

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 19, 2023



These signs recently popped up along the route.



At the park, the sidewalk highlights were the topic.

Newington Group Highlights the Need for a Sidewalk

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Elected officials come out to see the need firsthand.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

The sidewalk idea along Newington Road took another step on Sunday, Oct. 15 when the Newington residents, Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck (D), Delegate Mark Sickles (D-43) and Delegate Kathy Tran (D-42) gathered at Levelle Dupell Park to discuss the issue. It was called “Newington Road Walkability Day,” and they want to see the venue along Newington Road become more walkable.

The walk went great, according

to Greg Lyon, one of the organizers and residents along Newington Road. Along with the elected officials, an aide from Chairman McKay’s office took part. There were about 30 or 40 neighbors total.

“Supervisor Storck reiterated that the sidewalk is the top priority in the District,” Lyon said.

There is a survey going around to see what others think about the sidewalk option. Once the survey period closes and all data is analyzed the county will figure out how to allocate funding that is available. Storck is part of the team that allocates that funding.



The group heads off towards Telegraph Road.

Sandburg MS Swatting Incident

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck was notified on Oct. 16 by the Mount Vernon District Police Captain of an incident at Sandburg Middle School on Fort Hunt Road.

Police responded as if there was an active shooter at the school in response to a swatting call. There was no active threat at the school. Fairfax County Police arrived immediately and the school was placed on lockdown. Officers remained on the scene and identified the students involved in the incident.

Swatting is the deliberate and malicious act of reporting a false crime or emergency to evoke an aggressive response (often a SWAT team) from a law enforcement agency to a target location, sometimes a residence or place of work.

Swatting deceives an emergency service provider into sending a police and emergency service response team to an address due to the false reporting of a serious law enforcement emergency, according to the

FBI.

The FBI reports that traditionally, law enforcement has seen swatters directing their actions toward individuals and residences, but increasingly, the FBI report that it sees swatters targeting public places such as airports, schools, and businesses.

These calls are dangerous to first responders and to the victims. The callers often tell tales of hostages. “The community is placed in danger as responders rush to the scene, taking them away from real emergencies, and the officers are placed in danger as unsuspecting residents may try to defend themselves,” the FBI said in a post. If you receive a swatting threat or information that an individual is planning to engage in swatting, report it to local law enforcement and the FBI.

Storck said, “Parents, please talk to your children about the dangers of making prank calls about our schools and other public infrastructure. This is a crime and is subject to prosecution.”

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH



Halloween Around Mount Vernon

Some really scary stuff is popping up around Mount Vernon for Halloween.

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Old Town | \$1,795,000

This striking, award-winning, historic home has been meticulously restored and is ready for its next steward. Sited on an expansive corner lot, 325 Queen Street offers exquisite interiors, a breathtaking garden, and a charming detached garage. 325 Queen Street
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



OPEN SUN 10/21, 1-4

Alexandria | \$1,350,000

This 5-bedroom, 3/1-bath home is a dazzling custom-built traditional – one of a kind! The unique lot provides a whole new level of suburban privacy with access to beautiful backyard forestry, including a meadow and creek. 4427 Brookside Drive
Jillian Hogan Homes 703.951.7655
www.JillianHoganHomes.com



Old Town Village | \$1,098,500

Gorgeous brick corner townhouse with abundant natural light and coveted garage parking just a short stroll to King St Metro offers over 2,100 SF of all above grade living space featuring elegant open living/dining layout, eat-in kitchen and sunny deck. 1118 Duke St
Meiling Yang 703.944.8403
www.MyTopAgent.com



OPEN SAT 10/21, 1-3 & SUN 10/22, 2-4

Belle Haven | \$1,065,000

Putting Green Included! This expansive home is dazzling with its white kitchen and gleaming hardwood floors. With a rare true 6 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 3 fireplaces, and a garage – there is room for everyone and everything! 2330 Windsor Road
Janet Catterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



OPEN SAT 10/21 & SUN 10/22, 2-4

Hollin Hills | \$1,025,000

Beautifully updated home with carport has two additions including a second floor primary suite with sitting room & skylit modern bath. Open, expanded kitchen, family room, 2 additional bedrooms, and 2 full baths. Tranquil deck with koi pond. 1939 Marthas Rd
Jodie Burns 571.228.5790
www.JodieBurns.com



Cameron Heights | \$650,000

This charming, move-in ready rambler has been freshly painted with newly refinished floors. Spacious family room addition with large windows and vaulted ceiling. Finished lower level with kitchenette, lots of storage, full bath, and laundry room. 180 Cambridge Rd
Joan Caton Cromwell 202.441.8912
www.JoanCromwell.com



OPEN SAT 10/21, 1-3

Nethergate \$799,900

Charming 4-level townhome in North Old Town offers 2 bedrooms, 2/1 baths, and a wealth of modern amenities. From the living room with a private brick patio, to the kitchen with pantry, it's the perfect blend of comfort and functionality. Walk to an array of dining options & Mt Vernon Trail. 1214 W Abingdon Dr

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com

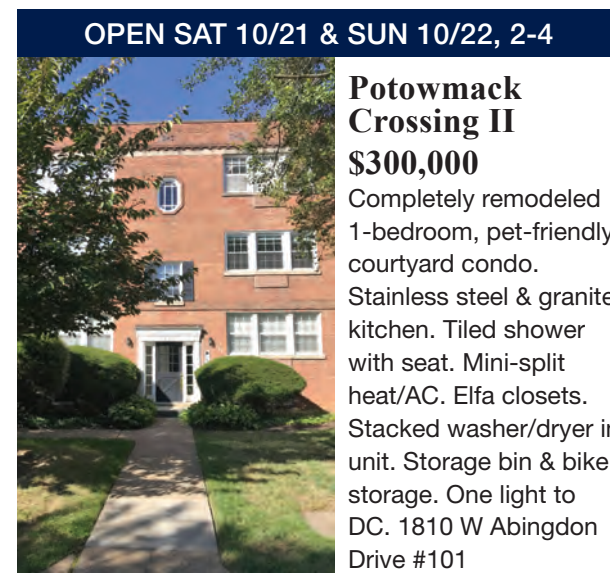


OPEN SUN 10/22, 2-4

Stafford \$379,900

Stunning 4-bedroom, 3/1-bath townhome with more than \$75K in thoughtful recent updates! The kitchen has been transformed with a modern design. Living room with fireplace opens to the rear deck. Finished lower level with luxury vinyl floor & full bath! 503 Mews Court

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www.ThePeeleGroup.biz



OPEN SAT 10/21 & SUN 10/22, 2-4

Potowmack Crossing II \$300,000

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Barbara Cousens 703.966.4180
www.BarbaraCousens.com

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Chairman-Board of Supervisors

Two candidates are on the ballot for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; vote for one. Candidates were asked to provide a short bio and share a story of their interaction with a voter that led them to a commitment to take action, with a tight word limit. Candidates are printed here in the order they appear on the ballot.

Envisioned and compiled by Mercia Hobson.

For information on how and where to vote, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

More than 22,000 Fairfax County voters have already voted, out of more than 700,000 active voters on the rolls.

Arthur G. Purves (R)

Arthur G. Purves (R) grew up in Washington, D.C., and has a BA, MS, and MBA from the University of Pennsylvania. He retired after 40 years as a computer programmer.



Arthur G. Purves (R)

He and his late wife, Carol, moved to Vienna in 1976. They had two children, who attended Fairfax County Public Schools in grades K-12, and eight grandchildren. He was president of the Marshall High School lacrosse and Thomas Jefferson High School crew boosters. For 26 years, he has been president of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance. Arthur was Scoutmaster for a small Latino troop, helped a refugee family with asylum applications, was treasurer for the Fairfax Committee of 100, and served on the 2014 Fairfax County Meals Tax Task Force and the schools' Family Life Education Advisory Committee.

Response: Years ago, I reached out to a gay activist whom I had opposed and with whom I've since been able to discuss LGBTQ issues, including the role of parents and schools in respecting transgender children. This is important to me because, in my 40-year career as a computer programmer, I worked with two transgender women, one for six years. Both were conscientious and capable.

Parents should have an open line of communication with their children, assuring them of unconditional love. Create a climate in the home where an LGBTQ child can feel

safe coming out to their parents. That way, schools don't have to get involved and can focus on academics.

In the 1990s, I would have accused a child of making the wrong choice. It took me decades to conclude that people can be born LGBTQ. If only one percent of Fairfax County Public Schools students are LGBTQ, that's still about 1,800. Rather than using punishment, the school board should help parents like me understand that, for many, it is not a choice. www.VOTEPURVES.ORG

Jeffrey C. McKay (D), incumbent

Jeffrey C. McKay (D). Age: 48; James Madison University; Franconia District Supervisor, 2007-2019; Chairman since 2020



Chairman
Jeff McKay (D)

Response: I am thrilled to be running for another term as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. We have been able to accomplish so much in four years, despite all that happened, including a global pandemic.

Since I became Chairman, we have built our environmental office from an office of 1 person to a team of 16. We have instituted a Zero Waste program, adopted an Environmental Vision, pledged carbon neutrality by 2040 for County operations, and launched CECAP - the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan. We have doubled the affordable housing goal and have 4,000 units in the pipeline or built just since the Board took office.

We were once again found to be the safest jurisdiction of our size in the country by the Major Cities Chiefs Association (which uses real data from police departments in 70 large localities).

We have instituted meaningful policing modernizations and are setting records for recruiting classes, both in number and diversity.

We have made strong investments in mental health, especially in our youth, and are seeing results including in the most recent Youth Survey. There's more work to be done on all these issues, and I trust the voters of Fairfax County to choose experienced, tested leadership to keep moving forward. WWW.MCKAYFORCHAIRMAN.COM

Additional Affordable Housing Funding for Veterans

The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) is receiving more affordable housing funding specifically for veterans according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Twenty additional HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-

VASH) vouchers were awarded to FCRHA, increasing the total number of local vouchers available to 183. These vouchers provide veterans experiencing homelessness with affordable housing and supportive services. The additional HUD-VASH vouchers will become available on April 1, 2024.

"Thousands of veterans live in Fairfax County, but some live with-

out stable housing, with food insecurity, and suffering from health issues. That is why the additional VASH vouchers are so important, as this program goes beyond housing services to really help veterans get back into a stable life," said Lenore Stanton, Chair, Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

HUD and VA awarded a total of \$16.1 million of HUD-VASH vouch-

ers to 71 public housing authorities across the country. The program combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

At the time of the award, HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge commented, "These vouchers will help us get homeless veterans and their families off the streets and into

affordable housing. This investment represents our commitment to making veteran homelessness a thing of the past."

Veterans are referred to the Fairfax County program through the VA. Anyone who is homeless and in need of housing can call Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning at 703-222-0880 to get connected to emergency housing.

\$100 Million in Infrastructure Funds for VRE

The Federal Railroad Administration announced recently that it will advance more than \$1.4 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for 70 rail improvement projects in 35 states and Washington, D.C.

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority will receive up to \$100 million to design and build the Franconia-Springfield Bypass, a critical bridge that will alleviate congestion on one of busiest railways in Virginia.

In the meantime, the comment period for a proposed increase to Virginia Railway Express (VRE) fares, and other components of the rail service's preliminary fiscal year 2025 budget (<https://bit.ly/3Qa0N1T>), is open and runs through 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

VRE's draft FY 2025 operating budget totals \$119.9 million, which includes operations, maintenance, and existing debt service. This is an increase of \$11 million or 10 percent over the approved FY 2024 operating budget. The budget includes increases to fares of 5 percent and the jurisdictional sub-

sidy of 14 percent. VRE's last broad-based fare increase was 3 percent in FY 2020.

The proposed budget provides for the first-ever operation of VRE weekend service. It also includes proposals to allow children 18 and under to ride free, make permanent the current \$5 fare for travel between zones 1, 2 and 3, and simplify fare payment.

Individuals interested in providing comment may do so at the in-person public hearing on Oct. 26 in Fredericksburg, or via mail, email, telephone or fax. Public hearings are scheduled for:

Thursday, Oct. 26 from 6-7 p.m., Fredericksburg City Hall (walking distance from VRE's Fredericksburg station), 715 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dates for two other in person hearings have passed.

A virtual public presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 12-1 p.m. via VRE's YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/3PQDCcv>)

The VRE Operations Board will vote to refer the FY 2025 budget to the rail service's

two parent commissions on Friday, Dec. 15. The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission's boards will vote to adopt the proposed budget at their January 2024 meetings. If the budget as currently proposed is approved, a 5 percent fare increase would take effect Monday, July 1, 2024. The inauguration of weekend service would be dependent on agreements to be worked out with VRE's three host railroads.

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.

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

VRE connects Central and Northern Virginia with the District of Columbia. Additional information is available at www.vre.org.

Public comment may also be provided by: Mail
VRE FY 2025 Budget Public Comment
1500 King Street, Suite 202
Alexandria, VA 22314
Email: publiccomment@vre.org
Telephone: 540-524-2662
Fax: 703-684-1313

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6

Fired Fairfax Officer Indicted By a Special Grand Jury

Faces charges of manslaughter and reckless discharge of a weapon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Last week special grand jury indicted former Fairfax County police officer Wayne Shifflitt on felony charges for involuntary manslaughter and reckless discharge of a weapon for the fatal shooting of Timothy Johnson in February. Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano requested to empanel the special grand jury after a regular grand jury declined to indict Shifflitt. A judge approved empanelling the special grand jury.

Only once in the department's history, in 2015, has a police officer been charged for killing someone while on duty. That incident was the 2013 police shooting by Adam D. Torres of John B. Geer, an unarmed man, as he stood in the doorway to his own Springfield home. Torres agreed to a plea deal to involuntary manslaughter and a 12-month sentence.

Descano did so because, on April 17, a grand jury declined to indict Shifflitt after he fatally shot an unarmed shoplifting suspect during a nighttime foot pursuit outside of Tysons Corner Center on Feb. 22.

At that time, Descano said, "Since, by law, no prosecutors were permitted to be present in the room when the investigating officers made their presentation to the grand jury, I can't say for sure what information was conveyed to the grand jurors."

What happened on Feb. 22 casts a shadow over the county's lack of a foot pursuit policy and why deescalation and decision-making training (ICAT) was delayed.

Dimly lit police body-worn camera video of the Feb. 22 incident, released by Chief Kevin Davis on March 23, shows two Fairfax Police officers, later identified as Sgt. Wesley Shifflitt and Officer James Sadler, responding to suspected shoplifting of sunglasses. They chase a suspect later identified as Johnson, in a foot pursuit out of Tysons Corner Center mall to a parking garage, down a stairwell, through the garage, and toward Rt. 7, heading into a small wooded area.

An officer can be heard saying, "Get on the ground," four times, and "Stop reaching," twice. The officers discharge their firearms; gunfire pops can be heard. Johnson is struck in the chest once, and restrained.

Johnson says: "I'm not reaching for nothing. I have nothing. ... I'm shot, man. Hurry."

Other officers rendered aid until Fairfax County Fire and Rescue arrived. Johnson is taken to a nearby hospital and pronounced dead.

Immediately after the shooting, as seen on the police body cam, Shifflitt tells another officer (4:41), "He didn't get any rounds off... I don't know if he was armed; he was continually reaching in his waistband. ...



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE
Melissa Johnson, Timothy Johnson's mother, at the NAACP Justice Rally outside the Fairfax County Government Center on Saturday morning, April 1: "He was our son, and he was loved."

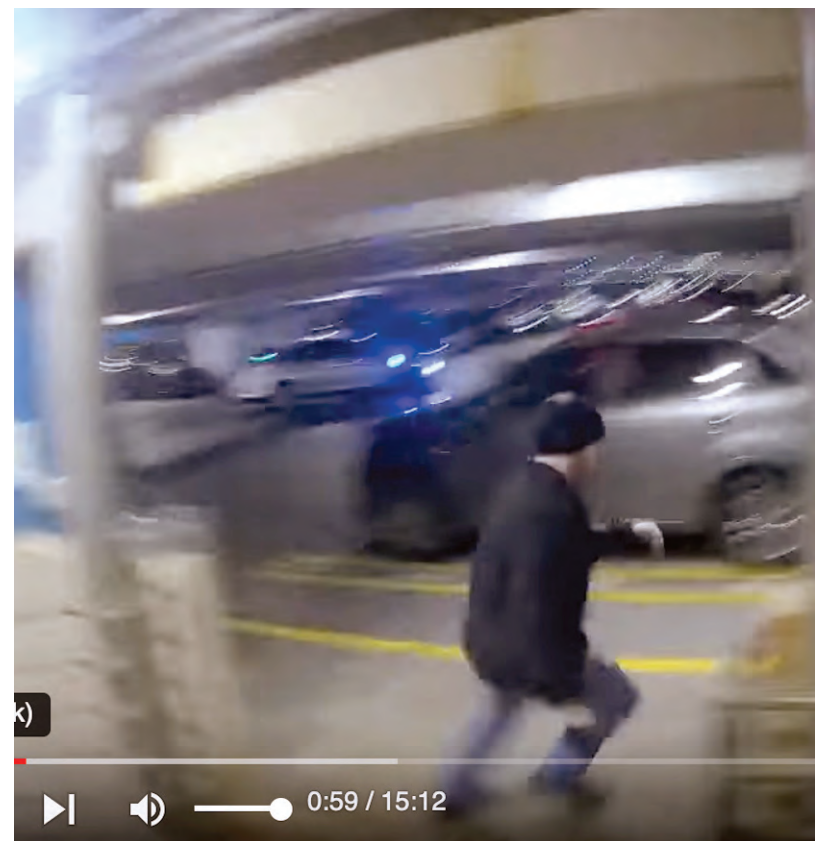


Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano

(8:30) I was to the right of the suspect. ...
(8:35) I recall shooting two rounds ... like into the woods."

DESCANO SAID in his Oct. 12 post that a court date for Shifflitt will be set on Friday, Oct. 20. "As the elected head of Fairfax County's justice system, my primary goal is to keep this community safe, and I have the utmost respect for the police officers throughout Fairfax County who work tirelessly to protect our community," Descano posted. He cautioned, "A criminal indictment is an accusation, and defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty."

Looking back over the related events and recommendations, on March 23, nearly a month after the fatal shooting of Johnson, Chief Kevin Davis held a press conference and released the Feb. 22, 2023 body-worn camera footage from the police shooting in-



SCREENSHOT
Timothy Johnson, suspected of shoplifting sunglasses at Tysons Corner Nordstrom, flees from Fairfax County Police officers as seen in the police body worn camera footage taken Feb. 22, 2023.

cident. Davis also confirmed that the officer who discharged the fatal wound, Shifflitt, was fired. Asked why the officer was no longer with the department, Davis said that the officer's actions did "not comport with our general orders, our policies, and our procedures ... and in particular, use of force."

Davis referred to the Police Executive Research Forum's (PERF) pending recommendations on police shooting incidents and how they might influence future law enforcement strategies in the county. Davis said that PERF [Police Executive Reform Research Forum], "the nation's leading think-tank of American policing," would "assess the last couple of years of the department's officer-involved shootings."

PERF's involvement, requested by FCPD, came after a sharp uptick in police shooting incidents here.

"We're eager to continue working with PERF, and to consider all those recommendations, and continue to get better," Davis said.

According to Davis, PERF would independently look at the circumstances — "every condition you can imagine associated with officer-involved shootings" — to see what PERF could recommend to the department.

"Because they're the pros, they're the professionals," Davis said, referring to PERF. Davis clarified that PERF would not "directly" look at the Johnson police-involved shooting.

As of Feb. 22, 2023, Fairfax County Police had yet to implement ICAT [Integrating, Communications, Assessment, and Tactics] training for its sworn officers, despite receiving recommendations to do so in 2021. Training had been postponed to the spring

of 2023. Neither had a foot pursuit policy been adopted.

The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) developed the ICAT de-escalation training program to guide officers in defusing critical incidents.

IN A RESEARCH PROJECT on an investigation of the use of forces by the Fairfax County Police Department supported through an agreement between Fairfax County Office of the Independent Police Auditor and the University of Texas at San Antonio, June 2021, the authors called for the Fairfax Police Department to "consider adoption of Integrating Communication Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) training, developed by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), to supplement the de-escalation training currently provided. This 16-hour training is the only police de-escalation training supported by empirical evidence demonstrating reductions in police use of force."

PERF cited in its Fairfax County Police Department's April 2023 Review of Issues Surrounding Recent Police Shooting Incidents that 2022 FCPD recognized the need for ICAT training.

PERF said in its April Review 2023 that the February 22, 2023 police shooting-incident is an example of an incident where proportionality and better critical thinking could have affected the outcome. "A clear concept of proportionality and use of the CDM [Critical Decision-Making Model] may have led the officer to think through other available options from the start and may have inspired a different response," opined PERF in the report.

NEWS

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, Nov. 11-18

Hunger and homelessness growing in Fairfax County.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At the Oct. 10 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board emphasized that the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger designate the week before Thanksgiving as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

“As we approach Thanksgiving and other winter holidays, many families around Fairfax County and across the country will gather and celebrate with their loved ones.

Unfortunately, there are those who will not be able to share the pleasures of this joyful season due to the realities of food insecurity and homelessness,” Supervisor John Foust (Dranesville) said. He added that despite significant efforts by the county and numerous nonprofits and faith-based organi-

zations, many county residents do not have adequate food resources.

Foust cited numbers by Feeding America, the largest hunger relief organization in the United States, which has produced estimates for Fairfax County. Their map, the Meal Gap Report, estimated that in 2021, over 60,000 people in Fairfax County faced food insecurity.

Growing Homelessness


Similarly, according to Foust, Fairfax County has not avoided the humanitarian challenges caused by homelessness every year. The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness partners with several nonprofits to conduct a Point-in-Time Count of those experiencing homelessness throughout the county.

The January 2023 account reported a 10 percent increase in the overall number of people experi-

SEE HUNGER, PAGE 7

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Est. 1958



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CIVIL WAR

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Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, Rt. 50, Fairfax, VA

Admission, \$5 Per Person

Vendors Welcome

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Appropriations Committee Meeting News

Revenue is exceeding predictions; will there be a recession?

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

On Monday, I traveled to Richmond for the October Appropriations Committee meeting to hear an update on Virginia's budget forecast from Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. This meeting was a special one, as it was the first ever to be conducted in the brand-new General Assembly Building, which had its grand opening last week. In this new building, the House Appropriations Committee has our very own state-of-the-art, modern committee hearing room.

Overall, the Commonwealth remains in a good financial position. September completed the first quarter of fiscal year 2024, and revenues were ahead of projections by more than \$400 million, and all major revenue sources are meeting or exceeding expectations. This economic resilience is primarily attributed to higher non-withholding revenues.

There are worries that a recession may occur sometime in the next 6-12 months, however, the

current budget has accounted for that possibility and we are prepared accordingly. The current revenue forecast built into the budget assumed a 20% decline in revenue. More revenue information will become available in December after the November deadline for income tax extension filers and the necessary tax refunds are calculated. September is also the most significant month for corporate income tax collections. Corporate income tax revenues are up 18.7% over the last fiscal year.

To date, the US economy has also shown much resilience. Second quarter real gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 2.1%. Third quarter GDP growth, which will be released on October 26th, is currently estimated at an additional two percent growth. In addition, while long-term trends suggest a cooling labor market, September showed a surge in employment. US employers added 336,000 jobs in September, mostly in leisure



Krizek

and hospitality and government. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August remained unchanged at 2.5%, and the labor participation rate held steady at 66.7%. The current GDP estimates and "hot" September jobs report increase the likelihood of a federal rate hike by year's end.

The current factors that will need to be monitored in the coming months include the threats of an impending federal government shutdown, which was narrowly avoided a few weeks ago, escalating conflict in the Middle East or Ukraine which may impact energy prices going forward, and high interest rates that will impact the housing market and consumer spending.

The Virginia economy is growing more strongly than expected in the official budget forecast. Overall, the budget, crafted to conservatively measure revenues has served the Commonwealth well and prepared us for excellent

financial health in an uncertain year. But, inflation pressures still persist, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rising 0.4% in September, and remaining up 3.7% from last year.

In December, Gov. Glenn Youngkin will present his FY 2025-2026 budget to the Joint Money Committees, his first budget as Governor. To combat the rising cost of living, Virginia's amended budget recently incorporated an additional \$1 billion in tax relief. However, it is important to recognize that this tax relief was a necessary measure to support families, veterans, and workers in the short term, but it should not set a precedent for further tax cuts. While the September figures show a remarkable increase, it is imperative not to lose sight of the bigger picture. To ensure fiscal responsibility and safeguard against potential economic uncertainties, the new budget's focus should be on sustaining the economic well-being of the Commonwealth, including more for education and the environment, and addressing pressing issues such as inflation and geopolitical instability.

Halloween Rides by SoberRide

A local nonprofit organization will offer free safe rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this month's Halloween celebration.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2023 Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 and operate until

4:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 29th as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones then enter the SoberRide code in the app's 'Payment' tab (under the 'Add Lyft Pass' option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15)

safe transportation home. WRAP's 2023 Halloween SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 on www.SoberRide.com.

WRAP also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the winter holidays through and including New Year's.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2023 Halloween SoberRide campaign in-

clude 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 86,805 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

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, vegetables, cheese and more
Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods
WeGrow - Microgreens.
All of the items sold at the market

are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. The McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon market is one of 10 farmers markets run by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA); for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

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.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 8

Civil War Show

Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Bud Mayo and Don Hakenson will be sponsoring the Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show. Admission is \$5 and vendors are welcome. SCV members receive a table discount. Contact Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net or 703-971-4984, or contact Bud Mayo at mayo5304@cox.net, or 703-389-1505.

Hunger and Homelessness Growing in Fairfax County

FROM PAGE 5

encing homelessness compared to the previous year.

“An extremely distressing finding of that was the count showed that the number of people and families with children experiencing homelessness increased by 33 percent,” Foust said.

Helping community members in greatest need of food and housing assistance necessitates a comprehensive and compassionate

approach involving collaboration between government agencies, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, and individual community members, Foust said.

“We’re fortunate to live in a county that cares. The more we are aware of the challenges of food insecurity and homelessness, the more likely we are to come together to address how we solve those challenges,” Foust said.

The Board of Supervisors approved Foust’s

motion to have staff prepare a proclamation declaring the week of Nov. 11 to Nov. 18 Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Fairfax County, to be presented at the board’s Oct. 24 meeting. The presentation will be open to county employees and community members who work to address the issues of hunger and homelessness in Fairfax County.

The Embry Rucker Community Shelter, a residential shelter with 70 beds in Reston,

continues to see an increase in the number of families referred to Cornerstones for assistance. From January 2023 to September 2023, according to Maura Williams, vice president of Housing and Community Services at Cornerstones, there has been a 21 percent increase.

“We currently have 24 families in overflow shelter situations, meaning we’ve had to locate them somewhere else outside of the Embry Rucker Shelter.”

SCHOOL BOARD



Kevin Pinkney

Franconia District

Putting Education, Families, and Teachers First

- ✓ **Spend wisely.** Schools are funded by hardworking families and businesses in our community. Redirect funds to classrooms and reduce backoffice spending.
- ✓ **Restore commonsense discipline.** Schools must be safe. We should expect good behavior of all students. Safer classrooms help retain good teachers.
- ✓ **Respect parents.** Parents have right to instill and nurture values and beliefs in their own children and to make decisions consistent with their customs and faith.



Paid for by Friends of Kevin Pinkney

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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 Stateid	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
RUSSELL	16424	624	DRILL ROAD	LEWIS CREEK	9/14/2023
HALIFAX	9250	639	ROCK BARN ROAD	BUFFALO CREEK	9/1/2023
MECKLENBURG	11980	635	SAFFOLD ROAD	MEHERRIN RIVER	9/1/2023

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.

Cutting Vehicle Pollution Is Key to Curbing Climate Change



Cosponsoring organizations offered materials to attendees.



One panel discussed "clean" transportation options. From left, Kate Daley, Jeffrey Jacobs, Kevin Romance and Kate Mattice.



Supervisor James Walkinshaw focused on tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He did not want a "doom and gloom conference," he said.



John Morrill with Fairfax County's Office of Environment and Energy Coordination, discussed clean energy and energy efficiency options.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Part 2 on the Sept. 30 Climate Action Conference, organized by Supervisor James Walkinshaw. Part 1 was published in the Oct. 12 issue.

Information

Transit options, www.novarides.org
Tax credits, www.fueleconomy.gov
Clean energy, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/>

Driving less and driving lower-polluting vehicles are keys to reducing the greenhouse gases that are warming the planet and Fairfax County, attendees learned at the Sept. 30 Climate Action Conference, organized by Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw.

But cutting these emissions will be uphill. Fairfax County and most suburbs were designed to be car-centric, from commuting to grocery shopping to driving kids to school.

Transportation emissions are 42 percent of all carbon emissions in the county, according to the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' inventory puts transportation's share of Fairfax County's greenhouse gas emissions at 43 percent.

Another sobering fact: "Personal vehicles are the country's largest source of transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions," reports the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

Fairfax County's Goals

Fairfax County has set two long-term goals. The first is to achieve energy carbon neutrality in local government operations, like buildings and vehicles, by 2040. The county's operations are only three to five percent of overall greenhouse gas emissions, noted Andrea McGimsey with the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS).

The second is the community-wide goal of carbon neutrality from all sources by 2050, with at least an 87 percent reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions compared with 2005 levels.

Katy Daley with the county's Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination said that reaching the 2050, community-wide, carbon neutral goal will require increasing non-motorized transportation by 2030.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay called climate change a "crisis situation" and urged everyone to "be the messenger."

"We need the community talking to the community," he said, "not the government talking to the community."

A Multi-faceted Problem

Speakers explored topics like energy audits, home energy efficiency, solar power and clean energy tax incentives.

Fairfax County's community climate action plan seeks "to reduce emissions from private vehicles, as well as traffic congestion, by expanding public and private mobility options that can decrease private vehicle use," it says. "The strategy relies on significant improvements in biking, walking and transit infrastructure that makes a non-car dependent lifestyle a viable, convenient and safe alternative to driving.

Walkinshaw highlighted the county's first all-electric trash truck which produces zero emissions and eliminates fuel costs. The county is piloting eight battery-electric Fairfax Connector buses. Congressman Gerry Connolly, a former Board of Supervisors member and chair, touted bicycle trails that he expanded. He voted for major bills in the House of Representatives to incentivize less-polluting energy, he said.

Public transit can reduce emissions by 45 percent compared to cars, Kate Mattice, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's Executive Director, offered, but most public transit options are organized for commuting.

Electric vehicle (EV) advocates argue that EVs pollute less than traditional gas-powered, internal combustion engines. "All-electric vehicles produce zero tailpipe emissions and PHEVs (plug-in hybrid electric vehicles) produce no tailpipe emissions when operating in all-electric mode," according to the U.S. Department of Energy's website.

Fairfax County has nearly 200 publicly available EV charging stations, according to County flyers. Jeffrey Jacobs with the Electric Vehicle Association of Greater Washington recommended "Charge Up Fairfax," which helps homeowner and condominium associations access EV charging. His organization's materials show electric car costs ranging from \$26,500 to \$200,000 and the average U.S. gasoline car at \$48,000.

Kevin Romance, Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, said that biking does not just have to be a "singular exercise of going to Metro." His volunteer organization supported the Board of Supervisors' adoption of a bicycle master plan. McGimsey maintained, "The faith community can have an outsized influence." FACS promotes EV charging for churches, synagogues and mosques and urges faith communities to advocate for walking, bicycling and public transit systems. She views climate change as a "moral challenge" and urged people to persuade elected officials to enact stronger policies.

Reducing greenhouse gases from vehicles is challenging. Fairfax County is a "very car-dependent county," Daley offered.



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck (D).



Christopher Morgan (I).



Richard Hayden (R).

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Challengers Line Up for Mount Vernon Supervisor's Race

Supervisor Storck faces a Republican and Independent candidates.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

In the Mount Vernon District there is a main artery called Richmond Highway which caters to a majority of the population, businesses and government; the road can illustrate the supervisor's role, pulled in many directions.

Dan Storck (D) is the incumbent Mount Vernon Supervisor with years of experience and accomplishments along the way, especially along Richmond Highway. Challengers are Christopher Morgan, an independent who wants to control taxes and spending, and Richard Hayden, a Republican and long-time resident of Mount Vernon who wants to look at school spending and what he says is the increasing crime rate.

Dan Storck (D) incumbent, Mount Vernon Supervisor

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck was first elected in 2015 and has been elevating the Mount Vernon District with amenities and programs aimed at all facets of the population. Projects he's been behind include affordable housing, the reuse plans for the old Mount Vernon High School, Mount Vernon Rec Center renovations, the Workhouse Arts Center and many improvements on the Mount Vernon Bike Trail, just

to name a few. Storck supports Embark Richmond Highway, a multi-faceted plan that involves a Bus Rapid Transit line going down a dedicated lane in the center of Richmond Highway, with modern buses called "The One."

Christopher Morgan, (I)

Christopher Morgan is an Army veteran who served with the 25th Infantry Division in Iraq and is currently the president of the Stratford Landing Citizens Association.

"I am concerned with the way things are trending and was so frustrated that I decided to step up and run for office," Morgan said.

Crime, panhandling and traffic are three of his concerns. There are nine county districts but one-third of all assaults in 2022 occurred in Mount Vernon, he said. He's talked to parents about the drugs in schools and what he heard was different than the information the school board released, he said. If elected "I will demand the school board offer transparency in all overdose-related incidents."

The school operating budget has gone up but not school performance, he said.

Morgan says he also wants to address high taxes. Property taxes have gone up but he points to "overspending."

To improve transportation, he would like to make rail a better option, clean up the roadsides on Richmond Highway and the GW Parkway and improve the on and off ramps for I-95.

Two things Morgan says he does not support: The proposed homeless shelter on Beacon Hill Road is not a project he supports. And he does not support a Bus Rapid Transit in the middle of Richmond Highway. "Such a project is expected to cost a billion dollars and would deliver bus lanes to nowhere, and at

the expense of car travel lanes," he said.

Richard Hayden (R)

Richard Hayden is the Republican challenger for the Mount Vernon District supervisor, and his platform includes improving the schools, reducing the cost of living and increasing public safety. In the past he's been involved with little league, the Boy Scouts and the Columbus Club, related to the Knights of Columbus.

Hayden wants to end the panhandling that goes on in Mount Vernon, increase affordable housing and further develop the commercial business in the area.

In the schools, he thinks the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic need to be stressed while taking the politics and ideology out of the classroom. Hiring additional police officers and cutting the tax rate so it offsets the rising assessments is another of his goals.

Heyden thinks the retention of the senior population in Mount Vernon is important so the area doesn't lose their wisdom, willingness to volunteer and their experience.

On the other end of the population spectrum, he supports giving children "the best education we can possibly give them in this, one of the wealthiest jurisdictions in the country," he said in his response to the questions.

"I also am an advocate and co-sponsor of the Great American Walk of Fame with my colleague Paul Beran in Franconia District, which will increase tourism and benefit local businesses as it traverses up and down the revitalized Route 1 corridor," he added.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

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

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during

the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day

training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact donaaldrea@aol.com. Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax

and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org. 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. Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship,

guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547. Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

MYSTERY

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



The concrete seems to be under a few inches of soil.



It's not clear what this concrete was. During the 1940s, the Bureau of Public Roads tested asphalt road surfaces at Huntley Meadows

Concrete Remnants Go Unexplained in Huntley Meadows Park

Just off the path, these appear to be part of an earlier structure.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Aaaah, the walk through Huntley Meadows park on a warm day in October reveals all the natural surroundings that make this wetlands park an ideal option to get away from the hustle and bustle. Wait a second, what is that? A sliver of man-made concrete peeking out of the ground disrupting this Garden of Eden? Is this a sign that Huntley Meadows is sitting on top of something not as natural as this wetlands park seems?

It turns out that a few things went on here as the farming in the immediate area died down. During the 1940s, the Bureau of Public Roads tested asphalt road surfaces

at the site and then the Virginia National Guard's Battery D, 125th Gun Battalion, used the land to provide anti-aircraft protection for the nation's capital during the 1950s, according to a Fairfax County historical summary.

Next, the U.S. Navy conducted highly classified radio communication research and there were tall towers on the current parkland. Fast forward a few years before the park was formed and the area was used as a training ground for the soldiers of Fort Belvoir. The land was conveyed to the park authority in 1975.

James Winkler grew up in Hayfield in a house bordering the woods before it was parkland, and he saw some military materials being used in that area. "I know firsthand that there used to be a military electrical transformer back there on the premises, not too far from the observation deck," he said. During thunderstorms in the 1970s, he saw fire trucks going back in the woods now part of the park, which may have been there for lightning strikes, but it is not clear why.



Plans for a road through the park years ago brings out protesters.

None of the "Friends of Huntley Meadows," could explain what these concrete remnants were either.

These 20th century events could have been the source of these concrete remnants,

more went on at this location. Before the Civil War, Thomson Francis Mason lived in a mansion here in 1825 that was his summer retreat. This house is located near the main entrance to Huntley Meadows Park on the Richmond Highway side. Historic Huntley is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

Over the years, Historic Huntley was used as a summer retreat, a grain farm, encampment for Civil War troops of the 3rd Michigan Infantry, and eventually was converted to a dairy farm. Ownership changed several times,

and in later years, after being abandoned, the house endured considerable vandalism, before the county acquired it in 1989.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows/history>

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The Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest Chambers in the metropolitan area representing more than 400 businesses in the eastern part of Fairfax County. The Chamber offers both businesses and nonprofits opportunities for networking, business development, community engagement, marketing and visibility within the community. View all of the benefits at www.mountvernon.springfield.com/member-benefits/.

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SCREENSHOT IMAGE VIA FCPD VIDEO

Image from dimly lit body worn camera footage released by Fairfax County Police Department. Police shot and killed Timothy Johnson on Feb. 22, 2023, outside Tysons Corner Center mall after chasing him on foot.

Fired Officer Indicted

FROM PAGE 4

Shooting Incident

According to Fairfax Police, “ICAT provides police officers with the tools, skills, and options they need to defuse a range of critical incidents successfully and safely. Developed ... with input from hundreds of police professionals from across the United States, ICAT takes the essential building blocks of crisis intervention, critical thinking, effective communications, and tactics and puts them together in an integrated approach to training. The training program is anchored by the Critical Decision-Making Model that helps officers assess situations, make safe and effective decisions, and document and learn from their actions.”

The CY 2023 Equity Impact Plan by “Leadership Sponsor Kevin Davis, Chief of Police, and Equity Lead Major James Kraus” reported that the Fairfax police department committed to spring of 2023 as to when its sworn officers would receive Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (iCAT) training. Fairfax County Police Department’s April 2023 Review of Issues Surrounding Recent Police

As for a foot pursuit policy, PERF cited in Section V. Foot Pursuits of its Fairfax County Police Department’s April 2023 Review of Issues Surrounding Recent Police Shooting Incidents: “Researchers noted in the previously referenced 2021 University of Texas at San Antonio report that: “[FCPD] should consider adopting a foot pursuit policy to help reduce force and injuries to officers and suspects. FCPD has yet to implement a foot pursuit policy [in 2023] PERF strongly advises the agency to do so.”

When Descano posted on Friday, October 13, that a special grand jury had indicted former Fairfax County police officer Wayne Shifflitt on felony charges of involuntary manslaughter and reckless discharge of a weapon, he closed by saying, “The work of public safety includes charging officers for crimes when such actions are legally warranted. After reviewing the evidence in this case, I believe that probable cause existed that Shifflitt committed a crime and that the entirety of the evidence should be put to a jury of community members.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

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/>

OCT. 2-29

Cascades Art Exhibition. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center (Gallery 311), 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Van Landingham Gallery presents a solo exhibition from Gregory Logan Dunn entitled Cascades, a collection of oil and acrylic paintings created during his studio residency at the Torpedo Factory this past year. Original paintings and print reproductions of the artist's work will be available for purchase.

OCT. 3 TO NOV. 13

"The Spirit Within" Exhibit. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Drive, Alexandria. Mosaic artist Nina Tisara and artist-photographer Steven Halperson will exhibit their art work in the Fireplace Art Alcove. MVUC members and friends are invited to an artists' reception on Sunday, November 12, 2:30 - 5 p.m. RSVP: ninat@ninatisara.com.

OCT. 6-28

The "Curses! Foiled Again! The Art of Swords and Sorcery" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that evokes the fantastic and swashbuckling. Opening Reception: Friday, October 6, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on October 29, 2023). Details on the art exhibit and related creative programs at DelRayArtisans.org/event/curses-foiled-again

OCT. 10 TO NOV. 19

"Reflection Unknown" Photography Exhibit by Fred Zafran. At Multiple



The Alexandria Fall Festival will take place on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023 at River Farm in Alexandria.

Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. Opening Reception: Sunday, October 22, 2023, 2 - 4 p.m. Fred Zafran has long been interested in photography as a distinctive means of storytelling. His work examines the artistic possibilities of photographs that combine the poetic with a representational view of the world. The resulting photo essays which Zafran calls "poetic narrative," are post-documentary in that the stories are open ended, subjective, rich in symbolism and metaphor, and encourage consideration and interpretation by the viewer.

OCT. 17-23

Fall Book Sale - At Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Fall Book Sale from Tuesday, October 17 through Monday, October 23. Members' Preview on Tuesday, October 17, 3 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, October 18, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 19, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, October 20, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, October 22, Half Price Day, 1-4:30 p.m.; Monday, October 23, \$10 Bag Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA; info: 703-746-1702; www.beatleyfriends.org.

OCT. 19, 26

Jane Franklin Dance Performance. 7 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance Performance in response to Temporary Public Art Installation "Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson" by Nina Cooke John. The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund its community Artist Residency Program. The Artist Residency Program integrates visual and performing artists in the

community to conduct interactive art engagements at the Waterfront Park public art initiative Site See. As part of the Artist Residency Program, Jane Franklin Dance was selected to bring interpretive movement pieces inspired by the artwork to the Waterfront Park.

FRIDAY/OCT. 20

Book Talk: Gen. David Petraeus and Andrew Roberts. 7 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Hear from General David Petraeus and acclaimed British biographer Andrew Roberts, authors of Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine. Two leading authorities—an acclaimed historian and the outstanding battlefield commander and strategist of our time—collaborate on a landmark examination of war since 1945. Conflict is both a sweeping history of the evolution of warfare up to Putin's invasion of the Ukraine, and a penetrating analysis of what we must learn from the past—and anticipate in the future—in order to navigate an increasingly perilous world. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions and have their books signed.

OCT. 21-22

Fall Harvest Festival. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At George Washington Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Attendees can explore the expansive farm, meet General Washington, view demonstrations of 18th-century cooking, candle-making, spinning, and textiles, play 18th-century games, navigate a straw bale maze, and more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Second Annual Chalk Walk. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On sidewalks throughout Old Town North. Old Town North becomes an outdoor art studio as the Old Town North Alliance hosts the second annual Chalk Walk. Artists will be creating sidewalk chalk artworks throughout Old Town North, stationed throughout the neighborhood in 10 by 10 spaces,

and will create new works of art in chalk. Attendees will be invited to stroll by each site and admire the artists at work or the finished work.

TUESDAYS, OCT. 24, 31

Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, Tuesdays @ 10. 10:00 - 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 the best uses for fallen leaves and other organic garden waste. Free.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Project Discovery Walkathon. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Fort Ward Park Amphitheater, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Anyone may attend. Visit www.alexandria.gov/projectdiscovery

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Lights Out - Halloween Party at the Cemetery 7 to 9:30 p.m. At Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria. Costume contest, games and prizes, haunted vault, cemetery tours. Register online - bit.ly/3Pwtbtt

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Carlyle Halloween Stampede. 2 to 6 p.m. At Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. The 3rd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede features all-day festive cocktails, signature party favors, costume contests, photo ops, giveaways and more. Guests can start the crawl and pick up their wristbands at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna's, Tequila and Taco or Lost Boy Cider. Costumes are recommended. There will be costume prizes for the most festively dressed participants. Visit eventbrite.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Tall Ship Providence Presents the Halloween Howl. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; tours 45 minutes to one hour. At Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center, 1A Prince St.,

Alexandria. Arrive in costume for some Halloween fun aboard tall ship Providence! Little ghosts and goblins will be taking over the floating maritime center as they rotate through stations of story time, crafts and activities then step aboard Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Visit tallshipprovidence.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Old Town Family Trick or Treat. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in the various shops and restaurants in Old Town along upper and lower King Street and select side streets. Visit oldtownbusiness.org for the starting point and map pick-up location.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Tall Ship Providence Presents "Ghost Ship Providence". 7 to 10 p.m. At Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. All aboard for an adults-only costume party! Cross the gangway (if you dare) for a hauntingly good time. DJ, open bar, food, costume contest and raffles will all take place at the floating heritage center and aboard Providence. Visit tallshipprovidence.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Old Town Doggie Trick or Treat. 1 to 5 p.m. At The Dog Park, 705 King Street, Alexandria. Bring your dog for a howling day of walking through Old Town and visiting participating merchants who will offer treats for your four-legged companion. Start at The Dog Park boutique, located at 705 King Street. For more information, visit www.oldtownbusiness.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2 p.m. Begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte Ave. Alexandria. One of Del Ray's favorite traditions, the annual Del Ray Halloween Parade, returns once again. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited

ENTERTAINMENT

to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb. For more information, including details on entering the house decorating contest, pet costume contest and stroller decorating contest, visit www.visitdelray.com.

MONDAY/OCT. 30

Halloween Tales at River Farm. 6-7 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Acclaimed local actor (and retired Arlington Judge) William T. Newsum Jr. joins Classical WETA's Nicole Lacroix and ghost storytellers Nikisha Kozik and Jimmy Meritt at River Farm to narrate suspenseful (and slightly spooky) passages from the Old Town Mystery book series by local author John Adam Wasowicz. You'll hear passages from Daingerfield Island set on Halloween night along the Potomac River and from Gadsby's Corner as The Female Stranger helps solve a crime that occurs on 'Mystery in the Museum' night at Gadsby's. Admission is free for children and adults.

NOV. 3-26

The Housemates exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Exhibit showcases art from Del Ray Artisans members celebrating the beings we live with. Housemates may have fur, feathers, fins, scales, or be human. Opening Reception: Friday, November 3, 7-9 p.m.. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on Thanksgiving Day). Plus bring in donations for cat and dog rescue groups. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/event/housemates

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

David Buskin with Heather Aubrey Lloyd. 7 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. David Buskin's songs and jingles have been recorded by many great artists; a sample: Judy Collins, Peter, Paul & Mary, Johnny Mathis, Astrud

Gilberto, Tom Rush, Dixie Carter, Roberta Flack, Mel Tormé, Take 6, Phoebe Snow, Richie Havens and Arlo Guthrie. He is a New York Nightlife Award, Bistro Award and Clio Award winner and tonight he's joined by local singer/songwriter Heather Aubrey Lloyd for a special night of "melodic, sensual pop, folkie grit and killer wit". Visit www.focusmusic.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

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/NOV. 5

Alexandria Fall Festival. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Dr. in Alexandria. Food trucks, pony rides, magic shows, beer garden, bounce houses and more. A lineup of local culinary favorites will be in attendance including Goodies Frozen Custard & Treats, Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company, Port City Brewing Co., Lost Boy Cider, Paradise Springs Winery, DC Slices, Big Boy Tacos, A.M. Kettle, The Little Well, Mi-laap Chai, Taste of Asia and F.T. Valley Farm at Mont Medi. Expect all your fall favorites — from kettle corn and hot chocolate to apple treats and much more! There will be plenty of family-friendly fun at River Farm — two magic shows from The Great Zucchini, caricature drawings from Capital Artworks, face painting from Sunrise Face Painting, pony rides and petting zoo from Mary's Go Round Petting Zoo, Big Country Amusements bounce houses, Something Vintage lawn games and more! Visit alexandriafallfestival.com.

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Volunteer to help: Email [Deb Oelschlager SFPdonate@gmail.com](mailto:Deb.Oelschlager@SFPdonate@gmail.com)

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GENERAC



BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 9

volunteer opportunities. RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety of service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Gum Springs Senior Program in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs Instructors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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Inova Health System opened the Inova Cares Clinic for Families (ICCF) on Hinson Farm Road, in Mount Vernon last week.

Back Row: Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District and Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Franconia District. Front Row: Dr. Sage Bolte, Chief Philanthropy Officer and President of the Inova Health Foundation; Kathryn Falk, Vice president, Cox Communications Inc.; Karen Berube, Chief, Community Health and Health Equity; SVP, Inova; J. Stephen Jones, MD, FACS President and CEO, Inova Health System; Colleen Langer, Executive Vice President, Chief Operations Officer, Cox Communications; Dr. Alquieta Brown, Vice President, Nursing for Inova Behavioral Health Services; Chief Nursing Officer, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital; Del. Mark D. Sickles, (D-43); Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon District representative to the Fairfax County School Board; Deron Campbell, Director Community Health Programs, Population/Community Health Services, Inova.

Inova Cares Clinic For Families Opens In Mount Vernon

Inova Health System celebrated the grand opening of the Inova Cares Clinic for Families (ICCF) located at 8101 Hinson Farm Road, in the Mt. Vernon region of Alexandria.

ICCF has had significant growth over the last decade, providing primary healthcare for families who are un- or underinsured across its seven community locations. Funding for ICCF was made possible in part thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the James M. Cox Foundation, as well as other donors. The foundation is the charitable arm of Cox Enterprises, parent company of Cox Communications, and named after the company's founder.

Inova also celebrated the opening of the Inova Juniper Program (IJP) at this location. For more than 30 years, IJP has provided care for people living with HIV throughout Northern Virginia. Funding for IJP was provided by additional donors.

"Inova is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in healthcare to provide better outcomes," said J. Stephen Jones, MD, President and CEO, Inova. "Ensuring healthcare is accessible

to everyone anywhere within Northern Virginia can have a significant impact on the health of the communities we serve."

"Our Mount Vernon Community Health Needs Assessment clearly identified healthcare access as a top Mount Vernon community health issue," said Karen Berube, Chief, Community Health and Health Equity, SVP, Inova. "We understand families face challenges meeting social and healthcare needs. With this grand opening, we are partnering with our neighbors to create a medical home in the community to address healthcare needs and foster long-term wellbeing."

ICCF/IJP Mount Vernon provides comprehensive primary care services including sick and well visits, physicals, nurse case management, education and counseling for disease prevention, psychosocial support and care coordination. Inova Cares Clinics are strategically located in the communities they serve, often sharing space with other safety net programs.

Access Inova Cares Clinic for Families, Inova Juniper Program and Inova Health Foundation for more information.

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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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Couch The Entire Meal



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I just got my dog's refrigerated food delivered – for the first time. Multiple times already I have gotten my dog's 30lb bag of dry food delivered. For much longer we have been getting our cats wet food, dry food delivered, and recently, thanks to Martha Stewart, we're getting the cats' litter delivered as well. Additionally, as concerns the critters (four cats and one dog), their various prescription medications (flea and tick, heartworm, and kitty Prozac), and miscellaneous animal accessories (waste bags, treats, toys, and bowls) are likewise delivered. During the early stages of the pandemic, we were getting our groceries delivered (no more though), also we were members of a wine-delivery club; monthly they'd replenish our diminishing inventory. Back to us humans, I also get my prescription medication (including my cancer drug), office supplies/computer paper, and most importantly, I get my jellybeans all delivered to my home. (Crucial that I have an ample supply of "Jelly Bellies" as one of the side effects of my thyroid cancer medication is dry mouth/saliva issues so that chocolate doesn't have the same effect on me/satiate in my mouth as it has for the past 65 years or so.) As a result, I still need sweets; ergo the jellybeans, but certain long-standing (and sitting) standards have fallen out of favor. And if today is any indication, we'll also be receiving via the mail, all my wife's beauty products, and horse supplies which will segue nice into the monthly – or so, delivery of clothes – with seasonal accommodations, she's been receiving for a few years now. And even automobiles – via the "car vending machines" can be delivered to your door. In fact, one can pretty much have your cake and eat it too, and have it delivered to your home as well. And finally – for the sake of this article; (this is not an entire list, just the more recent conveniences) travel channels nightly feature and boast destinations/locations from all over the world advertising that one doesn't have to leave home to have adventure and exposure. But wrapping up this paragraph: where's the fun in all of this? Life is for living, not sitting, right?

Getting in the game is way better than sitting on the sidelines/sitting on your couch. Although, the couch may be as far as anybody ever gets – or needs to get anymore. Granted, the couch is likely very comfortable, positioned in front of a rather large television (perhaps even with surround sound/stereo sound), near a bathroom, unaffected by weather and/or traffic/parking hassles, way less expensive than the real thing, close to the refrigerator/snacks/adult beverages, and finally, you don't have to mingle with the masses – which for some might be a good thing. Present company occasionally included.

Despite all these push-button-type amenities, I'm beginning to realize that the availability of all these modern conveniences is making Kenny a dull boy, and as the Brits say: "a bit of a dismal Jimmy." All I must do is to mind my own business, but not necessarily my own manners, and have a cell phone handy, as all I really need to see and do, I can have done and delivered without ever leaving my home. Granted, I can't get my passport stamped but if I pick my channels carefully, I never have to pack my bags and try to locate the proper size plastic bag in which to pack my toiletries. The world isn't necessarily inconvenient, but neither does it typically offer all the comforts of home. But if those comforts and conveniences matter more than touching and seeing and feeling the real thing than perhaps a Barcalounger is in your future.

Still, convenience may be one thing – and an important thing at that, but one's preference/inclination might be quite another. Certainly, as written above, I can appreciate – and benefit from the many super-easy ways there are to consume nowadays. And consume without lifting a finger; well likely lifting a hand to turn a doorknob and open the front door to accept your delivery and/or move your package from porch to pantry. Not only will most of this activity be out of sight, but the effect of it will be that you're increasingly out of touch. There has always been delivery of stuff, but the pandemic – and Amazon (lest not forget) really ratcheted up the delivery options and accommodations possible for man, woman, and child – and of course, business. Now however, after years are calling it in, so to speak and having been there and done that – repeatedly, I'm beginning to reassess. Do I want to stay home and disconnect, or do I want to engage and interact with my fellow man/woman? And though it may not always be pleasant to do so, getting out and about, "mushrooming" (being in a dark and putrid environment) is not exactly ideal either.

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



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