

# Great Falls CONNECTION

The iconic Celebrate Great Falls Foundation gazebo rests on real grass not a flatbed truck for the 2020 Great Falls Drive-Thru July 4th Celebration produced by Celebrate Great Falls Foundation.

## 4th of July Celebration Reimagined

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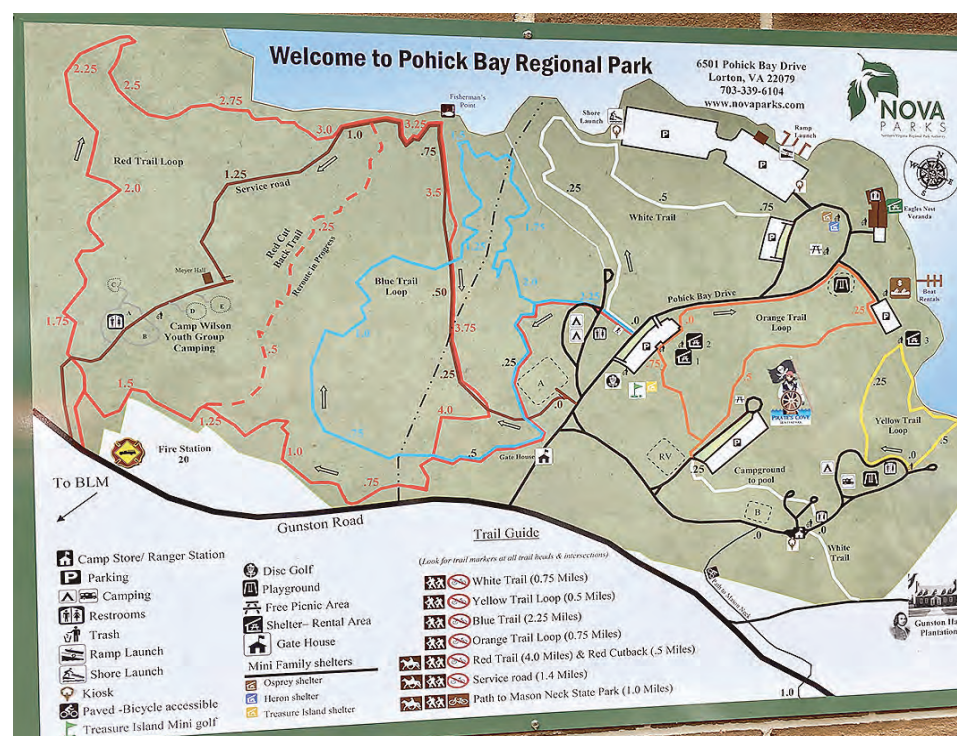
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Deluxe cabins snuggled into woods at Pohick Bay Regional Park provide “get away from hustle and bustle.”



Local parks provide spacious low risk get-aways with multiple outdoor activities.

## Local Parks Lure Vacation Campers

### Low risk camp-grounds open.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**S**aturday, June 20, marked the official start of summer and traditionally, with the end school, the start of vacation season for many area residents. Though making safe vacation choices during the Covid-19 pandemic is challenging, area parks are ready to welcome vacationers with fresh air and de-stressing camping opportunities.

Three parks in the regional park authority system, Algonkian in Sterling/Potomac Falls, Bull Run in western Fairfax County, and Pohick Bay on the Mason Neck peninsula, have multiple levels of camping experiences available. Whether you are a true pioneer-style rustic, ready for a back to nature adventure in a tent; want to bring your own recreational vehicle (RV); a camper for whom “rustic” means a cabin without running water;



Paul Gilbert and Brad Jackson outside Pohick Bay Park “Rustic” cabin.

available with ADA compliance. (\*Algonkian has 12 secluded, multi-bedroom cottages; no tent/RV campsites.)

**CHOOSING A CAMPING** outing at a park puts several outdoor activities just outside your door, or tent flap. At Pohick Bay, campers and other park users have access to fishing; hiking, equestrian, and biking trails; miniature and disc golf; and rental options at the on-grounds marina for kayaking, paddle boarding, and paddle boating; or power boating on the bay. Greg Susanke, of Fairfax, who likes to combine camping with kayaking or birding, camped

conditioning, but are without indoor cooking or plumbing; a comfort station within walking distance provides indoor showers, restrooms, and laundry facilities.

Brad Jackson, Assistant Manager, leads a small staff whose goal is to “cultivate a GREAT customer experience.” Jackson recognizes that, “people want to be out but in a controlled environment and week days are a great time to come now. There are more people on weekends but comfortable distancing.” Paul Gilbert, NOVA Parks Executive Director, points to polls indicating only 13-15 percent of people are comfortable with planes and hotels due to Covid-19 concerns. “People want a summer break and this is a great way for a stay-cation.”

**HEALTH EXPERTS** agree that camping is among the safest vacation activities. It’s outdoors and campers are more likely to stay with their own family or social group, with less exposure to others. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) notes the importance of staying active as a means to keep physically and mentally healthy. “In many areas people can visit parks, trails, and open spaces as a way to relieve stress, get some fresh air and stay active.” CDC further recommends “visiting parks close to home since traveling distances may require you to stop along the way or be in close contact with others.”

Area outdoor enthusiasts seem to agree. Pohick Bay Regional Park, with 143 campsites, saw a significant increase in occupancy, jumping to 41 percent compared to 16 percent for a comparable two week period in early June 2019. Susanke sees camping as “getting away from the hustle and bustle.” Gilbert observed, “With so many other vacation options closed to people ... we are seeing many people rediscover camping this summer.”

Check availability or make reservations on-line at [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com).

**“With so many other vacation options closed to people ... we are seeing many people rediscover camping this summer.”**

— Paul Gilbert,  
NOVA Parks Executive Director

or are looking for a bit of luxury away from home in the woods; area parks have a campsite to tempt you. Cabins

boating; or power boating on the bay. Greg Susanke, of Fairfax, who likes to combine camping with kayaking or birding, camped



# NEWS

## Marijuana Decriminalized July 1

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

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ho 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?



**Kathy Smith, Sully Supervisor**

“I would say many years ago when the laws were put in place about marijuana some of the effect was to affect certain populations. I think it’s inequitable.”



**Pat Herrity, Springfield Supervisor**

“I would like to see the data of people who have gone to jail for possession of marijuana. I think we should have the numbers.”

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

### VIEWPOINTS



**John Foust, Dranesville Supervisor**

“I think possession of small quantities of marijuana has caused a lot of problems for a lot of people.”



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

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

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.”



**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.”



**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.”



**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.”



## Preventing the Callous in Young Black America

BY GEVAR BONHAM

**G**rowing up in Birmingham, Ala., 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.

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 non threatening. 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.

Gegar 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/>

## A Teacher's Take on the Reopening of Schools

BY HELEN MONDLOCH

**I** teach high school English in Fairfax County Public Schools. A number of teachers from across the county suggested I share the following concerns with the community about the plan for reopening schools next month.

Many of us fear that the primary objective of in-person school -- a richer, more personal and dynamic learning environment -- will be sharply undercut by the need for distancing, masks, constant disinfecting, not to mention constant reminders to students to adhere to protocols. The result will likely be a sterile, even oppressive environment where kids are mostly working solo on their laptops. Wouldn't they be doing the same from home without all the stress, expense, and health risks of in-person school?

Personally, despite the challenges inherent to virtual teaching, I had a decent experience this

spring. My English classes read works by Frederick Douglass, Poe, Sojourner Truth, and others. We did a bit of research on the coronavirus. We wrote analysis and reflection and poetry. I felt like we learned something. My journalism class managed to publish two more issues of the newspaper.

The frustrations I experienced stemmed mostly from issues that (I believe) could be mitigated in a new school year. I'm talking about occasional technical issues (like bad sound), the brevity of teaching sessions, and the fact that student work was optional. Trying to teach a group of shadows -- since most kids opted to keep their cameras off -- was also a challenge. But again, I think we could find ways to overcome these stumbling blocks come August.

FCPS teachers have been sharing other concerns about the hybrid teaching plan: When

the inevitable COVID cases turn up in our schools, how do we assure a smooth transition to virtual learning? Will there be huge delays and roadblocks, as we experienced in April? Will the instability and uncertainty cause more stress compared to a stable schedule of learning online?

Can the school system guarantee adequate PPE, including sanitizers and disinfectant wipes? What if we see another general shortage of these supplies? How will students social distance in the restrooms, or wash hands adequately with sink faucets that cut off after a few seconds?

The thought of students eating lunch in the classroom sparks particular concern, given that masks will come off and students will want to congregate and socialize. Will teachers ever have a break if kids are eating in our rooms, and we are scrambling to clean during six-minute pass periods?

Will we be able to display warmth and compassion to our students, and above all, teach effectively?

What about the sub shortage that posed vexing problems in our pre-COVID environment? Faced, inevitably, with even fewer subs next fall, and given the need for social distancing, what will we do with classes that have no coverage and cannot be combined?

And let's not forget the bigger picture: Will the likely rise in COVID cases stemming from in-person schools -- potential breeding grounds of "super-spreaders" -- burden our hospitals and help prolong the economic misery caused by shutdowns?

Finally, is it really honest to say teachers have a "choice" of whether to teach in person or online, if the latter means we may face negative repercussions with regard to teaching preps and the security of our current position?

These are pressing questions which FCPS has failed to address. There are many more.

Helen Mondloch is Honors English 11 Team Leader and Journalism Teacher/Watchdog Advisor at Westfield High School.

### Send Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, July 23.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

**Robert Reed enjoys the company and a walking assist from canine friends.**

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**Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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PHOTOS BY MALLORY CULHAN/THE CONNECTION

The summer season for Great Falls Park is no different in terms of large crowds on the weekends; morning weekdays, however, offer a quieter, less busy environment for visitors.

## Great Falls Park Welcomes You to 'New Normal'

BY MALLORY CULHANE  
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls National Park is in full-swing for the summer season, and the weekends as usual have been very busy with locals, especially eager this year for something to do after being cooped up from quarantine.

"With the events of COVID-19 I think a lot of people are like-minded in trying to go to national parks as they're a 'safe' place to go," said Robert Barron, a native of Loudoun County.

Great Falls Park never actually shut down due to the pandemic; the trails and park itself remained open, though in early April the gate to the entrance of the park was closed. At that time, the only way to access the trails was to get there on foot or bike. Entrance fees were also waived for a period of time. In March, drinking water and public restrooms, as well as the visitor center, were closed.

The park went through a gradual reopening of parking lots in the last few weeks to control the number of people in the park at a time. Once the lot would reach its designated capacity, the line of cars would be stopped and one would enter when one left, which is Great Falls' usual policy when the parking lot gets full. On June 13, Great Falls' parking lots opened up to allow 100 percent capacity. Entrance fees have also resumed as usual.

Despite the threat of COVID-19, the park has experienced the usual summer crowds. The busiest times for the park is between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., particularly on the weekends. Arriving early in the morning, especially on the weekdays, is an alternative to avoid the bigger crowds.

"When I visited on the weekend like two weeks ago it was the busiest I've ever seen it and I've been to the park a dozen or so times in my lifetime and never seen it so busy as



The trails and greenspace at Great Falls Park have remained open through the COVID-19 pandemic, only recently did the park open up the parking lot to full capacity, allowing a bigger crowd in at a time.

that Saturday," said Barron, who was visiting Great Falls Park in the early morning of July 1. "I found the calm of the weekdays have made it more enjoyable as of late."

Some things are still different: water fountains are covered, unable for guest use, and the visitor center remains closed. The park is also encouraging the use of digital entrance passes that can be bought online beforehand at recreation.gov.

The park is also encouraging physical distancing guidelines by avoiding overly crowded trails and overlooks. Masks aren't required, though the park is also encouraging visitors to cover their mouth and nose while passing others on the trail.

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## News

An FCPS employee prepares a classroom for In-Person Instruction with Social Distancing, one of two plans for academic year 2020-21.

SCREENSHOT FCPS



# Q&A on Back to School

## Superintendent takes questions at Virtual Town Hall.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**F**CPS hosted a virtual Town Hall Meeting on July 6, to answer questions about its two Return to School Plans-Full-time Online Instruction Details or In-Person Instruction with Social Distancing Details. Superintendent Scott Brabrand said, "Our kids need us to return to school in a responsible, safe manner... And we are returning to school, empowering you to make the choice of what's best for your child, and for your family."

Brabrand announced the school system extended the deadline for plan choice from July 10 to July 15 and that he would recommend to the school board on Thursday to push back the first day of school to Sept. 8. "Our teachers and staff would still come back at their normal times," he said.

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Sloan Presidio and director of the office of special education procedural support Jane Strong joined Brabrand. Questions covered various topics, including the switching choices, safety, curriculum, technology and extracurricular activities.

## Q&A

What if my child isn't thriving in a virtual or in-person setting?

Brabrand: We're building two completely different school systems... for a whole year...We can't simply have a preference to change back and forth week to week, month to month.

How, are you going to track the testing for the coronavirus if children are showing symptoms?

Brabrand: A student that comes in not wearing a mask will be subject to a temperature check... Any kid that presents with concerns... will be sent down to the school clinic. If they make an assessment that there are concerns, they will be sent to an isolation room... Parents will be... asked to come as expediently as possible to pick up their child. According to Brabrand, the County is committing to hiring 200 more contact tracers for the schools.

How will they ensure each teacher at high schools and middle schools sanitize all desks and chairs in the 5-8-minute periods rotation of students?

Brabrand: I would not be honest as superintendent to tell you that every time your child changes classes that the desks will be wiped.

What online platforms will be used for virtual options?

Brabrand: We're going to continue to use Blackboard Collaborate Ultra... We will also allow Google...



FCPS

**FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand answers questions at the July 6 Return to School virtual Town Hall Meeting.**

and we will be piloting a new platform Schoology.

I'm wondering about the Academy.

Brabrand: We have no plans to cancel the Academy Programs... Academies offer very unique courses that will be dependent-based on whether the teacher is returning and, in the manner, that the teacher is returning.

Children...may not get every elective class that they wanted.

I want to know about sports, Marching Band, and extracurricular activities.

Brabrand: The Department of Education is working with the Virginia High School League... No decision has been made yet about high school sports. We have allowed conditioning to resume for fall sports.

What standards will be implemented to monitor student and staff physical and mental wellness?

Brabrand: We have a protocol in place where we look at student data around absences... We've already identified... children and those families who weren't able to connect as much with teachers.

"I will continue to do everything I can to reach out to this community and give you the honest truth as best that I can, with all the information that I can. That is my commitment to you today, tonight, tomorrow and for the year ahead," said Brabrand.

**THE WEEK BEFORE**, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Fairfax Education Association and Association of Fairfax Professional Educators issued a joint statement. "Our educators are overwhelmingly not comfortable returning to schools," said Trina Williams, President of Fairfax County Federation of Teachers. "It is absolutely unacceptable that FCPS has established an arbitrary deadline for employees and students to make decisions about the next school year without adequate data or specific information," said Becca Ferrick, President of Association of Fairfax Professional Educators. "We believe our community as a whole should not return to in-person learning until a vaccine or treatment is widely available for COVID-19," said Kimberly Adams, President of the Fairfax Education Association.

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**THE CONNECTION** Alexandria Gazette Packet  
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## Special Edition: PET Connection

**Publishes:**  
**July 29, 2020**

**Ads submitted by:**  
**July 23, 2020**



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## PEOPLE



### Great Falls Teen Inducted Into Honor Society

Aleena Dawer, 16, of Great Falls has accepted an invitation for a lifetime membership in The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS), the nation's leading certified honor society for high-achieving first- and second-year college students with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. Aleena said, "I will be continuing my studies at NVCC for one more year as a premed before transferring to university. Interested in orthopedic surgery."

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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

A family wishes everyone a happy 4th of July.



Great Fall Little League teammates and supporters show their spirit at the Drive-Thru July 4th Celebration. Registration for the fall season of baseball and softball opens in two weeks. Visit [www.gflittleleague.org](http://www.gflittleleague.org).

# 4th of July Celebration Reimagined

Drive-thru parade underscores the spirit of Great Falls.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The annual 4th of July Parade and Hometown Celebration produced by Celebrate Great Falls Foundation took on a new look in 2020. COVID-19 remained embedded in the country, and with it, health experts encouraged social distancing to prevent virus spread. Gone was the Little Patriots Parade, the Main Parade and fireworks at Turner Farm Park, traditions marked by time. Yet, organizers at Celebrate Great Falls Foundation remained resilient. They committed to keeping the spirit alive that made Great Falls a special place to live. “We were happy that the community was still able to find a way to celebrate... with a drive-thru reverse parade,” said Barbara Gracey, Great Falls Friends and Neighbors Vice President of Community Outreach.

Debbie Felder and Kathryn Rutkowski served as the Co-Chairs for the annual Celebration. Rutkowski said with much help from Erin Laboto and others, the Foundation pulled off arrangements for a family-friendly 4th of July Drive-Thru Celebration. And they accomplished the planning in less than two weeks.

Rutkowski described a drive-thru or reverse parade. “Members of the community will drive through the route in their cars... to maintain social distancing. Displays are being supplied by various organizations and local businesses within the community along with a sprinkling of antique cars and fire trucks, which normally participate in our 4th of July parade,” she said. The hour-long event boasted 32 displays situated on lawns or common areas along the predeter-



Christina O' Donovan, Secretary Riverbend Landscapes & Tree Services and Logan Jones, owner enjoy the moment at the Great Falls Drive Thru-July 4th Celebration.



Dressed in red and blue, children enjoy the 2020 Great Falls Drive-Thru July 4th Celebration from the comfort of the driveway.



Dean M. Edmonds (Spiderman) and his father Dean W. Edmonds III.

mined route that began at Cavalcade Street near Turner Farm Park.

**PARADE PARTICIPANT** Julie Ryan, Communications Lead at Great Falls Little League, said, “We are honored to be part of the 4th of July festivities put on by Celebrate Great Falls Foundation. We will be honoring our graduating 12-year old players.”

One side of the entrance to the Drive-Thru Celebration featured the iconic Celebrate Great Falls Foundation gazebo. Mark Mahdessian, 17, and his family helped decorate it. “The gazebo is normally on a flatbed for the annual 4th of July parade,” Mahdessian said.

Flanked on the other side of the entrance, Boy Scout Troop 55 Great Falls installed the United States and Commonwealth of Virginia flag display. When done, scouts Thomas Ye, 12, Dian Wang, 16, Kevin Shen, 15, William Nowak, 17, and James Ye, 17 stepped back, looked up and saluted the United States flag soaring twenty feet into the blue sky.

**ORGANIZERS** reported 300 vehicles drove the parade route. Viewers and participants waved and called out to friends missed. Tara Reynolds is President of Forestville Elementary Parent Teacher Association. “It is important for the Forestville ES PTA to participate in the Great Falls 4th of July Drive-Thru Celebration so that students and parents know we are still here for them. We are all still Cardinals regardless if we are learning remotely or if it is summertime,” she said.

Joey Newton, 13, is the creator of Joey's Wood Signs. He said, “I'm so glad I can celebrate July 4th with the neighborhood and display my new wood signs at the parade.”

Peter Falcone is co-chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association. He said that the association was proud to join their community partners to support the efforts of Celebrate Great Falls to organize a family fun event for its residents this year. “Celebrations like this underscore the strength and resilience of a community like Great Falls, especially in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.”



# Data Proves Black People Treated Differently

Arrests of Black people disproportional in every police district in the county.

Of all arrests made by police officers in the county, Black people are arrested 38.54 percent of the time. Black people are targets of police use of force 45.63 percent of the time in the county. Black people make up less than 10 percent of the population. Black people are arrested and the subject of police force disproportionately more.

The data speaks for itself:

❖ In the Fair Oaks Police District, Black people were arrested 43.79 percent of the time but make up 7.22 percent of the population.

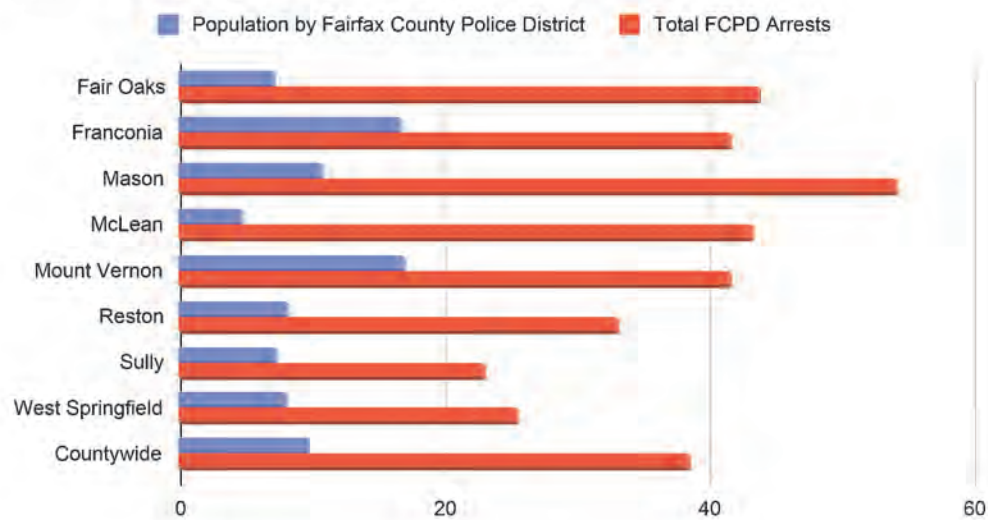
❖ In the Franconia Police District, Black people were arrested 41.65 percent of the time but make up 16.76 percent of the population.

❖ In the Mason Police District, Black people were arrested 54.08 percent of the time but make up 10.8 percent of the population.

❖ In the McLean Police District, Black people were arrested 43.34 percent of the time but make up 4.69 percent of the population.

❖ In the Mount Vernon Police District, Black people were arrested 41.63 percent of the time but make up 16.84 percent of

Black People as a Percentage of...



SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/POLICE/REPORTS/ARREST-DATA](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/reports/arrest-data)

the population.

❖ In the Reston Police District, Black people were arrested 33.04 percent of the time but make up 8.24 percent of the population.

❖ In the Sully Police District, Black people were arrested 23.09 percent of the time but

make up 7.3 percent of the population.

❖ In the West Springfield Police District, Black people were arrested 25.54 percent of the time but make up 8.1 percent of the population.

❖ Countywide, Black people are arrested

38.54 percent of the time although they make up 9.73 percent of the population.

The Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission made explicit recommendations with regard to the public availability of such data, said Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner, who served on the ad hoc commission and is the Providence planning commissioner.

“The Board of Supervisors and Police leadership agreed with these recommendations. Nearly five years after completion of the Ad Hoc Commission’s work, the data released and the Department’s requirement to manually generate these reports, indicates that, while progress is being made, it is slow in how it is generated and inadequate in its format,” he said.

Latinx people weren’t even accounted for in the latest round of data offered by police, mentioned only in traffic stops.

See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/reports/arrest-data>

— KEN MOORE.  
THE CONNECTION

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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

## HOME LIFE STYLE



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The pool house has a kitchen to make entertaining convenient.

# A Summer Oasis

Pool house evolved into a space that incorporates the beauty of the outdoors into the interior design.

MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

The combination of sunny, warm weather and the current pandemic can make staying home a wise, but stifling choice. However, one Bethesda, Maryland, builder made that a pleasurable decision for one Great Falls, Virginia family.

Jim Rill of Rill Architects transformed their expansive, but empty and unused, backyard into a summer oasis by designing a pool and adjacent pool house.

The end-goal was to combine functionality, style and comfort, says Rill. "The furniture and fabrics are easy to maintain and care for, while also being functional and pretty," he said.

Originally tasked with building a screened-in porch, Rill's design process evolved into a space that incorporated the beauty of the outdoors into the interior design. "The owners became more and more inspired to use the building year round," he said.

Both flooring of the pool deck and pool house are flagstone. The furniture is by luxury design company Janus et Cie and a chandelier by the same company hangs from the ceiling.

Rill and his team added a powder room and changing room. There is a kitchen with an island made of maple and topped with a waterfall countertop of quartz by Caesarstone.

Three walls of the pool house are glass and can be covered with retractable screens.

"The owners wanted rustic with lots of glass," he said.

Transforming the expansive backyard into a summer oasis by designing a pool and adjacent pool house.



Three of the four walls of the pool house are made of glass and give the space a rustic feel.



# BULLETIN

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

## TOWN OF VIENNA SUMMERTIME EVENTS GO VIRTUAL

The Town of Vienna is hosting three series of virtual events over the next couple of months while also hosting a unique 130th birthday celebration in July.

Summer on the Green: Due to precautions taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Town of Vienna's Summer on the Green concerts will be performed on Facebook Live July 10-August 14. Watch live at 6:30 p.m. Friday evenings to make song requests and dedications, enjoy trivia and virtual bingo, and win prizes! If you happen to miss the live shows, you can watch later on Facebook or on YouTube at @TownofViennaVA.

July 10 -- The Sarah Bennett Swanner Band;

July 17 -- Richard Walton Group;

July 24 -- Karl Stoll and the Danger Zone;

July 31 -- TBA;

August 7 -- Big Bad JuJu;

August 14 -- The Hot Lanes Trio with Bobby Jasinski.

Kids on the Green: Enjoy the Town of Vienna's third annual series of free, interactive kids programs, presented in partnership with the Rotary Club of Vienna and other sponsors. Due to the ongoing health crisis, all programs will be presented via Facebook Live this year. If you miss the live stream, watch the shows later on Facebook or YouTube. Performances will be held at 10 am Tuesdays July 7-August 18.

July 7 -- Wildlife Ambassadors - live animal show;

July 14 -- Marsha and the Positrons -- kindie rock;

July 21 -- The Great Zucchini - magic (sponsored by Green Hedges School);

July 28 -- Groovy Nate - songs and stories;

August 4 -- Beech Tree Puppets;

August 11-- Lorenzo the Great -- magic;

August 18 -- Mr. Jon - music for kids and families.

Summer Stories & Sprinklers: Set a sprinkler out in your backyard and enjoy the Town's virtual Summer Stories and Songs, co-hosted with Historic Vienna, Inc. These events will be held via Facebook live at 1 pm every Wednesday, July 1-29. Right after the stories, cool off in your own backyard with sprinklers, share your photos on social media using #Summer-StoriesandSongs.

July 8 -- Nancy Moats, Historic Vienna, Inc.;

July 15 -- Elizabeth Freese, Operation Paws for Homes;

July 22 -- Patrick Henry Library;

July 29 -- Patrick Henry Library.

Vienna Distance Matters 130K: The Town invites you to celebrate its birthday by participating in the Distance Matters 130K challenge! This challenge is motivating, fun, and, totally doable. Participants can walk, run, hike, bike, or treadmill a cumulative distance of 80.8 miles during the month of July. All participants receive a log to track progress and a medal at completion. The Town is accepting registrations via email at [viennavirtualrace@viennava.gov](mailto:viennavirtualrace@viennava.gov) or in person at the community center beginning July 6.

## GOVERNOR PROHIBITS CONGREGATING IN BARS

Governor Ralph Northam announced that bar seating will remain prohibited in restaurants as the Commonwealth moves into Phase Three this week. While key health indicators in Virginia are improving, the Governor made clear that he is taking a cautious approach and is prepared to implement tighter restrictions if needed. To reduce the likelihood of patrons gathering in bar areas without observing social distancing guidelines, bar seating and congregating areas of restaurants will remain closed except for those passing through. Restaurants may use non-bar seating in the bar area, as long as a minimum of six feet between tables is provided.

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## Questions and "Canswers"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Very interesting," to quote Artie Johnson from "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In," that "crazy-kooky" comedy show from the 70s. What's interesting is what my oncologist will say concerning the July 6th CT scan of my upper torso (lungs), the first such scan I will have had in almost six months. That interval being twice the usual and customary three-month schedule I've been on for years. The reason for this abnormally long interval? As you regular readers know, I was being treated for my second cancer: stage II, papillary thyroid cancer. Now that the treatment and all is complete, we can return to the scene of the original crime, if you know what I mean, and begin assessing/treating my underlying cancer: stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, which presumably has not disappeared in the last six months. To say my life depends on these findings is a bit obvious. Nevertheless, keeping one's eye on the ball is what is characterized-as-"terminal" patients have to do. (We're in constant touch with our mortality.)

Losing sight of the obvious is the ultimate presumption, not unlike one being innocent until proven guilty. In the cancer world in which I live exists the exact opposite: your cancer is never in remission (innocent). Ergo, you are always guilty (of having cancer). Now whether it moves or grows, the results of one's scan will confirm. It's challenging to not expect the worst, even after 11+ years of experience often receiving good news; the inevitability of the eventual bad news is occasionally overwhelming. I mean, one is not characterized as "terminal" because they're expected to live. The writing may not exactly be on the walls, but apparently it's in the handbook that oncologists use to determine the proper protocol to treat their patient's cancer.

Generally speaking, a serious/terminal diagnosis is rarely affected by the advances of modern medicine and/or a patient's disparate hopes and prayers. For us cancer patients, we're only as secure as the results of our most recent diagnostic scan says we are. So yes, July 6th is an important date for Team Lourie as will the follow-up telephone appointment with my oncologist on July 13th. That's when we'll learn if the road is hitting back at the rubber and whether or not I go forward in hope or backward in despair.

As much ado about something as I am making this situation to be, it's not as if I haven't been down this road before; many, many times since my original diagnosis in late February, 2009. This is just "another day in paradise" to quote Phil Collins. And though this road is the one most traveled, it still doesn't minimize the stakes. It just means that I've been incredibly and amazingly lucky not to have succumbed to this killer disease (lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths) as so many hundreds of thousands already have. And though experience helps, it doesn't really change the stakes; it sort of maintains them. All I can do in the interim is try not to consider the negative and recommit to the positive. That positive mantra for me has been, "it's nothing until it's something." And if it is something, it will be bad enough to hear about it then so I don't need to hear about it (presume) it's bad now. For the moment, to quote Sergeant Schultz (John Banner) from Hogan's Heroes: "I know nothing!"

For some reason though, and I may be reading more into it than is appropriate, this July 6th scan seems to be carrying some additional weight. Not that there's anything different in and of itself with this scan compared to the previous one hundred or so that I've had - with or without symptoms, it just seems as if I'm spending more time trying to convince myself that it isn't.

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





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