

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station



Singer Ean Eschenburg belts out the lyrics for the college-aged crowd.

Rocking Local

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Names Welcoming to All

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Harry Demetriou Dies

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JULY 21-27, 2022

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NEWS

What To Do with Robert E. Lee Lane

This street off Harrison Lane in Mount Vernon (Franconia District) is a privately owned street.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Anyone looking at the news over the last two years has seen the Confederate statues come down and locality names change from names that might have honored the Confederacy. Robert E. Lee Lane off Harrison Lane in Mount Vernon seems to have slipped under the radar.

The sign is in the Franconia District, and they are aware of it, said Aaron Campbell in the Franconia District office. Until earlier this summer, the Franconia District was called Lee District before officials renamed it due to its association with the former Confederate leader.

SEE ROBERT E. LEE LANE, PAGE 11

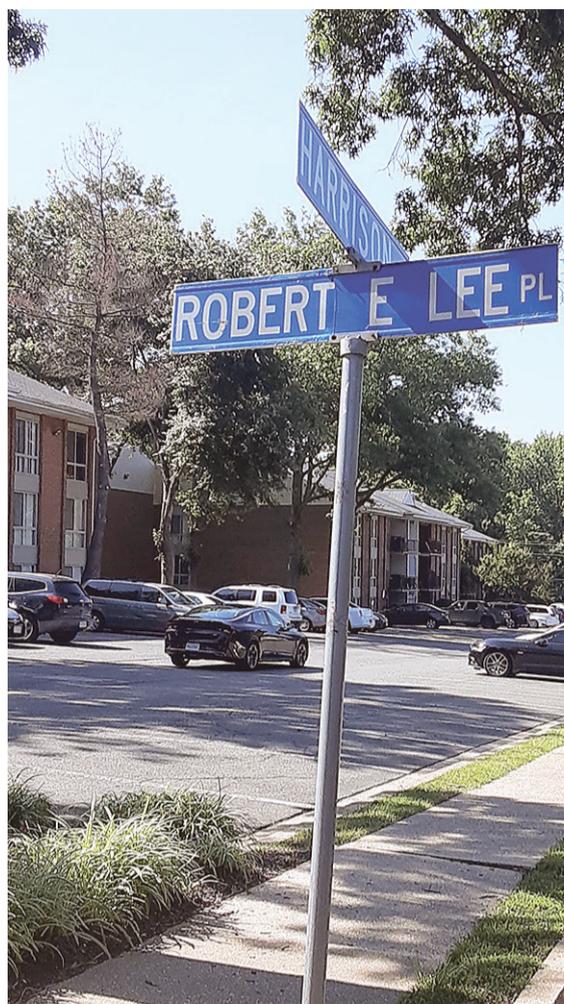


PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

In the Franconia District, this street has avoided being recommended for a name change.

Franconia Officer Tracks Suspect and Makes Arrest

Fairfax County Police Officer awarded after Kingstowne incident.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY FCPD
Master Police Officer Steven Kaganowich

Master Police Officer Steven Kaganowich is "Officer of the Month" for Franconia District Station. On May 31, a clerk working the checkout line at the Kingstowne Giant was approached by a masked bandit, police said. The suspect, who implied that he had a weapon, pushed the clerk then forcefully grabbed money from the cash register and fled on foot. Among the responding officers was MPO Kaganowich, who used his years of experience to plot out escape routes the fleeing suspect might take. He saw the suspect a few blocks away, trying to cross a busy street. When MPO Kaganowich

turned his car back around to get the suspect, the suspect had already disappeared. MPO Kaganowich pressed further though, searching behind houses and businesses on foot until he located the suspect concealing himself behind a children's day care center. He took precautions to protect the children, and then approached the man on foot and apprehended him. As a result of MPO Kaganowich's determination and steadfast resolve, a dangerous felon was removed from the streets, police said.



John R. Lewis High School

The John R. Lewis High School PTSA's All Night Grad Celebration Committee would like to express our sincere appreciation for the following businesses for their support of our Class of 2022 Seniors.

Please help us say thank you and support the businesses that support our community!

JLHS CHAMPIONS (Donations of \$1000 or more)

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- McDowell Family
- McMarlin Family
- Nguyen Family
- Oriental Trading Company (in-kind)
- Pade Family
- Payne Family
- Pyle Family
- Santiago Family
- Sleger Family
- Villarroel Family
- Washington Nationals (in-kind)

NEWS

‘Promise and Opportunities for All’

Fairfax City to change its Confederate street names.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

At Fairfax City Council’s direction, a diverse, 16-person, Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) examined City streets named for confederate leaders/soldiers or closely associated with the confederacy and slavery. After extensive research and community engagement, SAG concluded that 14 streets – nine in the Mosby Woods neighborhood – should be changed.

They are: Plantation Parkway, Confederate Lane, Raider Lane, Ranger Road, Reb Street, Scarlet Circle, Singleton Circle, Traveler Street, Mosby Woods Drive, Lee Highway, Old Lee Highway, Lee Street, Mosby Road and Stonewall Avenue.

Numerous residents sent petitions, letters and emails about this matter to Council members; and during a June 14 public hearing, nearly 50 people further expressed their views. Then, after hours of discussions among themselves, Council members voted last Tuesday, July 12, to change all 14 names.

“For many years, citizens have voiced concerns about our street names,” explained Councilmember Janice Miller, who co-chaired SAG with councilmember Jon Stehle. “Their words haven’t been manufactured by the people sitting on this dais.”

And while the City sees itself as an “exceptionally good community,” she said, Mosby Woods’ street names troubled many residents. Stressing that SAG had a challenging and difficult task, Miller said it reached consensus on changing Fairfax’s street names, City seal, monuments and markers.

“I voted to rename all these streets because it’s unusual to have a neighborhood and its streets named after a war that’s a stain on America,” she said. “All [Mosby Woods’] street names relate to John Singleton Mosby, who was a Confederate soldier. I’m not convinced he’s the best role model in 2022. Many see him as a traitor to the United States – and in today’s parlance, he’d be known as an urban terrorist.”

“The Confederacy fought to preserve slavery; and at that time, that’s what this area was for,” continued Miller. “But it’s not who we are today. We need to show through our words, actions and policies that we’ll always be a place for everyone.”

Both Miller and Stehle said Council would do whatever it could to assist residents whose street names will be changed. “Renaming these streets is a meaningful opportunity for the future to redefine who we are as a City,” said Stehle.

The votes were as follows:

* Stonewall Avenue and Reb Street: Council voted unanimously (6-0) to change their names.

* Confederate Lane, Lee Highway, Old Lee Highway and Plantation Parkway: The vote



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Both Reb Street and Confederate Lane will be getting new names.



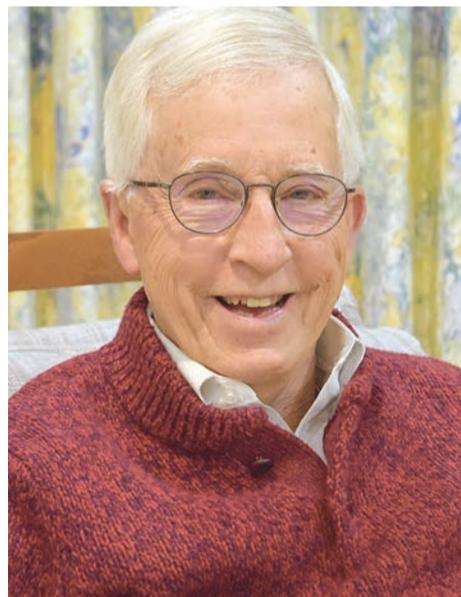
So Lim

was (5-1), with Sang Yi voting no.

* Lee Street, Mosby Road, Mosby Woods Drive, Raider Road, Ranger Road, Scarlet Circle, Singleton Circle and Traveler Street: The vote was (4-2), with Joe Harmon and Sang Yi voting no.

“The amount of constituent feedback we got on this issue is laudable, and I thank all the residents,” said Councilmember Sang Yi. “The residents of Stonewall wanted their street to turn into Stone Wall, which I thought was creative. I don’t want more divisiveness; all of us up here want a more harmonious community.

“If we think there are racial inequities here, we should do something about it – and not just change street names and move on. We need to look within and decide what actions we’re going to do to help people and bring them together.”



Tom Ross

Councilmember Joe Harmon freely acknowledged that “Confederates were traitors to the Union. They were wrong and they lost.” But for him, changing street names came down to categories – whether they were arterial roads used by everyone or neighborhood streets.

“Our arterial streets should be named in ways that are inclusive and shouldn’t cause anyone to feel like they’re not wanted,” he explained. “So I voted yes to renaming our arterial streets for that reason. Neighborhood streets, on the other hand, aren’t used by all of us, so the neighbors should have a say as to what their street names should be.

“The only exceptions – and the street names I voted to change – are the ones named for the Confederacy, itself, had no one living on it [Reb Street], intersected an arterial street, or the majority of the neigh-

bors who lived there wanted the name to be changed. And we now have a policy that a majority of the residents on any [City] street who want its name changed may petition us to do that.” Harmon then asked City staff to come up with the new street names for Council to consider.

Councilmember Tom Ross noted that one of the public-hearing speakers accurately described this matter as a very complex issue. “This African American grandmother said, ‘I want to be able to take my biracial grandson into places where I don’t get a sick feeling,’” said Ross. “That was heartfelt and truly touched me. It’s about how we all deal with each other – we’re a complex society.”

He recalled how, in 1970, the City of Fairfax was 98 percent white, the high school’s mascot was Johnny Reb dressed in a Confederate outfit, and all the City’s schools had been segregated, just a few years earlier. “Today we’re a community in a very different place,” he said. “The population is now 54 percent white, the high-school mascot is a lion, and the middle school is named after an esteemed American hero, Katherine Johnson, instead of a former Confederate officer [Sidney Lanier].”

“Our community has changed, too, from a sleepy southern town to a growing, small city composed of diverse ethnic groups,” added Ross. “Tonight, I voted for that future that holds promise and opportunities for all our citizens. We’ll always have history; it’s what we do with it that matters. We’re not changing it. When we take steps to make our community more welcoming to all, we’re acknowledging our history can be damaging and there are ways to address this. This is a beginning – a new chapter in the life of our community.”

Next, Councilmember So Lim thanked all the participants for their time and efforts. She also said she doesn’t believe those opposed to the name changes were prejudiced in any way. And she admitted that she wasn’t sure how to vote until she related this issue to human rights and her own, personal history.

“My family immigrated when I was 11 from South Korea,” said Lim. “Korea had its own Civil War between North and South, 72 years ago. My parents, who are in their late 80s, suffered the war and experienced in person how horrible it is to lose freedom. To this day, they cannot forget the atrocity.

“My mom still has family members in the North who could not flee in time. Whenever she thinks about them, she cries at the thought of her family living with no rights, no freedom, forced to work in labor camps with conditions approaching slavery.

“Then I thought, ‘If there were any communities in South Korea named after North Korean communist leaders like Kim, Il Sung or Kim Jong Un today, what kind of message would that send to visitors of that community or that city?’ Over 30,000 U.S. soldiers

SEE STREET NAMES, PAGE 5

OBITUARY



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOYCE HOLDEN

Harry Demetriou surveys the scene at The Old Firestation #3.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBBIN KAPSALIS

Robbin Kapsalis and Harry Demetriou sharing a happy moment.

'There's a Big Hole in Fairfax City'

Old Firestation #3's Harry Demetriou is mourned.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Harry Demetriou was such a fixture in Fairfax City that to imagine him not being at his historic restaurant/bar – The Old Firestation #3, on University Drive – is unthinkable. Yet that's the sad reality his friends are grappling with since this beloved City icon died last Monday, July 11 at age 64 following a stroke.

Born in Cyprus, he had no family here; but since he lived and worked in the City for decades, the community adopted him as one of its own. And Thursday evening, July 14, some 150 of his friends gathered at The Auld Shebeen restaurant in Fairfax to honor him and share fond memories.

Demetriou owned Havabite Eatery on Main Street in the 1990s before selling it to buy and run The Old Fire Station #3 (OFS) – which actually was a former fire station – for the past two decades. And his friends knew him from both places.

"I had lunch at Havabite at least once a week, so our friendship goes back 20-plus years," said Carol Gaylor, lead singer for local band, The Bee Charmers. "About 14 years ago, we began playing at OFS every Sunday for brunch. Over the years, the patrons became an extended family of friends who gathered for two hours each week to eat, drink, laugh, catch up and even play the kazoo. We fondly referred to it as The Church of the Bloody Mary."

There, customers celebrated myriad events, including birthdays, anniversaries, births of children and grandchildren, high-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL GAYLOR

Harry Demetriou

school reunions, New Year's Eve, Friendsgiving, Halloween and St. Patrick's Day. "Harry always made us feel that his restaurant was our home and went out of his way to accommodate us," said Gaylor.

"Harry was also a great chef," she continued. "Authentic Greek salad was a favorite among the Sunday gang. His homemade bread pudding was my favorite dessert, and I like to think he started serving Guinness because it was my favorite beer."

"With his loss, the community has not only lost a dear friend, but our favorite watering hole and gathering spot. It's the end of an era. We owe many thanks to Harry for the lasting friendships and memories created at OFS."

Janine Goodchild knew him since the '90s. "He greeted me with a smile and a hug," she said. "And he always had time to sit down and have a cup of coffee with me."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HERSHEY

Harry Demetriou (at far right) sitting outside his restaurant.

Chuck Miller first met Demetriou in 1986. "He's the American story of a successful businessman," said Miller. "He saw my kids and grandkids grow up; he was a really nice guy."

"On Greek Nights at Havabite he'd dress up in a double-breasted suit and look like a million bucks," said Deb Smith, one of the many Sunday afternoon regulars at OFS. "And he grew figs and oranges because they reminded him of picking them off the trees as a child in Cyprus. He never met a stranger and just connected with people. I loved that guy, and I'm having a hard time wrapping my head around his death. He'll really be missed."

Agreeing, Todd Fisher – who knew Demetriou for 30 years – called him "a City icon, larger than life, and one of the kindest people you ever met."

"My stepdaughter worked for him 15 years ago at Havabite," said City Councilmember So Lim. "He was always positive, upbeat and the nicest man. And he always knew my order when I came in. His death was so sudden, it reminds us life is precious – enjoy it now because you never know what'll happen."

Describing OFS as "one of the staples of Old Town," Councilmember Sang Yi said, "Everyone has special memories and stories of it and Harry. When my wife and I moved to Fairfax, it was the first place where we ate. I hope we can continue the tradition of it and Harry – and you can tell from all the people here tonight how much Harry meant to our community."

OBITUARY

Old Firestation #3's Harry Demetriou Is Mourned

FROM PAGE 4

Likewise, Mike Brown said OFS was one of the first bars he ever went to, 20 years ago. "It had good service and good people," he said. "And Harry was just Harry – it was always good times over there."

"His favorite song was 'Enter Sandman' by Metallica," said Chris Hershey. "I guess he had a rockin' side. My girlfriend and I stopped by to see him on July 4, and he sat and talked with us, about 30 minutes. He always treated me like family; it's amazing how many people's lives he touched."

"I liked going there because he had live music," said music teacher Lee Larsen. "And I liked supporting other musicians."

"Harry was a Fairfax institution and a huge supporter of local artists," added Brian Drummond, who sometimes jammed with The Bee Charmers on his harmonica. "His place was welcoming to all, and there's nothing else like it in Fairfax. I'm shocked and saddened by his death. The hope among OFS patrons is that it'll continue as a similar establishment. But nothing will ever replace the Firehouse – or Harry."

Shannon Duffy Daniels noted how much Demetriou enjoyed bringing people together. "He adored having the community over during Rock the Block [to sit outside OFS and chill with friends and beverages, while listening to live music coming from across the street]," she said. "And he liked carrying over that fun to the weekend."

"The irony is, he felt like he wasn't the guy in the spotlight," continued Daniels. "And now that he's passed, 150 people are here tonight in his honor. There's a big hole in Fairfax City. Although the community Harry fostered still exists, we need a new venue to gather, or someone to take over and carry on what he built."

Jackie Bumiller often joined her parents for lunch at OFS when her children were babies. When they got a bit older, Demetriou gave them coins to play pinball. "He always treated us like family," she said. After his stroke, he was in the hospital for a few days; and, said Bumiller, "As soon as we pulled up at my mom's house to visit, my son's first question was, 'How's Harry?'"

Blues singer Robbin Kapsalis often performed at OFS, but also went there because of Demetriou, her friend. "When he was cooking something, he'd say, 'Taste this,'" she said. "His grilled octopus was the best; it was on the menu because I bugged him for three years."

Saddened by his death, Kapsalis said, "I'd gone to

the hospital and saw him the day before he passed. He was asleep, so I just talked to him about the little stuff – in Greek. I told him, 'C'mon, get out of that bed, we got stuff to do.' I was planning to go back and see him..."

Wally Baranyk called OFS his favorite City restaurant because "It was like 'Cheers' – everybody knew you and you knew them. Harry was engaging and uplifting; he made customers feel comfortable being there. He was just a great guy, and I hope somebody picks up the business. I was really shocked by his death."

Also hit hard was Joyce Holden, who knew Demetriou for 26 years. "One of my co-workers first took me to OFS for lunch," she said. "And I went there every Sunday for The Bee Charmers. Harry was caring and a big part of the community. He lived in the City and was always there for his friends. He's an icon in Fairfax – an all-around, nice guy who helped lots of people get their start in music. And even if they moved on to bigger things, they always came back to visit."

"During COVID, he donated meals to the Police Department. And he liked giving people a hard time, but all in fun. I was devastated by his death because he was such a huge part of people's lives. Everybody knew him and everyone was welcome at OFS – you were automatically a friend and a part of the family. Many people who met there have become lifelong friends."

Calling Demetriou a "charming, strong, grumpy old man," his goddaughter, Jennifer Romero, said he gave great advice, shared laughs with her and was her father figure. Now, she's raising money for his funeral service and to send his body to his sisters in Cyprus for burial. To contribute, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/harry-demetriou>. "Any donation will help," said Romero.

Among the many comments on Demetriou's Facebook page, waitress/bartender Alexis Penater thanked him for "giving me a place to work that felt like a second home. I'll miss our coffee-time talks and splitting bread pudding with you. You cracked me up when you were crabby, and I liked hearing your stories. You were a complex person with a good soul."

John Terrien, who saw Demetriou the day before he died, wrote, "We talked about the smoker you just bought, your family in Greece, the cookouts to come. I'm going to miss you, my dear friend."

Summing things up, longtime friend Harry Avila wrote, "He had the biggest heart and most generous personality. Fairfax City will never be the same."

Fairfax City To Change Its Confederate Street Names

FROM PAGE 3

gave up their lives during the Korean War. If you visited South Korea and came across a community with streets named after the most horrific communist leaders, I wonder what sort of message you would get?"

Therefore, said Lim, "I believe those involved in attacking human rights should not be idolized or honored in the City of Fairfax or anywhere in the world. What we're doing today is for the future of our City and for the next generation. It's time to change the message of our City that we're truly di-

verse and welcoming to all people, regardless of their race."

Agreeing, Mayor David Meyer said, "We should take this opportunity to affirm and embrace the values we all share – especially for our children and grandchildren who'll someday be the leaders of this City – so we're not bequeathing to them vestiges of issues that have lingered for decades here."

"I commend my colleagues for reaching closure on this part of the process," he added. "We'll consider renaming the streets as an opportunity to do a reset and to lay the foundations for affirming references to our community in the future."

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The Time for Undergrounding Utilities on Richmond Highway Is NOW!

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

You may or may not have heard about undergrounding, but I bet you are in support of removing the ugly electrical lines from our roadways and placing them underground. That's it – undergrounding! The undergrounding of utilities (electric, fiber, cable, phone) becomes a more important topic every year, as our climate warms and storms become more damaging. As Resilient Fairfax puts it, "Our weather is becoming warmer, wetter and weirder." We all know this leads to more power outages, traffic disruptions, fires, injuries and even death, particularly in our most vulnerable neighborhoods. I believe that undergrounding of utilities needs to be part of every major County roadway or revitalization improvement discussion. Along with Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Rodney Lusk, we have been supporting funding to include utility



ty undergrounding as part of the more than \$1 billion, 7-mile Richmond Highway widening and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

The future is clear, utilities will be undergrounded for our security, reliability, resilience, revitalization, property values and aesthetics, much like we have been requiring for new developments and in our comprehensive plans for years. It is not an "if" but a

how and when. We have watched our neighboring jurisdictions make this commitment and it is time to act for Mount Vernon's main street NOW. As such, I have shared with my Board colleagues several options to create a funding pool that could be used not only for Richmond Highway, but in future years, for additional areas throughout the County along our major roadways and revitalization areas.

Undergrounding for Richmond Highway is currently supported by the Fairfax County Council of Civic Associations, the Mount Ver-

non Council of Civic Associations, other area civic associations, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC), the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) and many other area organizations.

I will be bringing this important topic to the Board for consideration at a meeting of the Economic Initiatives Committee on July 26. If you support undergrounding of utilities on Richmond Highway, I urge you to send a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors at ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov and share it with our office. I also ask that you talk to your friends, neighbors and others you know throughout the County to share this information and the opportunity to advocate for this important environmental, economic, quality of life issue. To assist you with this, we have posted talking points and background information to our website in our "Advocating for Undergrounding Utilities" at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon>.

A Slide Backward

DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

For a record-breaking two years in a row, 2020 and 2021, Virginia was ranked as the number one state in the country for business. Unfortunately, when the results were announced recently for 2022, Virginia had slid backwards to number three. It was replaced at the top by North Carolina and at number two is Washington. To rank America's Top States for Business, CNBC scores all 50 states on 88 metrics in 10 broad categories of competitiveness. The results are studied closely by businesses as they represent the most objective measures of how states are doing in attracting and keeping businesses and jobs. The results are of interest as well to educators and social scientists on how the states are doing on issues like workforce training, access to education, health care, worker protections, and discrimination.

Contrary to messages of some politicians, business interests go well beyond who has the cheapest labor, the fewest regulations, and the lowest taxes. Businesses, especially in the era of technology and innovation, have a brand or repu-



tation to protect as well as an obligation to get the best employees who can grow their enterprises. The lowest paid and least educated workers may have been acceptable in the industrial era but not in the modern economy. Additionally, business leaders making decisions on locating their companies must take into account living conditions for their employees and their families.

For these reasons North Carolina, after a number of bipartisan actions taken by the Democratic governor and Republican legislature on education and training programs as well as worker welfare, put it to the top of the list as the best place to do business. Unsurprisingly, Mississippi for the same considerations made the very bottom of the states for business.

Interestingly, in the never-before accomplishment of making the best for business for two years consecutively, Virginia took significant actions that some would have argued would have made it less attractive to business. For example, the General Assembly and the governor working together raised the minimum wage on a schedule to get to \$15 per hour over the next

several years. Collective bargaining was approved for government employees. A human rights law was passed to outlaw discrimination in the workplace and community. Criminal justice laws were reformed. Record expenditures were made for public schools and colleges and universities. A free community college program was established. An energy plan was adopted to put Virginia on the path to energy independence and zero emissions.

Already, there have been actions taken by the new governor that may in part explain the slide backwards that Virginia has taken in its ranking as business friendly. While the tall, affable governor and his success in the financial world may

make for a handsome salesperson for the Commonwealth, his words belie a philosophy from times since past that no longer fit the modern economy. Removing Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) costs the state money while ensuring that citizens of the state may be exposed to greenhouse gasses and a changing climate. Appointing cast-offs from the Trump administration and believers in the most perverse theories about education will cripple and not improve our schools.

Virginia has started a slide backwards to the past. We need to act now to stop that slide before the state is too damaged and finds itself tumbling in the rankings among states.

Let Us Know Your View

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS

Man Arrested in Springfield For Stabbing Death of Wife

Jose Heber Hernandez Mejia, 49, was arrested Monday morning July 18 in South Carolina.

Sunday at 12:13 p.m., Fairfax County police officers responded to a home in the 5200 block of Rolling Road in Springfield for the re-

port of a stabbing. Officers found Evelin Molina deceased in an upstairs bedroom suffering from multiple stab wounds to the upper body.

Preliminarily, detectives determined Evelin Molina resided at the home with her husband, Hernandez Mejia, and their children. A family member, who does not reside at the home, received a call from Hernandez Mejia, stating he had stabbed his wife. When the family member arrived at the home, Hernandez Mejia handed over his wallet and fled in a black Honda HRV bearing Virginia tags TXV-1986.

A knife believed to be used in the stabbing was located inside the bedroom. The children were not home at the time of the inci-



COURTESY OF ANDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Jose Heber Hernandez Mejia

dent. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy to determine the exact manner and cause of death.

Detectives conducted several interviews and obtained an arrest warrant for Hernandez Mejia for second degree murder. Detectives from Fairfax County Police Fugitive Track and Apprehension Unit began

searching for Hernandez Mejia. This morning, detectives contacted officers from the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to aid in locating Hernandez Mejia. Deputies from Anderson County and SLED officers found Hernandez Mejia traveling on Interstate 85 in Anderson County. He was arrested and will be extradited back to Fairfax County.

Anyone with information about this stabbing is asked to call detectives at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT STATION

SHOOTING INTO AN OCCUPIED DWELLING: 3500 block of Holly Hill Road, 7/11/22, 3:42 a.m. Officers responded to the area for reports of multiple gunshots. The victim found damage to her apartment. Several cartridge cases were recovered. No injuries were reported.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY: 8150 Richmond Highway (Action Automotive Auto Dealership), 7/11/22, 3:52 a.m. Someone forced entry into the business, damaged property and took merchandise.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY: Laramie Place/Tamarind Street, 7/13/22, 11:53 a.m. Three men approached a juvenile victim, assaulted the victim and took prop-

erty. No injuries were reported.

ROBBERY: 5900 block of North Kings Highway, 7/13/22, 10:22 p.m. The victim arranged to buy merchandise from a man near the location. The man assaulted the victim, took the victim's money and drove away. The victim was treated for injuries not considered life threatening. This does not appear to be a random act.

FRANCONIA DISTRICT STATION

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY: 6500 Springfield Mall, 7/12/22, 5:40 a.m. Security saw a 22-year-old man emptying the contents of a cash register into a bag in a parking garage. Officers located the man and took him into custody. He was charged with burglary.

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Stem Volunteers Needed

The AAAS STEM Volunteers Program, stemvolunteers.org, needs STEM professionals to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the DC metro area during the 2022-23 school year. Our school districts are Montgomery County, DC, Arlington,

Alexandria, and Fairfax County. All lessons will be in the classroom, and it is anticipated that masks and testing will be optional. If you care about K-12 STEM education and have time to share your knowledge with students and teachers, please send a note to bcalinge@aaas.org.

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NVTA Adopts \$625 Million Six Year Program

Fairfax County lands \$336 million.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

With the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority unanimous vote on June 14 to adopt the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program, Fairfax County, Virginia's most populous jurisdiction, was allotted more than \$336 million, 53.7 percent of the \$625 million in approved infrastructure project funds to impact the region at large. NVTA received proposals for 26 FY2022-2026 SYP transportation candidate projects, and they adopted 20 multimodal transportation projects for full or partial funding. Six projects are in Fairfax County; one in the Town of Herndon; one in the City of Falls Church; two in the City of Alexandria; one in Arlington County; four in Loudoun County; four in Prince William County; and one in the City of Manassas.

The vote was both unanimous and nonpartisan. "That is just a very impressive thing to be able to do in this day and age," said Phyllis J. Randall, NVTA chair and Loudoun County chair (D-At-Large), who spoke at a press conference Friday morning, July 15.

"The fact that we passed this out last night unanimously, with every member of the Authority except one, being in the room. Everyone from Alexandria to Dumfries to Manassas to Loudoun, the entire region was there ... and of course, we also have State Senator Jennifer Boysko representing the State Senate and two gubernatorial appointees," Randall said. Del. Dave A. LaRock (R-33), who was put on the NVTA board by the governor and whose House district is north and west of Leesburg, was not present.

Monica Brockman, chief executive officer of NVTA said during the press conference that NVTA is in its sixth funding program since the passage of HB 2313, which is the transportation funding bill. "We are looking at slightly over \$3 billion (\$3.12 billion) in regional multimodal congestion relief solutions right here in Northern Virginia."

The projects will impact the region in three ways: first, as a multimodal/corridor focus with an emphasis on roadway/Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on the Rt. 1 corridor; second, the projects include transportation technology, decarbonizing transit fleets, and an ITS (Intelligent Transportation System)

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FY2022-2027 Six Year Program: **Adopted by the Authority**

7/14/2022

Jurisdiction	Application ID	Project Title	Requested Amount	Approved Amount
Arlington County	ARL-021	Ballston-MU Metrorail Station West Entrance*	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 80,000,000
Fairfax County	FFX-126	Fairfax County Parkway Widening: Nomes Court to Route 123*	\$ 108,000,000	\$ 108,000,000
Fairfax County	FFX-124	8 New Battery Electric Buses - Fairfax Connector Buses for Tysons to Franconia Service	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
Fairfax County	FFX-131	Richmond Highway Widening From Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway/Jeff Todd Way to Sherwood Hall Lane*	\$ 60,207,038	\$ 60,207,038
Fairfax County	FFX-128	Richmond Highway (Route 1) BRT*	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 80,000,000
Fairfax County	FFX-121	Soapstone Drive Extension: Sunset Hills Road to Sunrise Valley Drive*	\$ 73,793,037	\$ 73,793,037
Fairfax County	FFX-125	Seven Corners Ring Road Improvements: Arlington Boulevard (Route 50) Westbound Ramp to Castle Place/Sleepy Hollow Road	\$ 94,800,000	\$ 4,200,000
Loudoun County	LDN-023	Route 7 Corridor ITS Implementation Program	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000
Loudoun County	LDN-025	Route 7 Improvements: Route 9 to Dulles Greenway	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
Loudoun County	LDN-024	Ryan Road Widening (Phase 2): Evergreen Mills Road to Beaverdam Drive	\$ 16,000,000	\$ 16,000,000
Loudoun County	LDN-028	Loudoun County Parkway Interchange at US 50*	\$ 35,250,000	\$ 35,250,000
Prince William County	PWC-028	University Boulevard Extension: Devlin Road to Wellington Road	\$ 53,000,000	\$ 53,000,000
Prince William County	PWC-036	Old Bridge Road Widening: Colby Drive to Minnieville Road	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000
Prince William County	PWC-027	Van Buren Road North Extension: Route 234 to Cardinal Drive	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 8,000,000
Prince William County	PWC-030	Route 1 at Route 123 Interchange	\$ 61,200,000	\$ 3,000,000
City of Alexandria	ALX-018	West End Transitway Phase 1b: South Van Dorn Street and Bridge Design*	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
City of Alexandria	ALX-020	Alexandria Bike and Pedestrian Trails Construction and Reconstruction: Holmes Run Trail - Dora Kelly Fair-weather Crossing Bridge	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
City of Falls Church	CFC-008	North Washington Street Multimodal Improvements Project: Great Falls Street to Gresham Place	\$ 22,500,000	\$ 22,500,000
City of Manassas	MAN-002	Liberia Avenue 3rd Lane Eastbound: Route 28 to Euclid Avenue	\$ 8,851,639	\$ 8,851,639
Town of Herndon	HND-005	Herndon Parkway Improvements at Worldgate Drive Extension	\$ 4,581,000	\$ 4,581,000
TOTAL			\$ 845,682,714	\$ 624,882,714
NVTA-approved				\$ 626,290,870
Regional Revenue				
Unprogrammed				\$ 1,408,156

NVTA approved funding amounts for candidate applications from eight jurisdictions.

along the Rt. 7 corridor; third, the projects represent a balance of transit, bike and pedestrian, and transportation technology projects, spread geographically.

Randall said that NVTA is the "financial engine of the Commonwealth" in many respects, and congestion relief is its first goal. "If we cannot get home ... to our jobs, if we cannot get around, it does affect not only our economy but the economy of the entire Commonwealth. Transportation is a quality-of-life issue," Randall said. NVTA works on a 30 percent split, meaning that 30 percent of NVTA funds go back to localities. They can use those funds in whatever way they choose. "If they want to do bike and ped (pedestrian) with that 30 percent money, they are certainly welcome to," Randall said.

Seventeen of the 20 approved roadway transit, intersection, bike and pedestrian, and transportation technology projects are fully funded in line with requested funding amounts. Three are partially funded, preliminary engineering phase only.

Two of NVTA's three most significant funded projects are in Fairfax County: \$108 million for Fairfax County Parkway Widening, with a congestion reduction relative to cost rank, or CRRC, of #3 out of the 26 candidate applicants. \$80 million is for the Richmond

Highway Route 1 BRT, bus rapid transit. CRRC rank #17. Arlington County's Ballston-MU Metro Rail Station West Entrance is tied funding-wise at \$80 million.

FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAIRMAN Jeffrey C. McKay (D-At-Large) said, "We regularly talk about our goal in Fairfax County to 'move people' no matter how they choose or need to travel. I could not be more pleased with this investment in our community. I am especially thrilled for how we are transforming bus service in Fairfax County. The Fairfax Connector will add eight battery-powered vehicles, providing a clean, quiet, and efficient trip for customers traveling between transportation and employment hubs."

McKay said that when construction begins for The One, the county's new BRT, or bus rapid transit, in the Route 1 corridor, it "will completely remake this section of the county from a congested, aging commuter route into a vibrant, mixed-use model of living, working, and relaxing."

Mark Duceman, transportation planner at the Town of Herndon, noted that the NVTA funding of \$4.581 million does not fund the actual roadway extension for the Herndon Parkway at Worldgate Drive Extension project. The road-

way project depends on the town's additional state funding under VDOT's Smart-Scale funding program. While the town is in Fairfax County, it is a separate jurisdiction.

Duceman explained that the project is directed toward the signalization of the future intersection of Worldgate Drive Extension with Herndon Parkway. "The signalization project is to relieve peak-hour congestion by increasing roadway capacity via additional turning lanes, raised median, and mode-separated ADA streetscape and cycle track. Ultimately, the project will result in improved traffic flow, safety, and multimodal circulation for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders for access to Metrorail as well as local and regional destinations," he said.

NVTA is a regional governmental entity of 17 members established to plan, prioritize, and fund regional transportation programs. The program funds what the Authority has deemed to be the most important transportation projects that would relieve congestion in relation to cost and improve the quality of life for Northern Virginians. The program focuses on geographic and modal balance.

What Makes a Project More Likely to Receive Funding?

Determining which projects land funding and which do not is tied to four key components of NVTA's project selection process. It begins with an eligibility review. The candidate project must be in a NOVA jurisdiction. Second, a quantitative analysis of congestion reduction relative to costs and long-term benefits. Third, qualitative analysis, past performances, external funding, projective readiness, and modal and geographic balance. Finally, NVTA considers public comment.

NVTA received 1,609 comments from 448 members of the public on the 26 candidate projects, according to the NVTA approved summary minutes. The public comment period ran from April 15, 2022 to May 22, 2022. On June 2, NVTA's CEO Monica Backmon posted a summary report of public comments along with the comments themselves on NVTA's website.

NVTA funds pedestrian and bicycle modes only if they lead to a more extensive transportation system.

"If there is a bike path that leads you to the Metro, then that is something we will look at. But for NVTA overall, our first goal is to do congestion relief," Randall said.

NVTA's next Call for Regional Transportation Projects is anticipated for May 2023.

Why Are You Pointing Your Gun at Me?

Video went viral; but context is needed says chief of police. Town Hall scheduled for Thursday, July 21.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

The teenager in a video that went viral the weekend of July 9, 2022, asks two Fairfax County Police officers why they have their guns drawn. “Why you pointing your guns on me? Why you pointing your guns on me,” he asks.

While one officer has her firearm pointed at the teenager, another officer commands the teenager to drop his cell phone and get down on the ground. The second officer, who said drop your cell phone, appears to have raised his gun, and the level of his voice, when the teenager doesn’t immediately follow his instructions.

After the teenager is handcuffed and searched on the ground, a third officer asks the juvenile who has the gun?

“What gun?” the teenager asks.

The officer asks again, “Who has the gun?”

“What gun? No one has a gun,” said the teenager.

“Someone has a gun, why do you think we are here like this?” said the third officer.

In searching, Fairfax County Police officers find eye drops in the juvenile’s pocket, but did not find any weapon on him or the two other teenagers arrested at the car dealership across Arlington Boulevard from the IHOP restaurant at 6555 Arlington Boulevard in the Fairfax County area of Falls Church.

At the end of body worn camera footage released by Fairfax County Police, the officer gives the juvenile the answer of why he and his colleagues responded the way they did.

“I’m going to level with you, okay? We got called because they said somebody had a gun and was threatening people with it at the IHOP across the street, alright. The officer saw you three running from that IHOP, that’s why we’re having the response that we are, alright?” said the officer.

The three juveniles were detained and later released to their parents. An investigation continues.

SIX DAYS LATER, Fairfax County Chief of Police Kevin Davis held a press conference.

“We want you to be concerned when you see a video like that,” he said.

“I know why you watch this and see a police officer pointing a gun at another person, that makes us all kind of cringe. If it didn’t make us cringe to see a police officer pointing a firearm at someone, something would probably be wrong with us,” Davis said.

Davis shared the level of distress from the 911 caller. Police learned that three juveniles entered the restaurant around 9:12 p.m.

“One of the juveniles threatened the hostess while another lifted his shirt revealing what appeared to be a handgun in his waistband,” according to police reports.

The restaurant employee, who did not call earlier, called 911 around 11 p.m., saying that the group was back, circling the building, and were trying to get her to come out of the building.

“Can you come please? They are coming inside. Please, please, please.”

“That call for service was made with great emotion. She was scared. She saw a gun, she was threatened and she called the Fairfax County Police department and we responded,” said Davis.

Her call was not played to protect her identity, said Davis.

“This was a priority response to a 911 gun call,” he said. “Adrenaline is running high when you’re dispatched to a 911 gun call. They’re getting information from the dispatcher that’s compelling, compelling.”

The police officers that responded to this call acted lawfully, acted in accordance with Fairfax County police training and policies, and in accordance with community expectations, Davis said.

“Pointing a gun at someone in 2022 in America, a police officer pointing a firearm at someone is very serious, very serious. But if you just go by this viral video that kind of popped last weekend, I think there’s an assumption that this person was a passerby. He was not a passerby. There’s an assumption that maybe this person had nothing to do with the gun call. He did,” said Davis.

“A viral video that lacks context can make its way around the world twice while the truth is putting its shoes on,” said Chief Davis. “We’re here five or six days later because we wanted to get it right. We can get it fast and not get it right or we can get it right. Now, we have enough information that we want to share it with our community.”

SUPERVISOR RODNEY LUSK will convene a virtual public safety town hall meeting on July 21 at 6 p.m. to address community concerns about multiple incidents of police use of force in the last few weeks.

Fairfax County Police officers shot and killed two men in separate incidents. A Reston man, Christian Parker, 37, was shot and killed in the parking lot of Springfield Town Center on June 30. Jasper Aaron Lynch, 26, was shot and killed in a McLean home on July 7 in a mental health crisis. (The week of July 1-7, Fairfax County Police reported that they responded to 194 calls for service for “persons experiencing mental health crisis.”)

“Over the past three weeks, there have been a series of high profile incidents involving the Fairfax County Police Department,” said Lusk in a statement released as he announced the date of the town meeting.

**The Office of Supervisor
Rodney L. Lusk Hosts:
Franconia District
PUBLIC SAFETY TOWN HALL**



Supervisor Lusk
Franconia District Supervisor



Chief Davis
Fairfax County Chief of Police

With guests Dr. Noah Fritz & officers from the Franconia and Mt. Vernon District Stations.



Thursday, July 21st



06:00 PM

Watch on Zoom or Facebook Live

[Email questions to leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov)

The Public Safety Town Hall is Thursday, July 21 at 6 p.m.

Town Hall July 21, 6 p.m.

Register to watch on Zoom, or watch on Facebook Live.

Zoom
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q7D_dh-VURAcYSuQN5XyVg
Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyPD>

ment,” said Lusk in a statement released as he announced the date of the town meeting. “I share the concerns that I’ve heard from many in the community about both the nature of these incidents and the frequency at which they are occurring.”

“I remain completely committed to providing the transparency required to ensure trust between our community and FCPD,” Lusk said. Lusk is chairman of the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee, and as such provides policy oversight for the police.

BOTH FATAL incidents were recorded on officers’ body cameras, and that footage will be released along with audio recordings “within 30 days or when it no longer jeopardizes the integrity of the investigation.”

Per department policy, the officers have been placed on restricted duty pending the outcome of an administrative investigation by the Internal Affairs Bureau.

An independent review will be conducted of the incidents by the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor, Richard G. Schott. The Office of the Independent Police Auditor was established by the Board of Supervisors on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, in the wake of the police shooting death of John Geer of Springfield. The recommendations of the commission also led to the timeline for release of information.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SEPT. 13 TO NOV. 17
ESL Class. 7-9 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced level English classes. Classes will be in-person or online. Classes will meet twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Books are included in class cost. Email: Heather@andberg.org.

mation that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html. The Shepherd’s Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers’ Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

ENTERTAINMENT



The drummer has a protective screen up, just in case.



Singer Ean Eschenburg belts out the lyrics for the college-aged crowd.

Rocking Local

Local rock band is highlighted by Led Zeppelin covers, original songs and George Castanza.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Upcoming Summer of George shows:

The Summer of George, is a local rock band that's living it up this summer, playing house parties, local bars and a show at UVA, with an unconventional group name that came to one of the members while watching the sitcom Seinfeld. The "George," is the quirky character George Castanza on the show and it just stuck.

"A lot of people will get it," said drummer Nick Scyoc. "We're throwing caution to the wind a lot," he added.

That caution to the wind may come in the form of a police officer who came to bust up their loud show one time but ended up requesting a song. Or the mob of "young girls" that stormed the stage during their rendition of a Phil Collins tune. Those kinds of things are unplanned but add to the fun. "They kind of charged the stage, young girls hanging all over us," said vocalist Ean Eschenburg, who kind of laughed it off.

Then there was the time the lead guitarist wrote their hit original "Drinking Smoking,"

Renegade in Arlington on July 22,
B Live in Clarendon on July 30
Public Bar in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 5.

while he was on the way to Costco. "Sometimes it just clicks," said Jon Kraft, the lead guitarist and songwriter. It sounds kind of like an Aerosmith song.

Drummer Nick agreed. "Songwriting is very much an evolutionary process, bouncing ideas off each other," he added. The fourth member of the group is Jakob Markham on rhythm guitar.

It's clicking for the band though, and they're having the time of their lives rocking on stage while keeping it local. Eschenburg lives in Burke, Markham in DC, Kraft and Scyoc in Arlington. One time they hired a photographer for publicity, but it didn't amount to

much so social media is the extent of their publicity campaign. "Most of the time it's just my girlfriend with her cellphone," Eschenburg said.

On Stage

The Summer of George plays mainly cover tunes and throws in an original when the time is right. The crowds are there to party and there's a lot of dancing and screaming, but this is life in a rock band, and it's rarely a problem. Even when the cops come due to the level of noise coming off the stage.

"We always have the cops called on us," Eschenburg said. One female officer, who was there to quash the noise, ended up requesting a song, "Sex on Fire," by Kings of Leon.

Led Zeppelin covers are always part of the playlist, and other covers from the 1970s best-of list like Elton John, AC-DC and more recent pop-punk tunes. They throw in a country song occasionally.

It's hot, humid and loud for the Summer of George.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



The Summer of George.

"You've got to play to these kids what they want," said Eschenburg.

There aren't any tours planned anytime soon. They're keeping it local, avoiding the travel to save money and build a reputation at the bars around the metro area. Word of mouth works well for them so when one nightclub owner likes their show, he tells the other club owners and they fill up their schedule that way.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU AUG. 27

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road Lorton. Explore history in different ways with this drop-in summer program. Each Saturday will have a host of different activities around a different theme. Savor history, dig in the dirt, and play games as we learn about the 18th century at Gunston Hall. Visit the website: <https://gunston-hall.org/events/summer-saturdays-2/>

exhibition this summer at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach.

NOW THRU OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition. At Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an

FILMS IN THE PARK

Thursdays at 7 p.m. At the Mosaic District's Strawberry Park, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax.
July 21 - Dating & New York
July 28 - Dog
Aug 4 - Spider-Man: No Way Home

Aug 11 - Encanto
Aug 18 - Under the Stadium Lights
Aug 25 - F9 | The Fast & Furious Saga

ENJOY MUSIC UNDER THE STARS

The City of Fairfax will present a series of free, music concerts, each Thursday throughout July, at 7:30 p.m. Performances will be outdoors at the Veterans Amphitheater next to City Hall at 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax. Dates and performers are:
July 21 - Main Street Community Band;
July 28 - City of Fairfax Band Summer Concert.

SATURDAY/JULY 23

Lesson Zero. 7 p.m. At The Austin Grill, 8430 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Visit www.youtube.com/lessonzero and www.reverb-nation.com/lessonzero

SUNDAY/JULY 24

WVMGRS G-Scale Trains. Noon to 5 p.m. At 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS) members will have a G-Scale train display running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. The sheer size of these trains is a wonder to behold as is their ability to run through the garden all year around. If you've ever thought about running trains in the garden, this is the event to see these trains and speak with experienced people about this interesting facet of the model railroading hobby. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; adults

13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. Information on the Museum and shows is at: www.fairfax-station.org www.facebook.com/FFXSRR or phone 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/JULY 25

"Mr. Gabe" Music. 10:30-11:15 a.m. At Old Town Square - Fairfax City, 10415 North Street, Fairfax. Join Mr. Gabe at FUNDAY MONDAY for a lively and interactive mix of traditional children's songs, child-friendly pop songs and originals. Perfect for young children. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

What To Do with Robert E. Lee Lane

FROM PAGE 2

Robert E. Lee Lane is privately owned by the nearby apartments and is not maintained by VDOT or the County, Campbell said. It was listed in the "History Commission's Fairfax County Confederate Names Inventory Report," that was presented in December of 2020. According to county map information, the road was constructed and named in the 1964-1965 time-frame. The street was likely named by builders Louis A. Zuckerman or B. Francis Saul, the property information stated.

The county report, Fairfax County Confederate Names Inventory Report, was compiled by the History Commission in response to a June 23, 2020, directive from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The 536-page report was directed to design a "process that focuses on well-known Confederate officers and on locally well-known Confederates," it said in the executive summary.

The descriptions are historical in nature and tell any connection to the Confederacy or Union, even if the connection is a remote possibility. A Kingstowne street named Wiley Creek Way for example was cited as "Wiley Common Family Name." But Sgt. Robert Wiley (1840-1932) was a Confederate who enlisted in Company K, 19th Georgia Infantry on March 8, 1862 at Occoquan. He moved to the Lorton area after the war. Where his family lived in Fairfax County is today known as Wiley, Va., the report said. Another example is Van Dorn Street that goes through Alexandria to Kingstowne, thought to be named for a "General, Confederate States Army, 1861-1863. Killed May 7, 1863," the report said. "In 1953, after Alexandria annexed a portion of Fairfax County, the City renamed

many north-south streets after Confederate military leaders. In 2015, Alexandria's City manager, Mark B. Jinks, confirmed that Van Dorn Street was named for Brig. Gen. Earl Van Dorn," the report said.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has many rules for statues and urges those advocating for removal of these monuments in Virginia localities to allow for a legal and deliberative process, their website stated. But it does not include road names in the text.

The General Assembly of Virginia ruled on the re-naming process as well in April 2020. Under Code 15.2-1812, before changing names, there has to be a procedure. "Prior to removing, relocating, contextualizing, or covering any such publicly owned monument or memorial, the local governing body shall publish notice of such intent in a newspaper having general circulation in the locality," it said. The notice shall specify the time and place of a public hearing at which interested persons may present their views, not less than 30 days after publication of the notice. After the completion of the hearing, the governing body may vote whether to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover the monument or memorial. If the governing body votes to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover the monument or memorial, the local governing body shall first, for a period of 30 days, offer the monument or memorial for relocation and placement to any museum, historical society, government, or military battlefield. The local governing body shall have sole authority to determine the final disposition of the monument or memorial."

This particular sign off Harrison Lane is in the Franconia District, formerly Lee District before a ruling earlier this summer. The historic Huntley Manor estate is located nearby.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

ONGOING

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

Docents Needed. Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and its railroad and

Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-

5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50 and older who no longer drive. Volunteer drivers are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Office workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788.

Positive Parenting Strategies Course. At PHILLIPS, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale. A series of classes and in home consultations taught by PHILLIPS' counselors. Open to all local families. Call Stacy Stryjewski at 703-658-9054.

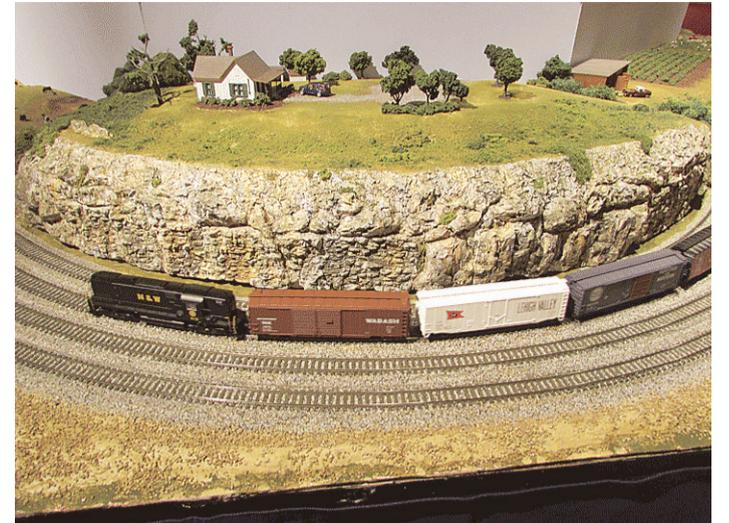
Thermal Camera Loan Program. Learn where the energy is leaking out of the home with a special attachment for the iPhone or Android. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy or call 703-324-5955 for more.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

Civil War Research scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides in Fairfax, Fairfax City, Prince William County, Manassas City, or Manassas Park from the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable in Centreville, Va. Visit bullruncwrt.org for more.

CALENDAR



See HO gauge model trains running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Sunday, July 31 in Fairfax Station.

FROM PAGE 10

WEDNESDAY/JULY 27

Free Concerts in the Park. 7 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Mark your calendars and plan to come out to Burke Lake Park every Wednesday night starting July 13 through August 24 for an incredible line-up of bands, food trucks, 2 Silos beer, and Peterson's Ice Cream. The atmosphere is informal, so bring a blanket and lawn chairs, and relax with friends and family.

SCHEDULE

July 27 – The Skip Castro Band (Party Band)
 Aug 3 – Practically Einstein (Vintage Rock)
 Aug 10 – The Road Ducks (Southern Rock)
 Aug 17 – Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille (Rock)
 Aug 24 – The Colin Thompson Band (Blues Rock)

SUNDAY/JULY 31

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3-4:30 p.m. Virtual. Reference librarian and genealogist Leslie Anderson will discuss her research on the 1st U.S. Colored Cavalry. Register for this online event hosted by Pohick Regional Library at <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar>

SUNDAY/JULY 31

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Module Crew will have HO gauge model trains running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5 (\$6 special events); seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, [www.facebook.com, 703-425-9225](http://www.facebook.com/703-425-9225).

Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths offers free Financial Education Classes Sessions at various locations in the Fairfax County area to low- and middle-income adults who reside throughout Northern Virginia. The offerings are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year
 Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: prsinc.org/caring-volunteering. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through Oct. 31 – are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin Martin at fairfaxcounty.gov.

Volunteer Fairfax provides opportunities for individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of non-profit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Burke United Methodist Church, 6300 Burke Center Parkway. Contact either Barbara Male (barbmale@yahoo.com) or Gayle Parsons, gparsons3@cox.net for more information.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AVA BLAC

Can't Afford a Vacation? Try a Staycation

This area offers a wealth of opportunities for families who are staying local this summer.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Eating french fries and burgers with her young children, Ava Black asked them what they learned during a trip to Glen Echo Park earlier that afternoon. They told her that they had fun riding the carousel, but her six-year-old son said they found out that only whites were allowed to enter the park when it was first established. The Alexandria single mother of two usually takes her children on at least one vacation each summer, but this year forgoing an out-of-state trip and opting for a staycation.

"They've been asking to go to our family reunion in North Carolina," she said. "We drive there every year, but [the cost of] gas is too high so we're staying at home. They are going to have to settle for a call to their aunts, uncles and cousins."

Like many families who are grappling with inflation, Black's budget is so tight this year, that they are eschewing a summer vacation and opting for a local staycation. From Mount Vernon to Great Falls, the Washington, D.C. region offers a wealth of options for families who are staying close to home.

"Family adventures are wonderful ways to introduce children to new places and interests," said Lisa Turissini, Ph.D., Director, School of Education, Marymount University. "So, whether you are getting away on a vacation or staying home to enjoy a staycation, your child will thank you for the opportunity to explore a new location or to be able to act like a tourist in your own city."

"Children can learn so much from staycations," added Mary Mukherjee, Senior Program Director, Montgomery College Youth Programs. "They learn about different cultures, the geography, the language, the food. The possibilities are endless."

Slathering on sunscreen, packing a lunch, and heading to the National Mall can feel like a vacation, says Turissini. "One of the easiest ways to squeeze in a little learning during your vacation is to visit historic sites and museums," she said. "We are so lucky to live in the DC area with a number of living history museums such as the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and historic buildings such as Ford's Theatre, the White House [and] the Lincoln Memorial."

With two-thousand acres of land and 32 miles of trails for hiking and biking, Rock Creek Park is just one of the options for families who want to spend time outdoors. "Something as simple as exploring nature can be a great adventure for the little ones, said Turissini. "Great Falls Park is a great place to enjoy hiking trails, biking, bird watching, and picnicking. You don't have to be a child psychologist to see how much our children learn when they are just being kids and enjoying themselves."

Picking fruit at a local farm combines educational opportunities with family fun. "Once you're at home with your fruit, you can all measure the ingredients



Ava Black's budget is tight this year so she will not be taking vacation. Instead, she's creating a staycation for her children.

FOR ANOTHER TAKE ON STAYCATIONS, SEE "SUMMER'S HERE AND POSSIBLY TIME TO STAY PUT"

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2022/jun/13/summers-here-and-possibly-time-stay-put/>

needed to bake an apple or blueberry pie or make a delicious smoothie," she said,

"Another great adventure is to spend time at the National Zoo," she continued. "Children love animals. Have them learn about endangered animals that you might be able to visit. And take advantage of any one-of-a-kind animal encounters or activities that may be available for your visit."

Staycations can be found inside your home, says Mukherjee. "Go through family photo albums and learn the genealogy of the family," she said. "This could lead to online research or even interviewing relatives like grandparents, aunts and uncles in person, over the phone or using Zoom. Be sure to write everything down. These stories and snippets of information are priceless."

"Family adventures are wonderful ways to introduce children to new places and interests. Whether you are getting away on a vacation or staying home to enjoy a staycation, your child will thank you for the opportunity to explore a new location or to be able to act like a tourist in your own city."

— Lisa Turissini, Ph.D., Director,
School of Education, Marymount University.

Exploring your neighborhood and learning about its history can be challenging and enlightened, Mukherjee says. "Who established it originally? What is the history of the street names? Streets are often named for important people in the world and that particular neighborhood. Are there any historic houses? What is the geology of the neighborhood? What types of plants and trees grow there and why?"

By taking staycations, families can still have experiences that last a lifetime, Turissini says. "Teaching them these skills at a young age will serve them well as they grow up," she said. "And, as parents, joining your children in new adventures provides a fresh perspective and a view of the world through their eyes which strengthens family bonds and builds lasting memories."

3 Arrested for Theft of County Computers

Franconia Police District – Detectives from Fairfax County Police Major Crimes Bureau's Criminal Investigation Division were notified in March of several thousand Fairfax County Public School laptops that were believed to be "illegally reallocated." The laptops were stored at a warehouse in the 6800 block of Industrial Road in Springfield and were set to be auctioned.

Detectives identified a box truck registered to Attyah Computer Recycling, 44190 Waxpool Rd Ste 157, Ashburn, that arrived on multiple occasions at the warehouse. The driver of the truck would not exit the vehicle nor provide the necessary paperwork required to receive auctioned goods. Laptops and computer parts would be loaded into the truck, and the driver would leave. Through the detective's investigation, two warehouse employees were identified as facilitating the unlawful transactions.

The morning of July 14, detectives were conducting surveillance at the warehouse and observed the truck arrive at the location. Detectives conducted a traffic stop and found stolen laptops in the vehicle. The driver, Fadi Atiyeh, 36 of Centreville, was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property and larceny with the intent to distribute. Detectives determined Atiyeh was employed by Attyah Computer Recycling. A search warrant was executed at the business, and additional evidence was recovered.

Later that day, detectives arrested two warehouse employees, Franque Minor II, 35 of Maryland, and Mario Jones Jr., 21 of Woodbridge. Both men were charged with embezzlement and larceny with the intent to distribute. Both men were also employed by Fairfax County Public Schools.

Detectives continue to comb through a significant amount of evidence to determine the extent of the embezzlement. Preliminarily, detectives believe as many as 35,000 laptops were stolen with an estimated value of over \$2 million. Detectives believe the offenses date back to November of 2020.

Anyone with information about this embezzlement is asked to call detectives at 703-256-8035. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS.

FCPD Investigates Inmate Death

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Major Crimes Bureau are investigating the death of Glenn Myer, 61, who was an inmate at the Adult Detention Center. On July 15, Myer was transported to Fairfax Hospital for a medical emergency. Myer died Monday while in ICU. Myer was suffering from a terminal illness at the time of his death. Preliminarily, there are no signs of foul play. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy to determine the exact manner and cause of his death.



Glenn Myer

Myer was charged on Dec. 19, 2020, with aggravated malicious wounding. He had been in the custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office since his arrest. His arrest stemmed from a Dec. 17, 2020, incident where he shot another person in his apartment. When officers arrived, he continued his acts of violence by shooting at the responding officers. The officers discharged their firearms striking Myer and ending the threat. Myer was transported to Fairfax Hospital immediately after the event. Upon his release from the hospital, he was taken to the detention center and charged. Myer has remained in the custody of the Sheriff's office since his arrest. Additionally, Myer was charged with two counts of attempted capital murder of a law enforcement officer, attempted first degree murder, and four counts of the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony related to the December 2020 event.

By policy, FCPD investigates all Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in-custody deaths.

In December 2020, Officers responded to an apartment in the 2000 block of Peach Orchard Drive at 10:49 a.m. for a shot person on Dec. 17, 2020. A teenager called 911 advising that he had been shot in the face by a man who lives in the apartment. The teenager sought shelter from the armed assailant in a bedroom and told the police dispatcher that the man was actively trying to break into the room.

Officers assigned to our Patrol Bureau, Special Operations Division, Traffic Division and a Deputy assigned to the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene and attempted to negotiate with the armed man from outside of the apartment. These negotiations yielded no progress toward deescalating the situation, and it was evident the victim's life was in imminent danger. To preserve life, officers entered the home and encountered a 61-year-old man from Falls Church, who was armed with a gun. Two officers discharged their weapons, striking the man in the upper body. The victim suffered injuries not considered to be life-threatening and was treated at a nearby hospital.

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More Than I Bargained For



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a longtime homeowner of a historic home, one dating back to the early 1800s, to say there's ongoing upkeep/maintenance required is to state the obvious. What wouldn't be so obvious is the total inability of yours truly, cancer notwithstanding, to do any kind of constructive, presumed-to-be-within-the-man's purview-type repairs. Moreover, home improvement projects and/or any number of garden variety/common sense modifications like adding shelves, changing light switches/adding a dimmer, fixing a toilet, hanging pictures, et. cetera, are also outside of my comfort zone. A zone which barely exists. Nothing too complicated in the scheme of things mind you, but way too complicated for me. In addition, as you might imagine, tools are not my friends. In fact, they are my sworn enemies. If I pick up a hammer or a chain saw (which I do own), I'm more likely to hurt myself than I am to hit my target. I can live with my shortcomings. However, it's becoming increasingly difficult for my wife, Dina, to endure my incompetence.

Aside from my shortcomings, not being able to do anything costs money. And to hire anybody to do these kinds of homeowner tasks costs big money, usually a retail-type of cost to what it might cost compared to what it might cost a more capable homeowner – unlike myself, to do the job himself (wholesale). And other than Ghostbusters, who you gonna call? If you're lucky, you have a referral to somebody reliable and knowledgeable. If you're me, you don't so you have to find some other trusted resource. And that resource amazingly exists online. You simply list your project, your zip code and other pertinent information (cell phone and email specifically) and wait for the feedback. It's almost immediate. Within seconds almost, the phone rings and/or your email receives – with offers. Within these offers are typically star-type evaluations and comments from previous users of this specific service. It's all, in my limited experience, reassuring and so I've hired these "pros" on multiple occasions and so far, so good. I still feel helpless, but I don't feel directionless – if that's even a word.

But there's a downside. The amount of communication either over the phone or electronically before the job and/or after the job has been completed is relentless. It's nonstop. Initially, there is the solicitation of the job which spawns any number of calls/emails offering. Once you're able to commit and hire the pro, the solicitations don't stop. On occasion, I've received calls/emails for another day or two until my non-reply eventually stops the outreach. It's intrusive enough before the job, but after, it's worse. In the pursuit of feedback, presumably (I've only responded electronically, never on the phone though), the calls continue for days. The caller ID tells me who's calling so I don't have to answer but I still make note – mentally, of who called. I don't tally the calls, but I can tell you, it's been upwards of a dozen over a couple of days – along with emails. I can appreciate that the service wants feedback from the person who hired the pro to post it on their site to educate the public, so to speak, but enough is enough. A good faith effort to contact me is all that's required. If I don't respond after a few calls, leave me be.

Nevertheless, because of this service, I have been able, recently to get out of my own way and let a professional handle the work. And so far, I have had good luck – with a plumber, an electrician, and a gutter/air-duct-cleaning service, to name a few. I feel as if we've made some progress, which as the owner of a historic home (yes designated as such), is a constant battle, one which I have consistently lost – for years. But I don't feel as irresponsible since I have a resource. I still can't do any homeowner-type stuff myself, but I can certainly hire someone. I just wish the cost – literally and figuratively, for the experience was less. Because, unfortunately for me, the demand far outweighs the supply, and the end is nowhere in sight.

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

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DATABASE FOR LIFE SCIENCE



SUSAN ELLIS, BUGWOOD.ORG

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Culex mosquito, which bites only between dusk and dawn

The Asian tiger mosquito is the #1 biting mosquito in Virginia

As iconic in summer as barbecues and beaches, is the arrival of mosquitoes. Even as scientists warn of the “insect apocalypse,” a decline of insects in an ecological Armageddon impacting human food crop availability and bird survival, mosquitoes appear to be holding their own. While their numbers may increase or decline from year to year depending on the amount of rain or degree of warmth, we can count on an opportunity to swat at them until late Fall. Because mosquitoes in Virginia may carry several diseases, West Nile virus; Equine, LaCrosse, or St. Louis encephalitis; and Zika virus; mosquito control is a smart practice for area residents to avoid disease as well as itchy bites.

Kasha Helget, a Virginia Master Naturalist in the Arlington chapter, and homeowner, promotes practicing effective, targeted mosquito control on her property and wishes more of her Northern Virginia neighbors would do likewise. She recently lectured on “targeted” controls, which means to get at mosquitoes, but “protect native pollinators.” Helget got involved researching mosquitoes when their Virginia Tech chapter sponsor asked for volunteers to prepare information on the subject and present talks. As an avid gardener, she was fascinated with what she learned and has been eager to share the information.

Knowing our mosquitoes and understanding their life cycle is an aid to understanding effective control. Most common here are two species of Culex mosquitoes (Culex pippins and Culex salinarius), small brown insects which bite only at night; and the Asian Tiger (Aedes), or Yellow Fever Mosquito, the number one mosquito biter of humans in Virginia, which bites only during the day. Both species have seven stages in their life cycle; the first six stages are spent underwater. Only the adult females bite; called taking a “blood meal,” needed for the protein required to produce their eggs. They live two to three months, reproducing two to three times before death. All prefer still water in which to lay their eggs; with Asian Tigers breeding only in containers.

Killing mosquitoes in their larva stage while in water is the most targeted and effective means of control. They choose shallow, still water to avoid predators, such as fish and frogs. Helget says they can be found in a variety of places where water collects, including in gutters, bird baths, open trash bags, neglected pools, tires, toys, potted plant saucers, pet water bowls, holes in trees, rain barrels, and drain pipes, to name a few. She notes a discarded plastic bottle

cap can hold as many as 300 eggs.

How can you control mosquitoes on your property? Larvicides have proven safest and the most effective control over many years because they aim at the insect before it is able to fly and increase its range. In the form of dunks, granules or bricks, they are inexpensive, readily available, and are very effective when changed monthly, with the lowest environmental impacts. Other deterrents include use of screens to keep the insects outside of homes and out of rain barrels; and Mosquitofish placed in garden ponds to eat the pest. Bubblers in ponds and fountains move water keeping mosquitos away, discouraging them from laying eggs there.

Fans move air at speeds mosquitos can't fly against, making a fan blowing out on the deck or patio a particularly effective strategy for mosquito-free family gatherings.

Helget also suggests planting native plants to encourage insects which eat mosquitos, and removing non-native plants, like English Ivy, where adult mosquitos like to rest. Helget targets English Ivy in particular since it is heavy and holds moisture, often with damp layers of leaves below, which mosquitos love.

There's a full range of methods that do NOT work well. Spraying with chemicals is not as effective since it targets adult mosquitos but cannot cover their full range, which is one to two miles. Sadly, many products sold or used in mosquito control, labeled “broad spectrum” are deadly to all insects, including pollinating bees and the helpful insects that would eat mosquitos and insects that serve as bird food.

Helget warns, don't spray. If a neighbor sprays, avoid letting pesticides fall on flowers, which helpful insects will be visiting.

Traps and “zappers” actually draw mosquitos to your yard and also kill insects indiscriminately. Citronella candles are ineffective except for the smoke, which mosquitos will avoid.

Other measures to avoid mosquitoes? Wearing long clothing helps, or using a protective repellent.

Tongue in cheek, Helget suggests you spend your outdoor yard time with someone with blood type O, to which mosquitoes are attracted. They tend to be less attracted to people with other blood types.

Otherwise, be prepared to meet these summer insect icons with a flat hand, ready to swat.

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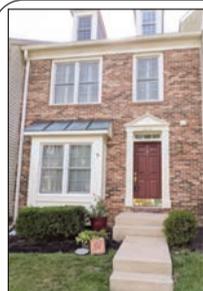
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