

# CONNECTION

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## COMMENTARY

# Next Steps

Virginia legislature must take significant next steps in the closing months of this year.

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

Readers of this column are certainly aware that on more than one occasion I have praised the work of the 2020 General Assembly session as being historic and transformative. I believe historians will agree with my assessment of the work of the legislature in the early months of 2020 to rid the state of discrimination of all kinds, but I wonder how they will explain the subsequent phase within several months of its adjournment. Within just a few months, the legislature was faced with the need to take even more historic steps to transform the state and to do so with a sense of urgency.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is a historic event that overlays what was happening in the social and political structure, it played a minor role. If anything, the pandemic demonstrated that the federal government under the current office holders is incapable of taking responsible actions regarding the coronavirus or the social and political unrest that abounds in this country. The pandemic has shown that state governments must step up in leadership related to the health crisis and to the stark inequalities in our society.

The pleas of George Floyd that he could not breathe were echoed by Black persons in Virginia and throughout the country that they could no longer live under the suppression of a knee on their necks that they have endured for centuries and has kept them from realizing equality under the law and in society. That is why the Virginia legislature cannot rest on the



important steps it took in the opening months of this year towards a more just society but rather now must take significant next steps in the closing months of this year.

The House Courts of Justice Committee and the Public Safety Committee on which I serve will be identifying the next steps that must be taken beginning in a special session of the legislature in the next month or two. The Legislative Black Caucus ([www.vablackcaucus.org](http://www.vablackcaucus.org)) has

outlined next steps, with which I concur. These steps include declaring that racism is a public health crisis in the state, reinstating parole, creating a civilian review board of police actions with subpoena power, defining the use of excessive force including banning the use of chokeholds, and ending no-knock warrants. The Caucus also proposes the important step of investing more in community and less in law enforcement, funding mental health professionals to respond to those who may be having mental health crises, replacing resource officers in schools who are often police personnel with mental health professionals, restricting the use of militarization tactics and weapons against citizens, and expanding the use of body cameras.

In issuing its agenda, the Legislative Black Caucus said in a printed release, "And on a larger scale, this moment is calling on leaders to combat institutional racism and societal discrimination that exists in the criminal justice system, economic structures, housing, education, in healthcare, mental health, in environmental policy and many other areas."

Your suggestions on next steps are welcome, [kennplum@aol.com](mailto:kennplum@aol.com).

# Highlights and Lows in Reston's First Half of 2020 Covid

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
 RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

Here we are in July, half way through 2020. Is it my imagination or have these six months been longer than most years? Since the Covid-19 pandemic first began in February our lives have changed big time. We still can't see when, or if, we are going back to something resembling where we were when Donald Trump first told us not to worry, that he had it under control! Five months later, pants on fire still mouths the same words!

Here are some of the highlights and less highs of the first half as I saw them in self isolation through my mask. First, a few highs:

- ❖ The murder of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer led to protests, confrontations with police nationwide. In Reston, a group calling themselves "Reston Strong" organized a vigil-protest which drew a Black Lives Matter sign-waving and chanting crowd of an estimated 5,000 lining Reston Parkway from Baron Cameron Avenue to Sunrise Val-



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

ley Drive, 5 and 6 people deep! It made me proud of Reston!

- ❖ Our new Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn got off to a fast start in January. He made himself quite visible—meeting with media and community groups before the onset of Covid. Honoring an important campaign promise, he organized a stake-holders task

group to reopen the 5-year-old Reston Master Plan for review and revision. Due to Covid, group meetings are virtual. Some density reductions and a cap on overall growth are expected outcomes. A lot rides on the process, given the disappointing results of the last Master Plan review and amendment!

- ❖ Surprising all observers, on May 9 the Reston Farmers Market opened its 23rd year in spite of the pandemic. Community support was a big factor in convincing sponsor, Fairfax County to approve the opening. A great volunteer team and 28 farmer/ven-

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 5

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# NEWS

## Controversy over Hidden Creek Country Club Erupts

### Stakeholders and county supervisor speak out.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

It is approaching three years since Connecticut-based real estate developer Wheelock Communities announced its acquisition of Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston. Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan designates the property to be a golf course. In early June, Wheelock began exploring public reception to its vision to repurpose the private golf course and country club into a public park and sites for new homeownership. With that one move, Rescue Reston, an all-volunteer grassroots organization dedicated to saving green space, prepared once again for a possible clash with a developer. The organization had waged a successful four-year battle defending the green space at Reston National Golf Course. This time, it launched a campaign to save Hidden Creek open space.

Dan Green is Principal with Wheelock Street Communities. Scott E. Adams at McGuireWoods LLP spoke on Wheelock's behalf and shared information about the proposal for Hidden Creek. Reston National Golf Course and Hidden Creek have the same zoning and land use designations. Both properties are termed "private recreation use, more specifically to remain as golf courses," according to Fairfax County.gov.

Adams said part of what they are trying to do is reimagine Hidden Creek—take what is currently a private country club "serving about 400 members" and transform that into a significant public park amenity open to all in Reston. "The creation of a 100-acre public park in the heart of Reston is a generational opportunity for the rest of the Reston Community...Our goal is to have that conversation with community and all stakeholders... We are having meetings with the clusters and the neighbors that are directly adjacent to Hidden Creek because they are the most impacted by the changes to the property," said Adams. He added their community



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### "Save Hidden Creek" flags go up around the golf course in Reston.

outreach includes mailings to surrounding communities and online virtual meetings meant "to have a conversation with those neighbors and then get feedback." Adams said that they had registrations equivalent to about 25 percent of the people surrounding the golf course in one of their online meetings. He added they held meetings June 8- June 11 and would continue doing more moving forward.

Lynne Mulston is chair of the Rescue Reston North Committee. She expressed disheartenment at the prospect of Hidden Creek Country Club considered for anything but a golf course. "We'll stop when Wheelock stops," she said. Rescue Reston called attention on its website that the golf course is home to a variety of wildlife. Reston residents and visitors make use of the community resources on abutting trails. The permeable ground helps maintain the health of the downstream watershed.

### SOUTH PARK ACTIVE REC AREA



HIDDEN CREEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT ADAMS AT MCGUIREWOODS LLC

### Proposed amenities in the vision for Hidden Creek

**THE ORGANIZATION** created an online "Advocacy Action Center" for the public to contact its representatives to voice their agreement that the County should not compromise on Reston's remaining open space. It urges officials not to re-open the Comprehensive Plan for either of Reston's golf courses.

Seeing the response over the weekend of July 10-12, Mulston said, "Rescue Reston's North Course Committee is elated by the outpouring of support and the sheer numbers of supporters who are participating in the Action Center Campaign. To date, upwards of 500 respondents have sent nearly 6,000 emails to Supervisor Alcorn, Chairman McKay, Planning Commissioner Carter and the Reston Association Board of Directors. A function of the Action Center allows us to see the locations of the respondents on a granular level, giving Supervisor Alcorn exactly the information he is seeking in order to make a determination that tells Wheelock, 'NO' to their requests for an out of turn amendment to the Comp Plan."

Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D- Hunter Mill District) said, "As you are aware, the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan clearly designates the Hidden Creek property as a golf

course. And I have long and consistently stated – including during last year's supervisor election, and since – that unless and until communities surrounding the golf course indicate their desire to initiate a change to the Comprehensive Plan, I will oppose any such change. That could potentially be demonstrated as a vote by cluster association members, although I have yet to hear that any such vote has taken place. Also, I have let Wheelock know that if there is uncertainty surrounding any reported votes of support in surrounding communities, my office would conduct an independent survey of residents to confirm."

**ALCORN** added, "I do realize my position may seem unusual in Reston, where we have become conditioned to top-down land use decisions, perhaps starting with the excellent Master Plan developed by Robert E. Simon in the 1960s. With the full use of the comprehensive plan process in Reston starting in 2014 proposals to change the comp plan to allow more development will now need support from the residents most affected before I would authorize consideration of any out of turn comp plan amendment."

## Man Fatally Wounded in Reston Shooting

Detectives from Major Crimes Bureau are continuing to investigate a fatal shooting that occurred Friday night, July 10, in a Reston apartment community. Officers responded around 11:36 p.m. to the 12000 block of Starboard Drive for the report of a man causing a disturbance in a breezeway area. A tenant of the building opened his apartment door and encountered the man,

later identified as Daniel Matheson, 29, of Reston, standing in his doorway. The tenant reported that Matheson began to raise a firearm in his direction. The tenant, who was also armed, fired one round striking Matheson in his upper body. First responding officers rendered aid to Matheson who was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. Preliminarily, detectives do not believe the men knew each other. This is an

active investigation and detectives are continuing to conduct interviews and process evidence. Investigative findings will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney to determine whether charges will be placed.

Detectives are asking anyone with information regarding the shooting to please call our Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted any-

mously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text – Type "FCCS" plus tip to 847411, and by web – Click [HERE](#). Download our Mobile tip411 App "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers". Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

— FCPD MEDIA RELATIONS BUREAU

# Keeping Officers Healthy to Serve the Community

Sully District police give updates to residents.

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Officers from the Sully District Police Station recently gave an online update on COVID-19 responses, current scams and officer safety during the pandemic. And as always, they reminded residents not to leave valuables in unlocked cars.

“Our priority is to keep the community safe, prevent crime and arrest criminal offenders,” said Lt. Josh Laitinen, the station’s assistant commander. He then discussed changes in police operations due to the virus.

“Now, when a call comes in, 911 dispatchers also ask if anyone in the house is sick or has traveled outside the area,” he said. “If so, the officer wears PPE when responding. For non-emergency calls, our officers will take reports via phone, instead of having a face-to-face meeting with the caller.”

Police are also doing more decontamination of the station and have hand sanitizer, soap and water in their cruisers. And, said Laitinen, “We use special, enclosed vans to take someone to jail, instead of putting them in the back of an officer’s cruiser.”



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
Sgt. Ali Sepehri

NEXT, Crime Prevention Officer, MPO Sabrina Ruck warned residents to be wary of phone scams – especially now, when so many people are at home. For example, she said, “Someone might call saying, ‘This is Washington Gas, and we’ll cut off your gas by 5 p.m. if you don’t pay your bill. Give me your credit-card information.’”

Another ruse is sending someone an email or text saying, “I have an inappropriate picture, or video, of you. Send me \$2,000 in bitcoin and I’ll remove it.” Or, said Ruck, the scammer might say, “I have a job for you; send me your bank-account information and I’ll send you the details.” So, she advised,

“Our chief had us create a four-hour training session, and 64 officers are now trained to use more-advanced PPE to deal with COVID-related incidents.”

— Sgt. Ali Sepehri

“If you get an unsolicited call, be suspicious and report it to us.”

Then Sgt. Ali Sepehri, who’s been a safety officer for 10 years, said the officer-safety program’s goal is to prevent officers from getting hurt on the job. For training, safety officers attend a 40-hour school which includes classes on responding to a terrorist bombing and staying safe in a radioactive environment. Officers must also complete online FEMA and OSHA classes.

“On March 6, the first COVID-19 case in Virginia was in Northern Virginia,” said Sepehri. “So we took our 10 safety officers, put two on each shift – day and night – and went to any call where there could be a risk to an officer, so we could mitigate it.”

Noting that he’s also a paramedic, Sepehri said he can get information from hospitals about exposure to the virus and work closely with the Fairfax County Health Department to gather details about its signs and symptoms. It’s critical to know these things, he explained, because “We want to make sure the officers don’t take it to their homes.”

THE POLICE Department’s 100-person Safety Section includes a variety of components, including an Infectious Diseases Response Team and prisoner-transport vehicle drivers. “Our chief had us create a four-hour training session,” said Sepehri. “And 64 officers are now trained to use more-advanced PPE to deal with COVID-related incidents.”

He also stressed that, “Anytime someone we’re dealing with is sick, or is closer than 6 feet, we’re wearing N95 masks. They’re fitted specifically to each officer, and the officers are trained how to put them on and take them off properly, so they won’t contaminate themselves. We’re trying to be very proactive in battling this pandemic and keeping the officers serving the community safe.”

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herndon Village Network (HVN) currently has more than 100 senior citizen members.

## Herndon Village Network Continues Services through Pandemic

During the ongoing pandemic, Herndon Village Network (HVN) is continuing to provide its essential transportation services to Herndon senior citizens. HVN's vetted volunteers offer rides for "must do" errands like routine doctor appointments and grocery shopping. To help keep seniors healthy, drivers provide rides to one person/family at a time and wear masks. They also offer to pick up and deliver ordered groceries and other necessary items, like prescriptions.

Herndon Village Network (HVN) currently has more than 100 senior citizen members, who pay only \$20 per year for unlimited access to day and evening transportation on weekdays and weekends. This more organized concept of neighbors helping neighbors encourages older residents to age in the Herndon community and allows

them to maintain established routines and connections, which results in a higher quality of life. In 2019, HVN drivers provided members 908 rides, totalling 19,578 miles.

Herndon Village Network (HVN) invites every senior citizen, age 55 or older, who no longer can drive—or who feels uncomfortable driving—to join its network. The only requirements are that members pay a \$20 annual fee, schedule transportation at least 48 hours in advance, and reside, permanently or temporarily, in the Herndon 20170 zip code or in Kendrick Court Apartments. HVN also invites community members interested in making a difference to join the driving team. For more information about HVN and its services and opportunities, send an email to [herndonvillagenetworkinfo@gmail.com](mailto:herndonvillagenetworkinfo@gmail.com) or visit [HerndonVillageNetwork.org](http://HerndonVillageNetwork.org).

## Lovaas

FROM PAGE 2

dors greeted more than 800 shoppers on opening day. It is now averaging 1700 shoppers, with nearly 100 percent wearing masks!

❖ Reston businesses appear to have done amazingly well keeping Covid at bay. I am aware of only one instance of an infected employee in a food or drink business, with no spread to date.

There were a few lesser lights as well:

❖ Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) badly fumbled the transition from classrooms to virtual, online instruction...and have not made up for the months lost. There was a contract in place for online instruction, but it took some time to stand it up, and it promptly crashed. It does not appear that the lost time will be made up this year. Planning for the next school year, as with many systems around the country, seems to be in a state of disarray. At this point it is unclear how a combination of in-school and virtual classes with actual teachers is going to happen. FCPS and many other systems must get their acts together for the sake of K-12 youth. They can expect no help from our heads-in-the-sand na-

tional government!

❖ While sending all paid staff home for Covid time and figuring out how to meet virtually, the Reston Association Board left everything to absent staff, including the new-to-Reston CEO who spent about 3 months in the Norfolk area not Reston. The CEO and staff responded by doing imaginative things like borrowing \$1.3 million from the federal Payroll Protection Program (Covid emergency bucks) without approval from the Board.

There was no palpable need for the money and the funds were intended for charitable organizations, not home owners' groups. The funds were returned before this promising scandal grew. After forceful complaints from a group of RA members, the Board finally ruled that the staff is not empowered to borrow without Board approval. The CEO in absentia also announced the closing of all kids' summer camps without Board approval. The question left in the air it seems is: do we really need the RA Board?

❖ As readers learned here, a Reston Condo association was dinged by a forensic audit for assorted instances of incompetence in managing funds and repeated appearance of self-dealing by their former Board of Directors.



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**Dr. Codrin Lungu**  
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in the Division of  
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Join us for an introduction to the PFNCA Communication Club along with an overview of Parkinson's and Q&A with Dr. Codrin Lungu from the National Institutes of Health. Then, continue to gather for weekly sessions, which will be led by Susan Wranik, a licensed speech-language pathologist.



**Susan I. Wranik, MS, MA, CCC-SLP**  
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Pathologist  
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Keep in mind that the PFNCA Communication Club is not therapy; it is a group approach to applying exercises and skills to help enhance communication skills. The program is available at no cost. To learn more about PFNCA, visit [www.pfnca.org](http://www.pfnca.org).



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AT&T proposes to replace an existing 30' streetlight pole with a new 39' streetlight pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 43.5' near 413 Elden St, Herndon, VA (20201165). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

### Legals

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 20' concrete light pole with a new 34' composite light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 39.3' near 14665 Lee Road, Chantilly, VA (20201129). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

### Legals

#### ABC LICENSE

RNGC Operations LLC trading as Reston National Golf Course, 11875 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Fairfax County, Virginia 20191-3301. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Kevin Sadowski, Member authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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## It's a Twofer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And not just Tuesday, either. All week in fact, I'll be waiting to hear the music. One day, I'll hear from my oncologist and on another day, I'll hear from my endocrinologist. What I'll hear first is the status of my underlying non small cell lung cancer, stage IV (diagnosed Feb., 2009) and later in the week, I'll get results concerning my most recent party crasher: papillary thyroid cancer, stage II, diagnosed Jan. 2020. This will be the first time I will have been waiting for results simultaneously, concerning TWO cancers that I now have. (What? One wasn't enough?) And B.B. King thought the thrill was gone. For those of us unlucky enough to have been diagnosed with two different and active cancers, this is the kind of week which tests your mettle and is as far away from thrilling as one could possibly imagine.

C'est la vie, or at least it is because I'm not ready to be morte. Who says taking five years of French between seventh and eleventh grades was a waste? Here I am 50+ years later and I'm still able to dip into that old bag of tricks. I fear however, that the longer I'm still living as an active, still-being-treated cancer patient, the more my health is at risk. Cancer is not exactly a friendly visitor. Rather it's the kind of uninvited guest that takes up residence in your home and never leaves, like dust mites, fleas and mold. In some instances, you know they're present; in other cases, you're told. And the longer they stay, the worse the situation becomes.

My cancer diagnosis was sort of like that, a surprise. A lifelong non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer, I woke up one day with a pain in my left rib cage. A few days later, after the pain had migrated to the other side, combined with difficulty I was having catching my breath, I decided to go to the Emergency Room. A brief examination followed but revealed very little to the doctor. He suggested I return in a week to see the pulmonologist. Which of course, I did.

By that time, the pain had totally subsided and I remained pain-free for the next eight weeks until I got "the call" from my internal medicine doctor advising me that the previous week's biopsy confirmed a malignancy. Then I was in pain, emotionally - and afraid, as you can probably imagine.

But here I sit, 11 and one half years later, living proof that a "terminal" diagnosis is not necessarily terminal. Somehow, through a combination of conventional wisdom/treatment, some non-Western alternatives in the form of pills and potions and a good attitude which has meant keeping my glass half full while trying to maintain a good sense of humor, I have been lucky enough to see my beloved Boston Red Sox win their third and fourth World Series Championships of the 21st century. (Their first two championships in 2004 and 2007 were pre-Kenny's cancer diagnosis.)

But looking backward, as gratifying and rewarding as it can sometimes be, has not been my modus operandi. My 'operandi' has been to walk quietly, laugh heartily and be positive (like our friend, Ray's blood type) and not presume any facts which are not yet in evidence. Moreover, try taking any and all news in stride and be a patient patient (which is not double talk) and put one foot in front of the other and see where it leads.

For me, it has led to a future that I wasn't supposed to have and a present for which I am eternally grateful, even during weeks such as these when I'm about to enter when my life, vis-a-vis what I am told by my oncologist and endocrinologist, is hanging in the balance not once, but twice. Really, twice is a bit much, don't you think? I mean, I think I'm doing my unhealthy bit by having one type of cancer. There's really no extra credit/extra benefit in having two types, especially at the same time. Nor is there any BO-GO-type discount on my health insurance costs. Quite the contrary, actually. But if I'm still alive to complain about it, then I'm still alive and that's nothing to complain about.

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

# The Closet Awards Scholarships

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**T**he Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc. recently awarded \$45,000 in college scholarships to 22 deserving high school graduates at five local high schools. Closet Board President Gene Wiley stated, “We are so proud of these youth and their families and are happy to continue supporting this important educational need in our community.” The 2020 scholarship recipients are:

Herndon High School: Lucilla Antwie, Karen Ayala-Bonilla, Caleb Calderwood, Sean Frias, Maryum Khan, Judith Velasquez

Mountain View High School: Doris Alvarado, Abonesh Tadese, Tenzin Tsering

Oakton High School: Olohi Anteyi, Monica Alexandra Castellanos, Maria S. Rivera

Park View High School: Ebanneh Atabe, Charlotte Edwards, Kimberly Fuentes-Galvez, Kimberly Molina Rivas, Kaitlyn Smith, Melana Washington

South Lakes High School: Rhema Ebna Konadu, Nicol Katherin Salinas Perez, Daniel Mebratu Tolessa, Nia Jordan Winston

Since 1974, The Closet has awarded more than \$500,000 in college scholarships to more than 500 students. In this same 45 year period, The Closet has distributed nearly \$3 million in direct cash grants to local service groups, of which the scholarship program is an important part.

The Closet is a non-profit thrift shop founded and operated by a multiplicity of faith-based congregations. With a small dedicated staff and a very active volunteer cadre, The Closet provides shoppers low-cost, high quality used clothing, shoes, books and other household items. Donations of clothing and small household items are always needed, graciously accepted, and may be dropped off at the store Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Retail store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The Closet welcomes new volunteers. Contact the store manager, Patricia Rhoads at 703-437-7652 for additional information. The Closet also welcomes student volunteers fulfilling their community service requirements for school or who just want to serve their community. Go to <http://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org> for further information about The Closet. The Closet is located at 845 Station Street in Herndon.



**Rachel Williams, Scholarship Director for The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc., presents a check for \$9000 to a representative from the Herndon High School Deb Peirce, College & Career Center Specialist and College Partnership Program Advocate.**



**Rachel Williams, Scholarship Director for The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc., presents a check for \$9000 to a representative from the South Lakes High School Jennifer Campbell, LCSW, Career Center Specialist.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF MPO SABRINA RUCK

**(From left) Lt. Josh Laitinen presents the certificate to PFC Thomas Rubinstein.**

## Rubinstein Honored as Officer of the Quarter

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t's pretty special for a police officer to be selected as his station's Officer of the Quarter. And in PFC Thomas Rubinstein's case, he's received this honor twice – once in fall 2018, and recently, when he was named the Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2020.

He was nominated by Lt. James Glassman Jr., who praised Rubinstein's work ethic. Glassman described him as “a diligent, hardworking officer who's a three-year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department and the Sully District Station. He frequently focuses his time on proactive enforcement efforts to keep the community safe by patrolling neighborhoods and catching crime as it happens.

“His dedication to this goal is unwavering,” continued Glassman. “In the first quarter of 2020, Rubinstein made 18 criminal arrests, 10 of which were for drug-related offenses. One significant case he worked occurred on Jan. 14. While on routine patrol, he observed a car running without lights. It was parked on a service road and occupied by two men.”

Curious about it, Rubinstein parked his cruiser nearby and approached the car to speak to the occupants who, wrote Glassman, “appeared very nervous. Rubinstein immediately recognized the smell of marijuana coming from the vehicle. He knew instantly from his training and experience that these individuals were engaging in the use or sale of illegal drugs.”

He then searched the vehicle and found five large plastic bags containing a total of 2 pounds of marijuana; a digital scale; brass knuckles; plastic bags used for drug-packaging and distribution; and various smoking devices. As a result, Rubinstein arrested the men and charged each of them with three counts of felony possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, plus one count of carrying a concealed weapon.

The young officer's work did not go unnoticed; and eventually, Glassman nominated him for the station's Officer of the Quarter. Said Glassman: “PFC Rubinstein's attention to detail, hard work, dedication and proactive enforcement efforts are an example of outstanding police work which continues to keep the Sully and Fairfax County communities safe.”

**“PFC Rubinstein's attention to detail, hard work, dedication and proactive enforcement efforts are an example of outstanding police work which continues to keep the Sully and Fairfax County communities safe.”**

— Lt. James Glassman Jr.

### AREA ROUNDUPS

## Ono Brewing Raising Money for WFCM

Ever since it opened in 2017, Ono Brewing Co. in Chantilly has donated part of its income to local charities. And this July, August and September, it's doing so for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM). Ono is at 4520 Daly Drive, No. 102, and owners Cyndi and Scott Hoffman have created a new beer called “Ono Ohana” especially for the occasion.

Ohana means “family” in Hawaiian, so they be-

lieve it's a perfect name to be dedicated to WFCM, since this nonprofit helps local families in need in Western Fairfax County by providing them with food and emergency financial assistance. And during July, August and September, Ono Brewing will donate 15 percent of the sale of each “Ono Ohana” beer to WFCM. Customers may also purchase cans of this special beer to go. For more information, see [onobrewco.com](http://onobrewco.com).