



Fairfax CONNECTION

Inside
PET CONNECTION



Boxer is named for the British holiday Boxing Day (Dec. 26, the day he came to his new home). He's developed quite a fan club, both in person and on his Facebook page, where he posts pictures for holidays. Here, he is celebrating St. Patrick's Day.



Boxer for All Occasions

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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NEWS

Dominion Awards Grant to Children's Science Center

The Children's Science Center, a non-profit organization whose mission is to instill a love of learning STEM in all children by providing them opportunities to explore, create and be inspired, recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. Funds will be allocated to support several environmental education programs that Center is coordinating over the coming months. Each year, 50,000 visitors explore the Children's Science Center Lab located at Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax County.

"The Lab recently celebrated its second birthday and will welcome its 100,000th visitor this year," said Nene Spivy, executive director of the Children's Science Center. "This generous financial support from companies like Dominion Energy promotes educational enrichment and STEM learning for children of all ages in Northern Virginia, and we appreciate Dominion's commitment to inspiring the next generation of innovators," Spivy added.

"When reviewing their grant application, we were very impressed by the scope and the creativity of the Center's educational outreach," said Deborah T. Johnson, regional policy director for State and Local Affairs at Dominion Energy. "It's a pleasure to lend our support to initiatives that connect children with the environment in a memorable and meaningful way."

The Children's Science Center kicked off summer teaming up with "The Great Sunflower Project," a national research effort that encourages children to count and re-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Adalene "Nene" Spivy (left), Executive Director of the Children's Science Center, accepts a \$10,000 check from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation presented by Deborah Johnson, Regional Policy Director for State & Local Affairs.

port the pollinators in their own backyards. "We are thrilled for our children to have a chance to be part of a national research effort and are very grateful to Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation for this grant to encourage environmental stewardship," said Spivy.

Other Center initiatives supported by this grant include two sessions of "Dream It, Build It: Nature Center" a week-long summer camp where participants will create a nature center and learn about green architectural design, plus a rotating series of activities and experiments on topics such as ocean chemistry and many more. Visit www.childsci.org.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Driver Charged After Crash Injures Former Police Chief

A driver is facing charges after a crash involving Deputy County Executive and former Police Chief Dave Rohrer in Fairfax Tuesday evening, July 25. According to police, Rohrer was traveling northbound on West Ox Road just before 5:45 p.m., when 29-year-old Samir Mishra of Fairfax made a left turn onto Polo Drive right in front of him. Mishra has been charged with failure to yield right away on a left turn. Rohrer was taken to the hospital where he was treated for minor injuries and released. He was in a county vehicle which has been towed.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 5

County Pursuing Environmental Goals

Bulova hosts County Environmental Showcase.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Part exhibition, part symposium, and part networking opportunity — there was something for everyone even vaguely interested in environmental issues at the Environmental Showcase, hosted by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova on Saturday, July 22 at the county's Government Center.

The Fairfax County Environmental Vision was first adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2004, when U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was the board's chair. Working with then-Supervisor Bulova and others like Supervisor Penny Gross (Mason District), an environmental advisory committee was established to help develop and direct the region's environmental agenda.

The board recently updated the Vision document, so the event provided the community with some insight into the revisions. It also acknowledged the achievements of local government departments and non-profit organizations and civic groups, while recommitting to the task of protecting the local environment and developing models of sustainability as the county continues to grow.

There were kudos enough to go around. Bulova noted Fairfax County reduced its per capita emissions by 10 percent from 2005 to 2012 and reduced greenhouse gas emissions from public buildings by 21 percent from 2006 to 2015 — at the same time that county properties have grown in square footage.

More than 60 percent of the county's Fairfax Connector buses are "mini-hybrids" which utilize engine cooling systems to reduce emissions and save on fuel bills.

BOTH BULOVA AND CONNOLLY noted the county's goal to increase tree cover in Fairfax County by 45 percent by 2037 has already been met — and exceeded. In addition, according to the Park Authority, said Connolly, the goal of preserving 10 percent of all land in the county is well within reach. "9.26 percent there," said Connolly. "Only 1,864 acres more to go."

Connolly also praised the board for "once again taking a leadership role" and adopting a resolution to sign on to the National Climate Action Agenda to uphold the standards agreed upon by 195 nations at the Paris Climate Summit. "President Trump has withdrawn us from the agreement," said Connolly. "Congratulations. We've joined the ranks of Nicaragua and Syria, the only two other countries who refused to sign ... and Nicaragua only declined because they thought it didn't go far enough."

Much of Connolly's remarks centered on the redevelopment of Tysons Corner.



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova was the host of the Environmental Showcase at the Government Center: "We've come along way since the adoption of the first Environmental Vision, but there's always work to be done."

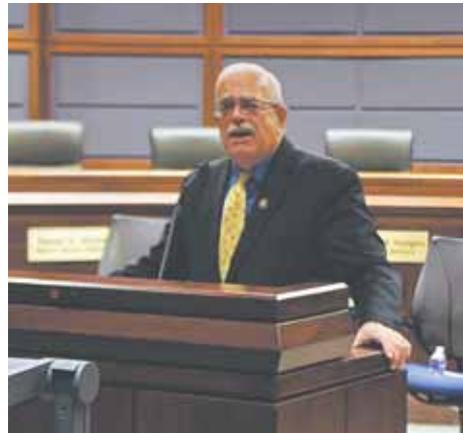
"Consider the revolutionary provisions developed by the citizens Tysons Task Force. America's Next Great City is being built in a transit-oriented manner ... ensuring for the first time in Fairfax County that transit, biking and walking will be the safest, most convenient modes of transportation."

Connolly listed a number of additional achievements that had been made, and pointed out that all had been accomplished in partnership with the business community. He also paid tribute to the "unsung heroes in much of our environmental progress," referring to the hundreds of individuals and civic groups who have not only advocated in support of environmental protection, but also put in the hours and added their expertise for the good of the whole community, today and for the future.

A diverse panel of government employees and business leaders made presentations highlighting the partnership that Connolly spoke of. Kambiz Agazi, who Bulova introduced as the "Environmental Orchestra Conductor," is the county's environmental coordinator. Agazi mentioned some of the changes in "Vision 2.0" and also informed the audience that a new "environmental inventory" measuring environmental impact and improvements would be soon forthcoming.

Also present from Fairfax County government were James Hart, planning commissioner, and Susan Hafeli, senior utility analyst.

Tom Fleury, executive vice president of Bowman Consulting; Dr. Dann Sklarew, Ph.D. from George Mason University; and Steve Smith, principal with Cooper Carry architects, all spoke of innovations within their various disciplines that were aimed at marrying profitability with efficiency and environmental stewardship.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was a guest speaker at the event. Connolly was the board chair when the first Environmental Vision for Fairfax County was developed and adopted.

Kaspowicz of Vienna ("just over the Reston line") who was impressed by the quantity of information being gathered and the work planned to restore and protect those resources.

Patrick Keenan, hotel operations project manager with Maryland-based B. F. Saul Company, Hospitality Group, stopped by to visit with Raea Jean Leinster, self-described "Chief Yuck Officer," of Yuck Old Paint recycling company. B. F. Saul is a client of Yuck. "Everybody can do their part," said Keenan.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION made its presence felt at the Showcase, as well. Members of ESLI – Eco-Schools Leadership Initiative – were also on hand. Sophia Applegate, a rising senior at Oakton High School, joined Madison High School rising junior Kathryn Hammond and VCU fresh-



The panel at the Showcase symposium and Q&A. From left: James Hart, Fairfax County Planning Commissioner; Tom Fleury, executive vice president, Bowman Consulting; Steve Smith, principal, Cooper Carry; Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County Senior Utility Analyst; and Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University professor and Sustainability Initiatives coordinator. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator, also joined in.

Smith had the assembly particularly interested in the description of his company's pilot project, re-designing a test floor in a hotel to align with "wellness building concepts." "In these rooms, even the shower is thinking about your health" with a Vitamin C infused water flow, he said. Before and after the speakers' presentations and questions for the panel, an estimated crowd of about 200 visited booths set up in the conference center lobby and in the main forum.

In the week ahead Reston Association will be reviewing its first major "RASER" – Reston Association State of the Environment Report. The work for the 190-page document was conducted over the last year by Doug Britt and a nine-person volunteer army who donated more than 1,000 hours to the task of unbundling information from a variety of sources and physically viewing, monitoring, testing and observing the natural environment in the area. The Reston booth drew quite a crowd, including Joan

man Archana Nakkara of Vienna to talk about the program that helps other youths learn about environmental issues and start their own environmental initiatives. The three met at an ESLI Conference, and their mutual interest in environmental protection has brought them together to help spread the word. "We love to do the programs especially in the middle schools and even younger. It's great to get kids started early, knowing how important it is to protect the Earth we live on and the community we live in," said Applegate.

There was no disagreement among those gathered. The work needed to be done on environmental issues and on combining the goals of growth and sustainability will probably never be done. "Things keep changing. People, technologies, the world around us, and we need to keep looking ahead to be ready," said Bulova.

The Fairfax County Environmental Vision can be reviewed at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/sustainability/.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

PEOPLE

Bringing Masterworks to Fairfax

Doug Mears, Fairfax Choral Society long time artistic director to retire.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

After nearly four decades shaping and inspiring the Fairfax Choral Society (FCS) to be at the forefront of Washington area choruses; artistic director Doug Mears will be retiring this fall. One of the largest choral groups in the region, the FCS provides classes and opportunities to perform for more than 300 choral singers from preschool through adult.

“His talent, passion and creative programming have inspired and educated our singers,” said long-time FCS member and Board Chair Barbara Tuset. “During his tenure he also provided the chorus with extraordinary experiences with guest composers and conductors. Each performance left us hungry for the next challenge. Doug will be missed by all of us at FCS.”

When asked what kept him so committed to the FCS, Mears said, “The opportunity to collaborate with talented, hard-working, dedicated, and inspiring singers; and with great composers from throughout music history, to present masterworks of choral music for our community and the world.”

Mears noted that “Choral singing continues to be the most popular form of participation in the performing arts.” He cited national data that nearly 25 percent of American households have at least one

Details

For additional information about the retirement of Fairfax Choral Society (FCS) artistic director Doug Mears and the upcoming FCS season, visit www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org or call 703-642-3277.

choral singer; around 42.6 million choral singers, both adult and children.

“The FCS artistic staff can certainly attest to the value of choral singing for young people, as we have seen its impact on our own singers, ever since the FCS Youth Choruses began,” added Mears.

While Mears noted many memorable musical achievements, “perhaps most memorable have been the opportunities we have shared, offering our music for special and significant occasions in our members lives; weddings, funerals, retirements. And, of course, to see children who began their musical training in the FCS Youth Choruses develop into outstanding musicians and continue their musical aspirations professionally and as members of our volunteer adult Symphonic Chorus.”

Mears went on to say, “Tragically, funding for the arts in our region has been on a downward spiral in recent years. We believe that music is not a luxury but a necessity.”

Concert pianist, composer and conductor Paul Leavitt has been named Interim Director, Fairfax Choral Society. Leavitt begins his tenure after a celebratory concert for Doug Mears at National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C. on Nov. 12, 2017.

Under Leavitt’s leadership, the Fairfax Choral Society will continue to enrich lives through the performance, education, and appreciation of choral art.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX CHORAL SOCIETY



Doug Mears, artistic director, Fairfax Choral Society



Fairfax Choral Society Adult Chorus

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WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE 2

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 7:30-11 p.m. Printed coupons must be presented to take advantage of the discount. Go to [facebook.com/FairfaxCityEDA](https://www.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.

KBF by Audi Unveils New Showroom

KBF by Audi announces that their second Northern Virginia regional showroom is now open in Fairfax. KBF by Audi is a home remodeling company in Northern Virginia, with more than 30 years of experience. The public is invited to attend the grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, July 29, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch, games for children, showroom tours and more are available. Register onsite to win a free bathroom upgrade of up to \$9,500.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, City of Fairfax Mayor David Meyer and other local elected officials will participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony and photo opportunity at 11 a.m. at KBF by Audi, 3891 Pickett Road, Fairfax.

Correction

On page 3 of the June 20 Fairfax Connection, the photo of Karen Habitzreuther was courtesy of Authentic Portrait LLC.

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB
Newcomers & Community Guide
August 23, 2017

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made, a calendar of events and other vital community information.

Due to the popularity and long shelf life of this issue, an overrun of the publication is made to meet demand. Extra copies are delivered to select Chambers of Commerce, Realtors, Citizens' Associations and local government.

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Help End Domestic Violence

There were 1,483 calls to the domestic violence hotline in 2016, averaging 124 calls per month.

BY JOHN C. COOK
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (BRADDOCK-R)



to find shelter, legal resources, financial aid, and even a safe haven for their animals. Anyone can call to learn about the signs of domestic violence and even confirm possible incidents.

The hotline is proving to be highly effective and even lifesaving. The Fairfax County Office for Women received 1,483 hotline calls with an average of 124 calls per month in 2016. At least 98 percent of those who called for services said the hotline better prepared them to make a safety plan. This call can mean the difference between life and death for those escaping abuse.

Domestic violence is sometimes difficult to identify for bystanders, as well as victims. Abusers will often convince their victims that

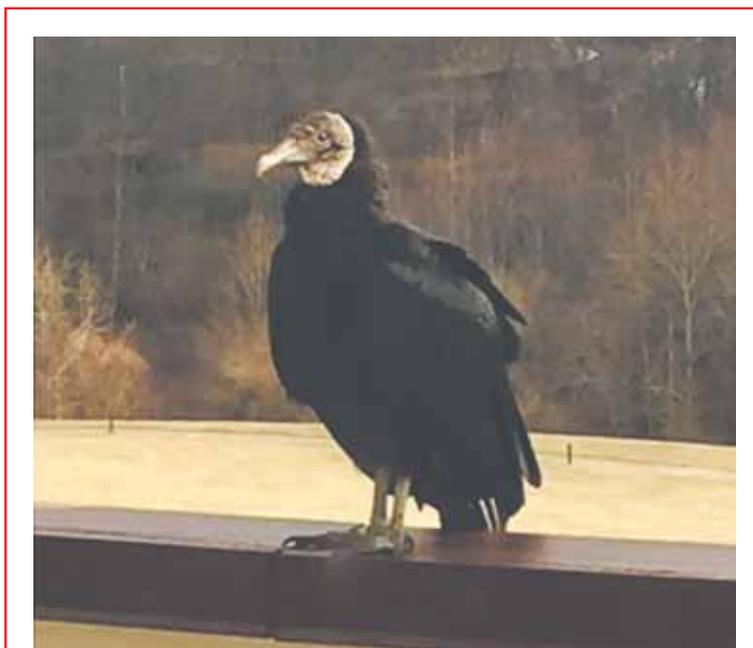
they deserve the abuse, which shames victims into hiding the problem instead of speaking out. Many abusers threaten their victims with harsher, deadlier punishments if they look for help. These and other factors make domestic violence more difficult to recognize without the help of a seasoned professional. This is why we need more people to make the call when they have that gut feeling that something is amiss.

For bystanders, it could be a black eye, a passing reference, or even a loud argument overheard next door. You do not have to be sure. If you think domestic violence maybe happening, make the call and let professionals help.

For victims, the hotline is available whenever you need it. If you feel threatened, alone, or unsafe in your own home, please make the call. You do not have to go through this difficult time alone. The staff at the hotline is here for you at any hour of the day and will do everything they can to help secure you and your family's safety.

Again, the number is 703-360-7273. Please, make the call, it could save a life.

Victims and witnesses of domestic violence can call Fairfax County's 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline at 703-360-7273.



"Victor the Vulture is our new office pet. While he's not very cuddly, we enjoy his visits to our office balcony, which he uses to 'scope' out the area. From time to time we get to watch him dive bomb from the fifth floor of the Government Center. Although we are unsure of his success rate. Victor is bigger than most cats and I wouldn't want him near mine!"

— BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN SHARON BULOVA

ents I have to associate with and choice of doctors is very limited.

Having grown up in a family where my mother was a Democrat and my father a Republican I have

had two viewpoints. My maternal grandfather was with the Burlington Northern Railroad 30-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

Strong families are held together by love, support, and commitment. They are the very foundation of a strong society. If the core of the family is replaced by violence, then all of society is weakened.

Domestic violence affects one in four Fairfax families and causes nearly 1,600 arrests in Fairfax every year. It is almost guaranteed that anyone reading this knows a victim of domestic violence, even if they are unaware of it. These statistics alone paint a dire picture. However, there is a way you can make a positive difference.

Fairfax County's Domestic Violence Prevention Council, which I chair, rolled out the "Make the Call" campaign earlier this year. Its purpose is to encourage victims and witnesses of domestic violence to call Fairfax County's 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline at 703-360-7273. This number is completely safe and confidential. The hotline is staffed by experts always ready to offer information, counsel, and resources to victims and concerned citizens. Callers can receive vital information on where

GUEST EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Catastrophic Events' Can Happen to Anyone

To the Editor:

I am a senior citizen and I have read about the situation with health care or lack of in this country. Your article mentioned many factors that the general public is ignorant of. I personally believe that a country's strength and greatness is reflected in how they treat the least of their people.

We have failed on an epic level as a people. No person wants to be on welfare, Medicaid, public assistance or food stamps. The prevailing ignorant opinion by the vastly uninformed public is that it is an easy ride and that the individuals on welfare want to live off the state.

The truth of the matter is that "catastrophic events" can happen to anyone and it only takes the loss of employment and devastating medical bills to suddenly be forced

to be on state assistance. It is a true nightmare. It is a degrading humiliating process and I honestly cannot think of anyone who truly wanted to be on Medicaid or welfare. It puts a person in a negative life-altering position where the

judgment by people is harsh and unsympathetic. People make assumptions that those on assistance are no good lazy bums getting a "free ride."

The truth is that President Johnson and his "great society" brought about the demise of social security. He opened the doors to the looting of the program for non-related financial projects.

I am an independent voter. I am a senior. I used to be an employee of United Airlines. I lost all my benefits and do not have any retirement. I also was a part time teacher. I have no teacher's pension. I have no savings and no retirement to fall back on and am living on S.S.I. of \$735 a month and that is my sole income. It is impossible to live on this. I have no money by the middle of the month.

I injured myself in a freak accident at Dulles airport. I lost my job. it was a devastating loss for me. I could not find any work. I was forced out of desperation to apply for Medicaid. I do not like Medicaid because the types of cli-





Pictured, from left: Doreen Pfeiffer, Kings Park West resident; John Palmer, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES); Amber Lum, ASI Construction LLC; Paul Gross, President, Friends of Royal Lake; George Lamb, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NCSWCD); Anthony Vellucci, Park Authority Board, Braddock District Representative; Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock District); State Sen. Chap Peterson; Randy Bartlett; Darold Burdick and Dipmani Kumar, DPWES; Laura Grape, NCSWCD; Tim Hackman, Park Authority Board, Dranesville District Representative; and a friend of Royal Lake.

Lakeside Celebration Marks Completion of Royal Lake Dredging

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Lakeside Park on Saturday, July 15, to mark the completion of the rehabilitation and dredging project at Royal Lake in Fairfax. The celebration also marked the completion of the broader Pohick Dams project – a multi-year commitment by Fairfax County and its partners to meet current dam standards and restore the sediment pool of the lakes formed by dams at four county parks.

Dredging at Royal Lake began in mid-June 2016 and was completed in spring 2017. The \$5.5 million project will result in such projected water quality benefits as

the removal of 31 tons per year of sediment, 150 pounds per year of phosphorus, and 2,500 pounds per year of nitrogen. An important component of the project was the creation of forebays in the lake that provide water quality benefits and facilitate future maintenance dredging. This was a project that depended on partnerships including the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Park Authority, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, ASI Construction LLC, other contractors, and nearby residents who enjoy the amenities that Royal Lake provides.

FAITH NOTES

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.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church has Worship services Saturday in the chapel at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday in the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. traditional worship. Sunday School for youth and children is in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m., and Sunday School for adults is in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. Fellowship is in Hottle Hall on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. 8508 Hooes Road in Springfield. www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.

St. Anthony of Padua American National Catholic Church, 10383 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, holds mass for Contemporary Catholics every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. St. Anthony's is an independent Catholic parish, inclusive and accepting of all people. Experience true acceptance and true Catholicism. www.MySaintAnthonys.org.

Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, conducts Worship team practice for the Praise Band in the Sanc-

tuary every Thursday at 7 p.m. All are welcome. 703-323-1347.

Jubilee Christian Center will have a Patriotic Service on Sunday, May 28, 8:45 and 11 a.m., featuring special music and message. Jubilee is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. There will be no 6 p.m. service on May 28. For information, call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org

The Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rugby Road in Fairfax, has facilitators available to help those who are experiencing a separation or divorce. 703-631-2100 or www.fxcc.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services during the summer on Sundays at 10 a.m. The regular schedule, Sundays at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., resumes Sept. 11. www.uucf.org.

Congregation Adat Reyim, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Maariv minyan at 7:30 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays from 9-11:15 for K-6th graders and Mondays

SEE FAITH, PAGE 13

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photos: Mary O'Malley



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Cinco de Mayo



Mardi Gras

Boxer for All Occasions

Our Boxer is certainly a lovable guy. Named for the British holiday Boxing Day (Dec. 26, the day he came home to us), he's developed quite a fan club, both in person and on his Facebook page, where he posts pictures for holidays.

Boxer is a 3-year-old Dutch with striking good looks ... we think that he's handsome enough in his "tuxedo" to be considered as the next James Bond and he obviously has plenty of romantic appeal. He is a vegetarian who likes quiet dinners with family, rearranging the "furniture" in his cage and watching "Dancing With The Stars," although he is disappointed that they have yet to perform the Bunny Hop.

Our little guy (he weighs about six pounds) loves to meet new people and is particularly fond of children. He will happily sit for ages being petted and will repay you with bunny kisses (licking your fingers). Although he is clearly adorable, rabbits have a life expectancy of up to 10 years and require daily socialization and attention, in addition to their regular food and supplemental fresh veggies - while Boxer obviously turns on the charm for the camera, please recognize that caring for a bunny is much more than just a photo op.

— SUSIE NUÑEZ

Boxer's humans are occasional contributors to The Connection and his grand-humans' family manages circulation for the Springfield/Burke/Fairfax editions each week.



Easter 2015



Santa



St Pat



Valentines Flowers

PET CONNECTION



PEOPLE & PETS OF FAIRFAX

Marshall & Lulu

The Camp family of Fairfax sent this photo of Marshall on his birthday when he turned 17: "Marshall has been the leader of the pack (only afraid of thunderstorms and vacuum cleaners)."



The Camp family of Fairfax adopted Lulu when her owner had to give her up. She does not care to have her picture taken...and tends to stick her tongue out.



Dog Kisses

A snuggle moment between Audrey Herod of Springfield and her dog Magic. Audrey received a letter from Santa saying that her Christmas gift was to pick out a canine friend from a shelter. She then went looking for the perfect pal and found Magic at Arlington's animal shelter. It was love at first site for both of them!



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Reston Town Center continues its commitment to community events and free entertainment all year long.

RESTONTOWNCENTER.COM   



Children listen to Animal Control Officer Terry Carroll discuss pets and wildlife.

Cops and Kids Day 2017

City of Fairfax police held their third annual Cops and Kids Day on July 18 and some 80 children attended. They heard about bike safety, saw a K-9 demonstration and learned about Animal Control and the Emergency Services Team.

“This event teaches children not to be afraid of the police and that we’re here to help them,” said Police Chief Carl Pardiny. “It also teaches our officers how to interact with children.”

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



Det. Corry Scott demonstrates how a Remington iBall works. “We throw it inside a space and it shows us photos of what’s inside,” he said. (Officer on right is Jay Tolan).



Police K-9 Officer Vann Sayasithsena and K-9 Valor demonstrate the dog’s obedience skills and ability to find things.



From left: Bike team officers Eli Nunley and Matt Lasowitz tell children about the importance of wearing bike helmets and having bike locks.



K-9 Officer Vann Sayasithsena snaps his fingers to show how quickly his dog would come to him from his cruiser once he presses a button on his person to unlock the vehicle’s door.



Det. Corry Scott lets these boys hold a “Thor’s hammer,” used to break down doors.



Officer Jay Tolan shows children the water tube on his gas mask.



Ragan Oaks students and FACETS staff members, including Tijani Musa, celebrate success.



Robinson Square students who made the A-B Honor Roll for the first three quarters, with FACETS's Shanel Hudson (in front).

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH D'ANTONIO

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

'You Have to Choose to Succeed'

FACETS honors students' academic achievements.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

To inspire young people to stay focused on academics as a means to break the cycle of poverty, FACETS runs a year-round, youth program in certain low-income areas where the average income for a family of four is about \$18,000 per year. At Robinson Square in Fairfax and Ragan Oaks in Fair Oaks, staff and volunteers provide an array of educational, preventative and enrichment opportunities.

They offer one-on-one mentoring and tutoring, homework help, plus classes including literacy, art, computers, and substance-abuse and dating-violence prevention. And before school ended, they honored graduating seniors – plus more than 60 Honor Roll students who earned A's and B's on their report cards – with an Academic Achievement party at Centerpointe Church in Fair Oaks.

Ragan Oaks

Some 35 students in grades K-12 go to the FACETS center in Ragan Oaks, every day after school, for homework help, plus various activities and field trips. For example, they went to GMU for International Week, celebrating the university's diversity.

"I took the kids there to see different cultures, and we also saw a dance competition there," said Tijani Musa, FACETS community development advocate at Ragan Oaks. "I want to encourage them to go to college, and they got to see that it's not all studying – it can be fun, too. We also went



From left: Three Ragan Oaks attendees, Shahid Latif, Stephen Tatem and Mohammed Froukh with their academic-achievement certificates.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

to Wolf Trap to see a show, and the kids saw and participated in a CYA summer wrestling program. During spring break, they took a field trip to Van Dyck Park and played games, and they also swam in a pool in Ashburn."

The students learn life skills, too. "Currently, I'm working to establish a Girl Scouts group at Ragan Oaks for grades two through six," said Musa. "And for the boys, volunteers come on Fridays, hang out with them and teach them about taking initiative at home – for example, cleaning up after themselves and looking after younger siblings."

They also learn conflict resolution. If someone's bullying them, they're taught to tell Musa, a teacher, parent or other trusted adult. "We also teach 11th- and 12th-graders what a healthy, dating relationship looks like, plus how to recognize a bad relationship," said Musa. "We use a curriculum about safe dates from Partners in Prevention."

Volunteers talk with both high-school

boys and girls about self-esteem, and GMU students speak with the girls about their image. In addition, boys are taught responsibility.

During the summer, the students spend more time playing outside; the boys play soccer and football, and the girls play with chalk and hula hoops. And they all participate in Passport to Fun, learning fun facts about different countries and what they'd need to know before traveling there.

"Once they learn about a country, we stamp their 'passports,'" said Musa. "This way, when they return to school, they can engage with their friends in conversations about what they did during the summer, too. Instead of just listening to their counterparts, they also have fun experiences they can share."

"I was born in Sierra Leone, so I see myself in a lot of these kids," he explained. "I came here when I was 12 or 13. My parents didn't have anything and didn't speak English, so I faced a lot of cultural chal-

lenges. But I knew that opportunities were here, so I applied for scholarships, got several and went to Mason."

Musa majored in global affairs, with a concentration in international development, and he works for FACETS full-time. He does case management for the Ragan Oaks parents while their children are in school. And he says FACETS's work with the students is critically important.

"We're trying to end homelessness and break the cycle of poverty in Fairfax County," said Musa. "My team tries to empower the kids to go to college and come back and help their families. Or we'll direct them to figure out what they want to do. We also connect the parents to county resources for things like financial assistance, food, referrals to job training or even help with depression. I'm there to help provide these connections, while putting smiles on the faces of their kids daily."

One of those smiling children is Eagle View Elementary fifth-grader Shahid Latif. He likes the FACETS program because "There are a lot of kids to play basketball, football and tag with," he said. "The people are nice and I get homework help in math and science."

Agreeing, classmate Stephen Tatem said he looks forward to going there because "They help us with our homework and I play tag, skateboard and chill."

Centerpointe's pastor, the Rev. Brandon Horst, said his church hosts most of the Ragan Oaks special events, such as summer kickoff, National Night Out and a holiday meal where children pick out Christmas gifts for their parents. The boys group plays games on church property, and Centerpointe also lets FACETS use its vans to transport the students to and from activities.

"When there are needs in the community, you need people to meet them, and that's

SEE FACETS, PAGE 14

ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

Pop Up Adventure Playground. 10 a.m.-noon at Kutner Park, 3901 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. LEGO, Games, crafts, coding and more. This program is free, no registration required, and all ages welcome. Child care is not provided. Parents or guardians are required to attend with children not old enough to walk to and play in the park on their own. Call 703-385-7858 or email karen.lussier@fairfaxva.gov.

THURSDAY/JULY 27

Summer Under the Stars Concert. 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater (adjacent to City Hall), 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. City of Fairfax Band. Visit www.fairfaxband.org or call 703-385-7855.

FRIDAY/JULY 28

Rock the Block. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. "The Reagan Years," '80's 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/rocktheblock

Topgolf and a DJ. 7-10 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Silver DJ, food and drink. Visit topgolf.com/us/alexandria/ or call 703-924-2600.

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.

Scarf 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 scarf workshop. \$10. Call 703-569-8760.

Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series. 6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Free musical performance by Jarekus Singleton. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances or call 703-780-7518.

SUNDAY/JULY 30

G-Scale Model Train Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS) will have a G-Scale train display running. 4 and under free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Yoga on the Square. 10 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring a yoga mat and a water bottle. Call 703-385-7858.

MONDAY/JULY 31

Funday Monday for Children. 10:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Storytelling and songs. Weather permitting. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855.

TUESDAY/AUG. 1

Night Out at Random Hills. 6-8 p.m.

Cirque du Soleil's "OVO" – Main characters, from left: The Foreigner, Ladybug, and Master Flipo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



Soaring into Eagle Bank Arena

Cirque du Soleil's "OVO" brings colorful imagination to GMU stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Skillful daredevils with big, off-beat imaginations will be arriving in Northern Virginia. It is Cirque du Soleil's touring production of "OVO" with seven performances at the Eagle Bank Arena in Fairfax.

"OVO" starts when a larger than life "community of colorful curious insects is disrupted when a most colorful funky blue fly called The Foreigner unexpectedly arrives with a special package: a mysterious large egg," said Cirque du Soleil publicist, Nicolas Chabot in a recent interview. OVO is egg in Portuguese, said Chabot.

"What was once a quiet, thriving community of ants, spiders, crickets, dragon flies, even some not so frightening mosquitoes and fleas all have to deal with something new in their midst," added Chabot. The wise, eccentric Master Flipo, chief of the insect community, is startled. But a shy Ladybug senses that the community will be disrupted for the good.

"OVO" was created by Deborah Colker, the first

female director in Cirque du Soleil history. "Colker wanted to develop a family friendly experience bringing the secret life of the colorful insects often hidden away at our feet to view," said Chabot. "And the bugs are not creepy at all.

"The 'OVO' community is visually striking, full of quirky insects who perform astounding physical stunts," said Chabot. They rush about to eat, crawl, play, annoy each other, and even look for friendships. All with non-stop energy.

The cast of OVO comprises 50 athletic performing artists. They will perform in a center ring, on walls, on high wires and even perform hold-one's-breath feats in the heights of the Eagle Bank Arena. As they perform, they will jump, contort, tumble, juggle and twist to defy gravity and audience expectations. A lively seven-piece band will add energy to the show, playing original music composed by Berna Ceppas based upon the Bossa Nova, Funk, Electro and even Samba.

Bright, colorful costumes will display the acrobatic insects in lively groupings of energetic cute bugs. "OVO" will showcase the insects working together to form and celebrate their community," said Chabot.

"OVO" is a big, exciting picture book that will come alive through human imagination and the skills of performers out to please the audience; no matter what age. "OVO" aims to be wide-eyed fun, showing that colorful bugs of many kinds can live peacefully together.

at Random Hills Community Pool, 11567 Laurel Lakes Square, Fairfax. Part of the National Night Out community event, food, cold treats, games.

What's in the Virginia Room. 7-9 p.m. at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road. Burke Historical Society research seminar about the Virginia Room's collection presented by Elaine Mcrey. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 2

Tai Chi. 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive,

Fairfax. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Class will take place in Old Town Square at the pergola. Weather permitting. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/.

THURSDAY/AUG. 3

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Learn about fish in the pond. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588.

The Excellent Drivers concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Musical, family-friendly event. Free.

Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/.

FRIDAY/AUG. 4

Main Street Clarinet Quartet concert. 7-8 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Musical, family-friendly event. Free. Visit fairfaxva.gov/.

Bingo. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Smoke free. \$1,000 jackpot. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/.

Topgolf and a DJ. 7-10 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Rush Hour DJ, food and drink. Visit topgolf.com/us/

alexandria/ or call 703-924-2600.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. at Uncle Julio's at Fairfax Corner, 4251 Fairfax Corner Ave. \$32 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.

Topgolf and a DJ. 7-10 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Tnyce DJ, food and drink. Visit topgolf.com/us/alexandria/ or call 703-924-2600.

SUNDAY/AUG. 6

Yoga on the Square. 10 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring a yoga mat and a water bottle. Call 703-385-7858.

MONDAY/AUG. 7

Funday Monday. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Mr. Skip will perform for children. Free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 9

Tai Chi. 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Weather permitting. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Class will take place in Old Town Square at the pergola. Free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

THURSDAY/AUG. 10

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Learn about "dirt critters," in the area. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

Yoga on the Square. 10 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring a yoga mat and water bottle. Call 703-385-7858.

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge T-TRAK model train show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Meet the Artist Reception. noon-3 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Art Quilts Exhibit by fiber artist Marisela Rumberg, exhibit runs Aug. 9-Sept. 3. Visit www.MariselaRumberg.com.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Reston: A Revolutionary Idea." Author and biographer Kristina Alcorn will discuss the history of Reston and sign and sell her book, "In His Own Words: Stories from the Extraordinary Life of Reston's Founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr." Free. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. 703-385-8414.

THURSDAY/AUG. 17

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Learn about insects in the area. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588.

Lucia Valentine Concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive. Grab dinner at one of the many restaurants in downtown, and listen to great music. Free. Call 703-385-7858.

FOOD

Enjoying 'Patriotic Food'

Review: Dogfish Head Alehouse – Fairfax.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

As Americans spend the first part of July celebrating America and shooting off fireworks, probably the best way to be a patriot is... to enjoy American food. Of course, plenty of local restaurants claim to serve American fare — and surely they do — but a Chantilly (and Falls Church) destination takes American eats to another level: awesome.

That is Dogfish Head Alehouse, where patrons can stroll in for quick indoor seating, an outdoor table, or a chance to hunker down to scroll through the list of brews and ales, many on tap. And all this can take place while enjoying one of the occasional live-music events, such as Split Spring Soup's event held in mid-July.

Even if you only want to eat and not delve into the brews menu, there's plenty here to satisfy. To start off, staff will hand you the local specials, and these might include as starter Buffalo chicken eggrolls (delish!), Porky's peach barbecue, and the sandwich Virginia chicken and cheese.

On the standard menu, starters include Alehouse chili nachos, a jumbo soft pretzel, and spicy fried calamari tossed with banana peppers and Cajun

spices. If you are into peppery eats, this platter to share (unless you are super hungry) sets off the meal with great flare.

Of course, one of the big-deal categories on its menu is "Dogfish Burgers" with four different burger options. Naturally, there's a bacon-fueled burger, and an Alehouse burger with BBQ sauce, cheddar cheese, and Applewood-smoked bacon. But for patrons longing for an extra kick, Dave's Border burger is the answer. It comes topped with pepper jack cheese, ripe avocado, pico de gallo and fried jalapenos. Yum...

The balance of the menu scrolls through soups, salads, pizzas, sandwiches, and entrées. The last choice includes crab cakes, half racks of baby back ribs, mahi mahi tacos, and jambalaya. Each of these dishes comes with ale pairing suggestions.

All this leads to their abbreviated dessert menu. But as short as it is, the kitchen wisely includes three American faves: apple crisp with ice cream (suggested ale: Indian Brown Ale), Riley's bread pudding with chocolate chips and chocolate drizzle; and the Dogfish brownie sundae. This comes with a warm homemade brownie topped with vanilla bean ice cream, chocolate sauce, and whipped cream.

Dogfish Head Alehouse, 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., Fairfax. 703-961-1140. Hours: Lunch and dinner daily.

FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 7

from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for 3rd-6th graders. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. 703-569-7577 or www.adatreyim.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 6 p.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, offers Early Morning Service at 8 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Bible Study at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music

and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

Faith Communities in Action meets the first Wednesday of every other month from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The Bahá'ís of Fairfax County Southwest offers "Interfaith Devotions: World Peace and Unity" for the general public on Saturdays. These free devotional gatherings meet at the Pohick Regional Library, Room #1, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, 22015.

St. Leo the Great in Fairfax hosts "Night of Praise" the first Saturday of each month, featuring praise music and Eucharist adoration at 7 p.m. Located at 3704 Old Lee Highway in Fairfax.

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike,

Annandale, offers a traditional service on Sundays at 8:15 and 11:15 a.m. and a contemporary service on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. www.stmatthewsumc.org or 703-978-3500.

The Immanuel Bible Church MOPS group meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. MOPS is for pregnant or parenting mothers of children from infancy to kindergarten. 703-922-4295 or www.MOPS.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield, 7300 Gary St., Springfield, has traditional and contemporary Sunday services at 10:30 a.m., Sunday school at 9:15 a.m. Special worldwide services offered at special times throughout the year in English, Spanish and Ethiopian. The pastors are Jim Weaver and Jason Mitchell. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.



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FACETS Teaches Life Skills

FROM PAGE 11

what FACETS does,” explained Horst. “The average income in the communities they serve is under \$20,000/year, so that’s why it’s a joy for us to help them.”

Robinson Square

Shanel Hudson is the FACETS community development advocate at Robinson Square, next to GMU’s fieldhouse and adjacent to Main Street. Usually about 30 students, ages 4-18, participate. The program serves students attending Fairfax Villa Elementary, Frost Middle School, Woodson High and Robinson Secondary School.

They receive homework help and take part in boys and girls groups, plus life-skills groups. There’s also a weekly, adult ESL program. Besides running the program for the students, Hudson also works with adults in this area. Volunteers provide various programs, such as yoga and meditation, and a Women’s Business Circle advises attendees on how to succeed in the workplace.

Self-confidence and self-esteem classes are offered, as are life-skills classes in topics such as financial management. “When you work with low-income individuals or at-risk youth, you’re interacting with a population dealing with many deficiencies in their lives,” explained Hudson. “They don’t have access to the resources that people in other socioeconomic circumstances do.

“So we bridge that gap. We provide them referrals to other resources, such as free eyeglasses, vehicles and food. There’s even a ‘grocery store’ at Robinson Square where people in need in that community can come and get whatever they need. And they usually don’t take much because they know their neighbors are also in need.”

“Each center can also create programs to best serve its

community’s needs,” continued Hudson. “At Robinson Square, a lot of my clients don’t have access to transportation, so a monthly volunteer takes them to do errands. And I ask local businesses to donate things such as grocery gift cards or snacks for the kids to eat during homework help.”

FACETS also holds an annual drive to provide children with backpacks and school supplies. And, said Hudson, “If they run out during the year, they can come to me and I’ll give them more.”

Pleased to host the Academic Achievement party at Centerpointe, Horst told the students there to look around at all the adults present. “These people care about you and want you to succeed,” said Horst. “But they can’t make you [do it]. You have to decide not to let things around you determine what happens to you. You have to choose to succeed.”

About 150 people attended the event – students, parents, FACETS staff and community partners, such as the Neighborhood and Community Service Unit, which helps nonprofit FACETS obtain grants. Also there was another partner, Fairfax County Housing and Development, which provides the spaces for the centers.

“They’re places to go after school,” said FACETS Executive Director Joe Fay. “They’re staffed, safe places where students work with caring adults, plus volunteer mentors, who get to know the kids over a long period of time. They’re role models and coaches and, by their commitment, they show the importance of what they do.”

“Tonight, we’re celebrating academic achievement,” he continued. “It sets the kids up for success and lets them know that what they’ve done is valuable and worth celebrating. And last year, all the graduating seniors in our programs went on to higher education afterward.”

SCHOOL NOTES

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.

Andrew E. Elaryan of Fairfax, Probable career field: Mechanical Engineering, graduate of W. T. Woodson HS, has received College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship from University of Oklahoma. Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree-granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic, and

health care needs of the state, region, and nation. Through its 19 colleges, OU provides comprehensive learning experiences in over 300 total majors at the baccalaureate, master’s, doctoral, and professional levels. Today OU has some 30,000 students representing 50 states and over 100 countries. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

Erin C. Suidikas, of Fairfax, made the dean’s list at University of Kentucky for the spring 2017 semester. Suidikas is a senior majoring in anthropology

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PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at: Burke Facility #24624
10480 Lee Highway
Fairfax, Fairfax County, Virginia

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Burke Petroleum Realty, LLC to develop a Corrective Action Plan Addendum (CAPA) to modify remediation endpoints at the site. If you have questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:

Kleinfelder
1340 Charwood Road, Suite I
Hanover, Maryland 21076
(443) 850-0404

The CAPA will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ on August 15, 2017. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed CAPA with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Kris McCandless (Kristopher.McCandless@deq.virginia.gov) at 703-583-3833 after the date of the CAPA submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the CAPA until September 15, 2017. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC #1994-1362.

Department of Environmental Quality
Storage Tank Program
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Improvements

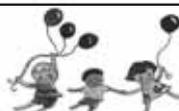
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BULLETIN BOARD

Send community/civic notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

AUG. 2-30

Fit for Life Classes. 11 a.m.-noon at the Bruen Chapel United Methodist Church, 3035 Cedar Lane, Fairfax. Fairfax Fit for Life Classes are sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults. Call 703-281-0538 or email eileentarr1@verizon.net.

THROUGH AUG. 25

Summer Lunches. The Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Food and Nutrition Services will be hosting the FEEDS (Food for Every Child to Eat During Summer) BBQ program, a USDA-funded program is free to all children 18 years and under and \$2 for adults. There is no registration involved, and open to everyone. Meal service will be provided at the following sites Monday-Friday, 11:30-1 p.m. No service on July 3 and 4. In the Springfield area, FEEDS is offered at the following schools:

- Springfield Gardens Apartments, 6116 Cumberland Ave.
- Springfield Square Apartments, 7000 Rhoden Court, starts at noon
- Chelsea Square Apartments, 5734 Backlick Road, starts at noon

ONGOING

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50 and older who no longer drive. **Volunteer drivers** are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. **Office workers** are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788.

Positive Parenting Strategies Course. At PHILLIPS, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale. A series of classes and in home consultations taught by PHILLIPS' counselors. Open to all local families. Call Stacy Stryjewski at 703-658-9054.

LETTER

FROM PAGE 6

plus years and was vice president at one time of the railroad union so my mother was very workers rights oriented and my father's family were bankers. My paternal grandfather was vice president of National Boulevard Bank in Chicago. So I get an interesting perspective.

It does not make sense to me that they are going after this failsafe program for the most disadvantaged of our country. This is a safety net. There are so many other programs that need to be examined. But I cannot understand this assault on the human condition of our citizens. There are black ops programs that get unlimited funding. The waste is in these special interest programs. No one is investigating the \$100 toothpicks. Somehow the health and welfare programs are the target for cutting when in actuality government waste in these other pet projects should be addressed. We have projects that have no accountability.

**Valerie Benson
Burke**

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Find us on Facebook and become a fan! www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community www.connectionnewspapers.com		Additionally, a negative in one life will likewise have an adverse consequence in the other. However, the requirements to maintain their respective lives is different. Yet balance/co-existence must be maintained in order for one to remain "twogether." Two separate halves will not make for a responsible whole, but rather lead to an emotional one. And if there's one attribute that a cancer patient/survivor must have, it is emotional wherewithal. Failure to do so in one's cancer life will likely spill over into the non-cancer life (and vice-versa) and cause a kind of an adult version of failure to thrive. Cancer might win the battle in the end but you can't let it win the battle in the interim. Fulfilling your every-day responsibilities helps give that life the kind of accomplishment that aids and abets in your fight against your cancer life. Moreover, handling your cancer life gives you the confidence and optimism to live your non-cancer life. Granted, the two lives might not exactly be the best of friends, but they must be partners of a sort. The sort that is independent, appreciative, respectful and considerate.	

Taking Care Of Business



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The cats. The car. The dentist. The pancreatic enzymes. It was a week that typically isn't. As often as my credit card was swiped these past few days, I'm amazed its magnetic strip is still magnetized. To quote my deceased mother, Celia: "It's enough already."

Oh well, what's done is done, though it definitely needed doing. And aside from the fact that I didn't have the actual money, fortunately I had the available credit, which I was grateful to have had. I mean, how long can you put off necessary evils/expenditures before they rear their ugly consequences? And though money doesn't grow on trees (linen actually), credit seems to, and so the to-do list now has some cross-outs/"has-dones" finally.

Now the anxiety about neglecting the "to-dos" is replaced by the worry about the cost/need-to-pay the "having-dones." Nevertheless, the cats have had their vaccinations shot current.

The car now has a passenger window that goes down – and back up, a check-engine light that no longer illuminates, a blower that will now provide heat in the winter and a defogger when needed, and as it turns out a bit of unexpected air conditioning.

The dentist has referred me to an oral surgeon (since the teeth were both "unrestorable"/not root canal candidates) who will extract two teeth from my mouth and hundreds more from my bank account/probably credit card – again, but no doubt get me back on a course of dental correction.

The pancreatic enzymes, the most expensive bottle of pills I buy (I consume upwards of 55 pills per day) is an expense I incur every three months and does something to help my immune system keep the lung cancer in-check, a priority if there ever was one.

Paying to keep on playing (so to speak), by maintaining this kind of normalcy enhances the feeling that life is indeed still being played. And not that my attitude/philosophy in such responsibilities is totally affected by yours truly having been diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, to be specific, but as the old punchline says: "It doesn't hurt." And avoiding hurt is definitely part of the fighting-cancer strategy; along with avoiding stress, eating healthy, exercising and boosting one's immune system.

I guess what I'm realizing that I have two lives, sort of, the usual and customary life: work, play, day-to-day stuff and the cancer life: lab work, chemotherapy, scans, oncologist, pills, lifestyle changes, etc. On some days, they are parallel. On other days, they intersect. And though they may be separate, they are inter-related. What benefits one is likely to positively affect the other.

Additionally, a negative in one life will likewise have an adverse consequence in the other. However, the requirements to maintain their respective lives is different. Yet balance/co-existence must be maintained in order for one to remain "twogether."

Two separate halves will not make for a responsible whole, but rather lead to an emotional one. And if there's one attribute that a cancer patient/survivor must have, it is emotional wherewithal. Failure to do so in one's cancer life will likely spill over into the non-cancer life (and vice-versa) and cause a kind of an adult version of failure to thrive.

Cancer might win the battle in the end but you can't let it win the battle in the interim. Fulfilling your every-day responsibilities helps give that life the kind of accomplishment that aids and abets in your fight against your cancer life. Moreover, handling your cancer life gives you the confidence and optimism to live your non-cancer life.

Granted, the two lives might not exactly be the best of friends, but they must be partners of a sort. The sort that is independent, appreciative, respectful and considerate.

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

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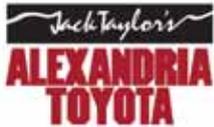
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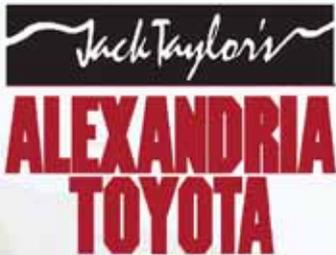
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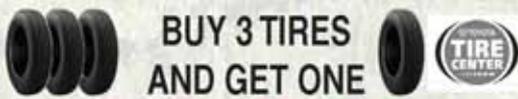
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