

# Giant Food Store Heads To Fairfax

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**Project Manager Aisha Hill discusses Scout on the Circle development with City residents. "We've taken every step we can to make sure this is a great project," she said.**

9

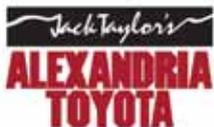
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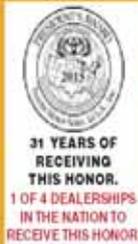
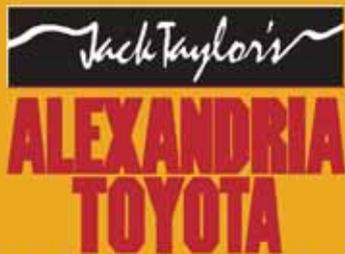
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## Giant Food Store Heads to Fairfax

Will anchor Scout on the Circle development.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Combined Properties gave Fairfax City residents an update on the stalled, Scout on the Circle project, on July 20, the developer said it was working hard to finalize the lease with its grocery-store anchor. The deed is now done and, last Thursday, Aug. 3, Giant Food was announced as that anchor store.

“The City of Fairfax is very pleased that Combined Properties has this lease agreement with Giant Food for a store at Scout on the Circle,” said Mayor David Meyer. “Combined Properties has a first-rate project that will become an iconic entrance to our community. We congratulate Combined Properties and Giant and look forward to having this new, commercial center in our city.”

The already-approved, mixed-use development will replace an obsolete strip mall with 400 Class-A apartment units, 29,000 square feet of retail and the Giant – which will be a 54,000-square-foot, full-service, grocery store with pharmacy. Two parking garages are also part of the project.

Dubbed a “transit-oriented development,” it’s located at Fairfax Circle and flanked by Fairfax Boulevard (Route 50), Lee Highway (Route 29) and Pickett Road, so it will have easy access to and from major highways. And now that the lease agreement has been signed with Giant, the project’s construction schedule has been accelerated, with work expected to begin late this year or early in 2018.

However, at the outset of July’s informational meeting, things weren’t quite so rosy. “There’s been a very long and frustrating delay on this project,” said Meyer. “So I’ve asked Combined Properties to meet with the citizens and hear their concerns.”

Andrew McIntyre, the company’s senior vice president for business development, told the crowd Scout on the Circle is a “very important project” for his firm. “Our desire

is to have a shovel in the ground by the end of this year or the first quarter of next year,” he said. Noting that it takes a long time to “take a large site like this out of use and redevelop it, McIntyre said, “We would have wanted to keep the shopping center going [as it was] for a longer period of time.”

He also stressed that it’s a \$150 million-dollar project and Combined Properties is now in the final design, permits and drawings stage. And he said that, once it finalized the lease with the grocer, that entity would attract other retail to come there. But it’s a deliberate and complicated process.

“The builder is CBG, Clark Builders Group, and we need the lease, permits and a joint-venture equity partner who’ll match the \$25 million we’re investing before we can begin work,” said McIntyre. “You have a hole in your community, and we empathize with that. But right now, we are bleeding money and generating no revenue. So we’re very motivated to get this moving.”

He said their brokers “feel strongly that this is a very good project. We’ve already spent \$6 million to \$7 million to get to where we are today – not to mention the millions we spent paying off the debt. And because of that, this pushes it to the top of the stack for investment folks. We expect to identify that partner by August-September and then go out for debt financing. Then CBG can proceed [with the work].”

**REGARDING THE RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT,** Project Manager Aisha Hill, Combined Properties’ director of development, said 6 percent of the apartments – all rentals – will be affordable housing. The retail will comprise grocery store, plus two other buildings with retail on the first level and five stories of residential above.

“The apartments will be 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom for a plethora of options for families, singles and retirees downsizing,” said Hill. “Most are 1- and 2-bedroom units. Parking-garage entrances will be from Route 50 and from a back street. We’ve taken every step we can to make sure this is a great project.



IMAGES CONTRIBUTED

Artist’s rendition of Scout on the Circle showing the Giant Food store.

We anticipate the residential to be open in spring 2020, two years after the start of construction.”

McIntyre said businesses survive in a retail development by creating a community, not just for the immediate residents, but for the city at large. “We want people to do other things there – such as errands and snacking – besides shop for groceries,” he said. “There’s even an alley there for entertainment, such as cooking classes, music or yoga. It’s also about the experience people have there.”

“At Combined, we’re a retail company and know the kind of businesses we want there,” added Hill. “We want to pick the right and strongest retailers we can find.”

“We don’t do things the cheapest way,” said McIntyre. “We want to create value and have excellent design that will be enduring and that people will respond to in a positive way.”

Explaining the project’s name, Scout on the Circle, Hill said research yielded many

ties to a specific, female, wartime spy, or scout, in this area, and “We changed the meaning of ‘scout’ to being about the exploration of life in a new place.”

Next came questions from the audience, and resident Billy Reilly asked, “At what point do you decide the type of stores coming in there?” McIntyre said that’s their “big challenge in the next couple years. We want any retail where people want to stay, to drive rents and be competitive – for example, a gelato shop where people can stay and visit with their friends.”

However, another male resident said, “We have a lot of vacant retail space in Old Town, and I’m concerned that it’ll take patronage away from that part of the City.”

But Meyer replied that “This project is on the edge of the City limits and in a different, geographic position. I think high-quality redevelopment anywhere in the City will help the entire City.”

A man from Foxcroft Colony Condominiums, across Route 50 from this project, said he was glad to hear about its progress and would appreciate a safe, pedestrian crosswalk to it for his community. Meyer said, “Hopefully, we’ll have another meeting like this before Jan. 1. And I’d like to talk about what the City’s going to do about changes to Route 50 regarding the redevelopment of this site.”

**MEANWHILE,** Combined Properties Chairman Ronald Haft is delighted that a lease was signed with the project’s grocery store. “With the state of the art Giant Food anchoring this exciting mixed-use development, Scout on the Circle is destined to be a premier property in the market,” he said. Store officials are pleased, too.

“We are thrilled to be expanding our footprint in the Northern Virginia community with the addition of our new City of Fairfax store,” said Giant Food President Gordon Reid. “For 81 years, Giant has continually sought opportunities to serve the greatest number of people in the region, offering quality products and services.”

The project will have first-floor retail with five stories of apartments above.



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With studios in Fairfax, Alexandria and Mosaic, Tiny Dancers offers a curriculum designed especially for young children ages 2-12.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Tiny Dancers Receives Top Honors

Tiny Dancers has been named Best Ballet or Dance Studio and Best Kids' Birthday Party Venue in the July 2017 issue of Washington Family Magazine. In addition, Northern Virginia Magazine, in the June issue, named the program Best of NoVA in the Parent & Me category.

Studio owner Donna Rathe, commenting on the awards, said, "We're thrilled to be able to share our passion for dance with our young dancers. To watch them start out as toddlers in our Wiggletoes program and then a few years later dancing with confidence and poise is what keeps us going."

With studios in Fairfax, Alexandria and Mosaic, Tiny Dancers offers a curriculum designed especially for young children ages 2-12. The literacy-based program uses age appropriate choreography and emphasizes technical excellence in a fun and nurturing environment. By introducing dancers to the basics of ballet, tap and jazz using well-known fairy tales and hundreds of costumes and props, students are encouraged to learn through creative self-expression and exploration.

Visit [www.tinydancers.com](http://www.tinydancers.com) or call 703-385-5580 for more information.



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### Mayor Visits Main Street Child Development Center

Mayor David Meyer, pictured here with students and teachers Liz Cassidy and Elisa Otiniano, visited Main Street Child Development Center, Fairfax, in July with a handful of letters and a stack of brand new recycle bins. The letters were from the "Dolphins" Pre-K class, expressing the need for recycling pick up at their preschool, located at the Green Acres Community Center. The Mayor thanked the children for taking care of their community and the environment and congratulated each for an early and successful start in exercising their rights as citizens.



### Park Authority Honors Lake Braddock Junior

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board has named Hidden Pond Nature Center volunteer Jennifer Ochs of Springfield the 2017 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Student Honoree. The annual Elly Doyle awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute outstanding volunteer service to the Park Authority, and one student honoree is named each year.

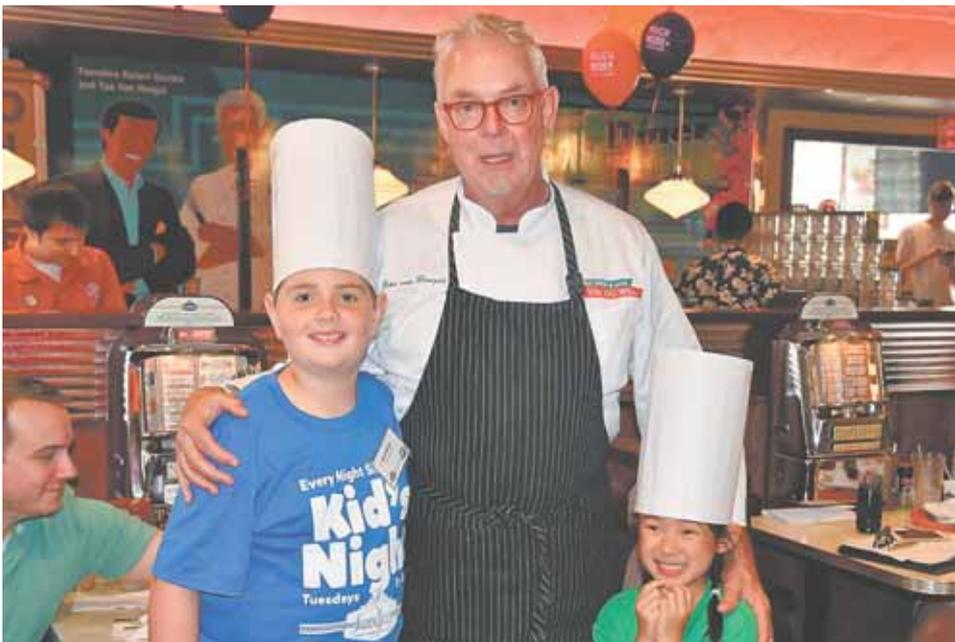
Ochs has been a volunteer at Hidden Pond since the summer of 2013, working as an assistant naturalist/animal caretaker. Her regular duties include live exhibit care and maintenance, visitor services at the front desk and summer camp support. She leads weekend birthday party programs and has supported projects such as invasive plant removal, stream clean-

ups and erosion control.

Ochs also is on the nature center's Envirothon team, which is a competitive natural resources program. The Lake Braddock Secondary School junior was praised for her professional demeanor and mentoring of younger volunteers and for serving as a good role model for younger children and her peers through her commitment and accomplishments.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Award program was established by the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1988 in recognition of former board member and Chair Ellamae Doyle's years of outstanding service. Awards will be presented at the Elly Doyle Park Services and Outstanding Volunteers Award ceremony in November.

# NEWS



## Winning Silver Diner Contest

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Noelle Sarntinoranont, 6, from Fairfax, on right, is standing with Silver Diner's Chef Ype Von Hengst, executive chef and co-founder of Silver Diner, and co-winner Noah Knapp, 10, from Washington, D.C. Both youngsters were selected as the two top winners of the Silver Diner's recent Kids' Tasting and Recipe Competition. They received Silver Diner Kids Meals for a year and a \$500 Silver Diner gift card for their family members.**

## Blood Donations Urgently Needed

The American Red Cross urges blood donors to give in the final weeks of summer to help overcome a chronic summer blood shortage.

In August, regular donors may delay giving as final summer vacations are planned and back-to-school activities ramp up. To fully meet the needs of hospital patients in the coming days and weeks, donations are urgently needed from new and current donors.

Those who donated blood earlier this summer may be eligible to donate again. Blood can be safely donated every 56 days,

and Power Red cells can be donated every 112 days.

As a special thank you, those who come out to give blood or platelets with the Red Cross now through Aug. 31 will be emailed a \$5 Target eGiftCard.

Appointments can be scheduled by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). To help reduce wait times, donors are encouraged to make appointments and complete the RapidPass online health history questionnaire at [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass).

## Blood Donation Opportunities Aug. 15-31

- Aug. 15** — 10:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 16** — 12:45-8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 17** — 12:45-5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 18** — 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 19** — 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 20** — 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 21** — 1:15-8:30 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 22** — 10:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 23** — 12:45-8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 24** — 12:45-5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood

- Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 25** — 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 25** — 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Pennino Building 10th Floor Conf Rm, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax
- Aug. 26** — 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 27** — 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 28** — 1:15-8:30 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 29** — 10:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 30** — 12:45-8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200
- Aug. 31** — 12:45-5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday.

**Logan Cole**, of Springfield, graduated from Hofstra University (Hempstead, N.Y.) in May 2017, earning a Master of Science in education in counseling.

**Justin Hamilton**, of Springfield, won a schol-



arship in the Heroes' Legacy Scholarships for Children of Fallen or Disabled Service Members. He plans to attend the Northern Virginia Community College this year.

**Justin Hamilton**



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## An Open Letter to Readers and More

### Buy an ad in our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

Last year, when I wrote an editorial similar to this one, there was some controversy about it inside the Connection. But many community organizations, civic organizations, businesses and elected officials responded positively, and it made a difference.

I have a special favor to ask, once again: Buy an ad in our Newcomers and Community Guide.

To put on my publisher's hat (not my editor's hat) for a minute, if you have a marketing budget, and you value coverage of local newspapers (not just ours), why wouldn't you spend a portion of that budget (any portion) supporting that platform?

Show your support for our organization which continues to be here to support the forces of good in our communities.

Our annual Newcomers and Community Guide is a pullout section that will appear in the Aug. 23, 2017 edition of all 15 Connection Newspapers, published by Local Media Con-

nection. Deadline is Aug. 16.

We are creating a quality special issue, and we need your help. Whether you invest in a small ad in a single paper (super affordable), or a full page in all 15 of our papers (super value), we appreciate your help this month.

For the same reasons that organizations, businesses and campaigns know they want local newspaper coverage, newspaper advertising is an effective way to reach voters, residents, clients. The Connection reaches more than 200,000 readers, in print and online, including remarkable demographics. Our readers include local and national decision makers in the public and private sector.

According to an independent study cited by the National Newspaper Association: 86 percent of voters who cast ballots in the election four years ago read newspapers in print or online; 79 percent of voters ages 18 to 34 read newspapers in print or online; 91 percent of voters who contribute to campaigns read newspapers in print or online.

The deadline for the Newcomers and Community Guide is Aug. 16. Digital enhancements and support are available. For more information, email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431.

See [www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising)

### Share Tips about Community

We need help from our readers with ideas for our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com) or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/> by Wednesday, Aug. 17.

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

EDITORIAL

## Local Impact of Immigration

### "Lifeblood of our astounding economic success story."

BY GERRY CONNOLLY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-11)

White House Advisor Stephen Miller took pains last week to point out that Emma Lazarus' sonnet, "The New Colossus," was not affixed to the Statue of Liberty when she was unveiled in 1886. He, of course, was right in fact but wrong in spirit. The famed "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses" lines were added 20 years later, but have come to represent the American ideal that we are a nation of immigrants, enthusiastically welcoming those from any background who want to come here, work hard, and play by the rules. Here in Fairfax County, we not only embrace that ideal, we recognize it as the lifeblood of our astounding economic success story.

President Trump and the senators pushing the RAISE Act, a bill to severely restrict legal immigration into the United States, would



have you believe a dramatic increase in immigrants leads to economic decline and lower wages, not to mention higher crime rates and a host of other social ills. If anyone from the White House made

the 15-mile trip to Fairfax County, they would learn the opposite is true.

In 1970 less than 4 percent of Fairfax's population was foreign born. Today that number is 30.7 percent, more than double the rate in the country at large. But that dramatic increase in immigration did not lead to the kind of dystopia the President envisions. Instead, since 1970, Fairfax County has become an economic colossus that drives our state's economy and is envied across the globe. Household income is among the highest in the nation, crime rates remain at historic lows, and our community hums with the kind of economic dynamism that drives

innovation and long-term productivity growth.

How did we get here? Undoubtedly we've capitalized on our proximity to, and our partnership with, the federal government. But the facts are quite clear that the dramatic increase in foreign-born immigration has accelerated our economic success. Immigrants in Fairfax are primarily working age, more likely to start a business, less likely to commit crimes, and contribute to economic growth in both high-skilled and low-skilled fields, creating technology firms worth billions and caring for the elderly as home care workers. Immigrants have revitalized many of our older

neighborhoods, adding \$7,383 to the value of each and every home in our county, according to the Partnership for a New American Economy. The results speak for themselves. Foreign-born immigrants have fueled our success.

But Fairfax is not alone. Small towns, rural communities, and large cities across the country have capitalized on the economic vitality and opportunities created when immigrants show up and get to work. Welcoming "the homeless, the tempest-tost" is the moral thing to do, but right here in President Trump's own backyard we've proven that's the smart thing to do.

### AUGUST 29: SPECIAL ELECTION - FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

A special election to fill the Fairfax County School Board seat left vacant by the resignation of At-Large member Jeanette Hough will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017. The winner of the election will serve the remainder of that term, which extends to Jan. 1, 2020.

Important dates:  
 ♦ Aug. 15 - Voter Registration Deadline: 5 p.m., Online: 11:59 p.m.  
 ♦ Aug. 22 - Deadline to Apply for an Absentee Ballot by Mail: 5 p.m.  
 ♦ Aug. 26 - Final Day In-Person Absentee Voting  
 ♦ Aug. 29 - Absentee Ballot Return Deadline: 7 p.m.  
 Absentee Voting at the Fairfax County Government Center\*  
 July 14 through Aug. 25

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 Thursday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
 Saturday, Aug. 26: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 323  
 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

There will be no absentee voting at any satellite locations. Absentee voting will only be available at the Fairfax County Government Center. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm) for more information.  
 More information about voting in this election is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm).

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# NEWS

**This year's 4-H King, Daniel Wisdom of Falls Church, greets visitors Sunday in a building that housed prize-winning exhibits at Frying Pan Park. He holds an 8-week-old bard rock hen named Eliza that may start laying eggs within six months. Wisdom, 16, says he has participated in 4-H projects half his life.**



PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

## County Holds 4-H Fair & Carnival

Children of all ages were delighted by the sights and sounds of farm animals, amusement rides, live music, big trucks and tractor pulls last weekend at the 69th annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair & Carnival. The event was held Aug. 3-6 in the historic Frying Pan Farm Park at 2709 West Ox Road and showcased the hard work of county youth, who studied various subjects in detail — from agriculture to photography — and competed for ribbons and cash prizes in at least 18 categories.

Retired elementary school teacher JoEllen Frasch has served as a judge at this fair for 11 years and says 4-H stands for “head, heart, hands and health.” She explains this youth development organization helps children use these four tools to help better their communities.

Frasch takes pride in the fact a former student of hers at the Oak Hill Elementary School is a paid farmer at Frying Pan, attends college at Virginia Tech and plans to pursue a graduate degree in veterinary medicine.

The farm works with 4-H clubs to preserve this living history park and show how a Fairfax County farm looked almost 100 years ago.

Concession stands in the food court featured the standard festival fare of hot dogs, hamburgers, funnel cakes plus Southern fried fish — Carolina style



**Alina Ampeh, a rising sophomore at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, says her Norwegian Fjord is a draft horse and the “oldest pure breed in the world.”**

— by the James family of Aldie. Snow cones and a lemonade stand with fresh fruit helped visitors cope with summer heat.

Check out the local 4-H scene at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov).

— MARTI MOORE



**Scott Nuzum, 35, of Fairfax stands nearly 6-feet tall against tall corn Sunday morning and shows his toddler, Sylvia, where corn on the cob comes from in a garden next to the Kidwell farm house at the 135-acre Frying Pan Park in Herndon.**



**Terry Downs of Fairfax helps his neighborhood environmental group and signs a petition to protect the Shenandoah salamander, an endangered species at both state and federal levels.**



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**Ages 12-14** 8:00 am (150 m pool swim; 4.5-mile bike; 1.0-mile run)

**Ages 9-11** 8:45 am (100 m swim; 3-mile bike; 0.6 mi run)

**Ages 8 and under** - 9:00 am (50 m swim; 1.5-mile bike; 0.6 mi run)

For more information, contact Bonnie at [TriforthekidsLPRC@gmail.com](mailto:TriforthekidsLPRC@gmail.com)

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# Firearms Training Center Given Final Approvals

**Construction contract awarded, more funds OKed.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

The new Fairfax City Police Firearms Training Center is closer to becoming a reality now that City Council has approved the extra money needed to design and build it. The Council members also awarded the construction contract and approved the money for the project's architectural and engineering services.

All these things were accomplished during the Council's last meeting of the summer on July 25. And thanks to partnerships with two other entities which will also use the new center, the City won't have to bear its total cost alone.

The City of Falls Church signed its partnership agreement in May. And at the July 25 meeting, Fairfax City Police Chief Carl Pardiny told the Council, "We have a draft contract from GMU in hand and are fine-tuning it. And our partnerships with GMU and Falls Church will help offset the construction and maintenance costs.

"We rely on GMU [police] to back up our officers, from time to time, and we all have to be on the same page with our training," he continued. "Falls Church [police] officers train with us, too, so we're all up to the same standard and level."

The current firearms training center for Fairfax City's Police Department was built in 1985 of cinderblock and wood. It has six firing lanes, a small classroom, a weapons-cleaning area and an office/armory. But it doesn't meet police needs for the future.

**ACOUSTICAL TREATMENTS** are necessary to limit hearing loss at the firing range, and the air-ventilation system limiting officers' exposure to airborne lead is about at the end of its life. Indeed, said Pardiny, "An updated air-handling system was much of the impetus for the new building."

Furthermore, two more firing lanes are needed to provide more training for live-fire drills and tactical team-movement ex-



COURTESY OF TOMMY SCIBILIA

**Artist's rendering of the new firing range and police training facility as seen from the City's property yard on Pickett Road.**

ercises. So a new training center will be built. It'll be a one-story, 7,000-square-foot facility with an expanded footprint. There'll be a place for cleaning weapons and storing ammunition, as well as two classrooms – one to be used for simulation training with computers. A simulation system not only replicates live fire, but does so via the most modern technology.

Officers will look at moving targets, up and down tracks across the range, and can stop and turn. And the simulator training-graphics will make them feel like they're in dangerous situations in public with split-second decisions to make. In addition, having a larger simulations training room will enable more than one officer to confer on tactical decisions.

"Officers will be working on de-escalation skills and how they react to any given situation," said Pardiny. "They'll have to scan [the room], talk and take action when necessary. It's a lot better than just a target that turns."

He said construction would take some 260 calendar days and that, although the building could be used 24/7, it would mainly be used during regular or extended business hours. Pardiny also figures this new training center will last "more than 30 years, easily."

At an earlier Council meeting, designer Sergio Cappuccio, with the project's archi-

tectural firm, HGA, said the building will be on the same site as the current facility, in the City of Fairfax maintenance yard. "There's a tree buffer on three sides of the site, including Pickett Road, so you wouldn't see the firing range from the road," he said. "We're almost completely surrounded by existing buildings. The building's exterior will be concrete block, but not cinder block. It has an architectural finish that makes it look nice."

City Council previously approved \$3.96 million for the firearms facility; it also received \$591,000 from the state. But costs rose over time and, now, its total price tag – including design, engineering, construction management, etc. – is projected to be \$5.2 million. So the City Police Department requested an additional \$1,240,000 for design and construction.

However, this amount would be offset by \$1.2 million from the City of Falls Church and an anticipated \$1.5 million from GMU. And once the center is up and running, the operating costs will be divided proportionally between all the partners, based on the number of sworn staff and officers each has using the building.

"What's driving the additional cost increase?" asked Councilmember Michael DeMarco.

"An increase in the contingencies we have to prepare for," replied Pardiny. "We previ-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

**Police Chief Carl Pardiny**

ously expected the total cost to be \$4.9 million." Furthermore, City Finance Director David Hodgkins said the low construction bid came in higher than the City's original estimates.

Making the motion to approve the extra money, Councilmember Jon Stehle said, "It's exciting to see two other entities partnering with us. Well done, Chief [Pardiny]." Councilmember Jeff Greenfield seconded the motion and the Council then approved it.

**THE COUNCIL** also voted to award the construction contract to the project's lowest bidder, Branch & Associates, which will build the facility for \$3.9 million. In addition, Council members approved a fee not to exceed \$360,000 to HGA for a variety of architectural and engineering services associated with construction of the new facility. These dollars are already in the project's budget.

Pleased with the Council's actions, Pardiny said, "It's important for us to get this building enclosed before the rainy season and winter set in. And it's a hot market for builders, so we need to get them locked down as soon as possible. I believe we'll be pleased with this [construction] firm, the quality of its work and its responsiveness to the City."

## FAITH NOTES

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

**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or [www.fbtministries.org](http://www.fbtministries.org).

**Grace Presbyterian Church** offers Sunday school for all ages at 9:15, and a blended worship service 10:30

a.m. every Sunday morning. Coffee and fellowship follows worship. Nursery care is provided from 9-11:45 a.m. 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. 703-451-2900 or [www.gracepresby.org](http://www.gracepresby.org).

**The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center**, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit [www.guhyasamaja.org](http://www.guhyasamaja.org) for more infor-

mation.

**Lord of Life Lutheran** offers services at two locations, 5114 Twinbrook Road in Fairfax, and 13421 Twin Lakes Drive in Clifton. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:50 and 10:50 a.m. 703-323-9500 or [www.Lordoflifeva.org](http://www.Lordoflifeva.org).

**Clifton Presbyterian Church**, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Cup of Fellowship at 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

**St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church**, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., Latin mass at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Additional mass offered Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or [www.st-andrew.org](http://www.st-andrew.org).

**Clifton Baptist Church**, 7152 Main St. Clifton, is a small Bible-believing church offering worship service on Sunday at 11 a.m., with Bible Study on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran**

**Church**, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or [www.poplcr.org](http://www.poplcr.org).

**Franconia United Methodist Church**, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Call 703-971-5151 or visit [www.franconiaumc.org](http://www.franconiaumc.org).

## Setting a Summer Table

Warm weather design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

From a backyard barbeque to a simple brunch, there's still plenty of time to celebrate warm weather with table designs that embody summer's trends.

"We're still in summer and the weather is going to be warm for quite some time," said Amanda Mertins, president of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. "An indoor or outdoor tablescape style depends on the occasion. Birthdays, holidays [and] retirements, all evoke a different feeling."

Start with fresh foliage inspired by the natural surroundings.

"Go out into your garden and use flowers [or] greens on your table," said Mertins. "Simple summer dinner party tables look great with lots of candles in votive holders, mason jars and glass lanterns. Remember to hang some of them in the trees for romance."

Incorporate a personal touch into each place setting, advises Hope Hassell, Case Design/Remodeling. "It will make each guest feel truly welcomed and you will look like the perfect hostess. It's as simple as printing off some photos from your phone or just adding place cards."

"Keep it casual by presenting family-style dishes down the center of the table," added



Sea-themed serveware in blue help create an elegant tone for summer entertaining.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLLY PRITCHARD

Kimberly Asner, designer at Country Casual Teak. "Mix in mood-setting candle lighting and colorful, fresh-cut flowers in multiples for the most impact ... keep arrangements below eye level for easy conversation."

For alfresco dining, practicality is key, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. Dinnerware needs to be both durable and aesthetically appealing. "Bamboo dishes ... are perfect for outdoor dining,"

she said. "They won't break if dropped and are a great alternative to melamine."

Summer offers an abundance of options for using color, says Hassell. "Not only do you have so many options of in-season flowers, but you also have the nature around you to provide the backdrop."

The color blue establishes the type of serene atmosphere that Molly Pritchard of Arlington-based interior design firm, Design

Lines likes to create at her summer parties. "Especially light blue because everything about it represents summer," said Pritchard. "It's cool and clean and neutral, especially when paired with white or cream. It creates a seaside feel which is very summery."

**IN ADDITION TO COLOR**, motifs can set the stage for summer dining. Designers at JT interiors in Potomac suggest using white dinnerware, emblazoned with a lemon, to turn an everyday meal into a summer soirée. The tableware can be accented with an array of accessories including platters, coasters, bowls and tea towels. "It creates a very summery look, and it's white and clean. Lemons and water are summery, like lemonade."

Summer table décor need not be expensive, says Hassell. "Simplicity can be stunning," she said. "The thoughtful placement of a sprig of rosemary can add just enough without having to go overboard."

Originality is a quality that Mertins encourages. "Think outside the box," she said. "Having a brunch? Use a vintage quilt as the tablecloth. Hosting a baby shower? Use silver rattles as decor and baby silver cups for the flowers. The effort you put into your party table will go a long way to the overall success of the party."

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# Debating Future of Airbnb in Fairfax County

Supervisors are considering updating its zoning ordinance to allow short-term rentals.

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**R**ight now, there are more than 300 rentals available in Fairfax County through Airbnb — all illegal.

Airbnb, which is a lodging reservation website, is just one company that gives its users the ability to list spare rooms, apartments or entire homes for strangers to book for an amount of time and fee of their choosing.

Referred to as short-term rentals, Airbnb and other companies, like Craigslist, HomeAway, FlipKey and more, are considered the hospitality industry's segment of the sharing economy, a model where individuals directly borrow or rent assets owned by someone else.

Comparable to ridesharing services like Uber or Lyft, which disrupted the taxi industry, short-term rentals are giving people more lodging options to consider other than booking with a hotel chain or bed and breakfast.

Residents of Fairfax County cannot legally list their property for rent on these reservation websites, but that could change by next year.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and county employees are considering updating the Zoning Ordinance of Fairfax County to allow for the operation of these rentals.

The zoning changes are being developed after Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed the Senate Bill 1578, "Short-term rental property; registration of persons offering property for rental," into law on March 24, which authorized localities in the commonwealth to adopt an ordinance to require people to register annually in a short-term rental registry.

Taking effect on July 1, the bill defines short-term rental as the "provision of a room or space that is suitable or intended for occupancy for dwelling, sleeping or lodging purposes for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days, in exchange for a charge for the occupancy."

The bill defines an operator of these rentals as "the proprietor of any dwelling, lodging or sleeping accommodations offered as a short-term rental, whether in the capacity of owner, lessee, sublessee, mortgagee in possession, licensee or any other possessory capacity."

People and entities already licensed or registered for rental or management of property by the Department of Health, the Real Estate Board, the Virginia Real Estate Time-Share Act, or a locality would not be required to register, according to the legislation.

The state bill also authorizes localities to impose penalties not to exceed \$500 per violation to those who violate the registry ordinance.



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

**John and Mary Lou McEwan, who rent a home at 9319 Ludgate Drive in Alexandria on Airbnb, are one of two operators in the county that received a violation from the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance, which has received 18 complaints of possible short-term rentals operating in the county this year.**

## Lawmakers Favor Local Control

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the legislation was a win for the county and other localities.

"The county pressed the General Assembly to give us the authority to set our own rules for short-term rentals," said McKay, who is the chairman of the board's Legislative Committee and a board director of the Virginia Association of Counties.

"The Virginia Association of Counties negotiated with industry and the General Assembly some discretion, although not uniform discretion as to where these things go and how we can regulate them," McKay said. "My role in this really was to protect the interest of the county and allowing us to have local land-use control and not letting the state create a one-size-fits-all solution."

"Virginia is very diverse and what might work in Arlington might not work in Rockingham," he added.

He and Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) are leading the charge for the county to analyze and recommend changes to the ordinance for the board to consider. On March 14, they directed the county to create a working group comprising county's Planning and Zoning, Tax Administration and Code Compliance departments, and the

Office of the County Attorney to draft the new zoning regulations and to establish the registry.

The group is also supposed to include county residents who have personal experience with short-term rentals, as well as representatives from the hospitality industry and business community.

The new regulations will address several factors: Where these rentals would be allowed in the county; how often they could be rented out; what types of properties could be rented out; and occupancy levels, parking accommodations, safety standards and other concerns that would be required from any other business enterprise in the county.

"At what point in the time is it an accessory use to someone's home versus a standalone hotel in the middle of a neighborhood?" McKay asked. "We still have to distinguish those factors, but ultimately if you're going to be operating a business in Fairfax County, we have a moral obligation to make sure our ordinance respects your ability to do that, but also puts in adequate safeguards to protect the public — fundamentally from a public safety standpoint and also to protect the neighbors of these residences who live in residentially-zoned areas."

Senate Bill 1578 already standardized the consumption of alcoholic beverages for the rentals because the legislation amended the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act to classify short-term rentals as a bed and breakfast establishment for purposes of alcoholic beverage licenses.

Under this consideration, short-term rental operators would need to apply for a specialized retail bed and breakfast alcoholic beverage license if they want to provide libations to guests on premises.

There is a nonrefundable \$65 application fee and a \$35 license fee for bed and breakfast establishments, according to the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

## Matter of Balance

"It's a balancing act," McKay said.

Another challenge facing the working group is balancing the interests of those who are against the rentals being used in residential neighborhoods with the interests of those who want to take advantage of the sharing economy.

"These short-term rentals are obviously a part of this new sharing economy, a technology that didn't exist years before," McKay said.

SEE ZONING ORDINANCE, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# Re-examining Zoning Ordinance in Fairfax County

FROM PAGE 10

There are vested interests in how the regulations are formulated.

"The hotel industry has a lot at stake here and we certainly don't want to do anything that hurts our brick and mortar hotel industry," McKay said.

The new regulations, according to McKay, would level the playing field and make sure there are certain conditions and standards for the new industry to meet.

"Home sharing has become a valuable tool for many middle-class families in need of supplemental income to help pay their mortgage, save for retirement and handle life's unexpected challenges," said Crystal Davis, Airbnb spokesperson. "Airbnb has worked with over 250 U.S. municipalities, including the state of North Carolina and the District of Columbia, to collect and remit millions in tax revenue."

The company has collaborated with other jurisdictions around the country to establish a licensing and registration process, according to Davis.

"We look forward to continued conversations with Virginia representatives on fair home sharing regulations that preserve neighborhood quality of life, protect communities and give residents the ability to share extra space in their homes to make ends meet," Davis said.

The working group will be hearing more from hospitality industry lobbyists across the spectrum.

"We're going to make sure that our ordinance is fair to both [short-term rentals] and our standard brick and mortar hotels throughout the county," McKay said. "We're definitely going to get their input on this before anything goes to a vote. That's for sure."

## Not a New Frontier

Zoning ordinance regulations went into effect on Dec. 31, 2016, in neighboring Arlington County before state lawmakers acted, which defined short-term residential rentals and created standards for their use.

Under the regulation, Arlington County residents have to apply annually for what is called an "accessory homestay" permit for \$60.

Arlington County received 50 applications from Dec. 31, 2016, through Feb. 14, 2016, and issued 47 permits, according to an Arlington County Board agenda from Feb. 25, 2017.

Whether Fairfax County moves forward with changing the ordinance, or how it changes the ordinance depends on how the public reacts.

"We're trying to right-size our ordinance to allow these where reasonable, but also give our community, the neighborhoods, the confidence that there's levers of control over them so they don't become a neighborhood problem," McKay said.

## Trouble in Neighborhoods

"It's sort of evenly divided between people who would like to be able to use their prop-

**"At what point in the time is it an accessory use to someone's home versus a standalone hotel in the middle of a neighborhood?"**

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)



erties for short-term rentals and then we've got people who absolutely do not want anybody in their neighborhood to be doing short-term rentals," said Supervisor Penelope "Penny" Gross (D-Mason).

She said the issue has really cropped up in the Lake Barcroft area of her district. This is because the lake is privately owned and maintained through the Lake Barcroft Association, Inc.

"They own the lake and these short-term rentals in some cases have been advertising that they have lake privileges," Gross said. "Well, not exactly."

The Lake Barcroft Association has not yet taken a position for or against allowing short-term renters to use its lake, but its members have been speaking with Gross about their concerns, she said.

Many homeowners' associations have written policies governing its members' rights to list property for rent or barring members from listing property for short-term rental in their communities altogether.

Members of the Reston Association, a homeowners' association that all Reston property owners are members of, have been vocal about curtailing short-term rental use in residential areas. The RA Board of Directors is currently considering developing policies for its members regulating or banning short-term rentals and plans on lobbying the county for its residents.

In the meantime, people continue to illegally use Airbnb and other short-term rental services throughout the county.

Over the past year, the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance received 18 complaints of possible short-term rentals operating in the county, according to Tony Castrilli, a spokesperson for the county government.

"DCC staff investigated these complaints and found sufficient information to corroborate two [short-term rentals], one in the Mason District and one in the Mount Vernon District, for which notices of violation were issued," Castrilli said. "Some of the other cases were closed because there was insufficient evidence that STRs were actually operating at those addresses or that there were any other zoning violations occurring."

The property owners who were issued notices of violation were: John and Mary Lou McEwan for their property at 9319 Ludgate Drive in Alexandria and Blake and Sara Ratcliff for their property at 3320 Grass Hill Terrace in Falls Church, according to Castrilli.

"We live in a nice, quiet, safe neighbor-

hood and I'm very concerned about my wife and daughter's safety," an abutting neighbor wrote in a complaint to the DCC about the McEwan's property in Alexandria in March, according to documents obtained by John McEwan through a Freedom of Information Act request. The identities of complainants were withheld in the documents.

On May 1, John McEwan spoke to DCC staff and told them that he had rented his property for a weekend indoor Moroccan wedding when the complaint was made. He also told the employees that he would be renting it to someone for 40 days, which is longer than what the state defines as a short-term rental, according to the FOIA documents.

On May 9, DCC employees toured the rental property, a multi-level home with five bedrooms, and advised John McEwan that short-term rentals were not allowed in the county, even if the county was looking to adopt new rules and regulations, according to the FOIA documents.

From that point on, the DCC and Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck's office received several emails from the original complainant and others stating that the house was being rented.

Many of the emails included attachments of photos of people near the home and cars parked in the driveway as evidence, according to the FOIA documents.

On May 19, a warning letter was sent to the McEwans.

"This property has had a revolving door of transients, including a large weekend event, disrupting our quiet, peaceful neighborhood, not to mention the neighbor on neighbor conflict this has created," an email that was written to Peggy Delean, DCC Code Compliance Supervisor, said on May 25, according to FOIA documents.

"Allowing a revolving door of strangers every couple of nights does not sit well with those of us who have children, and will not add value to our properties," the email continued. "Calling the police for noise complaints, speeding cars, neighbor disputes, or other menacing problems created by this situation is a waste of taxpayer money and police resources. What is preventing you from shutting this operation down?"

Throughout the month, DCC staff spoke with John McEwan who admitted that he was still renting his property.

On June 19, the McEwans were ordered by the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office to vacate short-term renters from the property within 14 days and to permanently cease

the use of the dwelling for transient occupancy, unless and until they obtained Board of Supervisors' approval of a special exception for a bed and breakfast use, according to FOIA documents.

The zoning violation carried a \$200 fine if they did not comply, with each subsequent offense carrying \$500 fines.

"The funny thing about Airbnb is everybody uses it but nobody wants it in their backyard," McEwan said.

But he is no hypocrite when it comes to this issue because he lives right next door to the rental property with his wife and mother in law.

"I'm next door, so nothing is going to happen without me being here," he said. "It's my asset. It's my property. I don't want my house trashed. It's my neighborhood."

McEwan says that there is a fairly high barrier to enter the property, which requires a \$1,200 minimum fee: \$200 cleaning fee; \$500 a night with a two-night minimum; as well as a \$1,000 security deposit, according to the property's Airbnb listing, which has four positive reviews.

McEwan considers the barrage of emails from his neighbors to county officials complaining about his short-term Airbnb tenants to be more racially motivated than anything else, since his renters have all been culturally diverse and often different from the majority of the neighborhood's residents.

John McEwan said he would be appealing the violation at the cost of \$600 because he was told by various county employees that no citations would be given while the county considers changes to the zoning laws.

McKay could not speak to the individual cases being investigated, but he said it wouldn't be unusual if the county waited to enforce open cases until the discussion about changing the ordinance was complete.

A majority of the cases remain under investigation, according to Castrilli.

## Collecting Feedback

The county short-term rental working group is collecting public feedback through an online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/short-term-rentals](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/short-term-rentals). Residents can take the online survey and email comments or concerns to [ordadmin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ordadmin@fairfaxcounty.gov) by Aug. 31.

"There is no proposed ordinance language at this point," McKay said. "They're just fact-finding and sharing scenarios and experiences in the field and looking at best practices."

The public will also be able testify at future public hearings about the new short-term rental zoning rules if such hearings are authorized and scheduled.

A Planning Commission hearing is expected in the fall with a Board of Supervisors public hearing and vote in December or January 2018, according to a memo about short-term rentals that was written to the Board of Supervisors by Deputy County Executive Robert Stalzer.

# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Photo Exhibition.** Through Aug. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Chalkboards to Smartboards: Free Public Schools in Fairfax County and Fairfax City" traces the evolution of free public schools from the log and frame one-room schools of late 19th and early 20th-centuries to today's high-tech learning centers. Exhibition explores life in a one-room school, desegregation, and challenges of the post-World War II suburban population explosion. Free. Call 703-385-8414 for more.

**Senior Olympics.** Deadline to register for the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics is Aug. 26. Participants must be at least 50-years-old by Dec. 31, 2017. Register at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us) until Sept. 2 or via U.S. mail before Aug. 26 with forms available at area recreation centers. To volunteer contact RSVP Northern Virginia at 703-403-5360 or email [rsvp@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:rsvp@volunteerfairfax.org).

## 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 for more.

## AUG. 10-11

**Golf Tournament.** all day at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Middle Atlantic PGA Junior Tour Championship. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/lhgc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/lhgc) or call 703-439-8849 for more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 12

**Kidz Korner Children's Event.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. "Oh Susannah!" Call 703-385-7858 for more.

**Aviation Historian.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room A/B, 10360 North St. Local historian, Mary Lipsey, will speak about the little-known inventor and pilot, Dr. William Christmas, whose 1908 flight in Fairfax Station was the first aviation success since the Wright Brothers. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/) or 703-293-6227 x6.

**Double Bubble Run.** noon-4 p.m. in Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Foam, bubbles, colors, obstacles, super heroes, and food. Visit [www.doublebubblerrun.com](http://www.doublebubblerrun.com) or call 703-385-7858 for more.

**Body Paint Workshop.** 5-9 p.m. at Fairfax Art League Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. The workshop consists of free dance, yoga movements and other techniques to reestablish harmony between the artist and their art. \$8. Email [melanie.bikowski@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.bikowski@gmail.com) or call 757-822-0561 for more.

**"Tangles" On Stage.** 7 p.m. at Harris Theater (near Mason Pond parking deck), George Mason University, Fairfax. Musical written and directed by visiting scholar Jeffrey Steiger and produced by Charles Samenow, MD. Visit [www2.gmu.edu/](http://www2.gmu.edu/) for more.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 13

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

**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](http://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](http://www.MariselaRumberg.com) for more.

**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.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

**Tai Chi.** 6:30-7:30 a.m. in 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. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

## AUG. 16-20

**Cirque du Soleil.** Various times at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle. Their current "OVO," show is created by Deborah Colker, the first female director in Cirque du Soleil history. Visit [www.eaglebankarena.com/](http://www.eaglebankarena.com/) for more.

## 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 for more.

**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 for more.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 18

**Music on the Plaza.** 7 p.m. at the Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Free, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

**Family Fun Movie Nights.** 7 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Sing," is the feature. Free. An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 14. Food to donate for Britepaths can be dropped off at the Sherwood Center on the evening of the Family Fun Nights. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

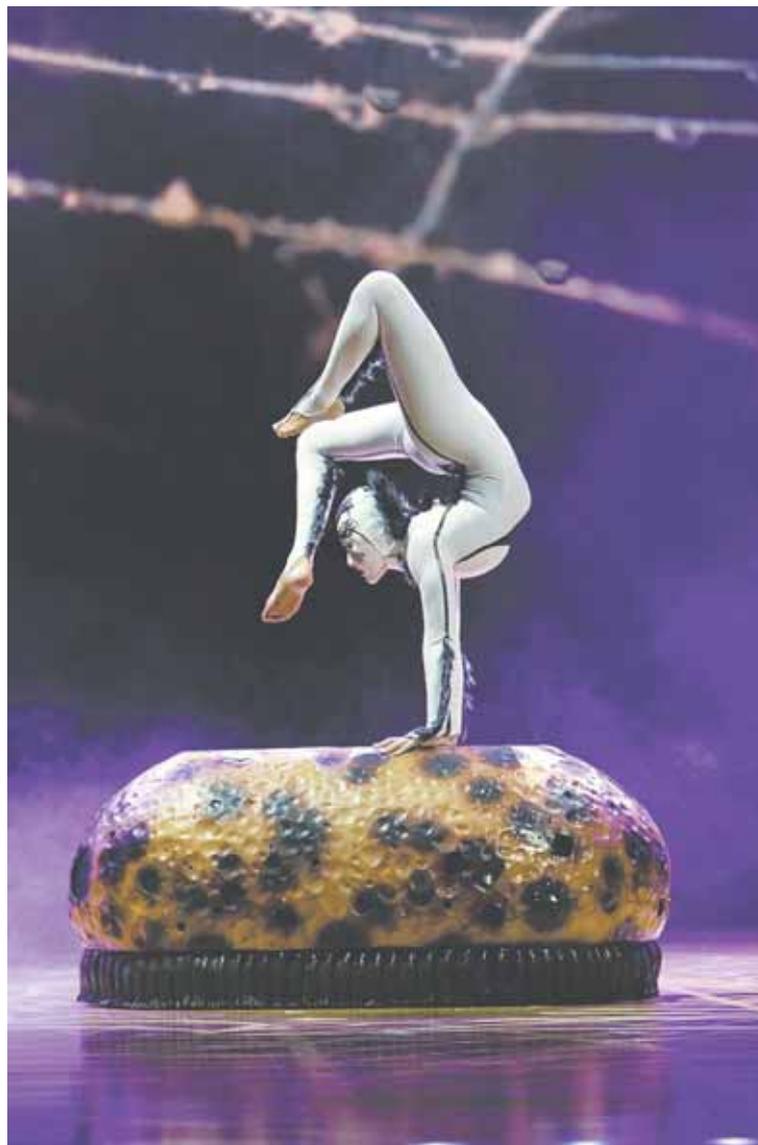
**DJ Music and Golf.** 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by Rush Hour DJ. Call 703-924-2600 for more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 19

**DJ Music and Golf.** 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by Face DJ. Call 703-924-2600 for more.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 20

**Meet the Civil War Author.** 11 a.m. at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Historic Pohick Church Docents Guild sponsoring Don Hakenson, award winning author and producer of Civil War books and a Mosby



## 'Ovo'

**From Aug. 16-20 Cirque du Soleil will be performing "OVO," at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle. The "OVO," show is created by Deborah Colker, the first female director in Cirque du Soleil history. Visit [www.eaglebankarena.com/](http://www.eaglebankarena.com/) for more.**

documentary, will talk about the Civil War history in and around Pohick Church. After the 10 a.m. service. Call 703-339-6572 for more.

**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](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

## MONDAY/AUG. 21

**Great American Eclipse.** All day at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Learn the science behind eclipses and how to view them safely, solar eclipse glasses will be provided to attendees at all the programs. \$7-\$12 per person. Visit [go.usa.gov/xNvvb](http://go.usa.gov/xNvvb) for more.

**Funday Monday Eclipse Special.** 1-4 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Stories, crafts, music, and more while the eclipse travels overhead. Pack a picnic lunch or visit one of our local restaurants. Free viewing glasses will be available as supplies last. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 23

**Tai Chi.** 6:30-7:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Wear comfortable clothes

703-924-2600 for more.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 27

**Civil War Reenactment.** 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host Civil War re-enactors and modern practitioners who will demonstrate medical and rescue practices then and now in commemoration of Fairfax Station's role as an evacuation center during the Battle of Second Manassas in 1862. 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](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 1

**Photo Exhibition.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Over There: Americans in World War I" a traveling exhibition from the National Archives and Records Administration showcases photographs from the battle fronts in France, Italy, and Russia, supply and support operations behind the lines, and the Paris Peace Conference, open through Oct. 20. Group guided tours available by reservation, \$25. Call 703-385-8414 for more.

**DJ Music and Golf.** 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by Sway DJ. Call 703-924-2600 for more.

## SEPT. 3-4

**Model Train Shows.** noon-5 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Labor Day Weekend, The Potomac Module Crew members will have HO Scale and others will have a LEGO 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](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

## SEPT. 9-10

**Burke Centre Festival.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Burke Conservancy, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway. Arts and crafts, live shows, rides, face painting, and festival foods. Visit [www.burkecentreweb.com](http://www.burkecentreweb.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 10

**Meet the Author.** 2 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "The 35th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," Janet Folkerts, curator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection, will share stories of the artifacts left at the Memorial and the soldiers they honor and memorialize. Free. Call 703-385-8414 for more.

## SEPT. 18-OCT. 28

**Photo Exhibition.** Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African-Americans in Civil War Medicine" looks at the men and women who served as surgeons and nurses during the Civil War and how their service challenged the prescribed notions of race and gender. Free. Call 703-591-0560.

## SEPT. 21-24

**Golf Tournament.** All day at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Middle Atlantic Amateur Championship. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/lhgc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/lhgc) or call 703-439-8849 for more.

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# NEWS

## GMU Selected as Center of Excellence For Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) announced the selection of George Mason University in Fairfax to lead a consortium of U.S. academic institutions and other partners for a new Center of Excellence (COE) in Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis (CINA). S&T will provide CINA with a \$3.85 million grant for its first operating year in a 10-year grant period.

"We need to ensure that the nation's law enforcement entities have the most sophisticated tools to counter transnational criminal networks, cross-border criminal activities, and criminal exploitation of the cyber domain," said Acting Under Secretary for Science and Technology William N. Bryan. "This new Center's objective is to provide law enforcement agents, officers and investigators with those tools in the form of novel technologies and strategies.

As lead institution, George Mason University will spearhead a consortium of academic, industry, government, and laboratory partners throughout the country and will work closely with U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and other law enforcement organizations to establish a long-term productive relationship.

"This is the first time we've selected George Mason as a lead institution," said Dr. Matthew Clark, director of S&T's Office of University Programs, which manages the DHS Centers of Excellence sys-

tem within S&T's Research and Development Partnerships Group.

"Their experience working with the security and intelligence communities, coupled with strong criminology and sociology programs, make them a strong partner for the Department."

The Center's research will focus on criminal network analysis, dynamic patterns of criminal activity, forensics, and criminal investigative processes. CINA will work with DHS components and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to develop strategies and solutions for on-the-ground use by agents and officers to predict, thwart, and prosecute crimes. CINA will also contribute to the education and development of both university students and professionals working in the realms of prevention, prediction, investigation and prosecution.

"By partnering with George Mason University and other institutions, our agents will be able to work with cutting-edge tools and research that will shape how we combat the growing threat of transnational crime," said Derek N. Benner, acting executive associate director for Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The DHS COEs were established by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to be a "coordinated, university-based system to enhance the Nation's homeland security."

Visit [www.dhs.gov/st-oup](http://www.dhs.gov/st-oup).

### WEEK IN FAIRFAX

## Play in Bubbles Aug. 12

The second annual Double Bubble Run is set for Saturday, Aug. 12, from noon-4 p.m. in Van Dyck Park, 3730 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. Children, teens and adults will make their way through a variety of bubble-filled obstacles during this fun event. Participants are advised to wear sneakers – flip-flops are not allowed – and to bring a towel and a change of clothes.

Cost is \$20/person and registration is required (discount with code RECSAVINGS). Sponsored by the Fairfax City Parks and Recreation Department. Information: 703-385-7858.

## Chain Bridge Road Work

As work on the Northfax project continues this month, culvert improvements will shift to southbound Route 123/Chain Bridge Road, north of Route 29-50/Fairfax Boulevard.

Drivers on southbound Chain Bridge will see a short lane shift between the I-66 off-ramp and Orchard Street, which will shift back before the Fairfax Boulevard intersection. Northbound Chain Bridge will remain closed through December while the detour remains in effect. Construction is slated to continue through summer 2018.

## City's Credit Rating: AAA

Moody's Investors Service has reaffirmed the City of Fairfax's AAA credit rating, saying, "Fairfax's credit position is of the highest quality" and its AAA rating "well above the median rating" of AAA for U.S. cities.

Moody's called the City's economy and tax base "exceptionally healthy," noting that Fairfax's full value (tax base) per capita is much stronger than the U.S. median. It also said the City's median family income is nearly twice the U.S. level and its economic growth continues to improve.



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## 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.

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## Announcements

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## Legals

According to the Lease by and between unit #3050 Jimmy Lopez and TKG-Storage-Mart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found: bed, couches, bike, total gym, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday August 18, 2017 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851, 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030, 703.352.8840 Ext 2.

## Improvements

## RCL HOME REPAIRS

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## SPORTS

### National Champions: The Braddock Road Youth Soccer Club '99 Elite.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Braddock Road Youth Soccer Club Wins National Championship

The Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC) '99 Elite boys soccer team recently returned from Frisco, Texas crowned as the 2017 US Youth Soccer National Champions. The team went undefeated during a very hot week in Texas to capture the fifth National Title in BRYC's history with a resounding 4-1 victory on July 30, 2017.

BRYC is located in Fairfax and the team members are rising seniors and recent graduates of Northern Virginia high schools. The '99 Elite boys are the reigning Under18 State Cup Champions of Virginia and also won the US Youth Soccer National League Blue Division to qualify for the National Championships. The team is coached by Head Coach Brian Welsh. The new national Champions are:

Alexander Barakat (who also won the Golden Glove award), Julien Reininger, Jack Rawlins, Jared Valdes, Marcos Villeda Sanchinelli, Alexander Shahmirzadi, George Smith, Vinicius Almeida (who was also awarded the Golden Ball), Ryan Moore, Ryan Teuschl, Kahlil Dover, Ryan Powell, Tristan O'Brien, Adam Laundree, Juan Benavides, Williamson Seymour, William Boinest, Eli Smolen, Aidan O'Connell, Christian Beckmeyer, and Jordan Gamarra.

As is tradition, BRYC will now change the club logo to include a fifth star commemorating this latest National Championship.

USYS National Championship web page features the following final game report:

"BRYC 99 Elite (VA) defeated West Coast 99 Wyss (CA-S) for the 18U Boys National Championship title. In just the fourth minute of play, BRYC's Vinicius Almeida found the back of the net and 14 minutes later, he struck again to make the score 2-0. The remainder of the first half was scoreless, but BRYC picked up where it left off in the 66th minute with a goal from Julien Reininger. Shortly after Reininger's goal, West Coast Wyss' Ryan Bishop netted a goal to make the score 3-1. The final goal of the match came in the 90th minute, just before the whistle blew, when Kahlil Dover scored for BRYC.

Winning a National Championship seemed far-fetched to a team who hadn't won state cup until this year. However, through hard work and sacrifice, BRYC was able to achieve something many can only dream of. In order to make it to the National Championships, BRYC's Head Coach, Brian Welsh, said that the team stayed fit, had regular double sessions and kept its incredible team spirit."

### IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES SCHEDULED AHEAD OF NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold both in-person and televised forums for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. "The purpose of these forums is to educate voters about the candidates and where they stand on the issues, by hearing them answer questions from the public, so voters can make informed choices at the ballot box in November," said Wendy Fox-Grage, LWVFA co-president.

There will be four in-person forums and three televised forums. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates.

The public and press are encouraged to attend these in-person forums:

- ❖ Sunday, Sept. 17 at 2:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center: Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Invited candidates: Kathleen J. Murphy (D), Cheryl A. Buford (R), Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), R.C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D), Karrie K.

- Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).
- ❖ Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Invited candidates: Mark L. Keam (D), David L. Bulova (D), Eileen Filler-Corn (D), Kathy K.L. Tran (D), Lolita I. Mancheno-Smoak (R), Marcus B. Simon (D), and Mike S. Casey (I).
- ❖ Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, Lecture Hall: 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Invited candidates: L. Kaye Kory (D), Paul B. Haring (R), Vivian E. Watts (D), Mark D. Sickles (D), Paul E. Krizek (D), Mark H. Levine (D), Alfonso H. Lopez (D), and Adam Roosevelt (R).
- ❖ Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Invited candidates: Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), David L. Bulova (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).

The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to [theinsidescooptv@gmail.com](mailto:theinsidescooptv@gmail.com) or call

571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on:

- ❖ Monday, Sept. 11 at 8 p.m.: Invited candidates: L. Kaye Kory (D), Paul B. Haring (R), Vivian E. Watts (D), Mark D. Sickles (D), Paul E. Krizek (D), Mark H. Levine (D), Alfonso H. Lopez (D), and Adam Roosevelt (R).
- ❖ Monday, Sept. 18 at 8 p.m.: Invited candidates: Mark L. Keam (D), David L. Bulova (D), Eileen Filler-Corn (D), Kathy K.L. Tran (D), Lolita I. Mancheno-Smoak (R), Marcus B. Simon (D), and Mike S. Casey (I)
- ❖ Monday, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.: Invited candidates: Kathleen J. Murphy (D), Cheryl A. Buford (R), Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), R.C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).

"Our League is committed to empowering voters in Fairfax County, and we highly encourage the public and the press to attend these free in-person events and tune in to the televised forums," says Judy Helein, LWVFA co-president.

For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, go to the League-sponsored website: [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

# BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before 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.

## 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

## THURSDAY/AUG. 10

**Deer Management Program.** 7-8 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Learn about the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. Contact Sergeant Earit Powell at 703-324-0280 or Dr. Katherine Edwards, Wildlife Management Specialist, at 703-324-0224.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

**Orientation for Prospective Volunteers.** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, Meeting Room B, 10360 North St., Fairfax. RSVP Northern Virginia, the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older, will hold an orientation for prospective volunteers. The event is free and open to the public. Free parking garage underneath the library. To sign up for the Aug. 16 orientation email RSVP Volunteer Specialist Carly Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

## SEPT. 29-30

**Fall Children's Consignment Sale.** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Some items are half price on Saturday. To become a seller, email: [CUMC.CCS@gmail.com](mailto:CUMC.CCS@gmail.com), or visit [www.cameron-umc.org/](http://www.cameron-umc.org/).

## 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.

**Thermal Camera Loan Program.** Learn where the energy is leaking out of the home with a special attachment for the iPhone or Android. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy) or call 703-324-5955 for more.

**Master Gardener Training.** The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit [fairfaxgardening.org](http://fairfaxgardening.org) or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

**Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting** 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. [fairfaxrotary.org](http://fairfaxrotary.org).

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# Coincidental Or Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of our older/oldest cats, Biscuit, born late September 2006 and his oldest human parent, yours truly, born late September 1954, are both having teeth issues. In fact, the exact same teeth issues: the 1st molar and the 2nd bicuspid in the "upper right quadrant" are causing us problems and have to be extracted.

Biscuit's teeth extraction will be done by our regular veterinarian. Mine will be done not by my regular dentist but by a specialist, an oral surgeon. Unfortunately, the two practices are not related so there's no chance of a "BOGO." Nor is there any chance that the two procedures will be about the same cost. My teeth extraction will be double at a minimum, perhaps even quadruple, if I'm lucky. (I made inquiries.) Accordingly, Biscuit's extraction will occur/has occurred first.

What's of interest to me is the coincidence that Biscuit and I need the same teeth extracted at the same time. Which when you consider that Biscuit and I are approximately the same age, is not really a surprise. It's really more of a fact of life/aging - for both of us. Perhaps there are other behaviors and/or physical/mental indicators in Biscuits day-to-day activities which might clue me in to my own aging process. After all, we are living similar lives.

So far, Biscuit's post-teeth-extraction recovery has been uneventful. He's been spry and energetic. He's been on the kitchen counter, various window sills, the dining room table, the ironing board and all the other furniture; he's knocked over the wicker trash basket in our bedroom three times and he's been eating like a dog. In short, he's "back baby."

He almost appears to be smiling - except when we attempt to give him his post-procedure pills. As per usual, during the day he's sleeping on the back of the couch and at night he's curled up in the laundry basket; and he's still the first cat - of five, an hour early, I might add, for breakfast and dinner, to place his order/meow his presence. He's as ready to eat as ever. He hasn't missed a beat or a step. If I had to summarize/characterize his actions now, I'd say he has a real joie de vivre, "an exuberant enjoyment of life." So what am I waiting for? Godot?

As for my procedure, I've been told it takes 30 minutes or so. Local anesthesia is used (unlike Biscuit who was totally sedated/anesthetized). Moreover, the post-surgical pain is not terrible and the chance of infection is minor. And though I'll have a space in my gums where my teeth used to be, no longer will I be anticipating the pain and discomfort that cracking or splitting either of these two teeth would cause. The only pain I'll likely have is the pain of payment. (See 7/26/17 column entitled "Taking Care of Business" for associated details.)

I guess my curiosity/concern is whether I trust anything I've observed from Biscuit's dental experience - considering we're the same age. Is what's good for the cat also good for the human - all things being equal, sort of? Is Biscuit's return to normalcy so quickly and so easily - and so vigorously, a lesson to be learned? If seeing is believing and I do see extremely well for someone nearing his 63rd birthday, then Biscuit's 'experience' and the comparison between his pre- and post-extraction behavior should be an inspiration to us all, especially those of us of similar age with one and the same, two actually, teeth which need to be extracted.

I mean, the procedure I've been putting off is not exactly brain surgery, it's oral surgery. I'm not admitted to a hospital. It's outpatient. I'm in and then out. Same day service, just like the restaurant where my wife, Dina works. I don't even need someone to drive me home (unlike Biscuit. I had to drive him home.) And now that Biscuit is home, safe and sound, I suppose it's time for me to buck up and schedule my appointment. After all, it has nothing to do with cancer and everything to do with quality of life. I'd say that's a win-win.

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



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