 percent of the Fairfax County population (9.7 percent), they are the targets for use of force by police 46.53 percent of the time. Incidents of police use of force rose from 510 incidents in 2018 to 594 in 2019. Fairfax County Police released its published data on Monday, June 22.

This year, police published use of force data in each police district for the first time. Every police district reported disproportionate use of force against Black community members.

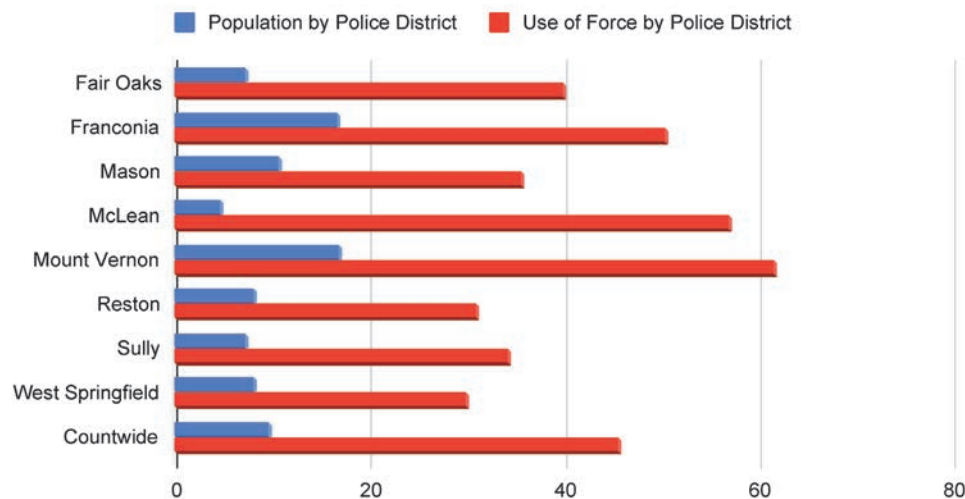
Mount Vernon, McLean and Franconia police districts had the most disproportionate statistics.

In the Mount Vernon District, police used force against Black people 61.72 percent of the time; the population of the Mount Vernon District is 16.94 Black. The Mount Vernon District is where Officer Tyler Timberlake used his taser multiple times on a Black man who did not appear to be a threat on June 5 in Gum Springs. Timberlake has been charged with three counts of assault.

In the McLean district, where African American community members account for fewer than one in 20 (4.69 percent), they were the subject of police force 57.02 percent of the time.

In the Franconia police district, force was

Black People as a Percentage of...



used against Black people more than half the time, 50.66 percent, even though Black people account for only 16.76 percent of the area population.

ALL POLICE DISTRICTS, alphabetically:

Fair Oaks, 40 percent use of force against Black people, who are 7.22 percent of the population;

Franconia, 50.55 percent use of force against Black people, who are 16.76 percent of the population;

Mason, 35.64 percent use of force against Black people, who are 10.80 percent of the population;

McLean, 57.02 percent use of force against Black people, who are 4.69 percent of the population;

Mount Vernon, 61.72 percent use of force against Black people, who are 16.94 percent of the population;

Reston, 31.03 percent use of force against Black people, who are 8.24 percent of the population;

Sully, 34.25 percent use of force against Black people, who are 7.3 percent of the population;

West Springfield, 30 percent use of force against Black people, who are 8.1 percent of the population.

THE MOST INCIDENTS of use of force, 87, were in each of the McLean and Mason police districts; police resorted to use of force in the Mount Vernon police district 86 times.

In the entire county, a pointed firearm accounted for 396 of the 1,632 times use of force was used (multiple kinds of force were used in the 594 cases), force to hold in 255 incidents, take down 229 times, and force to cuff 206 times. Use of force includes use of weapons, use of pepper spray, strikes with hands or feet, taser weapons, canine, and more.

In 2018, African American community members were targets of police force 48.6 percent of the time.

The implemented recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, to which FCPD leadership agreed, call for collection and release of more detailed data than has been made available: "Collect data, and publish an annual statistical report, covering all stops, frisks, citations, arrests, and use-of force by district station and magisterial district - include the race, gender, and ethnicity of the individual involved and note whether the suspect is homeless and/or if a mental health crisis is a factor. Document the outcome of each incident and regularly report the collected data to the BOS and the public and post the data online."

"This data is troubling, and we certainly have work to do," said Chairman Jeff McKay. "I also asked the Police Chief to provide a timeline to the Board for the release and publication of all FCPD police stops (to include traffic citations, traffic stops, and arrests). ... Our goal must be increased transparency moving forward."

Plans for Old Mount Vernon High School

Virtual meeting puts educational uses on the forefront for the 1939 building.

BY MIKE SALMON
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Renovating and reusing the existing structure that once was the Mount Vernon High School moved closer to Phase I recently when Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) organized a virtual meeting with the community and designers to discuss the plan and listen to ideas.

"It's just an amazing building we have on the Richmond Highway corridor," Storck said. "This is part of the redevelopment of this part of the highway."

The Original Mount Vernon High School was built in 1939, a classic example of Colonial Revival architecture. The

county-owned facility is located on Richmond Highway on a 22-acre property that was once part of George Washington's estate. In 1987, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources determined that the high school property was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The school was listed on the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register in December 2017, and in the National Registry of Historic Places in May 2018. The approximately 140,000-square-foot Mount Vernon High School facility consists of the main high school building and several smaller buildings to the west and south of the main structure. There are two athletic fields to the southeast of the property that are scheduled for community use.

Phase I is a plan to turn the



Old Mount Vernon High School.

main building into a learning facility with a "multigenerational use," Storck said, under a theme called, "Pathways to Opportunity." The pathways fall under a loose plan to live, work and connect. Along with

an educational portion, there could also be senior housing, non-profit space, and a playground. Some of it has been renovated and is in use now. "Make it a place everybody is going to want to come to," Storck

said.

For the education side of it, school board member Karen Corbett Sanders looked at the history of the old Mount Vernon High School too. It was the second high school in the county and she mentioned the partnerships with George Mason University and the Northern Virginia Community College to implement programs for the students. "That building will once again be the center of the community," she said.

Randy Livermon is with VMDO, an architect firm that designed some of the Phase 1 plan. That firm also designed an interior renovation at John Handley High School in Winchester that "is similar," he said.

SEE PLANS FOR, PAGE 8

New Laws Coming This Week

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

This week, on July 1st, the Commonwealth will see a host of new legislative changes, over 1000 new laws, as a majority of the bills that the General Assembly passed during the historic 2020 legislative session go into effect for the first time.

Last week, we delved into the many new laws that will affect the way we vote in Virginia, but now I would like to give a brief overview of just a few of the laws that will have a positive effect on our daily lives here in the Commonwealth:

❖ Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, the workplace, and public accommodations is now illegal.

❖ Drivers must fully stop for pedestrians who have entered a crosswalk and wait for them to finish crossing, even if they are not directly in the driver's lane.

❖ It will be illegal for drivers to use handheld devices while operating a vehicle.

❖ Failure to wear a safety belt anywhere in the vehicle has been escalated to a primary offense.

❖ All passengers in a motor vehicle must utilize a safety belt, a multi-year effort of mine that is now the law.

❖ State and local law enforcement agencies will be allowed to operate photo speed monitoring

devices in and around school crossing zones and highway work zones to record images of vehicles traveling at least 10 mph over the posted speed limit, and the driver could be fined a civil penalty of no more than \$100.

❖ Insurers will be limited to charging a maximum of \$50 a month for insulin prescriptions. This law gives the Commonwealth the fourth lowest insulin cap in the country.

❖ The Reproduction Health Protection Act rolls back the onerous 24-hour waiting period and requirements that pregnant persons seeking abortion care must undergo an ultrasound and counseling.

❖ Marijuana decriminalization: criminal charges for simple possession of less than an ounce of marijuana will be replaced with a \$25 civil penalty.

❖ The requirement that an individual's driver's license must be suspended for unpaid court fees is repealed. Black people disproportionately have had their licenses suspended for nonpayment and this will address that inequity.

❖ Undocumented students living in Virginia, who meet Virginia residency standards, are now eligible for in-state tuition at Virginia's public colleges and universities.

❖ The Virginia Human Rights Act is expanded to now include prohi-



bitions on discrimination related to hairstyles and hair textures, commonly used as forms of racial discrimination.

❖ Employers will now be required to make reasonable accommodations for the known limitations of a person

related to pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions.

Employers are prohibited from taking adverse action against an employee who requests reasonable accommodation or denying employment or promotion opportunities because the employer would have to provide accommodations.

❖ Tethering of dogs outside during extreme weather (below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or above 85 degrees, and during warnings for hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe weather) will be prohibited. This measure also increases the minimum length of a tether from 10 feet to 15 feet.

❖ There are a number of gun safety reform laws. I will just highlight one, the "one-gun-a-month" bill, which returns the former 1993 limitation Virginia had (that was repealed in 2012) on handgun purchases to one gun every thirty days. By 1995, according to a study then by the Virginia Crime Commission, Virginia fell from 1st to 8th in states identified as the largest source for firearm trafficking.

❖ Many laws on improving transparency in government including that public universities and colleges are now prohibited from approving an increase in undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees without providing students and the public notice of the date, time, and location of the meeting at which public comment will be heard on the matter. Many of these measures were hard-fought for and finally pushed over the finish line this year by our new Democratic majority. There are many more good laws, including those that I introduced on behalf of constituents, which you can look up on the Legislative Information System website.

Our goal this year was to pass laws that create a safer, more efficient, prosperous, and more inclusive Commonwealth for all Virginians; and, on July 1st this vision is being realized.

We still have much work to do later this summer when we meet in a special session in August to address systemic racial injustice, police reform, and reshape the state budget under the constraints imposed by COVID-19, but this milestone marks a monumental step forward for Virginia.

Next week, I will highlight the many laws we passed to protect the environment and combat the climate change crisis.

Please stay safe wearing your mask and practicing social distancing and necessary handwashing.

State Legislature Will Vote on Policing Reforms

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

The events of the last 60 days have been troubling for America and our community. Our strategies in Virginia have pushed the state's coronavirus reproduction rate to the fourth-lowest in the United States. At the same time, the advocacy spawned by George Floyd's killing has heightened awareness in the U.S. and across the globe of long-standing injustices in our criminal justice system. This was unfortunately underscored when Fairfax County police appeared to have unjustifiably tased a man in obvious mental distress in our community, in Gum Springs, earlier this month.

As part of my law practice, I have been defending people and their civil rights for 24 years. Over this time, we have seen the rights of the accused steadily chipped away as the legislature and the

courts made changes to produce more convictions, longer sentences and incentivize more pleas, steps that make it less likely that the legal system will actually ascertain the truth. I have seen many people plead guilty to crimes to which they have an actual defense because the consequences of a possible conviction are too severe.

Fairfax and Prince William Counties have made some progress on these issues. Many police vehicles have dash cameras. Universal body cameras for officers are coming. Fairfax County implemented a citizen advisory board. The Prince William Police Department does regular community outreach. Fairfax County has improved its practices in officer-involved shootings and use-of-force incidents. However, we must do better locally and in



Surovell

our state.

I am chairing the state Senate Democratic Caucus's ad hoc Subcommittee on Police Reform and Criminal Justice. Last week, we announced six groups of initiatives that a majority of the state senators support. We intend to

pass them in a special session this summer.

First, we must reform how we police our community. There is no justification for chokeholds. Departments must utilize a use-of-force continuum that emphasizes non-violent approaches, then lesser forms of force and the use of firearms as a last resort. Shooting into moving cars -- such as Bijan Ghaisar's here in Fairfax County -- must be illegal. We need an officer decertification system and a prohibition on hiring officers who were fired or resigned due to miscon-

duct investigations. No-knock warrants, as used by police who killed Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, are unnecessary and should be illegal.

In 1997, our legislature made assault on a law enforcement officer a felony. This means that touching a police officer without the officer's consent can result in felony charges. I have seen people charged with this for slapping an officer's wrist as the officer hands over a speeding ticket or bumping into an officer and walking away from a vehicle. Officers often use this charge when an officer's misconduct could be alleged. We need to return this to a misdemeanor offense as it was for 200 years. Serious injuries can always be charged as felonies.

We need to expand local governments' authority for civilian review boards and create response systems to get mental health professionals on the scene with the

SEE STATE, PAGE 8

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



OPINION

Alexandria Police Department Has Systemic Racism Problem

The Alexandria Police Department is one of the most professional and respected law enforcement agencies in the country. And yes, the Alexandria Police Department does have a systemic racism problem within it. The two can be synonymous.

I recently retired after serving 30 years of law enforcement service with the City of Alexandria and I thank the City for giving me an opportunity to live out my childhood dream. I was able to develop lifelong friends amongst all races. I was fortunate to have a career to include experience with the Alexandria Office of Sheriff, as a Patrol Officer, Community Oriented Police Officer, Detective, Sergeant and Lieutenant. My command experience oversaw the COPS units, the Patrol Support Division, HR overseeing recruitment and Records. I was also one of the department's Implicit Biases Instructors. I use this as a backdrop to say that I believed that I had a successful career. As a Black officer, this career was also filled with plenty of racist footnotes within it.

I remember walking into roll call in 1992 and out of approximately 60 officers on the entire midnight shift, I was one of two Black officers. What was more troubling, when you fast forward to 2012-2016, the number of Black officers in the department had dropped to alarming low levels. And to give credit to the City and the Department, they took immediate action to address it but in the modern era of minority hiring this should not have happened.

When white officers state that the Alexandria Police Department does not have a problem with systemic racism because it is a professional law enforcement agency, this often is looked upon suspiciously from Black officers. It is quite easy for my white brothers and sisters in blue to make this statement because they are not the subject of it and therefore, may not see it.

But if they come and talk to me, I will tell them about the time when a retired officer and current city employee said, "Yeah, when Blacks he arrests make him mad, he calls them N-word."

I will tell them about the time when I submitted my statement on a Use of Force Investigation where my statement aligned with that of the Black arrestee and not the white officer and the investigating retired Sergeant informed me that if I didn't change my statement, "there would be a time when I go into a dark alley and would not get a backup." I would tell them about the time when a retired Deputy Chief referred to the Alexandria Black Firefighters Association's money as "confederate money." I would tell them about the time when a current Commander, after this country elected its first African American President, said "See what happens when you are raised by a white family." This commander went on to question the department's minority hiring.

Look, I can go on and continue to cite more incidents and more stories that are not unique. I am also sure that if you would ask every Black officer in the

SEE ALEXANDRIA POLICE, PAGE 10

**Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!**

TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



**10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years**

Free Estimates 703-999-2928

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com



Rex Reiley
RE/MAX Allegiance
703-768-7730
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex/Montebello \$274,900
5901 Mount Eagle Drive #202
Spacious & lovely 1BR condo w/balcony in sought after Montebello, a resort-like community in a natural wooded setting, located just a few minutes from Old Town. Updated kit w/new appliances & stacked washer/dryer in 2016. Tiled bath w/contemporary walk-in shower. Large enclosed balcony/terrace off the living room overlooks peaceful treed setting. Spacious MBR w/walk-in closet. Amenities at Montebello abound. Pet friendly-walking path or free shuttle to Yellow Line/Huntington Metro that lets you conveniently access all that the D.C./NoVa area has to offer.

RENTAL



Alex/Riverside Estates \$3,000
8318 Orange Court
Beautiful Colonial with 3 finished levels in Historic Mt. Vernon. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, screened porch, deck, carport and large corner lot. Separate laundry & storage rooms. Scenic commute along the GW Parkway - 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to Ntl Airport & 30/35 to Pentagon/dc. Walk to elementary and high school

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex/Riverside Estates \$605,000
3026 Battersea Lane
Riverside Estates, the Biggest Bang for your Buck!! This large Virginia model offers 5BRs, 3 updated baths, a gorgeous upgraded kitchen w/granite counters, cherry cabinets & 12" ceramic tile flooring. Beautiful hardwood floors on the main level plus upgraded, energy efficient DBL pane windows throughout. The electric panel had major upgrades in 2008, & the deck was rebuilt in 2016, it looks out at the beautifully landscaped backyard complete w/a new privacy fence & underground sprinkler system. Don't miss the 2 car garage as well - Check out the competition, then come talk with us. We're always ready to reach out with a helping hand.

SOLD



Alex/Riverside Estates \$580,000
8501 Wagon Wheel Road
Beautifully updated 4BR, 3BA Split w/carport - 2500+ square ft. on a large landscaped .3 acre lot w/fenced-in back yard. Freshly painted interior, newly refinished hardwood floors throughout the main level. Large family room w/wood burning FPL & 4th BR on lower level w/a refinished bath, & two large utility rooms. Perfect for workshop/storage. You can't find a better value or neighborhood for this price! 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir, (S) 15 minutes to Old Town Alex. (N) along the beautiful GW Parkway.

SOLD



Mt. Vernon/Wessynton \$759,900
3102 Cunningham Drive
Gorgeous, newly renovated 4 Bedroom, 3 BA contemporary home in sought after waterfront community of Wessynton, 1 car garage, new deck, .34 acre lot. Large, spectacular new kitchen w/all the bells & whistles. Beautiful new bathrooms. Separate dining room. Living room w/fireplace. Large picture windows on back wall overlook private wooded setting. Family Room w/nice wood paneled ceiling. Wessynton amenities include tennis courts, swimming pool, walking paths, & boat ramp on Little Hunting Creek which flows to the Potomac River. Located just a half mile from Mount Vernon Estate & the GW Parkway, it is a mere 10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town, & 30 mins to D.C.

SOLD



Alex/ Woodleigh Woods \$701,000
3709 Maryland Street
Welcome to this stunning 4BR, 3BA, 2 car garage, contemporary-complete w/a gorgeous court yard out front & a large deck & hot tub which overlooks a beautifully landscaped bkdy. Numerous updates to include: kitchen w/granite counters & SS appliances, recently replaced DBL pane, energy efficient windows, freshly painted interior, & all 3 baths. The kitchen, dining & living rooms all face out back & have a wall of picture windows looking out at the deck, hot tub & fenced bkdy. The lower level offers a 4th BR, 3rd full bath & family room that opens out to the court yard. As you walk thru this home you marvel at the open contemporary design that makes you feel like you are one w/your environment. Walkable 1/4 mile to Mt. Vernon bike/walking trail along the Potomac. Five minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Old Town (N), 25 minutes to National Airport (N), all along the scenic GW Pkwy, each season gives you beautiful views.

SOLD



Alex/Mt.Zephyr \$515,000
4100 Woodley Drive
Lovely all brick 2 level raised/ranch ramble deep in the heart of Mt. Vernon - Large .25 acre corner lot with carport. Lovely hardwood floors on the main level, double pane windows. 2 updated baths on the main level and an updated 3rd full bath on the lower level. 2 wood burning FPLs, one on each level. Potential 4th bedroom on the lower level. Roof is 10 years old, furnace 5 months, A/C 7 years. Commute along GW Pkwy to Old Town- minutes to Ft. Belvoir.

**Thinking of Buying or Selling your home in 2020!!
Give Rex Reiley a call - 703-409-4784**



For more information: www.RexReiley.com

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



Marijuana Decriminalized July 1

Will decriminalization of marijuana stop inequitable treatment for communities of color?

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Who is more likely to be charged, asked Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw. An executive of a defense contractor smoking marijuana on his deck overlooking woods in Clifton or Great Falls, or the Black teen or young adult walking down Route One in Mount Vernon, or on a street in Annandale or Culmore sections of Fairfax County?

“Correct me, if I’m wrong, but I think the math that you read last time basically said that 30 to 40 percent of the annual marijuana arrests in the county are of African Americans over the last several years.

To note for everyone, the African American population in Fairfax is about 10 percent,” Walkinshaw said to Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. during Legislative Committee meetings of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors earlier this year.

Fairfax County Police arrested 3,070 people last year for possession of marijuana. Black people were arrested 1,266 times and white people were arrested 1,713 times.

In 2018, Fairfax County Police made 4,298 arrests for marijuana possession. Black people were arrested 1,624 times; white people were arrested 2,466 times.

But Black people make up less than 10 percent of the population.

“We’ve peeled back those numbers and it is disproportional,” said Roessler. “When you pull it back

and you start looking at the zip codes of where people are coming from and the demographics of the county, it’s disproportionate across the board, any which way we slice it.

“African American males and Hispanics are disproportionately charged, any way you look at it,” Roessler said.

“We know Black and white people are using marijuana at the same rates,” Walkinshaw said. “There’s no reason to believe it’s any different here in Fairfax.”

ON JULY 1, VIRGINIA JOINS 26 states and Washington D.C. in ceasing to jail people for possessing small amounts of cannabis. Gov. Ralph Northam signed SB 2 into law in May.

Possession of up to an ounce of marijuana will be punishable by a civil fine of up to \$25 instead of a criminal charge that could mean up to 30 days in jail and up to a \$500 fine. The bill prohibits employers from requiring applicants to disclose marijuana possession charges.

The General Assembly tabled bills on legalizing marijuana possession, and workgroups will conduct one- and two-year studies that include inequitable treatment of Black people.

But, in the meantime, will Black people continue to be charged disproportionately even though it’s now a civil penalty rather than a criminal charge?

“The scenario I described would also apply to decriminalization. The executive on the back porch in Clifton is not going to be found

Viewpoints



**Rodney L. Lusk,
Lee Supervisor**

“The long term impacts of the decisions we are making might go on for generations. I want to be changing and improving people’s lives for the better.”



**James Walkinshaw,
Braddock Supervisor**

“If you’re African American or Hispanic you’re more likely to be arrested than if you look like me or like the Chairman here. And even in a place where we are committed to diversity and we have a department and a chief that is committed to it, we still have that challenge.”



**Edwin C. Roessler Jr.,
Fairfax County
Chief of Police**

“African American males and Hispanics are disproportionately charged, any way you look at it.”



**Karla Bruce,
Chief Equity Officer**

“The term marijuana actually has equity implications. The term was adopted in the 1930s to create the most public anxiety in order to encourage the prohibition of its use.”

and fined for possession of marijuana,” said Walkinshaw. “We may reduce some of the equity issues and the harm that is done, but it doesn’t eliminate it. So that is another challenge that we will continue to deal with.”

Walkinshaw wants the Chief of Police to report data at least two times a year to the Board rather than annually so there is the ability to make adjustments throughout the year.

“THERE IS, related to our country’s history of the War on Drugs, a disproportional pattern of enforcement,” said Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer for Fairfax County.

“Specifically, there was a disproportionate harmful impact on communities of color, specifically African Americans and Latinos,” said Bruce. “When you have a criminal record, you definitely risk your economic security, you’re at greater risk for not being able to support yourself or your family. That can start a vicious cycle that I think should be taken under consideration.

The other thing is it can sometimes prohibit you from being able to access professional licenses, educational opportunities, and government assistance.”

More people were arrested for marijuana in the United States in

2018 than in 2015, despite eight states legalizing or decriminalizing during that time. In every state that has decriminalized marijuana, black people are still more likely to be cited for possession.

“There are some human components here that we also have to think about,” said Lee Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk, who chairs the Board’s public safety committee, where oversight of this issue will continue. “The long term impacts of the decisions we are making might go on for generations. Personally that’s not a place I want to be. I want to be changing and improving people’s lives for the better.”

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.

PHASE 3 REOPENING

Fairfax County, along with the rest of the state, is expected to enter the third phase of reopening on Wednesday, July 1. Beginning July 1, social gatherings of up to 250 people will be permitted. The new guidelines also end the cap on the number of customers allowed inside non-essential retail stores, restaurants and bars. Previously, these businesses were limited to 50% capacity under Phase Two. These establishments must continue to follow physical distancing requirements, such as keeping tables six feet apart, including bar seating.

The third phase also eases restrictions on other facilities:

Personal Care: Beauty salons, barbers, spas, massage centers, tanning salons and tattoo shops may reopen at their normal capacity — but customers still must make appointments to come in. Both customers and employees are

required to wear face coverings.

Exercise Facilities: Gyms, recreation centers and sports centers may open indoor areas at 75% of their lowest allowed occupancy. Customers must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before allowed inside, including whether they have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher. Fitness equipment must be spaced 10 feet apart, and similarly, personal trainers or instructors and exercise class participants must stay 10 feet apart from each other.

Pools: Indoor and outdoor pools may reopen at 75% capacity, and pools are open for free swim, instruction and exercise classes. Swimmers must be screened for coronavirus symptoms before entering. Swimmers and divers must stay 10 feet apart.

Recreational Sports: Indoor and outdoor recreational sports are limited to 250 people or 50% capacity whichever is less. No more than 250 players and attendees are permitted per field at a time, and a 10-foot distance is required between players, spectators and sports officials where possible. Players, coaches and officials must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering a facility.

Entertainment: Outdoor entertainment and

amusement venues, such as zoos, gardens, drive-in movie theaters and museums, may reopen at 50% capacity with a maximum of 1,000 people at a time. Performers and audience members must stay 10 feet away from each other, and cars must be parked six feet from each other at drive-ins. Indoor entertainment and amusement businesses continue to remain closed, including museums, movie theaters, concert venues, bowling alleys, trampoline parks and arcades.

Religious Services: Churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship may now reopen at their normal capacity, but worshippers must continue to be seated six feet apart except for families. Food or beverages must be served using disposable containers.

Childcare: They will be able to reopen.

METRO REOPENING

MOST CLOSED STATIONS

Metro announced that 15 rail stations that had been closed as part of the transit agency’s COVID-19 response reopened on Sunday, June 28. They include the following stations: Grosvenor-Strathmore, Cleveland Park, Feder-

al Center SW, Federal Triangle, Mount Vernon Square, Judiciary Square, Archives and Smithsonian. After June 28, Arlington Cemetery will be the only Metrorail station without regular service. Arlington National Cemetery is currently closed to the general public.

COMMUNITY MARKET AT WORKHOUSE

The Workhouse Arts Center announces a new Community Market initiative in partnership with the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce every Saturday beginning June 27 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Community Market is designed to help businesses rebuild during Virginia’s Phase II reopening in a unique setting all while keeping local arts alive. Surrounded by historic buildings, the Workhouse offers a unique venue for Fairfax and Prince William businesses and organizations to market and sell goods and services. The outdoor environment provides greater exposure to traditional brick and mortar businesses as well as a way for community to shop in a safer way during Phase I and Phase II of re-opening the local economy. Spaces and tents will adhere to

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

WELLBEING

Yoga and Meditation

How self-care and mindfulness help ease anxiety over racial injustice.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Before the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent stay-at-home orders, Kesha Davis's weekday evening routine included picking up her fifteen-year-old son at a bus stop in Old Town Alexandria. He used public transportation to make the trek from his school in Potomac. Davis timed her arrival around his bus schedule so that he wasn't left waiting for her on the sidewalk.

"Since Ahmaud Arbery was killed in Georgia while he was jogging, just because he was Black, I've felt like I need to be even more careful about how other people will perceive my son," said Davis, who is African American. "He plays sports and wears athletic clothes home from school. He's also five-ten (5'10") and could be mistaken for a man."

As reports of protests and police killings across the country seem ubiquitous, the toll of racial injustice leaves many in the African American community feeling vulnerable and anxious. According to the Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, African Americans are 10 times more likely to experience psychological distress than whites.

Even without a personal connection to those who have been victims of racist acts of violence, images of such events can lead to heightened feelings of stress particularly for African American women, says therapist, Deborah Jackson, LPC. "We are often caretakers and expected to be strong all the time," she said. "Even if we don't know anyone involved the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many others, as African Americans we know that it could have been us or someone we know."

The constant presence of such images can lead to feelings of defenselessness, advises Jackson. "When we feel unsafe or vulnerable, we feel the effects spiritually and emotionally," she said. "These feelings can happen gradually and we might not even be aware of them, but this is the time to practice self-care. For many African American women, practicing self-care often takes a backseat to taking care of others. In order to stay strong we have to take care of our own well-being."

Practices such as yoga and meditation bring about an awareness of one's feelings or emotions, says meditation and yoga instructor Sydnea Lewis. "They quiet your mind so that you're aware of what's going on in your body."

The current racial climate is concerning and stressful, particularly for African American women, says Lewis. "Anxiety is worrying about the future," she said. "Yoga forces you to be present during an asana



PHOTO COURTESY OF SYDNEA LEWIS

Yoga teacher Sydnea Lewis believes that yoga and meditation can soothe the stress that some African American women might feel during this challenging time of race relations.

practice or meditation. Yoga and meditation teach you how to quiet the mind. The more you do it the more you can take it off the mat and meditation cushion and into your everyday life."

"I am fearful for my sons as they walk through the world," said Jackie Lee, an African American mother of three. "One is a man and one is still a boy but, depending on the situation they could both be seen as a menace at worst or a nuisance at least. In either case, they could find themselves on the wrong side of the law for no other reason than that they are Black. It is infuriating."

It takes a consistent practice of yoga and meditation to gain the mental relaxation that can soothe the strong emotions that injustices induce, says Lewis. "For example, if I think about one of my friends or someone I love being hurt or killed by the police, it serves me no good."

Worrying about something that has not happened is destructive and unnecessary, advises Lewis. "Yes, it's a possibility, but it's good to remind yourself of the positive," she said. "Try to reach for the silver lining in any

and everything."

Such a forward-looking mentality can be difficult to cultivate. "I have had frank conversations with [my sons] through the years, but in the wake of George Floyd's murder have had to do a deep dive into the realities of racism, white privilege, perceptions, and the protocol for interacting with the police," said Lee. "I hate having these difficult conversations but I have to set aside my discomfort to increase their awareness and improve the chances of their survival."



Food fit for a king on a family budget

DAILY FEATURES FOR EVERYONE!

Monday - 1/2 Price Burger Night

Tuesday - Kids 12 & under Eat Free with accompanying adult. 1 child per adult.

Wednesday - Roast Turkey Special

Thursday - Lasagna Night

Friday - Fish Fry

Saturday & Sunday - Full Brunch Buffet with Omelette Station

734 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Royal Restaurant
ALEXANDRIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT • SINCE 1904

703-548-1616

RoyalRestaurantVA.com

Has your business recently reopened?

WELCOME
WE ARE
OPEN
PLEASE COME IN

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

offer different advertising opportunities for you to get the word out!

For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or Email advertising@connectionnewspapers.com

Preventing the Callous in Young Black America

BY GEVAR BONHAM

Growing up in Birmingham, AL, I recall playing in the basement of 16th Street Baptist Church. The same church that was bombed in 1963 by the KKK, killing four young Black girls and injuring dozens. The weight of that experience playing where people lost their lives is one of many that released a strain of trauma already ingrained in my DNA as a Black man.

I consider myself a first-generation child of the post-civil rights era. My parents, who directly experienced Jim Crow, redlining and segregation, moved the family to the predominantly white suburbs in search of opportunities and high performing schools for their children.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Not Above the Law

To the editor:

I applaud the effort of the 12 local state politicians to put the United States Park Police (USPP) on notice that they are not above the law. These Senators and Delegates are asking officials of Fairfax, Alexandria and Arlington to look into terminating any Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) that currently exist with the USPP until specific conditions are met. Good for them.

I do have one ask and it is significant and

But our experiences were not the same as our white peers. At ten years old, I remember walking past our car in the driveway to find eggshells and yolk blasted on the windshield and the word "n****r" written in paint. The feeling of being unwelcome in Hoover City was the beginning of a callous we develop as young Black children, and the threat in my own neighborhood made it thicken.

I learned early on that not everyone views you as equal, or even human. The callous you develop turns into self-policing. Don't say too much. Monitor your physical presence and actions to appear nonthreatening. The timestamp on a store receipt can prove your innocence if accused of a crime. This takes a heavy toll mentally, physically and emotionally but this is how we have learned

to navigate an oppressive system.

Two years ago, my then 11-year-old son began his journey into callousness. Innocence began its departure, catalyzed by his first police encounter -- resulting from a schoolmate's false allegation. It was devastating to now be an observer as history began to repeat itself. Attempts to reconcile with the accuser were ignored as if this behavior is acceptable. These compounded situations bind such trauma to our DNA — white America moves on with blissful ignorance of the broken pieces we're left to quietly mend in isolation.

It's unfair and unjust, but I am hopeful for my sons. Black communities are no longer fighting for justice and equity alone. Our allies are a diverse group of individuals and

corporations, who have resonated globally. For the first time I am hopeful that we're poised for a reckoning with our nation's sordid history. We must keep our foot on the gas. Systemic change is tangible, if we can sustain engagement. Just as we didn't arrive here overnight, healing through restoration and reparation will require sacrifice and stamina.

Gevan Bonham is IT Systems Administrator, United Way of the National Capital Area and resident of Alexandria.

This piece is part of a collection of stories told by African American male colleagues at United Way NCA. To hear more, please visit: <https://unitedwaynca.podbean.com/e/we-are-not-okay-1593038482/>

State Legislature Will Vote on Policing Reforms

FROM PAGE 4

police to de-escalate situations. We cannot expect our law enforcement officers to be experts in everything.

We must empower our prosecutors to drop charges when they feel it is appropriate and Virginia's punitive expungement laws need to allow more types of dismissed charges or minor convictions to be removed from people's records.

We hope to pass legislation to discourage racial profiling by eliminating the authority for police to stop vehicles for tinted windows, loud exhaust or defective license plate lightbulbs. We also hope to abolish the jury's role in sentencing, something already done

in 46 other states and the federal system. We must re-examine our prison systems and allow inmates to earn time off their sentences for good behavior and allow the Parole Board to consider releasing inmates who are permanently disabled or terminally ill. This could save taxpayers up to \$29 million per year.

These reforms are just the beginning but are what we hope to accomplish in our special session. We will hold a series of public hearings to receive input from stakeholders, experts and all Virginians and invite you to participate.

Please feel free to share your views by emailing me at scott@scottsuovell.org.

Plans for Old Mount Vernon High School

FROM PAGE 3

"We find ways to re-energize," he said. They also did part of George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Funding At Large

Phase 1 comes with an \$81 million price tag, and on one of the slides, the source of this funding was touched on. "The county is pursuing innovative ways to fund the project," it read, and the term public-private partnership was mentioned. This method of rebuilding a historic structure was used for the former Lorton Reformatory. The Lorton Reformatory buildings that were once prisons are now condominiums, and an art facility known as "The Workhouse," houses many artists, but it all did not happen without public funding to get started. According to the county website, "on July 15, 2002, after the property was surveyed and covenants established, 2324 acres were transferred to Fairfax County for \$4.2 million." One of the public's questions at the end had

to do with housing, which could bring more people, traffic and congestion to an already busy area. Ipek Aktuglu with the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services handled questions. "Potentially in a future phase," was her response, before Storck spoke up again, looking forward to phases two and three. "We don't know specifically what that will look like," Storck said.

Bill Kosanovich questioned what the residents in the immediate area, which he said were Black and Latino, might need. "It seems like there is a little bit of something for everybody. That really isn't a recipe for equity. Equity suggests providing what is needed. The greatest needs in this area are still felt in the Black and Latino communities. How is it that these communities are not central to this project?" he asked. Other questions focused on the fields behind the school, parking, Zephyr Road and non-profit space. Phase 1 is expected to be completed in Fall 2024.

Thank you!

To our doctors, nurses, EMTs and all the heroes in the medical profession. Thank you to our frontline businesses working long hours stocking shelves, cashiering, bagging and cleaning. Thank you to our government officials and leaders who are making decisions to keep us safe. We appreciate all of you!

Burke & Herbert Bank

INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

COX

Andrews

FORT BELVOIR

COVANTA

DOMINION

ServiceMASTER

springfieldtowncenter

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON * LEE Chamber OF COMMERCE

To champion business and build community in partnership with our members.

Here's how you can help support small businesses during the Covid-19 outbreak

GIVE THE GIFT OF BUSINESS

Buy a gift card to use at a later date and shop locally online when possible.



KEEP YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

To the gym, exercise class, painting class, music and dance lessons, etc. Many small businesses rely on your support to keep their doors open and pay their bills. Your support can save that business.



BUY NOW, PICK UP LATER

Planning to make a purchase? Call the business to see if you can make the purchase but pick it up later.



ORDER FOOD-TO-GO OR HAVE IT DELIVERED

Local restaurants are open and ready to provide their delicious food. Order and pay online. Consider adding a generous tip.



Wondering what local businesses are open?

Visit MountVernonLeeChamber.org

LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION: mountvernonleechamber.org/business-resources-for-coronavirus/
FAIRFAX COUNTY INFORMATION: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/
VIRGINIA INFORMATION: www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/

Another Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership

Mount Vernon Hires Basketball Coach

Mount Vernon High School hired a new head boys basketball coach, Dennis Murphy. Murphy previously spent six years as the head coach at St. Vincent Pallotti High School where he amassed a record of 98-61 and his team was ranked #5 in the Washington Post during the 2018 season. Prior to St. Vincent Pallotti HS, Murphy was an assistant coach at Bishop O'Connell High School during

the 2012-2013 season where they finished the season 30-7 winning the WCAC championship and ranked #1 in the Washington Post. Prior to O'Connell, Murphy spent 13 years as the top assistant at St. John's College High School in Washington DC. Murphy is a military veteran spending 22 years in the United States Marine Corps. Murphy has a bachelor's degree from Catholic University.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

social distancing guidelines and the Workhouse will monitor traffic and cleaning guidelines for optimal safety. Interested vendors should contact Elena Romanova at elenaromanova@workhousearts.org.

PARK AUTHORITY OPENS MORE AMENITIES

The Fairfax County Park Authority began opening additional amenities to the public on June 12, 2020, as the region moves into Phase Two of Gov. Ralph Northam's Forward Virginia Blueprint for reopening. State COVID-19 safety guidelines will now permit these actions to occur. Park staff have already started to implement these changes. However, the Park Authority has 427 parks, and changes will occur over the next few weeks. Openings include:

Athletic Fields – Athletic fields will open for organized and permitted use based on the governor's and Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention guidelines pertaining to use of athletic fields.

Basketball Courts – Outdoor courts will open, but users must stay 10 feet apart.

Volleyball Courts – Outdoor courts will open, but users must stay 10 feet apart.

Dog Parks – Dog parks will open with users urged to maintain social distancing.

Marinas – Marinas will open for rentals at lakefront and riverfront parks.

Mini-golf – Miniature golf courses will open at all locations, except Jefferson District Park (due to construction).

Restrooms – Permanent outdoor restrooms and portable restrooms will open system-wide. We encourage visitors to bring hand sanitizer since these facilities are often without running water.

Picnic Shelters – Shelters within parks will open for permitted use with 50% capacity of regular occupancy limits, not to exceed 50 people.

Playgrounds – Playgrounds will open

system-wide including Clemyjontri Park and Chessie's Big Backyard at Lee District Park. There is no special cleaning; visitors should use at their own risk and must adhere to social distancing guidelines.

RECenters and other Park Authority facilities, such as nature centers, pools and historic sites remain closed currently. For more information, call 703-324-8662 or email parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

FREE ONLINE COMPUTER SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

DMVHacks, founded by Lucy Chen and Anam Khan, is conducting free online computer science workshops to increase interest in STEM throughout the community. It offers multiple workshops, ranging from basic Scratch (for those who have little to no experience coding) to advanced Web Development (for those who are already familiar with a coding language). They also place a special emphasis on Python

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

Obituary

Obituary

Bruce Murdock McLellan

Bruce Murdock McLellan passed away on June 23rd, 2020, at age 74. He was born November 9th, 1945 in Brooklyn, NY to Dr. George and Nancy McLellan. He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years Stephanie, their daughter Dana Quigley, her husband Mike Quigley, three grandchildren Jack (Toot), Katelyn (Katydid), and Emily (Little Bear), as well as his sister Susan Breen, Brother-in-law Doug Breen, his Uncle and Aunt, Donald and Ann Murdock, as well as other family and friends.

He grew up in Sparta, NJ and attended Colgate University where he was a Theta Chi. Upon graduation in 1967 he went through Officer Candidate School and was an Army Intelligence Officer stationed in Washington DC. After leaving the Army Bruce worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Roe. He then worked at The National Office Products Association as Director of Government Relations. He resigned from NOPA after 26 years in 1997, but continued to work at Association Headquarters in DC, National Tax Lien Association, and the Alexandria Gazette in Old Town until 2004.

In 1971 Bruce married his high school sweetheart Stephanie Wall at the Jersey Shore and they moved to Old Town Alexandria. Their daughter Dana was born in 1974 and the family moved to Mt. Vernon, VA where they stayed until 2004. It was that year Bruce retired, and he and Stephanie moved to Hilton Head Island to enjoy the beach and be with Dana and her family. Here they spent wonderful years surrounded by family and new friends.

In remembrance of this wonderful man, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org.

Find us on Facebook and become a fan!

www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online
The Connection to Your Community

www.connectionnewspapers.com

CLASSIFIED
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Announcements

Announcements



FREE!
Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Toilet
FREE! (\$500 Value)

WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE!
SAVE \$1,500

- ✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience
- ✓ Ultra low entry for easy entering & exiting
- ✓ Patented Quick Drain® Technology
- ✓ Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard
- ✓ 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage

Limited Time Offer! Call Today!
877-691-5591
Or visit: www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa

Announcements

Announcements

855-940-2635

Renewal by Andersen
WINDOW REPLACEMENT
an Andersen Company

BOGO
Ends 8/31
40% OFF

THE FULL SERVICE REPLACEMENT WINDOW DIVISION OF ANDERSEN WINDOWS & DOORS

Call for details

Announcements

Announcements

LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

MADE IN THE USA ACCREDITED BUSINESS LIFETIME WARRANTY A COMPANY OF ALHS

15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* **AND! 10% OFF** SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS **+ 5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!**

Promo Number: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOP# 10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

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

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Mourning, Afternoon and Evening

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



We had to euthanize Biscuit, our oldest cat on Saturday, June 20th. He would have been 14 on September 20th. Biscuit is survived by his half-brother, Andrew and his two half sisters, Sloane and Twinkle. Biscuit's litter mate and brother, "Chino" preceded him in death in November, 2019, after succumbing to diabetes. Biscuit had likewise been diagnosed with diabetes around the same time as "Chino." However, as occasionally happens, according to Biscuit's veterinarian, some cats "spontaneously" overcome the disease, as Biscuit miraculously did, and go on to live relatively normal lives. Biscuit lived approximately one year after his diabetes went into remission, which ended up being about seven months longer than "Chino." Not exactly "relatively normal"; nonetheless, we were grateful for the extra seven months.

Biscuit was "the senior man," as we called him and we typically left him in charge of the other four cats when both Dina and I would be away from home. Of all five cats, Biscuit was the most present in our lives. He was also the most social, the most fearless and the most affable/tolerant of all our cats. An indoor cat like our entire herd, Biscuit was most likely to be around and to socialize. He would greet visitors within a few minutes of their arrival and invariably introduce himself by jumping up on the coffee table in front of the couch and staring at the newcomer. He was also the first in line for breakfast and dinner, first in line for treats, and whenever my wife, Dina, made a tuna fish sandwich for lunch, Biscuit was, you guessed it, first in line. Topping out at 15 pounds, somehow he managed to keep his weight down. He was a sweet, adoring and talkative cat and we loved him, and of course, we miss him terribly, especially Dina.

Over the last few years, particularly, Dina and Biscuit had formed a bond. He was her cat, just as "Chino" had been mine. Not that Biscuit ignored me, hardly. But when he made his requests, verbal or otherwise, Dina was almost always the intended requestee. Moreover, as Dina's schedule changed, she became Biscuit's primary caregiver, feeder, litter-box scooper and groomer and more interesting for Biscuit, became the one to let him outside to take in the sights, sounds and smells which enthrall cats. She was, on these special occasions, daily of late, his constant companion, which is how they spent his last Saturday morning, together, outside.

What has made Biscuit's passing so difficult is how quickly he declined, always a bad sign, our veterinarian said. Biscuit stopped eating on Friday after barely nibbling on Thursday. He even turned away from treats that I offered him and tuna fish that Dina placed in his bowl. Though still engaged with us, we could see his haunches, and feel his boney spine. He had lost two and half pounds in the last three months. That Friday night, Biscuit had trouble settling down and whimpered off and on through the night. I called the veterinarian first thing Saturday morning and we were fortunate to secure an appointment at 10 am that very morning. Biscuit was clearly struggling and probably even suffering as his zero interest in breakfast confirmed and his sounds not of silence continued.

We didn't want to be selfish this time as we had been with "Chino." We kept him at home far too long before taking him to the veterinarian and have regretted it ever since. We just couldn't let go. We weren't going to make the same mistake with Biscuit. That Saturday, we drove to the animal hospital and dropped Biscuit off to be examined while we waited in the car (per phase 2 rules). Ten minutes or so later, the veterinarian called with her grim assessment: Biscuit was failing and was not going to recover. Through our tears, we then made the decision to end Biscuit's suffering. We took his body home that day and buried him on Monday next to his brother "Chino."

It was a private service attended only by family members.

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

LANDSCAPING A&S CONSTRUCTION SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. 703-863-7465		Good is not good, where better is expected. -Thomas Fuller	LANDSCAPING LANDSCAPING Quality Tree Service & Landscaping Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. Winter Cleanup... Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience - Free estimates 703-868-5358 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	
ELECTRICAL K & D ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc... Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com				
GUTTER GUTTER GUTTER CLEANING Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards PINNACLE SERVICES lic/ins 703-802-0483 free est. email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com web: lawnsandgutters.com Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!				
A&S Landscaping • All Concrete work • Retaining Walls • Patios • Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions • French Drains • Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing 703-863-7465 LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia				
LANDSCAPING LANDSCAPING Patios & Drainage Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-772-0500		J.E.S. Services Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured • Planting & Landscaping Design • Drainage & Water Problems • Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New • Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid • Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose • Retaining walls of all types All work Guaranteed		
ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with THE CONNECTION DIGITAL ► Email Marketing ► Social Media ► Sponsored Content FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING				

Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to any or all of our 15 papers
www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

OPINION

Alexandria Police

FROM PAGE 5

department, they would have their own stories.

This problem is not even unique to the police department. If you went over to the Sheriff's Office, I am sure the large number of line level staff would share how they feel isolated because of a department that continues to hire whites from outside the agency for leadership

positions that they could have competed for if they were allowed. The Black firefighters, I am sure, could cite a book of systemic racism within their agency.

This is not meant to pound on the Police Department or other Public Safety Agencies within Alexandria. It is meant to educate us all that we can work for a very professional agency and still have a problem with racism within it. We must acknowledge that the problem is real and current to effectively address it. I have had the pleasure of working for four outstanding Police Chiefs, Chief Samarra, Chief Baker, Chief Cook and Chief Brown, and all have mentored me into who I am today. This is not one man's problem. All of us share a burden to address it.

Lieutenant Vince Jones (Retired)
 Alexandria Police Department

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

and Java. These workshops occur from 3 - 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays through Zoom. For more details, email Lucy Chen at lchen888@gmail.com or the DMVHack team at dmvhacksteam@gmail.com.

FXA ADULT SPORTS OPENS SUMMER REGISTRATION

FXA Adult Sports announced Summer registration is now open. The summer season will begin early July to coincide with Northern Virginia's tentative Coronavirus Phase 3 plans. FXA Sports has added new guidelines for players to take precautions against coronavirus that can be found on the blog (<https://bit.ly/2Y6jYOJ>) and a worry-free sign-up policy (<https://bit.ly/3e3bGNg>) if phase 3 plans should change in any way. Corporate teams are welcome too! Sign-up at FXA Sports (<https://bit.ly/3d2SBJH>). For more information, email info@fxasports.com or visit www.fxasports.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program (DVP) and Sexual Assault Center (SAC) make a positive impact for those in need and increase awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community by becoming a volunteer. Volunteers benefit from the unique experience of interacting personally with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. There are opportunities in DVP for special events volunteers, court advocates and shelter supervisors. Call 703-746-4911 or visit alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence. To become a SAC volunteer, which includes opportunities for Volunteer Hotline Advocates, call Lydia at 703-746-3127 or visit alexandriava.gov/SexualViolence.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR YOUR TOYOTA



**WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA'S
PERSONALIZED CAR CARE EXPERIENCE**

**BUY 3
TIRES
AND
GET
THE
4TH FOR**



\$1

See Service
Advisor for details.

GOT TIRES?

INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE
WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

**BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL
ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA
VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/20.

**CHECK ENGINE
LIGHT DIAGNOSIS**

**NO
CHARGE**

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

WE WILL RETRIEVE
VEHICLE CODES
& GIVE YOU
AN ESTIMATE
OF REPAIR COSTS.



NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA
VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/20.

Jack Taylor's
**ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA**

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305



SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS!
Have Your Vehicle Checked
for Open Campaigns/Recalls
Recall Hotline: 703-684-0710

SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 6:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 7:00am to 5:00pm

**YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!**

ToyotaCare
Customers

Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000

Now Available Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
\$69⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can
cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts
& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/20.

**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES**
**BUY 1
GET 1 FREE**
Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 7/31/20.

FREE
BATTERY CHECK-UP
Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/20.

BRAKE SPECIAL
\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors
& drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.
MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/20.

BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE
10% OFF YOUR FIRST SERVICE
15% OFF YOUR SECOND SERVICE
Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/20.

TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

SPECIAL OFFER
\$129⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,
24 month free roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/20.

NEW HOURS SPECIAL!
DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM
WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE
12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 7/31/20.



ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

©SMS Productions, Inc. 1-800-289-7671 #202001025

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



CHRIS WHITE

FAMILY REAL ESTATE

Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!**



JUST LISTED

9339 Heather Glen Dr
\$595,000

QUAINT COLONIAL!



FOR SALE

3249 Woodland Ln
\$1,050,000

INCREDIBLE GROUNDS



FOR SALE

9324 Old Mansion Rd
\$1,990,000

POTOMAC VIEWS!



FOR SALE

9420 Forest Haven Dr
\$775,000

YACHT HAVEN GEM!



SOLD

5609 Old Mill Rd
\$554,900

BEAUTIFUL SETTING



SOLD

9305 Boothe St
\$765,000

CLASSIC STYLING!



SOLD

4296 Neitzey Pl
\$1,550,000

ESTATE CALIBER!



SOLD

3809 Nalls Rd
\$859,900

PRACTICALLY NEW!

Why do your neighbors pick the Chris White Family Real Estate Group when it's time to sell?



SOLD

3600 Riverwood Rd

"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"



SOLD

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!"



SOLD

7715 Middy Ln

"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."

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com

chris.white@longandfoster.com

Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

BEST 2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
WASHINGTONIAN