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Pohick Bay Park Celebrates Expansion

NEWS, PAGE 8

Pohick Bay Park celebrates land acquisition: The popular park welcomes about 1,000 users on an average summer Saturday for camping, hiking, and water activities.

Hiding at the Top of the Ticket

NEWS, PAGE 3

'We're Sort of God's Emergency Room'

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OCTOBER 22-28, 2020

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“Bolster the Blue” Hosting Pro-Police Event



Support Our Law Enforcement on October 24th

A local pro-police organization named “Bolster the Blue” is hosting an event in support of law enforcement on Saturday, October 24th.

The event, titled “Police, Pastors, and Prayer” features special keynote speaker Jason Yates of the organization “My Faith Votes,” and will take place in front of the Fairfax County Courthouse on Page Avenue. Free garage parking is available for anyone who wishes to attend the event.

BOLSTER THE BLUE was started by Fairfax County resident Brenda Tillett, after she and her son decided one day to bring lunch for all of the officers as a way of saying thank you for their service.

Said Tillett, “as my son and I brought hand-written thank-you cards for each officer and lunch, we were humbled by the impact this small gesture had. We wanted to share that feeling of appreciation with officers everywhere again and again.”

POLICE, PASTORS, AND PRAYER is an opportunity for all Fairfax residents who appreciate our law enforcement officers to join in prayer with and for the men and women in blue who keep our communities safe.

In addition to keynote speaker Jason Yates and other guest speakers, the event welcomes local community pastors offering prayers and inspirational messages for our police and our country.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY: Police, Pastors, and Prayer will feature live DJ’d music, games and activities for kids and adults alike (including face and wrist painting, pumpkin decorating, police sticker scene decorating, cornhole, pumpkin tic-tac-toe, “guess how many candy corns are in the jar,” raffles, and a children’s essay contest.

Food will be available on-site with both a food truck and cotton candy cart present for attendees.

Tables will be available for event sponsors, including the Fairfax County Republican Committee, and Bolster the Blue t-shirts and hats will be available for attendees in exchange for a donation. For more information, email Bolster the Blue at info@bolstertheblue.com.

BOLSTER THE BLUE PRESENTS:

POLICE, PASTORS, AND PRAYER

with special keynote speaker Jason Yates of My Faith Votes

OCTOBER 24, 2020 | 2PM - 5PM
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IN FRONT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Bring your family and join us for an afternoon of prayer and messages of unity. Enjoy music, pumpkin decorating, face/wrist painting, cotton candy, food, and kids' games with your family.
Meet officers and get to know those who protect and serve us.

Contact us at info@bolstertheblue.com for more information or to get involved.

Flyer distributed by Bolster the Blue for “Police, Pastors, and Prayer”

BACK THE BLUE

They risk their lives to keep us safe. But radical left-wing Democrats want to defund and abolish the police, and put suburban families in harm's way.

VOTE REPUBLICAN NOV. 3RD



Bolster the Blue Holds Essay Contest for Kids

Bolster the Blue is now accepting submissions for a children's essay contest, with prizes awarded to the top 3 winners. Entrants should write an essay in 250 words or less describing the story of the police officer pictured above. Submit entries to info@bolstertheblue.com.

NEWS

Hiding at the Top of the Ticket

Race for Senate features two-term incumbent versus first-time candidate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

When Mark Warner ran for governor in 2001, opponents knocked him for wanting to be governor without having ever run for office before. Now, almost 20 years later, Warner is seeking a third term in the Senate. His Republican opponent in the race, Daniel Gade, has never held elected office before. And Gade's closing argument to voters as the campaign draws to a close is that they should reject Warner because he's a "career politician" who is little more than a partisan hack masquerading as a moderate.

"When he says he's going to work across the aisle, what we really see is him retreating into his partisan positions," said Gade in the third and final televised debate earlier this week. "He gets bipartisan only in an election year."

Warner rejects this line of argument. When questioned about his willingness to work across the aisle, Warner mentions prominent Republicans he's worked with in the Senate, including John McCain and Orrin Hatch. He also points to support from his predecessor in office, Republican Senator John Warner. During his first campaign for the Senate he positioned himself as a "radical centrist," an approach he continues to take 12 years later.

"Virginians know my record," says Warner. "They know my record as governor, when as a Democrat with a two-to-one Republican legislature, we made record investments and remained the best-managed state, best state for business and best state to receive a public education."

The race for Senate in Virginia is not on the national radar as a race to watch, and Republicans have not identified Warner as an incumbent who might be vulnerable. Polls show Warner consistently with a double-digit lead over Gade. The most recent poll is from Christopher Newport University, which shows Warner with a 17 point lead. Despite the outsized lead, the airwaves have been buzzing with ads in the race — including spots on broadcast television where Warner attacks Gade.

"That suggests to me that there's something there. Why go negative unless you have to?" asked Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University. "I have not thought of this race in any sense as being competitive, but I don't know why Warner would run a negative ad."

Six years ago, when Warner was campaigning for a second term in the Senate, he



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sen. Mark Warner at Belle Haven to talk about the Great American Outdoors Act.

"Virginians know my record."

— U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D)

was running another race that few people identified as a race to watch. But in the final days of the campaign, Republican Ed Gillespie surged and came close to beating Warner in an upset. Warner ultimately prevailed, but the unexpectedly close margin in that race gave Republicans hope they might be able to unseat him this year if they were able to find the right candidate.

"This is beyond an uphill race for any Republican running, especially candidates who have never held elective office and have no name recognition," said David Ramadan, a former Republican member of the House of Delegates who is

now at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. "Mark Warner wins this one with a landslide."

THE CANDIDATES have presented a contrast that's personal and political. Gade, 45, is a combat-wounded vet who now teaches at American University and lives in Mount Vernon. Warner, 65, is a resident of Old Town who made a fortune as a founder of Nextel before becoming state party chairman and launching a campaign for governor. On the campaign trail, they've disagreed on everything from the Affordable Care act to the Trump administration's response to coronavirus and the vacancy on the United States Supreme Court. They've also admitted a few mistakes along the way. During a



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Republican candidate for Senate Daniel Gade lost a leg in combat in Iraq.

"When he says he's going to work across the aisle, what we really see is him retreating into his partisan positions."

— Republican candidate Daniel Gade

debate at Norfolk State University, Gade acknowledged that he probably shouldn't have said wearing a mask during the pandemic was what government overreach and tyranny feels like.

"In May of 2020, what you saw there was me at a sort of philosophical point that a government that is powerful enough to make you do little things is also powerful enough to take your liberty in other ways," said Gade. "Maybe I mangled the point. I'm not a career politician."

The moderators of that debate also got Warner to admit to making a mistake in

SEE HIDING AT THE TOP, PAGE 7

Special Session Session Summary #1: Criminal Justice Reform Delivered

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

FIRST OF THREE PARTS.



Last week, the General Assembly special session effectively ended. Gov. Ralph Northam called the session to adjust the budget after the economic harm caused by the COVID-19 crisis. After George Floyd's May 26, 2020 murder and citizens' demands for change, we chose to broaden our work and focus on three areas: criminal justice, policing reform, and the budget. I will address criminal justice reform this week, policing reform next week and the budget changes last.

In early June, the Senate Democratic Caucus determined a limited focus on only policing would not address the bulk of harm inflicted by our criminal justice system. We invited suggestions and created a committee of Senators to vet 150 ideas which we narrowed to 28 objectives and 11 bills.

First, we passed a racial profiling bill that prohibits police from stopping vehicles for violations arising out of subjective unverifiable judgments such as window tint or loud exhaust violations, and prohibited searches based on an allegation of marijuana odor in light of the decriminalization of marijuana last session. This will reduce opportunities for racially-biased enforcement.

We passed legislation creating a framework for every locality in Virginia to have access to emergency mental health response teams by 2026. Treating psychiatric emergencies as

mental health crises instead of law enforcement problems will bring appropriate help to people in crisis instead of criminal charges.

The U.S. Department of Justice has authority to investigate police departments for a pattern and practice of racially-biased policing and negotiate consent decrees to alter behavior and the Obama Administration has negotiated decrees after deaths such as Michael Brown, Tamir Rice and Freddie Gray. The Trump Administration has negotiated zero. We approved a bill giving the Virginia Attorney General the authority and staffing to investigate Virginia law enforcement agencies to pick up where the Trump Administration has refused to act.

I carried legislation that restored discretion to Virginia's prosecutors. In the 24 years I have practiced law, I have never seen a judge reject a prosecutor's request to drop a case. Judges in Arlington and Norfolk now routinely refuse to grant government requests to dismiss marijuana possession charges. My legislation requires a judge to dismiss a criminal charge upon the agreement of the government and a defendant unless a victim can establish racial bias or bribery.

My legislation also allows plea agreements to defer charges for dismissal or reduced charges after the accused completes steps such as drug treatment, mental health counseling, community service and good behavior. This had been Virginia law until the last 10 years after conservative legislators pressured judges to cease the practice and Virginia's appellate courts altered 200 years of Virginia law find-

ing that measures like this were not authorized by the legislature.

We reformed Virginia's jury sentencing law dating to 1796, enacted when felonies could only be punished by the death penalty. Today, Virginia is one of only two states in America in which prosecutors can demand a jury to recommend a sentence. Juries give sentences that often range far higher than sentencing guidelines recommend, causing many accused people to forego a trial, even when they are innocent, to avoid lengthy sentences. This will restore balance to our criminal justice system and make our constitutional promise of a right to trial by jury a reality.

The General Assembly passed legislation that allows localities to set up civilian review boards with subpoena power and real authority. Currently, many jurisdictions, including Fairfax County, have civilian review boards for police, but they are only advisory.

We expanded Virginia's program to give inmates credit towards early release if they are of good behavior, engaged in education and follow through on rehabilitation programs. Today, Virginia has one of the most restrictive earned sentence programs in the country due to measures proposed by now-U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr in 1995.

We hope that these reforms will bring broader, structural change to Virginia's criminal justice system and mitigate 200 years of outdated policies that have caused unnecessary harm and fallen disproportionately upon low-income people and communities of color. I was proud to be part of this historic effort.

I hope you will share your views by emailing me at scott@scottsuovell.org.

Project Community Connect Supports Those Struggling to Afford Basic Needs

BY ROSIE ALLEN-HERRING
PRESIDENT AND CEO, UNITED WAY OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

The impact of COVID-19 has deepened the economic hardship for residents in the DMV area. Prior to the pandemic, many residents were living paycheck-to-paycheck but were not eligible for assistance because their household income did not fall below Federal Poverty Guidelines. In fact, our recent ALICE (Asset, Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) reports show that 39 percent of the total population in VA and MD and 55 percent in DC are unable to afford basic household essentials in their communities. In Fairfax County specifically, 23 percent are ALICE households. We know that after several months of business closures, layoffs, furloughs or reduced work hours, these numbers have increased with more residents finding it harder to afford the basic

household necessities including housing, food, childcare, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan.

In October of each year, your United Way of the National Capital Area is usually preparing for its flagship event, Project Homeless Connect. However, given this unprecedented time, it was imperative for us to pivot our flagship event to be accessible to more communities and include not only those at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, but anyone impacted by COVID-19.

With our new charge in mind, we have renamed Project Homeless Connect to Project Community Connect. Instead of one day of programs and services at one location, Project Community Connect is a weeklong series, October 19 - 23, 2020.

During this time, United Way NCA is working with partners across the region in delivering hundreds of basic needs items throughout the

week to the people they serve including food, winter clothing and hygiene kits. Additionally, virtual workshops will cover budget-friendly meals, eviction and rental assistance, education resources, opportunities to save and manage bills or start a new career, and health.

We know that the issues of inequity in our systems for employment, education, health and food access, financial stability and opportunities for all to grow to the best of their abilities are not going to change unless we do the work. We are looking to partner with community members who are ready to join our efforts as we mobilize and make bold strides until we achieve equity for all of our community members, regardless of race, gender, income and ability.

Please join us for Project Community Connect if you are in need of resources or services, or if you would like to give back to the community. For more information, please visit: United-WayNCA.org/PCC.



LETTERS

Voters: Heroes of the Day

To the Editor:

I am just short of 88 years of age and have voted in sixteen elections for president. In those sixteen elections I have not experienced the degree of voter suppression currently existing in this election. Voter suppression exists at all levels of government, where government should be taking steps to ensure all citizens are able to exercise their right to vote, the opposite is taking place.

Republican governors are reducing the number of voting locations and shorting voting hours, in some states arbitrary restrictions are imposed on voter registration. There are reports of bogus ballot Drop Boxes being installed to divert ballots from reaching polling sites. The Postmaster General has removed mailboxes that will make it more difficult for voters to locate and get to a place to deposit their mail-in ballot. The Supreme Court struck down two provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which requires certain states and local govern-

ments to obtain federal preclearance before implementing any changes to their voting procedures. We have a president that continues to state that voting by mail is fraudulent, (he and family vote by mail). The FBI has clearly indicated that there is no evidence of any widespread mail fraud in the election process. The peaceful transfer of power should a new president be elected is in jeopardy, with threats of violence, martial law and seized ballots. This peaceful transfer of power is one of the cornerstones of our democracy and an example to the world that a people can govern themselves.

There is however a glimmer of hope that the election will reflect the will of the electorate, that being the long lines seen outside the polling places and the 4,6, and even 10 hour waiting time to cast a vote. It makes it known that despite those who would deny us our right to vote that we will prevail. These people are the heroes of the day.

Gerald Kirwin
Burke

Pledge to Count Every Note

To the Editor:

In this anxious time, the vast majority of citizens hope to maintain the stability of a civil society, free from violent rhetoric and violent acts. Threats to our electoral process put stability at risk. We must all stand firm for a fair election and peaceful transfer of power. A few residents of Northern Virginia have put together a campaign to give our elected leaders the opportunity to demonstrate their resolve by signing this pledge on the Count Every Vote! VA website. (www.CountEveryVoteVA.com)

I AGREE TO:

- ❖ Vote and publicly encourage my constituents to vote.
- ❖ Insist on counting of all lawful ballots under ap-

plicable state law before agreeing that election results are legitimate.

- ❖ Inform my constituents that I will take all measures available to me to contest any results that do not include the counting of all lawful votes.
- ❖ Publicly support people who peaceably demonstrate in favor of all votes being counted.
- ❖ Insist on a peaceful transfer of power if a complete and legal vote count requires it.

If you are a Virginia elected official, at any level of government and on either side of the aisle, please make this pledge. And if you are not, please write and call our leaders and encourage them to do so.

Margaret Fisher
Clifton

Pediatric Specialists of Virginia Announces Dr. Laurel Blakemore as New Chief Executive Officer

Pediatric Specialists of Virginia (PSV) has announced Laurel Blakemore, MD as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective Oct. 19.

Dr. Blakemore previously served in the role of Shriners Endowed Professor and Division Chief of Pediatric Orthopaedics at the University of Florida's College of Medicine in the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation. Prior to her stint with the University of Florida, Dr. Blakemore served as Chief of Pediatric Orthopaedics at Children's National hospital for nine years.

Her primary focus at PSV will be on leading the organization through its next phase of development and growth by applying her vast experience working with ambulatory healthcare practices, as well as utilizing the operational acumen she's acquired while working at a variety of health care facilities and over the course of her illustrious career.

"I am so excited to return to



CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Laurel Blakemore

Pediatric Specialists of Virginia and work with the wonderful team there," said Dr. Blakemore. "As Chief of Orthopaedics at Children's National I participated in the start of PSV, a unique example of what can be accomplished through collab-

oration and vision. I welcome the opportunity to work with the PSV team to further develop our ability to offer the best pediatric specialty care possible to the region's children."

In addition to her role as CEO, Dr. Blakemore will also maintain her orthopaedic clinical practice. Her clinical areas of interest include scoliosis care including early onset scoliosis and orthopedic trauma, to name but a few.

Dr. Blakemore is PSV's second Chief Executive Officer after taking over for Dr. Leon Moores, who recently accepted an executive leadership position at Inova Health System, after nearly six years of exemplary leadership and service in the CEO role at PSV.

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NEWS

'We're Sort of God's Emergency Room'

The Lamb Center: Providing hope and a future.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 THE CONNECTION

This year's fundraiser for The Lamb Center (TLC) was called "Hope and a Future," and it was aptly named because that's exactly what this Fairfax City nonprofit provides for its guests. It's a daytime, drop-in shelter offering the homeless meals, showers, clothing and laundry services.

But this faith-based ministry is so much more, because its Bible studies, jobs programs, case management and AA meetings also enable those it serves to see a path to a better future. And although the center's Oct. 8 "banquet" was virtual, due to COVID-19, the stories of how it changed people's lives were just as heartfelt.

"When things shut down, we knew we couldn't do this remotely – we needed to be here, hands-on, providing for the folks we serve every day," said TLC Executive Director John MacPherson. "The governor told everybody to stay home – but how do you do that when you don't have a home?"

The center's case managers – at their own, personal risk – then spoke with more than 120 people so they could write assessments on them and get them isolated into motel rooms. That way, explained MacPherson, "They could shelter safely and not have to worry about spreading the disease, which would go so quickly through the homeless community."

And yet, he added, "We have more and more new people showing up, every day, who are newly homeless because of the pandemic. We're sort of God's emergency room. Our case managers listen to their stories and determine their greatest needs, and that's when their transformation and hope begin. But this work isn't possible without the community's support, and we appreciate it."

Operations Director Dave Larrabee said the center had to adapt quickly. "We shortened our hours and just had five guests coming in, every half hour, to shower, get their clothes washed, get food and case management, and get some of their medical needs taken care of," he said.

"Initially, it really broke my heart," continued Larrabee. "But we haven't lost that sense of community. Now, we have outside Bible study under a canopy, with social distancing and wearing masks. We still provide Jesus here and offer that same love we offered before."

Volunteer Tim O'Connor said, "We only have time for one Bible study now. Our intention is to bring Christ to the homeless, but they end up bringing Christ to us."

"I've seen amazing things happen here," added Volunteer Hala Shafik. "We make our guests feel known and valued, and then they want to do something bet-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA HESS

Technical coordinators at The Lamb Center during the live, online event were (in back, from left) Doris Paul (staff), Karen Kershenstein (board), Carol Dieterle (board), John MacPherson (Executive Director), Shannon Allen (board) and Tara Ruszkowski (board); and (in front) Lisa Hess.



Deacon Dave Larrabee



The Rev. Patti Brown

ter with their lives."

SHARING HER STORY, Kathryn said, "I felt discouraged, defeated and had pushed my family and friends away. I've been homeless for over nine years, and I now have housing, thanks to The Lamb Center. It provided me with food, clothing and an environment of love. I was able to walk in and feel like I wasn't being judged. They give kind words freely, and that was so healing. I really felt the love of God here."

Marc previously lived in his truck, with no place to shower. He used to wash and shave in a grocery-store restroom before coming to TLC. "By the grace of God, I'm still here, and I have a smile on my face," he said. "I want to get a job and give back to the community."

Homeless for 17 years, Alondra slept on the streets prior to seeking out TLC. "When I moved into a motel, I finally felt human," she said. "I cried, prayed and thanked God."

"It's amazing to every person who comes through the door how much the staff and volunteers love them and give them hope," said volunteer Denise Herb. "And as long as we have donations, The Lamb Center can continue to do so." To donate, go to <https://www.thelambcenter.org/ways-to-give/give-online/> or send checks to: The Lamb Center, P.O. Box 1385, Fairfax, VA 22038.

SEE LAMB CENTER, PAGE 8
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Senator Mark Warner, left, and Republican Daniel Gade debate at the studio of WTVR in Richmond.

Hiding at the Top of the Ticket

FROM PAGE 3

being slow to criticize the name of the Washington football team, which continued to use a racial slur as the team's nickname until the Black Lives Matter movement forced a national conversation about white privilege. During the debate, which was held on the campus of one of Virginia's HBCUs, Warner said he took the wrong position by being one of the few Democrats who failed to demand the team ditch its racist former name.

"I probably should have weighed in earlier," said Warner during the televised debate. "But you learn and you grow, and I think you look at people's history and record."

The role of government has been a central defining theme of the campaign, perhaps best illustrated by a debate over something that happened in 2016.

That's when a woman was killed by a beach umbrella in Virginia Beach. Warner reacted by urging the Consumer Product Safety Commission to step in and potentially help save lives. Gade said that was the wrong response.

"That's maybe a local government responsibility or state government maybe," said Gade shortly after securing the Republican nomination over the summer. "But the idea that this overarching, over powerful federal government would reach into our lives in a way that would tell us how deeply we should drill our beach umbrellas into the sand; that's absurd."

Warner says it's probably a bad idea to let local or state government regulate beach umbrellas.

"Generally speaking, businesses like to have state rules preempted so they can have a single standard," said Warner when asked about Gade's comments. "If Mr. Gade is suggesting that we ought to have 50 different sets of rules or maybe 50,000 different sets of rules because every locality ought to be able to make those rules, that would be an area I just respectfully disagree."

Perhaps the biggest point of distinction between the candidates has been over the Affordable Care Act. A Republican-led lawsuit challenging the law is on the calendar for the Supreme Court this fall, and candidates for office are using the issue as an appeal to voters on both sides. During the first televised debate hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Warner says Gade's opposition to the ACA would undermine protections for preexisting conditions. Daniel Gade responded that was offensive.

"There were 25 states when the ACA was passed that already protected people with preexisting conditions," said Gade, who lost a leg as a combat vet in Iraq. "And the idea that I would take away protections for people with preexisting conditions is offensive and it's false and it's defamatory."

Warner says Gade can't have it both ways.

"If my opponent wants to change his position and say he supported my decision along with John McCain to keep the ACA, he can make that change," said Warner. "But you can't go out and criticize me for the ACA and then cherry pick which parts of the ACA you want to preserve."

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Pohick Bay Park Celebrates Expansion

Ribbon cutting ceremony marks land addition.

PHOTOS BY
SUSAN LAUME/
THE CONNECTION

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

NOVA Parks held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Pohick Bay Park on Oct. 17 to celebrate additions to its land holding there. The second of two private residential properties, that predated the creation of the park in 1972, now joins the public space. The land purchase assures that the full 1,010 acres making up the park will remain in conservation, free from residential development and road building.

In remarks, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Dan Storck noted the high value area citizens place on parkland, with about 16 percent of the County's territory comprising parks. They acknowledged the assistance of the State General Assembly, especially Delegate Mark Sickles, along with those members in the audience, Senator Scott Surovell and Delegate Kathy Tran, in working on funding approval for the park purchase; securing \$600K for completing the suffragists memorial at the nearby Occoquan Regional Park; and budgeting funds for staffing two positions at Mason Neck State Park.

Contributions for Pohick Bay from the Virginia General Assembly provided \$322K, from the Commonwealth's Land Conservation Foundation; with the same amount sourced from the NOVA Parks' Capital Fund. A federal grant of \$644K from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund completed financing for the two parcel "Lott" property.

LOCATED ON MASON NECK with views of Pohick Bay, the "Lott" and adjacent "Stribling" properties had retained private ownership and access through the park since the park's inception about 60 years ago. The Stribling property was purchased by NOVA Parks in 2018 valued at \$2.1 million (see

Connection, April 19, 2018). The earlier Stribling purchase also was made possible through a series of conservation grants from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

Houses that now sit on the land will not be immediately removed. However, the space acquisition "opens the possibility of expanding camping towards this area. And .. this area might see habitat restoration and additional water access points for the public", said NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert. The popular park welcomes about 1,000 users on an average summer Saturday for camping, hiking, and water activities.

The park bond funding question on the 2016 election ballot, which helped to make the Pohick Bay acquisition possible, passed with 66.4 percent voter approval; receiving the highest favor of all ballot questions in that presidential election year. Voters again this November will have the opportunity to vote yes or no on park and park facilities bonds totaling \$112M; \$110M for the Fairfax County Park Authority, and a \$12M contribution for NOVA Parks regional authority.

NOVA Parks authority was established initially in 1959 to acquire and protect natural land and receives annual contributions from Fairfax County and other area jurisdictions. Sixty years later, the regional authority



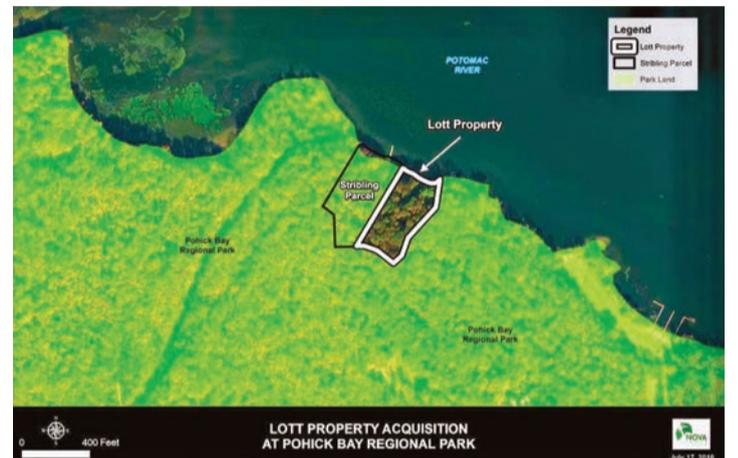
BOS Chairman Jeff McKay lauds partnership of constituents, State and Federal land conservation funding during ribbon cutting ceremony

encompasses over 12,000 acres, including an extensive 50 miles of shoreline, held in the public trust.

RECENTLY, NOVA Parks has been in the news related to development under consideration near the Occoquan Regional Park, to turn a portion of the County's landfill property into a ski resort. Proposals include tying Occoquan Park to the private ski enterprise by gondola or a mountain coaster. County supervisors, park and tourism officials, and the nearby Art Workhouse have eyed the public land lease with company built, owned and operated facilities, as a possible tourism draw and revenue stream. Others bemoan development of the land and loss of oppor-



Ceremonial ribbon cutting Executive Director Paul Gilbert, State Sen. Scott Surovell, BOS Chairman Jeff McKay, Supervisor Dan Storck, NOVA Parks Board Chair Michael Nardolilli, Treasurer Paul Baldino, and NOVA Parks staff with Delegate Kathy Tran and children; also present, not pictured: Glenda Booth, VA Land Conservation Foundation, other NOVA Parks staff.



Mapped location of Lott and Stribling properties in Pohick Bay Park

tunities for restoration to natural habitats at the landfill, preferring passive recreational use. Under the Virginia's Public-Private Partnership Act (PPEA), the opportunity for public comment continues until November 17 (submit to: clerktothebos@fairfax-county.gov).

As NOVA Parks Board Chairman Michael Nardolilli reminded participants, "Natural land provides ecological services, bringing pure water, clean air, and healthy places for recreation." Paraphrasing the advice given to Scarlett O'Hara by her father in "Gone With the Wind," Nardolilli said, "Land is the only thing that matters, the only thing that lasts."

Lamb Center Adapts to 'New Realities'

FROM PAGE 6

When Prince was released from incarceration, he was instantly homeless. He got a job but lost it when the pandemic began. That's when he discovered TLC. "They provided me with facemasks and food," he said. "And now that they found me a place to live, it's easier for me. I know God has a lot of plans for me, and I really want to get back on my feet."

One way he's doing it is by working in the City Jobs program, in which TLC and Fairfax City are partners, providing the homeless with paid jobs maintaining City parks and public spaces, and improving stormwater-drainage areas. Last year, 40 people participated, including Joseph, who hopes it'll lead to a permanent job.

"I'm a three-time cancer survivor," said Joseph. "That's one of the reasons I was homeless, and I have no family. I just want a chance to live normally, and I thank God for the people I've met at The Lamb Center. They've given me the strength to keep moving on."

Elizabeth, homeless for three years, also works in City Jobs. "I couldn't pay my rent, got evicted and started living in my car," she said. But TLC helped her, and she loves working outdoors. "Being out in nature changes my whole persona," she said.

HOMELESS FOR 13 YEARS, Darrel wants to get a full-time job and an apartment. He said working in City Jobs "gives you a sense of self. And I feel good being part of that - I'm helping nature."

"I love that we're able to put our faith into action here," said volunteer Christine Martinson. "We pray, but we're also doing something tangible and making a difference in people's lives."

"The goal is that transformation in their lives and restoring them to the community," added Deb Haynes, assistant director, case management. "We meet people where they are and build a relationship in which they can feel their own dignity and self-worth."

Case Manager Angela Castaneda said many of them "lost jobs during the pandemic or had housing and couldn't pay rent. So we've gotten some of them employment so they could pay their bills." Furthermore, added Case Manager Gloria Kasey, TLC also tries to help them re-establish relationships with their families.

TLC Board Chairman Cathy Liverman called it "heartening" to see the guests' appreciation of the center's efforts during COVID. And she thanked the City, plus Fairfax County, for participating in the Jobs program.

"The pandemic sure has pointed out the inequities and imbalances in our area's housing, and The Lamb Center hopes to work toward some permanent, supportive housing for our guests," she said. "All funds donated go directly to our daily operations; the community's support is vital."

At the fundraiser's end, TLC Assistant Director Patti Brown thanked God for the "volunteers and donors who keep this place running. We pray You open up the floodgates and let the support and love continue to flow here, for the years to come."

Professor Julianna Nickel conducts GMU's Dewberry School of Music Flute Ensemble.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/ THE CONNECTION



Breakfast, Balloons, Live Music and Fun

Fairfax City recently held its second annual Park(ing) Day, turning a Fair City Mall parking lot into a space for outdoor fun.



GMU flute players performing for Parking Day attendees.

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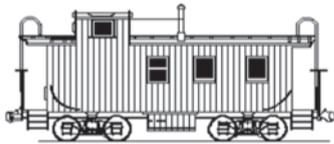
Announcements

Legals

In accordance with New York law, the **National Rifle Association of America** announces that its Annual Meeting of Members will be held October 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Tucson, Arizona in the Kiva Ballroom at the Loews Ventana Canyon Hotel.

Legals

Legals



JOINT PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN CODE NOVEMBER 4, 2020

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold an electronic Joint Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 7:30 P.M. via Zoom as permitted by law to review and implement changes required by the Department of Environmental Quality of the Commonwealth of Virginia (DEQ) with respect to certain provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance in the Town Code Chapter 11. The proposed changes are available for review and downloading on the Town's website at cliftonva.gov and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the proposed changes to Clifton's Town Code. To obtain access to the electronic Joint Public Hearing, contact the Town Clerk at clerk@cliftonva.gov no later than Noon on November 4, 2020.

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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

"I'll Think About That Tomorrow"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What I'm thinking about - and being thankful for, today, is the disappearance of all the side effects I've been experiencing during the last four weeks or so since I began my pill regimen for my papillary thyroid cancer treatment. Too many to list but upwards of a dozen side effects which encompass all activities from those of daily living to others pertaining to just plain living. Let me reprint the warning that came with the pills: "People using this medication may have serious side effects. However, your doctor has prescribed this drug because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects." Put that in your pipe and smoke it. That's what I have to smoke every day, if you know figuratively what I mean?

The bigger question, the overriding concern/anxiety is what exactly the thyroid cancer is doing now having been left unmedicated for the last nine days? How irreparable is the damage being done when the cancer has been left unchecked? Moreover, to the extent there has been some damage, is restarting treatment even an option or have I already failed the tolerance test? Being a cancer patient is a never-ending series of questions and/or concerns for which there is hardly clarity. As I have been led to believe/educated since my initial lung cancer diagnosis, there will be no more guarantees coming.

But of course improvements in cancer treatment and ongoing research have improved survivability, and with many patients, myself included, turned the cancer treatment into a chronic disease type protocol, like diabetes. Nevertheless, cancer is in control, the doctors are not. There are no slam-dunks in cancer treatment. How would I ever be able to unwind myself from years of stress and fear just because? I couldn't. A cancer patient today sort of means, I'll likely be a cancer patient tomorrow. I don't see how I could shake that self-image.

Somehow, I must, as I'm trying to do now, exult in the joy of a semi uncomplicated, side-effect free existence because ..., it's not guaranteed. I must try even harder to compartmentalize the unknown while savoring this known, relatively easy time. It's not promised and it's not necessarily likely to occur again, certainly not after I return to treatment. But maybe, my new normal will be switching on and off treatment, sort of like I did while being infused with alimta. Though I still had my CT scans quarterly, so long as the scans showed stable, we kept extending the interval between infusions. The goal being to balance effect on the tumors with the quality of life (freedom from side effects and infusion appointments). Eventually, we stretched the interval to as much as seven weeks from the original three enabling me to live - occasionally, a semi cancer free life. Perhaps this on-again, off-again schedule might apply to this recent thyroid treatment. I have to hope because the side effects, as I alluded to initially, have been affecting my quality of life. And if there's one factor driving my better-than expected survival, it has been my attitude, which has derived directly from my management of side effects. Anecdotally speaking (or presuming) being in a good mood, being able to function with normal parameters (to quote Data from "Star Trek: Next Generation") has been a tremendous contributor to my life expectancy (my oncologist refers to me "as his third miracle").

But I can't know for sure. And of course, that's the crux of the problem for many of us cancer patients. One can never know for sure if you're hindering or helping; and since guarantees stopped being made on the ground-zero day you were diagnosed with a "terminal disease" it's often difficult to know which path to follow. Right now, it's easy to follow the path which is creating a more normal/pleasant quality of life. But at what cost? I can't know what the tumors are doing. Perhaps, in taking a break from treatment, I have unleashed the cancer once again. That's my dilemma: reconciling the present with the future, the fear with the familiar, the hope with the inevitable. And it's likely I'll never know if what I've done has been a help or a hindrance. Yet somehow, I have to make plans and decisions. "Tomorrow is another day." Lest, I be gone with the wind.

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

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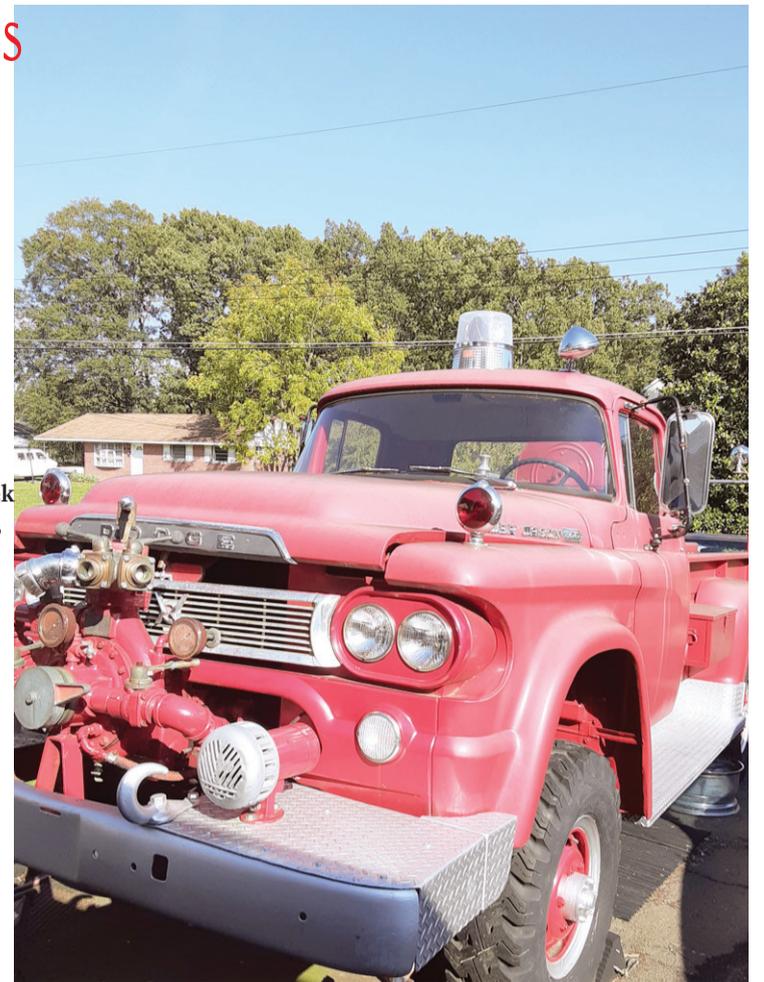
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NEWS



This 1959 Dodge could pump water from a nearby creek or the fire hydrant, making it versatile when needed.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE SALMON/
THE CONNECTION

Truck Enthusiast's Collection Includes an Old Fire Truck

Historic fire truck got its start in Burke.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Dodge Power Wagon 300 fire truck that rolled off the assembly line in 1959 was outfitted with a pump on the front so the truck could draw water from a nearby creek in an emergency fire-fighting situation. After years of fire duty at the Burke Fire Station and other stations, it's sitting in a Springfield driveway to be admired by the passersby, and driven occasionally by owner Bob Brumback.

"I got it in February 1993 in a sealed auction from the Lake of the Woods Fire Department," Brumback said. His bid was \$2500.

"That truck's been all over the area," added his housemate Mike Spears, whose father Bill Spears was in the Fairfax County Fire Department for 20 years, stationed at the Baileys Crossroad station. According to Spears, the truck in their driveway has a long history in Burke. "They bought that truck new," he said.

In 1995, Brumback fixed the truck up and painted it himself in "Rustoleum red," he said, and although it hasn't been in any local parades, it did make it to a local show over 20 years ago. "I did enter it in the Springfield Days car show one time in 1997," he said.

Brumback is a former Dodge mechanic, and is into Dodge trucks. Around his house in the neighborhood off Loisdale Road, he has a few Dodge pickup trucks parked in the



The cab is pretty basic, but has a clutch and gear shift.



In the early days, this truck was part of the Burke firefighting armada.

driveway and along the curb. "I occasionally drive it around the neighborhood," he said, adding that "it's been sitting there since 1999."

The Dodge Power Wagon is a four-wheel drive medium duty truck that was produced in various model series from 1945 to 1980 by Dodge, then as the Dodge Ram truck from 2005 to the present. Its engineering code was T137 and some truck enthusiasts still use that as its "truck name."

The Power Wagon was used as a military truck in World War II and then used in municipalities across the country as the fire truck of choice. It has a 400-gallon water tank to use on fires.

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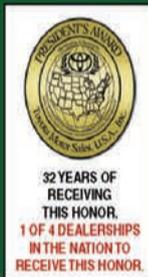
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