

# Republican Sweep

## Democrats lose statewide for the first time since 2009.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia has a long tradition of offering a counterpoint to presidential elections starting after the election of Democrat Jimmy Carter for president in 1976. Virginia responded by electing Republican John Dalton. Ever since then, it's been a pretty predictable pattern. After the Reagan Revolution in 1980, Virginia elected Democrat Chuck Robb governor. The election of Democrat Bill Clinton brought on the election of Republican George Allen, and the answer to Republican George W. Bush was Democrat Mark Warner.

Only one candidate for governor has been able to break the spell — Terry McAuliffe, who bucked the trend in 2013 by defeating Republican Ken Cuccinelli on the heels of Barack Obama's reelection. Democrats were hopeful that McAuliffe could pull it off again. But his campaign attempting to tie Republican Glenn Youngkin to former President Donald Trump failed as a wave of voters raised objections to anti-racism curriculum in schools and transgender students using the bathroom of the gender their choice.

"Unfortunately, Virginia's long-standing trend of electing a governor from the opposite party of the president continues," said Noam Lee, executive director of the Democratic Governors Association. "Sidestepping the issues that mattered to voters, the GOP lied and schemed to hide their candidate's extreme positions, and their far-right agenda won out."

Youngkin declared victory at a raucous victory party in Chantilly, thanking his family and outlining his agenda for the next four years. At the top of the list was education reform. He made no mention of

**"Together, we will change the trajectory of this commonwealth."**

— Governor-elect  
Glenn Youngkin

critical race theory, the law-school concept that he has vowed to ban from public school classrooms. But he did promise the largest education budget in history, and he said he would expand charter schools. He also said he would deliver the largest tax refund ever, and he vowed to eliminate the grocery



Republican gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin addresses a crowd Oct. 30 at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria. Youngkin upset Democratic nominee Terry McAuliffe in the Nov. 2 general election.

tax.

"This is our moment," said Youngkin. "Together, we will change the trajectory of this commonwealth."

The blame game has already started among Democrats, who are critical of the McAuliffe campaign for focussing too much attention on Trump and for not fighting back harder against allegations that critical race theory is taught in Virginia classrooms. As Democrats saw power slipping from their grasp Tuesday night, they were particularly angry that Republicans were able to seize

on the issue of education — a campaign issue Democrats have long considered their own personal realm.

"You cannot lose education," said Brian Moran, a former Democratic caucus chairman in the House who now works in the Northam administration. "It's bread and butter:

Health care, education and safety. That's what Democrats talk about, and that's what we care about. We cannot forfeit those issues."

Since Democrats seized control of the General Assembly two years ago, they've been able to achieve drastic change.

They've legalized marijuana, abolished the death penalty, restricted predatory lending, implemented gun violence prevention measures and overturned restrictions to abortion. For many voters, that may have been too much too soon. The election of Youngkin and the Republican ticket is certain to be viewed as a repudiation of the agenda that Democrats pushed during their brief era of legislative power.

"It's official: Virginians have completely rejected the failed policies of the liberals running Richmond and voted for a brighter future full of supported small businesses, empowered parents and safer streets," said Dee Duncan, president of the Republican State Leadership Committee. "We supported the right candidates,



Hundreds turned out in Old Town Alexandria Oct. 30 for a rally for Republican gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin.

developed the right messages, and executed the right strategies to overcome a two-to-one spending disadvantage driven by national liberals like Barack Obama, Eric Holder, Nancy Pelosi and Stacey Abrams."

Youngkin launched his campaign initially aiming squarely at economic issues, promising tax cuts as part of a very traditional Republican playbook. But then events caught up with the campaign. A high-profile prosecution in Loudoun gave opponents of transgender students using the bathroom of their choice an opportunity to question safety. And a national movement against so-called critical race theory erupted at local school board meetings across Virginia. Then McAuliffe stuck his foot in his mouth in the second debate saying he didn't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach.

"I think Terry made an unfortunate remark, and that started it," said Del. Kaye Kory (D-38). "Before that, there really was not any talk about this on this scale."

After the debate in Alexandria at the Schlesinger Center, Republicans recalibrated their campaign to be aimed right at the issue of parental rights. That gave them an opportunity to ride the wave of concern over anti-racism curriculum in the classroom, which they call critical race theory even though that's not taught in Virginia classrooms. And every new detail in the Loudoun prosecution was amplified on right-wing media. McAuliffe's own words were endlessly repeated in Republican television ads, and the McAuliffe campaign was late in walking the statement back.

"We are grateful to Virginians who place their trust in us," said Republican House Leader Todd Gilbert after Republicans won enough seats to take control of the House of Delegates. "We look forward to immediately going to work with Governor-elect Youngkin and his administration to restore fiscal order, give parents the voice they deserve in education and keep our commonwealth safe. Our work begins now."



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# Mount Vernon Voters Do Their Civic Duty on Election Day

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Virginia governor's race was one of the more tightly contested races the state has seen in recent years. There was Terry McAuliffe on the Democratic ticket, who had been Virginia's governor from 2014-18, and Glenn Youngkin on the Republican side. By the time the final votes were counted on early Wednesday morning, the winner was Glenn Youngkin with about 51 percent of the votes, over McAuliffe who had close to 48 percent of the votes.

**What brought out the voters in the Hybla Valley area of Mount Vernon?**



"Part of my civic duty, the only way you can have a say is to vote."

- SARAH ROSE,  
RESIDENT OF THE SHADOW MEADOWS NEIGHBORHOOD



"Civic duty."

- JOHN CONNELLY,  
HYBLA VALLEY



"It's our civic duty, plus there are a few issues."

- SYED ALI,  
41-YEAR RESIDENT OF MOUNT VERNON



"I got a C-plus on my voting record in the mail."

- CYNTHIA FARMER,  
HYBLA VALLEY



"I missed the early vote, that's why I'm here early."

- RHEA ANBANTA,  
MOUNT VERNON

## Unofficial Results from Virginia Board of Elections

	Votes	Percent
<b>Governor</b>		
Glenn A. Youngkin - R	1,663,755	50.68
Terry R. McAuliffe - D	1,593,741	48.55
D Princess L. Blanding - LP	22,625	0.69
<b>Leutenant Governor</b>		
Winsome E. Sears - R	1,659,942	50.82
Hala S. Ayala - D	1,603,076	49.08
<b>Attorney General</b>		
Jason S. Miyares - R	1,649,034	50.48
Mark R. Herring - D	1,614,724	49.43
<b>Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOL BONDS</b>		
Yes	174,236	67.82
No	82,676	32.18
<b>Delegate District 34</b>		
Gary G. Pan - R	17,109	43.15
Kathleen J. Murphy - D	22,496	56.74
<b>Delegate 35th District</b>		
Kevin E. McGrath - R	11,132	31.6
Mark L. Keam - D	24,044	68.26
<b>Delegates 36th District</b>		
Matthew J. Lang - R	10,220	28.4
Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum - D	25,701	71.41
<b>Delegate 37th District</b>		
Kenny W. Meteiver - R	9,491	33.36
David L. Bulova - D	18,914	66.47
<b>Delegates 38th District</b>		
Tom L. Pafford - R	7,468	31.12
L. Kaye Kory - D	16,451	68.55
<b>Delegates 39th District</b>		
Maureen T. Brody - R	9,950	33.32
Vivian E. Watts - D	19,850	66.46
<b>Delegates 40th District</b>		
Harold Y. Pyon - R	17,021	45.91
Dan I. Helmer	20,025	54.01
<b>Delegates 41st District</b>		
John M. Wolfe - R	12,361	34.88
Eileen Filler-Corn - D	23,016	64.94
<b>Delegates 42nd District</b>		
Edward F. McGovern - R	14,097	40.09
Kathy K. "KL" Tran - D	21,012	59.76
<b>Delegate 43rd District</b>		
Brenton H. Hammond - R	9,341	29.92
Mark D. Sickles - D	21,838	69.95
<b>Delegates 44th District</b>		
Richard T. Hayden - R	8,568	32.45
Paul E. Krizek - D	17,795	67.41
<b>Delegates 45th District</b>		
Justin D. "J.D." Maddox - R	10,924	26.15
Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker - D	30,733	73.57
<b>Delegate 46th District</b>		
Charniele L. Herring - D	20,024	92.1
<b>Delegate 47th District</b>		
Laura A. Hall - R	8,473	21.61
Patrick A. Hope - D	30,616	78.1
<b>Delegates 48th District</b>		
Edward William Monroe, Jr. - R	10,709	27.71
Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. - D	27,847	72.05
<b>Delegates 53rd District</b>		
Sarah White - R	8,749	28.14
Marcus B. Simon - D	22,292	71.69
<b>Delegates 67th District</b>		
Bob L. Frizzelle - R	13,958	39.42
Karrie K. Delaney - D	21,407	60.46
<b>Delegates 86th District</b>		
Julie Anna Perry - R	10,113	34.65
Irene Shin - D	18,988	65.05



# Parkway Plan Kicked Off in Early October

A road diet is based on a 2019 safety study by the National Park Service.



BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

The George Washington Memorial Parkway is set for several changes to adapt to the amount of traffic, speeds and sight distances to make this travel corridor safer for motorists and pedestrians. The parkway is maintained by the National Park Service, and officials there are looking at the intersections of Stratford Lane, Collingwood Road and Morningside Lane to implement safety measures, and a road diet in other places.

To implement this road diet, the NPS will restripe the road between the City of Alexandria and George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, changing the markings so that there will be two northbound, one southbound and one turn lane in areas between Stratford

Lane and Tulane Drive to improve safety. They will also install new signs and flexible posts at the intersections of Belle View Boulevard, Belle Haven Drive and other areas along the parkway to guide drivers.

A jogger in the Stratford Landing community was not aware of the NPS plans but did note the speeding and increased traffic. "I'd be in favor of things for safety, we're all concerned," he said, noting that the parkway interchanges with islands in the middle were notably safer, such as the intersections at Stratford Lane and Collingwood Road. Morningside Lane has no island separating the north and southbound lanes, and the curves

and forested areas make visibility difficult for drivers pulling out onto the parkway, particularly if they are heading north. "At Morningside, I've wondered why they don't [add an island]," he said.

These interchange issues were of particular concern to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association, who wrote about it in the October newsletter "The Record." They compared the two proposed traffic calming measures, described as a "road diet," or roundabout.

One member felt that although a roundabout appeared to solve many problems at Morningside,

clude the road diet, upgrading signing and markings, analyzing the interchange lighting and tree trimming. There's much of the same planned for Collingwood and Stratford Lane, according to the NPS safety assessment.

## Striping and Speeding

Although currently there are still two lanes north and southbound, the NPS started to implement the road diet this month on the southern end of the parkway between Stratford Lane and Tulane Drive to improve safety, NPS said.

The NPS conducted a safety study in the summer of 2019, and found that the at-grade crossings have limited sight lines. The safety enhancements on the southern end of the parkway include removing vegetation at intersections to improve visibility. This would be particularly helpful at Morningside

where the vegetation goes right up to the southbound lanes in an area that has a little hill and some curves.

Speeding was the biggest concern on the southern portion of the parkway - particularly in the Stratford Lane area. Speed data collected by NPS indicates that the median speed is above the posted speed limit with 85 percent of vehicles going from eight to 12 mph above the posted speed limit. The MVCCA pointed out that the parkway was originally designed to provide scenic recreational driving experiences that is better appreciated by traveling at slower speeds. The design of the Parkway was not intended for the point-to-point

there isn't enough space to build one and it would add expense. Others felt a roundabout at Morningside Lane would be better than the planned road diet because it provided easier movement from Morningside Lane onto the parkway, both northbound and southbound. The nearby community of Wellington Heights endorsed the roundabout over the planned road diet too.

But Aaron LaRocca of NPS said roundabouts are out. "This current project consists only of striping and signage," he said, adding that all the road diet portions should be completed by the end of 2021.

According to NPS, the "safety treatments," at Morningside in-



MAP AND ARTIST RENDERINGS CONTRIBUTED

This map shows the intersections where the National Park Service is looking to make safety improvements.



The road diet will look something like this.

travel or commuting that are now the primary use of the road occurring today.

**[ONGOING]** Lane closures for road striping work between Alexandria and Mount Vernon

Until the end of 2021, the National Park Service will restripe lanes on the southern part of George Washington Memorial Parkway. The NPS plans to temporarily close one of two lanes in each direction while work is happening. Drivers should expect to see work on weekdays in:

Northbound lanes from roughly 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. starting in late September at Mount Vernon

and working north.

Southbound lanes from roughly 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting later in the fall near the City of Alexandria and working south.

As part of this work, the NPS will implement a road diet (changing markings so that there will be two northbound, one southbound and one turn lane) in areas between Stratford Lane and Tulane Drive to improve safety. We will also install new signs and delineators (flexible posts) at the intersections of Belle View Boulevard, Belle Haven Drive and other areas along the parkway to guide drivers. Learn more at [go.nps.gov/SouthGWMPNextSteps](http://go.nps.gov/SouthGWMPNextSteps)

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## WELLBEING

# The Grim Reality of the High Maternal Death Rate among Black Women

**Racism and access to medical care are among the causes.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**C**hest pains during and after her pregnancy were the first sign that something might be wrong. When Corretta Lewis of Alexandria visited her doctor, she was told that her pain was the result of low iron levels and a nutrition-deficient diet. She was skeptical of her physician's diagnosis.

"I had a friend that died at 21 with her 3-day old baby in her arms because the doctors didn't take her seriously, so I was scared," said Lewis.

She adjusted her diet but the discomfort persisted. "I nearly died while in labor with my son and then I was dismissed by my OB-GYN during postnatal care," she said. "After giving birth, I was still experiencing severe chest pain and after a few weeks my wife forced me to go to another doctor to have them look into it further."

A cardiologist ordered an echocardiogram. "It turns out that the doctor saw something on an ultrasound of my heart," said Lewis. "I could have died. I was dismissed because I was a young black woman."

Lewis' experience is not uncommon. Black women are three-to-four times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes at a higher rate than white women in Northern Virginia and parts of Montgomery County. A lack of access to healthcare and racism from medical professionals are among the top reasons for this gap.

Most pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, according to the CDC. Racial and ethnic disparities in pregnancy-related deaths have persisted over time, the CDC reports. Even in states with the lowest pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births, and among women with higher levels of education, significant racial differences persist. These findings suggest that the disparity observed in pregnancy-related death for Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women is a complex national problem, according to the CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/p0905-racial-ethnic-disparities-pregnancy-deaths.html>

"Institutional racism, implicit bias, toxic stress, and intimate partner violence ... are contributing factors to the staggering disparity among black women," said Joanna Hemmat, assistant director, Health Services Division, Fairfax County Health Department.

The actions that are associated with these behaviors are dismissing a patient's symptoms, making assumptions and generalizing.

"We work on addressing institutional racism and implicit bias—in collaboration with One Fairfax, our county-wide initiative to bring an equity lens to all areas of operation throughout the county, including

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CORRETTA LEWIS

**Corretta Lewis, pictured with her wife Mea and their son Caleb says that she almost lost her life due racism in healthcare.**

**"Institutional racism, implicit bias, toxic stress, and intimate partner violence ... are contributing factors to the staggering disparity among black women."**

**— Joanna Hemmat, Health Services Division, Fairfax County Health Department**

teams up with the Virginia Hospital Center to provide services to pregnant women, says Kurt Larrick, assistant director of Arlington County Department of Human Services. "They do all deliveries and we actually send any high risk pregnancies to them immediately as well," he said.

Addressing pre-existing medical conditions and creating an overall healthy lifestyle can help lower maternal mortality rates among women of color.

"Mental Health screening, screening for intimate partner violence and substance use, as well as subsequent referrals, are essential components of care provision during the prenatal and postpartum periods. In order to reduce maternal deaths due to suicide, overdose, and intimate partner violence," said Hemmat.

Though she survived her pregnancy and now has a happy family of three, Lewis is still concerned about the plight of other women of color.

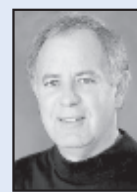
"It's not asking a lot for all black women to live long enough to see the child they carried celebrate their first birthday, and many others," Lewis said.

health," Hemmat said.

A lack of access to prenatal and postnatal healthcare is another barrier to closing the maternal mortality gap between Black and white women. "Uninsured women are less likely to seek routine health care and more likely to receive episodic care in the emergency department," said Hemmat, "The diagnosis and management of chronic health conditions may be delayed and follow-up care is not coordinated."

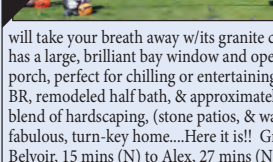
To address the issue of a lack of healthcare, local counties are partnering with medical facilities to offer services on a sliding scale for uninsured patients.

For example, Arlington County



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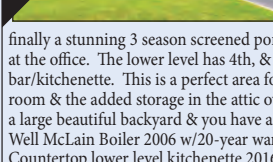


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# Leave the Leaves

By GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

**T**hat annual suburban fall ritual is underway: raking, blowing and bagging leaves. Bags bulging with leaves line many streets awaiting pickup. But some people are asking, “Why?”

Some homeowners are leaving fallen leaves on the ground to support insects. Many people compost leaves to enrich the soil after the leaves biodegrade. Mulched leaves are “black gold,” many gardeners tout.

## Wintering Insects Need Leaves

Insects are everywhere, from the tundra to the tropics, in the soil, water, wood and plants. They are an important part of the web of life, “the little things that run the world,” biologist Edmund O. Wilson noted. Insects recycle nutrients, pollinate plants, control pests and disperse seeds.

Insects go through three or four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Some, like dragonflies, do not have a pupa stage. Many insects rely on fallen leaves for cover, insulation and protection from predators over the fall and winter.

For example, some butterfly and moth species spend the winter in leaves as eggs, caterpillars, pupae or adults. Justin Wheeler of the Xerces Society wrote, “Red-banded hairstreaks lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, which become the first food of the caterpillars when they emerge. Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies disguise their cocoons and chrysalises as dried leaves, blending in with the ‘real’ leaves. ... bumble bees also rely on leaf litter for protection.”

Most native bee species spend the winter in nests that their mothers prepared and like bears, and hibernate through the winter. Around 70 percent of bee species nest in the ground, reports the Xerces Society. Dead organic material is also home to worms, snails, spiders, beetles, millipedes and microscopic critters like bacteria and fungi. Animals like chipmunks, turtles, birds and amphibians rely on these insects for food. It’s all intertwined.

University of Delaware entomologist Dr. Doug Tallamy has explained, “There are 70 species of moths and several butterfly species that develop as caterpillars on dead leaves. Over 90 percent of the caterpillars that develop on trees drop from the trees to pupate in leaf litter or the loose soil it protects so removing leaves from an area definitely hurts insects.”



Northern Virginia streets are lined with bags of fallen leaves in the fall.



Many people bag leaves and leave them on the street for county pickup.

Several studies in recent years have sounded alarms. Insect abundance has precipitously declined and the world has lost more than one-quarter of its land-dwelling insects in the past 30 years, reported Science magazine in 2020. These trends could lead to unprecedented extinctions, a phenomenon some call “the insect apocalypse.”

## End Gas-powered Leaf Blowers

Leaf blowers are a favorite tool of many homeowners and landscape firms. Former Washington Post gardening columnist Adrian Higgins wrote in 2016, “Since the 1970s, the soundscape has been shaped by the leaf blower ... what was once a weekend phenomenon from a gadget-minded homeowner is now a weekday, day-long assault on neighborhoods,” adding that it’s “become a three-season mainstay for [landscaping] crews.”

A Northern Virginia group called Quiet Clean NOVA is campaigning to ban gas-powered leaf blowers because of their noise pollution, disruption to peace of mind, planet-warming emissions, risk to operators’ hearing, habitat destruction and disturbance to wildlife.

“High levels of noise pollution exert a deleterious effect on wildlife,” says Quiet Clean Director

Joan Lowy. “For example, loud noise interferes in communication between birds, impacting their courtship and production of chicks. Loud noise also favors predators, as prey lose their ability to hear them.”

Quiet Clean advocates argue that a gas-powered blower emits 23 times the carbon monoxide and 300 times more hydrocarbons than a Ford F-150 pickup truck. The machines’ airspeeds stir up inhalable, fine particulates from the ground, including animal feces, pesticides, fungal spores, pollen, mold and heavy metals. Gas-powered blowers “blast air up to 280 miles per hour, eroding topsoil and sending pollen, fertilizers and herbicides adrift,” wrote Monica Cardoza in a 2020 National Audubon Society article.

Over 100 U.S. cities have banned gas-powered leaf blowers or limited their use to certain times, including the District of Columbia and Chevy Chase Village.

Lawn equipment manufacturers have a different view. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, based in Alexandria, says on its website, “Business owners want clean parking lots and landscapes, communities want neat and clean parks free of debris that can harbor insects



Lenten rose plants live among the fallen leaves.



A harvestman (daddy longlegs) navigates dead leaves.



Many ferns species can grow amid fallen leaves.

and pests, and homeowners want attractive front yards. Leaf blowers are often the best equipment to achieve those goals.

“Today’s leaf blowers are quieter and more efficient than ever before,” they maintain. “Most modern blowers are 75 percent quieter than blowers manufactured only a decade ago. And many manufacturers have reduced the emissions of small engines by as much as 90 percent.”

There are several quieter and less-polluting alternatives to gas-powered leaf blowers, including battery-powered blowers, mulching lawn mowers, rakes and

brooms. And Lowy advises, “If you feel you have to remove leaves, we recommend that you designate at least a corner of your yard for a brush pile. Small animals like rabbits, salamanders and turtles will make their homes in these piles.”

“Leaves are not litter,” says the Xerces Society. “They’re food and shelter for butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and more.” And unlike leaf blowers, these critters barely make a sound.

Information: Quiet Clean NOVA, <https://quietcleannova.wordpress.com/>  
The Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation, <https://xerces.org/>



## Mount Vernon Gazette

[www.MountVernonGazette.com](http://www.MountVernonGazette.com)

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# Witchful Thinking

Ghouls and goblins take to the streets.



Alice Smalligan shows off her witchy ways Oct. 31 at a Vauxcluse neighborhood gathering.

Darth Vader and the Cat in the Hat at the Vauxcluse neighborhood Halloween gathering.



Patrick Neyland holds son Thomas while mom Katy holds baby daughter Hazel at a Vauxcluse neighborhood gathering Oct. 31.



Luisa Balke with Byron, Angela and Alissa Cochrane and dog Vincent at a Vauxcluse neighborhood Halloween gathering Oct. 31.

## Wicked Awesome

Halloween Parade returns to Del Ray.

Following a pandemic-induced hiatus, the popular Del Ray Halloween parade returned Oct. 24 with a turnout that was better than ever as the annual event celebrated its 25th year.

From goblins, ghosts and ghouls, Mount Vernon Avenue turned into a colorful sea of creative costumed characters that included a zombie marching band. Local businesses joined in the fun, with Pork Barrel BBQ setting up a play corn box complete with 1,000 pounds of corn for frolicking.

Contests were held virtually for Best Decorated House, Best Decorated Business, Best Group Costume and Best Pet Costume. [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com)



PHOTOS BY MANCO MIKE ANDERSON



## 3 Dates to Circle in November

By HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

With the departure of Halloween, the holiday season is just around the corner (or, to see some shops touting it, right here in the room). From shopping to cheese boards to wine pairings over five courses, here are three ways to celebrate all month long.

### Fall Wine Dinner at Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap, Nov. 8

Looking to kick off the season in style? This five-course food and wine pairing awaits. Using the Loft at Lena's wine list and special dishes prepared just for this evening, the Fall Wine Dinner cele-

brates the arrival of the winter-themed Loft with plenty of treats. Partake in the limited-time holiday wine offerings and take a taste of some new offerings before they arrive at the Loft. Vegetarian option available - call for more information. \$79 per person. 6-8 p.m. 401 E. Braddock Road.

### Intro to Cheese and Charcuterie Boards at Lost Boy Cider, Nov. 14

Just in time for the holiday entertaining season, Lost Boy Cider and Casa Onofre are joining forces to walk you through how to make your very best board for noshing and toasting the season. Begin the session with a demo and then dive right in to apply your skills to your own board. Learn all about cutting techniques and basic pairings - and then feast on your creation

after class (maybe with a cider in hand). \$63. 1-3 p.m. 317 Hooffs Run Drive.

### Hometown Holidays at Port City Brewing, Nov. 27

Small Business Saturday arrives again at the end of the month, and Port City Brewing is hosting 30 Alexandria-based crafters and "makers" in the brewery's parking lot. Come cross some of your holiday shopping off your list and then hang around for some craft beers to celebrate the season. 3950 Wheeler Ave.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

## Bring Home Original Work from Local Artists

Torpedo Factory Art Center is encouraging people to bring home original work from local artists this fall with two major offerings dedicated to making art buying simple and affordable. Target Gallery's next group exhibition, Fall Salon, <https://torpedofactory.org/event/fall-salon/> on view Nov. 10 - Dec. 12, features 70 works by artists from the greater metropolitan region, all priced at \$1,000 or less. Art Fest <https://torpedofactory.org/event/art-fest/> on Sunday, Nov. 14, features special in-studio offers throughout the building exclusive to participants. Torpedo Factory Art Center is located at 105 N. Union Street in Old Town Alexandria. Art Fest—Sunday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.—brings this collector's spirit out of Target Gallery and throughout all three floors of the Art Center. Dozens of galleries and studios are extending exclusive discounts and offers to Art Fest buyers that aren't available at any other time of the year. Tickets start at \$15 with access to the 3rd floor Art Lounge with expansive Potomac views, a live art project, and beverages to enjoy while you relax. Music will be spun all day by DJ One Luv.

The jury panel that selected the art for this exhibition was Clint Mansell, director of Principle Gallery; Sarah Tanguy, DC-based independent curator; Tomora Wright, fellowship director at Hamiltonian Artists. The three will participate in a free roundtable discussion about art collecting and sustaining the local arts economy on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 4 p.m.

For those who can't visit Target Gallery in-person, the online catalogue will let people make purchases online. It goes live on Wednesday, Nov. 10 via [torpedofactory.org/target](https://torpedofactory.org/target).

## Alexandria Proclaims November Movie Magic Month

Mayor Justin Wilson signed a proclamation designating the month of November "Movie Magic Month" to celebrate the confluence of film activities sponsored by the city's major arts groups.

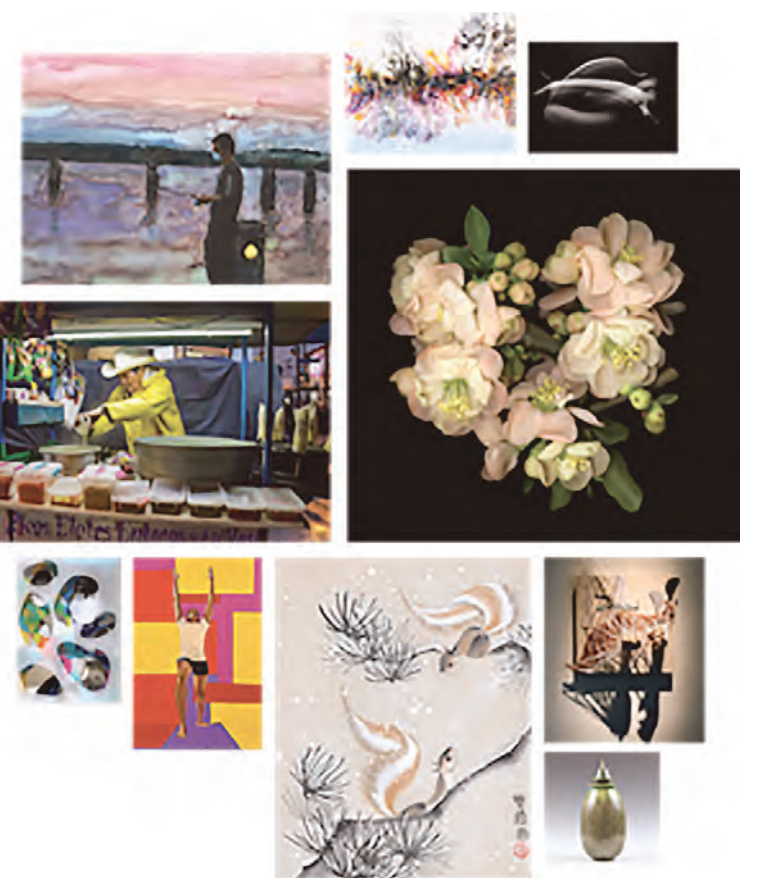
The Alexandria Film Festival kicks off on Nov. 6 with the debut of "Homegrown: American Stories in Music and Film," its historic partnership with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. For one night only, the orchestra will perform works by American composers, screened "live to picture" with six new films commissioned specifically for those works. The orchestra will also perform "Pictures at an Exhibition" by Mussorgsky.

"There is indeed magic in the air when Alexandria's great arts institutions join forces to create a new way of bringing movies and live music into the same space," Wilson said. All six filmmakers will be present and will take questions from the audience with Maestro James Ross.

Following the Homegrown concert the film festival will stream more than 40 films, beginning Nov. 11 through Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Day.

"The range and diversity of film opportunities that beckon this month exemplify the creative energy, and yes, magic, the arts bring to the city," said AFF chair Dara Sanders.

The symphony and the festival are joined by Del Ray Artisans, who will host "Groovy Movies: Artwork Inspired by Motion Pictures," Nov. 5-28, 2021, an exhibit spotlighting the art of film and film in art.



### CALENDAR

#### NOW THRU NOV. 6

"Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Set against the socially turbulent 1960s, "Wait Until Dark" follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman who, while left alone in her apartment, becomes embroiled with a group of con men hatching an elaborate scam. As the tension mounts, Suzy must fend for herself, but the phone line is cut, and the house is plunged into darkness. Can Suzy outwit her murderous visitors? Note: All patrons are required to wear a mask (even if vaccinated) for the duration of the performance. Admission: \$21 to \$24 per person. Visit the website: [thelittletheatre.com](http://thelittletheatre.com)

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 6

Our Town Alexandria. 6 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert

Hall, Alexandria. In partnership with the Alexandria Film Festival, the ASO presents Homegrown: American Stories in Music and Film. Our Town - Alexandria will incorporate footage of our beloved city set to music from Copland's Our Town. Click on the video for a preview of the film. (Film footage by Spark Media.) The concert will feature six American films set live to picture with American music, woven into the tapestry of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. For tickets, visit <https://alexsym.org/performance/pictures-at-an-exhibition/>

#### TUESDAY/NOV. 9

Outdoor Chamber Music. 6:30 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, Alexandria. After 13 concerts since June 2020, SEE HELPING. PAGE 10



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9  
audience

favorites from the NSO return once again to delight audiences when a quartet of musicians from the horn section performs in beloved staples of chamber repertoire in unexpected arrangements. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

## NOV. 11-14

Alexandria Film Festival. The Alexandria Film Festival will take place as a hybrid event—virtual, with some in person events. The festival footprint is expanding this year to include a partnership with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, which will feature six original films and will be presented with a “live to picture” performance of the orchestra on November 6 and 7. This performance will be in person but will observe current safety protocols such as social distancing. Admission: \$12 per show-case or \$75 per All-Festival Pass. To get the latest information, visit [AlexFilmFest.com](http://AlexFilmFest.com).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 12

Outdoor Movie Night. 7 p.m. At Original Mount Vernon High School, 8333 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) is excited to introduce a new family-friendly event to the Richmond Hwy Corridor in Fairfax County. SFDC is set to host the ‘Outdoor Movie Night’, featuring the Disney movie “Luca” (2021). Bundle-up for this fall evening and bring your own blanket or chair. Admission to this event is free.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 12

Intersections. 6:30-9 p.m. At The Garden at Building Momentum, 5380 Eisenhower Ave Suite C, Alexandria. LMP Collective and Yel-

low Door Concert Series present an evening of Jazz music and dance at The Garden. Wine and beer available for purchase. Heavy appetizers and soda included with ticket price. Cost is \$35. Visit the website: <https://localmotionproject.org>

## THE BIRCHMERE

All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

### November

Thu. 4: Herman’s Hermits starring Peter Noone \$49.50  
Fri. 5: Stephanie Mills \$89.50  
Sat. 6: Stephanie Mills \$89.50 SOLD OUT!  
Sun. 7: Steep Canyon Rangers \$39.50  
Mon. 8: Marc Broussard w/ Drew Angus \$45.00  
Tue. 9: The Wallflowers w/ Marie Miller \$75.00 SOLD OUT!  
Wed. 10: Brandy Clark “Who You Thought I Was Tour” w/ Alex Hall \$35.00  
Fri. 12: 10,000 Maniacs \$55.00  
Sat. 13: David Bromberg Big Band ‘Spirit of 76 Birthday Bash’ w/ Veronica Lewis \$49.50  
Sun. 14: Hiroshima \$49.50  
Mon. 15: Rosanne Cash with John Leventhal and Band \$69.50  
Tue. 16: Rosanne Cash with John Leventhal and Band \$69.50  
Wed. 17: John Hiatt and The Jerry Douglas Band \$75.00 SOLD OUT!  
Thu. 18: Luna w/ The Natvral \$39.50  
Fri. 19: Paula Poundstone \$55.00  
Sat. 20: Paula Poundstone \$55.00  
Sun. 21: Paula Poundstone \$55.00  
Mon. 22: Jake Shimabukuro “Christmas In Hawaii” \$55.00  
Tue. 23: The Musical Box Presents: A Genesis Extravaganza Vol. 2 \$49.50  
Wed. 24: Hot Tuna Acoustic & Electric with spe-

cial guest Steve Kimock & Friends \$75.00  
Thu. 25 - Thanksgiving

Fri. 26: The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad \$45.00

Sat. 27: Chris Isaak ‘Holiday Tour’ \$115.00

Sun. 28: Charles Esten \$59.50

Mon. 29: Steve Tyrell \$55.00

Tue. 30: A Peter White Christmas with Mindi Abair & Vincent Ingala \$59.50

### December

Thu. 2: Squirrel Nut Zippers “Holiday Caravan Tour 2021” \$45.00

Fri. 3: Chris Botti \$110.00

Sat. 4: Chris Botti \$110.00

Sun. 5: Dar Williams w/ Emily Scott Robinson \$45.00

Mon. 6: Steven Curtis Chapman ‘Acoustic Christmas!’ \$49.50

Tue. 7: America “50th Anniversary” \$99.50

SOLD OUT!

Wed. 8: Eric Benet \$69.50

Thu. 9: KT Tunstall w/ Haley Johnsen \$45.00

Fri. 10: Maggie Rose “Have A Seat Tour 2021” w/ Them Vibes & Dylan Hartigan \$29.50

Sat. 11: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes \$49.50

Sun. 12: “Seasons Greetings from the Ozone” Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun with Lost Planet Airmen #1 Dr. John Tichy – A Honky Tonk Holiday & Tribute to Commander Cody \$39.50

Mon. 13

Tue. 14: Shaun Cassidy \$55.00

Wed. 15: A John Waters Christmas \$55.00

Thu. 16: Carbon Leaf \$39.50

Fri. 17: Carbon Leaf \$39.50

Sat. 18: Tom Papa \$35.00 (Resched from 3/26/21. All 3/26/21 tickets honored) SOLD OUT!

Sun. 19: Luther Re-Lives Holiday Show featuring William “Smooth” Wardlaw \$45.00

Mon. 20: Puddles Pity Party \$49.50

Sun. 26: MAYSA Holiday Show \$69.50

Wed. 29: Hank Williams Tribute w/ Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Robin & Linda Williams,

Phil Wiggins, Patrick McAvinue, Mark Schatz \$29.50

Thu. 30: Bela Dona Band \$35.00

Fri. 31: New Years Eve with The Seldom Scene, Eastman String Band, & Wicked Sycamore -8pm- \$49.50

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New Birchmere shows confirmed since 10/19/21 [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com)

All shows at 7:30pm in the Music Hall, unless otherwise noted.

Wed. Feb. 2: MARC COHN \$55.00

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❖On Sale Fri. 10/29 at 12N.

Sat. Feb. 12: BURLESQUE-A-PADES In Loveland!

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<https://www.angiepontani.com/>

❖On Sale Fri. 10/29 at 12N.

Fri. Apr. 1: THE MANHATTANS featuring Gerald Alston \$55.00

<http://letsjustkissandsaygoodbye.com/>

❖On Sale Fri. 10/29 at 12N.

Thu. Apr. 7: ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL \$39.50

<https://www.asleepatthewheel.com/>

❖On Sale Fri. 10/29 at 12N.

Sat. May 14: NAJEE \$45.00

<https://www.najeeofficial.com/>

❖On Sale Fri. 10/29 at 12N.

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## NEWS

# Overall Crime Down: But Overdoses, Mental Health Crises on the Rise

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**C**rime is notably down in Fairfax County, even though calls mental health crises are on the rise.

Suspects in nearly a third of Fairfax County's 19 homicides this year were sons in their late teens or twenties in mental health crisis, killing their mothers, fathers, or in one case, a sister.

"That's a startling startling statistic," said Police Chief Kevin Davis, in his 100-Day Plan Update to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Oct. 26 in its Public Safety Committee meeting.

Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn noted the county police department's co-responder pilot program with the county to address

"This is becoming a bigger issue," said Alcorn.

"I want thank you chief for working with [Fairfax County Community Service Board] and others," said Alcorn, "and looking to see where we can do a better job of service to folks that are having mental health and behavioral crises."

See <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/oct/27/alternatives-police-intervention/>

Suicide prevention calls and mental health crises are "dramatically on the rise," according to Davis,

There were six more carjackings and an increase of 24 non-fatal overdoses compared to last year, Davis said. He described police and Fire and Rescue responding to one scene where they had to administer NARCAN to "all six of those individuals in what was a chaotic chaotic scene." That resulted in two fatalities.

Overall, crime is down and "we have 3,614 fewer overall crime victims in Fairfax County," said Davis. "So what's down? Robberies, burglaries, auto-theft, assault and domestic assault, bias incidents, fatal crashes, fatal pedestrian crashes, fatal overdoses are slightly down."

Lee Supervisor Rodney Lusk chairs the Board's Public Safety Committee.

"I have heard and I have seen so many posts that crime is out of hand in Fairfax County that we are in a desperate situation. Clearly the numbers don't prove that out, we're in the exact opposite situation," said Lusk. "I hope that people are

listening and can hear this. We have lower crime in Fairfax County than virtually any of our neighboring jurisdictions. When we talk about Northern Virginia as a whole, the crime statistics for the region are significantly different than the crime statistics here in Fairfax County. Things are going a lot better here than in other places."

Chairman Jeff McKay said, "We owe it to our officers to report these successes, too."

**"We have 3,614 fewer overall crime victims in Fairfax County."**

— Police Chief Kevin Davis

## 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 event.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 25

CAN the Bird 5K. 8 a.m. CAN the Bird 5K Turkey Trot will begin and end in the Walmart parking lot, 5885 Kingstowne Boulevard, Alexandria. All ages can enjoy a run around Kingstowne Center and the Kingstowne Lake. Medals will be awarded for first, second and third places for overall men and women runners, plus best runner with a dog, and best runner with a stroller. First, second and third place medals will also be awarded for these categories: 12 years and under; 13-18 years; and master runners 50 years and older. Donations of canned goods will be accepted for local food banks. Bring the family for a fun Thanksgiving Day morning run. Register for early bird prices at [www.MountVernonLeeChamber.org](http://www.MountVernonLeeChamber.org)

### WALKING GROUP

Let's Walk! Let's Walk! is a community walking initiative whose goal is to achieve and maintain optimal health through walking. The members consist of women who are retired or work from home and want to connect with others who share common interests, life experiences and fitness goals. The group meets at 2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at a central location on Fort Hunt Road and walks for approximately 1 hour

weather permitting. Contact information: 703-780-1145 or email; [ecenglish@cox.net](mailto:ecenglish@cox.net).

### COMMUNITY MARKET ON SATURDAYS

Workhouse Arts Center hosts its Community Market Every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. through October 30, 2021. Located at 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton.

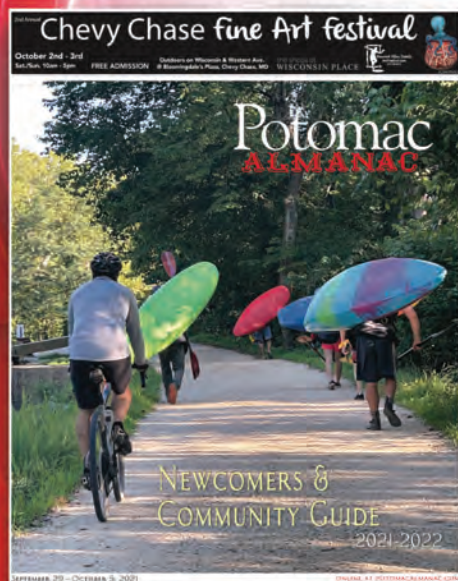
### ONGOING

Local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries and asparagus – and more will be featured at the now-opened McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through Dec. 22), 16 local farmers and food producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT cards can be used. As a bonus, the market will match up to \$20 per market visit in SNAP dollars for fruits and vegetables.

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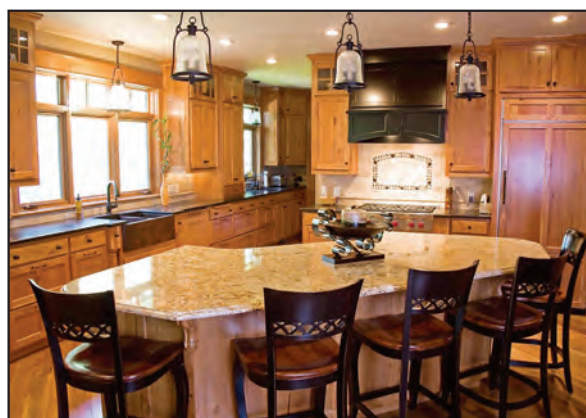
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# Flooding Inundates Parts of Mount Vernon

Some Mount Vernon residents said the flooding on Friday, Oct. 29, after heavy rain coincided with high tides, was some of the worst they had seen.



PHOTO BY JIM CEARING

Pumps help clear the flooding in New Alexandria.



PHOTO BY CAROLYN CAMBLE

Belle Haven Park looking east toward Woodrow Wilson Bridge between 3-3:30 on Friday, Oct. 29.



PHOTO BY CAROLYN CAMBLE

High tide inundated the grounds behind the Belle View buildings on 10th Street.



PHOTO BY CAROLYN CAMBLE

Flooding on Haul Road at Dyke Marsh.



PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKSON

The GW Parkway was flooded and closed, and the Dyke Marsh Boardwalk near the Tulane exit was submerged on Oct. 29.



PHOTO BY JIM CEARING

The Mount Vernon Trail looking north.



# News

## New Director For American Horticultural Society

Keith Tomlinson, former Botanical Garden Manager of Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, Va., is the new director of the American Horticultural Society.

Tomlinson replaces former Interim Executive Director J. Robert Brackman, who resigned on Sept. 30, 2021.

"Keith is a renowned horticultural director whose visionary leadership at Meadowlark Gardens spans a broad range of programmatic, operational, and strategic areas," said Holly Shimizu, former Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. and a member of the AHS Board of Trustees.

"Now that we have confirmed our commitment to retaining historic River Farm as AHS headquarters as an integral component of our overall mission, he is the ideal choice to ... help us move forward with our goals." Those goals include protecting the River Farm property forever and using it for national horticultural programs. "River Farm is a national treasure," said Tomlinson, "a spectacular property that is both a symbolic link to our national heritage and an idyllic slice of natural beauty and open space. I'm very honored to join the AHS team on the eve of its 100th anniversary and be part of the exciting opportunity we have to strengthen both the Society's horticultural mission and the stewardship of River Farm."

Tomlinson begins his tenure at a pivotal time for AHS and River Farm. With the Board's recent rejection of the plan to sell the historic property after a year-long debate over its future, there are new opportunities for implementing a long-term strategic vision for both AHS and River Farm. "With Keith's leadership," Shimizu said, "the Board will continue to collaborate with a wide range of partners over the next few weeks and months to secure both operational and endowment funding for AHS – and identify the best ways to ensure that River Farm will be a key part of our mission – and protected from development – forever."

Tomlinson officially launched his duties at AHS on Monday, Nov. 1, 2021. River Farm is also opening to the public two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For almost 100 years, the American Horticultural Society worked to increase knowledge among American gardeners, garden enthusiasts, and professional horticulturists, inspired their passion for plants and the natural world, and encouraged responsible stewardship of the earth. The Society educates and influences a global audience of gardeners through its website, horticultural reference books, and social media.

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### Legals

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Send Comments/inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96, Fort Monroe, VA 23651 or [jpa.permits@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:jpa.permits@mrc.virginia.gov).

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The Virginia Rent Relief Program is administered through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Residents in Fairfax and Chesterfield counties should reach out to their counties' programs.



## Diffusing But Still Losing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And not too proud or embarrassed to admit it. Although it's hardly an AA-type situation where I'm also powerless against its pull, I am nonetheless acknowledging my weakness. With five cats living exclusively indoors - under one roof in approximately 1700 square feet, the ruckus is non stop. Trying to integrate into an animal-family unit an older pair of siblings, a single female and a new pair of siblings, has not been easy. Granted, we haven't exactly followed the presumptive advice cat whisperer Jackson Galaxy might have recommended: slowly introducing and acquainting the various cats to one another and into shared areas of the house. Unfortunately, we're way past being able to undo any inadvertent psychological animal trauma we may have caused. Though our house remains standing with relatively minor impact, there does appear to be a path forward to possibly upend the "territorializing" that goes on when new cats are added to a household where older cats have already taken up residence - and staked their claims. The answer is a product called "Feliway." Or so I hope, and have been led to believe - by my wife, Dina.

"Feliway" is a retail product we are now buying online from Chewys, the online pet superstore. It is similar in design and application to a plug-in room freshener. There's a part which plugs into an electrical socket: the diffuser, and another part, a liquid which is inserted into the diffuser. This heated up liquid is supposed to release a sort of calming vibe throughout the house and promote peace among the warring cat factions. Moreover, it's supposed to prevent fighting, staring, posturing and chasing. So far, three-plus months or so into it, the results are mixed. The cat mood in the house seems occasionally tranquil with cats coexisting and tolerating. Though nobody is making new friends, there does seem to be some allowances from some cats for other cats to sometimes occupy similar/familiar spaces. And it's only apparent to us that this is happening when it's not happening. And by that I mean, when our supply of diffuser refills run out - and we don't immediately replace them with new. Then there seems to be an upset/upheaval of sorts among the various cat groups. The cat groups being Andrew and Sloane, the oldest siblings and longest living in the house; Twinkle, the middle cat and not part of a pair; and the newest additions, siblings Louie and Mia. The siblings get along with one another perfectly well, but when any other group appears, aside from feeding time (we feed the three groups in separate rooms in an attempt to keep the peace) when the fighting is minimal, chaos usually ensues. And since diplomacy does not work, Dina and I are forever reacting to the sound of a cat screaming, locating it and running off to protect/prevent any unnecessary fistacuffs (invoking one of my fathers' expressions from my youth). Since we're reacting, we're usually too late, but we do what little we can and try to comfort whomever seems the most distressed.

As a consequence, I am constantly on the phone with Chewy buying diffusers and diffuser refills, and/or checking the fluid levels of the in-home diffuser refills trying to determine how much time/relative peace we may have until war breaks out. It seems unlikely that we'll have enough diffusers in the house, or have enough refills in inventory, to maintain the calm. Quite frankly, we're running out of electrical outlets in which to plug in the diffusers. Our house is over 250 years old and aside from limited closet space, there are also minimal electrical outlets. Throw in the number of outlets which are already being used for non-Feliway uses: lamps, television, stereo, miscellaneous other electrical appliances, and then consider that some of the outlets are old and tired and no longer working and you have a recipe for disaster, at least as far as living in a house with five cats - most of whom don't get along, is concerned. Trying to regulate the peace becomes next to impossible. Feliway may not be the answer, but I'm addicted nonetheless. Their products are all I think about; morning, afternoon and evening.

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

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## NEWS

# Needed: Tasers And Deescalation

By KEN MOORE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Board of Supervisors thought every officer in the police department would carry a Taser (electronic control weapon or ECW) after the program was initiated.

The Board of Supervisors also thought that every officer was going to be trained in de-escalation techniques (crisis intervention or CIT) to respond to crisis situations. Only about 34 percent of Fairfax County officers have received CIT training.

And currently, the police and Community Services Board have implemented a co-responder pilot program to ensure that a crisis intervention specialist assists police in responding to situations that involve mental health or behavioral crisis.

But on July 19, 2021, police entered a group home in Springfield with guns drawn through the back door.

They were called to the house because of a 911 call that a resident was "being violent, throwing things in her room, running up and down the house, threatening to kill staff and herself," according to police reports.

"This group home in Springfield is known to the Fairfax County Police Department," said Police Chief Kevin Davis at a briefing just after the incident. Police have responded to other 911 calls there. He described the scene the officers entered as "chaotic."

"They were confronted and advanced upon by a woman with a large knife," Davis said.

Police shouted commands for the woman, who was holding a Cuisinart knife, to "drop it" and "stop."

The woman appeared to be further provoked by the officers yelling at her. She screamed, "I will not stop." She took steps from the kitchen sink where she had been standing toward the two officers and yelled at them, "I will stab you."

NEITHER OFFICER was carrying a Taser. The group home resident was shot in the abdomen. She was in critical condition but survived.

See body camera footage, just over three minutes long, here <https://youtu.be/t0J3uDm8vDI>

During the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety Committee meeting on Oct. 26, 2021, Davis said there's been a lot of discussion about Tasers (ECWs) since the shooting in Springfield.

Chairman Jeff McKay asked Davis why all police officers are not carrying a Taser.

"For those of us who were on the Board

when the Taser program was approved, we believed that every officer would be issued a taser," said McKay. "Can you help us understand what the challenge might be with getting a taser in the hand of every officer? Some have reasonably asked why that is not an instrument that is issued to everyone who wears a uniform."

Every 2nd lieutenant and below as well as police detectives on the street and captains on duty will be "personally issued a Taser," said Police Chief Kevin Davis. "So there will be no if ands or buts about whether one is available."

Davis said the department is currently procuring 350 new Tasers.

"You can imagine every couple of years ... they come out with a new model and as the years go by the replacement parts for the older models become impossible or too expensive to obtain so we're in the process now of updating all of the tasers," said Davis.

"It would just be a matter of looking at the finances and what it would take to outfit the entire police department but we can certainly explore that," said Davis.

"That would be helpful," said McKay.

Davis said police are also reviewing the department's Critical Incident Release Policy. "Now that we have body worn cameras, we need to go back and revise our critical incident release policy to reflect the new realities of

body worn cameras and community expectations about the release of body cam footage."

Police released the body cam footage a week and a half after the non-fatal shooting at the group home, but don't appear to have released the name of the officer who fired the shot.

Officers immediately assisted the woman, after handcuffing her, and one of the officers was able to help the critically wounded woman calm down and breathe as they rendered aid.

"It hurts," she said.

"I know it hurts," the officer reassured her, as he explained that he needed to stop the bleeding and was applying pressure to the gunshot wound.

Officers were not charged with criminal conduct and their names were not released in Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano's report.

"The officer in question was reasonable in fearing that the resident intended to either kill him, or cause him serious bodily injury, and it was therefore legally permissible for him to use the level of force used to repel the assault. Accordingly, I decline to bring any criminal charge against the officer," said Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano.

**"Can you help us understand what the challenge might be with getting a taser in the hand of every officer?"**

**— Chairman Jeff McKay**





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