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Mary Kaye "Kaycee" Childress, Executive Director of the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Northwest Federal Credit Union and Pham Ngocmy of the Giant Food store located at 2425 Centreville Road in Herndon.

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John Lewis Legacy

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

The body of John Lewis will be laid to rest this week, but the legacy of his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement will live on. In his role as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, he was the youngest person to speak at the March on Washington in August 1963. While his words that day are not as well remembered as those of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who spoke after him that day with his "I Have a Dream" speech, the message of John Lewis is as relevant today as it was then. He exhibited a style of frank speaking that day that became famous over the decades of his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement when he told the crowd:



"We are tired. We are tired of being beaten by policemen. We are tired of people being locked up in jail over and over again. And then you holler 'be patient.' How long can we be patient? We want our freedom, and we want it now!"

He must have had some sense of satisfaction when last month with District of Columbia Mayor Muriel E. Bowser he visited the Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House and stood where the Black Lives Matter message was painted in the street. That day was in sharp contrast to the day in 1965 when he marched with others in the Civil Rights Movement across the bridge in Sel-

ma, Alabama, and suffered a skull fracture from being hit in the head with a police baton in what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

John Lewis was the last of the great civil rights leaders of the 1960s. He lived long enough I believe to realize that his message was being more widely heard than ever before in this country. Should John Lewis be beginning his career today rather than ending it, I have no doubt he would be at the forefront of Black Lives Matter. While Lewis experienced the police batons, dogs and fire hoses, others today have felt the knee of white authority pressing on their necks or bullets hitting them in the back. The words "I cannot breathe" have come to

be more than the last words of individuals whose lives were being snuffed out but are the words of generations living under a society of oppression because of the color of their skin. I cannot breathe means to many that they cannot live freely in an unjust and discriminatory society.

John Lewis never gave up through many challenges that are now being chronicled by other writers. In recent years I have appreciated his efforts to get the Congress to take action to end gun violence that affects communities of color disproportionately. What would John Lewis have us do? He offered this advice: "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just: say something, do something. Get in trouble, good trouble, necessary trouble." We can participate in making a more just society when we follow John Lewis in getting into necessary trouble!

COMMENTARY

Two Men Injured In Reston Stabbing

Detectives from Major Crimes Bureau are asking for the public's help as they continue to investigate after two men were found with stab wounds July 17 around 3:41 a.m. in the 12200 block of Laurel Glade Court. Both men were taken to a hospital. One of the men sustained injuries that were initially considered life-threatening; his condition was later upgraded. The second man's injuries were not life threatening. Detectives have released the images that depict persons of interest. No arrests have been made but detectives are continuing to process evidence and interview witnesses.



Detectives have released the images that depict persons of interest.

Anyone who recognizes the persons of interest or who has any information about the incident is asked to contact Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously 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 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.

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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.



Dr. Codrin Lungu
Program Director
in the Division of
Clinical Research
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Susan I. Wranik,
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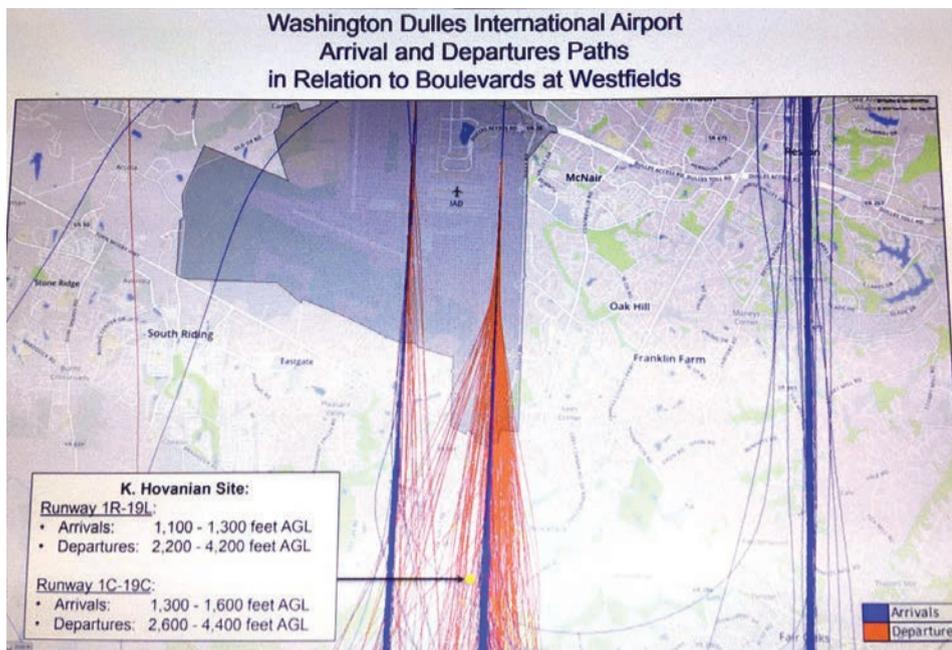
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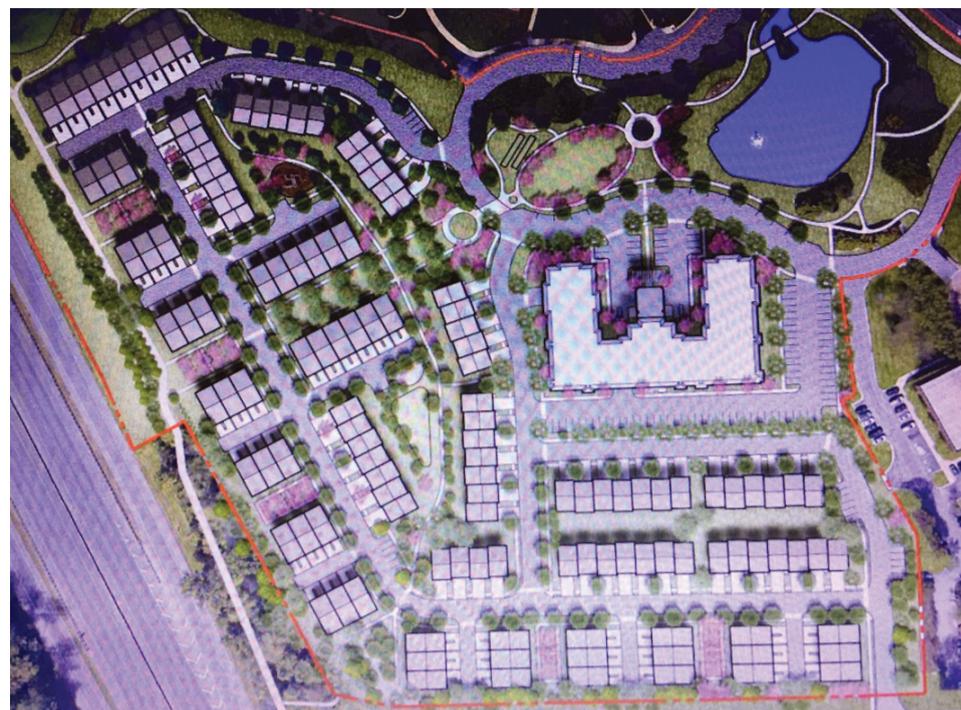
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In the spirit of care and safety, we will meet virtually until further notice.



Boulevards at Westfields homes would be built under a Dulles Airport flight path.



Site plan of the 442 homes proposed for construction by developer K. Hovnanian.

‘An Unmitigated Disaster which Is Entirely Avoidable’

Plan to build homes under flight path sparks outcry.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Yet another controversial residential project is being proposed for Chantilly’s Westfields area. Developer K. Hovnanian wants to rezone 23 acres in Land Unit J from industrial to high-density residential – even though land-use and environmental groups are vehemently opposed.

During the June 15 joint online meeting of the Sully District Council and West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. (WFCCA), Hovnanian’s representative, attorney David Gill, described the project in glowing terms. He did likewise at the county Planning Commission’s July 15 meeting.

However, it’s the third developer attempt to build homes under Dulles International Airport’s flight paths – where the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) has said it’s too noisy for people to live. And there’s growing concern that local leaders are putting developers’ wishes above residents’ wellbeing.

In 2019, MWAA updated its noise-contour map showing aircraft-noise decibel levels (dba) in Westfields. But the Board of Supervisors – contrary to guidance in the county’s own Comprehensive Plan – continues denying the new map’s existence and, instead, is deliberately voting on residential projects there based on MWAA’s outdated map from 1993.

So Hovnanian wants to construct Boulevards at Westfields there. Planned are 120 two-over-two townhouses, 67 regular townhomes and a 135-unit multifamily apartment building – 442 homes total. And after the June 15 presentation, Sully District Council’s Jay Johnston spoke out.

“We’re putting people’s lives at risk by this



Artist’s rendition of the multifamily building proposed for Boulevards at Westfields.

being approved under the old contours,” he said. “The Board of Supervisors is pushing this through without public hearings and the opportunity for everyone to be heard.” Agreeing, WFCCA’s Carol Hawn called it “disrespectful of every future resident.”

At the outset, Gill said it provides “a significant amount of park space, with areas for games and grilling. One amenity area has a playground, and one has a gathering space. And we’ll put in a crosswalk from Park Meadow Drive across to the trail system and Wegmans.”

THE MULTIFAMILY BUILDING would have underground parking, plus community gardens, a clubhouse and a pool on the rooftop. “There’s inter-parcel access for vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity,” said Gill. “We’re excited about this site, and the Westfields Business Owners Assn. has endorsed us.”

He said it’s located between the 60-65 dba noise contours on MWAA’s current – although 27 years old – map. “Our pre-COVID noise study showed it below 60 dba,” said Gill. “Aircraft will fly thousands of feet above the highest rooftop. And we’ll do full disclosures to potential buyers about the airport’s proximity and that airplanes will be flying overhead.”

But, said Sully District Council’s Sheila

Dunheimer, “The only way this is in the 60 dba is if the residents never open their doors. MWAA’s contours show this site between the 60-65 dba contours.” She also recommended the county adopt MWAA’s updated map and not approve anymore residential projects in that area until it does.

“Airplanes go over my house at between 1,500-2,000 feet, on the same flight path,” said Hawn. “And they’re not ‘thousands of feet’ above this site – they’re much lower.”

The overarching problem, said former Planning Commissioner Jim Hart, is that the Supervisors are disregarding the Comprehensive Plan language to adopt updated noise contours as soon as they’re available. “It would be more above-board and wouldn’t have an unethical aroma if [they’d] do that,” he said. “This anti-citizen, anti-environment rush to approve new developments [in Westfields] without a public hearing has poisoned the atmosphere.”

Another Hovnanian representative said the developer has been “working on this since 2016 and is now at a point where it has to move this thing forward. There’s a housing shortage, and some people don’t care if they live near an airport.”

But, said Hart, the Supervisors “need to make the new map’s adoption a priority. And it’s obvious the Board’s priority is approving the new developments under the old con-

tours – instead of doing the right thing.” The joint land-use group then voted to oppose the project and recommend to the Board that it not go forward.

Afterward, several entities sent letters to the Planning Commission before its meeting last week. For example, Michael Cooper, MWAA’s government affairs manager, wrote, “Residents moving to this location will hear loud, aircraft noise overhead, 24 hours/day. And given Dulles’s growth, over time, hourly flight activity will undoubtedly increase in frequency.”

Hart wrote that “County staff remains forbidden to consider the updated noise-contour map, which remains stalled in a committee chaired by its principal opponent.” Boulevards at Westfields is in Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith’s district and, ultimately, she’ll decide its fate, since the other supervisors normally defer to the wishes of the supervisor in whose district a project is. And Smith chairs the committee Hart mentioned.

The updated noise-contour map was referred to the Board’s Land Use Policy Committee that she heads, rather than to the Board’s Environment Committee, wrote Hart, “even though the noise policy is contained in the Environment section of the Policy Plan. Because of the importance of the pending applications, that committee assignment looks intentional.”

Meanwhile, he added, “Significant residential-rezoning applications roll along, without regard for citizen and industry opposition. The lack of transparency and accountability seriously damages our land-use process and undermines citizen confidence in county government.”

When land-use group members recently complained to Smith about it, she said the Board’s “concerned about the county’s economic development – not the airport, alone.” But disregarding the airport’s wishes could actually endanger the county’s economy.

Richard Dei Tos is executive director of

SEE COMMISSION, PAGE 5



BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF NWFCU

Demand is larger than supply resulting in shortages at Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation's food pantry.

Mary Kaye "Kaycee" Childress, Executive Director of the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Northwest Federal Credit Union and Pham Ngocmy of the Giant Food store located at 2425 Centreville Road in Herndon.

Food Pantry Shelves Near Empty Demand is greater than supply.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Northwest Federal Credit Union, is out to fill empty tummies. But first, the nonprofit organization needs help to fill its food pantry shelves. "Our once-full shelves are now close to empty," said Mary Kaye "Kaycee" Childress, Executive Director of the Foundation. "Food insecurity affects everyone.

Most significantly, it impacts the children

in our community who are no longer able to get free breakfasts and lunches at school... No family should have to choose between buying food and paying their bills. Yet, this is exactly what is happening right here in Northern Virginia," she said.

According to Childress, the nonprofit organization launched its "Help Us Help Kids" food drive in the area on Saturday, July 19. The foundation is partnering with Giant Food stores to help local school children who face food insecurity daily. "Giant Food is privileged to partner with Northwest Federal Credit Union (Foundation)," said Pham

Ngocmy of Giant Food 2425 Centreville Road in Herndon.

Childress said people could donate items at Giant Food stores, donate items or cash via the NWFCU Foundation Food for Kids Drive through an Amazon Wish List and also make an appointment and drop off food at a local Northwest Federal branch.

"It's surprising that in an area with so much, we have children who are in danger of going hungry each day.

Through the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation and our dedicated employees and members, we're able to help

bridge that gap and ensure these kids have a meal when needed," said Jeff Bentley, President and CEO of Northwest Federal.

Northwest Federal Credit Union is a full-service financial institution ranking among the largest credit unions in Virginia and in the top 60 credit unions in the nation. In Fairfax County, Northwest Federal has branches offices in Vienna and Chantilly. It is headquartered in Herndon, The Credit Union currently serves more than 260,000 members and has assets in excess of \$3.4 billion. For more information, visit www.nwfcu.org.

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PEOPLE



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL BRILL

(From left) are Carrie and Paul Brill, Juanita Brill, and Carl and Joy Brill.

Chantilly Woman Celebrates Her 100th Birthday

With her family and balloons, Chantilly's Juanita Brill celebrated her 100th birthday on June 19. Born and raised in Arkansas, she moved to Washington, D.C., during WWII. After the war, she met and married Russell Brill, and they raised their family in Silver Spring, Md. Juanita now lives in Chantilly.

Her family includes two sons and their wives, Carl and Joy Brill, and Paul and Carrie Brill, along with six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. When asked how she was able to live such a long, full life, Juanita said she just "Got up every morning and put one foot in front of the other."

Commission to Vote July 29

FROM PAGE 3

the Metropolitan Washington Airlines Committee, representing 44 domestic and international air carriers at Reagan National and Dulles airports. With COVID-19 fundamentally altering the aviation industry, he wrote, hub airlines like United at Dulles will be rethinking their routes and where to place their hub operations.

"Before making these critical decisions, air carriers are watching which communities are doing what they can to promote airport development, not stifle it," wrote Dei Tos. "The same is true for the many international carriers. They'll look for long-term economic benefits from frequent airport operations and a welcoming community."

PLACING HOMES under Dulles flight paths, he continued, would be "an unmitigated disaster which is entirely avoidable. Remember, airlines don't have to come to Dulles. They can fly anywhere – and we'll have to convince them to remain or restart operations here.

"Dulles is Fairfax County's crown jewel international airport, and additional passengers and flights bring jobs, money and benefits to the county. We urge [you] to advocate for the new noise contours and review why you'd want to build underneath a flight path. It's simply bad public policy to allow residential development under a runway."

Re the updated contour map, on July 15, Dranesville District Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder said the Plan-

ning Commission previously asked the Board to expeditiously adopt the new contour map, and "The Board ignored it."

Still, said Braddock District Planning Commissioner Mary Cortina, "The Planning Commission has an obligation to be aware of all the latest information." She stressed that, although the Board hasn't acknowledged it "doesn't mean we have to stick our heads in the sand."

Furthermore, asked Providence District Supervisor Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, "Can noise be mitigated on a rooftop recreation area when the noise level is 65 dba?"

Several callers urged the commissioners to deny the application, including nurse Jody Bennett who said, "Children playing outside under a flight path can suffer significant, adverse health effects from the airplane noise and pollution. How do we protect them?"

Resident Tammi Patrine wondered why the county is "quibbling over a few decibels. Do you seriously believe no damage occurs at 59 decibels, but does at 60? Planes land there every 6-9 minutes, 24/7, yet we have a supervisor pushing for 4,000 homes in Land Unit J for the benefit of three developers."

And, added Carol Hawn, "Dulles Airport recently contributed \$8.34 billion to Virginia's economy. Why would the Supervisors approve something that could adversely impact this?"

The Planning Commission will vote on Boulevards, July 29. Until then, comments may be sent to planningcommission@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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AT&T proposes to replace an existing 30' metal light pole with a new 33' metal light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 37.7' near 2486 Ridgehampton Ct, Reston, VA (20201168). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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Growing Pains



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After more than six months away from the infusion center, due to the treatment for my papillary thyroid cancer stage II, I make my return on Wednesday, July 22. My non small cell lung cancer stage IV for which I have been treated since early March, 2009, once again becomes front and center after having been back-burnered since early January while we addressed my thyroid cancer. Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the risk of miscellaneous drug/treatment interactions, both cancers couldn't be treated simultaneously. Now we go forward in hope, just like we did 11-plus years ago.

Having completed the thyroid cancer treatment protocol after a recent CT scan showed no residual signs of cancer, I am now free - so to speak, to return to the scene of crime - to euphemise, and resume treatment for my underlying/pre-existing lung cancer. I am also returning for treatment because during the six month interval when I was not receiving any current lung cancer treatment, the lung cancer tumors grew. My oncologist was unable to characterize the growth, other than to say there was growth everywhere, (he didn't say a little; he didn't say a lot). For some context, he did read aloud some comparative tumor measurements written in the radiologist's report which were less than ideal. No matter. Cancer is by itself less than ideal so that's nothing new, really.

The theory of immunotherapy is that it trains your cells to fight the cancer regardless of whether the patient receives current treatment or not so the battle continues. Now whether my six months of not receiving treatment was responsible for allowing this growth or kept it from getting worse, my oncologist wouldn't say. What he did say/recommend was that we restart the opdivo (immunotherapy that I had been on for the previous year) since it had been effective for the year during which I was receiving regular bi-weekly infusions. However, I'm scheduled for my next CT scan in only two months instead of the usual three months so that my oncologist can make an assessment sooner rather than later. In the absence of any new symptoms before or at present, the scan becomes the arbiter of my destiny. (I imagine waiting for the results of that September scan will be stressful.) But this is life in the cancer world, and the longer I experience it, the luckier I'll be.

In the interim, I am happy to go forward and resume my treatment. Nearly all the medicine that has previously been prescribed for me has been successful at managing my cancer (keeping it stable) so I have a reasonable expectation that my next two infusions will yield encouraging results. Nevertheless, I am well aware that any guarantees left the building on Feb. 20, 2009. That is when I first received a phone call from my internal medicine doctor advising me that the previous week's lung tissue biopsy had indicated a malignancy.

Slow forward to the present (one does not go fast forward enduring cancer) and I will be back in a very familiar place: the infusion center. Though I don't view my return as one of a conquering hero, I am still alive and reasonably well after being treated for a second cancer while my original cancer was not in remission. (No small accomplishment.) Nor was it in hiding. To invoke one of my late father's favorite words: the treatment for my lung cancer had been held "in abeyance."

Now the 'abeyance' is over and I am back to being a garden variety non small cell lung cancer patient. The delay in my treatment caused some damage I presume but it doesn't really worry me yet (talk about naive). I'm glad to once again be current - and active, in my treatment and I continue to remain positive about the negative. My oncologist has referred to me as his "third miracle" (after having survived so long after an initial "13 month to two year" prognosis). However, that was then. This is now.

I don't think my ship has sailed but there does appear to be some activity down at the docks. No matter, I'm an excellent swimmer.

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

SENIOR LIVING

Discarded Electronic Equipment Helps Seniors in Need

Handheld devices keep the elderly in contact with healthcare providers, family and friends.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

On a recent summer morning, a group of college students gathered in Chantilly to sort and sanitize handheld devices ranging from smartphones to tablets. The equipment was given to a local medical clinic and then distributed to seniors who don't have the means to purchase their own, but need to stay connected to healthcare providers, family and friends.

"Through my work, I've seen seniors isolated at home," said Tanvi Nallanagula, a junior at the University of Virginia and an EMT (emergency medical technician). "This effort is important to me because I can't imagine being quarantined in my house without access to doctors or friends and family."

"Sometimes it's difficult for seniors to know how much medication to take, for example," she continued. "These devices will make it easier for them to ask for help and get the information they need."

The students, primarily college juniors with an interest in medicine, founded the Virginia State Telehealth Access for Seniors, a non-profit organization with a mission to collect and distribute handheld devices to low income seniors and veterans. Once they collect and sanitize the devices, they contact clinics that serve those populations.

"Clinics give us a ballpark of what they need and we tell them what you can reasonably deliver," said Sneha Thandra, a junior at Emory University and the Virginia State Lead for Telehealth Access for Seniors. "We've been talking with INOVA because they have so many clinics all over Northern Virginia. Within a month we'll have devices to donate to them."

The group is in need of smartphones or tablets that have cameras and the ability to connect to the Internet.

"There are people who have devices in their homes that they no longer use because they've upgraded," said Thandra. "Older and low-income patients tend to be more vulnerable and have more complicated medical needs. These devices give them the opportunity to access care and prevent unnecessary medical complications."

"We're also collecting money



Northern Virginia college students collect and sanitize handheld devices to help seniors stay connected to health care providers, family and friends.



Rachana Subbanna, a junior at the University of Virginia, dropping off 25 devices this week at the Charlottesville Free Clinic.

For More Information or to Donate

<https://www.telehealthforseniors.org/>

from corporations, family, friends or through fundraisers to buy new ones," added Rachana Subbanna, a junior at the University of Virginia. "Anything helps, even \$5. If someone doesn't have an old device to donate, but wants to donate \$40, that's enough money to buy a device."

The organization was founded in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and is part of Telehealth Access for Seniors, a national organization run by 120 volunteers

in 26 states

In addition to devices, the student volunteers provide instructions and free tech-support. In order to continue providing this service in Northern Virginia, they need more volunteers and continued donations.

"An interesting approach is to focus on mental health," said Thandra. "We know that during this time a lot of seniors will be lonely so we wanted them to be able to connect with family and friends."

Malicious Wounding Charged After Stabbing at Church

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police have charged a local man with three felonies following the stabbing of an associate pastor, Saturday afternoon, at Grace Covenant Church in Chantilly. Arrested was Chance Harrison, 32, of South Riding.

When officers responded there, July 18, around 3 p.m., he was being restrained by several members of the congregation, including Police Chief Ed Roessler – who's a member of the church and was there when the incident occurred.

Before Sunday morning's service, Senior Pastor Brett Fuller addressed the church members about the incident. He said Harrison was saying "incoherent things" when he entered the room where nearly two dozen people, including Roessler, were attending a Bible-study class.

According to Fuller, Harrison "came to the front and had a knife and assaulted Pastor Sean Clemons." The victim, who was speaking at the time, was leading the class when he was stabbed in the chest.

Police say Harrison, a member of the church, allegedly attacked Clemons "without provocation." In addition, they say he reportedly stabbed another man who tried to intervene. Roessler and several others then confronted and subdued Harrison. During that time, the chief sustained minor injuries.

Both stabbing victims were



taken to Reston Hospital Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries, and Roessler also received medical attention. Meanwhile, a knife believed to have been used by Harrison was recovered by police at the

scene.

Afterward, Fuller expressed gratitude for the church members who "came to the pastor's aid and valiantly risked their own lives to defend him. We are in prayer for all the injured. We are grateful for the courage exhibited that prevented [something] worse from happening. Lastly, we want to thank the

"We are grateful for the courage exhibited that prevented [something] worse from happening."

—Senior Pastor Brett Fuller

broader community for their outpouring of concern and support in this time."

Police charged Harrison with two counts of aggravated malicious wounding, plus one count each of felony assault on a police officer and misdemeanor assault. He's being held without bond in the Adult Detention Center.

Anyone with information about this event or who may have witnessed it is asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), texting FCCS plus the tip to 847411, or going to <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/>. Tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100-\$1,000 for information leading to an arrest.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

CAMPFIRE AT E.C. LAWRENCE

Get outside and see Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in a different light this summer at an evening campfire program. Explore this wonderful park as darkness falls and night creatures come out to hunt.

Learn about owls and other nocturnal predators during a naturalist-led hike. After the hike, enjoy roasting marshmallows around a campfire. Bring a flashlight to help search for fascinating creatures of the night and learn about their behavior and importance to the park. Three, one-hour campfire and night hike programs will be held on:

Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 22, 2020 at 8 p.m.
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Call 703-631-0013.