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Fairfax Woman Chosen to Paint Cherry Blossom Sculpture

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Woojung Lee screamed. “I called everyone I knew in Korea and in Fairfax,” where she lives, when she found out she was chosen among 139 artists to paint a giant cherry blossom sculpture as part of this year’s Cherry Blossom Festival. Her sculpture is located at Long Bridge Park at National Landing in Arlington.

She said, “I knew the dimensions but when I actually saw the sculpture it was a challenge. It was bigger than I thought. I’m 5 foot 1 inch, and the sculpture is as high as I am.”

Lee found out about the Cherry Blossom Art in Bloom competition on a bulletin board where her professor had posted the opportunity. But she found out about the competition on the last day and had four hours to explain her idea and submit a design. “I thought I’d give it a shot.”

LEE’S IDEA to paint a sunrise originated from her experience last year with the pandemic. “I had to stay home. I was depressed and frustrated.” Then one day she noticed some light and “I started to notice more. I realized the sun would rise no matter what happens. So are our hopes.” So she decided to paint a sunrise on her cherry blossom

sculpture. She says it took her one week to complete the project.

She says the painting was not without its challenges. “We used exterior paint, and I had never experienced it before. It dried so fast that trying to make the graduations of the sunrise with all of the colors was difficult. I was panicking.” She said that color-wise she isn’t 100 percent satisfied. “I wanted more colors; there aren’t a lot to choose from with exterior paint. I had to mix them to get my color choice.”

Lee arrived in America four years ago to explore a new world. “I’d never been to America. I came to learn a new language and culture.” Lee was planning to go back in a year.

But the longer she lives here the more she realizes she wants to stay in America. “The cultures are so different.” She explains the instruction methods are one of the things where she finds a big contrast. “In Korea there are so many restrictions that you can’t be creative. There is a way they want you to do it.” But she says in America it is more open and you can create whatever you want.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Woojung Lee, Fairfax resident and winner of Art in Bloom sculpture contest.

There are other differences such as a lot more freedom for women in America. In Korea women who get married are expected to have a baby and devote themselves to their family. She says it is not possible to also have a career. And as an aside she adds they don’t snack in Korea. “When I moved to America, I gained 20 pounds.”

Lee has finished her graphics design at NOVA and plans to go to New York City in July for 2-1/2 years to finish her course of study. Her goal in five years is to have a job

“You have to see it. The sun shines right on it. It is in a perfect location. It is gorgeous.”

— Diana Mayhew, President and CEO of the Cherry Blossom Festival

as a graphic designer in New York City.

She explains that she thought when she came to America that everyone had an opportunity for a good education. But she saw a lot of documentaries, including one about Baltimore, where she discovered that all children, especially in Black communities, don’t have access. “I would like to teach art to children who don’t have access to a proper education.”

Diana Mayhew, President and CEO of the Cherry Blossom Festival, said this was the first year for the Art in Bloom competition at the Cherry Blossom Festival. It attracted 139 applicants who were paired back to the 26 chosen to paint a cherry blossom sculpture.

LEE’S SCULPTURE was chosen by Amazon, who funded this initiative, as the one to be located near their office. Mayhew said, “You have to see it. The sun shines right on it. It is in a perfect location. It is gorgeous.”

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Democrats Choose Northern Virginia Ticket

Primary voters select candidates with gender and racial diversity but lacking in regional balance.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

As election returns started rolling in from the Democratic primary Tuesday, Republicans started boasting about having the most diverse statewide ticket in Virginia history. Although Democrats nominated a candidate for lieutenant governor who describes herself as an “Afro Latina, Lebanese, Irish woman,” Republicans can boast they have a ticket that has candidates from Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, two parts of the state where voters will determine the winner of the next election.

“That would work if Republicans were not selling white supremacy and white nationalism,” said David Ramadan, a former Republican delegate who’s now at George Mason University’s Schar School. “Minorities are not going to vote for Republicans because of what they saw in the last 10 years.”

At the top of the ticket is former Gov. Terry McAuliffe of McLean, who’s trying to accomplish something that’s been done only once — return for a second term. Virginia is the only state in the country that prohibits its governor from running for reelection. The only other governor to be elected to a second non-consecutive term was Mills Godwin, who had one term as a Democrat in the 1960s and one term as a Republican in the 1970s.

McAuliffe is essentially running on a platform of extending the administration he handed off to Ralph Northam four years ago, although this time he would not be facing a hostile Republican-controlled General Assembly.

“Throughout his time as governor, Terry implemented bold initiatives to create good-paying jobs and expand economic opportunity across the commonwealth,” said New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, chairwoman of the Democratic Governors Association. “Now, as Virginia rebuilds following the pandemic, Terry will work as governor to create an economy that works for all Virginians and uplift those who have been hit the hardest.”

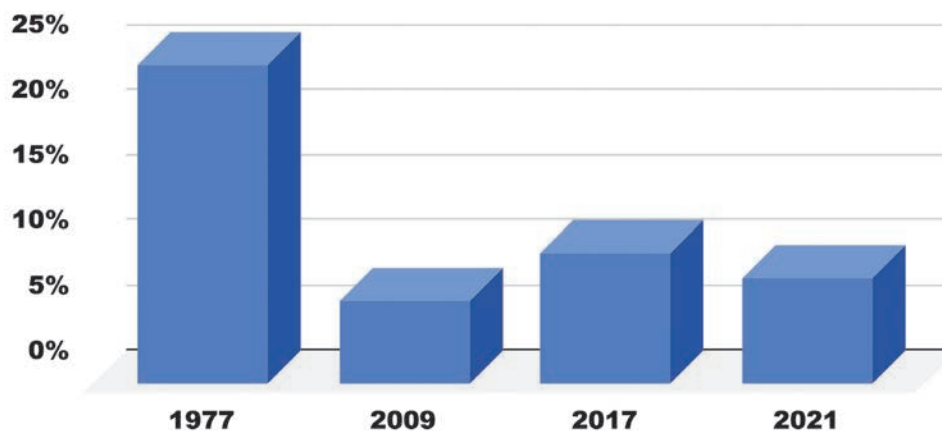
McAuliffe is a wealthy Northern Virginia businessman who will be facing another wealthy Northern Virginia businessman, Glenn Youngkin, who has already pumped \$12 million into his own campaign. McAuliffe supporters say his campaign will be about protecting access to health care, reducing gun violence, ensuring economic recovery and addressing climate change. After the former governor secured the nomination



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Democrats celebrate former Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s victory Tuesday night in McLean.

Turnout in Democratic Primaries



source: Virginia Department of Elections

Turnout in this year’s Democratic primary was higher than 2009, when Republican Bob McDonnell became governor. But it was lower than 2017, when Democrat Ralph Northam was elected governor.

Tuesday night, Youngkin called McAuliffe a “career politician who pretends to be a businessman.”

“Taking their enthusiasm for recycling to a new extreme, Democrats are offering Virginians two-thirds of their 2013 ticket, hoping voters will see it as new and improved,” said Senate Republican Leader Tommy Norment. “Virginians are a lot smarter than the Democrats think.”

DEMOCRATS HEAD INTO the fall election season with a ticket that features two seasoned statewide politicians and a newcomer who rose to power in the wave election of 2017. Ayala unseated former Del. Rich Anderson (R-51), who is now the chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. Late in the campaign, Ayala broke her pledge to resist taking campaign cash from Dominion Energy and received \$100,000 from the utility monopoly that many Democrats say exerts too much control over Virginia politics.

“Hala Ayala made news in the last days of her campaign for being a liar,” said House Republican Leader Todd Gilbert. “Democrats continue to be saddled with internal fighting

over who should bankroll their campaigns.”

If elected, Ayala would be the first woman elected lieutenant governor and the first woman of color elected stateside in Virginia history. On the campaign trail, she often talks about her hardscrabble journey from working at a gas station for minimum wage while pregnant to developing a career in cybersecurity. She won with 38 percent of the vote in a crowded field that included the most diverse set of candidates ever assembled on a statewide ballot.

“Hala Ayala is closer to shattering one of the highest glass ceilings in Virginia elected office, which would be a triumph for the entire Latino community,” said Nathalie Rayes, president and CEO of the Latino Victory Fund. “As the state grapples with the disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Hala will work to root out these inequities by focusing on priority issues such as expanding access to affordable health care and creating an economy that works for all Virginians.”

ATTORNEY GENERAL Mark Herring was able to beat back a challenge from Del. Jay

PRIMARY FOR GOVERNOR

- ❖ Terry McAuliffe: 302,000 votes, 62 percent
- ❖ Jennifer Carroll Foy: 96,000 votes, 20 percent
- ❖ Jennifer McClellan: 56,000 votes, 12 percent
- ❖ Justin Fairfax: 17,000 votes, 4 percent
- ❖ Lee Carter: 13,000 votes, 3 percent

PRIMARY FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

- ❖ Hala Ayala: 176,000 votes, 38 percent
- ❖ Sam Rasoul: 114,000 votes, 24 percent
- ❖ Mark Levine: 53,000 votes, 11 percent
- ❖ Jennifer McClellan: 50,000 votes, 11 percent
- ❖ Sean Perryman: 38,000 votes, 8 percent
- ❖ Xavier Warren: 20,000 votes, 4 percent
- ❖ Elizabeth Guzman: 20,000 votes, 4 percent

PRIMARY FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

- ❖ Mark Herring: 268,000 votes, 57 percent
- ❖ Jay Jones: 206,000 votes, 43 percent

Jones (D-89), who is seen as a rising star in the party. Republicans have already signaled that they’ll be going after Herring for appearing in blackface when he was in college, although that issue didn’t seem to resonate with Democratic voters when Jones tried to use it as a wedge issue in the closing days of the primary campaign. Herring will be running against Del. Jason Miyares (R-82), a law-and-order conservative who says he’ll make sure the streets are safe and criminals are locked up.

“As violent crime rises, Virginia families need an attorney general who will stand up for crime victims and prioritize public safety,” said Peter Bisbee, executive director of the Republican Attorneys General Association. “Herring has been criticized for trying to cover up the illegal release of violent prisoners and failed to hold rapists and rioters accountable when local prosecutors wouldn’t do their job. Worst of all, Herring supported ending the notifications crime victims receive when their predator is released from prison.”

During his time as attorney general, Herring 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 fought against the former president’s Muslim ban, and he opposed Republican gerrymandering in the United States Supreme Court. If elected a third term as attorney general, Herring says he’ll protect against Republican efforts to oppose access to healthcare, marriage equality and immigrant rights.

“The voters recognized Attorney General Mark Herring for his leadership over the last eight years as he has tackled hard issues — defending the Affordable Care Act, guaranteeing the right for all couples to marry, reforming criminal justice laws, ending police violence and fighting the NRA in their backyard,” said Sean Rankin, executive director of the Democratic Attorneys General Association. “DAGA is proud to support Attorney General Herring as he continues the work in Virginia on racial equity and civil rights, reproductive rights and guaranteeing economic justice for all Virginians as communities return to a more normal life after the pandemic.”

Local Man Is Honored for WWII Submarine Service

The Virginian, a senior-living community in Fairfax, recently hosted the U.S. Submarine Veterans Assn., Northern Virginia Base, as it honored Virginian resident Alvin “Al” Anceravage, 99, on the 75th anniversary of his submarine service in WWII. On May 20, he was presented with an award and gifts for his achievement. And thanks to vaccinations, his family members were able to join him for the outdoor celebration.

Born on Oct. 7, 1921, Anceravage enlisted in the Navy in 1942. He qualified in submarines in 1944 aboard the USS Narwhal, 77 years ago. Most of his war patrols on that ship dealt with the resupply of men, supplies, and parts in support of personnel on various islands in the Philippines. At the time, Narwhal was the lead ship of nine of the Navy’s largest submarines. Anceravage was on active duty, serving on several ships until 1948, when he transferred to the Naval Reserves. In 1954, he left the Naval Service for good.

— BONNIE HOBBS



PHOTO COURTESY OF VALERIE SILVERMAN KERR

Al Anceravage, 99, receives the John P Holland Club Award recognizing submariners who’ve spent at least 50 years qualified in submarines. (From left) are Chuck Martin, base commander; Anceravage; Andrew Carle, The Virginian executive director; Mike Varone, chief of the boat; and Howard Chatham, past base commander.

Workhouse Arts Center Names New President and CEO

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton moved forward in the main office by hiring Leon Scioscia as its new President and Chief Executive Officer, bringing years of art center experience to the Workhouse. Scioscia is an Alexandria resident with years of experience at the Strathmore Hall Foundation in Bethesda, where he honed his arts management and operations skills that will be needed at the Workhouse.

Although his first official day at the Workhouse is Monday, July 12, he started working with the center in June on a “listening tour,” with the Workhouse staff and board members “invigorating all of the Workhouse’s programs to such an extent that our cultural activity will entice more and more of our public to spend more and more time on campus,” he said.

Scioscia has a strong history of bringing the arts to the public. He has worked in theatrical venues in New York City, Washington, DC, and Phoenix, Arizona, and his career has also included work in the cultural, governmental, library, and non-profit sectors. Most recently he was the Executive Vice President of Operations at the Strathmore Hall Foundation, Inc., a multi-disciplinary arts center of a similar nature in Maryland.

Scioscia has a master’s degree in Dramatic Arts from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and a bachelor’s degree in English and Theatre from the University of Tennessee, Martin, Tenn. He has specialized training from the Racial Equity Institute, Leadership Montgomery, North Bethesda, and as a Contracting Officer’s Techni-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Leon Scioscia

cal Representative that communications liaison between the government and a private contractor, which is good for the Workhouse. Scioscia has a license from George Washington University School of Law, Washington, DC, as well as management training with the Executive Education Program at the Harvard Business School, and with the Leadership Maryland program. Additionally, he served as the Chair of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and has participated in various National Endowment for the Arts panels.

While at the Strathmore, Scioscia managed the day-to-day operations of the 1,976 seat Music Center, the 250 seat AMP Jazz Club, the Mansion at Strathmore which includes the Shapiro Music Room, educational programs, visual arts/exhibitions spaces, and the Shops at Strathmore. His duties also included the supervision of a 16-acre campus which contains a sculpture garden, a gazebo stage, and a backyard theatre. He also served as the primary liaison with Montgomery County for the \$10 million expansion of the Center and a \$4 million renovation of the historic Mansion. This artistic environment is similar to the activities at the



From Ox Road, the Workhouse Arts Center attracts the artist and tourist in southern Fairfax County.

PHOTO BY
MIKE SALMON/
CONNECTION

Workhouse, so the familiarity is there.

Scioscia said he plans to build on the Workhouse Foundation, working with the stakeholders, and the Fairfax County Government to further the arts and exposure of the Workhouse. “I truly want to make the Workhouse Arts Center, with the support of all of my partners, a Fairfax County jewel,” he said.

Kevin C. Greenlief, Chairman of the Board of Directors, said: “The Workhouse is honored to have Leon join us. He is a proven leader with a vast wealth of knowledge and experience in the art world. Having thrived throughout the pandemic thanks to ardent supporters, a solid board of directors, and a creative staff, the Workhouse is now poised for a bright future with Leon at the helm.”

Scioscia is stepping in to take the place of Ava Spece, the former President and CEO for the Workhouse Arts Foundation for nearly 5 years, who resigned in March of 2020 to pursue other opportunities.

The nation-wide search was led by DRI Consulting, Inc.

Food trucks, sunshine and shiny cars highlighted the Taste of Springfield.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



There's never a sad face when it comes to balloon animals.

Food Trucks Supplied Variety at the Taste of Springfield

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

“local businesses as well,” said Crofford, who has been at the town center since the fall, but with the pandemic, things have been different then in year’s past. Temperatures on Saturday got up near 90 degrees, but that didn’t stop the festival. Local vendors include Two Smooth Dudes Food Truck, Uncle Fred’s BBQ, Sit Means Sit Dog Training and others.

It was the first event of the year at the town center, but they had the carnival last week, and are planning a black businesses festival towards the end of summer so they’re hoping to get back to the way things used to be at the town center.

With the pandemic and the on-the-go lifestyle that seems to dominate this area lately, food trucks supplied the treats at the Taste of Springfield Festival on Saturday, June 5.

“People like the variety of food trucks,” said Kirsten Crofford, Marketing Director at Springfield Town Center.

In addition to the trucks, there was between 30-40 cars at the car show, clowns, balloons, two bands and



The street rods prevailed in the lot at the festival.

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Graduating Fairfax High seniors file into the football stadium for the ceremony.



Flanking their new graduate, Flavius, are parents Anatole and Liliana Casenco.

'We Made Memories that We Will Cherish Forever'

Class of 2021 graduates from Fairfax High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Because of the pandemic, the music was recorded, and the ceremony was held on the football field instead of inside the field house. But Fairfax High's graduation, last Tuesday, June 1, was just as heartfelt and meaningful as ever.

More than 500 students received their diplomas and, of that number, 126 were honor grads who earned a 4.0 or higher GPA. And at the outset, Principal Erin Lenart recognized them, as well as the grads who'll be going into a military academy or directly into a branch of the armed forces.

As it turned out, it was also her "graduation" from the school, because she's leaving, too. As of July 1, she'll become the principal of a high school in Lake Forest, Ill. But last week's ceremony was all about the Fairfax High Class of 2021.

Lenart began her remarks to the students with the words, "OK, seriously" – which she acknowledged was an unusual way to start a speech. But it was actually fitting, she said, because within those words can be found strength, humanity and humility.

"You don't always have to be perfect," she explained. "You can just choose to be OK at a lot of things, as long as you're always continuing to grow – and find and live your passion and purpose. Just find the strength to get over the obstacles and do it."

LENART said the word, "seriously," means the grads have the ability to rise about whatever challenges they may face. "You know your value," she told them. "And may the hard lessons you learned about yourself to get you to today serve as a reminder that you are enough."

She then said the following advice is her "final lesson" to teach them, but "life will assign the grade" they receive. "Choose love always – plus compassion, empathy



Honor Grad Grace Lane

and fairness," said Lenart. "When you see unfairness, find the courage to offer a smile in a sea of tears. There's a story needing to be heard and valued; listen to it and choose humanity."

"How proud our staff and community are of all of you," she continued. "Class of 2021, you get applause and a standing ovation – [which the attendees gave them]. We all love you and know the best is yet to come. Good luck and congratulations."

Senior Class President Alex Robinson then presented the class gift to the school – three podiums, plus the painting of new pawprints (for the Lion mascot), this summer, on the road leading to Fairfax High. Next, 2021 Honor Grad Grace Lane addressed her classmates.

"Real life is filled with problems, and 2020 and '21 were filled with copious challenges – especially COVID-19," she said. "It taught us we couldn't take anything for granted, but needed to enjoy the [special] moments, whenever they came – like fall sports in spring and prom in the hallways."

And, said Lane, "It's these moments we need to hold onto. There was so much more joy at football games and in classrooms for those who were able to go back in person. We enjoyed what we got to do together, and



Principal Erin Lenart applauds the school's 126 honor graduates.

we made memories that we will cherish forever. We learned this year that we're all Fairfax, we're all family and we're all in this together."

FAIRFAX MAYOR David Meyer then presented four, special awards to deserving students. "We in the city of Fairfax have watched you grow into adulthood, and we're invested in your lives," he told the grads. "And as you leave this place, we hope it will never leave you."

❖ Receiving the Most Outstanding Senior award was Jason Dwyer. Describing him as a "top student-athlete" and an "excellent role model," Meyer said Dwyer served both his school and community, was on the student leadership council and was captain of the JV and varsity baseball teams.

❖ Grace Lane was given the Service Award. "She brought infectious enthusiasm to her classes," said Meyer. "She's empathetic and hardworking and was a leader in Fairfax High's Theater Department. And as president of the Fairfax Players, she made everyone in the Theater Department feel valued and like part of a family."

❖ The Faculty Award was presented to Aashray Manchanda. "He's a born leader, an innovator and an entrepreneur," said Meyer. "He revised the Robotics program and team, started a nonprofit and taught an online, after-school, robotics program to 75,000 youth."

He also crowd-sourced funding for over 20,000 PPE for healthcare and other essential workers throughout the country. He was the National Honor Society president and an officer of the Indian Student Assn. And in the fall, he'll be attending the University of California at Berkeley."

❖ Raina Larkin received the Fairfax Award. "She's a great example of what a Fairfax Lion should be – not afraid to use her voice, take risks and speak up for her peers," said Meyer. "She has positivity and grit, served three years in the leadership class and, this year, was SGA president. Also known for her kindness and compassion, she plans to become a nurse."

Then, after the presentation of diplomas, members of the Class of 2021 walked into the sunshine to begin the next chapter of their lives.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Before meadow restoration, Laurel Hill Park's field was overgrown with Blackberry shrubs and other invasive plants and trees.



The same field after mechanical removal of shrubs, non-native trees cut, high grasses mowed; followed by a controlled burn.

Park Meadowland Restoration Underway

Return to natural habitat is a multi-year process.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

The Natural Resources Branch of Fairfax County Park Authority, began reseeded in May as the next step in restoring an area of Lorton's Laurel Hill Park to a natural meadow. Seeding with a mix of wildflowers and warm season grasses, follows the controlled burn performed in the field area in early April. Both actions are part of a multi-year restoration project that will eliminate many nonnative, invasive plants and return the portion of the park known to locals as the "Dead Cow Field" to a natural native plant meadow to benefit wildlife.

Restoring the meadow will allow "a base of native herbaceous plants and warm season grasses to return," explained Natural Resources Branch Manager, John Burke. "Invasive trees and plants were prominent here and [they] smothered out other species more suitable to wildlife." Non-native trees, mostly Callery pear and Autumn olives, along with Blackberry and Rosa multiflora shrubs were taken down earlier by bush-hog mechanization; native tree specimens in the restoration area were marked for saving.

Burke further explained, "Not all native plant seeds germinate in a single year, but are viable in the soil, what is termed the 'seed bank.' Fire actually helps

to release seeds and stimulates seed germination and plant re-growth. Warm season grasses began sprouting within two weeks of the April prescribed fire. Soil nutrient levels and organic matter increase after a fire. The fire's heat has been found to make some nutrients more readily available; a benefit to plants. Taken together these changes provide better growing conditions for plants, also ultimately benefiting animals, birds, and insects."

Although hearing of fire in nature areas might bring to mind destructive wildfires, such as those in the news in the West, prescribed fires are actually a way of imitating nature's way of encouraging growth. Nature typically provides a cycle of growth and periodic fires, ignited by lightning, that has gone on for ages. Fires clear dead leaves and trees, and competing invasive plants, so new plant growth can occur and give native plants an opportunity to get a foothold.

According to historians, when Europeans arrived here, native peoples, such as the Powhatans, living in areas now part of Virginia, were using fire to clear underbrush and create grassland habitat to support crops and game birds as food sources. As human development took over more area, fires were suppressed, allowing invasive non-native plants to out-compete native plants. Scientific study tells us that this has resulted in a reduction of diversity... a condition recognized as detrimental to the environment and our planet, and even, ultimately, to human survival. The on-going Natural Resources Branch project will ultimately provide a better home to native birds, animals, and insects.



Restoration of healthy meadow ecology, like this one at Franconia Park, Springfield, with abundant native grasses and wildflowers, the expected result after prescribed burns and reseeded



Ecologist Owen Thomas hand seeds the meadow area.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. BROCK RUTTER

(From left) Fairfax City Police Dispatcher Cynthia Tetterton and Lt. Michael Bartholme display their awards.

Fairfax City Police Members Are Honored

Fairfax City Police Lt. Michael Bartholme and Dispatcher Cynthia Tetterton were recently honored with the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Silver Patrick Henry Medal. This award is presented by the local MOWW chapter to members who deserve special recognition and excel in the areas of law enforcement, firefighting and criminal justice.

"These two individuals exemplify teamwork and dedication to the City of Fairfax and beyond," said Police Chief Erin Schaible. "We congratulate them, as well as all of our officers who work so hard every single day. This past year has been an interesting one, but their excellent police services are appreciated by the rest of the department and the community."

Bartholme has been with the City's police department for 16 years. "He has been a huge asset in the world of COVID-19 by giving our department the information, knowledge and

resources it needed to combat the virus," said police spokesman, Sgt. Brock Rutter. "He plays a key role in making staffing decisions based on quarantines, testing and vaccinations. During this time, he has also taken over the captain duties involved with the Administrative Services Division."

As for Tetterton, an eight-year member of the department, Rutter said she received her award because of "her dedication to the City of Fairfax and its dispatching program. She handles the dispatch scheduling and is willing to work both days and nights to cover shifts whenever one needs to be covered. Tetterton is also part of the Peer Support and Community Outreach (P.O.L.I.C.E.) teams." And besides her full-time dispatching duties, Tetterton serves her own, local community by being a firefighter/EMT for the Little Fork and East Rivanna Volunteer Fire Departments.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Detectives Investigate Fatal Crash in Driveway of Fairfax Home

A 2-year-old boy died after being struck by a vehicle in the driveway of his home. Officers responded Monday, June 7, at 6:43 p.m. to a home in the 10900 block of Roma Street and located the boy suffering from serious injuries, he was pronounced deceased by rescue personnel. Detectives determined the boy's father, Byrol Jose Zapata Lopez, 30, of Fairfax, was backing his 2005 Ford F350 out of the driveway when he discovered his son was struck by the truck.

Detectives from Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate the circumstances that led to the crash, but do not suspect foul play. Alcohol was not a factor.

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



PHOTO BY DIEGO VALDEZ

This space for a McLean home, created by architect Rolando Valdez of Bethesda firm GMT Architects, boasts a floor to ceiling fireplace.



PHOTO BY JACKIE ROBBINS

Throw pillows in vibrant shades of blue add a burst of color to this front porch designed by Maria Fanjul of Cabin John, Md. firm Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

Style for the Great Outdoors

Designers see uptick requests for porches and other outdoor spaces.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Alonging to spend more time outside after a year-and-a-half spent inside is driving a trend in home design, including an uptick in requests for projects like screened porches and patios.

"This past year, homeowners were interested in creating gathering spaces that offered opportunities to be outside, said designer Susan Matus. "I think that we will continue to see the interest in screen porches grow as many spent more time outdoors during the pandemic."

When owners of Cabin John, Maryland residence decided to update their front porch, they tasked designer Maria Fanjul of Cabin John, Md. firm Anthony Wilder Design/Build with the job.

"Because it was an older home, we had to stay within the existing porch's footprint," she said. "In order to draw the eye up, we centered the porch's stairs to align with the front door, raised the porch's roof to allow more natural light into the space and the home, and curved the wood along the gable of the porch's roof."

The space's crisp white columns contrast with the home's deep blue tone, outfitted with neutral furniture. Throw pillows and a rug in bold shades of indigo and yellow add another burst of color. The overall look is clean and calming. "The owners now have a brighter porch to enjoy," said Fanjul.

While designing a new, custom home in McLean, Va., architect Rolando Valdez created a back porch that offers a seamless transition from the home's interior to its natural surroundings. "There are arched openings that mimic those found inside [and] provide a clear look at the pool and pa-



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

This backyard porch by Susan Matus of Case Design/Remodeling offers a view of the home's wooded backyard.

tio beyond," said Valdez of Bethesda firm GMT Architects.

The space is consistent with the overall style of the home which was inspired by those found along the New England coast. "The porch embraces the colors of the home's pastel blue shingles and white trim," said Valdez. The space is outfitted with vaulted ceilings, a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and flagstone floor that leads to the deck with built-in grill.

When adding a porch to an existing home, Matus and architect Vicente Neto, both of Case Design/Remodeling, worked to create a space that was compatible with the style of the home's interior while also offering views of the wooded backyard.

"We wanted the porch to be accessible but also not block views from the dining room, kitchen or bedrooms on the second floor,"

said Matus. "The porch can be entered directly from the family room."

"Homeowners now realize how valuable and special the additional gathering space of a porch really is."

"This past year, homeowners were interested in creating gathering spaces that offered opportunities to be outside."

— Susan Matus

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Coming to shop together, sisters, Genevia and Khiarah Miles Williams, Springfield, employees at a competing grocery chain, received an Amazon Fresh flier and wanted to "check this place out."



Maria Cruz, customer services rep, Springfield, one of the first 100 customers in line, received a grocery tote and gift card from Amazon employee Cindy Roman. Cruz said she, "Wanted to see what things they have."

Amazon Fresh Brings Out the Curious

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Amazon opened one of just a handful of its "Fresh" grocery stores on the East Coast in Franconia at 7 a.m. on May 27, to a line of Springfield customers curious about products on offer. The line at opening stretched the length of the shopping center which had formerly housed a Shoppers Food Warehouse.

Trade analysts have described Amazon's Fresh Grocery Stores as traditional food stores, with a few high tech elements, such as smart carts, which allow shoppers to bag products into the cart and avoid the check out line; and display cases that light as shoppers approach. The stores also provide an area for Amazon Prime customers to pick up and return packages. Insiders say to expect "Fresh" pricing aimed to the mid-point; with lower prices than Amazon owed "Whole Foods" and higher than discounter stores such as "Aldi" and "Walmart" or other moderates such as "Lidl", recently opened in the area.

The Franconia store is one of four currently announced for the Eastern US; the others: Logan Circle DC, Chevy Chase, Md. and Warrington, Penn. The first "Fresh" opened in Los Angeles in September 2020. Since then a few more have opened in Southern CA and the Chicago suburbs. Rumors suggest a store may be coming to the "Liberty" development in Lorton, but no announcement has been made by Amazon to date.



Mark Eastwood, retired, Springfield, arrived well before opening and was prepared for a wait. He shared "...miss the Shoppers Food Warehouse; hope they have good muffins as Shoppers did."



Set up available upon store entry with a phone app, smart carts record items entered into bags placed within cart and allow customers to avoid checkout lines when shopping is complete.

Bicycling Skills Track Opening in Springfield

Berms, ramps and jumps to train on in Brookfield Park.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

The ramps and berms are in place for bicyclists to hone their off-road skills.

Before hitting the off-road trail at Fountainhead Park or other challenging rides in the area, Springfield bicyclists now have the Brookfield Park Bicycle Skills Area in Springfield to practice on. Park officials are going to cut the ribbon on this new riding facility on Saturday, June 12 at the track in central Springfield.

The training track is a set of wooden riding obstacles that surrounds the existing pump track and is suitable for bicyclists of all ages, the Fairfax County Park Authority said. It includes six professionally built, low-maintenance wood and steel features that provide new cycling challenges to try. The project was led by TrailsforYouth.org (TYO) in partnership with the FCPA, Springfield Civic Association, Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) and local businesses.

THIS RIDING FACILITY is part of MORE's mission, said MORE president Ernest Rodri-

guez. "It is designed to get kids on bikes," he said.

That was the mission of Julie and Pat Childers who are behind "Trails for Youth," an organization based in Springfield that introduces trail riding and hiking as an activity for children and teenagers. The Childers have lived in Springfield for years and wanted to provide options for area children to get out and enjoy the trails around central Springfield and Wakefield Park. They were involved in the Brookfield project.

"We are all about providing opportuni-

ties to those kids that don't have them," Julie Childers said.

Creating the Brookfield Park Bicycle Skills Area took more than a year of planning, coordination and fundraising. In addition, they received national funding support from Specialized Bicycles' Outride Foundation and International Mountain Bike Association Dig-In grants.

This expanded bicycle skills area will provide additional biking opportunities to the youth and families of the John Lewis High School pyramid and the local mountain bike community.

RIDING TRAILS at Lake Accotink are close to Brookfield, and a longer off-road trail at Wakefield Park is linked to the trails at Accotink by the Cross County Trail, which also links to Fountainhead on the southern end. The Childers are part of an effort to link those trails to Brookfield. "Our next objective is to make that connector trail," said Julie Childers. Rodriguez and MORE were

When and Where

Saturday, June 12 at 1 p.m. in Brookfield Park, 7417 Floyd Ave., Springfield. The new bicycle skills perimeter area is located in the field behind the basketball court.

part of those plans too, and he mentioned working with the county. "We're coming up with a proposal to do that," he said.

Northern Virginia is home to three of the state's top mountain biking trails at Fountainhead Park, Wakefield Park and Meadow Wood in the Mason Neck area of southern Fairfax County. These trails are far from a paved trail like the Mount Vernon Trail, so some kind of preparation is a good idea, and training at the Brookfield course could be part of that.

Julie Childers pointed out a progression that the new course offers. "It's for anyone looking to hone or improve their skills," Julie Childers said. Although there are jumps and challenging parts of the course, there is an opportunity to skip parts too. "Start slowly and build up," she recommended.

Before Covid-19 put a halt on much of the organized mountain biking activities, the Childers were involved with "Wednesdays at Wakefield," where there were off-road races for the various age groups at the park. Julie Childer is hoping it will be back next year.

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Obituary



Charles William Fortney, Jr., 90, of Montross, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 3, 2021. He was a devoted member of Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, served three years as a Sergeant in the Marine Corps, 36 years with the Federal Assessment Office, and seven years with the Fairfax County Assessment Office. Some of his favorite things to do were hunting and fishing and spending time with his friends and family. Charles was known for his integrity, sense of humor, generosity, but most of all, being a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his loving wife, Jennifer Blonts Fortney; three sons, Dennis Fortney (Debra), Neal Fortney (Suzanne) and Clayton Fortney (Alyson); brother, Parker Fortney (Leah); seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Charles is preceded in death by his parents, Charles William Fortney, Sr. and Lizzie Divine Fortney; two wives, Martha Sours (his high school sweet heart), and Florine Stiltner; and his sister, Marcella Wright.

A funeral service will be held at 2 pm on Monday, June 7, 2021 at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church with a reception following at the Glebe Harbor-Cabin Point Club House. The family will receive friends from 1 pm to 2 pm in the church prior to the service. Interment will be held at 2 pm on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at Stonewall Memory Gardens, 12004 Lee Hwy. Manassas, VA 20109. Memorial contributions may be made to Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church at 16340 Kings, Hwy. Montross, VA 22520.

Employment

Associate Vice President – Information Security Audits w/ ControlCase, LLC in Fairfax, VA. Responsible for developing & implementing client specific compliance certification methodology & processes to effectively mng the client certifications to meet the organizational objectives. Position reqs a Bach deg (U.S. of foreign equiv) in Comp Sci, IT, Electronic Engg or rel & 5 yrs of exp in the job offered or in a rel role. Must have 5 yrs of exp w/ cybersecurity standards such as ISO 27001, HITRUST, or PCI-DSS; network security testing & vulnerability assessments; cybersecurity assessments on cloud, incl AWS, Azure, & Google; encryption & key mgmt review; Risk Assessment, Risk mgmt, Risk treatment, & Control implementation; ISO 27001 Implementer or auditor; assessment & configuration review for the following platforms: Firewalls (Cisco ASA, Checkpoint, Juniper, Palo Alto, FortiGate, WatchGuard, SonicWALL), Routers, Switches, Load Balancers, IDS/IPS, Windows Servers, Linux Servers, Unix Servers, IBM Mainframe Z Systems, Amazon Web Services, VMware & Oracle & SQL database; app Security; logging & monitoring, SIEM log review; preparing compliance reports; & reviewing vulnerability assessment & penetration test reports. Position also reqs PCI DSS certification. Travel reqd up to 50% of the time. Qualified Applicants: Email resumes to jobs@controlcase.com

Obituary

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 Public Links Inc trading as Oak Marr Golf Center, 3136 Jermantown Rd., Oakton, VA 22124-2401. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Peter Kim, Treasurer. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE
 Virginia Winery Distribution Company, trading as VWDC, 7701 Southern Drive, Suite 8, Springfield, VA 22150-3643. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Virginia Wine Wholesaler's license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Randy Phillips, Chairman. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200."

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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

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CALENDAR

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS IN RESTON

Reston Community Center is pleased to announce that free summer concerts will return to venues around Reston beginning in June. Lunchtime with the Arts at Mason – Thursdays in June, Reston Town Square Park. 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Take a Break – Thursdays, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza
Summerbration Fab Fridays – 7 – 9 p.m., Reston Station
Family Fun Entertainment Series – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., Reston Town Square Park
Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory – Sundays, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m., Reston Town Square Park

OUR SPECIAL HARBOR OPENS

The Fairfax County Park Authority's Our Special Harbor spray park is now opened. This fully accessible Chesapeake-Bay-themed spray-ground has water features such as a spraying osprey nest, Chessie the sea serpent, misting sunflowers and a lighthouse. The beach area allows for quieter play with softer bubbles and interactive water tables while the computerized water maze and dumping crab basket provide more lively activity. Located at Lee District Park at 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/lee-district/family-recreation-area>.

GOLF CAMPS

Join the nationwide resurgence of the classic, lifelong game of golf. Laurel Hill Golf Club and Twin Lakes Golf Course are offering weeklong summer camps taught by professionals from The Eisman Golf Academy. Junior golfers ages 8-14 will learn and improve on golf fundamentals in a fun environment. Class sizes are limited for personalized instruction and camp includes on-course play. Also included are swag bags, hat, games and prizes. Camps will take place at Laurel Hill June 14-18 and July 12-16, 2021; and at Twin Lakes on June 21-25, July 19-23, and Aug. 9-13, 2021. All camps run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, visit the Junior Golf Fairfax website.

Laurel Hill Golf Club is located at 8701 Laurel Hill Crest Drive in Lorton. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road in Clifton.

THURSDAY/JUNE 10

Courtney King, 7-9 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. King's 4-piece rock band will play songs from her latest release, *Feel Good Swiller*, as well as works she co-wrote from her St. Louis band, *Slow Down Scarlett*. King, a classically trained flutist from Chicago, always infuses flute into her performances utilizing guitar pedals and a style similar to that of Jethro Tull.

JUNE 8 TO JULY 4

Paintings by Rich Moore. At the Loft Gallery, 33 Mill Street, Second Floor, Occoquan. "The skies proclaim the work of His hands." Psalm 19:1 showcases the artistry of versatile landscape oil painter, Rich Moore as he endeavors to reveal a unique glimpse into the magnificence and wonder of the "handiwork of God." Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. Online Facebook Live Artist's Reception: Friday, June 11, 2021 7:00 pm <https://www.facebook.com/loftgalleryocquan>.

THURSDAY/JUNE 10

Searching for Sully's Enslaved. 7-9 p.m. Zoom. Sully is much more complex than simply the home of the Lee family. Join author Beth Sansbury as she discusses her book, *Searching for Sully's Enslaved*. Contact PaulHancq@aol.com to register. Visit the website: <https://www.historiccentrevilleva.org/historic-centre-ville-society/>

JUNE 13-JULY 25, SUNDAYS

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. 5 p.m. At McLean Central Park Gazebo
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean.
Sunday, June 13 -- Josh Lovelace;
Sunday, June 20 -- Lucy Kalantari & the Jazz Cats;

TUESDAY/JUNE 15

"Duck Harbor" Web Series. 8 p.m. Episode Three. Sponsored by 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. Duck Harbor is a web series about a long-distance love in later life. The piece is brought to audiences through a creative series of short scenes in which the actors, just like the characters, are meeting for the first time. Audiences will get to experience the magic of the theater and the excitement of new love between these two lonely hearts reaching out from charming small towns on opposite sides of the country. Every week, each of the two actors, who live on opposite coasts, will be given only their half of the script and will experience the other side of the story with a sincere and genuine freshness, "on stage," in front of our audience. Performances will take place every Tuesday, beginning on June 1 and ending on August 17. Get your tickets today at www.1ststage.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 18

Golf Exhibition. 6 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Hill Crest Drive, Lorton. Josh Koch and Justin James, two of the fastest swingers in the world, go head-to-head in a golf hitting exhibition. Watch Koch and James tee off on hole one with club speeds over 150 mph, ball speeds over 225 mph, and balls carrying up to 400 yards. Activities include a long drive contest, swing demonstrations, trick shots, and even crowd participation! You may be selected to pair up with Josh and Justin, so be ready.

SATURDAY/JUNE 19

The Destruction of Slavery in the Civil War. 3 p.m. Via Zoom. When the Civil War began, African Americans wasted no time fleeing their enslavers and rushing to the Union lines. Their great struggle would end with the destruction of American slavery and the passage of the 13th Amendment. Scholar and author Dr. Richard Bell will touch on these topics during his talk in honor of Juneteenth. This talk will be offered via Zoom. For more information, call Sully Historic Site at 703-437-1794. The talk is sponsored by the Sully Foundation Ltd. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/juneteenth>.

SUMMERFEST AT TYSONS CORNER CENTER

Tysons Corner Center announced its line-up of this season's socially distant happenings. 'SummerFest 2021,' which kicked off this month and will run through October 2021, is filled with six months of activations and events, such as live music, art, fitness, festivals, and more.

Movie Nights, in partnership with AMC Theatre Tysons Corner

First Saturday, Monthly at Sundown
Bingo Night - presented by DC Fray and Barrel and Bushel

Third Thursday Monthly, 6 - 8 p.m.
Art on the Plaza

Final Thursday, Monthly -- Join Tysons Corner Center, Barrel & Bushel, and AR Workshop for a monthly crafting event. Each event will feature seasonal art projects along with applicable retailer pop-ups and an extended happy hour.

The Plaza Live
Thursday-Sunday Weekly starting May 6; 4-7 p.m., Thursday & Friday;

2-7 p.m. Saturday & Sunday. Each week on The Plaza the center will welcome local musicians to perform as well as other live entertainment such as caricature and balloon artists, face painters, etc.

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The Masks are Off ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... and I suppose life is back on, especially for those of us who have been vaccinated. No more hiding your emotions and expressions behind your face-covering as you once again start interacting with the general public. They can see you and of course, you can see them - and you can hear/understand them, too. Conversations will flow more evenly now that they won't be interrupted by an "Excuse me, I can't understand you," or a "Could you please repeat that?" Conversations that were previously affected by fits and starts will revert back to questions and answers and what abouts. For me, the mask was an impediment to normal conversation. Necessary and prudent during a once-in-a-lifetime, public health emergency, but apparently, the time has come. Previous directives: masks, social distancing, contact tracing, quarantining and vaccinations were all most of us ever talked about. Now with vaccinations getting into more arms, our lives are expanding. From our living room to just plain living.

Though there are still mask-on requirements: in schools, on public conveyances, and in airports, train stations and the like and while obtaining healthcare services, we are now, especially those of us vaccinated, free to return to our previous life, mostly. Soon capacity restrictions will be lifted as our lives, so far as the activities which involve large crowds, both inside and out, can open back up in their entirety. Moreover, social distancing will likewise become a thing of the past. Now, all those round stickers marking six feet of distance as well as the plexiglas dividers will disappear as well. However, individual businesses retain the right to require visitors to mask up. As Bobby Brown used to sing: "That is my prerogative," and so too will businesses have their own prerogative to require patrons - or not, to abide by their mask-wearing requirements.

All of that being said and understood, even though I'm fully vaccinated, I still feel like I should mask-up. From the national vaccination statistics, there are plenty of people who have not yet been vaccinated and/or are unwilling/unconvinced they need to comply. I can't quite understand the "vaccine hesitancy" or the disinterest in following these most recent public health advisories. It seems like such a small, relatively risk-free/preventing risk step to take. I mean, whatever temporary side effects/discomfort one might experience a day or two after the injection pales in comparison to the effect on your body and/or life expectancy contacting the virus might have. I'll take a definite over a maybe anytime.

Besides, I don't want to be responsible for my own demise, or any others for that matter. In this situation, I'm happy/proud to conform to the public health directives. The virus is bigger - and badder, than any one of us; so to be bigger and badder than the virus, literally and figuratively, the more of us who receive the vaccine, the more of us will be able to survive this pandemic and safely embrace our former lives while not fearing the consequences of our inactions.

The other day at my local Giant, I happened to walk by the customer service desk where I heard a customer bragging to an employee about not planning on getting a vaccination, like he was proud of it. What a disconnect! I'm proud to have gotten my vaccination, and I'm equally proud to have participated in a national effort to try and combat the greatest health crisis this country has suffered since the Spanish Flu first infected Americans over 100 years ago.

I just wish more people would put the country ahead of themselves. For all that we're given here, it really doesn't seem too much to ask. In this circumstance, paybacks are not hell, they're heaven.

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

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BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT
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