

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JULY 20, 2023

Phase 1, Fairfax County's Master Arts Plan, Facilities

PHOTO SCREENSHOT

Supervisors unanimously accept the plan.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On July 11, a watershed moment occurred that will help define the arts in Fairfax County through a living document over the next two decades or so. It will ensure geographic diversity and critical access to the arts.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to accept the Fairfax County Master Arts Plan: Facilities.

The County Arts Committee will use the tool to support the Board of Supervisors and county staff. According to board meeting materials, the plan connects the aspirations of the County's Comprehensive Plan Policy, the goals and objectives of the Countywide Strategic Plan and One Fairfax, and the practical opportunities that present themselves over the next 20 years of development in Fairfax County.

The plan is not a policy to be adopted, implemented in the near term, or set in stone.

"I want to thank the community members, ArtsFairfax, and County staff who dedicated so much time and effort to developing the Coun-

ty's first Master Arts Plan. This provides a blueprint for Fairfax County to continue to grow our creative ecosystem and create attractive spaces for all to enjoy." Chairman Jeff McKay (D) said before the meeting.

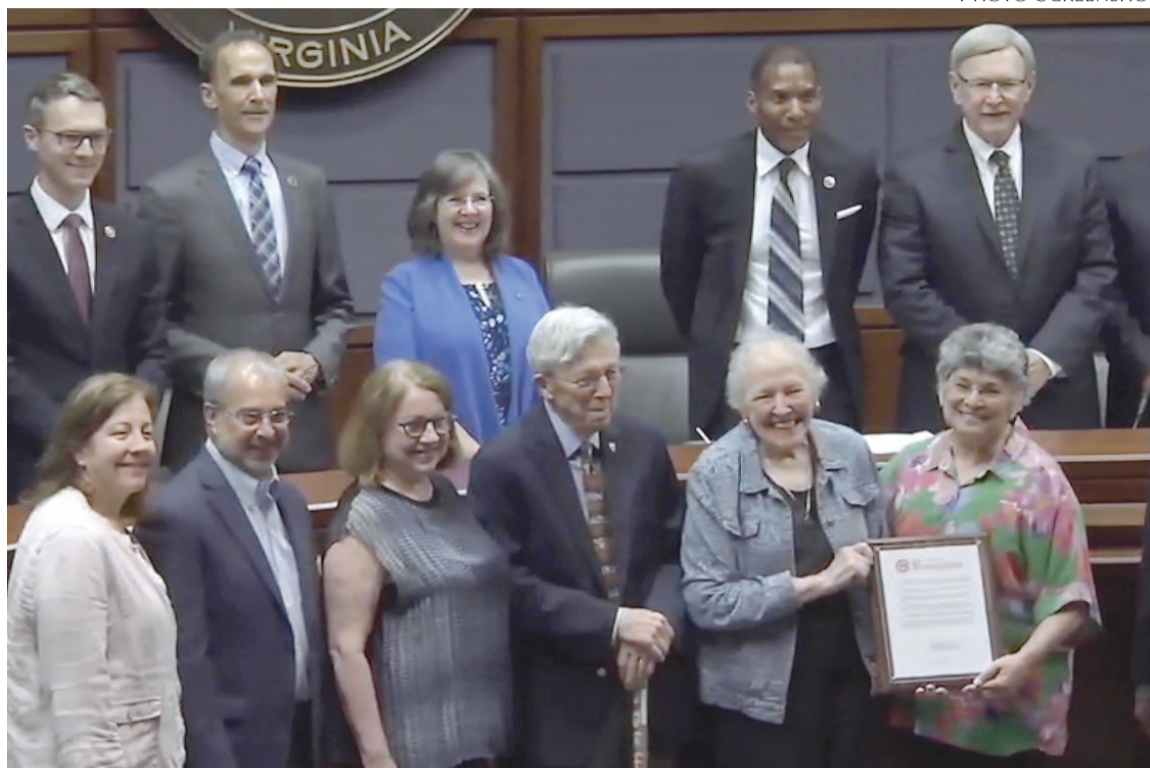
The plan was achieved through collaborative efforts of the 2009-2023 Master Arts Plan Task Force, Fairfax County Senior Management Team 2023, and the Geographic Information Team and others. These groups paved the way for a deliberately equitable path for the siting of arts facilities throughout the county.

Are there performing and visual arts opportunities in all nine Fairfax County districts? Yes. Districts are approximately equal in population, yet Sully has 4 percent of the total, and Braddock and Hunter Mill each have 18 percent of the total.

In 2010, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted the Visual and Performing Arts Comprehensive Plan Policy Amendment. The 2017 Edition of the Policy Plan - Visual and Performing Arts identified objectives and related policy goals for arts venues.

In May 2019, key results from the consultant team at AMS Planning & Research Corporation provided expertise on how to move toward developing new venues for arts audiences and content providers.

The team unveiled a series of ten noteworthy observations. These observations shed light on various



Fairfax County Arts Committee Chair, Leila Gordon, accepts the resolution from Vice-chair Penny Gross (D-Mason).

areas of concern, including gaps in information, gaps within the arts sector, and venue gaps.

Elected officials may need more information on the positive impact of arts and culture. Arts attendees need more information on where and how to find arts activities in the County. A significant portion of county residents felt underserved as the quality, quantity and diversity of arts and cultural events were not what they expected. Gaps exist within the art sectors. While certain organizations have extensive programming, can promote their work and have the financial means

to develop and manage facilities, most arts content creators and providers in the county operate under constrained resources and limited budgets.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) thanked the task force for the "hundreds of thousands of hours" that had gone into the Master Arts Plan.

Supervisor Walter Alcorn looked to the future, saying, "As we get this plan in place, now we get to think about implementation and financing different projects ... some commitment at the board level to make these things happen in order

to get there."

Fairfax County Arts Committee Chair Leila Gordon said that all human beings are creative. It is the most universally shared attribute.

"In every era, culture, language, geography, or historical context, the arts tell our individual and collective stories ... Being able to convey the complexity of our humanity through vibrant and lasting artistic expression requires commitment on the part of communities, both to fostering artistic curiosity and to providing hospitable settings for the expression of creativity," Gordon said.

SCREENSHOT VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES



The 2019 arts venues located in incorporated cities and towns within Fairfax County are in the City of Fairfax, the Town of Herndon, the City of Falls Church, and the Town of Vienna, totaling 13.

Fatal Accident In Fort Belvoir

Detectives from the Fairfax Police Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating a fatal vehicle crash that occurred Tuesday night, July 18, at 10:51 p.m. on Jeff Todd Way and Telegraph Road in Fort Belvoir.

Preliminarily, detectives determined the driver of a 2014 Cadillac XTS was traveling westbound in the eastbound lanes of Jeff Todd Way prior to Telegraph Road. The driver nearly hit two other vehicles prior to striking the driver of a 2001 Nissan Pathfinder head-on.

Mahdere Fassil, 27, the driver of the Cadillac XTS, was taken

to the hospital and was pronounced deceased. The driver of the Nissan Pathfinder, an adult man, was taken to the hospital in serious but stable condition and remains hospitalized. Detectives continue to investigate whether speed and or alcohol were factors in the crash.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

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Fairfax County Police Use of Force

Police shooting incidents by chief tenure.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Ongoing series about the Fairfax County Police Department and its policies and history on use of deadly force.

The Fairfax County Police Department General Order 540, Use of Force is scheduled for review in August 2025, General Order 540, Use of Force establishes guidelines and reporting requirements for the use of force.

This matters in our county because only by capturing the full picture of each such case of police use-of-force does it provide a complete understanding of the encounter with law enforcement and its outcomes. It clarifies and identifies what the department should consider reforming. It facilitates transparency and accountability, leading to community trust-building.

Police Chief Kevin Davis is 26 months into his administration as chief which began on May 3, 2021. Under Davis' leadership, 13 officers have used deadly force in 10 separate incidents.

An online message from Davis states that each officer in the department took an oath of office to protect and serve the community and is held to the highest of standards to protect the sanctity of life, human rights, and to uphold the law. "The Fairfax County Police Department's General Orders, rules, regulations, policies, and standards require that any deployment of deadly force shall be reasonably necessary when all other de-escalation options are not effective or viable for the specific situation."

In 2020, the University of Chicago Law School published "Deadly Discretion: The Failure of Police Use of Force Policies to Meet Fundamental International Human Rights Law and Standards." Incidents of police abuse in the United States "provide a grim illustration of the power law enforcement officers have over the people they are sworn to serve and protect and the deadly consequences when they abuse that power," according to the study.

International standards on police use of lethal force support four principles: 1) legality, "provided in a domestic law that complies with international standards," 2) necessity, "only in response to an imminent and particularized threat and only as a last resort; 3) proportionality- "only in response to threats to life or serious bodily harm to the officers or others," and 4) accountability, "requires an effective review process, involvement or an external oversight body and issuance of a report in all instances of the use of lethal force."

POLICE DEPARTMENTAL POLICY mandates the release of the names of officers
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY FCPD

Police Chief Kevin Davis

Police Chief Kevin Davis- Current 26-month administration as chief began on May 3, 2021. Under Davis' leadership, 13 officers used deadly force in 10 separate incidents. Officers' fatally shot four individuals, wounded five, and missed one.



FILE PHOTO

Edwin Roessler

Edwin Roessler Jr.'s 86-month administration spanned from March 23, 2013, to July 29, 2013, as acting chief and from July 30, 2013, to Feb. 2, 2021, as chief. Under Roessler's leadership, more than seven years, 15 officers deployed deadly force in 10 incidents. His officers shot and killed three people, wounded three, and missed three—one suspect self-inflicted a deadly gunshot.



FILE PHOTO

David M. Rohrer

During David M. Rohrer's eight-year administration as chief, July 2004 to Oct. 19, 2012, 46 officers used deadly force in 32 incidents. Officers' fatally shot 14 individuals, wounded 14, and missed four. Online data by FCPD is only available until the end of 2005 and does not include 2004. Rohrer retired last year as Assistant County Executive for Public Safety.

Leadership	Administration Length	Term Dates
Part 1: Kevin Davis, chief	Two years, two months	May 3, 2021- July 3, 2023
Part 2: David M. Rohrer, acting chief	Three months	Feb. 1, 2021- May 2, 2021
Part 3: Col. Edwin Roessler, Jr., acting chief	Seven years, eleven months	March 23, 2013-July 29, 2013
Col. Edwin Roessler, Jr., chief		July 30, 2013- Feb. 2, 2021
Part 4: Lt. Col. James Morris, acting chief	Five months	Oct. 20, 2012- March 22, 2013
Part 5: David M. Rohrer, chief	Eight years, three months	July 2004- Oct 19, 2012

involved in a police shooting incident within ten days, with exceptions allowed for safety and security. The department releases body-worn camera footage within thirty days of an incident, such as the video from Feb. 2, 2022, when an officer fired one round from his service rifle, striking a man and wounding him so he fell to the ground on the front porch of the home.

A look back at the Fairfax County online Archived Summaries of Officer-Involved Shootings by Year shows that the Fairfax County Police Department has improved its public notifications since 2005. The department did not identify the officers who used deadly force just after the turn of the millennium or for many years afterward. In 2015, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova formed the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission in the wake of public concern about the Aug. 29, 2013 police shooting death of unarmed Springfield resident John Geer in his own doorway and subsequent lack of information. The commission made 200 recommendations for reform, most adopted and mandated by the Board of Supervisors, including the release of names of officers. <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/policecommission/>

Chief Edwin C. Roessler's 86-month administration spanned from March 23 to

July 29, 2013 as acting chief, and from July 30, 2013, to Feb. 2, 2021, as chief. Under his leadership, 15 officers deployed deadly force in 10 incidents.

Roessler said in 2019, after the violent domestic incident in Burke, in which FCPD Special Operations Division responded unsuccessfully to save hostages, "It's important to note the trauma all have been exposed to in this tragedy, and we continue to pray for all involved as they recover for the rest of their lives."

In an interview last week, on July 17, Roessler said he got "out of the office, preaching and teaching the sanctity of life." Roessler said that many officers did not like him, repeating their comment, "There he goes again talking about the sanctity of life."

"So there's a cultural attitude. You've got to change the culture through the leadership," Roessler said.

An officer's decision on whether to use deadly force has to do with policy and training (See Connection story, "FCPD Lacked Crisis, Decision Making Training," June 27, 2023) and is also intricately linked to leadership.

The Department's policy, FCPD's General Order 540, Use of Force, is crucial. Other influential factors: the officer's training; the less-lethal devices available at the moment

of crisis moment, the suspect's weapon — firearm or not, and officers' past experiences, have they shot before?

When asked what FCPD could do better in 2023, Roessler, who is retired and living out of state, said to look at all the cases when officers used deadly force and the department's policy.

"You know, back in 2013, that was on my to-do list as Chief, Day One, because we already had legacy shootings that did not have answers," Roessler said.

"That's what we did, academically and mechanically. We moved forward; we made quick-hit changes (to General Order 540, Use of Force) that came up from those groups in the interim until we could review an entire General Order across the whole spectrum of the department's operation, administratively and operationally. We presented those to the (ad-hoc) commission and got their buy-in," Roessler said.

A policy review could require that reporting requirements made public on shootings, use-of-force, and civilian injury cases to include service years, prior incidents involving force or injury, administrative discipline, civil suits, misconduct settlements, and more.

The University of Chicago examined po-

SEE POLICE SHOOTING, PAGE 11

Consider a Private College

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

July 17-22 is a significant week for Virginia as it commemorates Private Colleges Week. The state boasts a robust higher education system, with private 4-year institutions playing a crucial role. While public colleges in Virginia are renowned nationwide, private colleges excel in meeting the educational and professional needs of many Virginians, particularly those underrepresented in public institutions.

Private colleges are often associated with higher price tags compared to their public counterparts. However, financial aid and grant programs help make private colleges more accessible to low-income and underrepresented students. Nearly 50% of students enrolled in Virginia private colleges benefit from Pell Grants — a federal program that provides money to students from low-income households, which does not require repayment. As a staunch supporter of the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program, I

am pleased to highlight that qualified undergraduate students will have access to \$5,000 per year. These grants amount to approximately \$100M annually or 3.4% of the overall state general fund spent on higher education. If the approximately 19,000 TAG recipients were enrolled in public institutions, the cost to the Commonwealth would be considerably higher.

Private colleges are also actively working to address racial inequities in the education system. An impressive 69% of the student populations enrolled in 4-year private colleges come from underrepresented backgrounds, encompassing non-white US citizens and permanent residents, Pell Grant recipients, students over the age of 25, and individuals from localities with low rates of educational attainment. Notably, out of the 23 private colleges participating in Virginia Private College Week, two are Historically Black Colleges and



Krizek

Universities (HBCUs), and one, Marymount University in Northern Virginia, is the first in Virginia to be recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution with student body at least 25% Hispanic.

Being private institutions, these colleges possess the flexibility and resources to effectively tackle economic and racial disparities in education. A Bachelor's degree holds tremendous value for students as it expands their knowledge and enhances their job prospects. According to reports by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, individuals with a Bachelor's degree earn significantly more per week than those with only a high school education. Private colleges play a pivotal role in assisting individuals from diverse backgrounds in reaping the benefits of higher education.

Beyond promoting equitable outcomes for historically marginalized and low-income individuals, Virginia's private colleges contrib-

ute to society through their diverse degree programs. For example, private institutions account for about half of nursing degrees. They also offer various graduate programs, including a pharmacy school and osteopathic medical schools. These programs and their graduates are central to the health and economy of Virginia as a whole. As a Commonwealth, we greatly value the contributions that private colleges make to our society.

Private colleges are essential in meeting the educational and professional needs of Virginians, particularly those who are underrepresented in public institutions. I wholeheartedly encourage my constituents in high school, along with their families, as well as adults seeking to begin or continue their higher education, to actively participate in the upcoming Virginia Private Colleges Week. You will undoubtedly be pleasantly surprised by the diverse and high-quality educational opportunities available here in Virginia.

<http://cicv.org/Our-Colleges/Virginia-Private-College-Week.aspx>

Huntley Meadows Photos and Others In Virginia Wildlife Magazine

Local photographer's works in the summer spread.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

A group of local photographers with an eye for the frogs, plants and snakes that thrive in this area caught the eye of the Virginia Wildlife magazine editor and they are featured this summer in the July/August issue which is traditionally their "Photography Showcase Issue."

Barbara Saffir is a Mount Vernon-based photographer who saw her works in this county-based magazine. "My mating water-snakes photo from Huntley Meadows was one of three photos that got in," she said. "I also photographed an other-worldly orange fungus at Fairfax's Burke Lake Park and cracked ice patterns at Fairfax's Foxstone Park."



Barbara Saffir's mating water snakes photo, featured in the summer "Virginia Wildlife," magazine.

The Virginia Wildlife Magazine seeks photos from all levels of the photography spectrum, both on the professional and amateur level. In 2023, they said 422 photographers submitted 1,444 images that depicted the beauty of Virginia's wildlife and wild places, said Molly Kirk, editor Virginia Wildlife magazine. Of all those photos, they published 182 images from 141 different photographers.

Other local photographers that made up the showcase issue included Elaine Starr, who also shoots at Huntley a lot, Alexandria photographers Linda Ashley, Tibor Molnar, Tim Hostert, and Darren Hutchinson, and Randy Streufert and Lee Green of Lorton. Others were from different locations in Fairfax County.

There is a list of rules for the entries including rule number one:

"The showcase is open to any photographer, amateur or professional, young or young at heart, including employees of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources."

The bi-monthly magazine has five other annual issues containing feature articles and columns that highlight the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources' work to protect wildlife and their habitats, educate readers about Virginia's wildlife, and inform readers how they can help wildlife themselves.

"For those issues of the magazine, we source photos both internally from DWR staff and externally from professional photographers," Kirk added.

"The images these photographers create and submit showcase the remarkable beauty and diversity of Virginia's wildlife, offering a glimpse into wildlife's world for many who may not have the opportunity to see such sights themselves," Kirk said.

Saffir's Photo Experience

Barbara Saffir began as a hiking advocate and decided to take her camera along on a hike and has

SEE LOCAL, PAGE 5

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A Connection Newspaper





PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Orange Fungus by Barbara Saffir.

Local Photographer's Works In the Summer Spread

FROM PAGE 4

done that ever since. She started a group called "Nature Photography DC/MD/VA." with conservation in mind and had a group exhibit called "Birds, Blooms, & Beasts" at Green Spring Gardens last year. "This year we have a show at the USGS's headquarters in Reston called 'Nature's Spectacles,' and just wrapped up a solo show at the renowned Patuxent Research Refuge called 'Loveable Birds &

Beasts,'" she said.

In addition to her love for wildlife photography, she thinks it could be a powerful tool.

"Nature photos can help save the world's dwindling treasures," she said. "If wildlife images inspire voters, developers, lawmakers, and others to fall fervently in love with earth's cute critters, they'll work passionately to protect them and the sacred places they call home," she added.



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed. Struct. Id.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
GILES	8514	772	SINKING CREEK RD/RTE 772	SINKING CREEK	6/29/2023
LOUISA	11519	649	BYRD MILL RD	SOUTH ANNA RIVER	6/16/2023
CHARLOTTE	4966	701	THORNTONS MILL RD	CUB CREEK	6/12/2023
HALIFAX	9223	810	CRYSTAL HILL RD	LITTLE TERRIBLE CREEK	6/12/2023
LUNENBURG	11623	635	ORAL OAKS RD	BEAR ELEMENT CREEK	6/8/2023
GRAYSON	8733	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	CABIN CREEK	6/7/2023
GRAYSON	8730	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	CABIN CREEK	6/6/2023

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

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Summer Gardening Survival Strategies

“In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water.”
 – Douglas Tallamy

Auduboners Can Help.

BY GLENDA BOOTH
 MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

As warm temperatures reach precedent-setting levels globally and drought conditions linger, summer is a good time to evaluate how your garden is surviving – or not.

Every plant has a cycle so many flowering plants only bloom at certain times of the year and then go dormant until the next season, but choosing plants that can thrive in local conditions, current and future, is critical. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia’s “ambassadors” can help.

Dealing with Drought

As the planet warms, the frequency and duration of droughts will increase, warned the United Nations last year. Northern Virginia localities are now at a “moderate drought intensity,” according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Over six million people, including most in the Washington, D.C., region rely on water from the Potomac River basin, says the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. Over two million get water from the Occoquan and other reservoirs.

The commission reports, “There is an above-normal probability of releases from the backup water supply reservoirs in the Washington metropolitan area for the summer and fall of 2023. These releases are typically prompted by low flows resulting from a combination of insufficient summer precipitation and groundwater levels. The Potomac basin has experienced unusual dryness, despite recent heavy rains bringing some relief and improving stream flows.”

Insect declines are attributed largely to loss of feeding and nesting habitats. Native plants can help. Most native insects are specialists, meaning that they depend on the plants with which they co-evolved, called “host plants.” Says Plant NoVaNatives, “The difference between a native shrub and a non-native one is that the former will not only beautify a property, but will turn it into a living landscape that supports the butterflies and birds.”

Summer Gardening

One way to cope with drought conditions is called xeriscaping, an approach that minimizes irrigation and incorporates drought-tolerant plants. The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia have recommendations here: <https://mgnv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/>

Best-Bets-for-Dry-Conditions-V2.pdf

Summer Should Be Abuzz

Summer is also the time to determine how well your garden supports insects, like butterflies and bees. Insects need plants and plants need insects.

Insects pollinate plants, recycle nutrients, decompose plant and animal matter and are food for wildlife. Between 75 and 95 percent of all flowering plants on earth need pollination, says the Pollinator Partnership, and “one out of every three bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators.”

How to study insects? Some insects like butterflies are very conspicuous, but some like beetles are harder to see. “Settle on a patch of wildflowers and note what visits the flower, what is crawling on the stem and what is perambulating about the leaf litter ... Look closely in flowers, on bark and among leaves. You’ll be amazed at what you find there,” advise John C. Kricher and Gordon Morrison in the Ecology of Eastern Forests.

Many insect populations are declining, a trend some call “the insect apocalypse.” A 2019 study concluded that over 40 percent of the world’s insects face extinction. Entomologist Dr. Doug Tallamy cautions, “We are at a critical point of losing so many species from local ecosystems that their ability to produce the oxygen, clean water, flood control, pollination, pest control, carbon storage, that is, the ecosystem services that sustain us, will become seriously compromised.”

Insect declines are attributed largely to loss of feeding and nesting habitats. Native plants can help. Most native insects are specialists, meaning that they depend on the plants with which they co-evolved, called “host plants.” Says Plant NoVaNatives, “The difference between a native shrub and a non-native one is that the former will not only beautify a property, but will turn it into a living landscape that supports the butterflies and birds.”

Getting Help

Audubon Society of Northern Virginia’s ambassadors offer free on-site consultations and recommendations to support the ecological functions needed for a healthy habitat.

More information:

Audubon, <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>, enter your zip code
 Plant NoVaNatives, <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/>
 Virginia Native Plant Society, <https://vnps.org/>
 National Wildlife Federation, <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Certify>
 Homegrown National Parks, <https://www.homegrownnationalpark.org/>

The program certifies properties as Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuaries. Certification relies on how successful the property is at attracting and supporting wildlife.

Mount Vernonite Betsy Martin, Co-Director, explains: “To be certified, they must document that their yard is being used by at least 10 out of 42 Audubon at Home ‘sanctuary species.’ The list includes birds (such as Baltimore orioles and Carolina chickadees), beneficial insects (such as monarch butterflies), as well as box turtles and other reptiles, frogs, salamanders and mammals. The sanctuary species are all beneficial species that can be helped by homeowners creating native habitat for them. The motto is, ‘Let the animals decide.’ If the critters show up and use your yard, then they’ve decided it’s a wildlife sanctuary.”

Over the past year, the program certified 86 properties, totaling 650 acres. One of these was the 1,000th property certified since the program began. They have certified over 8,000 acres.

The ambassadors do not design landscapes or do hands-on landscaping. Visit <https://www.audubonva.org/aah-consultation-request-form>.



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS TALLAMY
A Carolina chickadee typically collects 400 caterpillars a day to feed its hatchlings.



PHOTO BY PAULA SULLIVAN
A common grackle collects caterpillars like these fall cankerworms to feed its young.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH
Some birds, like Eastern towhees, forage on the ground.



Audubon at Home Sanctuary.

PHOTO BY TONI GENBERG COURTESY OF AUDUBON AT HOME



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH
A swallowtail butterfly caterpillar.



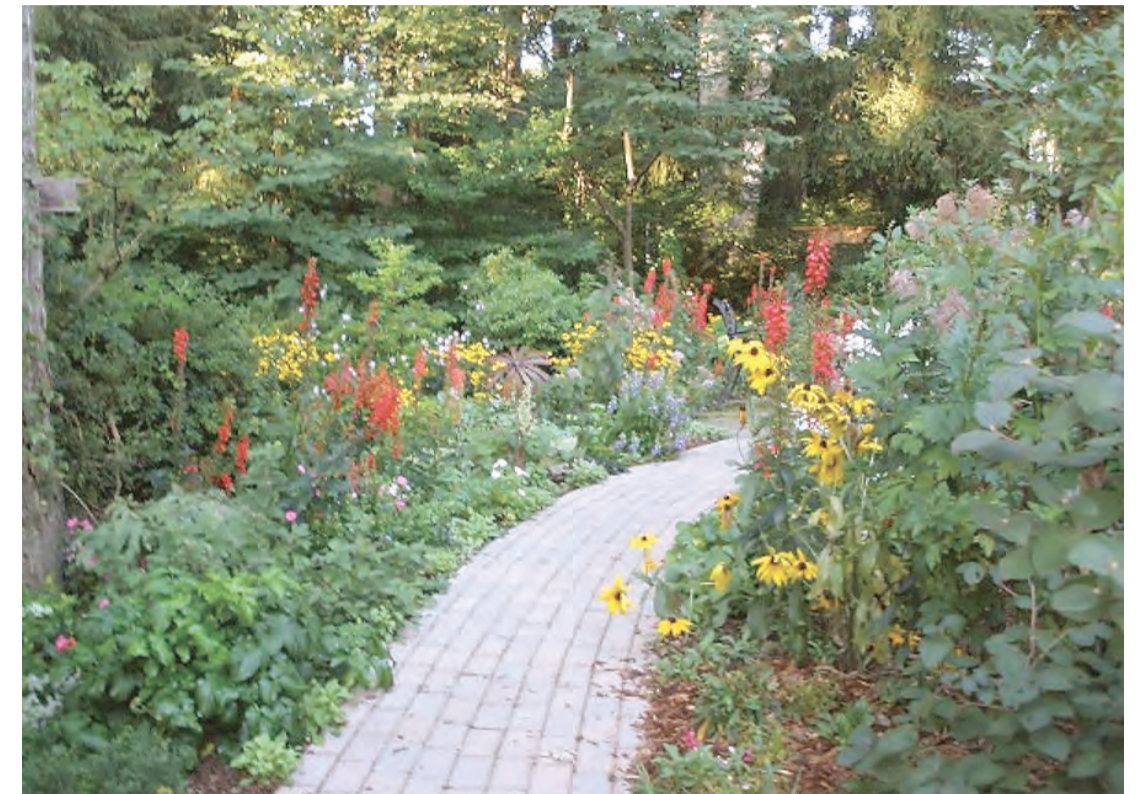
PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH
A tiger swallowtail butterfly.



PHOTO BY BETSY MARTIN COURTESY OF AUDUBON AT HOME
A tiger swallowtail butterfly on ironweed.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH
A monarch butterfly feeding on its host plant, milkweed.



Wildlife sanctuary offers respite for humans too.

PHOTO BY NANCY CHRISTMUS COURTESY OF AUDUBON AT HOME

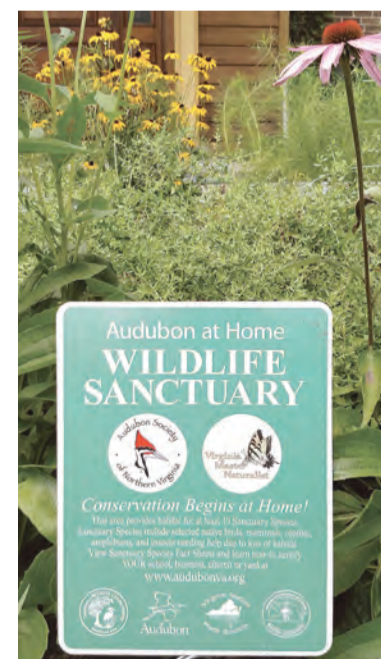


PHOTO BY BARBARA TUSET COURTESY OF AUDUBON AT HOME
An Audubon at Home Sanctuary.



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER COURTESY OF AUDUBON AT HOME
Audubon at Home sign, approved by a tiger swallowtail butterfly on Joe Pye weed.



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER COURTESY OF AUDUBON AT HOME
Tiger swallowtails flock to blooming Joe Pye weed.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH
A bumblebee feeding on mountain mint.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH
A bumblebee feeding on water hemlock.

NVSO Registration Is Open Over 70 Events Offered

Registration for the 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics has opened online at www.nvso.us.

Over 70 events from track and field to croquet and bocce, to swimming and pickleball are on the two week schedule beginning Saturday, Sept. 9 and closing Sunday, Sept. 24. "There are also more than 10 indoor events such as 10 pin bowling, canasta, crossword puzzles, Mexican train dominoes and more," said Herb Levitan, NVSO chair.

Adults 50 years of age and older who live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions (cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William) are encouraged to see the full list of events on the website, www.nvso.us,

After each event, gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded. Most events are played in five or ten year age groups and by gender. The registration fee is \$20 for unlimited events. There are five events that require an additional fee: ten pin bowling; disc golf; cycling; 9 hole, 3 par golf; and orienteering. Members of the general public are welcome to observe those participating. For more information, email, nvso1982@gmail.com.

NVSO is sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William. To date, 2023 Gold Patrons are Advanced Hearing Services; Aetna; Elancé Luxury Living; Facial Plastic Surgery Center; Goodwin Living; Greenspring Village; Hunters Woods at Trails Edge; The Jefferson; Retirement Unlimited; Sentara Health Plans; and Falcons Landing.



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

The bocce competitor's bracket ranges up to the over 90-years-old category.

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU JULY 30

Hues Exhibit. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, Gallery 311 - Van Lingham Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's (TFAA) Van Lingham Gallery presents Hues, a juried membership show featuring artworks that showcase artworks that emphasize bold and vibrant colors. The following artists are participating: Diana Papazian, Samantha Shelton, Guido Zanni, Abol Bahadori, Jon Kandel, Lynn Chadwick, Rebecca McNeely, Gregory Logan Dunn, Eileen O'Brien, and Andrea Cybyk. Artworks include original hand pulled prints, original paintings, multimedia works, photography, mosaics, and embellished digital works. Additionally, the gallery offers small gifts, art cards, block-printed totes and tee shirts, and jewelry and unframed works by Tara Barr, Ileen Shefferman, Lisa Schumaier.

NOW THRU 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. Dive 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: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer

NOW THRU JULY 23

Mark Drefs and Leslie Nolan Exhibit. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Mark Drefs and Leslie Nolan are presenting a vibrant body of work at the Athenaeum Gallery. Drefs and Nolan both play with bold lines and color in a way that is complementary of the other's work and style. Dref's abstract pieces are highlighted by their layered components, and almost transparent hues that show all the details in the paintings. While Nolan shows more figurative forms that have a raw quality to the finished product through the strong paint strokes and bold gestural motions, which display the realness of the subject.

NOW THRU JULY 24

"Spring Awakening." At Ainslie Arts Center, 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Monumental Theatre Company will stage Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater's Spring Awakening. Based on Frank Wedekind's 1891 play of the same name, the story follows a group of German teenagers who discover and explore their sexual identities. This alternative rock musical is a timely and timeless story that invites audience members to reclaim the narrative surrounding the often taboo subjects of sexual education, love, and acceptance. Tickets will be available online at <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/>.

NOW THRU JULY 31

Monochrome Exhibit. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo



The Monochrome Exhibit will be held at Multiple Exposures Gallery in Alexandria now thru July 31, 2023.

Factory Art Center, 105 N Union Street, Studio 312, Alexandria. Monochrome, a fine art photography exhibition juried by Sandy Sugawara, features monochrome images from 13 artists: Soomin Ham, Tim Hyde, Clara Young Kim, Irina Lawton, Sandy LeBrun-Evans, Matt Leedham, Francine B. Livaditis, Maureen Minehan, Van Pulley, Sarah Hood Salomon, Alan Sislen, Tom Sliter and Fred Zafran.

THURSDAY/JULY 20

40 Under 40 Celebration. 6-8 p.m. At the APTA Headquarters, 3030 Potomac Ave., Alexandria. Presented by the Jen Walker Team at the American Physical Therapy Association headquarters.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

JULY 24-28

Art Camp. Del Ray Artisans invites youth ages 8-12 to Art Camp 2023 for a week of professional art instruction! Campers will have an immersive creative journey: painting, sculpting, journaling and other artful planned activities. During nice weather, campers will even have outdoor time to get fresh air, unwind, and replenish their creative energy. All art supplies are provided. Choose July 17-21 or July 24-28; \$350/child; scholarship support available. Registration

at DelRayArtisans.org/art-camp

TUESDAY/JULY 25

Simpson Park Demonstration Garden: Tuesdays @10. 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, 420 E. Monroe Ave, Alexandria. Garden challenges? Extension Master Gardeners will show you simple steps to help with your container garden or your whole yard. Free. No registration necessary.

JULY 25-SEPT. 17

Captured: Plants and Places. 1-4 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens Center, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Step into the world of plants across the region and in still life at a season-spanning photography exhibit July 25 to Sept. 17 at Green Spring Gardens Horticultural Center. The lyrical collection "Captured: Plants and Places" features botanical imagery drawn from the Washington area to Maine, including studio photos, intimate outdoor vignettes and landscape scenes. The photographers' varying visions and styles in color and black-and-white invite viewers to explore the wonder of wild and horticultural lands. An opening reception with the artists is July 30 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Atrium at Green Springs Gardens Horticultural Center.

SUNDAY/JULY 30

Lesson Zero. 7 to 8 p.m. At Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. The United States Park Service presents the music of Oasis recording artist LESSON ZERO for a free show. For additional information see: www.youtube.com/lessonzero and www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero

AUG. 4-26

The "Treasures of the DMV" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that celebrates the wonders of DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Come see famous and overlooked regional gems from the

perspective of local artists. Opening Reception: Friday, August 4, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed on August 27). DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

AUG. 5, 2023

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

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

JULY
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)

FRANCONIA NIGHTS

CONCERTS
Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

At Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

JULY
19 Chuck Brown Band (Go Go/Funk/Soul)
26 Silver Tones Swing Band (Swing Dance)
AUGUST
2 Pablo Perez El Alcalde de la Salsa (Salsa)
9 Alexandria Harmonizers (Chorus)
16 The Nighthawks (Blues)
23 Dave Kline Band (World Jazz Fusion)

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT MUSIC SERIES

Free Concerts. Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m. At Old Town Alexandria waterfront. Join in the Waterfront Wednesday Music Series featuring a range of music genres by local musicians. Bring a chair or simply stop by to enjoy some beautiful waterside beats. Free. Weather permitting.
July 19 - Vaughn Ambrose and the SJE
July 26 - Amafujo's Mood-swings
August 2 - Chris Barrick Vibes and Organ Trio
August 9 - Sol Roots
August 16 - Delta Spur

SUNDAY SOUNDS ON THE PROMENADE

Free Concerts. 11:30-1:30 p.m. At 7 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Yellow Door Music Concert Series presents a musical lineup of artists on select Sundays.
July 30 - Vaughn Ambrose Jazz Trio
Aug. 27 - Trifilio Tango Music
On Aug. 27, in honor of National Dog Day that weekend, Robinson Landing encourages individuals to bring their dog out for a yappy social for play and fun for your furry ones.
The full event schedule of Robinson Landing programming is located at www.RobinsonLanding.com/WaterfrontEvents.

JULY 21-23

South Asian Music Festival. The DC South Asian Arts Council Inc, a non-profit arts organization, unveils the 1st ever DC South Asian Music Festival from July 21-23. From the soul-stirring classical vocal and instrumental masterpieces to the mesmerizing Sufi, Ghazal, and Evergreen Bollywood, it promises to be an unforgettable musical journey. Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, open the festival with their enchanting classical traditions on Friday, July 21. Saturday, July 22 starts with a Singing Competition, a showcase of exceptional local South Asian talent, taking the stage. On Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23, the exceptional performances continue.
Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20906
For the full schedule, passes and tickets, visit <https://www.dcsaaci.org>

THE BIRCHMERE

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

JULY

Thu. 20: Tab Benoit w/ Anthony Rosana and the Conquerors \$45.00
Fri. 21: Don McLean "American Pie 50th Anniversary Tour!" \$69.50
Sat. 22: Who's Bad - The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience \$39.50
Fri. 28: Anthony Brown & group therapy \$39.50
Sat. 29: MAYSA \$69.50
Sun. 30: The Stylistics \$65.00
Mon. 31: Joey McIntyre "Solo Joe Tour" \$45.00

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Ms. Doris Sohn (VMRC #22-1551) is requesting a permit from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to install 160 linear feet of vinyl replacement bulkhead, a maximum two (2) feet channelward of an existing, deteriorating timber bulkhead, in the Potomac River adjacent to riparian property situated at 6045 River Drive in Fairfax County.

You may provide comments on this application (VMRC #2022-1551) at <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/comments/>. We will accept comments by the USPS provided they are received within 15 days of this notice to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg 96, Hampton, VA 23651.

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



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Police Shooting

FROM PAGE 6

licing and public health through injury data. “Incidents of law-enforcement-related injury are frequently dismissed, in part, because they are anecdotal,” Alfreda Holloway-Beth, Ph.D., said. “The lack of comprehensive surveillance data permits a narrative to persist that the problem does not exist, is exaggerated, or is simply being used as a political tool by ‘anti-police’ constituents. Before we can define policies on reporting requirements, accountability, and training, we need to define the problem. This can only be done through a comprehensive surveillance program.”

Key insights included in the report found, “For every death [from police use-of-force], there were approximately 60–80 non-fatal injuries that required treatment in a hospital, with 13 percent of the civilians having suffered traumatic brain injuries, which have potential long-term severe outcomes.”

Data on incidents of law enforcement-related injuries to civilians is one example of information the Fairfax Police Department does not currently make available to the general public. Beyond civilian complaints, the Fairfax County Police Department does not compile annual data on civilians injured in interactions with law enforcement. It might occur through the use of force, such as positional asphyxia and electronic control weapons, or through deliberate car crashes or PIT maneuvers. The immediate and long-term effects of the injuries are not known.

The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) is a non-profit organization that works to create a community of support for independent civilian oversight entities seeking to make local law enforcement more transparent, accountable, and responsive to their communities.

There are 127 police oversight jurisdictions listed on the website. Fairfax County is one. Fairfax County established the Office of the Independent Police Auditor, and the Police Civilian Review Panel, both formed as a result of the Ad Hoc Commission’s recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The Auditor reviews police investigations involving the use of force and serves as an independent intake venue for complaints against the Fairfax County Police Department. The Police Auditor’s next report on incident reviews will occur at the Police Civilian Review Panel’s Aug. 3, 2023, meeting.

Davis declined to answer the Connection’s questions about how FCPD’s current General Order 540, Use of Force policy meets International Human Rights Law and Standards (by the University of Chicago), FCPD responded, “The Fairfax County Police Department is a leader in the law enforcement profession, implementing forward-thinking, equitable, and reasonable policies that consistently exceed both accreditation and industry standards and go through an extensive review process.”

Police Shooting Incidents by Chief

❖ Police Chief Kevin Davis- Current 26-month administration as chief began on May 3, 2021. Under Davis’ leadership, 13 officers used deadly force in 10 separate incidents. Officers’ fatally shot four individuals, wounded five, and missed one.

❖ David M. Rohrer’s three-month administration as acting chief began on Feb. 1, 2021, and ended on May 2, 2021, bridging the gap between Roessler and Davis. Under Rohrer’s leadership, no officers deployed deadly force.

❖ Edwin Roessler Jr.’s 86-month administration at the helm of the FCPD spanned from March 23, 2013, to July 29, 2013, as acting chief and from July 30, 2013, to Feb. 2, 2021, as chief. Under Roessler’s leadership, more than seven years, 15 officers deployed deadly force in 10 incidents. His officers shot and killed three people, wounded three, and missed three—one suspect self-inflicted a deadly gunshot.

❖ James Morris’ five-month administration as chief began on Oct. 20, 2012, and ended on March 22, 2013. Under Morris’ leadership, no officers deployed deadly force.

❖ David M. Rohrer’s 8.25-year administration as chief began in July 2004 and ended on Oct. 19, 2012. Under Rohrer’s leadership, 46 officers used deadly force in 32 incidents. Officers’ fatally shot 14 individuals, wounded 14, and missed four. Online data by FCPD is only available until the end of 2005 and does not include 2004. Rohrer was named Assistant County Executive for Public Safety.

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

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Ukraine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Chile, Thailand and more.

AFS-USA, a leader in international high school student exchange for 75 years, is focused on providing opportunities for intercultural exchange that can help lead to a more just and peaceful world. Those interested in hosting an AFS Exchange Student are encouraged to contact 1-800-AFS-INFO or visit www.afsusa.org for more information. You can also get involved as an AFS-USA Volunteer. Visit www.afsusa.org/volunteer to get started or learn more about opportunities to make a difference.

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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.

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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The Context Was Clothes



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of the mundane tasks that falls to the family members of a recently deceased person is what to do with his or her clothes – and when to do it. For my sister-in-law, Vanessa, the process was not as excruciating as with others I’ve known. Having lived in the same house for nearly 30 years, keeping my brother’s clothes in some sort of stasis as a means of honoring/memorializing his memory was not important to her. She has plenty of reminders of Richard. In fact, she has his ashes in an urn she keeps in the adjacent/Richard’s bedroom, the room where Vanessa discovered my brother lying on the floor that final morning of his life. The room where Vanessa performed CPR on him while a 911 operator instructed her what to do. Can you imagine?

It was in this room, on his bed, where Vanessa had laid our Richard’s summer wardrobe for me to pick through. While I hesitated, Vanessa assured me, as I would have guessed, that Richard would have wanted me to have these hand-me-downs-of-his-lifetime. And though it felt awkward trying on his pants, shirts, shorts, shoes, et cetera, it sort of felt cathartic in a way wearing things I had seen him wear. It also provided some light moments as we all joked about how much clothing he had accumulated.

Another predictable task for survivors is to find and organize old photographs of the deceased. Eventually, after the period of grieving has passed, looking through the old photographs conjures up more pleasant memories as the pain of loss begins to subside and you eke out a smile or two. It’s an important transition suggesting that there is a future after all, despite this tragedy.

Before we arrived, Vanessa had been going through some old boxes and found a newspaper article about my father. He was 69 and a half and nine months or so away from retirement. On Richard’s bedside table lay a brown 5 x 7 manilla envelope. I opened the envelope, per Vanessa’s encouragement and there was a folded edition of the Middlesex News, the local community newspapers from Framingham, Ma., where my parents had lived for 17 years before retiring to Florida. Across the top, I could read the faded and yellowing date: Feb. 18, 1989. I opened the fold and in black and white saw a picture of my father sitting at his desk in their Framingham appointment holding one of his many jewelry sample cases. The headline above his picture? “Turning Gray to Green.” The article was about the “financial clout” seniors had – as a specific market for advertisers and businesses’ to target, and a lucrative one at that.

It was a rather lengthy article, nearly have a page in a broadsheet on the inside with my father’s picture on the outside beneath which was “captioned” “Barry Lourie at his Framingham home.” He was one of six “elders” interviewed/quoted in the article. As I read through the article, I took notice of my father’s quotes. As I read – and reread his quotes, I could almost hear him talking. In addition, I was focused as well on his words/speech patterns trying to glean any familiar jargon or speech pattern, as my father had a unique way of expressing himself. Reading him speak like that was time-travelling for me. It was the first time I had heard his voice/read his words since his death on Dec. 3rd, 2006, nearly 17 years ago. I only wish my brother and I could have shared this feeling together. Interacting with my father like this was like a gift from God, and so unexpected. This jolt of a memory transported me back in time. It occurred while I was sifting through my recently deceased brother’s clothes. Go figure. I’ve often heard it said that clothes make the man. In this experience, clothes made the memory, and a memory I will cherish forever. Almost as if my brother’s premature death was not totally in vain.

It has just so happened that a couple of good things have come from Richard’s death. None more important than the reconnection I shared with my father.

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