

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

New Police Commander Urges Community Dialogue

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

It takes a lot to work in the Mount Vernon district," Fairfax County police Captain Marc Mitchell told his audience at an Aug. 30 "Meet the Commander" gathering at the Sherwood Regional Library. The district is "one of the busiest in volume for calls for service," he elaborated.

The 26-square-mile Mount Vernon Police District stretches from the Potomac River west to Telegraph Road, from I-95/495 on the north to Fort Belvoir on the south, lines that differ somewhat from the Mount Vernon magisterial district's boundaries.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck introduced the new commander, noting that Mitchell is a 16-year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department and has worked in six of the county's eight stations.

Originally from Richmond, Mitchell said he was "humbled and honored" to be the commander of the Mount Vernon station, 60 days into this job. He has a George Mason University degree in the administration of justice and has a "passion for the public safety mission," he commented.

One priority is "to create sustainable relationships," to have partnerships with community members. The department has a neighborhood patrol unit, officers who ride bicycles through neighborhoods and will have more later this year. "We need more community input," he urged. "This is your police department."

Storck said, "I am pleased with Captain Mitchell's experience and strong community engagement focus. ... I am proud that our officers are being proactive in our community every day."

Many Topics

Topics ranged from crime rates to schools to panhandlers to gangs.

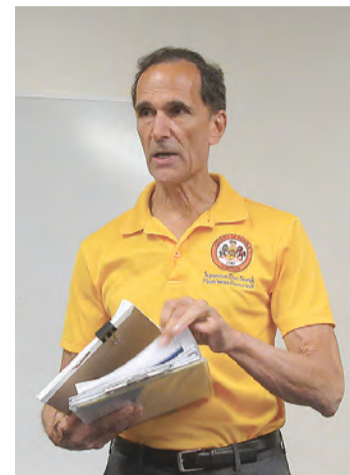
Mitchell said that Fairfax County is the "safest jurisdiction of its size." On county and Mount Vernon crime data, Lt. James Curry, a police department public affairs spokesperson, said on Sept. 1, "The department will post crime reports online on the FCPD website on Sept. 5." The posted data was for county-wide reports.



Captain Marc Mitchell is the new Mount Vernon Police District Commander.



Jon Kaminski, Community Liaison Officer; M. F. Colorado, member, Selective Enforcement Team; Captain Marc H. Mitchell, Commander; Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck.



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck urged the audience to attend the September 13 Senior Safety Summit and to sign up for his newsletter.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Attendees had many questions.



A police officer leaves the Mount Vernon District Station.

"Our most precious gift is our children," Mitchell commented, noting that he has been a school liaison officer. Referring to the May 2022 school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, he said that the Uvalde police's response "was absolutely unacceptable. We are going in immediately to preserve life," he assured the group. In Uvalde, a shooter inside Robb Elementary School killed 19 children and two adults and injured 17 others over an hour-long period before law enforcement officials engaged the shooter, according to media reports.

When asked about gangs, Mitchell said the department has detectives who investigate gangs. The police can provide "gang awareness training" to the public. Their approach to juvenile justice is based on "restorative justice," he said, and they will hold violent criminals accountable, citing armed robbery as an example.

Several people expressed concerns about people experiencing homelessness on and near roads like U.S. 1.

"Panhandling is a big concern," said Mitchell. The FCPD website advises, "We discourage people from giving cash to individuals who panhandle ... cash will not help solve the underlying reasons why someone panhandles."

The police have a co-responder program, crisis intervention officers and trained clinicians who help with people having a mental health crisis. He said they try to be "deliberate" and "find a safe response." Calls generated by mental health incidents have risen since the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) pandemic, he said.

Drug use, like fentanyl, is a "national problem," Mitchell opined. The FCPD has an opioid unit, detectives who "aggressively go after dealers and distributors." Officers also respond to overdoses and try to provide appropriate support services.

One gentleman questioned how

to encourage people of color and immigrants who may be hesitant to contact the police. "Fairfax County is one of the most diverse counties in the country," Mitchell said, a fact we should "celebrate." The Fairfax County police do not "partner with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or get involved in immigration issues," he emphasized. "We're going to protect all," he offered.

The Fairfax County Police Department's recruitment efforts have generated one of the largest training classes in years, he said, with 57 candidates in the police academy currently. Training new police officers can take almost a year. "We are focused on quality because it's a public trust," he said.

They have started the "30 by 30" gender diversity program, with a goal of having women represent 30 percent of the force by 2030. "We should reflect the community we serve," Mitchell maintained.

Reaching Out

Among the department's online

and in-person outreach efforts, Mitchell reported that officers can go to local groups and discuss many topics.

He announced a new effort to send out community alerts.

"It was good to hear Captain Mitchell emphasize stepping up efforts to reach out to the community to hear from our residents," said Greg Crider who attended. "I'm looking forward to the pilot program he mentioned under which alerts will be sent to Mount Vernon residents about police incidents that are happening. People want to know."

Crider is a member of the Community Advisory Committee which meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Government Center.

At the meetings, police officers make a presentation, cover high-visibility issues and answer questions.

Mitchell stressed police officers' desire and duty to respond. "We want you to know that if you call 911, we are coming, even if it's a flat tire or you are rear ended. We are ready. We will come," he assured the group.

More Information

Senior Safety Summit, Sept. 13, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Lorton Community Center

Mount Vernon Police District, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/district/mountvernon>

Crime statistics, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/chief/crimestatistics>

Community Advisory Committees, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/getinvolved/communityadvisorycommittee>

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Sitting high on a hill in Ravensworth Farm, this sprawling 3,000-SF, one-level brick home on a quarter acre offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, office, and 2 fireplaces. Additional detached garage and a small barn for storage and/or business. 7910 Ellet Rd
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Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
www.RealtorHeidiB.com

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NEWS



“We claim this ground in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001. To honor the 184 people whose lives were lost, their families, and all who sacrifice that we may live in freedom. We will never forget.”

— Pentagon 9-11 Memorial inscription.

Lt. Jim Morris, far bottom right, and fellow firefighters from Alexandria and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Station 11 join soldiers atop the Pentagon to unfurl an American flag during rescue and recovery efforts Sept. 12, 2001. Morris’s brother Seth perished in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Never Forget City to mark anniversary of 9-11 attacks.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

It was an unimaginable act of terrorism that took the lives of 16 Alexandria residents on Sept. 11, 2001. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, many whose ranks were among the first responders at the Pentagon, will hold an event to mark the 22nd anniversary of what remains the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history.

The 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony will be held Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. at Fire Station 40 on Legato Road in Fairfax. The Remembrance will begin at 10:28 a.m. at the flagpole at Station 40. A Patriot Day luncheon will follow at noon at Mission BBQ on Lee Jackson Highway with a display of equipment and apparatus on location.

In Alexandria, a ceremony remembering those who were killed and honoring the first responders who answered the call will take place in Market Square in front of City Hall at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 11. The ceremony will remember those killed, those who survived, and all who were affected. A “Return to Quarters” bell-ringing ceremony will honor each of the victims.

Penn-Daw Station 11 firefighter Jim Morris, now retired, was one of the first responders pictured atop the Pentagon in the now iconic photograph of the American flag as it was unfurled. As he participated in the recovery efforts in Arlington, his mind was 225 miles north in New York City, where his

brother Seth was still unaccounted for in the rubble of the World Trade Center.

Seth Morris was a broker with Cantor Fitzgerald working on the 105th floor of World Trade Center One. He did not survive.

The coordinated attacks at the Pentagon, World Trade Center and outside Shanksville, Pa., resulted in 2,977 deaths. Remains of more than 1,700 of those who perished have never been recovered, although they are included in the 2,977.

Remembering Locals victims of 9-11

Spc. Craig Amundson

Spec. Craig S. Amundson, 28, was assigned to the Army’s Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel as a graphic artist and was at work at the Pentagon the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Award. He left behind his wife, Amber, and children Elliot and Charlotte.



Spc. Craig Amundson

Eddie A. Dillard

Eddie A. Dillard, 54, was a passenger aboard American Airlines flight 77. He left behind a wife of 15 years, Rosemary, and one son, Edrick L. Dillard.



Eddie A. Dillard

Capt. Robert Edward Dolan

Captain Robert Dolan, 43, was working on the first floor of the Pentagon as head of the U.S. Navy’s Strategy and Concepts Branch when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the building. He was a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and commander of the USS John Hancock.

His class ring was found in the remains of the Pentagon. Dolan was survived by his wife Lisa and children Rebecca and Beau.

Cmdr. William H. Donovan

Commander William Howard Donovan, 37, was commissioned at the Naval Academy with the Class of 1986. He had been on the Chief of Naval Operations staff for a



Capt. Robert Edward Dolan

little over a year when Flight 77 struck the Pentagon. Known as “the Waywood Dad,” Donovan left behind his wife Elaine and three young children. His remains were never recovered.



Cmdr. William H. Donovan

Diane M. Hale-McKinzy

Diane Hale-McKinzy, 38, was a civilian employee for the U.S. Army at the Pentagon. Born in Lithonia, Ga., she served in the Army for four years before beginning a career in civil service.



Diane M. Hale-McKinzy

Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr.

Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr., 40, served with the Green Berets, the Special Forces and, ultimately, as a general’s aide at the Pentagon. The 21-year



Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr.

SEE CITY, PAGE 6

Labor Day is So Much More

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Every year on Labor Day it is important to pause to reflect on the monumental contributions of laborers that have shaped the prosperity of Virginia and our nation as a whole. This holiday doesn't just mark the changing seasons (although it still feels like the middle of summer) but it is an important occasion to recognize the invaluable role that workers have played in building our Commonwealth's thriving economy. It's also a day to celebrate the sweat, determination, and hard work that is the backbone of our nation's progress.

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the importance of supporting workers' rights and advocating for policies that benefit the workforce. This sentiment has been reinforced by the current administration's commitment to labor and the economy. President Joe Biden, possibly the most pro-union and pro-worker president in history, has placed a strong focus on rebuilding the American economy from the bottom up, ensuring it benefits working families and not just the wealthiest among us.

President Biden's accomplishments in just a few years are noteworthy. With over 13 million jobs created, including 800,000 new well-paying manufacturing positions, there's a tangible impact on the American workforce. Wage growth, outpacing inflation, has led to substantial improvements in the lives of many, especially lower-wage workers who have seen the most significant gains. Furthermore, significant investments have been sparked in the private sector, particularly in manufacturing and clean

energy, which have resulted in hundreds of thousands of jobs, including more than 120,000 alone in auto manufacturing.

Another critical aspect of President Biden's agenda is the modernization and expansion of apprenticeship programs, which have opened pathways to well-paying union jobs for countless Americans. He has also raised the minimum wage for federal workers and contractors, ensuring fair compensation for their labor. In addition, President Biden's administration has played a vital role in preserving the pensions of hundreds of thousands of union workers and retirees — securing their financial futures.

Furthermore, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the CHIPS and Science Act include significant provisions that align with workers' interests. Prevailing wage requirements, as embodied in the Davis-Bacon Act, ensure that workers are paid fairly for their labor in projects funded by these laws.

However, while these federal initiatives are essential for the overall well-being of American workers, it's equally vital to focus on the challenges faced at the state level. In Virginia, despite recent legislative victories such as an increase in the minimum wage and allowing localities to enable collective bargaining for local government employees, there's a glaring issue that demands immediate attention: Virginia's so-called "Right to Work" law.

Virginia's "Right to Work" law, rooted in a historical context of racism, was established in 1947 with the intent to suppress unions and maintain segregation. Contrary to its misleading name, "Right to Work" does not guarantee job security but rather undermines workers' ability to collectively bargain for better wages,

benefits, and working conditions. It prevents unions from requiring all members to contribute financially while still benefiting from collective bargaining, weakening the collective voice of workers.

The connection between right-to-work laws and income inequality is well-documented. Unionized workers typically earn 15-20 percent more than their non-union counterparts, contributing significantly to income equity. These disparities in wages disproportionately affect women and people of color who often work in unionized industries. Therefore, repealing Virginia's "Right to Work" law is not merely an economic justice issue but a matter of racial justice.

As Virginia grapples with its historical legacy of racism and works to dismantle discriminatory laws, the repeal of "Right to Work" presents an opportunity to advance equity and justice for all workers. It's time to align Virginia's labor laws with the values of the 21st century and ensure that every worker has the opportunity to advocate effectively for fair wages, workplace protections, and a brighter future.

In conclusion, Labor Day serves as a poignant reminder of the significance of workers' contributions and the ongoing struggle to secure their rights. While there have been remarkable strides at the federal level thanks to President Biden, the battle for workers' rights continues, especially in states like Virginia with outdated laws that hinder collective bargaining. Although Labor Day is now in the rearview mirror, it is never too late to reaffirm our commitment to a future where every worker is treated fairly, their contributions are recognized, and their rights are protected.

Wetlands Ordinance – Existing Bulkheads Generally Grandfathered

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

There has been a lot of information and misinformation being shared with community members, especially those who live along our waterways, as to what is permitted or not permitted based on the 2020 Virginia Wetlands law. I want to reassure residents whose property connects to a navigable waterway that maintaining existing bulkheads and the grandfathering of existing bulkheads in good repair is covered under the state law, and as written in the County ordinance.

In response to questions we have received regarding this, County staff prepared the following information based on the state and local Wetlands Board guidance as to how the law is applied.

Best Practices for projects with potential Wetlands Impact

Property owners with water-

front property on the Potomac River or other tidal waterways should always verify whether a planned project near or adjacent to their shoreline will impact tidal wetlands. County staff can provide guidance and perform a site visit at the property owner's request to aid in this determination. Contact info appears below.

Fairfax County Wetlands Board Staff

Department of Planning and Development, Planning Division
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 730

Fairfax, VA 22035-5504
Phone: 703-324-1380, TTY 711 or email: DPDWetlandsBoard@fairfaxcounty.gov

When is a permit from the Wetlands Zoning Ordinance required?

Certain uses and activities in wetlands are allowed without approval of a permit from the Wetlands Zoning Board. Those exempt uses and

activities are listed in Wetlands Zoning Ordinance § 116-1-3. All other uses or development of wetlands that are not exempt under Wetlands Zoning Ordinance § 116-1-3 must be approved by the Wetlands Zoning Board through the submission of a permit application. Wetlands Zoning

Ordinance § 116-1-4(a).

Do I need a permit to maintain my bulkhead or existing shoreline protection measures?

No application or permit from

SEE WETLANDS, PAGE 8

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/GAZETTE

Keivon Bellfield drops back to pass for the Majors.

Westfield v. Mount Vernon

BY WILL PALENSCAR
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

The Westfield Bulldogs faced the Mount Vernon Majors on Thursday Aug. 31, 2023 in Chantilly for a non conference matchup.

Westfield's Landon Murphy put the Bulldogs on the board with 7:31 in the first quarter with a 34 yard touchdown reception on 4th down. Murphy would score with 4:33 still to play in the opening quarter for his second touchdown of the game on an 8 yard touchdown, after Everett Sawyer's blocked punt.

Kennedy Duda scored on an 8 yard touchdown with 8:04 to play in the second quarter giving Westfield a 20-0 lead after a missed extra point. Later in the quarter Everett Sawyer scored on a 9 yard touchdown reception with 4:30 remaining before half-time.



Ashon Brice #12 looks to the referee to see if he is lined up on sides.

SEE WESTFIELD, PAGE 11



Mount Vernon QB Keivon Bellfield #3 hands the ball to wide receiver Matthew Moret #18.

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FALL 2023

SEPTEMBER
21

Taste of Old Town North

SEPTEMBER
23

81st Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour

SEPTEMBER 30
- OCTOBER 1

21st Annual Alexandria Art Festival (at John Carlyle Square)

OCTOBER
6-8

Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour (at Mount Vernon)

OCTOBER
7

28th Annual Art on the Avenue

OCTOBER
28

3rd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede

OCTOBER
28

Tall Ship Providence Presents the Halloween Howl

OCTOBER
28

Old Town Family Trick or Treat

OCTOBER
28

Tall Ship Providence Presents "Ghost Ship Providence"

OCTOBER
29

Old Town Doggie Trick or Treat

OCTOBER
29

Del Ray Halloween Parade



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REMEMBERING

City to Mark Anniversary of 9-11 Attacks

FROM PAGE 3

Army veteran was an avid cyclist and regularly commuted by bike from his Alexandria home to the Pentagon. He was survived by his wife Pat, an Air Force doctor that he met when he fell ill at the Jungle Warfare School in Panama. Other survivors included his parents Wallace and Jane Hogan and sisters Meg Campbell and Kris Leggett.

Bryan C. Jack



Bryan C. Jack

Bryan C. Jack, 48, was on American Airlines Flight 77 when the plane struck the Pentagon, where he worked as the head of the Defense Department's programming and fiscal economics division. Jack and his longtime companion, artist Barbara Rachko, were married on June 16, 2001, just 87 days before his death.

Steven D. Jacoby



Steven D. Jacoby

Steven "Jake" Jacoby, 43, was the chief operating officer of Metrocall and a passenger on American Airlines Flight 77. A community leader, Jacoby sat

on the board of Men Against Breast Cancer and was actively involved with the Camp Fantastic Special Love charity golf tournament as well as Catholic Charities. The weekend before his death, Jacoby had celebrated the birthdays of his wife Kim and son Nicholas.

Terence M. Lynch



Terence M. Lynch

Terence Michael Lynch, 49, was one of three consultants from Booz, Allen and Hamilton who perished during a meeting at the Pentagon. On the day of his death, he was attending a meeting to extend survivor benefits to military families. He was survived by his wife Jacqueline and daughters Tiffany Marie and Ashley Nicole.

Lt. Col. Dean Mattson



Lt. Col. Dean E. Mattson

Army Lt. Col. Dean Mattson, 57, was less than three months away from retiring when he was killed while working in the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon.



A City of Alexandria police cruiser is stationed at the Pentagon as local first responders provide support in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

A 35-year Army veteran, Mattson had plans of being a Lutheran pastor before committing to the Army when he was drafted in 1964. The Belle Haven Towers apartments resident left behind his mother Bernice and brothers Glenn, Dwayne and Dale.

Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.



Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.

Major Clifford L. Patterson, Jr., 33, was a native of Washington D.C. and graduate of St. John's College High School. In 1991 he graduated from Howard University as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He was working at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel



Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel

Robert A. Schlegel, 38, followed his father and brothers in the Navy. Prior to being posted to the Pentagon, he was executive officer of the USS Arthur W. Radford, a 9,000-ton destroyer.

Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith (Ret.)



Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith

Retired Army Lt. Col. Gary Smith, 55, was at a meeting at the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 struck. A resident of Waynewood since 1984, Smith coached his daughter's soccer teams, kept time for the West Potomac High School track team and was a fixture at high school football games on Friday nights. A 23-year Army veteran, Smith received the Soldier's Medal for Heroism after saving a number of soldiers from a helicopter crash during his service in Vietnam. He was survived by his wife Ann and daughters Natalie, Nicole, Kristie and Tracy.

Norma Lang Steuerle



Norma Lang Steuerle

Norma Lang Steuerle, 54, was active in the Old Town community as a clinical psychologist and through Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. She was aboard American Airlines Flight 77 en route to visit a daughter in Japan

and her husband Eugene, who was teaching a seminar in Singapore.

Sandra C. Taylor



Sandra C. Taylor

Sandra Carol Taylor, 50, worked as a civilian for the U.S. Army for 30 years and at the Pentagon for almost 10. She was a volunteer at the Hospice of Northern Virginia and at the time of her death was engaged to Timothy Dudgeon. She left behind her daughter Samantha.

Meta L. Waller



Meta L. Waller

Meta L. Waller, 60, was a 12-year civilian employee of the U.S. Army at the Pentagon and was at her desk when the hijacked airliner struck the building. Named after her grandmother, the African American sculptor Meta Warrick Fuller, Waller received a master's degree in government from Harvard University and was active in civil rights affairs.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

GIRLS ON THE RUN REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration for the fall 2023 season of Girls on the Run is open! Registration will close on Friday, Sept. 15 at 11:59 p.m. Girls on the Run (GOTR) is an out-of-school program designed to help young girls build key life skills through dynamic lessons. Teams are led by trained volunteer coaches who lead by positive example and have a passion for helping others be the best version of themselves. Teams typically meet twice a week for 75-90 minutes and are led by volunteer coaches. The 10-week season will begin the week of September 11th and conclude at the celebratory 5K

events the weekend of November 18-19. Each practice has a corresponding lesson from the Girls on the Run research-based curriculum, which focuses on building social, emotional, and physical skills while encouraging healthy habits for life. While many teams meet at schools, GOTR NOVA also offers community teams based out of neighborhoods, community centers, and parks. If a team is not offered at your school, make sure to check out GOTR NOVA's interactive map to find a team near you! Girls on the Run programming is specifically designed for elementary school girls starting in grade 3 while Heart & Sole programming is created for middle school girls. Visit www.gotrnova.org.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CAR FREE DAY 2023

World Car Free Day 2023 will be held Friday, Sept. 22 in the metropolitan

Washington region, and registration is now open. This annual event organized by COG's Commuter Connections program encourages residents, commuters, and students to choose a greener way to travel by going car free or car lite on Friday, Sept. 22. By taking the free online pledge at carfreemetrod.cog.org, participants contribute to reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, improve their health, and qualify for great prizes. Interested residents can simply take the pledge to reduce their single occupancy trips on Sept. 22 by choosing an alternative travel option such as public transit, bicycling, carpooling, vanpooling, scootering, walking, or simply teleworking. Each registrant will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win great prizes from this year's sponsors.

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 bacons 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, vegeta-

bles, 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/farmersmarkets.

FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Families and individuals from the Washington, D.C.-metro region are being sought to become hosts for international students for 12 weeks, a semester, or an academic year. Exchange students represent nearly 80 countries and cultures, including Kenya, 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.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit fcsvanow@gmail.com or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

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OPINION

Wetlands Ordinance – Existing Bulkheads Generally Grandfathered

FROM PAGE 4

the Wetlands Zoning Board is required if “no additional wetlands” are covered or developed as part of any project, whether characterized as maintenance or otherwise. Wetlands Zoning Ordinance §§ 116-1-3(9), 116-1-4(a).

The seaward construction of a new bulkhead relative to an existing bulkhead is not considered maintenance and may result in

the coverage or development of wetlands, which requires a permit from the Wetlands Zoning Board. Likewise, the seaward extension of existing rip-rap or other hardened shoreline protection measure may result in the coverage of tidal wetlands, which also requires a permit. It is possible that tidal wetlands may exist on the landward side of a bulkhead or other shoreline protection measure, if the area experiences inundation, or in sediment build-

up within rip-rap. The bottom line: if tidal wetlands will be developed or covered as part of any project, then a permit from the Wetlands Zoning Board is required.

What about my existing bulkhead?

Existing bulkheads are lawful.

Living Shorelines - Living shorelines are defined by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission as a shoreline management practice

that provides erosion control and water quality benefits; protects, restores or enhances shoreline habitat; and maintains coastal processes through the strategic placement of plants, stone, sand fill, and other structural and organic materials. Landowners must consider living shorelines when applying for a permit to implement any shoreline control project that impacts tidal wetlands. Under Virginia Code § 28.2-1302 and Wetlands Zoning Ordinance § 116-1-4(b), permit applicants must make “a statement indicating whether use of a living shoreline as defined in § 28.2-

104.1 for a shoreline management practice is not suitable, including reasons for the determination.” Generally, the more a shoreline is exposed to erosive wave action, the less suitable living shoreline methodologies are.

I hope this information is helpful and I know it may be confusing, so if you have any questions please contact the County staff listed above and you are always welcome to contact my office at 703-780-7518 or mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov. For questions about the state law that the County is implementing, please contact your state legislators.

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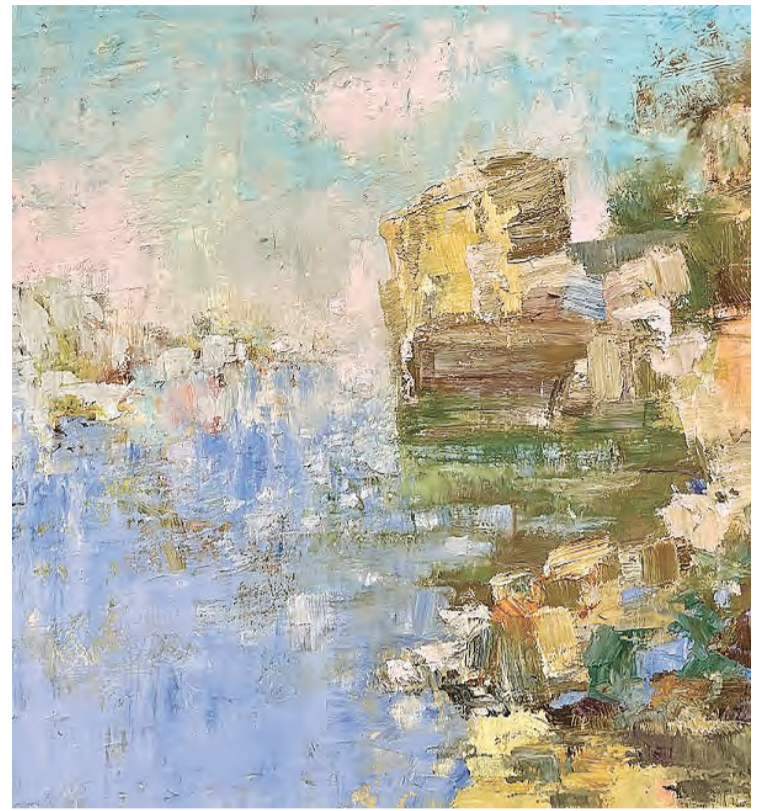
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ENTERTAINMENT



The 8th Annual George Washington Patriot 5K and 10-Miler Race takes place Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, in Alexandria.



Every Rock Has a Story by Anne Stine will be shown at The Athenaeum Gallery in Alexandria from Sept. 7 to Oct. 15, 2023.

ALEXANDRIA COLONIAL TOURS' GHOST & GRAVEYARD TOUR

Wednesdays through Sundays in September at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. Nightly in October at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 for adults; \$10 for children; free for children under 6 years old. Tours meet at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street, Alexandria. Walk your way through the charming streets of historic Old Town Alexandria. Follow a colonial-costumed guide by lantern light for an engaging history tour on Alexandria's original Ghost and Graveyard Tour. During this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends, folklore, unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Visit alexcolonialtours.com.

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 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.

SEPT. 1-30

The "Farther Afield" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Featuring art by local artists that takes the viewer on a journey, whether that is someplace an hour away from Alexandria or halfway across the world. Opening Reception: Friday, September 1, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on October 1). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SEPT. 2-30

Perspectives Exhibit. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Gallery 311, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's (TFAA) Van Landingham Gallery presents Perspectives, a juried membership show featuring artworks that showcase the talent and creativity of the TFAA. Artworks include original hand pulled prints, original paintings, jewelry, works on paper, sculpture, and more. The following artists are featured in the main exhibit: Diana Papazian, Samantha Shelton, Guido Zanni, Helen Power, Karen Waltermire, Nancy Ramsey, Ann Barbieri, Tara Barr, and Lynn Chadwick.

SEPT. 7 TO OCT. 15

Every Rock Has a Story – Anne Stine. At The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Artist's Reception is Sunday, Oct.

1, from 4-6 p.m. Award-winning painter Anne Stine debuts her latest collection of encaustic works titled, Every Rock Has a Story, in September, at the Athenaeum Gallery. Her collection of 20 geological paintings explores the interconnection between Earth and humanity through representational and abstract imagery. "Every rock has a story", a popular geological phrase, meaning history is captured within the Earth's formations from the majestic mountains to the tiniest pebbles that reside beneath our feet.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Memorial Benefit Concert. 2 p.m. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Benefitting United Community and in memory of Phil Bolin, come to a Memorial Benefit Concert/Recital. Join in this enchanting performance honoring the memory of Phil Bolin featuring mezzo-soprano, Caroline Nielson, and pianist, Eddie Rothmel. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. All ticket purchases are non-refundable and will be donated to support United Community. Visit unitedcommunity.org/concerts.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Virginia Arts & Music Festival. 12 to 8:30 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Festival Program 12-2:30 p.m. — Magic of Color and Shape Visual arts exhibition opening with a complimentary reception. Featured artists: Karen Tyler, Tatyana Shramko, Iryna Smitchkova, Sermin Ciddi, Marcos Teixeira, Sarah Havah Theebaum, Dawn Shuler, Bugra Karaagac and a special tribute to Mirella Monti Belshé, who passed away this June.

3-4:30 p.m. — Poetical Insights: All the senses of the heart and mind Poetry and poetical story reading, featuring poems by Wayne David Hubbard, Sola Owonibi, Joseph Jabloski aka 'The Walking Mall

Poet', Margot Gotzmann (Sarah Havah Theebaum) and others, as well as poems and stories by Sufi masters.

4:30-5:15 p.m. — Lunch break — complimentary light lunch offered by organizers

5:30-6:30 p.m. — Exploring the Musical Journey: Towards the known and the unknown horizons — Lynne Mackey — pianist — classical music concert Looking both forward and back, the concert contains an eclectic mix of styles and music. Composers range from Charles Griffes, Henry Cowell and Sergei Rachmaninoff, to Tan Dun, Alexina Louie and Ann Silsbee, exploring the nature of known and unknown horizons.

7-8:30 p.m. — Documenting Beauty and Mystery: Oriental and western architecture and art in movie excerpts and comments — movie tasting

Visit the website www.arts-and-hearts.org

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

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>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 10

8th Annual George Washington Patriot 5K and 10-Miler Race. 10-Mile race starts at 7:15 a.m. 5K race starts at 7:30 a.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Race in-person or virtually, and cross the finish line with George Washington's Mansion in view. The Finish Festival will offer each runner music, food and beverage concessions, and a complimentary beer. All participants will receive a commemorative George Washing-

ton Patriot Run T-shirt and a finisher medal engraved with George Washington's bust. Awards will be presented to first place overall, by age division, and for the military/first responder categories. Visit <https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/george-washington-patriot-run/>

TUESDAYS/SEPT. 12, 19, 26, Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, Tuesdays @ 10. 10 - 11:30 a.m., Simpson Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe Ave, Alexandria. Meet and talk with Extension Master Gardeners in the Simpson Demonstration Gardens to learn about lawn alternatives suitable for our climate and your growing conditions. Free.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

Classic Car Show. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Free Come to a classic car show featuring a variety of Packards and other "orphan" vehicles. This show will bring together cars that are no longer manufactured – hence the term "orphans." The show is co-sponsored by Packards Virginia and the Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum. This year's show will feature, among other vehicles, at least three Packards – a 1927 Packard Phaeton, a 1940 Packard Club Sedan, and a 1933 Packard Coupe Roadster; as well as at least two Hudsons — a 1954 Hudson Hornet, a 1934 Hudson Terraplane Coupe. Other cars scheduled to participate include a 1961 Nash Metropolitan, a 1967 Pontiac GTO, a 1988 Volga GAZ. 24-10, and a 1955 MG ZA Magnette.

SEPT. 16-17

Colonial Market & Fair. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Step back in time at Colonial Market & Fair, featuring food and wares made by Colonial arti-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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NEWS

17 Year Old Arrested For Murder

FCPD Detectives from the Mount Vernon Police District arrested a 17-year-old suspect in a fatal shooting in a Woodlawn parking lot on Friday, Sept. 1. At 8:29 p.m. Sept. 1, 2023, officers responded to a report of a shot person in the 8700 block of Sacramento Drive. Joshua Fieldings, 25, was found with a gunshot wound to the upper body. The man was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Preliminarily, detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau determined Fieldings had a previous dispute with the 17-year-old suspect. Around 8:20 p.m., Fieldings exited a business when a gunshot was heard. A witness saw the 17-year-old fleeing from the scene.

Detectives worked throughout the night to identify, locate and arrest the 17-year-old male suspect. He was taken into custody at a Lorton home late that night. He has been charged with second-degree murder, use of a firearm during the commission of a felony, and underaged possession of a firearm. The juvenile is being held without bond at the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center. Preliminarily, detectives believe the firearm was recovered from the suspect's home.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call our Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9
sians. Attend the Luke Adams Glass Art Signing on Sept. 17. Renowned Massachusetts glassblower returns to sign hand-blown glass pumpkins and other one-of-a-kind pieces.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21
Taste of Old Town North. 4-8 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Head to Montgomery Park for a celebration of greater Old Town North featuring local businesses including restaurants like Julia's on the Potomac, Hank's Oyster Bar, St. Elmo's and Yunnan by Potomac Noodle House. Plus, enjoy music from New Breed Soul Consortium, formerly Three Man Soul Machine, and Sally and the Mander. Rain date is September 28. Visit Oldtownnorth.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23
The HalloWEIRD Art Market. 10

a.m.-4 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features a variety of artwork from local artisans celebrating the spooky and playful sides of the fall season and aerial performances by Monarca in Flight. Join us for lots of fun at this outdoor, family-friendly, rain-or-shine event. HalloWEIRD takes place at corner of Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenues). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/halloweird-2023

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23
81st Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Admission: \$45/person. The Twig, The Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital, proudly announces the 81st Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour to be held on Saturday, September 23. New this year, a digital tour book guiding participants through the homes will be accessible to ticket

holders via their mobile device. Hard copies of the tour book are available for purchase, in advance, for \$5 each. Please note that this event sold out last year, so early ticket purchase is recommended. Visit thetwig.org/homes-tour.

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.

SEPTEMBER
Thu. 7: CLANNAD \$79.50 SOLD OUT!
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Sat. 9: 4th Annual DANNY GATTON Birthday Tribute \$45.00
Sun. 10: The High Kings \$59.50 SOLD OUT!
Mon. 11: Beth Orton w/ Ben Sloan \$35.00



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENCAR/GAZETTE

Keivon Bellfield prepares to hand the ball off to #11 Avery Rhymes.

Westfield v. Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 5

Kennedy Duda scored his second touchdown rushing from 13 yards out. Landon Murphy then caught a pass in the end zone for a successful 2 point conversion with 4:52 to play in the third quar-

ter. Westfield now fully in control 35-0. BJ Johnson then scored on a short run for Westfield that put Westfield up 42-0.

Westfield (2-0) will play at Lake Brad-dock on Friday. Mount Vernon (0-2) will host Friendship Collegiate Academy.



The Westfield defense all have their eyes on a Mount Vernon runner.



Everett Sawyer blocks the punt of Mount Vernon punter Christopher Marin- Benavides.

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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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July 16th Has Come and Gone



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Through no acknowledgement by me. The acknowledgement came from my sister-in-law, Vanessa. (The date not exactly unbeknownst to me, more like lost in the ether.) July 16th, 2023 was the one-year anniversary of the first day my brother Richard was admitted ("ambulanced" is more like it) to the hospital. The date which is firmly stuck in my brain is Dec. 3rd, the date of his death, which some of you regular readers are no doubt familiar. And likely the subject of a future column – or two, as we get closer to the actual date of his semi-unexpected, though not totally surprising, death. This column is not about dates or acknowledgements, however. It's about a phone call and a story that I was not ready to tell, which became increasingly obvious as I stammered and stuttered my way through the call.

The call to which I'm now going to refer was a call I made to one of my brother's nearly 2,000 clients. As it so happens, I had spoken to this client about a year or so ago concerning a Social Security issue I was having. Per my brother's referral, I contacted these clients for advice - as both husband and wife previously worked as lawyers for the Social Security Administration. I had needed some insight on the best way to reconcile a financial discrepancy between me and Social Security. These clients were helpful, but it was hardly "Casablanca," in that it was not "the beginning of a beautiful friendship." It was simply a one-time request for advice/assessment of a situation I was experiencing with Social Security about my retirement benefits. The point being: these clients and I did not have any kind of relationship.

Recently I had cause – and need, to contact these clients about this same Social Security issue as before. Still, my call was out of the blue as it had been previously when I had initially reached out. Their phone rang and the wife picked up the receiver and naturally said "Hello." I said "Hello" as well and introduced myself. She knew immediately who I was and excitedly asked "How's your brother? I haven't heard from him in months" (ordinarily he's in very regular contact with his clients). To which I responded with a brief exhale, then began muttering to myself that she/they don't know about Richard's death – and now, quite unexpectedly, I had to tell this extremely sad tale. I was not prepared for the gruesome task at hand: the recounting of my brother's final few months of life.

The greatest difficulty I have discussing my brother's death is when I get a totally out-of-the-blue question about his status/death from someone from whom I might not be anticipating such a query. (Cheryl, my brother's Dir. Of Operations had sent out a mass email to his clients alerting one and all to Richard's passing – and of course, there was an obituary in the Washington Post.) This was that exact situation. I tried to compose myself as I slowly began the story of Richard's month's long hospitalization, his cancer, his surgery, his two weeks in a rehab hospital, and finally his return home and ultimate death on Dec. 3rd. And as I continued to detail his last few months; my voice cracked, my eyes watered, and I began to cry – controllably, all the while sharing some of the facts and feelings with these clients. Clients of Richard's who I knew he had known going back 25 years. I tried to be as open and honest as possible about what had happened to Richard. I knew he would expect nothing less from me when talking with his clients. It wasn't easy – for either of us. They were shocked and saddened to hear of Richard's death. Apparently, they never received – or overlooked, the mass email that Cheryl had sent.

Here I thought I was a big shot; having handled/assimilated my brother's death as responsibly and maturely as one would hope. But the first time that I had to – unexpectedly, answer questions concerning his death, the three and half months preceding it and the story of how Vanessa found Richard on the floor that final morning and then called 911, I crumbled. Maybe that's why I whiffed acknowledging July 16th, his initial hospitalization in ICU, and all the surrounding circumstances. It's still too hard for me. (As the old joke says: "When God made him, they broke the mold: You should see what they did to the mold maker.") There will never be another like him.

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



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