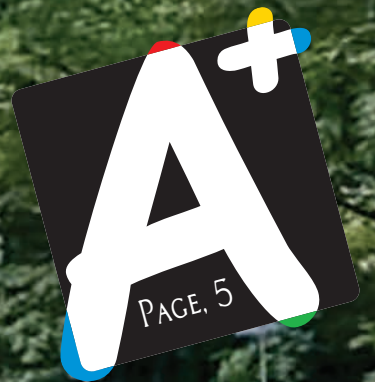


Great Falls CONNECTION



Special Permit Decision For Great Falls 'Convent' Deferred

NEWS, PAGE 9

(From left front to back) Great Falls residents--Garrett Tarpley, Dave Marcille, Erin Tarpley, Logan Tarpley, Shirley Bass, Bill Canis, Peter Falcone, and Jennifer Falcone--opposed to the approval of a special permit for the construction of the residential building at 815 Walker Rd., Great Falls for up to 12 unrelated adult female residents of the Stonecrest Home Arts, Inc. gather on the trail in front of the site.

Democrats Choose Northern Virginia Ticket

NEWS, PAGE 3

Holding Dear: 2,364 Local Souls Lost to the Pandemic

NEWS, PAGE 8

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION

OPINION, PAGE 4

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NEWS



PHOTO BY MALOU RENNERT (CELEBRATE GREAT FALLS)

Members of the Great Falls Historical Society present the Jean Tibbitts History Award to Mike Kearney and a donation to Celebrate Great Falls Foundation. First row from left: Norma Baker, Mike Kearney, Doug Cobb, Carolyn Miller; Second row; Harriett Destler, Jan Schar, Barbara Morehouse; Third row: Erin Lobato, Sue Kawmay, Karin Grasso, Charles Miller, Eamon McCrann.

Historical Society Presents Donation to Celebrate Great Falls, Tibbetts Award to Mike Kearney

On Tuesday, June 8, the Great Falls Historical Society presented Celebrate Great Falls Foundation with a donation of \$23,000 to support continued efforts to promote the rich history of the Great Falls area within the community. The Historic Society also recognized the contribution of Mike Kearney (The Old Brogue Irish Pub), to the community. Founded in 1977, the Great Falls Historical Society closed its doors recently. Over the past 44 years, they have preserved the

history of the community and recognized outstanding contributions with the annual Jean Tibbetts History Award. This year, the final award was presented to Mike Kearney in recognition of his unique contribution to and preservation of community spirit. Celebrate Great Falls Foundation looks forward to continuing the spirit of the Great Falls Historical Society. For more information, contact Erin Loabato, Director at erinlobato@celebrategreatfalls.org

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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.”

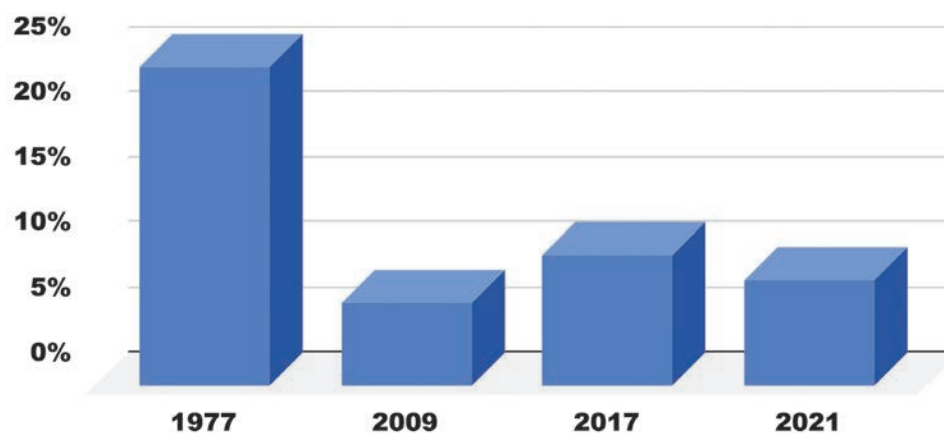
McAuliffe is a wealthy Northern Virginia businessman who will be facing another wealthy Northern Virginia businessman, Glenn Youngkin, who has already pumped \$12 million into his own campaign. McAuliffe supporters say his campaign will be about protecting access to health care, reducing gun violence, 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.”

Collective Bargaining: A Step to 'One Fairfax'

BY LISA SALES



At age 20, I took on a job as a grocery-bagger. I balanced my work alongside my full-time college studies, caring for my father who was dying of cancer, while living with an abusive boyfriend, sadly my first serious relationship. Amidst all of the chaos and trauma associated with this period of my life, my job provided an outlet, a sense of stability, and gave me agency. This was because I had the protection of a union and the right to collectively bargain alongside my colleagues.

Although my career has since spanned a number of jobs across public and private sectors, it was this role at the grocery store that taught me early on the importance of listening to workers – and especially the voices of women. Women are the most marginalized of the marginalized. While we're over half the population, over a third of American women are heads of households with children, living in poverty. As a survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault, and life-long fighter for women's rights, I know that there is a link between the lack of equality for women in the workplace and the violence perpetrated against us. Safe working conditions, fair pay, and strong benefits have cascading effects that extend far beyond the workplace.

I'm writing as an equality advocate and active Fairfax County community member in full support of collective bargaining for Fairfax County employees. I am urging the Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance that empowers our essential workforce. This ordinance must give workers a real say in their wages, benefits, and working conditions. It should not create barriers for organizing. It should not create a two-class system by excluding so-called "non-merit" workers, like School Aged Child Care (SACC) providers who are majority women and make up an essential workforce caring for the future of Fairfax. Passing a meaningful and inclusive collective bargaining ordinance is a necessity if we want a Fairfax that supports women, people of color, people with disabilities, other marginalized communities, and all working families.

THE FIGHT FOR EQUITY is a global battle, but I'm a firm believer that all politics is local. I'm choosing to be an ally in this push for collective bargaining for county employees because I want to change future outcomes for women and the next generation here in Fairfax. We need to create conditions for women to be successful and to be lifted from poverty. Many county workers are mothers and care-providers, doing

it all, and we need to make sure they have what they need to thrive.

As an Economic Policy Institute study noted, a "promising way to address both gender-specific disparities and the broken link between all typical workers' pay and economy-wide productivity growth is through the resuscitation of collective bargaining." Providing better working conditions is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars that strengthens the social fabric of Fairfax. We can avoid the huge costs associated with high rates of attrition, retraining, and wellness issues. If we invest on the front end, we will not only get more productivity on the back end, our families and our communities will prosper.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING is inextricably tied to the fight for an equitable and compassionate "One Fairfax." To not provide meaningful and inclusive collective bargaining to our county workforce would be the antithesis of a "One Fairfax." Elected leaders should be strong champions for workers and legislate accordingly. Community members should rally behind the very workers that take care of us. We need to make the Commonwealth's counties number one for workers and not just businesses. We can start here.

Lisa Sales, Mount Vernon, equality advocate and Fairfax County community member.

The Lost Cause and the Big Lie

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



COMMENTARY

Events of the last several years have brought to the nation's attention the corrosiveness to our society of the Lost Cause movement to justify the South's position on the Civil War. With the defeat of the South, the freeing of the slaves, and Reconstruction to bring the Southern states back into the Union, the awfulness that the institution of slavery had been to the morals of owners and the health and welfare of enslaved people along with devastation and loss of life and property to defend it created a stench in our history that would not go away. Defenders of the Old South and its ways along with defenders of the Confederacy and its causes sprang into action through art, writings, and political action creating myths that asserted the rightness of the Southern way of living and its economic and political positions. Their efforts became known as the "Lost Cause," and the poisonous effects of their work still haunt us today.

They argued that slavery was good for the economy and for the enslaved. Former Confederate General Jubal Early who became head of the Southern Historical Society wrote, "The conditions of domestic slavery, as it existed in the South, had not only resulted in a great improvement in the moral and physical condition of the negro race, but had furnished a class of laborers as happy and contented as any in the world."

The most visible examples of the Lost Cause movement may have been the thousands of statues and memorials that were erected throughout the South to glorify the heroics of the Confederacy and that are now being dealt with for the false narrative they represent. The most impactful part of the Lost Cause movement may have been

the Jim Crow laws that segregated the races and supported white supremacy.

Only in recent years have the harsh realities brought about by the myths of the Lost Cause been recognized. Of great concern to me is that I see creeping into our society over the past several months a movement that I believe could rival the Lost Cause if it is left unchecked. That movement is the Big Lie that attempts to convince people that the last presidential election was stolen and that the results of the past election should be overturned. The votes of the election

have been counted and recounted, the challenges to the integrity of elections in many states have been heard and dismissed for lack of evidence of fraud, and yet there is a steady drum beat from supporters of the former president that he did not lose the election.

The divisiveness of the Lost Cause that has endured for so long based on a series of lies informs us that we as citizens must stand up against the Big Lie—call it out for what it is—and elected officials at all levels of government must stand up to show that we will not be misled by myths.

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This Summer Will Be a Balancing Act

Parents face a dilemma give much needed mental break vs. boosting skills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As camps, swimming pools and simply spending time with friends were cancelled last summer and then followed by a tumultuous school year filled with uncertainty, parents are left to grapple with how to walk the fine line between catching up academically and tending to the overall well-being of their children. Students from preschool to high school might benefit from less focus on summer brain drain and more on brain breaks.

"[Students] are absolutely experiencing exhaustion and burnout from this school year during the pandemic," said Dianne Galasso, LMSW, a mental health therapist with an online practice. "They have been pushed to their limits. In order to give your child an emotional and mental break, parents could try to lower expectations and really listen to what they are needing."

Creating that balance requires creativity, said Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives at Montgomery College, who suggests enrolling in activities that are designed to offer fun experiences while also adding a subtle element of academics such as summer reading or other programs. "There are activities that families do within the home and outside of it that can be turned into fun, intentional learning experiences at no cost," said Pruneda-Hernandez. "Allowing a child to help with cooking ... [and] grocery shopping while having conversations about what they are doing not only promotes learning but can strengthen the relationship."

"For older children, an activity like cooking with a simple recipe is a great way to learn fractions. Learning a new musical instrument cultivates creativity and improves memory," said Lisa Turissini, Ed.D., Director of Marymount University's School of Education. "High school students can always start researching colleges and creatively draft those college essays."

"Over the summer, children need time to reconnect with friends and to practice their social skills. Summer programs and camps provide an opportunity for kids to socialize, visit new places, explore and engage in activities that connect to academics. But parents can create these same experiences with their children over the summer by visiting parks, the zoo or other places of interest."

While underscoring the need to maintain and develop writing skills, parents can do so in a way that is light-hearted and fun, said Brandon C.S. Wallace, Associate Professor, Montgomery College School of Education.

"Children may want to explore writing short stories or scripts for their favorite television show or YouTube

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANNE GALASSO.

Therapist Dianne Galasso, pictured here with her grandchildren, says that many children are burnt out after the pandemic school year and supporting their emotional and mental wellbeing should be the priority this summer.

influencer, ensuring that whatever is written richly describes main characters, settings as well as uses vocabulary from the character's typical speech patterns," Wallace said. Additionally, many museums are opening or, at least, providing virtual tours; that may be an opportunity to either physically or virtually visit museums near and far."

While enjoying unstructured free time children, Wallace warns parents to be mindful of excessive screen time. Developing and maintaining a schedule is one way to create a healthy balance between activities. "Have your child create a comic strip with paper and coloring supplies," he said. "Think about helping your child write a letter and send it through snail mail to relatives that they may have not been able to see because of the pandemic."

Not all students have academic deficiencies this summer. "Parents know their children best, but I would advise to not overly focus on learning lost," said Turissini. "Some students actually excelled academically during the pandemic. Many will quickly pick up what they've missed once things resume in the fall."

"Over the summer, children need time to reconnect with friends and to practice their social skills."

— Lisa Turissini, Ed.D.



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WANTED Feedback Involving No-chase/Chase FCPD Vehicle Pursuits

Flurry of proposed revisions should discourage pursuits of suspects in non-violent felony incidents.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Police vehicle pursuits create the potential for officers, residents and suspects to be killed or seriously injured. With the primary mission of Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), to protect and serve the community with awareness of the sanctity of all lives, officers and supervisors must first determine the reason for a pursuit. Especially in an urban county like Fairfax, when does a pursuit present more possible danger than benefit?

If a pursuit is in progress, officers and supervisors must balance the risks and extenuating factors of when to terminate a pursuit dependent on /public safety, possible use of a tactic to stop the fleeing vehicle, and when to call off the pursuit.

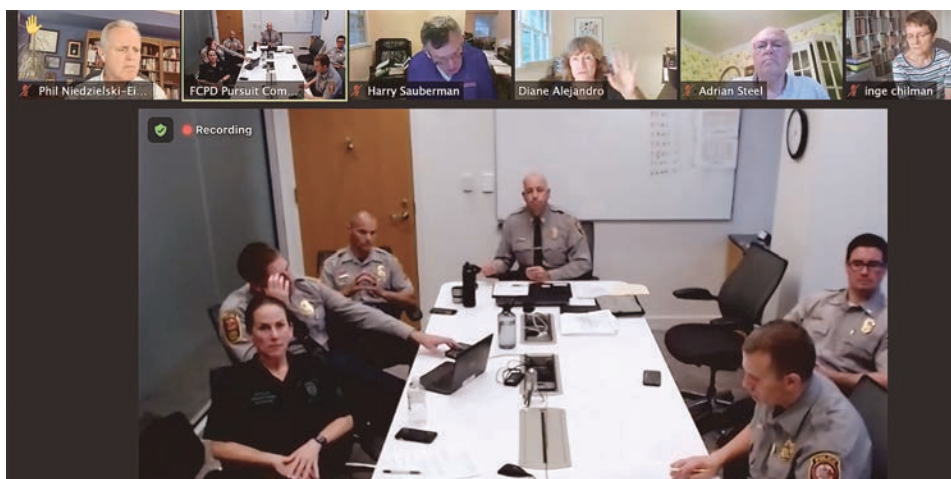
FCPD is asking community, stakeholder, and officer feedback to assist with a policy revision now underway, but police have declined to form a committee of stakeholders.

According to FCPD's Analytical Summary of Report 2020 of pursuits, the department reported a total of 580 vehicle pursuits involving FCPD officers from 2017-2020, including the one that critically injured 12-year-old Amran Djama of Herndon on Dec. 27, 2017.

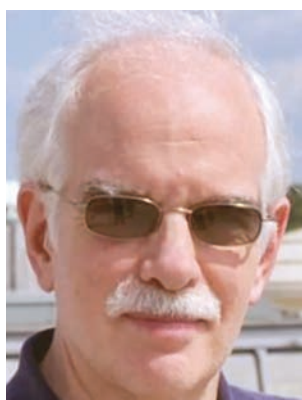
AMRAN rode with four other children in the family minivan that evening, driven by her mother, Filsan Duale. As their vehicle entered the signalized intersection of Centreville and Frying Pan Roads, carjacking suspect Brandon Stefon Vinson, 28, of Adelphi, Md. led FCPD officers in a vehicle pursuit with the department's helicopter assisting overhead. Vinson drove a pick-up truck with an attached trailer through the red light at the intersection. The truck collided with the minivan, and the impact ejected Amran from the vehicle. She went through a window and landed on the road.

"Fairfax 1, our helicopter, which assisted with the pursuit, immediately landed after the crash so the crew could assist with the injuries," stated a Dec. 28 FCPD post. The police report added that the suspect was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, "the driver and four of the five children hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries," but the child ejected from the minivan had been flown to the hospital and remained in critical condition.

Amran, the child flown to the hospital, remained in a coma for two weeks, according to a Washington Post story on Mar. 5, 2018. By March, Amran was learning to walk again. She faced a long rehabilitation and was unlikely to fully recover. Arman lost an eye, and life is not easy for the teen.



Members of the FCPD Pursuit Policy Review Committee, host a virtual town hall to promote public awareness and collect community feedback on the policy initiative.

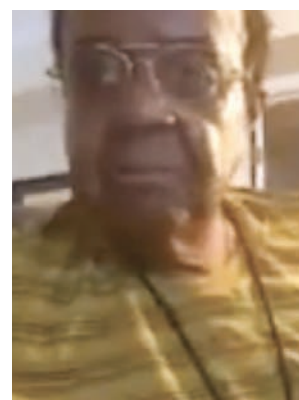


Gabriel Goldberg



FCPD

Major Bob Blakley, Commander of Patrol Bureau Division II, FCPD leads efforts in revising the department's General Orders, 504.1 Vehicle Pursuits, which guides officer actions.



Otis Langford



John Cook

The family later moved out of the area, too traumatized by seeing the area of the crash, said Moustapha Djama, Arman's father, in an interview on Sunday, June 13, 2021.



Rick Avil

Moving traffic violations (not including speeding) were the number one reason in the last four years for Fairfax County Police to initiate pursuits, according to the department's Analytical Report Template - 2020 pursuit analysis, [https://www.fair-](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/sites/police/files/assets/documents/2020%20pursuit%20analysis.pdf)

police pursuits yearly totals for 2017-2020 at 149, 159, 127, and 145, respectively.

As Fairfax County Police Department currently revisits its Police Pursuit Policy, General Orders 504.1 (Vehicle Pursuits) last revised 2019, the proposed revisions in

progress differentiate between pursuit and the refusal to stop. They also end pursuits for traffic violations, misdemeanor offenses with threat/use of violence, non-violent felonies, certain misdemeanors, and assistance to outside police departments that don't meet FCPD's internal standards.

On Jun. 10, members of the FCPD Pursuit Policy Review Committee hosted a virtual town-hall meeting to promote public awareness and collect community feedback on the policy initiative. As of April, FCPD had tasked Major Bob Blakley, Commander of Patrol Bureau Division II, to lead efforts in revising the department's General Orders on Pursuits. The goal was to draft a new policy for consideration, which valued human life's sanctity and responded to police, community, Board of Supervisor, and stakeholder feedback. The new policy should be embedded in national and regional best practices and clarify supervisory emphasis. The tentative release is later this month or next month, July 2021.

According to Blakley at the Jun. 10 community town hall on the policy, he impaneled a "dream team" made up entirely of members of the FCPD, 27 commanders, supervisors, and police officers of every rank in April 2021 to serve on the Pursuit Policy Review Committee, part one of the five-part process reviewing the policy. No community members were invited to serve on the committee.

Blakley recalled that officers said the current policy was "ambiguous" and "too long for a policy that they're expected to understand," more than 40 pages. "We wanted to add an emphasis on supervision and leadership ... that held all people accountable," Blakley added. Underpinning all pursuits and as written in the 2019 revision, the new General Order must balance "the need for immediate apprehension with the danger created by the pursuit as the preservation of all human life is paramount."

On May 25 the FCPD Draft Police Pursuit Policy Revision came before the Fairfax County Public Safety Committee Meeting, including all members of the Board of Supervisors. At that discussion, Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw (D-Braddock) questioned the vague language that put officers in a "very difficult position of weighing the potential risk of a pursuit versus the threat that's posed."

Chief Kevin Davis answered, "The tenor of this draft-in-progress is to make sure the burden is not on the shoulders of the police officer."

Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk (D-Lee) requested clarification concerning motorcycle pursuits.

Davis said such would require an "awfully serious set of circumstances."

Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik, Providence

Vehicle Pursuits: Public Safety First

FROM PAGE 6

District, said there was a need for a written narrative to help understand the policy.

At the June 10 Town Hall, Blakley presented a couple of the slides shown to the Supervisors in May. In addition to deleting multiple reasons to initiate a pursuit, Blakley said that the new policy defined pursuit differently.

“We believe we need to chase for violent felonies ... and crimes of violence against persons,” he said. The draft-in-progress limited vehicular pursuits to when there was a reasonable suspicion a violent felony had been committed and that there was a potential for imminent risk to public safety and/or injury to individuals if a pursuit was not initiated.

The new policy aligned with the regional best practices of the six nearby jurisdictions, including Arlington, Alexandria, and Montgomery. “We looked at model programs from IACP [International Association of Chiefs of Police] and other law enforcement programs,” Blakley said. For example, the old policy did not differentiate between pursuit and an initial refusal to stop.

“Sixty- three percent of all police vehicle pursuits nationally end in crashes,” Blakley said at the town meeting. He did not provide the number of police vehicle pursuits in Fairfax County that end in crashes. According to the March 17, 2021, FCPD Analytical Summary Report, “Pursuits Termination” in 2020, 10 percent of FCPD pursuit terminations ended in crashes, a total of 15 out of 145, down from 25 such crashes in 2017.

“The number of pursuits terminated due to officer’s observations of unsafe conditions and public safety concerns increased by 50%



Aftermath of the inside the Djama family minivan after a truck pursued by FCPD slammed into it in Herndon, leaving their 12-year-old-daughter with brain damage.

from 2019 to 2020,” according to the Summary Report. “If we dive into the statistics, our supervisors forcibly terminate a great number of pursuits today,” Blakley said. He described supervisors taking weather, pedestrians, and other factors into consideration.

According to FCPD General Order 504.16, II [pg 42], the department established a Pursuit Review Committee as part of the 2019 revision. “The Committee is to provide a report to the Chief of Police through the Director of the Criminal Justice Academy annually concerning FCPD pursuits for any “trends including driving behavior of the officer and the fleeing suspect, needed safety and tactical improvements [and], needed changes to policy.”

Closing his presentation, Blakley listened to community concerns ‘to make sure we’re not missing something.’ Provide comments, ideas, or suggestions by visiting <https://bit.ly/3whNU9g>.

A video of the June 10 Town Hall can be viewed on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyPD/photos/a.103151416393671/5722095174499239>.

facebook.com/fairfaxcountyPD/photos/a.103151416393671/5722095174499239.

Questions and Comments

Highlights of Questions “Q” and Comments “C” during Jun. 10, 2021:

Q-Nicole Miller described car break-ins and car thefts happening on an ongoing basis in the Franconia District and asked if these would be pursued

A-Blakley said based on that one scenario; none would be pursued. He later added pursuits are planned in the revision for “violent” felonies that would endanger others.

Q-Gabriel Goldberg said that reckless driving, aggressive driving, not stopping at red lights is rampant. “Once this policy is known, why would any of the people who are already driving badly stop for a police car when they see the lights come on ... and they won’t get pursued ...You won’t pursue

for felony theft ...They won’t stop. It’s not a free “get out of jail card” because they won’t be getting to jail.

A-Law enforcement and the community have to work together to achieve the objectives that members of our community want. Violators can be apprehended by other means.

C-Otis Langford: “Do any of these policies give the officer the right to bump a car, to knock them off the road?”

A-Blakley said the department had various tactics, a PIT, pursuit intervention technique, TVI, tactical vehicle intervention, and others. “Every one of these is allowed under the current policy.”

C- John Cook, former Braddock Supervisor, said that there appeared to be a misimpression when Blakley said FCPD was not going to pursue. “My understanding is that you simply mean that the police are not going to initiate a vehicle pursuit at this time ... but you are going to seek to investigate and bring anyone violating the law to justice.”

Q- Rick Avila questioned how FCPD would investigate at the backend of incidents rather than pursue. “You don’t have the people to barely cover shifts.”

C- Diane Burkley Alejandro said some community members who might not want to comment on Zoom would be affected by these types of policies.

A-Blakley said, “I can’t recall when we’ve conducted a similar session like this... We’ve broadcasted this to the public so folks would know how to contact the police department ... If anyone has members of the community that would like to get in touch with us, we welcome that.”

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/JUNE 19

Liberty Amendments Kick-Off. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 450 Orchard Street, NW, Vienna. The 2021 Juneteenth Celebration will include the Inaugural Liberty Amendments Month Ceremony at 11 a.m., live music, kids’ performers, vendors featuring black owned businesses and craft vendors, civic organizations, food trucks, and a book give away for kids. The event will be live-streamed on Town and First Baptist social media. First Baptist Church will be holding a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic during the event.

ONGOING

In-Person Worship Begins. 10:15 a.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. In-person worship services will resume with some restrictions. Details at: https://faithconnector.s3.amazonaws.com/goodshepherdva/files/revised2_in-person_worship_begins_june_13.pdf

SUNDAY/JUNE 20

Concert on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Green, behind the Old Brogue,

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

Great Falls. Featuring Mars Rodeo. Sponsored by Cornerstone Building Services, Inc (CBSI).

MONDAY/JUNE 21

Golf and Tennis Tournament. At River Bend Golf & Country Club, Great Falls. Proceeds benefit Great Falls, Forestville and Colvin Run Elementary Schools. Plan on a great day of golf or morning of tennis at River Bend Golf & Country Club in Great Falls. The golf event will include greens fees and cart for a 4-person scramble, buffet lunch at registration, drinks on the course and a cocktail awards reception following play.

Golf Registration: Golf: 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM. (Shotgun start: 1:00 PM). Post-Play Cocktail Reception at approximately 5:30 PM \$300 per golfer. Early Bird Pricing until June 11th, 2021

(\$350 per golfer thereafter). Register here: <https://www.planmygolfevent.com/35904-2021CelebrateGreatFallsGolf-Tourn/>

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 23

Build Back-Dream Forward. 8:30-10 a.m. Zoom webinar. Build Back - Dream Forward:

Strengthening Minority-Owned Businesses in Northern Virginia. This upcoming report offers key findings and concrete recommendations for an equitable recovery across our region. Visit the website:

<https://www.cfnova.org/register/bbdf-minority-owned-businesses>

GREAT FALLS SUMMER ART CAMP

WEEK 2 — June 21-25

Manga [Japanese Anime] with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-12; Session 2a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

Manga [Japanese Anime] with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 2b — 1:30-12:30pm details/ register

WEEK 3 — June 28-July 2

Paper Mache Sculpture and Mask Painting with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-14; Session 3a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

Paper Mache Sculpture and Mask Painting with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 3b — 1:30-12:30pm details/ register

WEEK 4 — July 6-9

Color Study in Oil Paints with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 4a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

Color Study in Oil Paints with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 4b — 1:30-4:30pm details/ register

WEEK 5 — July 12-16

Cartooning with Bud Little Ages 8-14; Session 5a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

Photography for Middle & High Schoolers with Joe Willmore Ages 12-18; Session 5b — 1:30- 4:30pm details/ register

WEEK 6 — July 19-23

Classical Drawing with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-12; Session 6a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

TEEN Classical Drawing with Michela Mansuino Ages 12-18; Session 6b — 1:30- 4:30pm details/ register

WEEK 7 — July 26-30

Paper Mache Sculpture and Mask Painting with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-12; Session 7a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register

Paper Mache Sculpture and Mask Painting with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 7b — 1:30- 4:30pm details/ register

WEEK 8 — August 2-6

Cartooning with Bud Little Ages 8-14; Session 8a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/ register



Crowd present at the ceremony.



Leaders in the 13 jurisdictions of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission gather at the Remembrance Ceremony held June 9 for those lost to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Holding Dear: 2,364 Local Souls Lost to the Pandemic

Northern Virginia Regional Commission holds a Remembrance Ceremony.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On March 21, 2020, the Fairfax County Health Department reported its first death of a resident due to COVID-19. Four hundred and forty-six days later, on June 9, 2021, at the Fairfax County Government Center, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission held a solemn Remembrance Ceremony for those lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. Community leaders gathered to remember the 2,364 souls thus far and reflect on the pandemic's terrible toll on the region. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission is a consortium of 13 local governments representing more than 2.5 million residents.

"We come together to grieve... for all the lives that have been cut short. We mourn our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, grandparents, children, friends, and neighbors," said P. David Tarter, Chairman, Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

Jeffrey McKay, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors said, "Today... we're gathered specifically to honor those who we have sadly lost. Behind me, you will see 236 flags. Each flag represents ten people we lost to COVID-19 across our Northern Virginia region, totaling 2,364 people. This number, of course, isn't complete."

REGIONAL COOPERATION in fighting the pandemic had been critical, McKay said. He told those gathered they may have noticed when they came into the County Government Center that county flags remained at half-staff to honor those in the community who died and thank the first responders and frontline workers for the sacrifices they made.

"They have been relentless heroes throughout this pandemic. ... We hope to honor all of those who have died and who gave so much during this crisis through a permanent memorial that's in its very early stages of planning," McKay said. "We will never forget the real human toll of this pandemic, the people, the personalities that these flags behind me represent, and we will always honor those who we have sadly lost."



Chaplain Harry Chelpon, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, gives the Invocation.



Jeffrey McKay, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.



Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Fairfax Health District.

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Fairfax Health District said that as the community begins to heal and recover from the "unprecedented season of loss," people must do everything in their power to protect the most vulnerable who remain at risk for severe disease and death. "The vaccine is the best tool available for ending the pandemic. ... We haven't reached the level of immunity required to stop the COVID virus from circu-



P. David Tatter, Chairman Northern Virginia Regional Commission.



Kevin Davis, Chief, Fairfax County Police.

"The vaccine is the best tool available for ending the pandemic. ..."

— Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu,
Director, Fairfax Health District

lating in our community."

While many have been vaccinated, many others have not yet had access to the vaccine or decided to get vaccinated. "Children under 12 are not yet eligible. So, our work is far from over... We need everyone's participation, government, schools, businesses, nonprofits, faith leaders, and parents, to achieve the highest level of immunity within our community."

Fairfax County Chief of Police Kevin Davis spoke of a man he never met, Lawrence "Larry" Magni of Reston, who died on Aug. 25, 2020, from complications related to

COVID-19. Magni served in the challenging role as the Police Department's Resource Management Bureau Director of Facilities and Security.

"All the leaders of the police department that I spoke to asked me to tell you a little bit about Larry. And Larry's name and Larry's story are not unlike the ten names that each American flag behind me represents. His story is not uncommon, but it is worth telling." Magni was "beloved" by the Fairfax County Police Department family just as each of the 2,345 other individuals who died from COVID-19 complications was also beloved by those who knew them best.

Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler compared his three weekly morning calls with "Dr. G," [Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Fairfax Health District] as a time of "global war."

"We've all lost loved ones and watched as our lives and lives of many other friends and family were turned upside down. Earlier this year, President Biden said to heal us, we must remember. Remember those we lost and those who are left behind. So today, we recognize the profound loss we've all suffered, and we remember. We remember those who are no longer with us," said Butler.

THE TRADITION of firefighters ringing a bell is symbolic and used to represent the end of an emergency and return to quarters. When a firefighter dies in the line of duty, the mournful toll of the bell announces the passing and shows great honor.

"Today, we adapt that symbolic ceremonial act in a slightly different way," said Butler.

One by one, Tarter called out the 13 jurisdictions, the bell ringing three times for each: "Arlington County, Fairfax County, Prince William County, Loudoun County, City of Alexandria, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, Town of Dumfries, Town of Herndon, Town of Leesburg, Town of Vienna." Following, he said, "You'll now hear Amazing Grace from our bagpiper. This concludes our ceremony. Thank you, and let us always hold dear the many we have lost."

A video of the ceremony can be viewed on Chairman McKay's official Facebook page.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

George Kelly, Village Green Day School Board of Trustee President, says that the hazard of crossing Walker Road will substantially increase if a Stonecrest Home Arts' proposed special use permit to develop the property at 815 Walker Road is approved.



Image from the letter to the BZA signed by 17 Thunderhill families opposed to the Stonecrest Home Arts Inc. development of 815 Walker Road.

Special Permit Decision for Great Falls 'Convent' Deferred

Opponents claim build will exacerbate dangerous traffic conditions.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Architectural rendering of the proposed building is as shown in Figure 4.

On June 9, the Fairfax County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) held a public hearing on the application SP 2020-DR-105 by Stonecrest Home Art, Inc. The applicant requested special permit approval for the construction of the residential building at 815 Walker Rd., Great Falls, for up to 12 unrelated adult female residents of Stonecrest. Stonecrest Home Arts, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) organization affiliated with Opus Dei, an institution of the Catholic Church.

The Department of Planning and Zoning issued a Use Determination on February 28, 2020, signed by Austin Gastrell, Planner II, that the proposed residential building had been deemed a "convent, monastery, seminary or nunnery" use, which was permitted in the R-1 district with the approval of a Special Permit (pursuant to Section of 3-103(2) of the Zoning Ordinance). The County approved a similar residence for men in Reston on Old Reston Avenue.

ACCORDING TO THE APPLICANT, residents of the proposed facility shared a common faith. At the existing facility in Washington D.C., residents are long-term, typically ten or more years. Many of the residents have full-time occupations. They are looking to relocate to be closer to the communities they serve. Staff recommended approval with the adoption of Proposed Development Conditions contained in Appendix 1 of the Staff Report.

Sunny Yang, Department of Planning and Zoning said 3.9 acres of the 5.01-acre parcel was subject to the special exception, the site zoned R-1, and surrounding properties developed with single-family detached dwellings. The applicant requested to construct a 14,500 square-foot building, and with determination most similar to a convent, in an R1 district and with special permit approval, such was permitted.



Figure 4: Architectural elevations showing the proposed building. Source: Applicant.

Rendering of the proposed residential building at 815 Walker Rd., Great Falls, for up to 12 unrelated adult female residents of Stonecrest Home Arts, Inc.

Yang said the site would not host programs or other events for the wider organization or public. It would be accessed from a single entrance from Walker Road, provide ten outdoor parking spaces, and an eight-foot-wide asphalt trail across the property's frontage on Walker Road.

"The building would resemble a large single-family colonial style dwelling," said Yang, with the property served by public water and private sector septic. Seventy-five percent of the site was proposed to be open space with trees outside the area of clearing and grading preserved. The applicant requested a modification of the transitional screening requirement along all property lines to allow existing trees supplemented by new plantings to satisfy the requirement.

Fairfax County Department of Transportation spokesperson said that access to the property on Walker Road would be from its highest point on the frontage, with more height added "to allow for minimum sight distance in both directions."

Mark Looney, Cooley LLP, spoke on behalf of the applicant. He said that since the Zoning Administrator determined that use was most similar to a convent, "no appeal was taken, no change of mind of the zoning administrator, and so for purposes of the conversation today is in your parlance." Looney said the volume of trips in and out would be similar to three single-family houses.

SPEAKER Jennifer Falcone representing the Great Falls Citizens Association said they opposed the application based on the fact that it was most similar to a convent. "There is no evidence in the record that the requirements to establish a convent have been met...We believe that this use determination provides a flawed basis to evaluate this application."

Shirley Bass, resident of the adjacent Thunder Hill development said while many of her concerns were traffic-related, she opposed the facility due to its "character in size, scale and density of population in the facility...not in alignment with the Compre-

hensive Plan for the district."

Brian Tarpley, resident of Thunderhill said the facility was not compatible with adjoining single-family homes. "It is so uncharacteristically large it will negatively impact property values for homes in my neighborhood," he said.

David Marcille said the facility met more the definition of a group home and would set a precedent for further development to change and alter the character of Great Falls.

George Kelly, Village Green Day School Board of Trustees said in a letter that the planned Stonecrest driveway would create a blind spot along Walker Road. Thunderhill Court families crossing could not see oncoming traffic from the driveway.

Jonathan Zischkau of Washington D.C. spoke on behalf of his long neighbors, Stonecrest. "I can say based on 30 years of experience that Stonecrest imposed no traffic on our neighborhood any different from any other homes...They have been incredibly caring neighbors. You will not find better neighbors than our friends at Stonecrest."

Kimberly Cynkar of Great Falls wrote to the BZA saying she believed from knowing the women of Opus Dei that "they will keep the property well and that they will be very good neighbors not only to those living close to their property but to the entire community as well."

Anna Freska of Great Falls wrote to the BZA as a business owner with an office steps from the proposed project. "They are most responsible...care deeply about preserving the beauty of the environment. Their presence will actually improve the particular location so near to our Village Centre."

BZA Board Member James Hart said with the amount of correspondence and testimony, he wanted to see the site himself "on the ground, with the benefit of that testimony." "There needs to be some additional discussion on some of the conditions and with the applicant as well," Hart said. The Board unanimously approved to defer the decision to June 30, leaving it open for written comments.



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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

JUNE 18-20

Sully Annual Car Show Online. The annual Antique Car Show at Sully Historic Site will be online for a second year. The Fairfax County Park Authority and George Washington Chapter Inc. Model A Ford Club of America are teaming to bring you a weekend full of classic and antique cars online. From Friday, June 18, through Sunday, June 20, 2021, car club members will present photos of some of their proudest possessions and the stories behind them. Although the car show is not being held in person this year because of logistics stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, you can still treat your dad to a free Father's Day weekend full of classic car posts on the Park Authority's Instagram and Facebook pages. On Instagram, use #SullyCarShow.
This special weekend-long event is co-sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority and The Model A Ford Club of America. Sully Historic Site is located at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly, Virginia. Call 703-437-1794.

GOLF CAMPS

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, games and prizes. Camps take place 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.

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.fairfax-county.gov/parks/juneteenth>.

SUNDAY/JUNE 20

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

TUESDAY/JUNE 22

"Duck Harbor" Web Series. 8 p.m. Episode Four. 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, now through August 17. Get your tickets today at www.1ststage.org.

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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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

(All these times are approximate- or they're not. It depends. It's sort of an all hands on deck kind of thing. Everybody, everywhere has to be flexible. All of the following appointments/procedures have to be completed this day - or else. If not, it could adversely affect the timing and suitability of my treatment going forward. Not to exaggerate too much but, my life could be at risk if all of the following are not adhered to:)

Lab work at 9am-ish required for my every-four week-bone-strengthening shot. Nuclear medicine at 9:30 for the isotope injection for my 12:45 bone scan. After leaving Nuclear Medicine, I head to Radiology where I have a 10:30 am CT scan. When my scan is completed (it only takes a few minutes but generally speaking, they're not on time), I then go to the Infusion Center where I will get my every-four-week bone strengthening shot. (Again the shot itself and vitals only takes a few minutes, but again, the process can take up to 30 minutes depending on the activities of the oncology nurses and the pharmacy's availability to prepare the medicine and the printing of my usual and customary paperwork.) Next - and finally, I go back to Nuclear Medicine for my actual bone scan at 12:45. This scan will read the nuclear isotopes injected into my body at 9:30. The scan takes about 40 minutes as it crosses my body head to toe to assess the condition of my bones. (The condition of my bones is not great. Unfortunately, it's a side effect of my thyroid cancer medicine as well as the 11 previous years of miscellaneous chemotherapies.) When this last scan is completed, my medical day is done and I will then be free to go. I will likely get home at approximately 3 pm, seven hours after I left home.

This jam-packed day is a first and hopefully will be a last. On occasion, I have had a CT scan and a brain MRI on the same day (BOGO I jokingly refer to it), but never have I had medical madness (five separate appointments) as I will on June 24th, the consequences to my health notwithstanding. Hopefully, by the end of the week - before the weekend of worrying, I will have heard back from my oncologist and then we'll deal with the consequences of all these previous actions. The waiting is not a huge deal. I have been there and done that for 12 and half years going back to late February, 2009 when I was initially diagnosed.

However this is not "concierge care." Any one of these five appointments could be missed for any number of to-be-expected complications when medical care is scheduled. Emergencies, double-booked appointments, staff shortages and longer than anticipated appointments could all affect my day of semi-judgment. And if any one of these appointments/procedures doesn't occur as scheduled, my care/my life expectancy could be jeopardized. From experience I can tell you, when this cancer patient has experienced delays and rescheduled appointments due to lab work (low white blood count, high creatinine levels, high or low calcium, above-normal potassium and on occasion low magnesium), treatment is stopped until levels return to a more normal number. In the interim, after your treatment has been stopped, your life begins to pass by you as you (at least I did) think that a delay in treatment puts your survival at risk. I mean, if your treatment is stopped at all, how does that stop the cancer from damaging you worse than it already has? Whether a week or two delay really matters, no one can say for sure. However, for the patient, especially yours truly; despite the reassurances from medical staff, in my head anyway: IT REALLY MATTERED.

After receiving a "terminal" diagnosis in February, 2009, I just didn't feel I had any margin, life expectancy-wise, for error, missed appointments, rescheduled treatment, et cetera. I figured that the information about my health - and as a result, any subsequent change in that treatment, needed to be known in an extremely timely manner. And when it wasn't -or isn't, I feel my pain, if you what I mean? Nevertheless, there are no guarantees in the cancer-treatment world. One has to learn to go with the flow and hope that flow doesn't turn into a flood.

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

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