

CONNECTION

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At the Clifton precinct, U.S. Rep Jennifer Wexton greets voter Emma Holmes and her beagle, rescued from an Envigo medical breeding facility.



Voters Turn Out on Election Day

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Big Changes Coming in Fairfax City

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Mail Call for an Honor Flight

PAGE 12

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CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

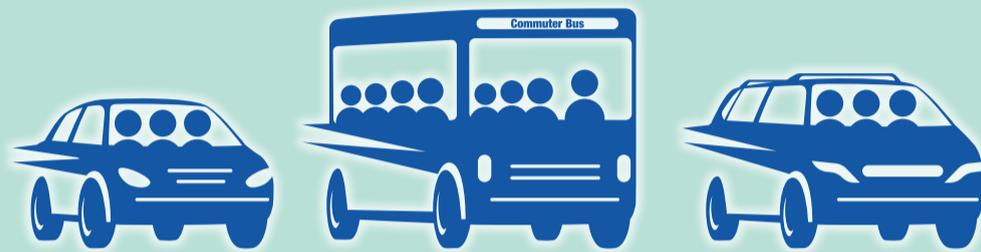
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NEWS

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Celebrating their victories are (from left) Catherine Read, Gerry Connolly, Tom Ross and Jon Stehle.



New mayor Catherine Read, with current mayor, David Meyer.

Read Calls for ‘City that Works for Everybody’

Read beats Yi; becomes Fairfax’s first female mayor.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Catherine Read made history Tuesday night, Nov. 8, becoming the first woman to be elected mayor of Fairfax City. In a highly partisan race in what was supposed to be a non-partisan election, the Democrat beat Republican and current City Councilmember Sang Yi.

“This was never a given; we knew it was going to be difficult,” said Read. “But I had the faith of so many people that made this possible. And even though I didn’t run on being the first woman mayor, it’s important to so many people here – this representation counts.”

Read received 4,757 votes, or 50.45 percent; and Yi, 4,639 votes, or 49.19 percent. In the contest for City Council – where nine people battled for six seats – incumbents So Lim, Tom Ross and Jon Stehle were the top vote-getters, followed by newcomer Kate Doyle Feingold and former Councilmember Jeff Greenfield. The sixth spot, however, is still up for grabs, with just .01 of a percentage point and seven votes separating Ana Renner and Billy Bates.

But their totals will change by Monday at noon when the currently uncounted provisional and late-absentee ballots are added in. Meanwhile, in a surprising result, incumbent Councilmember Joe Harmon was not re-elected.

The swearing-in date for the winners hasn’t yet been determined, but they’ll all take office Jan. 1, 2023, for two-year terms.

In the School Board election, newcomers



After learning she won, Catherine Read hugs her sister, Wendy Asbury, while supporter Deb Smith celebrates behind them.

Stacy Hall, Sarah Kelsey, Amit Hickman and Rachel McQuillen will join incumbent Carolyn Pitches on the Board. All ran uncontested. Pitches is the only Board member who ran for re-election this year; the other four are retiring. This new school board is also historic for the City because it marks the first time it’s been all women.

The mood at Earp’s Ordinary restaurant in Fairfax was upbeat and optimistic, as Read and her supporters waited for all the votes to come in. And at 8:22 p.m., when the totals confirmed she’d won, a huge cheer

erupted and Read raised her arms in victory. Addressing the jubilant crowd, she thanked everyone – many by name – who’d played a part in her triumph, including her husband and family, plus current Mayor David Meyer, who door-knocked with her. “People helped from the minute I said I was going to run, and you all have not stopped since then,” she said. “So many people stepped up, from the postcard-writers to the fundraisers.”

During their candidacies, Read raised \$90,000, while Yi’s war chest contained



Catherine Read and David Bulova at her election celebration

\$170,000 – and she acknowledged it. “This is the most expensive campaign ever mounted in Fairfax’s history for a mayoral race – and let’s hope this never happens again,” said Read. “Citizen government shouldn’t be about who can raise the most money.”

“The women in this City brought their creativity, commitment and relentless drive to make sure we won,” she continued. Read also noted that, while past traditions are important, it doesn’t mean Fairfax can’t be inclusive and “look toward the future, the younger people moving in and those who’ve not lived here their whole lives.”

SEE READ ELECTED MAYOR, PAGE 6



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COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Bruno recovers after treatment sustained in hit and run accident which left his companion dog Charlie dead at the scene.

Hit and Run Tragedy Brings Community Help

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

no's veterinary care to treat a leg fracture, swelling and abrasions.

It could have been any of us, enjoying the pleasures of walking our dogs on a nice Fall evening. But for one Fairfax County woman, this simple act ended in tragedy. Fairfax County animal shelter director, Reasa Currier said, "These are the calls you never want to get ... a woman was walking in her neighborhood with her two beloved dogs and was hit by a car. The driver kept going and left one dog dead and the woman and her other dog seriously injured."

The community responded. At this writing, donations of nearly \$30,000 were made to assist in the woman's treatment and recovery. The public also rallied to assist Bruno, contributing an amount in excess of the costs of his treatment. Friends group president, Evelyn Grieve, says "Our animal loving community helped us raise over \$8,000, which will not only help Bruno, but it will help other pets in need."

The woman was taken to a nearby hospital in critical condition the evening of the accident on Oct. 24. Her injuries forebode a long recovery. Her daughter soon started a Go Fund Me to help deal with her care for broken ribs and sternum, multiple skull fractures and lacerations on the back of her head. The extent of her brain injuries were not immediately known.

Go Fund Me is a for-profit fundraising platform. It provides a safe and secure way to advertise and receive donations for a variety of needs, causes and projects. The company charges 2.9% plus a small service fee for each donation.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME

Evelyn Grieve heads the Friends group in fundraising to benefit animals in need.

The FCAS Friends group supports the non-profit "Finnegan's Fund" and other efforts, which ensures that Bruno and other pets in critical condition can receive lifesaving care. Adds Currier, "Thank you to Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter for stepping in to pay for Bruno's medical bills. We're doing everything we can to save this little dog, so his mom has something to look forward to during her recovery."

Her injured dog, Bruno, was taken to Pender Veterinary Clinic in Fairfax. The Fairfax County shelter and their supporting Friends group immediately made pleas to the public for assistance with costs of Bru-

no's veterinary care to treat a leg fracture, swelling and abrasions.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Fairfax City Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11

Veterans Day will be celebrated in Fairfax City this Friday, Nov. 11, with a special ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Because heavy rain is expected that day, the event will be held in the upstairs ballroom of American Legion Post 177. It's at 3939 Oak St. in Fairfax. Participating will be VFW Post 8469, American Legion Post 177 and VFW Post 5412, as well as local, state and national politicians – including U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11th).

Fairfax Library Book Sales this Weekend

The Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library – as well as the Virginia Room on the library's second floor – are both holding fall book sales this weekend. Attendees may choose gently used books for all ages, Saturday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The library is at 10360 North St. in downtown Fairfax.

Britepaths' Pantry Needs Food, Cleaning Supplies

Britepaths has an urgent need for donations to its emergency pantry. In great demand are full-sized bottles of toiletries and cleaning supplies, plus regular-sized food items. Especially needed are applesauce, baked beans, cereal, chili, jams and jellies, low-sugar snacks, boxes of macaroni and cheese, olive oil, pancake mix and syrup, pasta and pasta sauce, bags of instant rice, laundry detergent, multipurpose cleaner, shampoo and conditioner.

Reusable grocery bags are needed, as well. To help, go to Britepaths' Website at <https://britepaths.org/donate/> or see its Amazon Wish List at <http://ow.ly/mmpY50Lrns8>.

Donation drop-offs are preferred Monday thru Thursday. Britepaths is at 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, in Fairfax. Call 703-273-8829 or email info@britepaths.org to let them know you're coming, and they'll meet you in the parking lot to receive the delivery.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 11

TAX NOTICE CITY OF FAIRFAX REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due

Monday, December 5, 2022

We have received a much higher than normal number of tax complaints that either no paper tax bill was received, or that mailed payments did not make it to city hall.

When paying, please consider using our 24-hour drop box located at 10455 Armstrong Street (at the front of City Hall, next to the flag poles) in lieu of the USPS. (Checks only, no Cash)

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid incurring a 10%, \$10 minimum, late payment penalty and interest of 10% per annum, **payment in full must be received or postmarked by close-of-business on Monday, December 5, 2022**

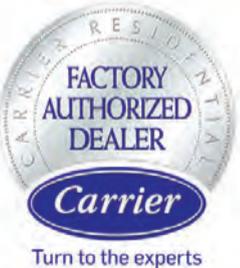
Taxes may be paid online, by mail, or in-person to the City Treasurer's Office (City Hall, Suite 234) 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a physical bill, to avoid late payment penalties you are still responsible for requesting a copy and remitting payment by Monday, December 5, 2022

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Surrounding Catherine Read are (from left) Jon Stehle, David Meyer and Tom Ross.

From left are former Councilmember Jennifer Passey, Gretchen and David Bulova, and Jon Stehle.

Fairfax Voters Select their City Council

Three incumbents, experience and two newcomers.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In the election for Fairfax's six City Council members, residents chose three incumbents, a former longtime Councilmember and two newcomers. But until the provisional and late-absentee ballots are tallied next week, residents won't know whether GMU student Billy Bates or resident Ana Renner will be among them.

Incumbent So Lim led the pack, garnering 6,246 votes for 15.35 percent, followed by incumbents Tom Ross, 5,228 votes, 12.85 percent, and Jon Stehle, 4,935 votes, 12.13 percent. Newcomer Kate Doyle Feingold was fourth with 4,509 votes, 11.08 percent, and former Councilmember Jeff Greenfield came in fifth with 4,158 votes, 10.22 percent.

The sixth seat, however, is still a toss up until the remaining votes are totaled and certified next Monday, Nov. 14. Meanwhile, Renner received 4,123 votes, 10.13 percent, and Bates, 4,116 votes, 10.12 percent, with only 7 votes difference.



So Lim

Tuesday night, Lim was delighted with her results. "I guess all the hard work I did paid off," she said. "I've been knocking on doors every day. I also thank my volunteers who worked at the polls today from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. And I appreciate all the people who came out and gave me their support. I'm humbled and honored to be serving another term."

"I feel ecstatic," said Ross. "What's important is that this election was about the future of the City and the generation that hasn't participated in local politics before. This whole new generation stepped up."

Stehle said he's "excited to work with So and Tom and continue what we've done on Council. And I'm looking forward to working with our new mayor and my new and



Kate Doyle Feingold

old colleagues on Council." He attributed his victory to hard work and his "earning the trust of the voters, for the past three terms. I think this election was all about voter turnout. More than 9,000 people voted – at least three times the amount that voted in the May elections."

Happy about her win, Doyle Feingold said, "There was a lot of partisanship [in the race], but I'm ready to represent and work for everyone in Fairfax City. And I'm thankful for everyone who voted. I plan to focus on the environment and on finding a way for residents to be more engaged and heard in all the decisions being made."

Pleased, as well, was Greenfield, who previously served 24 years on the Council. "I



Jeff Greenfield

knocked on a lot of doors and worked really hard," he said. "I felt good about it, but you never know what'll happen until the dust settles. I've got experience, and experience matters."

He called the City business-friendly, but said, "We've got to do more. For example, we could help small businesses and homeowners get permits in a predictable and easier fashion. That helps everybody because of the number of people who'd be hired as a result. And the more we're able to do that, the less we're looking at having to increase tax rates."

As for Renner joining Council, she said, "I'm cautiously optimistic, but I'm not counting my chickens until they're hatched."

Read Elected Mayor

FROM PAGE 3

"This has got to be a City that works for everybody; and I want to make sure that, going forward, people feel welcome here and can actually afford to live here. Campaigning is one thing, and governing is something else. This community needs to focus on your priorities and fund them to make this the community for ourselves and for the next generation of young people who'll inherit our decisions."

Meyer then toasted "all the people who had faith in democracy that their voices can be counted, and elections cannot be bought. I also toast Catherine Read, our

future mayor and first female mayor in the history of the City."

Attending the celebration, as well, were U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11th), who won his own reelection handily, plus Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37th), Del. David Bulova (D-37th) and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41st). Taking the stage, Connolly ripped into Yi, who'd tried to play down his connection to high-ranking Republicans during the race.

"When a candidate says, 'I never appeared with Gov. Youngkin' and we've got the photographs..." said Connolly, as the crowd laughed. "When you begin a campaign based on a lie, that's not who you want to be the mayor of your city. With Catherine's

election, we're going to make sure we have nonpartisan government in Fairfax City."

Connolly called local government the most important level of government because it requires action and accountability. "We want common-sense government that's going to improve the quality of life for everyone in Fairfax City, and that's what this team is going to do," he said. "That's also what outgoing Mayor David Meyer has done."

Afterward, the songs "Celebration" and "We Are the Champions" played, while attendees sang along. Beaming, Read's husband, Tom Greeson, said, "I'm incredibly proud of her. She's a remarkable woman, and I'm so grateful to all of her supporters for giving her this opportunity to bring her

talents to the City."

Also pleased, Bulova said, "I'm extraordinarily proud of Catherine; she's going to make a wonderful mayor."

Read attributed her victory to the grassroots efforts of her volunteers, "especially the moms who came together. Many had never worked on a campaign before, but they brought their talents and skills. Our campaign was people-powered and homemade."

Next, she plans to meet City staff to understand how Fairfax's government functions and which people make it run. "I want to know every staff member's name and what they do," she said. "That matters to me."

CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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At the Clifton precinct, U.S. Rep Jennifer Wexton greeted voter Emma Holmes and her Envigo beagle rescued from a medical breeding facility.



First time voter Maddie Orchard, a senior at West Springfield High School, cast her vote at Sydenstricker Precinct mid-day.



State Sen. George Barker was at the Clifton precinct in support of U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton's bid for a reelection for a third term.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION
Del. Kathy Tran, whose term along with all other State delegate and senate seats will expire January 2024, greeted voters at Newington Forest precinct in the last hour of voting.



Hunt Valley precinct's line of about 20 people felt the morning's brisk breeze as they waited their turn to vote.



Ten people were in line inside the Sydenstricker precinct's long corridor at 6 a.m. when the polls opened.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Plaque presented to Mike Salmon and Ean Eschenburg by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, left, and Chairman Jeff McKay.

Voters Come to the Polls for a Single Race

Fairfax County citizens vote early, by mail, and at the polls.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Most precincts saw only short lines of 10 to 20 people at their 6 a.m. openings with a brisk, chilly breeze under a sky that had just provided the eerie beauty of a lunar eclipse. Those up early to vote or work were able to experience the first total lunar eclipse on Election Day in U.S. history.

Poll volunteers reported steady but light voter turnout through the morning and afternoon. Whether due to lower election day turn-out due to expanded early voting opportunities or the traditionally lower turn-out for off-year elections, will not be known until voting trends are analyzed after Election Day.

A smattering of first time voters coming for the Election Day experience, and young future voters off from school for the day accompanying parents were among those visiting polling places. Also some of those

who had requested a mail in ballot were at polling places using direct drop boxes to assure their vote was received in time to be counted. The deadline for drop box use was Election Day, 7 p.m., or if mailed, postmarked on Election Day and received by the local Registrar by Noon on Nov. 14 to be counted.

Two-term U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D) greeted voters mid-afternoon at the Clifton precinct, supported by State Sen. George Barker (D), and Del. Dan Helmer (D). Her race for

U.S. House of Representatives Results

7TH DISTRICT			
Abigail A. Spanberger (D)	140,185		51.88%
Yesli I. Vega (R)	129,370		47.88%
8TH DISTRICT			
Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D)	189,195		73.26%
Karina A. Lipsman (R)	64,768		25.08%
Teddy Fikre (I)	3,796		1.47%
10TH DISTRICT			
Jennifer T. Wexton (D)	152,557		52.84%
Hung Cao (R)	135,575		40.96%
11TH DISTRICT			
Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly (D)	184,593		66.19%
James G. "Jim" Myles (R)	93,460		33.51%

SOURCE: UNOFFICIAL RESULTS FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

the 10th Congressional District seat against political newcomer Hung Cao, a Navy career veteran, has been watched nationally as a potential bell-weather.

"We're used to tension, but it's pretty intense this year, and people are coming out to vote," Wexton said. "Election officials tell us they are in good shape so we hope to know results by the end of the day. I appreciate everyone coming out to vote."

Wexton, along with her northern Virginia Democratic incumbent colleagues, Beyer, Connolly, and Spanberger, would be unofficial winners on election night.

Voters moved quickly through

the voting process with only one selection to make on the ballot, for House of Representatives. Several spoke of being unaccustomed to the lack of multiple candidates and ballot questions. This year's ballot was easier for voters to research

with only one seat, (unless you live in City of Fairfax or Town of Herndon). Voters will face a full slate of state senate, delegate, board of supervisors, school board, sheriff, and commonwealth attorney positions in November 2023.

VIEWPOINTS

What brings you out to the poll today?

VIEWPOINTS AND PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



"It's election day, it's what you do."
- Devin Pennypacker, West Springfield High School polling place



"I've got to, it's the most direct way to participate in a democracy."
- Chris Webb, Kingstowne



"I feel like it's part of my civic duty, the direction of the country is not great."
- Ali Stone, Franconia resident



"It's election day, my right as a citizen"
- Ed Grullon, West Springfield High School polling place



"I have two daughters, I don't want to see any of their rights taken away, I'm not motivated by fear."
- Amy Kean, West Springfield High School polling place

History Commission Recognizes Kingstowne Documentary

Mike Salmon and Ean Eschenburg recognized with the Mayo-Stuntz Documentary Award.

Kingstowne was once an area of scrub brush and gravel pits that was a haven to the motorcycle scene in the 1970s. This bit of local history was captured in a documentary last year called "The Gravel Pits: Before There Was a Kingstowne," by Mike Salmon and Ean Eschenburg. The pair recently won the Mayo-Stuntz Documentary Award for their production.

Salmon is a Lorton resident that has worked and

contributed to the Connection/Gazette Newspapers for over 20 years, and Eschenburg works in communications at Greenspring Village Retirement Community as well as singer for the rock group "The Summer of George."

In addition to the award from the Fairfax County History Commission, their efforts are now part of the Congressional Record, courtesy of Connolly, "for their work to promote and preserve the history of Fairfax County through video historic documentary production," the declaration stated.

The award is named after Mayo Stuntz, a Vienna resident and World War II veteran who went on to be a local historian and past president of the Fairfax County History Commission. He also taught local history with Fairfax County Public Schools' Adult Education Program and at George Mason University before he died in 2013.

See the documentary here.

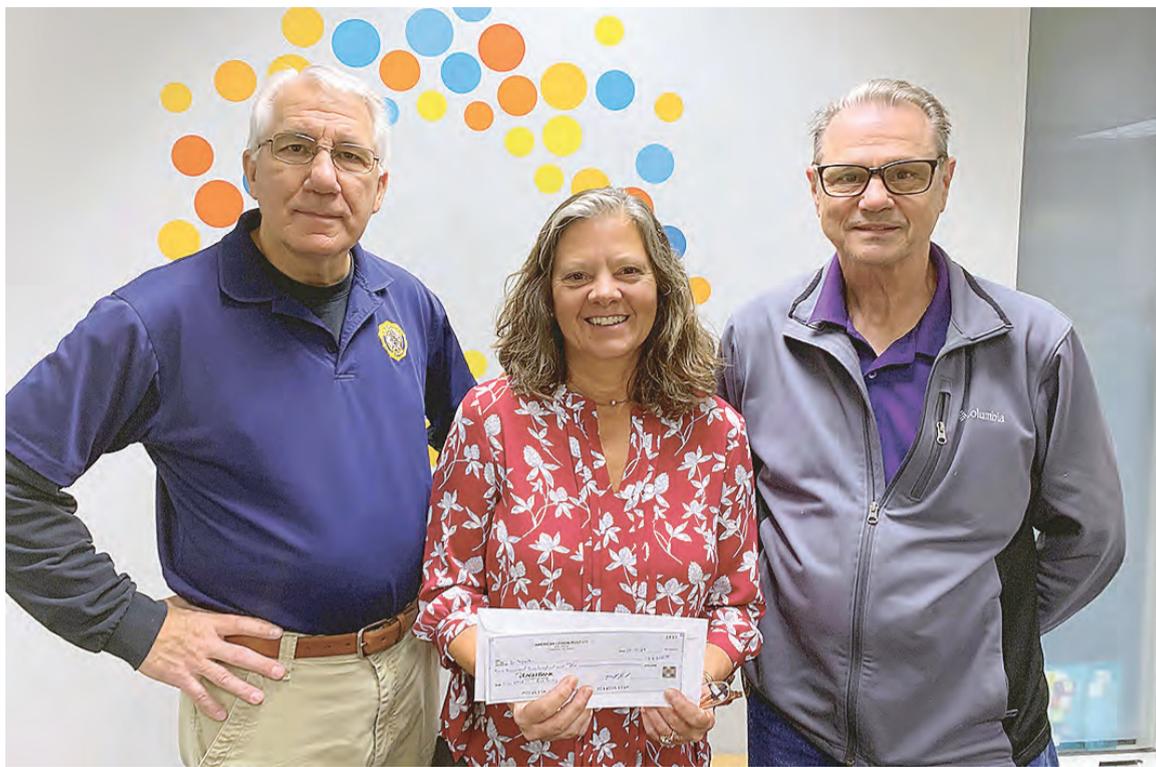


PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER WEBB

On Oct. 12, representatives from American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax City presented Britepaths with a check for \$2,500 to help provide gift cards to families in need for holiday meals. From left are Post 177 Finance Officer Mike Kimlick, Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel and Post 177 Commander Jeffrey White.

Make the Season Brighter for Hardworking Families

Britepaths seeks donations for local residents during the holidays.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When people think about Thanksgiving and Christmas, they generally picture families gathered around a table full of food and children eagerly opening presents. But the many families in need in Fairfax County have no such images or expectations. For them, this time of year can be bleak and depressing.

That's where Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths comes in – and, hopefully, the generosity of the local community. To make the holidays bright, Britepaths is seeking donations so it may provide holiday meals, plus children's gifts, for 265 area families.

"Britepaths' Holiday Program presents an opportunity for individuals, families, businesses and community groups to make a difference for our neighbors during the holiday season," said Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "We hope community members will be inspired to make the season brighter for hardworking families who may otherwise go without special holiday meals and presents for their children."

Britepaths partners with several Fairfax County Public Schools to receive referrals for families with a demonstrated need for holiday assistance. Participating schools include those in the Fairfax High School pyramid, which serves families who live in the City of Fairfax and central Fairfax County.

In hopes of helping these families in need, Britepaths is distributing gift cards that will allow parents

in families referred to the organization to purchase food for Thanksgiving and December holiday meals, as well as gifts. But Britepaths can't do it alone. Monetary donations or gift cards are greatly needed so Britepaths may meet its commitment to these families.

To contribute and for more information, go to Britepaths' Holiday Program Web page at: <https://britepaths.org/our-services/holiday-program>. Britepaths' online donation form makes it easy to give, as well as to create their own donation campaigns to share with friends and colleagues.

Checks or gift cards may be mailed to Britepaths at 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please write "Holiday" on the check memo line. Anyone with further questions may contact Britepaths by calling 703-273-8829 or emailing events@britepaths.org.

"Britepaths is grateful to its Holiday Program sponsors, American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, the Peterson Family Foundation and Walmart Store No. 2015 in Fair Lakes," said Whetzel. In addition, all proceeds from Britepaths' recent Wine & Wonderment fundraising event, held Nov. 9, will be contributed to its Holiday Program.

Britepaths is in its 38th year of providing help and a way forward for Northern Virginia residents in crisis. Throughout the year, the organization relies on funding and volunteer support from businesses, individuals, community organizations and faith communities to provide services that stabilize families with supplemental food and financial assistance; build resilience through financial education and workforce development classes, coaching, and mentoring; and offer support for children through its back-to-school drive, Food4Thought weekend food packs and holiday assistance. To learn more, visit britepaths.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue To Collect for Toys for Tots

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) will participate in the Annual National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments' 2022 TOYS FOR TOTS Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to bring holiday joy and deliver a message of hope to children. Stations will accept donations now through Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Collection boxes will be placed outside the front door of each fire and rescue station every morning. Residents will be able to drop off toys until 8:00 p.m., each evening.

Please help us to help those less fortunate this holiday season. Thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Fairfax County, FCFRD was able to provide the Marines with approximately 25,000 toys last year!

Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youths through age 17. The campaign will only accept new, unwrapped toys. Toys used as weapons or considered to be weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. Checks or money orders for donations must be made payable to TOYS FOR TOTS.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022.

Impact Award for Susan Sanow

Susan Sanow, CVA, Senior Manager, Special Programs and Training at Volunteer Fairfax has received national recognition for exemplary leadership in volunteer engagement. Susan Sanow earned the Impact Award, presented in October of 2022 by the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (ALIVE) in the Exemplary Leader category, for her efforts to provide a quality volunteer engagement program at Volunteer Fairfax, willingness to network, mentor or collaborate with their peers, advocate for the profession, and involvement at the national and/or local level with volunteer engagement professionals.

"When thinking of who made an impact for the field of volunteer engagement, I chose to nominate Susan for this recognition because of her integrity, honesty and dedication to this important work," said Corina Sadler, CVA, National Service Commissioner and Volunteer Resources Supervisor, City of Plano, Texas. "All the way from Texas I saw Susan's beacon of light as a trainer and leader during 2020 and she didn't stop there. She brought her expertise and humor to national conference stages and created safe spaces for professionals to gather and express what their challenges have been through Volunteer Fairfax programs."

ALIVE will provide a cash award to Susan Sanow that she may use for professional development expenses, such as continuing education, books, resources, or to pursue an international professional credential for those who manage volunteers and/or programs.

ALIVE is the national professional association for those who manage or lead volunteer engagement programs. ALIVE serves to enhance and sustain the spirit of volunteering by fostering collaboration and networking, promoting professional development, and providing advocacy for leaders in community engagement. For more information and a complete listing of all of this year's winners visit www.volunteeralive.org.

For more than 47 years, Volunteer Fairfax continues to mobilize people and resources to meet regional community needs. www.volunteerfairfax.org

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.

ADOPT A WARRIOR FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

So many of our Military families today find themselves in financial crisis, now more than ever. This will be especially true during this Holiday Season. To give back, Able Forces Foundation (AFF) is once again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Warrior Family Christmas program. As in years past, Able Forces Foundation will adopt families from each of the

five Military Service branches. All adopted families are identified by military Advocates on military bases or military Recovery programs in the Washington, DC Metro area. These families have been vetted and referred to AFF. Based on need, financial support will ensure each family will have: • A Christmas Tree • Complete Christmas

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 5

Grants for Nonprofits Serving Fairfax City Residents

The City of Fairfax is offering one-time grants to nonprofits that provide safety-net services to its residents. Eligible nonprofits may apply for grants between \$10,000 and \$50,000. Applications will be accepted now through Dec. 2 at 5 p.m.

Nonprofit providers remain a critical component of the community's ability to support residents in need. This grant opportunity is intended to help these nonprofits remain sustainable by mitigating some of the financial burdens imposed on them by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, go to <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/Home/Components/News/News/12127/18>

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Dinner (for up to 8) • Stocking Stuffers • the ability to provide up to 5 gifts per child 100% of all donations go directly to support this program. There are no administrative or overhead fees taken out of donations. All donations contributed between Oct. 25 and Christmas will go directly to support this program. If you can help, go to: www.ableforces.org/adopt to make a contribution.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GrandInvolve Seeks Volunteers. Would you like a unique and

interesting volunteer experience to make a difference in a school, classroom, or in one child's life? GrandInvolve.org facilitates rewarding, flexible adult volunteer opportunities at Fairfax County Title I elementary schools, providing classroom assistance with math, reading, and other simple educational tasks. Visit www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us for details and to complete an interest form. Or email info@grandinvolve.org.

NOW THRU NOV. 17

ESL Class. 7-9 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Beginner, Inter-

mediate, 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.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13



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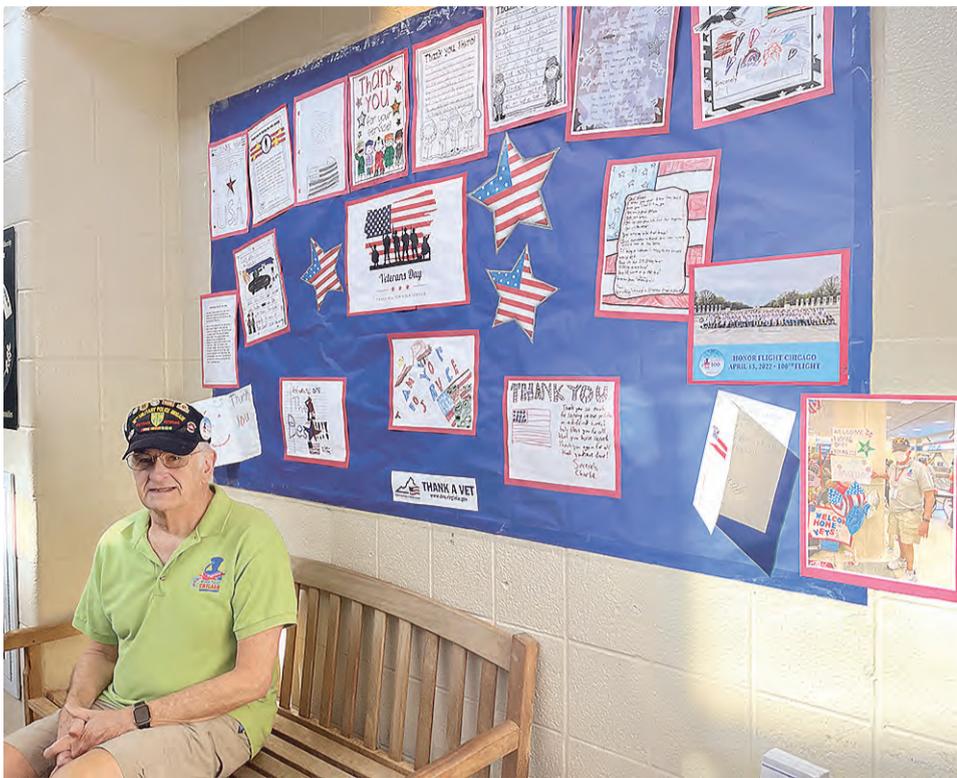
To increase your protection from COVID-19, ask your doctor or pharmacist if the latest bivalent booster shot is right for you. If you haven't received your flu shot, remember to ask about that too.

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VETERANS DAY



Arnie Daxe in front of the display at the South Run Rec Center.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Arnie Daxe with Shelly Zocchi and her godfather, retired USMC Colonel Barney Barnum Jr., Medal of Honor recipient.

Burke Veteran Inspired by Recent Mail Call

Honor Flight artwork makes up display at South Run Rec Center.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Burke resident Arnold Daxe is an Army veteran that joined forces with Rosario Bombaugh at South Run Rec Center to honor the veterans and not let their service to the country be forgotten. For Veteran's Day, they gathered letters and drawings from children across the country to create a commemorative display at South Run.

They both helped out on the 100th Honor Flight from Chicago with 115 veterans last April, and the project grew from there. The Honor Flight Network is a national network

of independent hubs working together to honor the nation's veterans with an all-expenses paid trip to the memorials in Washington, D.C., a trip many of the veterans may not otherwise be able to take. Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the chance to share this trip with other veterans, to remember friends and comrades lost, and share their stories and experiences with each other.

Along with the veterans aboard that airplane was a sack full of correspondence to the veterans that they called the "Mail Call," and it inspired a Veteran's Day idea by Daxe. "Lots and lots of drawings from kids,"

Daxe said.

Daxe is an 81-year-old Vietnam veteran who has been volunteering with the Honor Flight Chicago group for several years, and has been a USO volunteer at both Dulles and Ft. Belvoir.

"While returning to Midway airport when the day ended, about halfway back to Chicago, a staff member yelled 'Mail Call' like they used to do overseas. With that they called out each veteran and brought over a big envelope filled with letters, good wishes, colorful school drawings and such, all of which raised some tears in my eyes when I went through them," he said.

When he's not doing work with the veterans, he works out at South Run, and that's where he met Rosie Bombaugh, the office manager at South Run, and came up with the idea for the Veteran's Day display.

The children's drawings inspired him. "I didn't know anybody still cared," he said.

Bombaugh helped put it all together. "I believe in what our vets have done and the fact that we should never forget," she said.

When she's not at South Run, Bombaugh is a volunteer on a flight to Chicago as a greeter, and participates in "Run Blue," a running event to remember the sacrifices. "My last race was the Marine Corps 10K honoring a young army officer who lost his life in 2011," she said.

American Disposal Services Plan for Better Service

In response to a significant drop-off in reliable trash collection service, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) and American Disposal Services, Inc., (ADS) have established a plan to resolve the significant volume of complaints DPWES has received from ADS customers. Complaints of missed collections have been received from individual homeowners and from homeowner associations representing thousands of residents. ADS acknowledges it has been unable to consistently meet the weekly collection requirement largely due to problems with hiring and retaining oper-

ations personnel.

Since the number of complaints began to surge earlier this year, DPWES and ADS have discussed the service reliability and quality issues, and ADS' plans to recover and restore service to the minimum requirements of County Code, a minimum of once-weekly collection of refuse, recyclables, and yard waste.

Effective Oct. 4, DPWES and ADS entered into a Consent Agreement that, among other things, set forth a legally-enforceable recovery plan that includes:

Posting job advertisements at a minimum of 50 relevant outlets, including social media, and staging quarterly local job fairs.

Offering pre-paid tuition for CDL training (driver shortages are a significant factor in ADS' hiring struggles).

Hiring additional drivers every week until the service problems are resolved, providing monthly written reports to DPWES on progress.

Increasing the starting wage of drivers by at least 20 percent and collection crews by at least 10 percent.

Retaining seven additional customer service personnel.

Establishing a service quality goal and lead measures/metrics to demonstrate and maintain progress.

Establishing a defined credit process for

residential customers to cover all missed collections, effective January 1, 2023.

ADS must also provide DPWES with written daily, weekly, and monthly status reports on missed and rescheduled collections, and the firm's management is required to attend weekly meetings with DPWES enforcement personnel to review progress on the Recovery Plan.

Residents wishing to know more about the ADS Recovery Plan change (or about any other aspect of the County's solid waste management system) should contact DPWES' Solid Waste Management Program at (703) 324-5230 or via email to trashmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

NEWS

Fatal Crash in Lorton

Fairfax County officers responded at 8:59 p.m. Nov. 2 to the intersection of Ox Road and Blu Steel Way for a two-vehicle crash. The driver of a 2008 Volkswagen Golf was traveling northbound on Ox Road. Ruth Feth, 76, of Alexandria was driving a 2013 Toyota Camry. Feth was attempting to turn left onto southbound Ox Road from Blu Steel Way. Feth turned in front of the Volkswagen resulting in the crash.

Feth was taken to a nearby hospital with injuries that were con-

sidered to be life-threatening. She was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit are continuing the investigation. Detectives do not believe alcohol is a factor. Speed is still under investigation.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Fatal Crash in Springfield

A man has died as a result of a crash in Springfield yesterday morning.

Officers responded at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, to the intersection of Old Keene Mill Road and Huntsman Boulevard for a two-vehicle crash. The driver of a 2016 Dodge Journey was traveling eastbound Old Keene Mill Road. John Rowley Jr., 93, of Springfield was driving a 2017 Toyota Camry. Rowley attempted to turn left onto southbound Huntsman Boulevard from Old Keene Mill Road. Rowley turned in front of the Dodge resulting in the crash.

Rowley was taken to a nearby hospital with injuries that were not considered to be life-threatening at the time. His condition deteriorated and was pronounced deceased at the hospital Tuesday evening. Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit are continuing the investigation. Speed and alcohol are under investigation.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfax-county.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.

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 donaldea@aol.com.

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.

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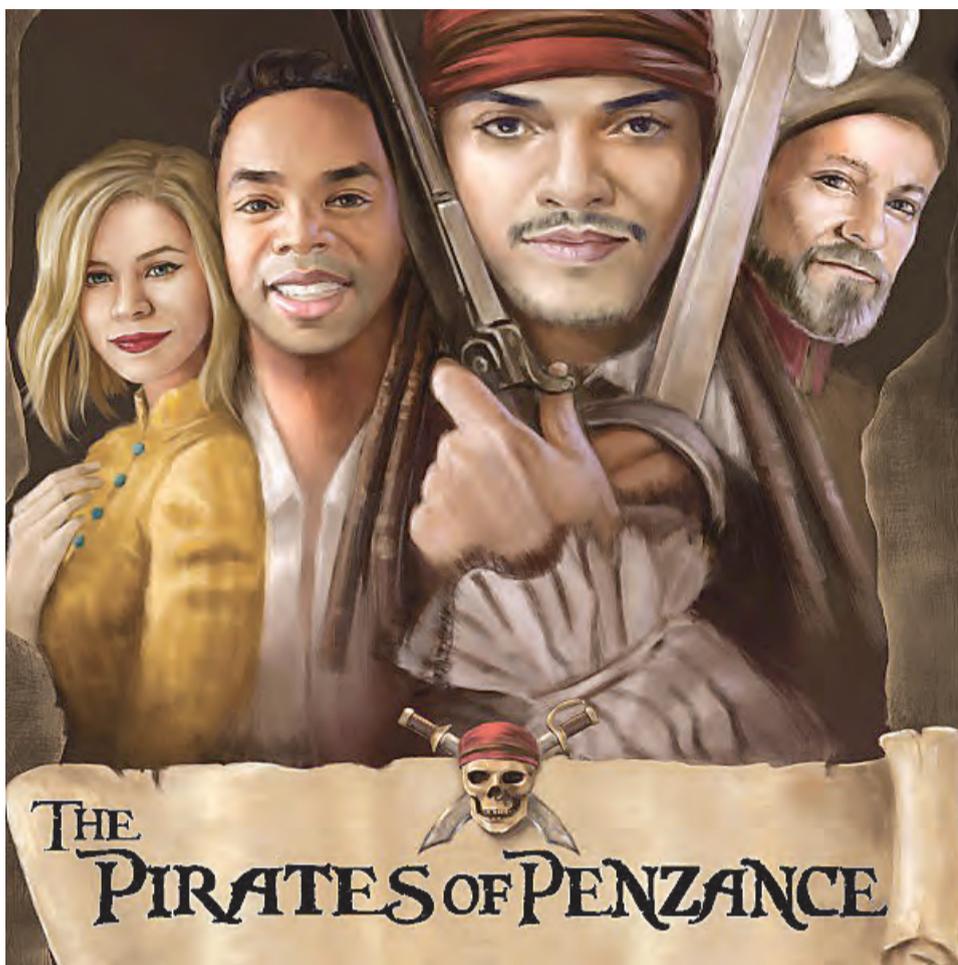
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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

ENTERTAINMENT



"The Pirates of Penzance" will be featured at GMU Center for the Arts on Nov. 12-13, 2022.

"The Pirates of Penzance"

Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Set sail with this classic comic operetta fit for all ages. Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* has everything—whimsical melodies, hilariously memorable characters, and one of the most terrific earworms of all time, "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General."

NOW THRU NOV. 15

Fruit Sale Signup. 7-11 p.m. Signup now for Fairfax Lions notices and discounts for Lions Club Fruit Sales in November and December. They sell fresh Florida oranges, mandarins, grapefruit; maple syrup, peanuts to raise funds for charity. Website: <https://www.fairfaxlions.org/citrus-sale-notification/>

NOW THRU NOV. 17

ESL Class. 7-9 p.m. 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 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Books are included in class cost.

FRIDAY/NOV. 11

Charity Duck Race. 10:30-11 a.m. At Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. This Veterans Day, join Brain Injury Services honoring and supporting our veterans and others, living with a brain injury in Northern Virginia, by sponsoring a duck in our 3rd Annual Charity Rubber Duck Race! Your support matters and is vital to assisting us in providing free services to our clients, their caregiver families in Northern Virginia. Have fun while supporting those in need! 1st place winners in 5 categories will receive an award. Visit the website: www.braininjurysvcs.org/bisduckrace

NOV. 11-12

Fall: New Dances. At GMU Center for the Arts, Mason School of Dance. Friday, November 11 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, November 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15 General Public; \$10 students, faculty/staff, and seniors; \$7 Groups

SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Santa's Arrival Party. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Springfield Mall, 1250 Baltimore Pike,

Springfield. Santa is arriving at Springfield Mall. Come dressed in your comfy best and have a blast at the PJ Party. For your enjoyment there will be games, treats, crafts and character meet and greets and of course, Santa himself! His sleigh this year is the Springfield Township Fire Truck!

SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Katharine Owens Exhibit. 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Features a specially created exhibit portraying family and friends of Katharine. Each image is an expression of personality, a story from life or a particular characteristic. Picasso-esque Portraits by Katharine Owens. The reception is on the Second Saturday Gallery Walk at the Workhouse Arts Center and the Arches Art Gallery is open all month 11-6 p.m. on Saturdays and 12-6 p.m. on Sundays. Food trucks and Music and other events are in the evenings at the Workhouse and the Arches Gallery is open as often on those nights as possible. Website: archesgallery.com.

MONDAY/NOV. 14

Mason Jazz Vocal Night. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Dewberry School of Music. Tickets: \$12 General Public; \$8 Seniors; \$5 Students.

TUESDAY, NOV 15-17

Citrus Fruit Sale. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the American Legion Parking Lot, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Fairfax Lions sell fresh Florida oranges, mandarins, grapefruit, maple syrup, peanuts; we raise funds for charity. Sign up now for notices and discounts on the web page.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 16

Jazz Workshop Concert. 8 p.m. At Harris Theatre, GMU, Dewberry School of Music, Fairfax.

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Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

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Give Me Some Credit, Will You?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a former C.F.P. (Certified Financial Planner) and insurance broker prior to joining Connection Newspapers as an advertising representative in late February 1997, I have an above-average familiarity with stocks, bonds, mutual funds, insurance, annuities, and money matters in general. It's not as if I could teach a class on any of these topics, but I'd likely have a pretty good understanding of what I was being taught. Moreover, debt consolidation, mortgage refinancing and the use and abuse of credit was similarly familiar to me. I understood their pros and cons, and their dos and don'ts. They were not exactly products I could sell. Rather they were situations I could possibly discuss/utilize to provide clients some unexpected financial relief/assistance.

Speaking of credit cards: I got my first credit card in 1977. How do I know that year? Because that was the year I got engaged and I used my brand new "Central Charge" card (a credit card local to the DMV) to pay for the dinner the night I surprised my wife, Dina with the engagement ring that I had laid away. Once I experienced the convenience of using a credit card to pay for something I couldn't readily afford, I was hooked, like so many of us; and I've been on a slippery slope ever since. Over the ensuing years, I've cash-advanced and consolidated mountains of debt enabling me to navigate the many cross currents of familial and financial ups and downs. And from my perspective, I should receive a lifetime achievement award for keeping our credit history as clean as it still is. Unfortunately, my wife, Dina has never agreed with this assessment. Not that the mundane world of income and outflow ever interested her; nevertheless, she expected results.

So here we are, almost 45 years since that engagement still having differences of opinions concerning money; made even more significant now that we're both over age 65 and I'm only working part time and Dina is, as she's fond of saying: "Presently not working." There's enough money to go around but after it has completed its journey, it's kind of tucked out and the few dollars remaining make very little sense.

Consolidating credit card debt into one lower monthly payment at a lower interest rate is on paper a reasonable and mostly prudent action. However, as a practical matter, I don't see how, given today's online lifestyle and new consuming patterns, it could work, especially if the goal is to have fewer monthly payments; not the same number, just with different lenders/cards. Albeit at a lower rate – for a while. Still, fewer monthly obligations are the goal, not having the same amount. Consolidate doesn't mean differentiate.

As a few examples of my dilemma: Many of us shop at Costco. A membership is required to shop there. A membership card, with your picture on it is also required. For convenience, and miscellaneous other benefits, it makes sense to use a Costco Visa credit card as your method of payment. Not using their card wouldn't be a hardship per se, but it would minimize the gains realized shopping there. Since it serves its own unique purpose, I feel compelled to keep it.

Many of us also shop online with Amazon. To facilitate your online transactions, using their Amazon-brand Visa makes an otherwise arduous process, simpler. If I consolidate it elsewhere, that next Amazon purchase won't be as easy or as beneficial. Again, that card is a keeper.

Our everyday Visa is a United Miles Visa. We've used it for over 20 years. Fortunately, or not, due to years of accumulating debt, we've earned multiple airline trips for free to California, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana, expensive trips, especially to Bozeman in Montana. The West is amazing, but it usually requires an airline flight to get there. If we have to carry/accrue debt, I'd rather there be some benefit to it, considering the interest isn't as deductible as it used to be.

Lastly, my wife has her own American Express card. It provides her independence – from me. If we consolidate, it must go. Do I really want to sacrifice her independence for my financial gain. As you can see, there are other consequences/extenuating circumstances, to consolidating. It's not always about the money.

If I were to consolidate, it seems to me, given the consuming world in which many of us live, I'd be stuck with more cards, more payments, less convenience, and more aggravation. The exact opposite of what I intended. "Too much for anybody's nerves," to quote my late mother.

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



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