

CONNECTION

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'Remembering What it Means To Be an American'

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The American
Legion Post 177
color guard
begins Fairfax
City's Memorial
Day ceremony.

Two Men Arrested After Husband and Wife Fatally Shot In Springfield

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Two Men Arrested After Husband and Wife Fatally Shot in Springfield

Workplace in Lorton played a role.

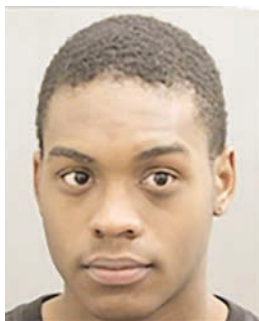
By Mike Salmon
The Connection

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department's Major Crimes Bureau have made two arrests in the fatal shooting that occurred on Wednesday, May 26 in the 8000 block of Flint Street in southern Springfield. At 9:20 a.m. officers responded to a reported burglary at a home. The first responding officer, who arrived within two minutes of the initial call, discovered Edward McDaniel Jr., 55, and Brenda McDaniel, 63, suffering from gunshot wounds outside their home. Rescue personnel pronounced both victims deceased at the scene. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy to determine the manner and cause of death, police said.

Detectives gathered evidence, developed suspect information and provided updates to the community. One of those updates led a community member to call in a tip to police which resulted in the arrest of D'Angelo



D'Angelo Strand



Ronnie Marshall

PHOTOS FCPD

Strand, 19, on Thursday morning. Just hours later, detectives working together with the United States Marshal Service, were able to determine the location of Ronnie Marshall, 20, and took him into custody. Both Marshall and Strand are charged with two counts of second-degree murder and two counts of the use of a firearm in commission of a felony. They are both held at the Adult Detention Center without bond, FCPD said.

At a press conference after the arrest on Thursday, Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis confirmed that the suspects and a family member worked together at a place in Lorton. "The two killers and relatives of the victims were all co-workers," Chief Davis said. Officer Ed O'Carroll, commander of

the major crime and forensics department, said the tip about the vehicle location came in from the community. "The power of social media," he said. "One of the two defendants was at the home on Monday and FCPD was conducting a burglary investigation from that," O'Carroll said.

Detectives continue to piece together evidence as they work to determine what led to this shooting. Several cartridge cases were discovered at the scene and other evidence is being processed. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy to determine the manner and cause of death. "The case is not closed," said O'Carroll.

This is being investigated as the 9th and 10th homicide year to date in Fairfax Coun-

ty. On April 25 this year, there was another shooting at a house a few blocks away from this house on Flint Street.

Anyone who may have witnessed the shooting or may have seen someone leave the scene is asked to call 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. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

Victim specialists from Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure that the victim's family is receiving appropriate resources and assistance.



On Thursday following the shooting, police were still at the home in the southern Springfield area.

PHOTO BY
MIKE SALMON/
THE CONNECTION



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Democrats Decide

Voters to determine direction of party in June 8 primary.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The June 8 primary will determine the direction of the Democratic Party in Virginia at a critical time, when the commonwealth is emerging from the pandemic and trying to recast itself as something other than a party in opposition to former President Donald Trump. Opposition to the former president helped Democrats claim the trifecta — all three statewide offices, the House of Delegates and the state Senate. Now they'll be facing a Republican ticket that has racial diversity, gender diversity and geographic diversity.

"We have the momentum, energy, and grassroots organization to send good, solid Republicans to Richmond," said Rich Anderson, chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. "And we're going to fight harder than ever to ensure we do just that."

Democrats head into Election Day likely to nominate white males from Northern Virginia as governor and attorney general, while the election for lieutenant governor remains wide open. Voters could end up selecting a Democratic ticket that is three white males from Northern Virginia. That's one of the reasons why Gov. Ralph Northam attempted to tip the scales by endorsing Del. Hala Ayala (D-51) for Lieutenant Governor, a Democrat from Prince William County who identifies as an Afro-Latina-Lebanese-Irish woman. Campaign finance records show she's struggled to raise as much money as Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11) or Del. Mark Levine (D-45).

"Establishment Democrats clearly think that Hala Ayala is going to be the better candidate in the general election," said Quentin Kidd, a political science professor at Christopher Newport University. "But that doesn't mean that she would be, and that doesn't mean that she'll win the Democratic primary."

AT THE TOP of the ticket is the race for governor. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe has an outsized lead in the polls and the fundraising, although it's extremely rare for a former governor to decide to seek a non-consecutive term. It hasn't been done since 1973, when former Gov. Mills Godwin was elected to a second non-consecutive term after a four-year absence from the Executive Mansion. In his first term, Godwin was a Democrat. But eight years later, he switched parties and became a Republican during a time when both parties were experiencing an identity crisis.

"I was moved to run [again] because I love this state," Godwin said in 1973 during a campaign speech in Southwest Virginia. "And I don't want the liberal left to take over



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Voters will be selecting Democratic nominees for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general in the June 8 primary.

On the Ballot GOVERNOR



Terry McAuliffe



Jennifer McClellan



Jennifer Carroll Foy



Lee Carter



Justin Fairfax

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Hala Ayala

Sam Rasoul

Andria McClellan

Sean Perryman

Mark Levine

Xavier Warren

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Jay Jones

Mark Herring

the state and lead us down the path of ruin, and I don't think you do either."

Now, almost half a century later, the Virginia Democrats are facing a different kind of identity crisis. Do they want to return McAuliffe to power at a time when Democrats control the General Assembly, or give the nomination to a new generation? Supporters of Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-9) point to her long record of service in the House and Senate, noting that she's been in Virginia politics much longer than any other candidate including McAuliffe. Her campaign issued a fact-check after Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2), who served one full term in the House before resigning to run for governor, repeatedly called herself "one of the most effective legislators in Virginia history."

"Jenn McClellan is the most experienced and effective candidate for governor. Full

More Election Coverage

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/may/20/convention-done-primary-ahead/>

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/apr/15/running-second-command/>

stop," said Del. Kathy Tran (D-42). "As a delegate, I've seen the difference between legislators who lead when the going gets tough and those who don't. Jenn McClellan is a leader who lifts up all Virginians."

THE RACE FOR lieutenant governor is the race that will determine the missing third of the statewide Democratic ticket. Sam Rasoul has raised and spent more money than any other candidate, a notable achievement considering he refuses to take money from special interest PACs or lobbyists. During a televised debate on WJLA last week, anchor Dave Lucas asked if Rasoul believed he could represent Virginians of all faiths. The televised question caused a firestorm because Rasoul is Muslim, and the question employed anti-Muslim tropes.

"Sadly, this isn't what Virginians are wanting to hear about," said Rasoul. "They're wanting to hear about how we're going to improve access to their health care, about broadband issues, how we are going to safely get kids back in school."

WJLA eventually apologized, calling the

question "inappropriate and disrespectful." Meanwhile, Rasoul picked up new endorsements and gained a ton of free publicity. But he wasn't the only candidate to seize on a moment from the WJLA debate. When the candidates were asked if critical race theory should be taught in Virginia classrooms, former Fairfax NAACP president Sean Perryman seized the moment to explain that the law-school concept wasn't being taught in K-12 classrooms.

"Critical race theory is not even being taught in our schools," said Perryman. "It's a Republican dog whistle where anything they disagree with is critical race theory."

ATTORNEY GENERAL Mark Herring is the only statewide incumbent seeking reelection. He's being challenged by Del. Jay Jones (D-89). Herring was the town attorney in Lovettsville and served on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors before being elected to the state Senate in a 2006 special election after Attorney General Bob McDonnell appointed Sen. Bill Mims (R-33) chief deputy attorney general.

Herring was elected attorney general in 2013, and he's now seeking a third term in office. During his time as attorney general, he created a new Office of Civil Rights as well as a new conviction integrity unit and a new worker protection unit while also reorganizing the consumer protection section. He opposed Virginia's ban on gay marriage, fought against Trump's Muslim ban, and overruled Republican gerrymandering in the United States Supreme Court.

"I've transformed the job into a progressive powerhouse," said Herring. "I have proven that I can win even the biggest fights."

Jones was first elected in 2017, part of the first Democratic wave that began the transformation of the House of Delegates. Since that time, he's been seen as a rising star in the party. Jones says it's time to hand the office to the next generation, and as an African-American man he says he would be able to bring his lived experience into conversations about criminal justice reform and equity. During a televised debate, he avoided answering questions about a bill he introduced that would have allowed predatory lenders to charge 350 percent interest — a point of distinction that provides contrast with Herring, who worked with lawmakers to pass the Fairness in Lending Act. Jones never withdrew his bill which died in committee, although he ended up voting for the bill that Herring supported.

"The attorney general knows that he and I supported the exact same bill," said Jones. "I was happy to work with Delegate Bagby, the chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, who has endorsed my campaign."

Fighting Both anti-Semitism and Oppression

BY LEAH HARRIS

TAKING EXCEPTION

On the May 13 Eid holiday, Abrar Omeish, at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board, Tweeted: “Hurts my heart to celebrate while Israel kills Palestinians & desecrates the Holy Land right now,” she wrote. “Apartheid & colonization were wrong yesterday and will be today, here and there. May justice + truth prevail.”

There has been a disturbing community backlash in response. A spokesperson for the Fairfax GOP smeared her as “deeply anti-Semitic.” And on May 19 the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington rescinded its plans to honor Ms. Omeish due to the content of her Tweet. JCRC’s announcement shames and punishes Ms. Omeish for her views, saying that she “disenfranchised the thousands of Jewish families in her district.”

As the Jewish parent of a child in FCPS, JCRC does not speak for me. By conflating the state of Israel with all Jewish people everywhere, groups like JCRC and the Fairfax GOP are en-

gaging in a well-worn tactic: to paint any critique of Israeli state violence as an expression of anti-Semitism. Such allegations are designed to “cancel” anyone who speaks out for Palestinian human rights, and to deflect from the actual substance of their criticism.

For example, Ms. Omeish’s use of the word “apartheid” in her Tweet is completely aligned with the assessment of the Israeli human rights group B’tselem, which wrote in a recent report: “The Israeli regime enacts in all the territory it controls (Israeli sovereign territory, East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip) an apartheid regime. One organizing principle lies at the base of a wide array of Israeli policies: advancing and perpetuating the supremacy of one group – Jews – over another – Palestinians.” Human Rights Watch also agrees that Israel’s policies amount to apartheid. And Israel is currently under a U.N. inquiry for possible war crimes following its latest offensive on Gaza, which left 67 Palestinian children dead.

Ms. Omeish’s detractors allege that by criti-

cizing Israel, she cannot represent all students. I strongly reject this destructive reasoning, as well as simplistic “you’re either with us or against us” arguments. As she herself reiterated in her speech at the May 20 meeting of the Fairfax County School Board, it is possible to “fight both anti-Semitism and oppression against the Palestinians ... at the same time.”

I am deeply concerned by the insinuation of some community members and groups that School Board members should remain silent on matters of social injustice. In the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who led the resistance to apartheid in South Africa: “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”

My family couldn’t be prouder to have Ms. Omeish representing us on the School Board. She has continued to express a good-faith commitment to work with all faith leaders to improve the well-being of all students in Fairfax Country. I can’t say the same for those trying to discredit her and suppress healthy discussion.

I Became a Better Mother When I Stopped Trying To Do It All Myself

BY MEGAN MANCILLAS

Nearly five years ago, when my ex-husband and I separated, I felt the same way I suspect a lot of mothers do. I thought our children should live with me full-time, not only because I gave birth to them, but also because I had been their primary caretaker for most of their lives.

After staying home with them for over 12 years, it felt like an insult for my ex to then ask for them half of the time — after all, I felt I had made sacrifices to stay home so they wouldn’t be in the care of strangers. I came up with all of the usual excuses: Who will do their hair? He’s working full-time, how will he get them to and from school on time? My youngest is only four, she shouldn’t be away from her mother for so long!

Still, in an effort to avoid the adversarial and expensive court route, I sat down and looked at his proposed schedule on paper, followed by reading every article or study I could get my hands on regarding shared parenting. The evidence was overwhelming.

Across the board, children have better outcomes when their parents have a shared parenting schedule, even in high-conflict cases.

My “come to Jesus” moment happened when I admitted to myself that all of my objections to shared parenting were based on my own fears. It wasn’t that they didn’t love their dad or that he wasn’t a good father — he was. It was more that I had been a stay at home mother for twelve years, and it had almost become my identity.

I was afraid of the loss of control, particularly in the middle of a divorce, when you feel as though nothing is controllable. I was afraid of who I would become if my children were gone

half the time — it felt like a lot of responsibility to suddenly be forced to figure out what to do with my time when they weren’t there. I was afraid of other peoples’ expectations of me.

I was afraid to go back to school and re-enter the workforce. And even though my plan was always to go back to school once my youngest was in kindergarten, I now felt immense pressure to provide.

Across the board, children have better outcomes when their parents have a shared parenting schedule, even in high-conflict cases.

Despite knowing that there was all this scientific evidence that pointed to shared parenting being best for children, agreeing to it still didn’t feel easy. It was a choice to release all of my fears and expectations and take the first step without seeing the whole staircase. I was not confident, but it was what I had to do, and little did I know, that one choice would set the tone for all of my other life choices moving forward.

As an added bonus, the very thing that was proven to be best for my kids also ended up being personally liberating for me.

I went back to school. I started volunteering. I had a social life. I found a job I enjoyed. I became a better mother, because I wasn’t trying to do it all myself. The time I spent with my kids became even more precious; I was less stressed,

less tired, more attentive, and more in tune with their needs.

Although my divorce was contentious, it was a first step toward re-building trust, toward working together as a team, and toward giving our children all the benefits of living with both parents. It was a quicker path to less animosity, less discord, and less resentment; not just because of the circumstances surrounding the divorce, but because we were now both sharing the responsibility of raising our children.

Nearly five years later, my children are thriving. They got through our divorce relatively unscathed, which is something I know we’re both really proud of. And guess what? My ex-husband learned how to do their hair.

Megan Mancillas is a Court Appointed Special Advocate and a member of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Affiliate of the National Parents Organization. She is from Centreville.

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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LETTERS

Supporting Perryman To the Editor:

As a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, my job is to make sure that Fairfax County is a great place to live, work, and play for all of our residents. But local officials can't do it alone; we need statewide leaders who understand our unique needs and challenges.

That's why I'm supporting Sean Perryman for Lt. Governor in the June 8 Democratic primary.

Sean has spent years as an activist and organizer in Fairfax County. As President of the Fairfax NAACP, he focused on equity in education and criminal justice reform. I saw firsthand how he fought to push through reforms that break the school-to-prison pipeline and make our schools a place where every child can succeed. He helped make these changes by building diverse coalitions of Fairfax County residents who are committed to shared progressive values.

Sean and I also worked together on Capitol Hill, where he worked with Rep. Elijah Cummings on the U.S. House Oversight committee to investigate the Trump administration and hold them accountable. I know that he has a passion for creating a government that is truly by and for the people. A government where every community has a voice and a seat at the table.

The office of Lt. Governor is a perfect role for someone with Sean's experience and commitment to an inclusive, progressive Virginia. I hope my fellow neighbors in Fairfax and all of Virginia will join me in voting for Sean on June 8th.

James Walkinshaw
Braddock District Supervisor

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Only Democrat Party signage on display at voting centers for the single party Primary scheduled June 8.



Volunteer Agnes Guerrero Feinstein, retired, of Fairfax Station, monitors polling sites for the non-partisan group, Election Protection, a national coalition working to assure all voters have an equal opportunity to vote and have that vote count.

Early Primary Voting Begins

Registered voters have an opportunity to vote early now, in person or by mail, for the June 8 primary election of Democratic Party candidates.

West Springfield Government Center saw a light but steady stream of voters who came to cast their votes on the cool

and rainy first day open. That satellite location opened for early voting on May 29, as part of a group of 13 additional voting centers, joining the previously opened main locations.

Early in-person voting, with no reason required, ends June 5. For more informa-

tion on the election races, voting locations and hours, and for election questions, residents may contact Fairfax County Office of Elections 703 222-0776 or find information on the County's web page.

— SUSAN LAUME

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NEWS

John Lewis High Graduates Take a Victory Lap

BY JESS KIRBY
THE CONNECTION

On the evening of June 1, the first class of the newly-renamed John R. Lewis High School graduated on their football field. The ceremony's speeches focused on the class' efforts, accomplishments and perseverance through 15 months of school in a pandemic. Masks were not required for vaccinated attendees during the outdoor ceremony.

The event opened with a performance of "Go the Distance" by the Lancer Singers.

Principal Alfonso Smith followed with his address, recognizing students for earning a total of \$3.1 million in scholarship money and using their voices to enact change in their community.

"Head on, you embraced the many health and learning challenges that came with a global pandemic," he said. "You put the power of your voices on full display. You joined forces with friends, teachers, families, neighbors, to stand up for what you believe is right. What a social awakening you have both experienced and that you shared with us. I'm forever your proud principal."

Class of 2021 President Kimberly Boating took her turn at the podium to speak about the bold personalities and skills possessed by the graduates. She began with a moment for the graduates to clap for themselves.

"We're always clapping for someone else, always congratulating each other, but I really want this moment and this day to be about you and your achievement," she said. "We're loud, we're bold, we're unapologetic about who we are. We are unstoppable."

She spoke about how hope got them through the pandemic and closed with her high hopes for the graduating Lancers.

"Our perseverance is a testament to the words, 'this too shall pass,'" she said. "I think the biggest thing that has gotten our class to this day was hope."

Assistant Principal and Senior Class Administrator Kimberly Harrison opened her speech by noting that Sept. 2019 was the last time the entire class was together before COVID-19 closed the school.

"Tough times were ahead, but you stayed true, because tough times don't last, but tough people



PHOTO BY JESS KIRBY/THE CONNECTION

The class of 2021 takes a victory lap around the football field becoming the first official graduates of John R. Lewis High School.

VIEWPOINTS

— JESS KIRBY

What will you miss about high school and what are your plans for the future?

Lamisa Islam, Springfield, John Lewis High School graduate

Lamisa will be attending Seoul National University in South Korea to major in marketing and foreign languages.

"A lot of my friends are actually going out of state for college. I'm also leaving the country for college, so I'm going to be missing them all a lot."



Julia Travis, Alexandria, John Lewis High School graduate

She will miss "the really fun events that they did, like prom, graduation. I'm going to go to STEP... where I learn different job skills, and then I'll go to NOVA after that to take courses in childcare."



Jason Vasquez, Springfield, John Lewis High School graduate

"I'm going to miss most of my friends and my teachers because all my friends are going to college. I'm going to miss all the fun memories I had running around the school, doing school things. I'm planning on becoming an electrician and going into the electrical field." He plans to get an apprenticeship as well.



SEE VICTORY LAP, PAGE 9

'Remembering What it Means to Be an American'

Fairfax City's Memorial Day ceremony honors the fallen.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

At the outset of Monday's Memorial Day ceremony on the grounds of American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, the flag was raised at noon from half staff to full. And Post Commander Jeff White called it a metaphor for that day.

"It's a somber reminder of those who've lost their lives protecting our country," he said. "But we're grateful that, because of their sacrifices, we're able to be with each other to celebrate Memorial Day."

Since COVID-19 forced last year's ceremony to be drastically scaled down, U.S.

REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11) was pleased to see the community turnout for this year's event. "What a great feeling it is to be together again, as we come out of this pandemic," he said.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly addresses the crowd while American Legion Post 177 Commander Jeff White (at far right) listens.

"On Memorial Day, we remember the people who've died defending the abstract ideals of people's right to life, liberty, justice and the pursuit of happiness," continued Connolly. "We haven't always lived up to these ideals, but we try to correct that. And today, we honor all those who've sacrificed their lives to protect these values we cherish."

He stressed that the newly freed slaves who fought in the Civil War took those ideals personally, and "40,000 African-Americans not yet citizens – and without the right to vote – gave their lives. So we must rededi-



With the color guard in the background, State Sen. Chap Petersen speaks.

cate ourselves to those values. It's not that we all agree on everything, but it's about honoring those values and remembering what it means to be an American."

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) said that, when the Revolutionary War broke out in 1775, a militia was mustered at the Fairfax County courthouse. "They read a list of rights that free men should have," he said. "And that Fairfax County Bill of Resolves later became part of the Bill of Rights – the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution – and

what we think of as our most important freedoms."

"It's part of Fairfax County's legacy," said Petersen. "When that little gaggle of men marched off in 1775, they had an idea of what America meant – and on Memorial Day, we're part of that legacy."

Del. David Bulova (D-37) noted that, earlier on Monday, Fairfax City residents and officials read the names of all those from the City and county who gave their lives in the nation's wars. And looking at his son, who's 13, Bulova realized that, in five more years, he could be joining the military, too. He said his own father served in Vietnam, as did Robinson Secondary School's namesake, James W. Robinson, who was just 25 when

he died in Vietnam.

"On April 11, 1966, Robinson killed a sniper and was wounded while rescuing three men," said Bulova. "But he still was able to throw grenades and destroy the Vietcong position before he died. He knew that wouldn't change the course of the war; but he also knew that, by working together [with his fellow soldiers], the spirit of America could never be extinguished. Today we

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Fairfax Dems Clash with Supervisors

Demand firing of FCPD Chief Kevin Davis.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) called on the Board of Supervisors ("Board") on May 25 to terminate Kevin Davis's employment as Chief of the Fairfax County Police Department. In its three-point Resolution, FCDC called on the ten-member Board, nine of whom are Democrats, to reopen the search for a new chief and implement a transparent hiring process. FCDC advocated that the Board use a "racial equity decision-making framework and a community screening committee comparable to the one used in Fairfax County's 2013 police chief search."

"The mission of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, with over 1,000 members and an even larger network of volunteers is to advance and maintain the election of Democrats to public office here," said FCDC Chair Bryan Graham at a Press Conference the day after the Resolution's release.

"We have worked hard to elect the nine Democrats to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors... But it is also our responsibility as the party to promote Democratic values," Graham said.

THE BOARD appointed Davis on April 23, and he assumed the position on May 3. According to FCDC's Resolution, Davis was afforded the opportunity to address concerns about policing incidents in his career on May 6, [at the County's Community Input Session]. He did not. Instead, Davis "diverted" in his explanations.

Graham said, "In the survey conducted in hiring the new police chief, Fairfax County residents raised community trust as the most important issue. To hire a candidate with any racially-charged use of force incident in their past is not starting from a foundation on which trust can be built." The Resolution cited four incidents regarding Chief Davis's professional policing history.

Two occurred in the 1990s, one in 1993 and the other in 1999. Each ended with court judgments against Davis [Prince George's County Police Department]. The other two incidents occurred during Davis's last two years in a police position [Commissioner-Baltimore Police Department]. In 2016, Davis authorized secret drone surveillance of the people of the City of Baltimore. In 2017, Davis imposed a six-day lockdown of a neighborhood after an African American Baltimore detective was killed by a bullet from his service weapon the day before he was to testify to a federal grand jury regarding corruption in the Baltimore police force.

Graham said, "A year and a day after the murder of George Floyd, we should not need to remind our elected officials that as Democrats, we believe we need to overhaul the criminal justice system from top to bottom. Police brutality is a stain on the soul of our nation."

"Therefore, in the context of the events of the last year and this moment, the Fair-



Kelly Hebron is Chair of the Fairfax Democratic Black Caucus within FCDC.



Fairfax County Democratic Committee Chair Bryan Graham calls on the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, May 26, to terminate Chief Davis's employment.



Leaders in the Fairfax County Democratic Committee stand behind FCDC Chair Bryan Graham and call for the County Board of Supervisors to terminate the police chief's employment.

"A year and a day after the murder of George Floyd, we should not need to remind our elected officials that as Democrats, we believe we need to overhaul the criminal justice system from top to bottom. Police brutality is a stain on the soul of our nation."

— FCDC Chair Bryan Graham

fax County Democratic Committee does not trust that Chief Davis is the right person to lead our police force," said Graham.

Kelly Hebron is Chair of the Fairfax Democratic Black Caucus within FCDC. She said at the Press Conference that the caucus was driven to act and hold the elected Supervisors accountable "to ensure the reduction and prevention of racially motivated violence against its diverse residents during po-

lice encounters."

"Transparency is the first step toward fairness and trust...We can do better in Fairfax County," said Hebron.

Rev. Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Vienna, stood with Rev. Dr. Denise Wilson, President, Baptist Ministers Conference of Northern Virginia, and Rev. Dr. Augustus Henderson, Northern Virginia Baptist Association Moderator. Walton

said he was pleased to stand in solidarity with the FCDC Caucus to support its Resolution.

"I believe it providential that the committee would take such a bold, progressive vote on the anniversary of the death of George Floyd...Many of our elected officials, those of whom supported this candidate [Davis]... held signs...kneeled in solidarity...pledged their commitment to police reform," said Walton.

According to Walton, he heard County Supervisors say, "If only I had known... I've heard them say that you matter, Black and Brown constituency matters. What you haven't said publicly is he [Davis] is the wrong choice. While many of you have said it privately, you have not said it publicly... Despite all that you knew and despite all of you are aware of, you forged ahead. And now you asked a community of people who have been profiled for years to give him an opportunity."

"I asked you today, Supervisors, how costly will the mistake have to be, or you're willing to admit that this was not the best decision," said Walton.

CANDIDATE for Virginia H-34, Jennifer Adeli stood in solidarity with those assembled at the May 26 Press Conference. Afterward, she said, "I was proud to vote in favor of this Resolution...and stand with FCDC and members of the FCDC Black caucus today. Every elected leader, or candidate asking the community to trust them to lead, should have an opinion on this vital issue. We need a Chief who reflects our values and the community and starts off their tenure with a clean slate. Davis does not meet those basic requirements."

A spokesperson for the office of Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D-At Large) Fairfax County Board of Supervisors said, "We have no comment."

Instead, she attached the May 20 open letter from the nine Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors -- Jeff McKay-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Rodney Lusk-Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Lee District Supervisor; Penny Gross-Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Mason District Supervisor; James Walkinshaw-Braddock District Supervisor; John Foust-Dranesville District Supervisor; Walter Alcorn-Hunter Mill District Supervisor; Dan Storck-Mount Vernon District Supervisor; Dalia Palchik-Providence District Supervisor; and Kathy Smith-Sully District Supervisor -- sent to the members of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

The letter from the Democratic Supervisors to the members of FCDC read in part, "The police chief is hired by the Board of Supervisors, serves at our pleasure, and as such, his performance will be evaluated regularly. He is well aware of our expectation that he deliver smart and meaningful reforms that benefit all in our community... Chief Davis has already been talking and most importantly, listening, to members of our community. He has his line of communication open to any community member who wishes to speak with him."

Spartans' Class of 2021: Courage and Perseverance

By JESS KIRBY
THE CONNECTION

At 9:30 a.m. on June 1, West Springfield High School graduates emerged from backstage at Jiffy Lube Live to the tune of “Pomp and Circumstance” – a familiar song at an atypical graduation ceremony. West Springfield is the first of many Fairfax County Public Schools that will be graduating at the venue.

Each class of 2021 graduate and their six guests were allowed to go maskless if fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Senior Class President Keyvan Montazami gave the opening remarks. He spoke about the perseverance of the class of 2021 through the school's heavy construction during their freshman year and the global pandemic during their junior and senior years.

“Congratulations, class of 2021,” said Montazami. “Let’s go build our future.”

Principal Michael Mukai’s address centered around the unique hardships overcome by the graduating Spartans. He also recognized the class of 2020 that was unable to have a formal graduation ceremony.

“We were never sure, when faced with adversity, how you would answer the call,” he said. “One of the lessons I have for the class of 2021 is that you have faced that adversity. Your parents and I worry less because now I know wherever you go, wherever life takes you, you have the strength, you have the courage and you have the resilience that, when faced with adversity, you won’t so easily surrender the things that are close to you.”

Mukai also drew on the symbolism of cicadas’ brief moments in the sun. “In 17 years, the next time the cicadas come, think about this moment, and think about where you are.”

Senior Class Administrator Betsy Fawcett shared her gratitude and pride for the graduating students.



PHOTO BY JESS KIRBY/THE CONNECTION

After two unique school years filled with challenges, the class of 2021 became graduates of West Springfield High School.

“Always remember to take a little bit of orange and blue with you wherever you go,” she said. “Dream big, work hard and be proud.”

Senior Class Officer Andrew Poe was selected to speak on behalf of all the honor graduates.

“Fall down seven times, get up eight,” he said, quoting a Japanese proverb. “When you leave this place today, I’d ask you to sing loud, play hard, write fast, change the world for the better, whatever you do, do it to your fullest. And when you fail, get back up and sing even louder, play even harder, write even faster, change the world even more for the better, because that’s all you can ever ask of yourself. Get up the eighth time.”

Mathematics teacher and coach Duke Baird gave the keynote address, speaking about how each student has their own unique gift and can use it to make positive change in the world.

“Our society, maybe more than ever before, needs you to find your gift and to use it to the best of your ability to make our world a better place,” he said. “As daunting as this world can be at some times, do not think for one second that one person can’t positively affect it.”

After two unique school years filled with challenges, the class of 2021 turned their tassels and became graduates of West Springfield High School.

Victory Lap at Lewis High

FROM PAGE 6

do,” she said. “Never let anyone remind you of what you lost, or what you missed out on or what you had taken from you because of a world-changing event that none of us had any control over. You are not a victim of the pandemic, you are a victor in spite of it.”

Harrison spoke about all the times she saw the class of 2021 stand up for each other and those in need.

“You saw something. You did something. You got into good trouble – necessary trouble,” she said. “Class of 2021, you are simply the best. You are young adults who fight for causes greater than self, seek out opportunities to expand your thinking and work to ensure that people have a voice. And at John R. Lewis High School, all means all.”

Social and cultural anthropology and law teacher Steven Hirsch was selected as the faculty speaker.

“As graduates, it’s now your job to take up the challenges, to build bridges, to keep up the fight for respect of others, yourself and your culture,” he said. “As graduates, you have control of your future, and you are the author of your story. You control your destiny.”

After all students received their diplomas and turned their tassels, they took a victory lap around the football field and became the first official graduates of John R. Lewis High School.

VIEWPOINTS

What will you miss about high school, and what are your plans for the future?

— JESS KIRBY

Mignimah Dibi, Springfield, West Springfield High School graduate

Mignimah will be attending Marymount University and hopes to study biology.

“I will not miss anything about high school! I’m just kidding, probably my friends and some of my teachers. I’m taking six months off of school to travel, road trip through the United States with a couple girlfriends. I am hoping to be a doctor or physical therapist’s assistant.”



Tysean Haigood, Springfield, West Springfield High School graduate

Tysean will be attending Morgan State University to major in business management marketing. He will miss “just being young and enjoying it.” His plans are “to be a personal trainer and get my master’s in business.”



Arvid Rutledge, Springfield, West Springfield High School graduate

Arvid will be attending Radford University to major in biology. He will miss “all of my friends with everyone splitting up going to college. I’m going into college and after I finish four years I’ll go into the military as well.”



Lindsey Gentil, Springfield, West Springfield High School graduate

Lindsey will be attending West Virginia University to major in graphic design.

“I think I’ll miss a lot of my friends. We’re not going to the same places so I’m definitely going to miss them.” In the future she sees herself “working to make logos for sports teams and things like that.”

“Just remember this – you taught me this lesson – that things like hope and dreams are not confined to any location. They’re held here, and they’re held here,” Mukai said, pointing to his head and his heart.



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NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION

Pursuant to the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Regulations, Virginia Administrative Code section 9VAC20-160-120, Bristow Shopping Center Limited Partnership, LLP (Participant) with an address of 5900 Fort Drive, Suite 405, Centreville, VA 20121, hereby provides notice of voluntary remediation at the following site (Site):

Heritage Shopping Center
7857 Heritage Drive
Annandale, VA 22003
VRP Number VRP00615

The Site is approximately 6.58 acres and is used as a shopping center. Sampling on the Site detected the presence of volatile-organic compounds from a past dry-cleaning solvent release in soil, ground water and soil gas on the Site, and in ground water and soil gas offsite. The Participant applied to and was deemed eligible to participate in the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) in order to assess and address any environmental risks associated with the detected dry-cleaning solvent constituents. Petroleum related constituents were also detected and are being addressed separately in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Petroleum Program. A site characterization report, risk assessment and remedial action plan have been reviewed and accepted as complete by DEQ. The risk assessment includes an assessment of the risks to human health and the environment that were evaluated in accordance with DEQ guidelines. The risk evaluation found that the following restrictions placed on the future use of the Site pursuant to the VRP will be protective of human health and the environment: (1) groundwater beneath the Site will not be used for any purpose other than environmental monitoring and testing, dewatering in compliance with law or geothermal energy production; and (2) the existing sub-slab depressurization at the Site will be operated and maintained in accordance with an operation and maintenance plan. No open risk exposure pathways were identified offsite. A Certification of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation will be requested from the VDEQ VRP for VRP Site 00615 after the close of the public notice period.

Persons wishing to comment on the voluntary remedial action or request additional information should contact the following person who is familiar with the Site:

Jason Beck
ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC
14026 Thunderbolt Place, Suite 100
Chantilly, VA 20151-3232
703-471-8400 (for inquiries only)
jbeck@ecslimited.com

Written comments will be accepted until 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.
ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS NOTICE MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING.

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**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

Fairfax City Honors the Fallen

FROM PAGE 7

honor the lives of those that were cut short, the families they never returned to and the democracy they fought and died for.”

FAIRFAX CITY MAYOR David Meyer said the City lost four soldiers during WWII – two of them during the Allied forces’ landing in Normandy, France on June 6, 1944. Then in 2017, he traveled there with the City of Fairfax Band, which was invited to perform for the 73rd anniversary of that landing on Omaha Beach.

“Before I left for that trip, someone told me his great uncle, George Sutphin, grew up in Fairfax and was buried in Normandy, but no one had visited his grave,” said Meyer. So he took some soil from the yard where Sutphin was raised and brought it with him to France.

“In the cemetery there, we said a prayer and I spoke about him, and then I sprinkled the dirt on his grave,” said Meyer. “I said, ‘He never came home, so we brought a little bit of home to him.’ Later on, I learned that someone videotaped that, and his brother, 97, was able to watch the video in his nursing home.

“Those abstract ideals of freedom and liberty became real on that beach,” continued Meyer. “So we take this day to remember those who’ve died for our country and thank the American Legion for advocating for the veterans still among us.”

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Mayor David Meyer



Councilman Sang Yi

Fairfax City Councilman Sang Yi, a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, called Memorial Day “a solemn day – a day for heroes. And he noted that, earlier that day, he and his wife and children visited the grave of his friend, Frankie Toner, at Arlington National Cemetery.

Yi and Toner attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy together. And while Toner’s headstone lists all the medals he earned – including the Silver Star, awarded posthumously after he died saving others in Afghanistan – Yi said it doesn’t reflect his “infectious smile and the warmest heart you’ve ever seen.”

“What’s so important about this day is that, although we may not know each other’s pain, we share it,” continued Yi. “And the memories of those who gave their all will live on forever in our hearts and in all the stories we tell about them.”

Man Dies after Crash In Lorton

A man died Monday afternoon, May 31, following a crash that occurred at 2:45 p.m. at the intersection of Palmer Drive and Ox Road. Detectives from Crash Reconstruction Unit have preliminarily determined that Paul Kalland, 65, of Fairfax Station, the driver of a 1981 Datsun 280z, was traveling north on Ox Road through the intersection at Palmer Drive. The driver of a 2012 Ford Escape was traveling south on Ox Road turned left into the shopping center at Palmer Drive colliding with Kalland’s car. Kalland was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the 2012 Ford Escape remained on scene and was taken to the hospital with injuries that were not life threatening. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol do not appear to be fac-

tors in the crash. The investigation remains active and details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney for review.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. 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 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 PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Kamp Washington Small Area Plan Meeting

Fairfax City’s Kamp Washington area is in its western end, around the intersections of Fairfax Boulevard, Lee Highway and Jermentown Road. And on Wednesday, June 9, at 7 p.m., the City will hold its first public meeting for the Kamp Washington Small Area Plan. Residents may share their ideas about the future of this activity center and learn how to stay involved as the plan develops.

This meeting will be held via GoToWebinar; register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1049631597871124238>.

It’ll also be broadcast simultaneously on Cityscreen-12.

During the meeting, attendees may participate either through the “Q&A” portal of GoToWebinar or by calling 571-282-3524.

Small Area Plans are neighborhood-level plans intended to guide City leaders in creating the desired mix of uses, residential density, building density, design aesthetic, street locations, multimodal connections, infrastructure improvements, parking and open space. For more details on this one, go to <https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/kamp-washington-small-area-plan>.

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Nearly Nicked



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, I made the mistake of clicking on an email from an unfamiliar sender. It said “Membership Renewed,” as in money had been spent by yours truly. But I hadn’t spent any money renewing a membership that I knew of, and there is, I imagine, the axis on which some phishing scams are turning: By peeking your instinct to know where and what one’s money is doing. Maybe I forgot something? Maybe my wife, Dina, paid for something and forgot to mention it? Maybe, maybe, maybe - so I clicked. The email looked as if it had been sent by “Geek Squad” with whom I have a service contract so I called to inquire further about this ‘paid membership.’

The conversation began innocently enough. They confirmed my membership and seemed to have my pertinent data as well so I continued. When I couldn’t recall this money being spent - and they couldn’t tell me the last four numbers of the account which had been debited, I grew cautious, as I had been down this road once before. Nevertheless, I persisted. Since I had “Geeks” (or whomever, unbeknownst to me) on the phone, I figured I’d ask if they could fix a computer problem (no volume) and asked if the repair was covered by my service contract. They assured me that it was. And so, I gave them access to my computer so they could address the problem remotely. After computer fits and starts, and curious delays, they confessed that they were unable to fix the problem. So, and here it is, the hook: since they were unable to fix my computer, they wanted to refund me the ‘membership’ fee. That was excruciatingly familiar so I knew it was time to exit stage right.

What had happened to me previously is that I didn’t get out soon enough. I didn’t know then what I know now so I agreed to the refund and gave them the last four of my account, and sure enough they electronically deposited the money into my checking account (or so it appeared. I later learned that no actual money had ever been transferred). However, they made a mistake, they said. They deposited \$3,000 instead of \$300. They apologized profusely at their mistake and requested that I pay them back \$3,000, which I thought was odd; why not just withdraw the money the same way they deposited it? They said they couldn’t and I needed to pay them back. When I refused to follow their directions on how to pay them back (again, since they couldn’t withdraw the money/stop payment, whatever), by getting cash and then going to a Western Union office and sending it back that way, I knew I was hooked. Then they threatened to disable my computer unless I paid them back exactly as I had been instructed. Then they erased all the icons on my desktop as a last attempt to coerce me to pay up. At this point, it had been nearly two hours since I made first contact, and I could see/feel where the conversation was going, so I risked it and hung up. Sure enough, my computer was wiped clean and locked. I couldn’t access anything. The next day, I called Best Buy and explained the problem and how it had happened. They suggested I bring in my computer tower for an analysis. Within a day, they had identified the problem and offered a solution. They could unlock my computer, no problem, but the computer would have to be reset to the way it was when I first bought it. It wasn’t a total disaster as most data was retrievable. As “The Three Stooges” would have said: “It wasn’t a total loss.”

This recent caller was once again leading me down the garden path. A path which would have ended at a rabbit hole into which me and money would have disappeared. The caller tried desperately to keep me on the line. I said I was at work and had to go. I told him I didn’t expect the call to last so long and I promised to call him back. He had access to my computer - remotely, so I was afraid he could cause similar computer trouble as had happened before under eerily similar circumstances. He confirmed - so he thought, that I had his phone number and so I hung up, cautiously optimistic that I hadn’t earned his wrath. I never called him back but for the next four hours, he called me back several times, a number from Los Angeles. I never answered, obviously. If I had I might not be pleased with myself.

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

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\$39.95

\$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE
INCLUDES: CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.), INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT & ADJUST ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 06/30/21.

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$89.95

4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT
INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT, INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS, STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.

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BRAKE PAD SPECIAL

\$99.95

BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT
INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TMC PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

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SPECIAL
MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!

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\$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99
\$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199
\$20 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499
\$50 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+

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