Battle of the Bands in Fairfax

Caroline Weinroth, the lead singer of the Cinema Hearts Band, plays at the first Battle of the Bands at Lakeside Park/Royal Lake in Fairfax on Sunday, July 16.
Inside Fair City Mall, across from the movie theater, is a new restaurant called Breakers Korean Grill & Barbecue. According to its CEO, Bobby Kim, its mission is to “break the mold” by providing traditional food while using the most advanced technology to create “a sense of luxury and hospitality.”

It held a soft opening in May, with a grand opening and ribbon-cutting in June. The Fairfax restaurant is its third in the U.S. Breakers also has sites in Atlanta and Dallas and will open in Los Angeles in 2019. “We’re planning to have seven or eight locations in the Washington Metropolitan area, but this one is the first,” said Kim. “According to Tabelog U.S. – which ranks U.S. restaurants – we are the number-one Korean barbecue restaurant in the country.”

So why Fairfax? “I used to live in Fairfax County and knew this area and its economy,” he explained. “Korean barbecue introduces people to another variety of ethnic food. About 40 percent of our customers are Asian; 60 percent are other cultures and ethnicities.”

Pleased to welcome this restaurant here, City Economic Development Director Chris Bruno, said, “Breakers certainly advances the notion that Fairfax is continuing to develop into a regional dining destination with a focus on quality and presentation. We are thrilled that they have selected Fairfax as their metropolitan Washington flagship location.”

**HOURS** are Monday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5-11:30 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Phone 703-343-6688.

“Breakers Korean BBQ comes to Fairfax.”

By Bonnie Hobbs

By Bonnie Hobbs

**This Will Be a Destination Restaurant**

**Breakers Korean BBQ comes to Fairfax.**

By Bonnie Hobbs

The Connection

The Connection

“KAI 10 Conveyor Sushi opens in Fair City Mall.”

By Bonnie Hobbs

The Connection

**New Dining Experience In the City of Fairfax**

The word, “kaiten,” means rotation in Japanese; so in a play on words, KAI 10 Conveyor Sushi has opened in the City of Fairfax. It’s next to Mamma Lucia’s, inside Fair City Mall. It opened to the public in March and recently held its official grand opening and ribbon-cutting. It’s the fourth KAI 10 in Virginia; there are also two in Fredericksburg and one in Tysons Corner.

“The food is labeled and comes along the conveyor belt in covered, plastic containers,” explained the restaurant’s Matthew Ahn. “The belt circulates around the tables and the customers pick what they want. Prices are according to the plate color and, if a dish is spicy, it will have a sign on it saying so.”

Owner David Kim said he chose this location for the restaurant because “Fairfax has a lot of people who eat sushi, especially the younger generation. We also wanted to introduce conveyor-belt sushi in this area.”

Besides being a new and novel idea, he said, “This way, it’s quick and convenient way to get your food. You don’t have to put in an order and wait 30 minutes to get it, and you can pick out what you like. We have fresh, sushi-quality fish delivered every day, and we have a quick turn-around so the customer always gets fresh fish.”

Kim said the five chefs there have a combined 70 years of experience. Steve Baik, his head chef, has 22 years, alone. The restaurant is open Monday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Phone 703-865-8608.

Twenty different appetizers are offered, including everything from Jalapeno Hamachi Sashimi to Soft Shell Crab Tempura to Potato and Vegetable Croquettes. Entrees range from sushi and sashimi dishes to chicken, beef or salmon teriyaki. Hot noodles, such as Tonkotsu Ramen, and Yaki Soba (noodles and vegetables in a special sauce – with chicken, shrimp or beef) are also available.

Also on the menu are various soups and salads, plus poke bowl specials featuring salad or rice, spicy poke sauce and fish. Among the desserts are mochi ice cream, cheesecake and chocolate cake.

Kim says the most popular items are the fresh Tuna and Salmon Sashimi and the sushi Fire Roll consisting of spicy tuna, cream cheese and spicy crabmeat, deep-fried and served with a special sauce on top.

There for the ribbon-cutting and lunch, Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer said, “This is going to set a new standard for restaurants in the City of Fairfax and will put this restaurant and the City even more on the map. The food, atmosphere and service are outstanding. I highly recommend KAI 10 – it’s a great experience.”
Habitzreuther Is Running for Fairfax City Council

While much of the country is focused on the 2018 national midterm elections, City of Fairfax residents are more immediately interested in what happens on Sept. 12. That’s when a special election will be held to fill a vacant seat on City Council.

Councilman Dan Drummond has held that seat since David Meyer became mayor in February. But it’s just temporary, and a new Council member must be elected to fill Meyer’s former seat. And 16-year City resident Karen Habitzreuther hopes she’ll be that person.

An Army veteran, she retired as a lieutenant colonel and now wants to bring her leadership abilities to Fairfax. She is one of two women vying for the job. “I believe our City of Fairfax is at a significant crossroads right now,” said Habitzreuther. “We need to embrace and leverage the future to stay relevant, and we want to retain our cherished, legendary hometown values.

“Many folks think these goals are mutually exclusive,” she said. “But both are possible by actively listening to fellow residents and business owners, providing common-sense leadership and ensuring intelligent, market-driven growth that sustains a business-friendly climate to keep our taxes down and our City thriving.”

As a 28-year Army veteran, Habitzreuther commanded units from platoon through battalion, flew Black Hawk helicopters in various military theaters of operation and headed up multi-level organizations, even as a junior officer. Following her military service, she earned a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Virginia Tech, where she’s currently a Masters of Public Health candidate.

Her focus is on Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology to help protect families here and abroad. As a City resident, she’s been involved in bettering the community by serving on the Architecture Review Board of her homeowners’ association and volunteering at the Fairfax County Humane Society headquartered in the City. She’s also a mother of four and grandmother of six.

For more information, go to www.karenforfairfax.com.

Week in Fairfax

Rock the Block after Dark

Thousands of people attend the City’s Rock the Block concerts on the fourth Fridays of the month during the summer. But to promote the local restaurants, Fairfax is offering Rock the Block after Dark to hopefully retain the concertgoers after the music ends.

Beginning with the July 28 event, participating City restaurants and pubs will offer 15-percent-discount coupons good for that night, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Printed coupons must be presented to take advantage of the discount. Go to facebook.com/FairfaxCityEDA for event dates and a list of participating restaurants.

Play Auditions on July 30

The Shoestring Theatre Co. will hold auditions for its upcoming play, “The Best Doctor in Town,” on Sunday, July 30, at 1 p.m., at the North Street Pop-up Theatre, 10427 North St. in Fairfax.
Help Prepare Children in Need for School

Many opportunities to contribute; tax-free back-to-school shopping is Aug. 5-7 across Virginia.

We live in an area where many, if not most, families have the means and desire to do almost whatever it takes to give their children the best chances for success.

But for thousands of students, families lack the financial resources to equip them for success on the first day of school and beyond.

In our affluent area, there are many poor families, families who are barely making it, families who are not able to indulge their children in a shopping spree before school begins, families who are already having trouble making ends meet for the meals their children will be getting at school.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That’s more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch.

In some schools, volunteers pack snacks for the students to take home on weekends. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That’s more than 8,000 of the city’s 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county’s 23,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000 students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

The Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies, clothing, and preparedness items (energy savers) is Aug. 4-6. This is a little extra savings that could be paid forward to students in need.

The three-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 a.m. and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. During the three-day sales tax holiday, every item priced at $100 or less. For other details see www.tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday.

Where To Give in Fairfax County

❖ Fairfax County Collect for Kids is a public private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year, and has provided more than 100,000 supply kits and backpacks since 2010. Collect for Kids is made possible through a partnership with Kids R First, Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and numerous community-based organizations (some listed here) and businesses in the Fairfax County area who are working together to provide supplies in a more cost-effective and efficient way. Visit www.collectforkids.org/resources.

❖ Cornerstones will work to provide backpacks and other necessities to 3,000 Reston and Herndon area students. You can buy backpacks and other items online and have them delivered to Cornerstones. Or deliver the backpacks to Cornerstones Administrative Office Aug. 7-11, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 12116 Gateway Park Circle, Reston. In addition to backpacks, Cornerstones also requests donations of new underwear for elementary school age children, and Payless gift card donations ($25) so young clients can get a new pair of shoes. Contact Cornerstones at 571-323-9568 or volunteer@cornerstonesva.org. Visit www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/.

❖ United Community Ministries annual Back to School campaign is underway. Donations are needed by Friday, Aug. 4. A gift of $40 completely outfits one student. Please drop checks and backpacks off at UCM’s main office (751 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306) weekdays from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. for more information, contact Emily Griffin at emily.griffin@ucmagency.org or by 751-255-8973 or visit www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2017.html.

❖ Britepaths, participates in the Collect for Kids Back to School Program each summer and is working to help more than 2,500 students in central Fairfax have everything they need to succeed this fall. Cash donations help purchase supplies at a steep discount. Donate backpacks or calculators by Aug. 5. Larger size backpacks especially needed. Donate cash through Aug. 31. Checks are welcome. Make checks payable to “Britepaths,” write BTS in the memo line to: Northern Virginia Family Service, Attn: Back to School, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Donations of new backpacks and new school supplies will be accepted on Friday, July 28, and Monday, July 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 13868 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151 (between Lotus Vegetarian and PetSmart – our storefront has white-washed windows). For more information, contact BTS at 703-272-3710 or visit www.facetscares.org/summerbacktoschooldrive.

❖ Northern Virginia Family Service is able to buy supplies at a value that beats retail price. Every $1 donated by July 27 can purchase $2 worth of school supply. Mail checks (payable to NVFS, with BTS in the memo line) to: Northern Virginia Family Service, Attn: Back to School, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Donations of new backpacks and new school supplies will be accepted on Friday, July 28, and Monday, July 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 13868 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151 (between Lotus Vegetarian and PetSmart – our storefront has white-washed windows). For more information, contact BTS at 703-272-3710 or visit www.facetscares.org/summerbacktoschooldrive.

❖ Foundation for Fairfax Public School Collect for kids accepts online donations only – to purchase school supplies in bulk quantity.

❖ Apple Federal Credit Union www.applefcu.com/appleweb/collectforkids accepts online donations and backpack donations at local branches.

❖ Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Offices will be collecting backpacks during the month of August. See website for office locations and hours of operation. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/about-the-board-of-supervisors.htm

❖ Fairfax County Public Schools Backpack donations at the Gatehouse and Willow Oaks Administrative office locations. www.fcps.edu/.

❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries accepts online donations and backpacks donations. Check website for more details. Deliver Backpacks to WFCM (July 17-Aug. 11, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.) at WFCM’s Office at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, Chantilly, VA 20151. Please bring backpacks to the back door of the Food Pantry. wfmtva.org/how-you-can-help/annual-backpack-program/
Letters

When Will Trump Catch Up?

To the Editor:

Bloomberg news reported that a study by the U.S. Department of energy showed our current grid can perform with wind and solar power. A leaked draft of the Energy Department’s highly anticipated study on grid reliability finds that renewable energy doesn’t harm grid reliability; that market trends, not regulation, have driven the shift to cleaner, safer forms of energy; and that technology like energy efficiency and demand response are actually helping to increase reliability.

These findings contradict statements made by high-level Trump administration officials— including Energy Secretary Rick Perry, who has raised concerns about the impact of renewables on the grid. In the last few months, we’ve seen the Trump administration repeatedly risking public health by trying to move us backwards towards coal, slashing the EPW's budget and tearing down limits on mercury, smog, and carbon pollution.

Donald Trump put a politician who sued the EPA over a dozen times, and helped raise nearly $4 million from corporate polluters in charge of protecting our kids from pollution.

Instead, we should we putting more funds into the EPA for programs like The Solar Training Network, which addresses a critical need for high-quality, local, accessible training in solar installation and related skills. This is smart policy that can support economic transition as coal is dwindling in supply, harming our environment, and no longer cost-effective.

This study from experts and President Trump’s own administration show his attacks on clean energy are unfounded— renewable energy does not threaten grid reliability. Trump administration allies, including the former head of Trump’s Energy Department transition team, are already scrambling to downplay the significance of this report because it demonstrates how their attempts at attacking clean energy are out of step with the realities of America’s electricity markets and how they operate.

Despite President Trump’s best efforts, the unstoppable shift to clean energy is already underway; driven by American states, cities, and businesses that see the economic opportunity climate action presents.

There’s a reason why the private market is trending toward clean energy like wind and solar—it’s safe, affordable, and reliable. When will Donald J. Trump catch up?

Kelsey Crane
Fairfax

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August 14–August 18 .......... Horton Hears a Who! (G)
August 21–August 25 .......... THE SANDLOT (PG)

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.
The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed.
Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com
Encouraging children to read during summer months can be challenging for some parents, but worth the effort, says local educators, because diving into books offers students an opportunity to boost their reading skills before the start of the next school year. Book clubs with their peers allows children to read in a relaxed, informal setting.

“Book groups during summer vacation are the perfect time for friends to gather and share the love of reading,” said Julie M. Esanu, lower school librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. “The summer is a perfect time for readers to explore and enjoy a variety of books across different genres and formats, including ebooks, audiobooks, and graphic novels.”

While parents must provide a basic structure for the book club, Esanu says that allowing children to be involved in the planning and book selection, will cultivate a positive attitude toward books and reading.

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge,” said Esanu. “Consider the members of the book group and their various interests when selecting titles and let the members have a say in what they’re reading.”

Allow for organic discussions inspired by the readers rather than formal discussions that require too much preparation, advises Esanu. “[Formality] feels too much like homework for students and we want them to dive into books during summer,” she said. “Kids have a lot to say about the books that they read and that can lead to fabulous conversations. It is important for children to select the books that they read, especially over the summer.”

In her role as the lower and middle school librarian at Bullis School in Potomac, Katherine Brewer helps students make book selections by asking them about the last book they read and enjoyed. “This helps me find out what types of books they are into and suggest other titles they might like,” she said. “I might ask what about the book they liked. Then I will give several suggestions.”

Preparing and organizing the book club session without over-planning, avoids chaos and leads to success, advises Laura Maffei, humanities teacher at BASIS Independent School McLean. “Set the stage by helping the children to understand the setting and any unfamiliar events or vocabulary they might encounter,” she said. “For example, before reading ‘Misty of Chincoteague’ learn about Virginia, specifically Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, watch a documentary on the round up, make a craft that teaches the parts of a horse and its riding equipment, look at examples of life in the 1950s to see how it differs from today.”

WHEN THE MEMBERS of the book group are not all at the same reading level, as can be the case with children, reading the same book can be pose a challenge, says Maffei. “… An option would be to read the same content, but each reader gets a book at their reading level,” she said. “I’ve done this with Shakespeare, Greek Mythology, and classics like ‘Peter Pan’ that come in a variety of book types from picture to early reader to original text.”

“If the children aren’t around the same age [and] reading level or have varying interests, I would select a topic and suggest books that they could read and share,” added Brewer. “Students can have the book read to them or listen to an audio version if they prefer.”

Brewer, who runs book clubs for students at Bullis, says that during her meetings, children share the book they read and encourage others to read it. She also discourages penalizing children who haven’t finished the book. “We use the book talk format popularized by [the television series] ‘Reading Rainbow,’ share a bit about the book and why others would want to read it, but no spoilers,” she said. “They will be more interested if they have choice and input in the club’s topic, books and activities.”

Book club activities are an important tool in helping children develop a love of reading, says Tom Longano a third grade teacher at the Heights School, an all boys school in Potomac. “With most of our books I will invent a quick game that includes acting out the characters or key events from the story,” he said. “I have found this to be an excellent way for the boys, who often have a very concrete approach to the world, yet boundless imaginations … to enter into the stories and feel them as actually real. This generates a love for the books that goes beyond just reading them, because they have a sense lived them as well, acted them out.”

Longano says that this excitement about books can also be achieved with dramatic readings and assigning children characters from the book. Brewer suggests that the book’s topic be the lead on the project, said Brewer.

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge.”

― Julie M. Esanu, Lower School Librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School

“Summer reading is all about reading and a chance to work together.”

― Tom Longano, Heights School

Summer reading club idea includes visiting local public libraries or bookstores and browsing the shelves for ideas, says Esanu. “Visit the Alexandria or Arlington Public Library or an independent bookstore, such as Hooray for Books! in Alexandria or One More Page Books in Arlington, and browse the shelves for ideas,” she said.

“Each book club member could choose a book that catches their eye and then the group could vote on which book they want to read.”

Reading a book and taking a field trip that is related to the book is another activity that Esanu recommends. “For example, Tonya Bolden’s award-winning book, ‘How to Build a Museum’ shares a behind-the-scenes look into Smithsonian’s National Museum for American History and Culture,” she said. “This is a great way to explore the museum before a visit.”

“Jack and the Geniuses: At the Bottom of the World” offers inspiration for another journey, says Esanu. “It’s the first book in a series packed with adventure, science and engineering and is written by Bill Nye [from the children’s television series, ‘Bill Nye, the Science Guy’] and Gregory Malone,” she said. “This would be the perfect book to read before heading the National Building Museum to explore the Hive Interactive Exhibit [which runs through Sept. 4].”

Guiding a discussion by asking questions that connect the book to current or personal events, playing games such as Charades, 20 Questions or Pictionary can help spark a lively discussion of the book, says Maffei.

“If the book has a movie version, watch the movie after reading the book,” she said. “Look for differences in plot, how the characters and setting look compared to how you thought they’d look.”

Offer an opportunity for children to have a snack to talk informally, advises Esanu. “Make sure that there’s food involved and find new places for the group to meet, maybe in a park or by the pool,” said Esanu. “Mix it up.”

“Themed snacks are fun,” added Maffei. “Maybe something that gets eaten or drank in the book or something from the same time period or place.”

“Summer reading is all about reading and a chance to work together.”

― Tom Longano, Heights School

“Themed snacks are fun.”

― Katherine Brewer, Bullis School

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Elizabeth Naka, of Fairfax, was named to the dean’s list at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.) for the spring 2017 semester.

Sara Kline, of Fairfax, was named to the dean’s list at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Lincoln, N.E.) for the spring semester of 2017.

Kaitlyn Pugh, of Fairfax, a current master’s student, will travel to Kenya in July 2017 as part of the Global Field Program offered through Miami University’s (Oxford, Ohio) Project Dragonfly.

To inspire students in grades 4-12 to explore their passion for renewable energy and engineering, KidWind, the international leader of clean energy education, hosted the National KidWind Challenge at the American Wind Energy Association WINDPOWER 2017 Conference & Exhibition in Anaheim. A total of 23 high school and 33 middle school teams competed for the chance to win the grand prize of $1,000, the second place prize of $500, and the third place prize of $250. The 2017 National KidWind Challenge Champions included the SPINNERS from Lanier Middle School in second place. Visit kidwindchallenge.org.
NEWS

Pajardo Tapped to Lead City Schools

She’s currently the assistant superintendent.

Pajardo is currently Assistant Superintendent of City of Fairfax Schools. Before coming here in August 2015, she retired from Fairfax County Public Schools, where she held several leadership roles— including Cluster Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources— during her 34 years there.

In its search for a new leader, the City School Board sought input from residents, school staff, administrators, parents and City leadership. The Board conducted interviews in June and made its final decision in mid-July. It then offered the job to Pajardo, who accepted.

“I am very excited and deeply humbled,” she said. “I greatly respect and admire the leadership of recent past City Schools Superintendents [George] Stepp, Monday, and Noonan. I look forward to building upon the City Schools’ past work and partnering with the City of Fairfax School Board, Mayor and City Council, our principals and school staffs— as well as each school’s community and my colleagues in Fairfax County Public Schools— to develop new pathways to successfully serve our students and the City.”

Phyllis Pajardo

Rotary Club of Fairfax Awards College Scholarships

The Rotary Club of Fairfax awarded college scholarships to five Fairfax High School students at its annual Scholarship meeting Program. In this photo, from left: Fairfax High School Principal David Goldfarb, scholarship winners: Alexis Johnson, Kawtar Toubbali, Alex Su, Joseph Vu, Yasmin Mohamed and Rotarian Verne Tuininga.

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Battle of the Bands in Fairfax

Ten local bands compete for the spot in the 2018 Braddock Nights Concert Series.

Send entertainment notes to the Connection at connection@newspapers.com. Calendar deadlines are the Friday prior to the next publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

ONGOING

Senior Line Dancing: 1-2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Classes have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer’s disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: $5 per week, six weeks. 703-544-3787

Carolina Shag: Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elk Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. $8. Under 21 not admitted. 703-720-9898 ext. 15

Exercise Program: Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5134 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Exercises are for strength, balance and improving limberness. Contact SCFP office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Irvit (Hebrew Cafe): Wednesdays, 8-11:30 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 9000 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na’ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. www.hebrewclassesdc.org

Smoke Free Bingo: 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, $1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends).


TOPGOLF: 1-4 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Sway DJ, food and drink. Visit topgolf.com/us/alexandria/ or call 703-924-2600.

Stargazing and Snacking on S’mores: 8:30-9:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about the creatures that fly through the night skies. Ages 4 to adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakespark/

CALENDAR

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Smoke Free Bingo: 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, $1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends).


TOPGOLF: 1-4 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Sway DJ, food and drink. Visit topgolf.com/us/alexandria/ or call 703-924-2600.

Stargazing and Snacking on S’mores: 8:30-9:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about the creatures that fly through the night skies. Ages 4 to adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakespark/
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Entertainment

From Page 15

Mass Challenge, proceeds of the night will go to Team Kristen Strong, as they raise money for The Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Call 703-385-1530 or email info@DolceViaFairfax.com.

July 24-28
Fine Arts and Crafts Camp. 12:30-3:15 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5669 Oak Leather Drive, Driver Carol Zeftlin. Drawing and/or watercolor. Visit www.caroleslessons.com or call 703-250-6930 for more.

Wednesday/July 26
Pop Up Adventure Playground. 10 a.m.-noon at Kutner Park, 3901 Jermaine Road, Fairfax. Free family fun, create, explore and more. Visit www.popupplayground.org for more.

Thursday/July 27
Funday Monday for Children. 10:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Storytelling and songs. Weather dependent. For more details visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/Singleton. Visit www.faithsafefairfax.com.

Friday/July 28
Rock the Block. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. “The Reagan Years,” ‘80s band is featured. Food available. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, children can wear swim suits and bring towels to enjoy the spray pad! No pets allowed except service animals. For more details visit www.fairfaxva.gov/rocketblock.

Saturday/July 29
Taste of Springfield. noon-6 p.m. outdoors event at the Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall Drive. Locally focused, family friendly ‘feast-ival’ with tastings, entertainments and activities for all ages. Weather dependent. Visit www.tasteofspringfield.com for more.

Safecraft Painting Workshop. noon-3 p.m. at the Fairfax Art League Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive. The Fairfax Art League invites the public to a hand painted safec workshop. $18. Call 703-566-8760 for more.

Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series. 6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 3999 Van Dorn St., Lorton. Free musical performance by Jarekus Singleton. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances or call 703-760-7518.

Sunday/July 30
7 G-Scale Model Train Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Virginia Room Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryl and Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS) will have a G-Scale train display running. 4 and under free; ages 5-12 $5; Ages 13 and older $10. Call 703-385-7858 or email Info@DolceVitaFairfax.com.

July 20-26, 2017
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By Kenneth L. Lourie

For the first time in almost exactly 25 years, bathroom demolition, times two. With financial assistance from my father-in-law, along with use of our own home equity line, we have committed to and contracted for, a complete renovation of our two full bathrooms (‘full’ meaning tub/shower, commode, double sink, mirror, shelves, lights/fixtures, counter top, floor and shower tile, and paint). Ego, over the next eight to 12 weeks, our house will officially become a construction site.

Never having experienced this level of upheaval and chaos in any of our previous homes before, we are looking forward since we have no reference looking backward.

We know one thing for sure: our five indoor cats will be miserable and scared and likely hiding for days on end. Considering that the work- ers will be in our home from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. . . . I don’t know when the cats are going to feel like eating since their routine will have been completely thrown off having so many new people in the house for so many hours per day. I don’t even want to think about the litter box implications.)

Nevertheless, time marches forward, and gives us another opportunity to explore the history of over 250 years old, its bathrooms, through not exactly pre-Colonial, definitely are showing their age. Their design, form, function, efficiency, and attractiveness barely bloop the radar. Both bathrooms are old, and that’s only compliment I can give them.

I imagine the next two to three months will likely be a journey of discovery, Columbus-like in that we will be discovering a new world with modern bathroom amenities and conveniences, color coordination and functionality, many of which we’re not even the most obstacles of in over 25 years.

Our kitchen remains as it has been all those years ago: large but clearly deficient in many expectations. As a matter of fact, as the designer, project manager and I walked into the kitchen for the first time, a panel to the adjacent bathroom, I said, “As you can see, our kitchen needs work, too. Any chance you all offer a ‘BOGO? Buy one, get one free?’ “Of course, they both laughed and shook their head. They didn’t have to say “No.” It was a more rhetorical question anyway.

Considering the time we’ve all had together, we have no doubt that the contractor and his workers know what they’re doing. We’re not sure however, as homeowners that we know what we’re getting for our money. After a few months back, the process has seemed clear enough as do the drawings/design ideas we’ve now decided upon done. Well, when it goes from their paper to our property, how will it all transfer? They seem confident and compli- mentary which certainly has been reassuring but we’re novices in this transformation.

For us each step forward is yet another step into the great unknown. And since we can only take it one step at a time, we have no choice but to live and learn and hopefully not regret decisions and decisions we’ve already made (although changes can still be made).

So go ahead – it’s not far – so good. However, it’s the process of starting and ulti- mately finishing that worries me. Not that I run on a schedule (heck, I can barely walk), but my wife, Dina, sort of does; and it seems as if she and the workers might be occupying the same space at the same time.

I suppose the timing and all eventually works itself out but it’s the intention with which I’m concerned. Do I realize these are guaran- tees in any of this?

I guess I just have to deal with it as I do with my having cancer: take the bad with the good, keep a sense of humor and try to remain posi- tive. Doing so has kept me alive for eight years and four months. I’d like to think I can manage for another eight to 12 weeks.

Seren Issacs is an Advertising Representative for The Reston Alliance & The Connection Newspapers.
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