

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 8, 2023

Police Ride-along in Mount Vernon Opens Eyes

Ride-alongs with police are available to residents.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

In mid-May, Mount Vernon resident Christopher Morgan rode along in a Fairfax County Police car to see the challenges the officers and residents face on an average day in Mount Vernon. He got a lot out of the experience.

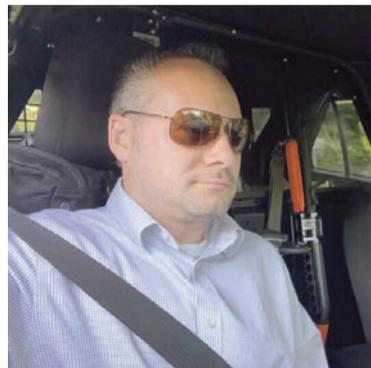
"I wanted to see it first hand," Morgan said.

For six hours, he traveled around Mount Vernon where he witnessed all the activity the police encounter on a daily basis which included checking on an elderly resident, an armed person situation where the helicopter was called in and one violent crime.

On one occasion, some children found a cell phone and brought it to the police officer's attention. "It was nice to see, they wanted to do the right thing," Morgan said. Another incident involved checking on an elderly resident which did not require flashing lights or a warrant. "I ran the gamut of emotions," Morgan said.

But there was a call where the squad car was traveling at higher speeds with the lights flashing and that gained his attention.

The extremes the officers go through were surprising to him



Christopher Morgan rode in the front seat.

and he could see the officers had to adapt quickly.

He did see the challenges encountered throughout this county district, which has a high number of police calls compared to some of the other districts. From Friday, May 19, through Thursday, May 25, officers around the county responded to 7,808 calls for service. That's an average of 1,115 calls for service a day. Of those nearly 8,000 calls, 649 were vehicle crash calls, 220 were for persons experiencing a mental health crisis and 241 were domestic-related calls for service, the FCPD reported.

At the Mount Vernon District Station, there are 157 people on the staff, which includes 126 sworn officers and 31 civilians, which could be auxiliary officers, crossing guards, police citizen aides, crime analyst and administrative aide. The Mount Vernon District is approximately 26 square miles and encompasses the Richmond Highway corridor from the City of Alexandria on the north to Fort Bel-



Police try to break the barriers with the community through programs like this bike repair program.

voir on the south. It contains the Mount Vernon Estate and Garden, Woodlawn Plantation, Fort Hunt National Park, and Huntley Meadows Park.

"The Mount Vernon Police District is among the most diverse police districts in the county in terms of race, ethnicity and socioeconomics," FCPD information read. Morgan lives in Stratford Landing and is in his second year as the

president of the Stratford Landing Civic Association, so he's well entrenched with his community. One of the officers he rode with was also a Mount Vernon resident.

Morgan could see that there was some level of distrust with the people on the street, and this could be where some problems arise. "I don't think everyone is coming together," he said. Especially when

SEE RIDE-ALONGS, PAGE 15

More Early Voting Options

The Democratic primary election is Tuesday, June 20.

An additional 13 early voting sites will open on Saturday, June 10.

For the last week of early voting, a total of 16 voting sites will be open daily from Monday, June 12, to Saturday, June 17.

Weekday hours at every site are from 1 to 7 p.m.—except for the Fairfax County Government Center. On Saturday, June 17—the last day to vote early—every location will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For the run up to the final week of early voting for the June 20 Democratic primary, an additional 13 early voting sites will open on Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In total, 16 early voting sites will be open on Saturday, including the three sites that first opened in May: Fairfax County Government Center, Mount Vernon Governmental Center and North County Governmental Center.

These 16 locations will also be open daily from Monday, June 12, to Saturday, June 17. On weekdays, every site will be open from 1 to 7 p.m.—except for the Fairfax County Government Center, which offers longer hours. Hours at this location are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On the final day to vote early—Saturday, June 17—every location will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Democratic primary candidates for these offices and districts will be on the ballot:

❖ Board of Supervisors: Chairman, Dranesville District, Mason District, Mount Vernon District and Springfield
SEE MORE EARLY, PAGE 15

Bull Run Church and Harris Cemetery Juneteenth Celebration

Bull Run Regional Park

Join Fairfax NAACP for the Second Annual Juneteenth celebration.

The event recognizes the largest private emancipation of the enslaved, commemorates the ceme-

tery where many of the freed are interred, and visits the site where blacks and whites worshiped as early as 1775.

Come hear the story of Robert Carter III's emancipation of 500 enslaved people in the 1790s and the freed community at this site. Bull Run had one of the earliest Baptist Churches in the region and its cemetery.

Hear an inspirational message

by our guest speaker, Bishop Brett Fuller, Washington Commanders Chaplain and founder of Grace Covenant Church.

More about the incredible and inspirational story of the people who once lived and died at this forested location behind the Atlantis Waterpark can be viewed in this video.

There will also be a Black Expo, a children's activity, and recogni-

tion of descendants of Henry and Jemima Harris and Robert Carter III in attendance.

❖ Attendees are asked to bring gently used toddler and early reading children's books for donation to Centreville United Methodist Church's local literacy ministry.*

This event is free and open to the public; meet at the Atlantis Waterpark parking lot, 7700 Bull Run Drive Centreville, VA 20121

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

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Stop by Sunday from 2-4PM to see this beautiful 5-bedroom, 3.5-bath Colonial. The gracious, light-filled home with elegant appointments will please the most discerning buyer. 1900 Windmill Ln
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WendySantantonio.com



Mt Vernon Triangle | \$665,000

This tranquil, end-unit condo at The L at City Vista features 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, a modernized kitchen, & generous storage. Bonus separate den is perfect for an at-home office, study nook, or gym! 440 L Street NW #911
Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
JillianKeckHogan.com



hardwood floors, tall ceilings, handsome millwork, stainless kitchen, lower level family room, and a gas fireplace. Wonderful private brick patio. 510 South Pitt Street

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island. Fully finished lower level with spacious recreation room and full bath. Centrally located between Del Ray and Potomac Yard. Off-street driveway. Walk to shops & restaurants! 250 Evans Lane

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Mount Vernon Rotary Club Presents 'You Make A Difference' Award

On May 31, 2023 at Whitman Middle School, the Mount Vernon Rotary Club presented Laura Wainwright of Food For Neighbors with the 2023 "You Make A Difference" award. Given to one person each year, the award highlights volunteers that have had continuous, meaningful impact in the Mount Vernon area, and the recognition includes a \$1,000 grant to continue their important work. Food For Neighbors will focus the funding on its steadfast support to partnering secondary schools in the Mount Vernon pyramid.

"We Rotarians have been concerned with food insecurity in our local community and especially how it impacts young students," said Michael Jones, President of the Mount Vernon Rotary Club. "When we read the nomination for Laura Wainwright to receive the 'You Make a Difference' award, it spoke to our concerns, and we felt that supporting her work would have the greatest community impact."

"I feel so fortunate to be a small part of the Food For Neighbors team," shared Wainwright, who emphasized the nonprofit's tireless efforts to help local middle and high school students who struggle with food insecurity. She furthered that, as Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, sometimes community members don't always see the struggles that their neighbors are experiencing. There is great need and Food For Neighbors makes it so easy to be a part of making a big impact on the local student community, Wainwright said.

In 2019, Wainwright brought Food For Neighbors to the Fort Hunt Area, where she serves as the Area Manager. As Area Manager, she connects vital food resources to hungry students with the help of dedicated school staff at partnering schools, currently including Whitman and Sandburg Middle Schools as well as Bryant, Mount Vernon, Quander Road and West Potomac High Schools. Joining in her efforts are her enthusiastic area leadership team members — Vero Autophene, Siobhan Casey and Andrea Wilkinson — as well as the hundreds of community members they inspire to donate, collect, sort and deliver thousands of pounds of food and toiletries to the schools. Food For Neighbors also provides partnering schools with shelving, cabinets, and bins to store the donations in their pantries as well as holiday meals and grocery gift cards to distribute to the most vulnerable students. To date, Food For Neighbors has delivered over 36,000 pounds of food and toiletries to these schools and, as of the close of 2022, over \$77,000 in grocery gift cards.

Among others celebrating with Wainwright was Craig Herring, Principal of Whitman Middle School, which serves as the donation collection and sorting location for the area. Herring noted, "Food for Neighbors



Craig Herring (left), Principal of Whitman Middle School, shares about the significant efforts that Laura Wainwright (center), her local Food For Neighbors volunteers, and his school staff made during the height of the pandemic to connect food with hungry students. Karen Joseph (right), Founder and Executive Director of Food For Neighbors, applauds the ongoing and excellent teamwork to help food insecure children grow and learn.



May 2023 Award Presentation, Mount Vernon Rotary

Michael Jones (center), President of the Mount Vernon Rotary, presents Laura Wainwright (center right) with the "You Make a Difference" award in recognition of her excellent volunteer work as the Fort Hunt area manager for Food For Neighbors. Also pictured are Rotarians Charles Court (far left) and Helen Walutes (second from left) as well as Food For Neighbors Founder and Executive Director Karen Joseph (far right).



has been an outstanding partner to Whitman Middle School and the Mount Vernon District over the past four years to bring much needed food to our students. Even during the darkest hours of the pandemic, Laura Wainwright showed phenomenal leadership to keep the program going when food was at its scarcest."

Also attending was Karen Joseph, Founder and Executive Director of Food For Neighbors. Joseph expressed great appreciation for Wainwright and her team, Principal Herring, and other school leaders and staff who are connecting vital resources with students. She added that the support helps students grow and learn, and, among other things, positively impacts their focus, school attendance, and performance. She also thanked the Mount Vernon Rotary Club for raising awareness about community needs through the "You Make A Difference" award.

"I greatly appreciate the special effort the Rotary is making to highlight those who serve the community," shared Joseph. "Laura is one of our rockstars. She makes things happen. Even during the pandemic when students were learning remotely, she ensured students had continued access to food by setting up and running food distribution in the most vulnerable neighborhoods."

"I am honored to accept this award on behalf of Food For Neighbors," said Wainwright. "We are a team — from the leadership to the community of donors who fill grocery bags with food and toiletries, the drivers who pick up the donations from donors' doorsteps, and the volunteers who receive and sort the donations. No child should be hungry. Together we make a difference."

The need remains great. Food For Neighbors welcomes additional community members to donate and sort food and toiletries as well as donations. To learn more, visit <https://www.foodforneighbors.org/get-involved>

Mount Vernon Rotary celebrates Laura Wainwright as the 2023 recipient of the Rotary's "You Make a Difference" award.

From left, William (Chris) Tippins, After-School Specialist, Whitman Middle School; Marjan Erfani, Driver Coordinator, Food For Neighbors; Craig Herring, Principal, Whitman Middle School; Helen Walutes, Member, Mount Vernon Rotary Club; Michael Jones, President, Mount Vernon Rotary Club; Charles Court, Member, Mount Vernon Rotary Club; Mark Wainwright, Fort Hunt Area Co-Driver Coordinator, Food For Neighbors; Laura Wainwright, Fort Hunt Area Manager, Food For Neighbors; Karen Joseph, Founder and Executive Director, Food For Neighbors; Karisa Gearhart, School Social Worker, Whitman Middle School; Florence (Pipi) Harrison, Director, Student Services, Bryant Alternative High School; Delia Montecinos, Community School Coordinator; Jean Jensen; Véronique (Vero) Autphenne, Fort Hunt Area Pantry Coordinator, Food For Neighbors; Andrea Wilkinson, Fort Hunt Area Event Coordinator, Food For Neighbors.

OPINION

Protection, Prevention and Communication Lead Police Efforts in Our Community

BY MOUNT VERNON SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

Our Fairfax County Police officers are committed to fighting crime and getting dangerous guns and drugs off the streets of Fairfax County. Last week in the Woodlawn area of the Mount Vernon Police District, of-

ficers assigned to the Neighborhood Patrol Unit conducted a traffic stop which resulted in the recovery of 3 loaded guns, 2 with extended magazines, 73 pills suspected to be illegal narcotics, and over \$2,000 in cash. Two adults and one juvenile were ar-



Storck

rested. I know we are all proud of the hard work our officers do every day to keep dangerous drugs and weapons out of our County and our District.

The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) has also launched Zencity's Blockwise, a new public survey tool used by dozens of leading police departments around the country, to understand local concerns, attitudes and trust in police officers. The tool will enable FCPD to holistically understand local neighborhood safety issues, enhancing their responsiveness to community priorities. The survey will gather responses from residents in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese,



Evidence from FCPD traffic stop.

Korean, Vietnamese Urdu, Telugu, and Amharic, to assist FCPD in obtaining public sentiment about the FCPD as well as feelings about crime and the fear of crime.

FCPD is committed to keeping our residents, commuters and visitors safe. Through increased police

presence, soon to be added area community responder health team support and effective engagement with our community FCPD works to deter and change unlawful behaviors to keep Fairfax County a safe place to live, work, learn and

SEE FIGHTING CRIME, PAGE 7

Coffee with a Cop!
Monday, June 12th
10:00AM-12:00PM
Starbucks: 7511 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306

Bring your friends and family, grab a coffee, and talk with your local police officers! We hope to see you there!

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT | MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT STATION

Coffee with a Cop.

PASSPORT AUTO



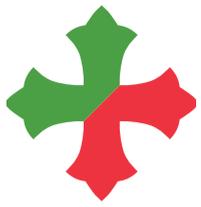
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Case Western Reserve University (2) ♦ Chatham University ♦ Christopher Newport University ♦ College of Charleston (2)
College of the Holy Cross ♦ College of William & Mary (3) ♦ Colorado School of Mines ♦ Cornell University ♦ Denison University (3) ♦ Dickinson College (2)
East Carolina University ♦ Elon University ♦ Fordham University ♦ George Mason University ♦ George Washington University ♦ Gonzaga University
High Point University (3) ♦ Indiana University (3) ♦ James Madison University ♦ Loyola University (New Orleans) ♦ Miami University (Ohio) (3)
Michigan State University ♦ Morehouse College ♦ Mt. St. Mary's University (MD) ♦ New York University (2) ♦ Newport University ♦ Northeastern University
Oberlin College ♦ Oklahoma City University ♦ Purdue University ♦ Randolph-Macon College ♦ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)
Rochester Institute of Technology (2) ♦ Savannah College of Art & Design ♦ Shenandoah University ♦ Southern Methodist University
Stevens Institute of Technology ♦ Stevenson University ♦ SUNY-Buffalo ♦ Syracuse University (2) ♦ Texas Christian University ♦ The Ohio State University
Trinity College (CT) ♦ Tulane University (2) ♦ United States Naval Academy (2) ♦ University of Alabama ♦ University of Arizona ♦ University of California-Irvine
University of California-Santa Cruz ♦ University of Colorado-Boulder ♦ University of Kentucky ♦ University of Miami (FL) (3) ♦ University of Mississippi (3)
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill ♦ University of Oregon ♦ University of Pennsylvania ♦ University of Richmond (2)
University of Southern California (2) ♦ University of Tennessee ♦ University of Utah ♦ University of Vermont ♦ University of Virginia (12)
University of Wisconsin-Madison (2) ♦ Virginia Tech (3) ♦ Wagner University ♦ Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University ♦ Wofford University ♦ Worcester Polytechnic Institute

In Mount Vernon, International Food Choices are Pleasing to the Palate

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Part one of a three-part series on the variety of restaurants on Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon

On Cooper Road in southern Mount Vernon, the food varieties span the globe, exemplifying the large number of ethnicities and cultures in the Richmond Highway corridor. In just one shopping center, there is Peruvian Chicken, Birria Tacos, Hawaiian Kalua Pig, Pad Thai Chicken and Shrimp, and Hunan Beef while across the street, there's Jollof Rice from Africa and Mexican Ice Cream bars in *nieve* and *helado* varieties.

Marcela is a fan of the Peruvian Charcoal Chicken so she travels all the way in from Leesburg to get the chicken dish. "This is more tasty, it's better, spicier," she said. Rosibel is the chef there and closely guards the recipe of the chicken and the green sauce she calls "Green Sauce."

"Both are a secret," she said.

Next door, there are secrets behind the specialty tacos at the El Paso Authentic Mexican Restaurant too, which is right behind the chicken place. The Tablos de Tacos is a taco extravaganza plate for more than one diner. But the birria taco is a secret family recipe,



Carina holds up one of her specially made popsicles.

said Miguel, the manager. Birria is authentic Mexican meat that his parents brought to the dining

scene here at El Paso. "It's their family recipe," he said.

Over at Momo Poke, owner Con-



The Peruvian Charcoal Chicken is worth the trip to Cooper Road.

rad Hise started out serving Hawaiian food from his food truck but moved to the brick and mortar restaurant when his business grew. The Kalua Pig and Cabbage "is very popular," he said. He lived in Kaneohe, a town on the windward side of the island of Oahu, and shares food ideas with his mother who is still in Hawaii. "We're the only authentic Hawaiian place," he said.

The word has gotten around about Momo Poke, said Evan Kauffman, the director at the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. "It gets rave reviews," he said.

Next door to Momo is Thai Nakhorn, a place that serves Thai food and they specialize in Pad Thai Chicken. "It's sweet, tangy and savory, a great combination of ingredients," said David, who runs the place with his sister who is the head chef. Tamarind is their secret, but the "ingredients are hard to source," he said.

Cross the street and it's like flying to the other side of the world, and landing in Africa at Rahama's. They serve "Jollof Rice, an authentic dish from Africa. They also specialize in a groundnut soup "with good meat, very nice," said one customer. They even have the Voice of Africa newspaper to read.

Mexican Ice Cream Screams Variety

A few doors down from Rahama's is "Michoacan A Pedir De Boca," and the ice cream varieties run off the menu too. "All is fresh," said owner Carina. They have cones in dairy and water-based flavors so they don't leave anyone behind. "Nieve," is milk based like store-bought ice cream, and "hela-



An authentic Hawaiian pidgin English hat at Momo Poke.

do," is water based.

Pointing at the popsicle case, which has over a dozen flavors, Carina was proud of what she's created. There's everything from pistachio to mango to cucumber with chili flavored popsicles. "We manufacture all of these," she said.

Carina opened three years ago and paid all her bills and then the pandemic hit, and in the ice cream world, she was hit hard. She counted on some friendships with the locals to help her through it. "It took a village for me to survive," she said.

All this variety is not surprising to Kauffman at SFDC. With all the different cultures that live in the Richmond Highway area, "it's like a mini-United Nations," he said. "With the corridor itself being very ethnically diverse, it's attractive to many," he added.

Next week, the Gazette goes into Hybla Valley and more ethnic foods.



The variety of homemade popsicles at Michoacan A Pedir De Boca.

Mount Vernon Recognizes Excellence in History Teaching

Hayfield Secondary Teacher Honored.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

George Washington's Mount Vernon has awarded the 2023 History Teacher of the Year to Ariel Alford, a high school history teacher from Hayfield Secondary School.

According to George Washington's Mount Vernon, Alford teaches United States History and African American History at Hayfield Secondary School southern Fairfax County and is in her eighth year of teaching. In addition to teaching, Alford serves as a key member of her district's curriculum and professional development teams, including work with Instructional Services to develop a high school curriculum that includes culturally responsive approaches to U.S. History and professional development facilitation to teachers in the county teaching African American History and Culture courses, Mount Vernon said.

Her dedication to furthering the development of a strong and inclusive curriculum is reflected in her work as a curriculum writer with the National Women's History Museum and as a content developer for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture Digital Learning Initiative, Smithsonian Learning Lab Program. She is also an active member of Teaching for Change's D.C. Area Educators for Social Justice.

The Mount Vernon History Teacher of the Year award is presented annually to one teacher in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area who brings creativity and passion to their teaching, generates a love of learning, and deepens their students' understanding and appreciation of history. The award winner receives a cash award of \$5000 and a fully funded field trip to Mount Vernon for



PHOTO BY FCPS

Ariel Alford, a high school history teacher from Hayfield Secondary School.

their students.

This year's runner-up, Leila Matta, is an eighth-grade teacher at Kenmore Middle School in Arlington County, Va. She will receive a cash award of \$500 and distance learning programs for her students.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Mount Vernon History Teacher of the Year award provided through generous support from the Robertson Foundation. Last year the History Teacher of the Year was Nellie Beaman from Loudon County. Mount Vernon Director of Learning, Tramia Jackson, will present the award to Ms. Alford at 7 p.m. ET on June 13 during The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon's 2023 Annual Martha Washington Lecture.

Fighting Crime

FROM PAGE 4

play. Connect with the officers and commanders of the Mount Vernon Police Station at several upcoming community events to stay informed about the great work going on throughout the district.

Community Advisory Councils (CAC) Meeting:

This week, Thursday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Gum Springs Community Center. This is a great way to stay informed about crime in the district, learn something new from the alternating guest speaker, and address any questions or concerns you have directly to the crime prevention team and the station commanders.

Community Event Next Week:

Coffee with a Cop: Monday, June 12 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Starbucks (7511 Richmond Highway). Always a great way to meet the officers who work at the station.

National Night Out 2023:

It is never too early to sign up for National Night Out! We are hoping to have a record-breaking participation in this year's National Night Out festivities across Fairfax County and here in the Mount Vernon District.

Whether it's a simple ice cream party or an all-out festival, National Night Out is an opportunity to gather with your neighbors, get better acquainted and talk about issues or common concerns. By participating, you get to have fun, get to know your police and public safety team, heighten crime prevention awareness and send the message that your neighborhood is focused on keeping crime out! Complete the form below to register for NNO so TEAM MVD and our local police officers can visit your neighborhood! <https://form.jotform.com/FCPD/nno-2023-registration>



SUMMER 2023

- JUNE 3** Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair
- JUNE 4** Taste of Del Ray
- JUNE 16-17** Portside in Old Town Summer Festival sponsored by Ting Internet
- JUNE 17** Juneteenth African American History Bus Tour with Manumission Tour Company
- JULY 8** USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration
- JULY 15** 10th Annual Old Town Pub Crawl hosted by Port City Brewing Company
- JULY 29** Beats, Bites and Brews in Old Town Alexandria (at John Carlyle Square)
- AUGUST 5** Best of the West by West End Business Association
- AUGUST 19** Del Ray Bands and Brews Summer Bar Crawl
- AUGUST 26** Around the World Cultural Food Festival



FOR MORE SUMMER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, CHECK OUT:

[VisitAlexandria.com/Summer](https://www.visitalexandria.com/Summer)

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Another Perspective: FCPD's BWC Video of Fatal Police Shooting

Accountability, transparency, and neutrality deconstructed in contrast between video presentation for press conference and unedited video.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

On May 11, a Fairfax County Police officer shot and killed Brandon Jerome Lemagne, 38, of Newport News, Va. A felony traffic stop by an FCPD officer in the Mount Vernon District on May 11 began by detaining Lemagne to further the investigation. The incident quickly escalates and leads the officer to call out, "Signal 1. Signal 1, Signal 1, He's going for my gun ... Sir, get off my gun."

A license plate reader alerted officers to a stolen U-Haul in the area. An officer saw the U-Haul in the 6300 block of Richmond Highway, in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County. Lemagne pulled the U-Haul into

"The packaged release shared with the community on May 25 was intended to show the perspective of the officers involved in the assault, abduction, and rescue efforts of their fellow officer. It is important to see the incident through the eyes of the officer."

— Lt. James Curry, Public Affairs FCPD

the gas station parking lot, exited the vehicle then walked away. The officer can be seen on surveillance footage speaking with Lemagne then the two walk towards the officer's cruiser. The officer told Lemagne

he was going to be detained for driving the stolen U-Haul. Lemagne then attacked the officer.

The Fairfax County Police Department held a Press Conference on May 25. Katherine

Hayek, director of public affairs at FCPD, says, "The following is a simultaneous compilation of the body-worn camera footage from the three officers directly involved." The department shows the OIS 5.11.23 BWC (Body Worn Camera) Release Video and makes it available to the community. It runs for 10 minutes and 10 seconds. In the video shown at the police press conference, the body worn camera (BWC) footage from the officer who was attacked and abducted is identified as "BWC Officer #1."

According to Lt. James Curry, Public Affairs FCPD, who responded on Sunday, June 4, "The packaged release shared with the community on May 25 was intended to show the perspective of the officers involved in the assault, abduction, and rescue efforts
SEE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE. PAGE 9

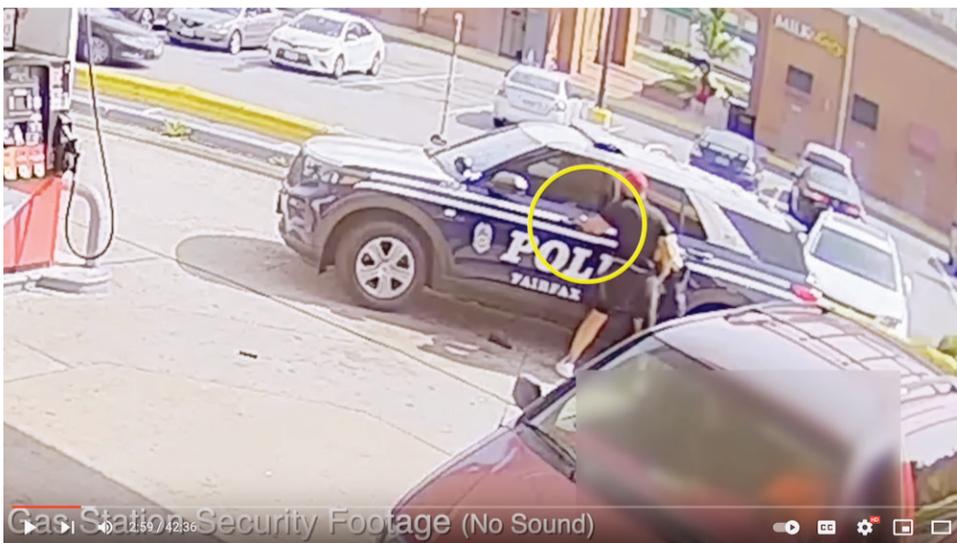


SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Officer #1's bodycam: Suspect Brandon Jerome Lemagne, later shot and killed, is approached by Officer #1, Fairfax County Police Department at Mount Vernon area gas station in connection with a traffic stop after being flagged driving a stolen U-Haul. 6300 block of Richmond Highway.



Gas station security footage: Officer #1 attempts to detain Lemagne to further the possible theft investigation, but the incident deteriorates as he fails to cuff Lemagne. They struggle as Lemagne attempts to grab the officer's service revolver.



SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Gas station security footage: Lemagne opens the door of the FCPD SUV with his left hand, enters, and pulls Lemagne into the vehicle with him.



Officer #1's body cam (detached)- Forced inside his FCPD SUV by Lemagne and with him, Officer #1's words and those of Lemagne are recorded.

FCPD's BWC Video of Fatal Police Shooting

FROM PAGE 8
of their fellow officer. It is important to see the incident through the eyes of the officer. We understand and respect the desire of the community to see all angles ... That is why we share the full body-worn camera release as well."

Consistent with department policy, FCPD also releases the names of the officers involved in the shooting who discharged their firearms. They are Master Police Officer Kenyatta Momon, a 24-year veteran (whose body-worn camera is Officer #3), and Police Officer First Class Christopher Grubb, an 8-year veteran of the department (whose body-worn camera is Officer #2). Both officers are assigned to the Mount Vernon District Station and are on restricted duty status until the investigation is complete.

Curry adds, "When Chief Davis joined FCPD, a 30-day body camera release policy was implemented. FCPD is committed to being transparent during critical incident investigations."

The video shown at the press conference, however, does not show a clear, close-up image of Lemagne being shot or all the perspectives leading up to that. This article looks at the perspective presented at the press conference and the perspective shown on the second FCPD body worn camera (BWC) video, FCPD OIS: 5.11.23 Full BWC Release Video https://youtu.be/M_bfuDedWhI

The perspective of the officers in this video shows a clear view of the fatal shooting for the public to assess transparency and accountability.

However, it is challenging to find the second video on the FCPD website due to the circuitous route required. Without a direct link, provided here by the Connection, one interested in viewing the video must go to the "Critical Incident Updates" link on the department's home page, go to that page, and then select May 2023 updates. From there, the viewer finds the sentence in the text below the video box: "For the link to the unedited version of the body camera footage, click here."

The second video is 11 minutes and 28 seconds long. It holds body-worn camera footage from multiple officers, including Officer #2, Grubb, and Officer #4. Grubb's video shows him shooting across the gas station parking lot and toward the FCPD SUV that has halted beside the windows of a McDonald's. Eighteen pops consistent with gunfire can be heard, and community members are visible beyond.

Momon runs toward the FCPD SUV with Lemagne inside and the abducted officer beneath him, both in the front seat. It shows Momon at the SUV and events through the fatal shots that left Lemagne pronounced dead at the scene. It also has footage from Officer #3 and Officer #4.

Another officer goes to check on Lemagne after he is shot. "He's 10-61. Don't worry about him, He's dead," says Momon at 9:21 of 11:28. Officer #4 video cam captures the abducted officer coming out of his FCPD SUV, grabbed by Momon, who helps him around Lemagne body. "Come here, brother, Let's go," cries out Momon (10:20/11/28).

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SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Simultaneous video of three body-worn cameras in real-time:

- ❖ BWC Officer #1, camera detached, (top): Officer #1 is inside the SUV with Lemagne on top of him; Grubb has fired 18 shots while Officer #1 is screaming to cease fire.
- ❖ BWC Officer #3 (bottom left): The SUV crashed, stalled, the front half is in a curbed garden bed and back half in the parking lot; the driver's door is partly open; Lemagne's foot remains on the gas pedal as the left back rear wheel spins and smokes, the engine revs; the SUV is parallel to the McDonald's windows and its door.
- ❖ BWC Officer #2 (bottom right): Officer Kenyatta Momon runs toward the SUV, his gun in both hands; Grubb's arm is visible, and he continues to hold his gun in both hands.

Officer #1 is inside the SUV with Lemagne on top of him; Grubb has fired 18 shots while Officer #1 is screaming to cease fire.



SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Simultaneous video of three body-worn cameras in real-time:

- ❖ BWC Officer #2 (bottom right): Officer Kenyatta Momon shoots Lemagne; three shots are heard. The image in this frame is difficult to make out of the actual shooting details due to the angle of the BWC.



SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO NOT SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

BWC #1: Officer #1 approaches Lemagne at the gas station and says, "Hey sir, are you driving the U-Haul? Can you talk with me over here, real quick?" (0:48)

Officer #1 was inside the SUV with Lemagne on top of him; Officer Grubb fired 18 shots while Officer #1 is screaming for him to cease fire.

Questions from other officers swim around the victim officer. Blood is on his arm. (10:59:11:28)

On Sunday, June 4, the FCPD body cam and surveillance video released at the news conference had "29K views 9 days ago," according to its post, the second, complete video had "116 views 9 days ago."

What is the significance of the second body cam footage, the FCPD OIS: 5.11.23 Full BWC Release Video?

Officer #2 and Officer #4's body cam footage in the second FCPD video could undermine the department's claims of transparency and accountability. According to the FY 2024 Fairfax County Advertised Budget Plan, "Community trust is built incrementally with each interaction the FCPD has with all community members." Examples of continuous outreach opportunities, communication and data transparency, and accountability measures include the "Body-Worn Camera Program."

"I often say that these body-worn camera videos speak for themselves," Davis says. The perpetrator Lemagne was trying to dislodge his gun from the officer's holster; the officer was assaulted and taken hostage. Davis tells how the perpetrator kept his foot on the gas pedal of the officer's SUV, the engine revving even after it crashed. "He's not done," says Davis.

Davis puts the potential to harm others and the accountability in the chaotic scene "squarely on the perpetrator. ... He chose to do this. In my opinion, his intent, rather, was to kill that police officer. ... The two responding officers (Master Police Officer Kenyatta Momon and Police Officer First Class Christopher Grubb, who discharged their firearms), I believe, [their actions] were more than appropriate given what we know then and now."

Neutrality until an investigation is complete in such situations is considered a best practice.

Davis then states the investigation is ongoing and will answer questions. "Some of them are forensic questions with forensic answers. So the investigation is not complete. The investigation is ongoing."

Highlights of the Second Video's Content

An early segment of the second video, content not included in the press conference, FCPD OIS 5.11.23 Full BWC Release Video, shows Officer #2, Christopher Grubb,

SEE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE, PAGE 10

FCPD's BWC Video of Fatal Police Shooting

FROM PAGE 9

exiting his cruiser at (4:52/11:28). He holds his gun in front of him with both hands. A volley of 18 pops, consistent with gunfire, is heard. Grubb is aiming his weapon across the gas station parking lot and toward the FCPD SUV, which is speeding backward and striking two vehicles and a business. The driver's door is open, and the suspect, Lemagne, is inside, as is the abducted officer, who is beneath Lemagne who is still attempting to pull the officer's service revolver from his holster. The weapon has two restraints.

Officer Momon is shown at the crashed FCPD SUV on Officer #2's body cam. Momon's gun is drawn, SEE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE, PAGE 11



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO NOT SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

BWC: Officer #1: Officer #1 has grabbed the car radio microphone but drops it.



SCREENSHOT VIA FCPD VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO NOT SHOWN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

BWC #1: The struggle in the parking lot leads to Lemagne (in shorts) entering Officer #1's FCPD SUV first; the key is in the ignition. Lemagne pulls Officer #1 into the vehicle with him.



SCREENSHOT VIA OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

BWC: Officer #2- Grubb sees the FCPD SUV speeding backward out of the gas station parking lot; driver's door is open; Grubb has his service weapon drawn held in both hands; another vehicle enters the station's lot to his right.



SCREENSHOT VIA OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO NOT INCLUDED AT PRESS CONFERENCE

BWC: Officer #2: Officer Grubb is about to fire a volley of 18 shots. Three community members are visible as the FCPD SUV has crashed in reverse into the brown vehicle. On the left is a person in a red shirt, and another person is behind them; at the third vehicle from the rear of the FCPD SUV, the third person has their car door open. Grubb's shadow shows him with his gun drawn.



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

BWC: Officer #2-Lemagne's left hand is empty as he tumbles out of the SUV onto his back. Shots fired can be heard at (9:54/11:28) followed by what sounds like a woman screaming at (9:59-10:01 / 11:28).



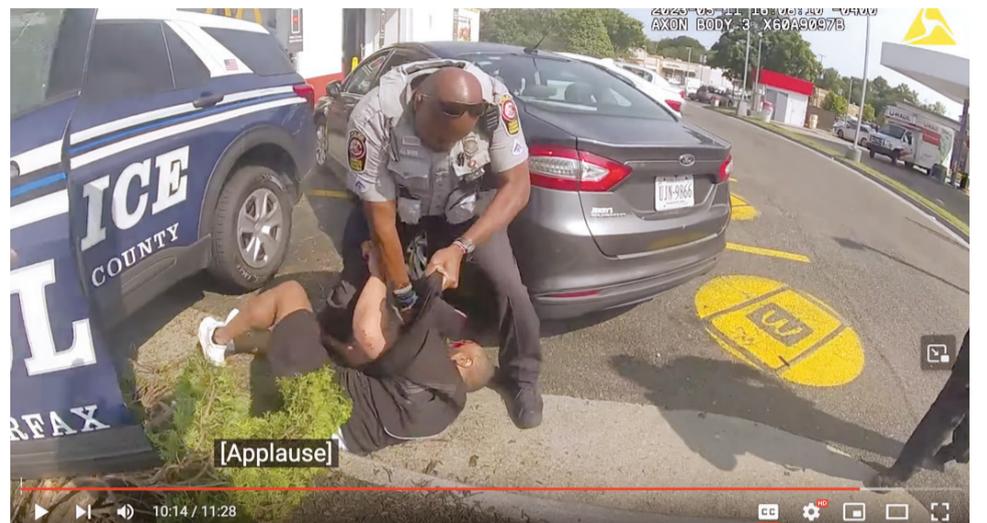
SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

BWC: Officer #2- "He's gone man (unintelligible) don't even bother — leave him how he is," says Officer #2, Momon says, to the officer holding Lemagne's arm. "He's 10:61; don't worry about him; he's dead."



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

BWC: Officer #4- At 10:11, play speed 0.25, a pop is heard. Momon is pulling Lemagne out of the vehicle by his clothing onto his back. Blood is visible at Lemagne's left front temple before his head and full body hit the ground with him on his back. There are three more pops, consistent with gunfire, follow.



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

BWC: Officer #4- At (10:14/11:28) Lemagne is on his back; legs down. Officer Kenyatta Momon has the barrel of his gun farther down. Three additional pops are heard between 10:13 and 10:14. Blood and wound visible on Lemagne's temple.



SCREENSHOT VIDEO OIS:5.11.23 FULL BWC RELEASE VIDEO

BWC Officer #4: At 10:18, Momon calls out to Officer #1, "You good, Ryan? Come here, brother. Let's go."



SCREENSHOT

BWC Officer #4: Other officers assist Officer #1, tearing and cutting his clothing off, looking for wounds. Officer #1 is rushed to the hospital and later released.

FCPD's BWC Video of Fatal Police Shooting

FROM PAGE 10
the SUV's back wheel is still spinning, and smoke is rising from it. The car has come to a halt halfway in a parking lot tree bed, right next to the sidewalk, beneath the windows of a McDonald's.

Momon is seen reaching into the open driver's door of the FCPD SUV and grabbing Lemagne's black clothing. Momon yanks him from the SUV. Lemagne's legs and arms fly up as he tumbles. In the video frames, Lemagne's left and right hands are empty, and he lands on his side. Momon immediately bends down and presses the barrel of his gun against what appears to be the lower neck of Lemagne. Three gunshot-like pops can be heard and the visual depicts blood flowing above Lemagne's left temple at (/11:28). On the ground, Lemagne is motionless.

The abducted officer staggers out the driver's door of his FCPD SUV, Lemagne's body is directly in front of him. Momon says, "Don't worry about him [Lemagne] ... he's dead."

Report on Officer Involved Shooting Incidents

According to Curry, FCPD had six officer-involved shootings in 2022, with three officer-involved shootings this year. The www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



SCREENSHOT VIA M.E. FISHER FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Brandon Jerome Lemagne (1984-2023)- The obituary for Brandon Jerome Lemagne reads in part, "He was a person that was loved by all and would give the shirt off his back if you were cold."

department asked the Police Executive Research Forum to prepare a report about the increase in these incidents. "Once finalized, FCPD will share the results of the Police Executive Research Forum's (PERF) report on its platforms. We hope the report will be finalized in the coming month," Curry said.

Chief Kevin Davis and the Police Execu-



SCREENSHOT

Chief Kevin Davis, Fairfax County Police Department.



SCREENSHOT

Katherine Hayek, director of public affairs at FCPD.

tive Research Forum (PERF) have agreed to an examination of Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) incidents in Fairfax County since the start of 2021. PERF will examine incident details and identify any performance patterns, deficiencies, or trends. PERF will also provide FCPD with guidance regarding foot pursuit policy from best practices across the

nation. PERF will share training and policy recommendations to ensure FCPD continues to adopt industry best practices. PERF will begin its work immediately and will present its findings and recommendations to FCPD in a brief report. Chief Davis will share the findings and recommendations with the Board of Supervisors and the community.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Mandolin musicians Lynn Falk and Kathleen Graham with their vintage mandolins.

Melodious Mandoleers Are Good for the Soul
Don't Miss, June 11
Concert at Fort Hunt Park.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

On Sunday evening, June 11, people ambling about or flinging frisbees around Fort Hunt Park may think they are hearing harpsichord music rippling across the landscape, but in fact it will be a concert by The Mandoleers, a Washington-area mandolin and guitar orchestra.

Mount Vernon-area resident Kathleen Graham, the orchestra's first chair mandolinist, has been playing the mandolin for almost 30 years. Lynn Falk, formerly of Hollin Hills, now an Alexandria Porto Vecchio resident, has been playing the mandolin for over 40

years. When Falk heard the mandolin orchestra's tremolo at a concert, "It was like butterflies singing," she says.

This year is The Mandoleers' 100th anniversary. Herman von Bernewitz founded the orchestra in 1923 as the Takoma Mandoleers and served as the conductor for 73 years until his death in 1996. Nicoletta Moss Miller became the conductor in 2022, but she must move for her husband's job, so the Mandoleers are recruiting for a replacement.

The instruments in a mandolin orchestra are the mandolin, mandola, mandocello, classical guitar and double bass. These artists per-

SEE MELODIOUS, PAGE 13



PHOTO BY JAMES CORNELIUS

Nicoletta Moss Miller, Takoma Mandoleers conductor and Sympatico instructor; Rebecca Walker, Sympatico Instructor; Cindy Joy Gossman, Takoma Mandoleers member and Sympatico instructor; Mary Anne Brundage, Takoma Mandoleers member; and Cynthia Nordone, Takoma Mandoleers member, demonstrate mandolin ensemble playing for the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's El Sistema-inspired Sympatico music education program at the Alexandria City Public Schools, James Adams Elementary on May 26, 2023.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU JULY 15

Alexander D'Agostino: "A Shrine for the Forgotten" Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Baltimore-based solo artist exhibition recipient, Alexander D'Agostino, presents "A Shrine for the Forgotten." The work explores queer histories and images, through performance, installation, and reclaiming material from queer archives and other cultural resources related to the historic marginalization of LGBTQ people.

NOW THRU JUNE 11

Women's Work. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. In Women's Work three artists, Kirsty Little, Donna McCullough, and Kathryn McDonnell use non-traditional media to explore concepts related to the role of women in the arts and society. Each with a strong voice, the artists come together to offer a surprising and cogent statement about the place females have in our current world. Artist Talk: Sunday, June 11, 2 p.m.

NOW THRU JUNE 25

Kandinski. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Kandinsky," which will run from May 23, 2023-June 25, 2023, featuring fiber art interpretations of Kandinsky's paintings.

JUNE 1-AUGUST 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. For children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Visit the website: DelRay-Artisans.org/creative-summer

JUNE 2-25

The "American Patchwork" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon



Tour the Tall Ship Providence at Alexandria's Waterfront Park starting June 17, 2023.

Tall Ship Providence's New Tour

At Old Town Alexandria's Waterfront Park, south of King Street, Alexandria. Tickets are now on sale for Tall Ship Providence's new interactive dockside tour, which will take place at the new Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center, Home Port of Tall Ship Providence. The ship will reopen at its permanent home in front of Old Town Alexandria's Waterfront Park, located just south of King Street. In addition to dockside tours, Tall Ship Providence will offer sunset sails, specialty sails and private charters. The Maritime Heritage Center will also be available as a venue rental. Tall Ship Providence will open for tours on Saturday, June 17 during Alexandria's Portsday Festival. Visit TallShipProvidence.org

Ave., Alexandria. Features art that highlights the diversity of cultures, landscapes, and artistic styles that make up the American experience. The exhibit broadly explores and captures the patchwork spirit of the United States and her people. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm. Reception: Friday, June 2, 7-9pm. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

George Washington Mount Vernon, 12-Acre Field, Mount Vernon. Experience Mount Vernon after-hours and taste craft beers from across the region. Visit the website: <https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/mount-vernon-summerfest/>

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Juneteenth Celebration. 12 - 4 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 21 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. The Athenaeum is partnering with the Carlyle House Historic

Park and C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas, to present the annual Juneteenth Celebration. The event will be held outside in the gardens and on the lawn and tented terrace of the Carlyle House located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. Discover the history of Juneteenth through hands-on activities, art, poetry readings and more. Activities are part of the planned offerings for the day that marks the liberation of Black Americans on June 19, 1865.

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria

JUNE

9 Earth Wind & Fire Nation's #1 Tribute Band (R&B/Soul)
16 School of Rock Alexandria "House Band" (Rock)
23 The Revelers (Swamp Pop)
30 Collective Delusion (Rock)

JULY

7 Kickoman (Latin/Reggae)
14 Burn the Ballroom (Alternative Rock)
21 King Teddy (Swing)
28 The HalfSmokes (WHFS Playlists/Alternative Rock)

AUGUST

4 Kadencia Orchestra (Bomba, Plena, Salsa)
11 Collaboration featuring Lori Williams (Jazz)
18 Crack The Sky (Rock)
25 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)

SATURDAY/JUNE 10

Army Birthday Festival. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the National Museum of the United States Army, DLA special event parking area, 8725 John J Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir. Celebrate the Army Birthday Festival at the National Army Museum. Open to the public - Tickets are free on website and required for entry and activities. Free Parking + Shuttle. Live Music, Parachute Team, Bounce House, Gaming, VR Rides, Dog Show, Tanks, Twilight Tattoo and more. Visit the website: <https://theNMUSA.org/army-birthday/>

Melodious Mandoleers Are Good for the Soul

FROM PAGE 12

form as an orchestra so each musician has a specific seat and plays a part, just like a symphony orchestra.

The orchestra usually has around 20 musicians, but they can have any number. To play with this group, people must be able to read music, but they do not have to audition. The Mandoleers practice every week in Arlington and perform about four times a year around the region. The orchestra is part of the international mandolin community, participants in the Classical Mandolin Society of America.

They play a range of music, from Beatles to classical. On June 11, they will play, for example, traditional Irish and Italian tunes and contemporary folk music. Their repertoire includes waltzes, rags and music by composers like Beethoven, Bach, Sammartini, Telemann and Brahms.

The Mandoleers are quick to explain that they play classical mandolins, not high-octane, bluegrass, mandolin tunes played by musicians like Bill Monroe, known as the Father of Bluegrass.

The First Chair Musician

Graham, a retired federal budget analyst, says that she "rescued" a vintage mandolin at a 1994 estate sale near Woodley Hills Elementary School, tuned it up and decided



Nicoletta Moss Miller, Takoma Mandoleers conductor, demonstrates the mandolin for the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's El-Sistema-inspired Sympatico music education program at Alexandria Public School James Adams Elementary on May 26, 2023. Photo by James Cornelius.

ed to keep it. She saw an advertisement at Belle View Shopping Center's Alexandria Music store for the Potomac Mandolin En-



Falk collects postcards featuring mandolins. This one is a 1938 Pablo Picasso painting, Still Life with a Mandolin.

semble, found a teacher, von Bernewitz, and started lessons in 1995. As a youngster, she had learned to play the piano, but she "was looking for a portable instrument she could play anywhere, like someone's house or outdoors." She was hooked.

What Is a Mandolin?

The mandolin originated in Italy. It is similar to the lute and oud, an Arabic string instrument. The Chinese mandolin is called a "pipa."

Smaller than a guitar, the instrument has eight strings and musicians play it with a

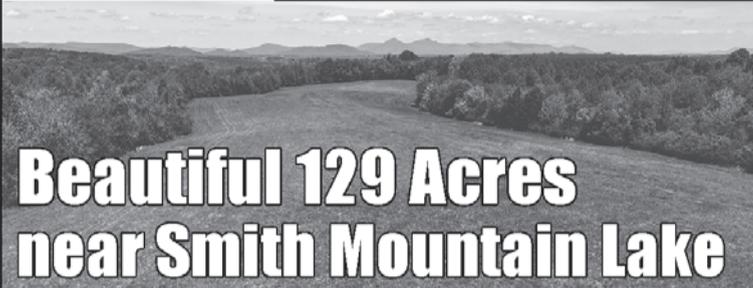
pick and tune it like a violin. The tremolo gives the instrument "its peculiar style, its distinctive color," says the On 8 Strings website. "The tremolo makes the mandolin sing - being its voice, its personality, its soul."

Graham and Falk enjoy performing because it brings them joy to make music with others and to make music for others, Graham explains. Attending concerts is important to human health, says Charles Cuvelier, Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Asked why the National Park Service sponsors concerts, he replied, "Stewardship includes creating interest and engagement that inspire people of all backgrounds to visit and care about parks for now and future generations. The concert series fosters interest and can be a catalyst for connecting with historic Fort Hunt, which furthers our purpose. In addition, we think of parks as opportunities to live healthier and improve mental health. The concert series affords opportunities to engage in a leisurely pursuit that is good for the soul."

National Park Service hosts free Sunday concerts at Fort Hunt Park's pavilion A from June 4 to Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. Visit <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/plan-your-visit/forhuntingconcerts.htm>.

For Mandoleers' events and their compact disc and to explore playing in the orchestra, visit <https://mandoleers.org/>

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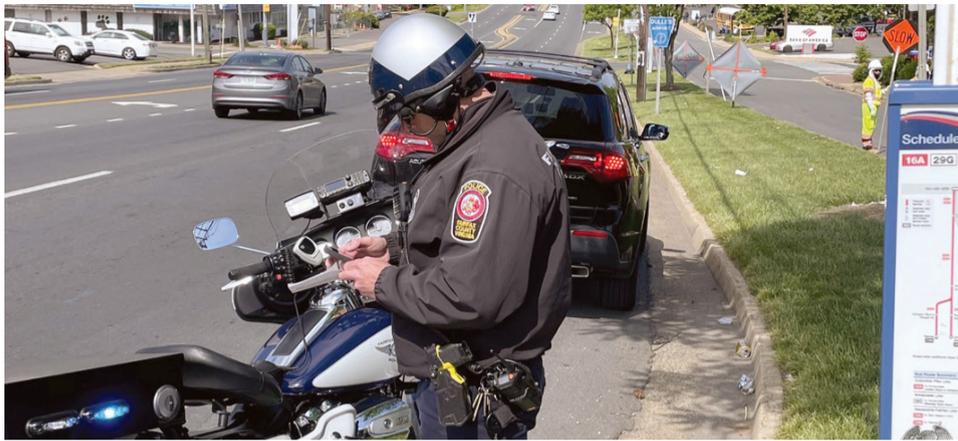
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BULLETIN

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

- MT. VERNON FARMERS MARKET IS NOW OPEN**
- A mix of new and familiar vendors will be selling local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries and asparagus – and more at the McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 20), 21 farmers and local food producers will sell fresh vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane.
- This year's vendors are:
- Arnest Seafood – crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more
 - The Big Brine – Fermented foods, pickles and pickled vegetables
 - The Fermented Pig- charcuterie and gourmet bacon
 - Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch
 - Great Harvest Bread - breads and pastries
 - Honeycomb Heroes – Honey and beeswax-based products
 - House of Empanadas –variety of empanadas
 - King Mushrooms –variety of locally grown mushrooms
 - Layla's Lebanese Restaurant – Lebanese hummus, eggplant dip, garlic sauce and more
 - Linda Vista Farm - fruits and vegetables, specializing in Asian and Latin produce
 - Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs
 - Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs and flowers
 - Pasta Ilgatto – Fresh, handcrafted pasta and sauces
 - PorkStork – Forest-raised heritage pork products, including bacon and sausages
 - Salsa Las Glorias - fresh salsas, guacamole and chips
 - Sharkawi Farm - herbs, spices, teas, plants and flowers
 - Three Way Farms – vegetables, melons and herbs
 - Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. – variety of freshly roasted coffee
 - Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more
 - Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods
 - WeGrow - Microgreens.
- All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. The McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon market is one of 10 farmers markets run by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA); for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmers-markets.
- LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS**
- The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Writing tickets for traffic violations is part of the day for many officers.

Ride-alongs with Police Are Available to Residents

FROM PAGE 1

the police armored vehicle is called in, which might be a little heavy handed, he said. "It builds on the us vs them mindset," he added.

Helicopter Called In

In the early morning hours of Morgan's ride-along, there was a call about an armed person over in the Huntington area that involved a suspected stolen vehicle. Squad cars arrived in number and the police helicopter. They all worked in coordination. "It was a very professional operation," Morgan said.

Ride-alongs with the police can be done by any county resident, with a request form on the FCPD website. After the form is filled out, shift supervisor designates the officer to

do the ride-along, said Fairfax County Police Sergeant Jacob Pearce. In 2022, there were 36 ride-a-longs and so far in 2023, there have been 60, Pearce said.

The form directions say that the applicant has to be a resident of the district they intend to ride through, they have to be a member of a civic association or business in the county and "demonstrate a special interest for participation that would benefit the police department, county government, or its citizens."

Directions include the following statement: "This is a voluntary program conducted in the interest of public enlightenment. The Fairfax County Police Department reserves the right to limit or exclude any person from participation in this program."



The police helicopter is used to cover various situations like the chase at Huntington Avenue.

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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.

The pandemic 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.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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More Early Voting Options

FROM PAGE 1

field District

- ❖ Commonwealth's Attorney
- ❖ Sheriff
- ❖ Virginia House of Delegates: 7th, 15th and 19th districts
- ❖ Virginia Senate: 33rd, 35th, 36th and 37th districts

Any registered voter in Fairfax County can cast their ballot at any early voting site.

Early voting began in May with three sites:

- ❖ Fairfax County Government Center
- ❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center
- ❖ North County Governmental Center

Joining these three locations, another 13 early voting sites will be offered starting Saturday, June 10:

- ❖ Burke Centre Library
- ❖ Centreville Regional Library
- ❖ Franconia Governmental Center
- ❖ Great Falls Library
- ❖ Herndon-Fortnightly Library
- ❖ Lorton Community Center
- ❖ Mason Governmental Center
- ❖ McLean Governmental Center
- ❖ Providence Community Center
- ❖ Sully Governmental Center
- ❖ Thomas Jefferson Library
- ❖ Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library
- ❖ West Springfield Governmental Center

"Learning to Fly"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This is not a Tom Petty reference. This is about my brother, again.

Two weeks ago, I was "winging it," figuratively speaking – in both titles. What I'm actually referring to is living my life without my most important, dare I say, most ardent supporter, in it/alive. Moreover, with my brother Richard's passing, he died a bit unexpectedly on Dec. 3rd after a nearly three-month hospital stay (I'll spare you regular readers yet another re-telling of this extremely sad tale), I have lost my biggest booster. Much like our late parents, especially my father, Richard was a super-positive, kind, generous and motivated self-starter who by virtue of his familial responsibilities – and nature, nurtured his younger and only sibling: me in ways that I imagine few siblings have ever been treated. How does one navigate life without your favorite compass? I'm finding out how every day. It is, to quote Benjamin "Hawkeye" Pierce from a long-ago M*A*S*H episode dealing with loneliness: "all it's cracked up to be."

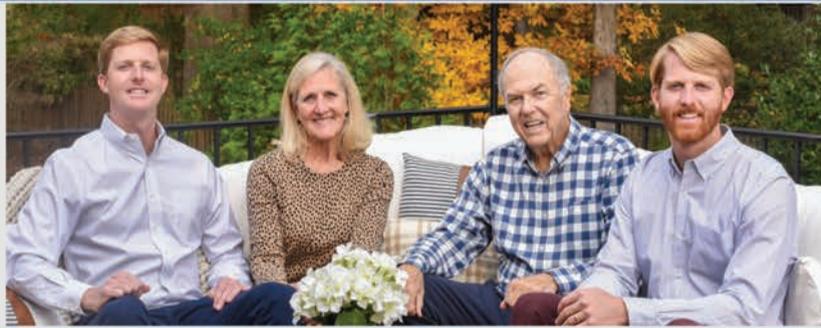
I wouldn't say I've hit bottom or anything; it was never that kind of emotional trauma. And even though his loss is a kind of fundamental upheaval, the likes of which I can never, ever have again, I will soldier on (even though I never served) and find a path forward. However, as much as I've droned on this week and in more than a few previous weeks/columns, it's clear that my road ahead will be fraught with all sorts of emotional, spiritual, and physical challenges/my ongoing battle with cancer. All of it to be adversely impacted by my not having my usual support system/backstop to deal with the inevitable health hurdles likely to occur. My brother was rock solid, exactly the kind of resource we'd all be lucky to have, especially in a crisis/life or death situation.

Unfortunately, there's no guidebook or podcast, that I know of, to provide the nuts-and-bolts-type advice the lone family survivor needs to navigate the road ahead. It's way more substantive than "put your head down/put one foot in front of the other." It's so much more complicated than that because the preferred solution is totally beyond the realm of possibilities: return to the life and dynamics I shared with my brother before his death; meaning he's still alive.

Since that can't happen, except in a few rare dreams I've had, I must accept the circumstances, as I did with my original non-small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis (now papillary thyroid cancer) and go forward, not backward; at the very least, try not to remain stagnant. Much easier said than done when the one resource one has had to overcome this kind of stumbling is the exact reason one is stumbling. It's difficult to right the ship when the rudder is missing. I guess I should be grateful that I'm not sinking.

Which I most definitely am not. Neither am I losing control. I'm more adrift than anything. I'm still attempting to find/create/imagine a replacement for the one person who absolutely cannot be replaced. As you can maybe tell I'm having difficulty with my brother being gone for good. Certainly, he's not forgotten – by me or anybody whoever met him (he was a big presence/big personality), but I need more, somehow. And unfortunately, finding it seems increasingly unlikely.

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



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