

THE CONNECTION

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Thousands Come Out For McLean Day

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Ava Zhang, 13, of McLean, and Ray Zand, 13, of McLean, are ready to hit the rides at the McLean Day 2023 festival.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Ideas for Policing From Matrix Group

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Plum Endorses ...

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McLean Day 2023 A festival for welcoming, inclusive community.



Jackie Kennedy, 9, with Jennifer Pennix of Centreville, enjoying the petting zoo.



“Give me five.” Flora Apicelli, 5, and Chairman Jeff McKay high five at the McLean Day Festival 2023, moments before the first-ever ribbon-cutting ceremony opens the two-day community event.



The ribbon cutting officially opens the McLean Day 2023 festival (Adults-back row, from left) Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Governing Board Chair Barbara Zamora-Appel, McLean Community Center Executive Director Betsy May Salazar, and Chairman Jeff McKay (D), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

McLean Community Center Executive Director Betsy May Salazar welcomed guests and dignitaries to the Mc-

Lean Day 2023 festival’s inaugural Opening Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting shortly before 2 p.m. on Friday, May 19, at Lewinsville Park. The MCC Governing Board and staff produce the yearly free community celebration which draws an estimated 10,000 attendees.

“This is the 108th McLean Day Festival. As one of the first community festivals to exist in Fairfax County (1915), it has a rich history that MCC is proud to continue,” Salazar said.

McLean’s largest annual festival would begin at 2 p.m. with T.G.I.F. Carnival Rides. Festivities Saturday included carnival rides, exhibitors, sponsors, food trucks, games, music and live entertainment on the community stage, and the MCC Governing Board election.

According to Governing Board Chair Barabar Zamor, the festival exemplifies MCC’s commitment to supporting multiculturalism, diversity, and cultural richness in the community.

Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48) attended the opening ceremony. “Every year, it gets better and better and it’s obvious already this year that it is going to be the best McLean Day. I didn’t know the rides were open tonight. I’m going to call my grandchildren and get them over right away.”

Chairman Jeff McKay (D) said they were all making history by cutting the first ribbon. He thanked everyone who helped make McLean Day a “great opportunity” for so many community organizations and people to come together and celebrate civic pride. “Pride in living in this community. That’s what it’s all about,” McKay said.

Mkay lauded MCC for its inclusiveness in bringing the community together for this event and all

Preliminary 2023 MCC Governing Board Election Results

Fifteen candidates qualified for the McLean Community Center Board Election. On the Ballot- Adult, Small District 1A- Dranesville, three positions were open. In total votes, preliminary results, the top three adult candidates were Kathleen Cooney Porter (1,047), Gloria Marrero Chambers (729), and Katie Gorke (629).

On the Ballot- Youth Candidates, there was one position each for the Langley High School Boundary Area and McLean High School Boundary Area.

The top youth candidates, for the McLean High School boundary was Eleanor Ague(103), and for the Langley High School boundary area, Sophia Bruno (111).

year. “This is one of the most important things they do every single year,” McKay said.

The event was bittersweet for Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

This would be his last time as the supervisor representing McLean at a McLean Day ribbon-cutting ceremony. He said that at the county and local levels, they are attempting to create communities that attract people,” that really create a quality of life that is the place

where people want to live, work, play and rest.” Foust added that he looked forward to “post-supervisor being active with the community center.”

On Saturday, Foust appeared to be enjoying himself at the festival. As he walked down the path past the petting zoo and toward the area with food trucks, Foust quickly remarked with a twinkle in his eyes when asked what he planned to do in retirement. “I’m not retiring; I’m rewiring.”



Food trucks circle the green as event staff and visitors settle in for lunch in the porch’s shade.

Community Matrix: Path to More Equitable Policing

Police Reform Matrix Working Group shares recommendations at public safety committee meeting.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Equitable policing is, in part, an agency's policy and regulation designed to create unbiased and fair treatment of everyone law enforcement encounters. But how to get there can be complicated. Jurisdictions and police departments across the United States are struggling with how best to accomplish it. Fairfax County is no exception.

On May 16, Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner, convener of the Police Reform Matrix Working Group, and Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Vienna, presented "Community Recommendations for More Equitable Policing in Fairfax County" to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Safety and Security Committee. Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia), chairman, Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock), vice-chairman, and all board members serve on the Safety and Security Committee. The proposed action plan by the Police Reform Matrix Working Group presented eight topics, from rethinking policing to independent oversight and more.

Lusk noted that the "Community Recommendations for More Equitable Policing in Fairfax County" would inform a series of presentations later this year. Fairfax County Chief Kevin Davis would have an opportunity to respond to the matrix group's recommendations.

Opening Remarks

Niedzielski-Eichner said when he chaired the Use of Force subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission (2015), the board and police department followed the subcommittee's recommendations. Niedzielski-Eichner recalled in his presentation that rewriting use-of-force policies emphasized "de-escalation as a first response to provocation; giving officers access to tools less lethal than firearms; supplying and requiring body-worn cameras; and strengthening the use of force reporting and transparency."

The subcommittee realized it would be a mistake to declare "mission accomplished," Niedzielski-Eichner said. Other initiatives, such as this one, Community Recommendations for More Equitable Policing, should follow.

To set the stage for the upcoming "matrix" discussion, Walton said that when the country faced twin pandemics, Supervisor Rodney Lusk, chair of the Public Safety Committee, requested community input and police reforms. "We were wrestling with a major health crisis compounded by racial unrest," he said. Walton described the assassination of George Floyd, a Black man, by a white Minneapolis police officer.

"This awareness and level of heightening sensitivity were felt here in Fairfax County," Walton said. He added that Black and brown

individuals are more likely to experience a force disparity in arrest. Demographics of the population can reveal a pattern of "police behavior or racial profiling."

"A dramatic rise in police shootings [in Fairfax County] over our ten-year average is cause for concern and warrants reflective conversation about the sanctity of life. Trust is paramount, and where there is an erosion of trust, it is difficult for a community to be its best self," Walton said.

Lusk explained that the ten members of the citizen-led Police Reform Matrix Working Group helped synthesize the more than 300-plus recommendations from the community compiled in the matrix. "The hope is that we will craft those into a set of policy recommendations," said Lusk.

He named the Working Group members: Diane Burkley Alejandro, Sadaf Atashbarghi-Nehr, Dirck Hargraves, Prince Howard, Mary Kimm, Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat, Philip Niedzielski-Eichner, Convenor Adrian Steel, Eric Ubias, and Vernon Walton.

Suggestions captured in the spreadsheet dubbed "the matrix" by Lusk and maintained by Fairfax County Police Department grew into a "cumbersome compendium" of over 300 ideas, according to Niedzielski-Eichner. They were reviewed and commented on by the police. The Working Group met to synthesize the matrix's recommendations into a proposed action for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

The action plan recommended that the initiatives meet four criteria:

- ❖ Does it provide policy or program-level direction that can be acted upon by the board or the police chief?
- ❖ Is it a policy- or program-level initiative with the potential for significant positive impact?
- ❖ Is it evidence-based, which can include a member's lived experiences?
- ❖ Is it consistent with national best practices, or does it have the potential to become national best practices?"

Policing Use of Force

"The public, through the matrix, understands that historically, police have largely, by default, been tasked with being first responders when a behavioral health crisis arises ... (This) criminalizes the affected population," Niedzielski-Eichner said. A summary statement on policing and the use of force calls for a rethinking of policing. It assigned non-safety responsibilities to clinical and social service professions, expanded Diversion First and co-responder programs, and identified and is open to other policing models.

The use of force policy and accountability is a work in progress, based on findings from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and evaluated by Fairfax County's Use of Force Community Advisory Committee. "They warrant active reconsideration,"



Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner, convener of the Fairfax County Police Reform Matrix Working Group.



Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Vienna and one of ten members of the Fairfax County Police Reform Matrix Working Group.



Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia), chairman of the Safety and Security Committee.

Niedzielski-Eichner said, referring to an alternative standard to the "objective reasonable" standard.

"We recommend moving to a standard where the use of force must be, in principle, necessary and proportional," Niedzielski-Eichner said. "We recommend that pointing a firearm be considered and documented as a use of force." They recommended that the county implement key policy and program reforms, such as the de-escalation policies that are currently in place.

Walton noted that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and General Order 540 (2022) adopted several recommendations, but most still need to be fully implemented.

"Pointing a gun or any other threatening weapon should be a reportable use of force action and subject to review ... We're asking that the board direct that a foot pursuit policy be established with community participation," Walton said. A Fairfax County Police Officer shot and killed Timothy Johnson, an unarmed shoplifting suspect, during a foot pursuit in Tysons earlier this year.

Oversight

Even though Fairfax County was among the first jurisdictions to establish a civil review panel, Walton said that "the panel is only as good as the authority the panel has."

"This body is responsible for the parameters of the panel. The community is asking, the committee is asking that you open the lanes ... Give the civilian review panel independent investigating authority that is now permitted by the Virginia General Assembly," Walton said.

Police Officer Excellence

The Fairfax County Police Department's recent recruitment success, according to Niedzielski-Eichner, must be followed by the retention of highly effective officers. They must be held accountable for their actions, accept responsibility for the "total community," and have access to physical and mental fitness to perform their demanding jobs. He recommended conducting regular "customer survey audits" of police department personnel to facilitate dialogue between officers and supervisors.

Community Engagement

Research and national best practices support

the benefits of authentic community engagement and the likelihood that a solution will be widely accepted, Niedzielski-Eichner said.

Most importantly, community engagement encourages the development of a trusting relationship. While the FCPD has designed and implemented numerous programs, more needs to be done, particularly to engage community members who perceive themselves to be marginalized. This policy would build on the One Fairfax policy.

"Engagement is how we build trust," Walton said. "People love to be heard, and there's a tremendous sense that many voices are not being heard."

Data

Although FCPD has made "great strides," as Niedzielski-Eichner stated, "current public data discourages year-over-year comparisons ... Standardized formats rarely include measures of disparate treatment among classes of community members."

He said FCPD leadership "needs to be consistently careful about offering premature judgments or information about an incident that is either exculpatory outside the scope of an officer's behavior or judgmental about a person of interest due to previous law enforcement history."

Specialized Police Units

Following the recent shootings by Tyson's Urban Team officers, Niedzielski-Eichner said the community and CAC recommend looking at the FCPD's specialized units for their policy frameworks. The Working Group suggests that a subset with the greatest community interest be examined for value-impacted practices, particularly those affecting people of color.

Evaluating Program Progress

The fundamental questions, according to Niedzielski-Eichner, are whether the program is intended to improve policing in Fairfax County; whether it achieves the intended purpose(s); whether resources are well-allocated; and "what lessons are learned through the implementation that will make the program much better?"

Walton concluded his presentation by saying that he reluctantly agreed to participate in this process. "I didn't want to serve on another

OPINION

Steps to Succession

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN"
PLUM

When I announced for elected office in 1972 I would never have thought it would be a half century later before I would help elect the person who would follow me. I lost several elections in the beginning of my pursuit of a seat in the House of Delegates but was successful in all elections since 1982. In total I ran in 29 elections and was successful in 26 of them. My total 44 years of service is the second longest in the 404 year history of the House of Delegates.

Leading to my retirement I did not feel it appropriate that I singularly attempt to pick my successor. After my retirement announcement a total of seven people spoke to me about their interest in running for the seat I was vacating. I tried to be encouraging but not committal to all. Four of those people are now running in a primary for the Democratic nomination to run in the general election in November to succeed me. The primary election early voting is now underway, and the primary election day is June 20. I encourage everyone to participate.

Over the past several decades I have published and made available to voters in the district a voter guide stating the persons for whom I intended to vote. Each election cycle numerous voters asked when my voter guide would be available as they used it to determine how to vote. Not surprisingly, over the past months voters have asked me how I plan to vote in the primary.

After fully considering all the candidates, I have decided to vote in the Democratic primary election on June 20 for Karen Keys-Gamarra. She reflects the progressive Democratic values I have always represented and has the depth of experience in public service that will enable her to go to work immediately. I encourage you to get to know her better at her website, www.karenkeysgamarra.com.

The outcome of the election is critically important as the winner of the primary is likely to win the general election. The Republican Governor will be in office for two more years, and Republicans are working hard to keep a majority in the House of Delegates and gain a majority in the Senate. We need members of the General Assembly who have experience to stand up to him and the Republicans in the legislature on women's and LGBTQ+ rights, investing in our schools, protecting our environ-

ment, passing common sense laws to end gun violence, protecting voting rights for all persons, and other critical issues. I have found Karen Keys-Gamarra to have the real solid experience needed to get to work immediately on the issues I and the members of this district have expressed support for during my tenure! I hope you will join me in voting for her in the primary and the general election.

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GFCFA Board Introduces Its Nominated Board Slate

Additional nominations accepted May 31.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Citizens Association will hold a membership meeting on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 7 p.m. to present its board slate and accept nominations. According to the By-laws of the Great Falls Citizens Association, revised April 20, 2021, "Nominations may be made from the floor at the May membership meeting provided that the nominees so nominated consent in person or in writing and are GFCFA members in good standing."

Additionally, Article 4, Officers and Directors, Executive Board, states, "The GFCFA shall be governed and managed by an elected Executive Board comprised of seventeen (17) members: five (5) officers and twelve (12) at-large directors." The five officers are president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and officers committee, which is chaired by the president and includes the GFCFA officers.

The GFCFA Nominating Committee nominated candidates for positions on the Executive Board: Chris Rich for president, Rick

Solano for vice president, and Jim Trent for treasurer. The committee did not nominate anyone for secretary.

The committee nominated six candidates as at-large directors: Jennifer Falcone, Gordon Harri, Matt Truong, Richard Wolfe, Lisa Schlecht, and Mark Douma. That leaves six at-large director vacancies.

New board members and officers will be elected on June 20, 2023. The election site will be announced at a later date.

According to its charter, the GFCFA serves "as a community organization to promote all aspects of community interest accruing to the common good and, in general, to preserve Great Falls' historic, low-density, semi-rural character and its natural resources."

Because Great Falls is not an incorporated municipality like the Town of Vienna, the Town of Herndon, or the City of Fairfax, it lacks a town or city government to represent local interests.

On these issues, GFCFA acts unofficially to represent the voices of Great Falls citizens and works with county, state, and national governments to get things done. GFCFA ad-



Chris Rich, candidate for member of the GFCFA board as president



Gordon Harris, candidate for member GFCFA Board as vice president



James Trent, candidate for member GFCFA Board as treasurer



Lisa Schlecht, candidate for member GFCFA Board as director



Mark Douma, candidate for member GFCFA Board as director



Matt Truong, candidate for member GFCFA Board as director



Richard Wolf, candidate for member GFCFA Board as director



Rick Solano, candidate for member GFCFA Board as director



Jennifer Falcone, candidate for member GFCFA Board as director

resses issues such as traffic, zoning, retail, schools, parks and the environment.

GFCFA representatives testify at public meetings of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on issues affecting the Great Falls community.

According to Bill Canis, president of the GFCFA, examples of recent GFCFA supervisory testimony and comments have included the following positions on matters, "In favor of a Dark Sky Preserve at Turner Farm Park; opposed to the monopole at the corner of Beulah Road and Rt 7; opposed to changing the comprehensive plan

to permit a grocery store at the intersection of Rt 7 and Springvale Road; provided comments on parts of the zMod ordinance that GFCFA opposed, and lack of full public comment periods; and called on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to update tree protection and canopy procedures to limit the amount of clearcutting that can take place during residential and commercial development."

Additionally, GFCFA has worked extensively with Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) on seeking a one-lane bridge on Springvale Road and other issues.

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Fairfax County Safety Fair Is June 3

A special event designed for children and young adults with developmental disabilities is slated for Saturday, June 3, from 9 a.m.-noon. Called the First Responder Interaction Day and Safety Fair, it'll be held at the Fairfax County Police Academy at 14601 Lee Road in Chantilly.

Attendees may practice talking to firefighters and police officers and learn what to do during a traffic stop. Each will receive a personalized Developmental Disability Identification Card, and their parents will learn about planning for natural disasters and other emergencies. Preregistration is requested. Sign up at: <https://bit.ly/3GZHdjJ>.

Daytime Burglary, Attempted Sexual Assault

Fairfax County police are looking for a man who entered a Chantilly home during the daytime last week and attempted to sexually assault an adult woman. Officers responded to the 14500 block of Iberia Circle in Chantilly, last Thursday, May 18, at 12:02 p.m., after receiving a report about this incident.

Police say a stranger entered the woman's residence through an unlocked door. Although he tried to sexually assault her, the victim was able to escape her house and contact the police. The suspect left on foot prior to police arrival, and the woman was taken to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 5 foot 6 inches, with straight black hair and a medium build. He was wearing a black, long-sleeved shirt, dark pants and a light-blue, hospital-style mask.

Anyone with information about this event is asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).



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Tephra ICA Arts Festival 2023

Launches 50th anniversary celebration.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA) had every right to party the weekend of May 20-21, Saturday evening at Reston Town Center. The staff and volunteers of Tephra ICA were in the midst of producing its 32nd Arts Festival, held on the closed inner streets of Reston Town Center. The two-day festival served as the organization's largest annual fundraiser, allowing year-round exhibitions and programs to be free and open to the public.

Over two hundred invited contemporary artists and artisans from across the country displayed and sold their original handcrafted works of art at the festival. Hoesy Corona, a multidisciplinary artist, gave a featured performance. The festival has attracted approximately 30,000 attendees.

On Saturday morning, Richard Bond, a glass artist from Ottawa, Canada, stood amid a sea of white tents containing contemporary painters, potters, metalsmiths and textile artists. He utilized opaque, multicolored, sandblasted glass as his medium. His creative process employed neither automated nor computerized technology. In 2010, Bond felt privileged to have been chosen by the Canadian government to create artwork as gifts for world leaders attending the G-20 Summit in Toronto.

Festival-goers Zac Feight and Grace Fricke discovered one of Jeffrey Zachmann's kinetic sculptures while perusing the booths. To the delight of Feight and Fricke, when the sculpture was set in motion, it transformed into a study of captivating lines, shapes, and colors.

According to Jaynelle Clark Hazard, executive director and curator of Tephra ICA, Tephra employees, volunteers, and support-



Zac Feight and Grace Fricke of Reston get a kick out of the kinetic sculpture by Richard Bond, a glass artist from Ottawa, Canada, at the Tephra ICA Arts Festival 2023.

ers toasted with champagne during the Festival Cocktail Hour and Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening, which also marked the institution's 50th-anniversary celebration.

Fairfax County Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) presented a proclamation on behalf of U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly,

who had entered it into the Congressional Record. As planned at its 40th-anniversary celebration ten years ago, Tephra ICA established a more robust Fine Arts Festival, improved its gallery exhibitions, expanded its education programs, and collaborated with numerous other institutions to promote a



Richard Bond, a glass artist from Ottawa, Canada, at the Tephra ICA Arts Festival 2023.

PHOTOS BY
MERCIA HOBSON/
CONNECTION

greater commitment to public and performance art. The proclamation acknowledged Tephra ICA's contributions and congratulated the organization.

The names of the ten recipients of the 2023 Awards of Excellence winners can be found at <https://www.tephraica.org/festival-artists/c/2023-awards-of-excellence>.

The Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art is located in Reston, Va., at 12001 Market Street, Suite 103.

Pham Now Charged with Federal Crime

Man allegedly assaulted two Connolly staffers.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

After the local community – and the nation, as well – was shocked last week by a violent attack at U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's (D-11th) office in Fairfax City, the man accused of doing it has now been charged with a federal crime in connection with this incident.

According to the charging document filed May 17 in U.S. District Court in Alexandria by Special Agent Nicole Miller, the FBI charged Xuan-Kha Tran Pham, 49, of Chantilly's Greenbriar community, with assault on an employee of the United States, inflicting bodily harm.

Authorities say he wanted to speak with Connolly, last Monday morning, May 15,

and became enraged to learn he wasn't there. Then, say police, Pham allegedly hit the congressman's outreach director, plus an intern on her first day of work, with a baseball bat.

After being alerted, Fairfax City police quickly responded, subdued and arrested Pham and charged him with aggravated malicious wounding and malicious wounding. He was then taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and held without bond. His parents – with whom he lives – have said their son has mental illness but hadn't been taking his medication.

In her document, FBI Agent Miller said Connolly's two staffers were working when "Suddenly, the front door swung open and Pham, wielding a baseball bat, charged through it." She wrote that, after he report-

edly struck the outreach director on the head, she fell to the floor – and he allegedly told her, "I'm going to kill you" and "You're going to die," before reportedly striking her some seven more times.

Miller wrote that, when the intern tried to escape toward the back of the office, that's when Pham reportedly hit her in the ribs. At that point, said Miller, a mailman who'd witnessed the attack from across the hall entered the office, distracting Pham, and enabling the outreach director to run away from him. Later, Connolly called that mailman "one of the heroes in this story" for going into the office when he did. Afterward, wrote Miller, Pham used his bat to destroy various objects in the office.

Later that day, authorities executed a search warrant at Pham's home, seizing several items, including a computer. He was arraigned last Tuesday, May 16, in Fairfax

County and has a preliminary hearing date of July 17 in General District Court. He's currently scheduled to be represented by a Fairfax County public defender.

Meanwhile, praise continues to come in for the local police and their quick actions that day. "I'm grateful that the City of Fairfax Police Department arrived onsite in a matter of minutes and got the assailant in custody," said Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read. She also has her own thoughts about what transpired.

"An attack of this nature on congressional staffers in a district office is unprecedented," she said. "When something like this happens, we collectively feel less safe – as if the places that haven't seen violence before are suddenly vulnerable in a way we hadn't imagined. The thought of two people being assaulted in an office – including a young intern on her first day – is horrifying."

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JUNE 25

Falls Church Arts All Member Show.

More than 155 artists will be featured in the All Member Show at the Falls Church Arts gallery from April 22 to June 25. To handle the expansive show, the exhibit will be held in two parts this year: submissions from members with last names from A-K will be on view from April 22 to May 21. Submissions from artists with last names from L-Z will be on view from May 27 to June 25. The show features the work of emerging and established member artists from Falls Church Arts and encompasses an extensive range of media from the more traditional watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastel, fused glass, oil, photography, and sculpture to a wide variety of mixed media and printing techniques. The Falls Church Arts gallery is at 700-B West Broad St. (Route 7), Falls Church. Admission is free and the gallery is open Tuesdays-Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Artworks can be viewed online at www.fallschurcharts.org. All pieces can be purchased at the gallery or on the website.

THROUGH JULY 27

Senior Slow-Pitch Softball Seasons.

9 a.m. to noon. At Braddock, Wakefield, and Nottaway Softball Fields. Join NoVa Senior Softball, men 50+, women 40+, average age 66. Skill-level assessment. 24 teams, three levels of play. Tuesday/Thursday morning double-headers. Begin Spring Training now. 703-663-7881. Visit the website: www.nvss.org

NOW THRU JUNE 3

"Urinetown." 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on



The Falls Church Arts All Member Show L-Z will be held May 27 to June 25, 2023 in Falls Church.

private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom! Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/urinetown>

NOW THRU AUG. 23

Art Wednesdays. 5 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. The first four Wednesdays starting May 3 watch live graffiti art come to life. The Lorton Workhouse and Live Art International introduces alternating art concepts for participants to take a drawing class, take home personalized airbrushed swag and more. All materials will be provided.

NOW THRU AUG. 31

Game Night Thursdays. 6 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center,

McLean. Starting May 11th, DC Fray will host a free game night every other Thursday. Game concepts will rotate between Cornhole, Roller Skating, Ping Pong, Bingo, RC Racing and Pickleball. Prizes will be awarded!

NOW THRU AUG. 11

Music & Dance Fridays. Classes: 6 p.m. or 6:45 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Join Silvia and La Musica the first two Fridays of each month starting May 5 through August 11 for salsa lessons and a musical workshop. For beginners, Salsa lessons start at 6 p.m. and bachata lessons begin at 6:45 p.m. The La Musica: World of Encanto music workshop for kids will feature musical genres from successful Disney films: Coco, Saludos Amigos, The Three Caballeros and Encanto for karaoke session with live percussion instruments.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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A Memorial Day Ceremony will take place Monday, May 29, 2023 at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial in Great Falls.

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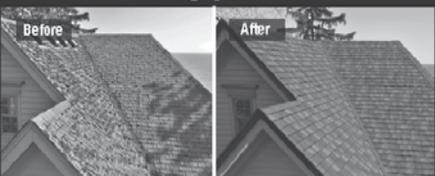
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Obituary

Obituary



Ruth Ottilia Tatlock died at home, asleep in her own bed, on May 5, 2023, less than a month after her 95th birthday. Born in a small town in Sweden, her intrepid spirit took her on a path of adventure that started with an ocean voyage to New York City at age 23 and led her west, driving solo via Chicago and Las Vegas to San Francisco, where she met and married Donald B. Tatlock in 1953. How she and Don ended up in Northern Virginia after living in Alaska and Indonesia is a story for another day. Predeceased by her husband in 2002 and their son, Lars Tatlock, in 2018, Ruth leaves behind daughters Eva Catlin and Ingrid Revis; daughter-in-law Vy Tatlock; son-in-law Robert Navin; grandchildren Ingrid Catlin, Britt Catlin, Sonja Revis, Kevin Revis, Rizana Tatlock, Don Tatlock, and Eva Tatlock; and great-grandchildren Annabell Delavergne Revis, Lucy Revis, Emberly Revis, and Margot Catlin. Other surviving family members and significant others include Sophie Catlin, Alison Rohrer, Gary Delavergne, Thomas Revis, and John Catlin.

A joyful celebration of Ruth's life with family, friends, and neighbors will take place in Herndon, Virginia, later this year.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Herndon-Reston FISH where Ruth volunteered for more than 20 years www.herndonrestonfish.org/donate or to the Herndon High School Band www.herndonband.org/donations

Obituary

Obituary



Robert "Bob" William Faithful IV was born in Wheeling, West Virginia. Bob was the oldest son of Robert William Faithful III, and Ruth Jane Cassels Faithful.

After graduating Bridgeport High School at the top of his class in 1966, Bob attended Miami University of Ohio. Bob went on to graduate from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law in 1973.

Bob began a 37-year career in government service by entering the military. He served as an Air Force Judge Advocate

General's Corps (JAG) from 1974-1978.

His service continued with a 37-year career in the U.S. Department of Interior. He retired in 2012 with numerous awards and membership to the Senior Executive Service.

Bob's most important achievement, however, was becoming a father to two children, Michael Faithful and Robert "Bobby" William Faithful, V.

Bob is survived by his brothers, Fred and George Faithful; his children, Michael and Bobby Faithful; his niece, Shannon Faithful, and his nephews, George Faithful, Jr., and Fred Faithful, III.

Bob will be laid to rest on Saturday, May 27th at his place of worship, St. John's Episcopal Church in Centreville. Services will begin at 12pm. He was beloved, and will be deeply missed.

NEWS

Community Matrix

FROM PAGE 4

er task force that would produce a body of work that would ultimately sit on the shelf without the possibility of becoming a living document," Walton said. He added that he came because of his belief in political will and that this body, the Board of Supervisors, has the political will to do what is right.

Walton said he felt compelled by moral conviction to present the document and the enclosed recommendations on behalf of Fairfax County residents, hoping that the supervisors would give it full consideration and eventually adoption. Walton said, "We respectfully ask that you are bold and courageous and do it without delay."

Lusk said the board must allow Chief Davis to look at the recommendations and provide feedback. As for rethinking policing, they have been working hard to hire the mental health clinicians the county needs for the co-responder implementation. "This is a tough task," Lusk said. "We do have three of our four units up and running. So we need one more unit to cover the county."

Lusk said that they must work on training, de-escalation, and determining patience, time, and distance — all of which are critical to reducing the use of force.

They have been working with the civilian review panel under independent supervision and have hired an executive director and an assistant to that director to help them build out their infrastructure. The issue of granting the civil review board additional and expanded authority was raised by Lusk, and the board discussed it last year.

According to Lusk, transparency and data are critical. "If you want trust and accountability, you need to have transparency in the data ... We can continue to make progress ... This is a document that's not completed; it will continue to evolve over time and improve over time. I've read [recommendations] clearly and carefully and understand what the request is, and we will be working to bring back to this body the responses from the department and then the responses from this board."

Readers can access the video starting at minute 38:11 at https://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/player/clip/2890?view_id=9&redirect=true&h=aa406817dd910e-9c28e63c0a2dedf8b7 and a text overview of the recommendations is available at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/community%20recommendations%20for%20more%20equitable%20policing.pdf>.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

WEDNESDAY/MAY 24

Holy Happy Hour. 6:15 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The featured artist will be Irene Castillo, a graduating senior from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Castillo will perform violin works of Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky.

THURSDAY/MAY 25

Performing Arts Movie. 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Will it be a documentary? A filmed Broadway show? Maybe a monumental concert? Regardless, our performing arts movie series will bring you closer to the arts and your neighbors. For more information, call MCC at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 25

Business Startup Essentials. 7:30-9:30 a.m. At Mason Enterprise Center, Office Evolution, 205 Van Buren Street, Suite 120, Herndon. Mason Enterprise Center in Herndon will be hosting a three-week start-up cohort in May for small business owners and aspirants in the Town of Herndon to learn about the essentials required to launch your business. This program is ideal for early-stage businesses looking to grow. Experts and mentors from the Mason SBDC who will lead you through the key steps and practices to successfully start and run your business. Call 703-261-4105.

FRIDAY/MAY 26

Learning Lunch: Myths. 12-1 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Lorton Prison Complex inspired many stories and tall tales. Professor and author Alice Reagan sets out to set the record straight. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/learning-lunch-myths>

SATURDAY/MAY 27

Bug Fest. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Lewinsville Historic House, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Calling all bug enthusiasts! Bug Fest is back and bigger than ever. Have a passion for the creepy-crawly creatures? This event is fun for the whole family and is designed to appeal to learners of all ages who love insects! Bug Fest will feature lots of exciting and creepy bug-themed programs, activities and demonstrations. Join an insect safari, explore live insects, observe insect collections, roll logs to find bugs, play in soil stations, go for a bug walk and even make your own bug! You can also use technology to explore the world of insects. Registration is required and enrollment is \$8 per person.

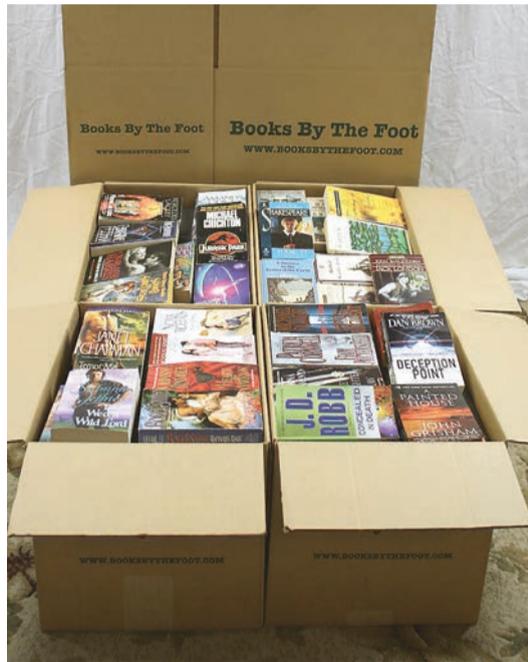
MAY 27 TO JUNE 25

Falls Church Arts All Member Show L-Z. At the Falls Church Arts gallery, 700-B West Broad St. (Route 7), Falls Church. Eighty-eight artists with last names from L-Z will be featured in the second part of the All Member Show at the Falls Church Arts Gallery. An opening reception will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 27. The reception is open to the public. The show features the work of emerging and established member artists from Falls Church Arts and encompasses an extensive range of media from the more traditional watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastel, fused glass, oil, photography, and sculpture to a wide variety of mixed media and printing techniques. Visit the website www.fallschurcharts.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 28

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3-4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Citizens of Oakton, known as Flint Hill during the American Civil War,

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Used book sales will be held June 1-4, 2023 at Tysons Pimmit and Richard Byrd Libraries.

endured much angst much throughout the war years, no matter which side of the conflict one supported. Email: slawski_brian@yahoo.com

MONDAY/MAY 29

Memorial Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. At Great Falls Freedom Memorial, behind Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial to honor the residents of Great Falls and all others who have given "the last full measure of devotion" to their country. The event will feature patriotic songs, a Boy Scout color guard, a bagpipe performance of "Amazing Grace" by Great Falls student MacPhearson Strassberg, a keynote speech by Historic Congressional Cemetery Director of Public Engagement A.J. Orlikoff, Taps bugler Boy Scout Henry Lin, Memorial Day poppies, and a bell-ringing and name-reading for natives of Great Falls killed in battle. Visit the website www.gffreedom.org.

MONDAY/MAY 29

Memorial Day Observances. 10 a.m. At Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon. Featuring Avenue of Flags, Dawn to dusk. Sponsored by the American Legion Post 184. Call 703-481-1200.

JUNE 1-4

Tysons Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Thursday, 1 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday, 2 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 3 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 4 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests.

JUNE 1-4

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Thousands of like-new books to choose from. Thursday, June 1st, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, June 2nd, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, June 3rd, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Contact Friends of Richard Byrd Library at rbrfriends@gmail.com

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Gardens of Note. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Presented by the Reston Chorale in partnership with the Reston Garden Club and Hidden Lane Residential Landscapes. Enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of five beautiful, private Reston Gardens, open to the public for one day only. Cost is \$20 in advance; \$25 on tour day. Tickets are available online at RestonChorale.org.

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CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

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.

Each local newspaper has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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Winging It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Without my wingman, my recently deceased brother, Richard, I have no doubt that living forward, there will be many occasions when I would have loved to consult the manual; that manual being my older, wiser, more experienced, and reliable brother. If ever there was an ideal resource to have at the ready, I nominate – in arrears, my brother, Richard. Losing his counsel, compassion and understanding of most things KBL (me) seems almost like a physical loss/handicap because the emotional loss is so massive (to quote the Brits), it feels physical, if that makes any sense?

And unfortunately, losing a foundational piece of your emotional architecture is not easily replaced. Let me be more specific: it's impossible, never to be replaced, always a void, and I feel diminished somehow and less interesting by his death. Though we weren't exactly joined at the hip, we were entangled nonetheless with all manner of likes, dislikes, preferences, motivations, and most of all: familial responsibilities; to one another, our deceased parents (every day one of us visited them for a few hours when they lived in Leisure World), our wives and miscellaneous other extended family (neither one of us had any children).

As close as Richard and I were, that bond was solidified even more during our parent's brief stay in Maryland. When our parents first arrived in Maryland, my mother was unexpectedly in a wheelchair, unable to walk at all. It wasn't physical, but emotional, she didn't have the physical strength. Something happened when she boarded the plane for Washington, D.C. from Florida. After months of pills (to treat her presumptive depression), we took a more aggressive route: E.C.T., electroconvulsive therapy. After only four treatments, my mother regained her form and once again, became the mother she had always been: loving, nurturing and focused on her family.

A few months after my mother's recovery, my father suffered the first of his two strokes. Though he wasn't totally incapacitated, speaking, as often happens, became challenging for him. Given these two conditions, Richard, and I both felt our place, as often as possible was with our parents. We had encouraged their move from Florida with this exact scenario in mind: what if something happened to them? How could we manage their care long distance? We couldn't so they agreed to move north. And without any hesitation, Richard and I happily welcomed their arrival and remained committed to our parents for the rest of their lives.

As a result of this arrangement/commitment, Richard and I spoke at least once a day for a parental update. And as you can imagine, life got way more complicated after my father had his first stroke. Though my mother was back to her old self (affectionately referred to), she had her own challenges: she had suffered hearing loss due to nerve damage years earlier and it had taken a toll. She (I can still hear my father admonishing me: "Don't call your mother 'she'") really couldn't take care of my father any longer so we ended up hiring a live-in caregiver, Maria, who was, as we were fond and sincere in saying: "an angel of mercy." She couldn't have been more kind, loving and dedicated to my parents. She treated them with respect and dignity and enhanced their lives; especially as their health failed. Still, Richard and I didn't convince our parents to move to Maryland to leave them alone with a caregiver, no matter how wonderful she was, so we alternated our days (evenings actually) and did a split-shift on Sundays (Maria's day off) for the rest of our parent's lives to assure them that there would always be family in the house.

When my brother went into septic shock in mid-July, Vanessa (his wife) and I organized a similar daily schedule to what Richard, and I had committed to for our parents. And after six weeks of his being in a coma of sorts, and on a ventilator, a dialysis machine – and so much more, he finally woke up. A month or so later he was transferred to a rehabilitation hospital and a few weeks after that he was discharged. I met Vanessa and Richard at home to help her transport him into their home. He could barely walk. Given his initial prognosis (not good), it was a miracle that he was home. Vanessa didn't need me to come over every day, but I certainly called Richard once a day, at least. And so it remained that way for the next two months or so until he died at age 73. I lost so much more than a brother, I lost part of my universe, too.

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



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