

# Great Falls CONNECTION

Dr. John Whyte of Great Falls, with his wife, Alisa and sons Luke, 8, and Jack, 6. Dr. Whyte's newest book is "Take Control of Your Cancer Risk: A WebMD Essential Guide." He is chief medical officer at WebMD.

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OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 2, 2021

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# Advancing Trust

Police Civilian Review Panel seeks more authority, set to get an executive director.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

The Police Civilian Review Panel asked the Board of Supervisors to enhance its ability to investigate complaints against the police.

“There probably should be a way for the panel to look at more than simply the information provided by the Internal Affairs Bureau [of the Fairfax County Police Department.] Currently, the IAB is the sole gatekeeper for an investigation and that is not a recipe for independence,” said James N. Bierman Jr., chair of the Police Civilian Review Panel, at a Public Safety Meeting last month.

“The Civilian Review Panel cannot simply be seen as another arm of FCPD, and in order to be successful we need to be seen as a fair arbiter,” he said.

The all-volunteer panel reviewed 67 complaints about the police the last two years, 32 in 2019-2020 and 35 in 2020-2021. Some 38 cases were brought to the Civilian Review Panel directly (18 in 2019-2020 and 20 in 2020-2021).

“The point is to make sure the police department and the community trust each other and can work well together so we have enhanced public safety,” said Bierman.

BOS RECENTLY APPROVED the hiring of an Executive Director for the Police Civilian Review Panel, a position that is currently advertised, see the complete job listing. <https://www.government-jobs.com/jobs/3274483-0/executive-director-police-civilian-review-panel>

“Let me tell you why I’m so excited about having an Executive Director. The new executive director will have the ability to review investigations and draft reports. It’s going to help professionalize the experience,” said Bierman.

According to county documents, “The Executive Director directs, manages, and coordinates the ac-

SEE PANEL, PAGE 5

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↓ 19 POINTS

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↓ 25 POINTS

Meanwhile, Democrats are focused on pushing their divisive “woke” ideology on kids.

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(SUN GAZETTE, 09/02/21)

Fairfax Students Back to School  
Amid COVID-19 Chaos, CRT Protests  
(Washington Examiner, 08/23/21)

Fairfax Schools Pay New York Consultants  
for Critical Race Theory Curricula  
(The Federalist, 05/07/21)



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# Virginia at a Crossroads

Voters to determine direction of state government.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

Two years ago, Democrats seized control of the General Assembly for the first time in a generation. Now Republicans are hoping this is their moment to “Take Back Virginia,” the name of a recent rally in support of the GOP statewide ticket that featured a call-in appearance from former President Donald Trump, who used the opportunity to repeat baseless claims about widespread election fraud.

Ultimately, the decision about all 100 seats in the House of Delegates and all three statewide offices will be in the hands of voters on Tuesday, Nov. 2, and it’s a decision that is likely to be driven by turnout.

Republicans do well in Virginia when turnout is low. The last time Republicans won statewide election back in 2009, turnout was only 40 percent. Democrats, on the other hand, tend to do well when turnout is high. When Democrat Ralph Northam beat Republican Ed Gillespie four years ago, voters set records for participation in an odd-year election that had 48 percent turnout. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe beat Republican Ken Cuccinelli with 43 percent of the vote, although his margin of victory was significantly smaller.

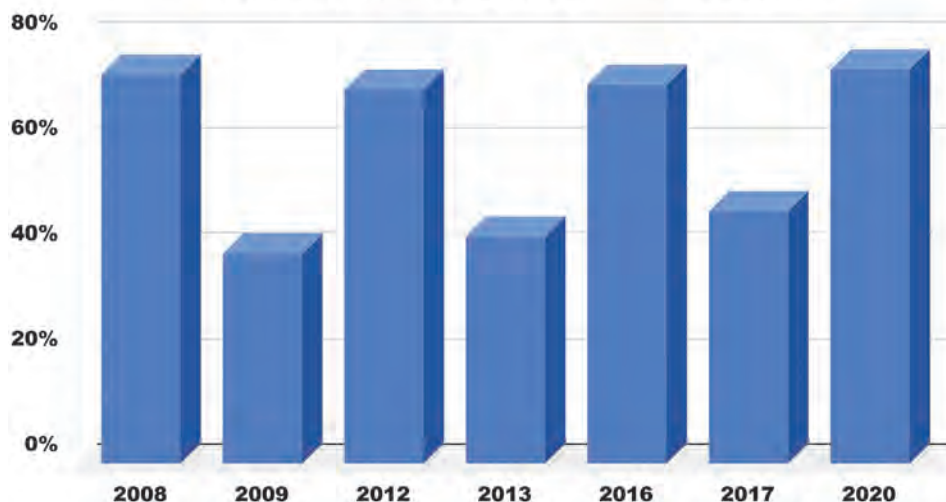
McAuliffe is attempting to do something very rare in Virginia politics: return to the Executive Mansion. Virginia is the only state in the country to have a four-year term limit, a constitutional prohibition on governors running for reelection. Only one former governor has ever been elected twice: Mills Godwin, who ran as an old-school Democrat in the 1960s and then as a Southern Strategy Republican in the 1970s. Back in the 19th century, William “Extra Billy” Smith also had two nonconsecutive terms, once appointed to the job before the Civil War and then a second term elected by voters during the war.

Now McAuliffe is hoping to pull off a similar trick, returning for a second term as governor in a Virginia that has seen a massive shift since he left office in 2018.

“Now you have a Democratic controlled legislature,” said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government. “And the Democratic Party has moved to the move progressive side of the political spectrum.”

His opponent in the race is Republican

## Turnout in Virginia Elections



**Glenn Youngkin**  
Republican candidate for governor  
raised: \$7.7 million

top contributors  
\$6 million from the Republican Governors Association  
\$250,000 from Thomas Saunders III of Saunders Karp & Co  
\$225,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond  
\$210,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.  
\$200,000 from Walter Curt of Power Monitors Inc.



**Terry McAuliffe**  
Democratic candidate for governor  
raised: \$44.5 million

top contributors  
\$5.6 million from DGA Action  
\$750,000 from Mid-Atlantic Laborers' Political Education Fund  
\$600,000 from AFSCME  
\$500,000 from Priorities USA  
\$500,000 from Virginia League of Conservation Voters



**Princess Blanding**  
Liberation Party candidate running for governor  
raised: \$30,000

top contributors  
\$8,000 from Realtor Chrischa Ives of Sandbridge Realty  
\$1,100 from Charles Peters of Water View, Va.  
\$1,050 from Anthony Castellano of Angus Dentistry  
\$1,050 from Landon Shroder of Virginia Commonwealth University  
\$1,000 from Matt Smith of MSE Properties in Henrico



**Winsome Sears**  
Republican candidate for lieutenant governor  
raised: \$2 million

top contributors  
\$125,000 from the Republican State Leadership Committee  
\$32,500 from Black America's PAC  
\$25,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.  
\$25,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond  
\$25,000 from the Virginia Citizens Defense League



**Jason Miyares**  
Republican candidate for attorney general  
raised: \$3.3 million

top contributors  
\$500,000 from the Republican Attorneys General Association  
\$105,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.  
\$100,000 from Dominion Energy  
\$94,500 from Miyares for Delegate  
\$55,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond



**Hala Ayala**  
Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor  
raised: \$4 million

top contributors  
\$250,000 from the Democratic Lieutenant Governors Association  
\$200,000 from Everytown for Gun Safety  
\$165,000 from Dominion Energy  
\$160,000 from Emily's List  
\$150,000 from Planned Parenthood



**Mark Herring**  
Democratic candidate for attorney general  
raised: \$6.3 million

top contributors  
\$1 million from the Democratic Attorney Generals Association  
\$200,000 from Everytown for Gun Safety  
\$110,000 from Ronald Abramson of Buchanan Ingersoll  
\$100,000 from Planned Parenthood Action Fund  
\$100,000 from SEIU Committee on Political Education

what he would do if elected.

“The problem is he’s running against a guy who is a former governor who knows the policy issues inside and out in many ways, who’s taken very clear positions on a lot of policy issues,” said Quentin Kidd, dean of the College of Social Sciences at Christopher Newport University. “The contrast is a liability for Youngkin.”

The final days of the campaign have seen McAuliffe trying to emphasize Trump, and Youngkin trying to capitalize on the culture war over schools. Trump once again endorsed Youngkin at that “Take Back Virginia” rally in Glen Allen, which featured a Pledge of Allegiance to a flag carried at the Jan. 6 insurrection. The Youngkin campaign is trying to walk a tightrope of appealing to the MAGA crowd while also not alienating suburban voters they’ll need to win. While Democrats campaigned with President Joe Biden, former President Barack Obama and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Republican ticket has taken a different approach.

“It could be that Youngkin doesn’t feel like his election is in much trouble,” said Jatia WRIGHT, political science professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. “He feels pretty confident and comfortable with this backing of Trump as enough to put him over the finish line.”

While McAuliffe has been spending millions of dollars on TV ads tying Youngkin to Trump, the Youngkin campaign has been trying to ride the wave of outrage over controversies surrounding public education. Many parents are angry about what they call “critical race theory” being taught in Virginia classrooms, even though it’s a law school concept that is not taught in Virginia classrooms.

Youngkin says he’ll ban the law school theory from ever being taught in public school classrooms. He also criticized McAuliffe for vetoing a bill inspired by parents who were upset that Toni Morrison’s Pulitzer-prize winning book “Beloved” was being taught in Fairfax County schools.

“Surveys demonstrate a pretty high level of support for performance of the school boards in the covid crisis at least,” said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media

reporter for the Associated Press started asking about Youngkin’s policy positions in a recent interview, his campaign aides abruptly cut off the interview. So voters are heading into Election Day without much detail about

Studies at the University of Mary Washington. “That suggests that this really is more about activating the base rather than reaching to moderate voters not engaged otherwise in the gubernatorial campaign.”



# Interview with Local Physician Author

## “Take Control of Your Cancer Risk: A WebMD Essential Guide.”

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ohn Whyte, MD, MPH of Great Falls, authored the newly released book, “Take Control of Your Cancer Risk: A WebMD Essential Guide,” [2021]. Whyte is the Chief Medical Officer at WebMD.

Anyone who has sought out what to do for a medical condition or information about a trending public health interest on the internet has come across WebMD. Now in its 25th year, WebMD reports it provides credible and relevant health news and information on managing diseases and staying healthy.

Whyte is a board-certified internal medicine physician who has been interacting with the public on timely public health issues for two decades. As Chief Medical Officer, he leads the five-person physician team at WebMD. He is in charge of initiatives to build strategic partnerships that will result in meaningful change in the face of critical public health issues.

Whyte said he chose to write “Take Control of Your Cancer Risk” because “there was a lot of misinformation” about cancer. The public, he said, is unaware of the critical functions of food, sleep, stress, and the meaning of physical activity as it relates to cancer.

Whyte said their motto at WebMD is “Better information. Better health.”

Whyte observed in his conversations with patients, particularly regarding screenings and strategies to prevent cancer, that patients had wrong information, and particularly they were misinformed about cancer’s genetic connection. He recalled some of his patients saying, “I do not have a family history of cancer ... [so] I am not going to get cancer.” Some patients think it is simply bad luck.

Only approximately 30 percent of cancers are caused by genetics or inherited mutations, Whyte said. The remainder is dependent on one’s way of life and there are steps we can take to mitigate risk, guided by science. Whyte continues to see patients on a weekly basis at Kaiser Permanente in Northern Virginia.

The book’s target audience, Whyte said, is people ideally in their 20s and 30s. “That’s when we want people to adopt these healthy lifestyles. Because we know it’s your daily choices over time, not any particular day or week of our choices, but really what we do over the years. And that’s often what people forget.”

However, he said, it is never too late to adopt healthy lifestyle approaches even if one has cancer or is older. “They still may reduce the severity of the disease if you already have cancer. They may help you in terms of your response to treatment. Because if you’re overall healthy to begin with, you’re going to respond better to chemotherapy agents. So, it’s never too late to make healthy changes.”

In his book, Whyte talks about exercise, and that many people don’t exercise.

“But when we exercise, do we ever regret it? Do we think I wish I didn’t go for a ride? Wow, I wish I didn’t go swimming? We feel great afterward. And it’s the same thing as adopting healthy choices at any age. You will feel better,” Whyte said.

The same holds true for smokers. They don’t want to give it up because they get some benefits. Whyte said, “But you know when they quit smoking, no one ever says, ‘Oh, I wish I didn’t quit.’”

It comes down to the immediate versus the long-term reward, regardless of lifestyle choice, whether exercise, smoking, drinking, food, weight loss, etc. Whyte said he tells his patients who are overweight that if they lose just half a pound a month or even a pound a month, in four years, they could be 40 to 50 pounds less than most of their friends who will be twenty pounds more. “If you eat that cake, you might feel good while you’re eating it, but 30 minutes later, you don’t. ... It’s that long-term strategy.”

Whyte said that he has never seen anyone that has adopted healthy eating say, “I don’t feel good. They always say I feel so much better. I have more energy ... Let’s be honest; they don’t say that in the first month, they don’t, I know. It takes time. But that’s where we need to be in it for the long haul.”

Turning his attention to telemedicine, the practice of a physician using technology to deliver care to a patient at a distance versus in-person visits, Whyte said virtual connections would continue to serve a purpose in the healthcare system. But people need to come back into the office for recommended cancer screening tests such as colonoscopies, mammograms, and others [prostate, cervical, skin, lung] to find cancer early.

Whyte said that there are estimates they will see “at least 10,000 new cases of cancer that are going to be advanced because people in the United States didn’t come in” to see their physicians during COVID.

“Take Control of Your Cancer



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Dr. John Whyte, WebMD chief medical officer, with his wife, Alisa and sons Luke, 8, and Jack, 6. Dr. Whyte’s newest book is “Take Control of Your Cancer Risk: A WebMD Essential Guide.”**

Risk,” John Whyte, MD, Chief Medical Officer of WebMD [2021], is available on Amazon.

According to WebMD, Whyte formerly worked at the Food and Drug Administration of the United States, at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, serving as the director of professional affairs and stakeholder engagement. He spent nearly a decade at Discovery Channel, serving as chief medical expert and vice president of health

and medical education. Whyte completed an internal medicine residency at Duke University Medical Center and earned a Master of Public Health in health policy and management at Harvard University School of Public Health. Before arriving in Washington, Whyte was a health services research fellow at Stanford and an attending physician in medicine. He has written extensively in the medical and lay press.

## Vote Now

EARLY IN-PERSON voting locations are open through Oct. 30 at three government center sites: Fairfax County, Mount Vernon, and North County.

Any registered Fairfax County voter may vote early at any Fairfax County early voting location.

Early in-person absentee voting is available for the November 2021 General & Special Elections at the following three locations from now through Oct. 30.

- ❖ Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax 22035

- ❖ Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Ln, Alexandria 22306

- ❖ North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston 20190

Thirteen additional early in-person voting sites are open through Oct. 30.

- ❖ Burke Centre Library  
5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke
- ❖ Centreville Regional Library  
14200 St. Germain Dr, Centreville
- ❖ Franconia Governmental Center  
6121 Franconia Rd, 22310
- ❖ Gerry Hyland Government Center  
8350 Richmond Hwy, 22309
- ❖ Great Falls Library  
9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
- ❖ Herndon Fortnightly Library  
768 Center St, Herndon
- ❖ Mason Governmental Center  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

- ❖ McLean Governmental Center  
1437 Balls Hill Rd, McLean
- ❖ Providence Community Center  
3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax
- ❖ Sully Governmental Center  
4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly
- ❖ Thomas Jefferson Library  
7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church
- ❖ Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library  
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
- ❖ West Springfield Governmental Center  
6140 Rolling Rd, Springfield

The list of early voting sites, their addresses, and days/hours of operation, links to sample ballots and more can be found on the Board of Elections website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections).

**ELECTION DAY:** Voters can vote in their regular polling places on Election Day, Nov. 2. On Election Day polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters who are in line by 7 p.m. will be able to vote. Visit <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation> to find your polling place.

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## “Blanche’s Beautiful Garden” Photo Exhibit

Photos by Dee Leggett at the Great Falls Library, Small Conference Room, Great Falls, Through Nov. 15, 2021

“Blanche’s Beautiful Garden” is a photography exhibit honoring Blanche Raff, a gardener in Great Falls who loves to share her flowers at the intersection of Walker Road and Walker Lake Drive. You have probably seen her magnificent peonies and iris in early summer and her stunning dahlias in late summer if you drive that route. Hurry to see the dahlias now, because sadly Blanche is moving, and her flowers will soon be gone too. About fifteen years ago photographer Dee Leggett stopped by when Blanche was out working in her garden and asked if she could photograph Blanche’s flowers. A friendship developed, and Dee has been photographing her flowers ever since.

Blanche loves flowers. She and her husband Bill built their round house about 35 years ago and that is when her flower gardening began to expand. When she first moved in, she planted 100 tulip bulbs. But as most who live in Great Falls know, deer love tulips and she had only one that survived and bloomed. After studying what deer don’t like, she planted 500 daffodils. She began to experiment with iris and dug a 100-foot-long bed and planted 45 varieties of iris. Then she dug another 100-foot-long long bed and planted over 35 varieties of peonies. Next, she became very interested in dahlias, and expanded her beds and then added another 100-foot-long bed for dahlias. She has over 125 varieties of dahlias. And of all those different varieties, she knows their names.

The display of flower photographs on exhibit in the library lets



**Blanche’s Ketchup and Mustard Dahlia” is one of the magnificent flowers from Blanche’s garden. This photo will be on display at the Great Falls Library through Nov. 15, 2021.**

the viewer enjoy her iris, peonies, and dahlias all at once. There is a diversity of colors, of shapes, and of sizes of the flowers, and the exhibit gives the viewer a small sampling of her many varieties.

Sadly, for lovers of Great Falls gardens, Blanche will be relocating this fall to Colorado where her daughter lives. She is working hard to make sure her three focus flower types go to good homes before she leaves. Her many other flowers will stay, as well as her beautiful spring-blooming cherry trees and her many summer-blooming crepe myrtle.

Photographs of several of Blanche’s flowers are in Dee’s photo journal of scenes and history of Great Falls, VA, entitled Visions of Great Falls.

Dee Leggett has been photographing nature for over ten years, both in the Great Falls area and around the world. She is a member of Great Falls Studios.

To see more of Dee’s work: Contact Dee at 703-861-3335 or DeeLeggett@aol.com

Visit her website at Etsy.Com/Shop/CreationPraises

Visit during Library Hours, located at 9830 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls.

## Advancing Trust

FROM PAGE 2

tivities of the Fairfax County Police Civilian Review Panel (Panel). This position provides an accessible, safe, impartial and transparent intake process for complaints against officers and employees of the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD). Advises and supports the panel on all matters pertaining to the independent review of FCPD investigations.”

Bierman presented the panel’s annual report as well as a comprehensive four-year review of the panel’s work since its origin in 2017.

“The panel’s work can be placed squarely in the context of a national conversation on race and police reform, happening during the middle of a global pandemic.”

Following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, a car rally for justice was held outside the Board of Supervisors building. The police officer who killed Floyd was sentenced to 22 and ½ years in prison for murder.

“Chief Roessler at that time pointed out in Fairfax County we do our best to have accountability

SEE TRUST, PAGE 9

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# 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's

Taking steps toward a cure and the first survivor.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

Alzheimer's disease wreaks havoc on families, financial stability, and futures. It is not just memory loss; Alzheimer's kills. The disease shows no signs of slowing down. More than 6 million people live with Alzheimer's today. By 2050, the Alzheimer's Association predicts the number to rise to nearly 13 million, unless a medical breakthrough leads to curing, preventing or slowing the disease.

Just as the disease is not slowing down, neither have the estimated 738 walkers who gathered for the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Reston on Sunday, Oct. 24. "Like flowers, we don't stop when something's in our way. We keep pushing for a breakthrough in the fight to #ENDALZ," tweeted the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area @ALZNCA.

Numerous marchers carried a single flower, a Promise Garden of yellow, orange, blue, and purple. Some carried multiples. The flower colors served as virtual monuments to the marchers' personal experiences with the disease. According to Katie Roper of Alexandria, president of the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, a blue flower represents someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia; a purple flower represents someone who lost a loved one to the disease; a yellow flower represents someone currently supporting or caring for someone living with Alzheimer's, and an orange flower represents a participant who supported the cause and the Association's vision of a world free of Alzheimer's and other dementia.

In 2018, the Alzheimer's Association intro-



"Alzheimer's is something that affects a member of my family."



From left, John Griffin of Herndon, Chris Griffin of Reston, Diane Griffin Goldberg of McLean, Ron Goldberg, and Don Owens of Reston. "It has touched our family like it will 50 percent of all families. It is a societal thing, [impacting] resources and family."

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



The Cheifetz family of Centreville, from left, Craig, Jason, Tracy holding ABI, and Joel. "We've raised \$1,500. I've seen the impact on my family's lives. My mom is in New York, a half-mile from her son, in a memory care unit."



Ruth Caldwell of Fundraising Team Elder Tree Care Management Services in Herndon. "We believe in supporting Alzheimer's [Association] for all the good work it is doing."



Zoie Barcase of Reston and family. "I'm here because my grandmother died of Alzheimer's, and I work at a community that has a memory care neighbor and am part of a Team Tribute."



The Richardson and Lee families of Herndon, Bristol, and Gainesville. "Our Gramma, Loretta Reed, battled the disease and died in June. We walk in her honor and to raise funds." The Daydreamers' Team raised \$1,200

duced a single white flower symbolizing the first survivor, and hope. A single white blossom rested on the announcer's podium at the Reston Pavilion.

Cindy Schelhorn, senior director of communications and marketing for the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, said the Reston walk's goal was to raise \$220,000 toward Alzheimer's disease research, and to offer care and support for all those affected. Schelhorn said they would accomplish the goal. "We are very confident," she said. The top fundraiser was Nicole Erdelyi, at \$3,795, followed by Meridith Hannan, who raised \$3,780.

Roper explained that walkers come to show their support for the community and raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and all other forms of dementia. They are "here to support those who are newly diagnosed, and for those who are dealing with this devastating disease. ...

"We're here as a resource; we're here to help support the community, and we're here to raise funds so that we can put more money towards research and caring support."

Dan Cronin is the Alzheimer's local chapter's manager of programs and services. He is responsible for the educational programs locally. "We transitioned to the virtual world. We have been delivering our educational programs via ZOOM. We have everything from a 101 to Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia. We have the 10 Warning Signs. And we have Healthy Living for the Brain and Body. It talks about how the four pillars of good health can be applied to our everyday lives to help us age well," Cronin said.

Nicole Erdelyi, top fundraiser of the Reston event, is a member of Lizzie's team. Erdelyi said that approximately 6 million people in the United States, including 150,000 in Virginia, live with Alzheimer's disease, while over 11 million individuals in the U.S. serve



More than 700 walkers participate in the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's- Reston. Behind them, the Promise Garden bloomed with their handheld flowers, each color coded to symbolize the impact Alzheimer's had on them and those they love.



From left, Emily Harris of Oakton, her daughter Aurora, 3, and Katie Roper of Alexandria, president of the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter at the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Reston. Emily Harris: "I support the Alzheimer's Walk because I believe it is a curable disease that impacts so many families. It is heart-breaking. I have a friend with it."



From left, Kyle, Mina, and John Khaziram. Their t-shirts read, "Memories Matter." Alzheimer's steals memories and lives, and breaks hearts,

the Alzheimer's Association lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction, early detection and maximizing quality care and support."

Erdelyi's grandmother, Agatha Rappa, died in August 2021 after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2010.

"My grief has come in stages as she progressed: not remembering me, not speaking, not smiling, and lastly, not eating or drinking. I walk because I have hope for a cure, and I'll continue to walk until there is a cure,"

as unpaid caregivers. As the disease's incidence increases, the cost of care continues to increase, already more than \$300 billion annually.

"Alzheimer's is destroying our families, our finances, and our future, and it's time to end it," Erdelyi said. "The money we raise helps



Nina Frymorer: "My mom passed in April, and an aunt."



# Thank You for Being a Friend

Women find comradery, support and fun though weekly art group.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

First they start with coffee, conversation and perhaps a slice of cake. Then they unzip their canvas tote bags which hold paint brushes, acrylic paint in a rainbow of colors, Mod Podge, a canvas and maybe dried flowers and a few scraps of wrapping paper. The group of six women, who have been friends for more than 50 years, meet every Friday morning at 11:30 to explore their interest in art, maintain their friendship and satisfy their need for relaxation.

"We talk about everything from our grandchildren to what's going on in the world," said Chrystal Pierce, a retired art teacher who lives in Fairfax, who organized the group. "We each work on what inspires us on a particular day. It's different for each of the women. Some paint or make decoupage art on canvas, some sketch or some just doodle. The art is secondary, the main idea is spending time together and having something to look forward to every week."

The women, who are in their early 70s have been close friends since high school and have supported each other through life changes that range from the death of a spouse to the birth of a grandchild. None are aspiring artists, but they use art as a way of maintaining their bond. They take turns hosting their weekly art and social sessions and they believe that their healthy friendships will sustain them as they age. "I know that friend groups like ours can keep you happy and that contributes to your overall wellbeing," said Liz Best, a retired high school guidance counselor who now lives in Potomac. "Coronavirus was a tough time for us when we couldn't get together. We used Zoom, but it was only slightly better than nothing."

As a single mother of five, Dickerson got support from her friends while she was raising her children in Alexandria. "I had one son who used to give me so much trouble," she said. "He would throw these parties and mess up my house when I wasn't there. I can't tell you how many times he was suspended from school for one thing or another. I would



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRYSAL PIERCE  
(from left) Gloria Black, Chrystal Pierce and Alice Dickerson have been close friends since high school. They gather every week for art and conversation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRYSAL PIERCE  
Creating art is one of the ways that Chrystal Pierce and her friends stay connected.

**"Art is secondary, the main idea is spending time together and having something to look forward to every week."**

— Chrystal Pierce, Fairfax

call these friends and they would tell me that it was all going to be okay." When Gloria Black was diagnosed with breast cancer the women took turns going with her for her chemo treatments. "I don't think I could've done it without them," she said. "Liz even knitted a cap for me when I lost all of my hair. They made meals and brought them to my house so that I didn't have to cook for my family. When I think about what these women mean to me, I get tears in my eyes."

Pierce says that while she sometimes gives advice and offers ideas to the other women, most of their time together is relaxed. "Nobody judges or comments on anyone else's work," she said. "There have been times when one or the other of us has wanted to create something to hang at our house, but most of the time we just want to relax and enjoy each other's company."

## Powerful Unknown

Musical tribute commemorating 100th Anniversary of founding of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, with UrbanArias and Wolf Trap.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Over 116,000 American troops perished during World War I. Many unknown. One unknown has a final resting place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. November 11, 2021 is the centenary of the Tomb. As part of events surrounding the centenary of the Tomb there will be the streaming film "UNKNOWN." It is a commission by Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Northern Virginia's UrbanArias, and opera companies throughout America.

"UNKNOWN" is not just an Arlington story, or even a story for the Washington region. It is a national story, one that connects with every American who has service or known someone who has served in our armed forces," said Anne-Carolyn Bird, Executive Director, UrbanArias.

The "UNKNOWN" will explore the ideas of war, honor, and memory through the eyes of soldiers, family members, and Tomb Guards.

It will feature footage captured at The Barns of Wolf Trap, and dramatic footage filmed at locations in Northern Virginia.

This special online presentation commemorates the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. The presentation is set in the Barns at Wolf Trap and locations throughout Northern Virginia. Featured performers are baritones Michael Mayes and Schyler Vargas and mezzo-soprano Taylor Raven, accompanied by members of the Inscape Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Robert Wood.

Kristine McIntyre, who directs "UNKNOWN" said the presentation "allows a deep exploration of critical questions: What of the warrior who does not return? How do we as a society honor that sacrifice and what does it mean? World War I was a turning point for the United States as a nation, and the Tomb represents a reckoning with our new destiny."

"UNKNOWN" includes songs from WWI and the Great American Songbook as well the pre-



OWEN CAREY  
COURTESY URBANARIAS  
Kristine McIntyre, director "UNKNOWN"

miere of the dramatic song cycle titled "UNKNOWN" composed by award-winning Shawn E. Okpebholo with poems by Marcus Amaker. The music ranges from solemn, sacred, and soulful, to waltzes, Latin styles and into military cadence.

For composer Okpebholo, "UNKNOWN" is expansive in its presentation and outlook.

"UNKNOWN is not just a White American story. 'Unknown' looks like America. It reflects musically the diversity of those who served in the war. Those who fought and died."

"I want to leave the audience moved...This is America's story," added Okpebholo. "I intentionally incorporated diverse musical styles, textures, sonorities, and colors to musically bring to life the powerful themes of services, sacrifice, waiting, home, death, and hope."

The haunting poems by Marcus Amaker aim at piercing hearts and minds with phrasings such as; "I am one of many warriors willing to fight for a country that promises freedom" and "Layers of remembrance hover over us like clouds"

And fitting for unknown dead; "If death has a sound, then I am now its echo."

### Where and When:

In collaboration with Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Northern Virginia's UrbanArias premieres streaming performances of "UNKNOWN" from Tuesday, Nov 11, 2021 to Nov 18, 2021. Tickets: Free with registration at [www.urbanarias.org](http://www.urbanarias.org). The film will stream at the Wolf Trap web site [www.wolf-trap.org](http://www.wolf-trap.org) and UrbanArias at [www.urbanarias.org](http://www.urbanarias.org). Note: UrbanArias will donate 50% of all donations made at the time of registration to the scholarship programs of "The Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." For history about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers go to [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier)



# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU NOV. 1

Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival. 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Cost is \$28 per child and \$6 per parent, children 2 and under free. The event will feature a range of activities, including several moon bounces, a petting zoo, the Express Train for both adults and children to ride. Visit [www.restonfarm.com](http://www.restonfarm.com). Call 703-759-0000 or email [info@RestonFarm.com](mailto:info@RestonFarm.com).

## NOW THRU OCT. 30

Art Show. At Reston Art Gallery-Lake Anne Plaza. 11400 Washington Plaza WB -Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Julia Malakoff's solo show, "Good Juju" is a collection of mixed-media collages, displaying bright colors, nature inspired shapes, textures and organic papers fused with hand painted acrylic paints. "Colorful comfort and visual stories that inspire and bring a sense of renewal, joy and magic-"this is the goal of my current collection of work, says Malakoff. The gallery is open on Saturdays, 10-5 and Sundays, 12-5 and by appointment. Visit the website: [www.juliamalakoff.com](http://www.juliamalakoff.com)

## NOW THRU NOV. 7

A Disco Musical Comedy - Disaster. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. By Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick. Concept created by Seth Rudetsky and Drew Geraci. Additional material by Drew Geraci. Directed by Evan Hoffmann. Choreography by Ashleigh King. Music Direction by Elisa Rosman. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org).

## NOW THRU OCT. 31

Fall for the Book: Fall for the Book Festival featuring live and recorded events will be held virtually and in-person at George Mason's Fairfax campus. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fall for the Book events and sessions are free and open to the public. Fall for the Book is free with the generous support of sponsors including the Fairfax County Public Library, George Mason University, the Fairfax Library Foundation, and the City of Fairfax among others. Fall for the Book returns with a new hybrid format including virtual and in-person events, including lively Podcasts. For schedule visit [www.fallforthe-book.org](http://www.fallforthe-book.org).

## NOW THRU JAN. 2, 2022

LuminoCity Festival. 6-9 p.m. At Roer's Zoofari, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The LuminoCity Festival, a one-of-a-kind, immersive light display experience, will be a festive experience for guests of all ages. Be ready to enter a world straight out of your wildest imaginations as you step into an unforgettably spectacular night of lights. The festival includes African, Asian, Arid, and Ancient-themed exhibits of spectacularly lit art displays set up in the zoo's walk-through area. Visit the website: [www.roerszoo-fari.com](http://www.roerszoo-fari.com).

## NOW THRU NOV. 7

The Turn of the Screw. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from the story by Henry



"Waitress" will be held Oct. 29-31, 2021 at Capital One Hall in Tysons Corner.

James, this classic ghost story depicts the trials of a young governess, haunted by ghosts while caring for two orphaned children on a remote estate in the English countryside. This innovative adaptation is a spine-tingling, tour de force for two actors and will be directed by Christopher Richardson.

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 27

Senior Resource Fair. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Frying Pan Park Pavilion, 2739 west Ox Road, Herndon. Join in a Resource Fair that is free to the public. Receive valuable information on community services that specifically benefit seniors. The Senior Resource Fair is a great place to learn about local agencies, products and services available to help seniors get the most out of life.

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 27

Performing Arts Documentaries - Episode Three. 1 p.m. At The Alden Theater at McLean Community Center, McLean. Free admission; registration is required. Come explore the history of the Broadway musical in this six-part documentary. Register for The Alden's email list at [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org) to see the name of the film being shown.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 28

The Lantern Tour. Featuring Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, Larry Campbell & Teresa Williams, Amy Helm, and Gaby Moreno. 8 p.m. At Capital One Arena, Tysons Corner. The Lantern Tour brings together art and advocacy to stand with migrant and refugee women, children, and youth around the world. Proceeds will benefit the Women's Refugee Commission. Visit the website: [capitalonehall.com](http://capitalonehall.com).

## OCT. 29 - 31

"Waitress." Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Inspired by the beloved film, "Waitress" tells the story of Jenna, an expert pie maker who dreams of a way out of her small town. A baking contest and the town's new doctor may offer her a fresh start, but Jenna must summon the strength to rebuild her own life. Visit the website: [capitalonehall.com](http://capitalonehall.com).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 30

Making a Scarecrow. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. At Historic Sully Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Have you always wanted your very own scarecrow friend? Visit Sully Historic Site and

make your own to take home with you! Enjoy the fall season by creating your very own fall friend. Simply bring some old clothing, and we'll supply the hay for stuffing. Afterwards, pose with your new friend for a great fall photo and play some of our historical games! And don't forget to take your new fall friend home with you. Cost is \$20 per family. Advanced registration is required. Call 703-437-1794.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Spooktacular. 5-7 p.m. At Great Falls Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Enjoy trick-or-treating with local merchants and a haunted house. For kids 12 and under, in costumes. Pet Costume Parade and Contest, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 3

Native American Fusion Music with D'DAT. 7 p.m. Learn more about the composition process and culture before D'DAT's performance in The Alden. D'DAT's music mixes three American art forms—jazz, native southwest and hip-hop styles—to create a sound that is uniquely theirs.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 6

Pancake Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. The Clifton Lions Club Annual Family Pancake Breakfast. Cost is \$10/adult; \$5/child under 12; Free under 5. All You Can Eat. Sponsored by the Clifton Lions Club.

# Advancing Trust

FROM PAGE 5

and there's even a police civilian review panel that you can go to and a police auditor in such situations," said Bierman. "The recommendations matrix, the creation of a dialogue that is open and public between the panel and the FCPD, I think, is leading to better practices and better investigations. The quality of investigation from the IAB is improving," said Bierman.

THE PANEL MADE 11 major recommendations, including the need for an executive director, an increase in its outreach

efforts to the community and to the police,

"Racial bias and racial profiling complaints still present a challenge to the FCPD and the paenl. It's obvious why these cases present a challenge. These cases are hard," he said. "Let me step back a moment. These cases could be easy but they often aren't. They often don't involve something that is outward or very clear and we need to find ways to investigate allegations of racial bias and systematize such investigations."

For more on the panel, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/>

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## SATURDAY/OCT. 30

<cal2>Walk-a-Thon. 8 a.m. Via Zoom. The Northern Virginia Business and Professional Women's Club, Mid Atlantic District, of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club will present a health forum on heart health on Saturday, October 30, 2021-THINK HEART THINK HEALTH- Moving Forward With a

Purpose! The program will begin at 8 a.m. with a Walk-A-Thon on Zoom followed by a panel discussion at 10:30 a.m. also on Zoom of distinguished presenters. The event is free and tickets are available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/x/think-heart-think-healthmoving-forward-with-a-purpose-tickets-188513106777>.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

| Jurisdiction | Fed Struc Id | Route # | Route Name                 | Crossing          | Posted Date |
|--------------|--------------|---------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| GRAYSON      | 8891         | 687     | ROCKHOUSE RD.              | ROCK CREEK        | 9/28/2021   |
| MONTGOMERY   | 12293        | 669     | PATTERSON DR. /ROUTE 669   | BOTTOM CREEK      | 9/28/2021   |
| BOTETOURT    | 3136         | 0F054   | FRONTAGE RD. F054          | PURGATORY CREEK   | 9/23/2021   |
| MONTGOMERY   | 12271        | 643     | YELL SULPH RD./ROUTE 643   | MILL BRANCH       | 9/23/2021   |
| BEDFORD      | 2754         | 644     | LANGFORD MILL/ROUTE 644    | NORTH OTTER CREEK | 9/21/2021   |
| SCOTT        | 16694        | 622     | SINKS RD.                  | COX BRANCH        | 9/21/2021   |
| ROANOKE      | 15082        | 696     | APPLE GROVE LANE/ROUTE 696 | BACK CREEK        | 9/15/2021   |
| ROANOKE (M)  | 21650        | 0       | ROUTE 0000                 | LICK RUN          | 9/15/2021   |
| CHARLOTTE    | 4890         | 618     | TURNIP CREEK RD.           | TURNIP CREEK      | 9/13/2021   |
| RICHMOND (M) | 21280        | 0       | BELLEVUE AVE.              | ROUTE I-95        | 9/2/2021    |

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.*







## SUNDAY/OCT. 31

Reformation Sunday. 11 a.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church will welcome guest preacher Rev. Jessica Tate of NEXT Church to the pulpit on Reformation Sunday. Rev. Tate will also lead the adult education class prior to worship from 9:30-10:30 a.m., discussing the subject "Is Faith Still Possible?" Both the class and the worship service will also be live streamed on Lewinsville's YouTube Channel. <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/reformation-sunday/>

## SUNDAY/OCT. 31

Pathways Out of Poverty. 3:30-5 p.m. on Zoom. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church and Redeemer Lutheran Church of McLean are partnering to launch a monthly series of panel discussions on "Pathways Out of Poverty in Northern Virginia." The first of this series will be held on Oct. 31 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm on Zoom. Virtual attendees will hear some of Lewinsville's local partners describe their experiences on the topic of Accessing Affordable Housing. Find more information here: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/pathways-out-of-poverty-in-northern-virginia/>

## ADULT AND PEDIATRIC FIRST AID/CPR/AED-BL CERTIFICATION

Are you current on your CPR and First Aid training? It only takes a few hours and could help save someone's life! First Aid training is recommended every 3 years, and the American Heart Association recommends CPR training every 2 years. A certification session will be held in Great Falls taught by the American Red Cross and targeting Saturday, December 4 in the Village Centre if there is enough interest. The cost would be \$133/person and would cover Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED-BL Certification. The class would be 1 hour 45 minutes, plus an additional 2 hours online. Email Molly Hockman at [mhockman@cox.net](mailto:mhockman@cox.net).

## NOV. 3-4

Auditions for "The Dinner Party." 7:30-10 p.m. At the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. By Neil Simon; Directed by Tom Flatt. The action revolves around a French dinner party that is hilariously chaotic. Six people, who do not know one another, have been invited to dine in a fancy Parisian restaurant. There is an air of mystery in this comedic play, because the diners do not know why they have been brought together. As it turns out, the dinner is about their damaged relationships and whether or not they can reconcile. Visit <http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/audition/>

## THURSDAY/NOV. 4

Reimagining Our Homes. 7-8:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Industry experts will discuss how we can transform our homes to meet the goal of carbon neutrality. To learn more and to register visit <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/events/>.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 6

Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists. 2-4 p.m. Via Zoom. The Northern Virginia Business and Professional Women's Club, Mid-Atlantic District, The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated (NANBPWC) hosts The 2021 Classical Voice Virtual Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists. This year's contestants include Anthony Anderson, Baritone, Jessica Edwards, Soprano, and Alexandra McBride, Mezzo-Soprano. The Competition will feature classically-trained voice performances in recognition of this year's Honorees: Terri Allen, Executive Director, CAAPA and Pamela T. Simonson, Soprano, Washington National Opera. Tickets are available at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) for \$30.00 for adults and \$15.00 for youth between the ages of 12-18.

## MONDAY/NOV. 8

Protecting Georgetown Pike. 7 p.m. Via Zoom. The November meeting of the E&P committee will be a listening session about protecting Georgetown Pike. Share your thoughts about ways to help continue to advocate for this historic road. Please see the draft document "Ideas to Protect Georgetown Pike" and then join the zoom with your thoughts on how we, as the E&P committee, can help protect our historic byway through education and monitoring. Let them know if you plan to attend by emailing Winnie at [winfrost@gmail.com](mailto:winfrost@gmail.com)

## TUESDAY/NOV. 9

Proposed Redistricting Plans Meeting. The Board of Supervisors approved a Nov. 9 public hearing on the 64 proposed redistricting plans that have been submitted for review. Of the 64 proposed electoral maps, 24 were submitted by the committee, and 40 were proposed by the public. Residents are encouraged to submit input before and at the public hearing. Visit the website: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/board-supervisors-hold-nov-9-public-hearing-proposed-redistricting-plans](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/board-supervisors-hold-nov-9-public-hearing-proposed-redistricting-plans)

## WEGMANS OFFERING MODERNA AND J&J/JANSSEN COVID-19

Wegmans Pharmacy locations are now offering the Moderna and J&J/Janssen vaccine booster doses to eligible individuals by appointment only. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Individuals 18 years and older who received the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine can receive a Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, or J&J booster at least two months after their primary vaccination. Appointments for a COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot must be reserved in advance. Customers can schedule an appointment by visiting [Wegmans.com/pharmacy](http://Wegmans.com/pharmacy) or calling 1-800-207-6099.

## I-495 SOUTHBOUND LANE CLOSURES

During the next two weekends, the left lane of the southbound I-495 (Capital Beltway Outer Loop) general purpose lanes will be closed along the three bridges over the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) from 10 p.m. Fridays to 5 a.m. Mondays for bridge joint work, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

tions needed, including 10 crisis intervention specialists, two behavioral health liaisons, one behavioral health supervisor, eight officers, one police supervisor and four peer recovery specialists.

"I think this is something very easy to support. What you've recommended makes a lot of sense," said Chairman Jeff McKay.

By July 2022, the county expects to have a 9-8-8 number ready for people to call with mental health emergencies as an alternative to 9-1-1.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## "No, Thank You"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Really? I'm being polite to an artificially-intelligent computer now? Why, exactly? Do I risk cancelling my transaction if I'm not courteous and respectful when I sign off? This ludicrous thought crossed my eyes the other day when I was transacting some after-hours banking business through my bank's ATM. I put in my debit card, waited for the machine to click/read my details, and then proceeded to conduct my business. Though I was shown multiple/options/buttons to press to advise the computer what I needed to do, I was only making a deposit. "Yes," I was asked, the amount entered is correct. "Yes," I'm selecting my checking account. "Yes," I'd like a receipt with the check image. "Yes," I'd like a paper receipt, not one texted to my cell phone or emailed to the email address on file. Finally, after confirming all these details and completing my transaction, I was asked - via the computer screen, if I wanted another transaction. It's at this exact nearly-final moment at the ATM when I got the inspiration for this column.

If indeed I was finished with my ATM banking business, I needed to sign off (thereby freeing up the machine for the next person). However, signing off was not simply a "yes" or "no" answer. There was of course a box for me to press to end this process. The words in these boxes were my answer as provided by the computer. The box said: "No, Thank You." That's when it hit me. By pressing this box - and tacitly agreeing to its sentiment, I was being forced - indirectly, into being polite to an inanimate object, whether that object was being artificially intelligent or perhaps simply programmed to be insufferably presumptuous. Either way, I felt my humanity compromised as if I had just made the ultimate sacrifice: my independence. I wasn't a man anymore. I was a machine.

Do you mean to say that there's honor-among-thieves-type of courtesy between computer users and the computers themselves? Am I supposed to treat my fellow computer like my fellow man? Like it has feelings? And if I somehow fail to interact with my computer in the proper form/tone/inflexion/manner, could I suffer negative consequences for my oversight? What are we talking about here? The movies? The future? Real life? I just wanted to make a deposit through my bank's ATM. I didn't want to start a relationship and I certainly didn't expect to inadvertently incur the wrath of some computer network last night that might now target me as some kind of virus (I've had all my vaccinations, even my booster). In fact, I'm simply a depositor. I'm not a threat. And I definitely don't want to have to pass muster with a computer chip. Can I speak to someone real, PLEASE? Of course not. It's after hours. I guess I'll have to come back tomorrow. But as it turned out "tomorrow" is a Saturday and the branch is no longer open on Saturdays. If I have any further business to conduct, it will have to be through the ATM. Great. Can you say vicious cycle?

But if I am to believe the computer programmers, the computers are incapable of being vicious. They're simply calculating, without being calculating. They're not being "Hal" from "2001: Space Odyssey." There's no ulterior motivation. They're not making my life miserable because they can. They're tools, like a doorknob, except they're excellent with numbers. They are simply following instructions/programs, very detailed ones for sure, but nothing more. I don't have to worry about them - aside from their computations, do I? And if I don't have to worry about them then why do I have to be nice to them, considerate to them as if they had feelings? I'm the one with feelings. You should be more concerned with being nice to me, not me being nice to computers. It used to be said that "Talk is cheap;" now it's computer code that's cheap. Obviously, in today's world, computers are essential, but never more than the customers. We may not always be right but our opinions always matter.

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

# Alternatives To Intervention

and have the police officer stay back?" Lusk asked.

"Yes, that's exactly what we are talking about, that's what happened in the responder pilot," said May. "Where we didn't really need law enforcement, they were there as security and kind of stepped back and let the behavioral staff take the lead."

About \$4 million will fund the 26 positions. [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



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