

Short-Term Rentals Debated

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Fairfax County Zoning Administrator Leslie Johnson addresses the community during an open house about zMod, the county's initiative to modernize its Zoning Ordinance.



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PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Amanda Staudt and Sean Willson, who both live in Reston, are opposed to permitting short-term rentals in residential areas of the county.



Michelle Minstrell of Falls Church (center) and John McEwan (right) speak to Fairfax County Zoning Administrator Leslie Johnson (left) about their experience operating Airbnb rentals in the county.

Short-Term Rentals Debated

State Sen. Scott Surovell: County late to regulate short-term rentals.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

As Fairfax County works to regulate the use of short-term rental properties, disputes between neighbors continue to flare up.

STRs, or spaces that are rented by tenants for fewer than 30 consecutive days, can be accessed through lodging reservation websites like Airbnb and other companies, like Craigslist, HomeAway and FlipKey. However, operating such a rental is illegal in the county because the zoning ordinance does not account for their existence and therefore does not permit them.

“Localities have always had the authority to regulate short-term rentals,” said state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). “I’m not sure why Fairfax County had never acted before this year, but many localities in Virginia have.”

Surovell voted for Senate Bill 1578, “Short-term rental property; registration of persons offering property for rental,” which was signed into law on March 24, taking effect on July 1. The new legislation authorizes localities in the commonwealth to adopt an ordinance to require people to register annually in a short-term rental registry.

“When the legislature decided to step in, it created some uncertainty about where we were going to go with the subject, but before we acted, it was always thought that localities could regulate Airbnb-type rentals all they wanted to,” he said.

The legislation solidifies what localities already had the power to do and will encourage those that have not addressed the issue to do so, according to Surovell.

The legislation has motivated Fairfax County to act, but not before disputes started brewing in residential neighborhoods.

TWO ROOMS of the Herrity Building in Fairfax were filled to standing room only on July 26, during an open house about the county’s proposed zoning changes.

“This is our first foray into what we’re calling an open house,” said Leslie Johnson, zoning administrator for the county. “We have a lot of different topic areas that we’re working on as part of the amending of the zoning ordinance. We thought it was a good opportunity to bring people in to talk to our staff, to be able to ask questions on what we’re doing and just let people know that we are working on modernizing our zoning ordinance.”

The Zoning Administration Division of the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning launched the Modernization of Fairfax County’s Zoning Ordinance initiative, or zMod, after the plan was presented to the Board of Supervisors in March.

“Our ordinance is 40 years old and it does need some rebooting,” Johnson said. “We’re looking at not only updating some of the provisions, but more importantly, we’re also looking at updating the format and kind of restructuring it; maybe bucketing uses so they’re more in categories, so as uses change, we have a better ability to put new uses into a category.”

There are 14 provisions being drafted under the modernization plan, according to Johnson, including adding more generic guidelines for restaurants, which have not been updated since 1981. The definitions for restaurants would be more generically defined in three categories: general restaurant; restaurant with a drive-through; or a carryout restaurant. Locations for restaurants would also be revised to reflect the newly defined uses and use limitations would be simplified. Parking for restaurants would also be changed by converting the basis for restaurant parking requirements from the number of seats and employees to



“Our ordinance is 40 years old,” Leslie Johnson, zoning administrator for the county, said during the open house. “It was adopted in 1978 and it has been amended 467 times, so we think it’s time to kind of bring us forward into the 21st century and update it.”

the square feet of a restaurant’s gross floor area.

Also being drafted is an increase to the percentage allowed for residential homeowners to cover their backyards with patios, pool decking and other man-made features. Current provisions only allow for up to 30 percent of a backyard of a single-family dwelling to be covered. The changes could allow for up to 60 percent of coverage.

The county’s Sign Ordinance is also being rewritten in response to a U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* in June 2015, which clarified when municipalities may impose content-based restrictions on signage. The rewrite of the zoning rules for signs will make them content-neutral.

Among all of the proposed updates, short-term rentals are the hot topic, says Johnson.

“There were people that have concerns about short-term rentals that are creating problems for them in their neighborhoods,” said Lily Yegazu, who works for the Depart-

ment of Planning and Zoning and manned the STR booth at the open house. “There are also people that wanted to know how to do it [list property for short-term rental].”

Whether people support STRs or not, they are currently illegal in the county.

“We do not allow for transient occupancy of a dwelling unit, unless it’s a bed and breakfast, which requires special exception approval [from the Board of Supervisors],” Johnson said during the meeting.

Amanda Staudt and Peggy Hillman of North Reston, who have an Airbnb property operating on their street in a residential neighborhood, were vocal about their opposition to STRs at the meeting.

“We have a small cul-de-sac with 21 kids 18 and younger,” Staudt said. “One of the houses on our street, the owner moved in a year and a half ago, moved into the basement and started renting out individual rooms at about \$35 a night. So basically, it was a small hotel.”

The women’s anxiety over safety concerns with their transient neighbors was made real.

“We have had incidents where we’ve had to contact the police because of some of the residents, or customers — whatever you want to call them — were giving undesired attention to teenage girls in the neighborhood,” Staudt said.

“We don’t know how many people are in the house at any one time in each room,” Hillman added. “We don’t know how many people can stay in a room. There’s multiple cars, which disrupt our street, which is not a wide street.”

The two women said they have complained to the county non-stop over their concerns of the illegal activity on their street.

“They’ve been semi-responsive, but they’ve basically said that they are limited in what they can do on enforcement,” Staudt said.

“They’re having trouble enforcing their existing regulations,” Hillman added.

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 6

Fill the Boot 2017: One For The Record Books

BY JOEL KOBERSTEEN
FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

After the first day of collection, it was apparent that this would be no ordinary campaign. The \$173,686.56 collected by B-Shift was the second highest one day total in Fairfax County Fill the Boot history (by only \$2,000!). Needless to say, the \$50,000 to disaster relief goal was quickly accomplished and we began work on the \$500,000 goal for Greater Washington MDA.

The second day brought rain and chill. C-Shift put personal comfort aside and made a point to stay out as much as safely possible. Fire Station 5, Franconia, personnel came in with \$28,251 collected. That is the highest amount collected in one day by one shift in Fairfax County Fill the Boot history. A tip of the fire helmet to C-Shift personnel who did not let the weather conditions get in the way of collecting \$155,629.66.

Due to the work schedule, personnel from A-Shift had only one day of collection and made the most of it. A-Shift collected a total of \$140,193.28 on what was a beautiful Sunday.

Coming into the last day of the campaign, C-Shift knew they only needed roughly \$76,000 to accomplish the \$500,000 collected goal for the Greater Washington MDA. Personnel collected \$152,059 for the last day of the campaign which meant another \$71,954.06 was added to the disaster relief fund for a total of \$131,278.65. Part of that total was \$4,476.36 from the 142nd Recruit School, \$220 from the Logistics Distribution Center, \$4,291 from the 9-1-1 Center, \$252 from the Fire Prevention Office and \$60 from the local office.

When all was said and done, we collected



PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Master Technician Johnathan Macquilliam and Capt. Matthew C. Burns hold their boots high as they work a Labor Day crowd of generous motorists at a Fairfax traffic signal on Waples Mill Road and U.S. Route 50.

\$631,278.65 total for Fill the Boot 2017. Never has any municipality collected that much money ... ever.

Thanks to the following for their support:

- ❖ Chairman Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors,
- ❖ Fire Chief Richard Bowers and the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department,
- ❖ President John Niemiec and Local 2068,
- ❖ Chief John Morrison, Vienna Volunteer FD, and all volunteer canteen units,
- ❖ Director Bill Kang and all the members of the Department of Public Safety Communications,
- ❖ Colonel Ed Roessler, Sergeant Tom Bailey, PFC Jared Warner and the Fairfax County Po-

lice Department,

- ❖ President John Harris and the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Retirement Association,
- ❖ All career and volunteer Fire and Rescue members and their families who helped out during the campaign.

Last, I would like to thank the residents and guests of Fairfax County who, by opening their car window and generously donating, made this year's Fill the Boot a tremendous success. We could not do this without you.

The author is a master technician at Fire Station 40, Fairfax Center, B-Shift, and coordinator for the Fairfax County Fill the Boot Campaign.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putting United Back in 'United' States

To the Editor:

Re: Mr. Crawford's response ("Fomenting Disunity and Hate" Sept. 6-12) to the letter by a group of Democrat politicians ("American Values" Aug. 30.)

You reference "Mr. Trump's initial response" to the tragic events at Charlottesville. You are correct in defending this well-scripted statement of the President, delivered on Aug. 14. In fact, most "fair-minded persons," as you say, wish he had left it at that.

Instead, the "American Values" letter refers to the President's follow-up comments to the press the following day (Aug. 15), in which he talked about "the very fine people" in the group of protesters. While the fine print of the law may not agree, there is no denying that anyone marching alongside people brandishing torches and waving Nazi swastika flags, shouting "Jews will not replace us" and "Blood

and Soil," is implicitly supporting the very neo-Nazis and white supremacists the President initially condemned. They are guilty by association.

Hence, it is legitimate for the Jewish members of the Virginia General Assembly to question the Republican gubernatorial candidate for not openly denouncing the very symbols of genocide that so many brave Americans went overseas to Europe to stamp out during World War II. How did this sea of swastikas and Nazi flags ever wash up on our shining shores? Who are these people who loudly and proudly resurrect Nazi slogans?

We can parse words and choose to only see/hear what we want to see/hear, but there is no denying our great country is deeply divided. And a house divided never stands. As the mother of a child who was the target of racism on

the school bus, I take solace in the fact that the boys worked out their differences and, now, years later, the instigator is one of my son's closest friends!

Maybe we should take a page out of our kids' playbook and see beyond our skin-deep differences. Perhaps, far be it from us adults being an example to our children,

it behooves us to acknowledge, in the words of one of the world's greatest wordsmiths, William Wordsworth: The child is the father of the man. Let's put our house in order and put the united back in the "United" States.

Shaila Muralidhar
Great Falls

Write

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

We Should Know Better

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



A Kentucky school administrator recently expressed sentiments that I feel but could not write as clearly as she did. In an op-ed piece in the Lexington (Kentucky) Herald Leader she wrote, "Social justice, civil discourse, empathy, historical context and civic engagement are at the heart of preventing and resolving instances like the one we witnessed there (in Charlottesville)...If we subscribe to the belief that hate is a learned behavior, we must also take ownership for failing to provide an educational space to combat the inequality that haunts minorities every day and that paralyzes our nation in times of tragedy...History matters. Civic engagement matters. And, because of their decline, social justice, civil discourse, and empathy have become lost arts in a nation of people who can no longer talk to one another..."

As a former teacher of history and government, I especially appreciated her call for "a strong social studies curriculum that provides equitable opportunities for civic engagement, civil discourse and historical context." The ignorance of history shown by those who have been leading the opposition to removing Confederate statues is appalling. The statues were erected during

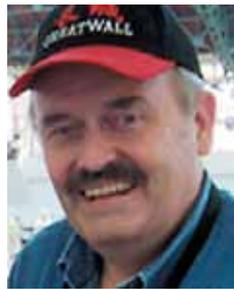
times when white supremacy efforts termed the "Lost Cause" were at their strongest. Beginning in the late nineteenth century there were many movements to glorify the Old South and to justify the Civil War, or the "War of Northern Aggression" as they called it, and the erection of statues was part of it. Paralleling those activities was the passage of legislation that virtually took away the right of African Americans to vote and that separated the races in public schools and most every aspect of society. The second surge of erecting statues came when the white supremacists were opposing the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. Viewed in their historic context these statutes represented a repression of social justice, failure of civil discourse and lack of empathy on the part of those supporting them.

Equally as appalling is the lack of knowledge or the unwillingness to admit the central role that immigrants have played in our history. The history of the land we now call Virginia did not begin when the English arrived in 1607; a civilization existed here

SEE PLUM, PAGE 12

Police Oversight Begins

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT
PROGRESSIVE

It's true! The two civilian oversight bodies recommended by the Ad Hoc Commission on Police Practices in October 2015 have been established and are now up and ready to function. The two organizations were created by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors which accepted the Commission's recommendations with modifications reducing their scope and authority. Still, establishment of the Independent Police Auditor and the Civilian Review Panel (CRP) is a major departure for the County and a police department hitherto accountable only to itself.

The recently appointed Independent Police Auditor (IPA), Richard Schott, reports directly to the Board of Supervisors. Along with the Civilian Review Panel, the IPA is intended to restore trust between residents and the Police Department. He is responsible for monitoring and reviewing internal investigations of police officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, and the use of force in which person/s are killed or seriously injured.

In fact, Mr. Schott is now monitoring four active police internal investigations. He is to make public reports of his findings as well as making recommendations for changes in police policies and practices. In addition, his office provides administrative support to the volunteer-staffed CRP and "accessible, safe, impartial, and responsive intake

for complaints against the FCPD and its employees".

The nine-member Police Civilian Review Panel consists of leading citizen volunteers with relevant experience appointed by, and reporting to, the Board of Supervisors. Its Chairman is Adrian Steel. CRP's mission is to "enhance police legitimacy and also build and maintain trust among citizens, the Board of Supervisors and the FCPD." The CRP acts on the basis of citizen complaints submitted to the CRP, the IPA, or the Police Department. Unlike the IPA, the Civilian Review Panel deals with complaints involving abuse of authority or serious misconduct by Police officers.

The CRP reviews completed internal administrative investigations to assure their "accuracy, completeness, thoroughness, objectivity and impartiality". In conducting a review following a complaint, the CRP may interview the police investigators and management, but not the officer who is the subject of the complaint. The CRP holds public meetings to hear from the complainant and may "walk through with members of the community how the investigation was con-

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 12

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WEEK IN RESTON

Man Sentenced for Embezzling \$19 Million from Reston IT Company

A Nokesville man was sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison for embezzling approximately \$19.4 million from his employer, an information technology company headquartered in Reston.

Jon Frank, 48, pleaded guilty to wire fraud on June 9. According to the statement

of facts filed with the plea agreement, Frank worked at the company as the controller. From 2007 until January 2017, he used his position to initiate transfers of approximately more than \$19 million from the company's bank account to his personal accounts. He created false documents to make it appear that the money was being sent as reimbursement to another company that was administering the health insurance plan for Frank's employer. Relying upon his knowledge and the altered documents, he was able to mislead the individuals performing audits of the company's financial records. Frank spent the money on expen-

sive automobiles and real estate, among other things. In addition to his prison sentence, Frank was also ordered to pay \$19,440,331 in restitution.

Informational Forum on Reston Population Density

Fairfax County is recommending changes to the Reston Planned Residential Community (PRC) zoning ordinance that would allow:

- ❖ an increase in the number of persons per acre in Reston's PRC district from 13 to 16; and

- ❖ a significant increase in high-rise multi-family buildings.

An informational forum will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7-9 p.m. at the Reston Association's Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston in preparation for a meeting called by Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) on Sept. 25.

The informational forum is sponsored by: Reston Association, Reclaim Reston, Reston 20/20 and Reston Citizens Association/

County to Regulate Short-Term Rentals

FROM PAGE 3

The two women worry that if the county cannot regulate current law, then the county will not be able to enforce a potential registry if STRs are permitted.

"If they can't enforce it now effectively, how are they going to enforce it if they make it more complicated and available to more people?" Hillman said.

Hotels have always been regulated and people don't have a right to run hotels in residential neighborhoods.

"If somebody begins to use their property in a way that looks like a hotel, then they're going to find that the government takes an interest in how they use their property," Surovell said.

But he agrees with Staudt and Hillman that the county's enforcement has been weak.

"Fairfax County code enforcement in general is pretty pathetic," Sen. Surovell said. "It tends to be mainly complaint driven."

OVER THE PAST YEAR, the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance received 18 complaints of possible STRs 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.

John McEwan and Blake Ratcliff are appealing their citations and have been scheduled to have hearings on Nov. 29, according to McEwan.

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.

Others in the crowd were worried that the overwhelming tide against STRs could sway the opinion of officials and bar them from participating in a form of income they have come to rely upon.

Michelle Minstrell lives in her home in Falls Church and regularly rents out a spare room on Airbnb to help cover the expense of her mortgage and has never received a complaint from her neighbors.

"We have permit parking on our streets and I have off-street parking for that additional resident and my vehicle is off the street as well," Minstrell said. "I've never had any noise problems. Neighbors have not mentioned issues at all."

With Minstrell's advice, another single woman in her neighborhood with a mortgage has started renting out space in her home on Airbnb.

"There is such a huge range of what the short-term rental can be," she said. "I live in my house and I'm only renting a small portion of it."

"I fear that the people who might be angry about it are seeing the whole party houses, absentee homeowner situation and not realizing that there are those of us who are making money to pay for our mortgage off of a roommate," she added.

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Home LifeStyle



This Fairfax kitchen was enlarged to create a space for a family of five.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

Fairfax Kitchen Gets Makeover

When a Fairfax family of five decided that their 1970s-era kitchen needed to be brought into the 21st century they enlisted the help of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. The homeowners also wanted more space for entertaining and to accommodate their large family.

"This was a particularly interesting project," said designer Cathy Goss of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. "It involved incorporating four different functions into one uniquely-sized space."

Two adjacent rooms were combined to allow space for an island, pantry, command center and a station for cooking and the subsequent clean-up. The design team

removed a wall between the kitchen and dining room to create a larger kitchen area. They also incorporated two different backsplashes into the design: a marble subway tile with a marble accent under the range hood and a cut stone surface at the glass cabinets. LED under-cabinet lighting accents the quartz countertops.

"The cabinetry is a beautiful example of reverse raised panel paired with eclipse glass doors," said Goss. "The project resulted in a beautiful and ultra-functional centerpiece to this Fairfax family's home."

— MARILYN CAMPBELL



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DC DESIGN HOUSE

The 2017 DC Design House, located in Potomac, Md., will be open to the public from Saturday, Sept. 30 until Sunday, Oct. 29.

Design House Designers Revealed

The designers who will transform the 10th Annual DC Design House were announced recently.

Among the 23 men and women who will give the Potomac, Md. home a makeover are Alexandria-based designers Susan Nelson and Todd Martz; Lisa Tureson of Herndon; Margery Wedderburn of Great Falls; Mary Amons of McLean; Josh Hildreth of Reston; Keira St. Claire-Bowery of Cabin John, Md.; and Bethesda, Md.-based designers Kelley Proxmire, Lorna Gross, Marika Meyer, Erica Burns, Karen Snyder and Camille Saum.

The selection process is competitive and being chosen to design one of the home's rooms is con-

sidered one of the most prestigious honors in the industry.

The Washington, DC Design House, a nonprofit entity, began in 2008 as a design show house event for the Washington, D.C. area. Each year, local designers donate their time and talent to makeover a grand home that opens to the public for tours. Proceeds raised from tour ticket sales benefit Children's National Health System.

This year, the home is located at 9004 Congressional Court in Potomac, Md., and will be open from Sept. 30 through Oct. 29. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

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Public Meetings

Fall Transportation Meeting

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a town hall style meeting. The open house will provide information on various transportation initiatives including proposed changes to Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), recently funded projects in the Six-Year Improvement Program, Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan, and Scenario Planning and Freight plans. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation, along with Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Planning District Commissions, and Transit organizations will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and to discuss your ideas and concerns on Virginia's transportation network. The open house will be followed by a town hall session, where you can engage in discussion and ask questions about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted informally at the meeting and may also be submitted via email, or online.

Meeting Dates and Locations

Open House begins at 4:00 pm in each of the locations:

Tuesday August 29, 2017 Germanna Community College Center for Workforce & Community Education 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408	Thursday, August 31, 2017 The Prior Center at UVA-Wise 437 Stadium Drive Wise, VA 24293	Monday, September 11, 2017 Culpeper District Office Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
Thursday, September 14, 2017 Chesapeake Conference Center 700 Conference Center Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320	Monday, September 18, 2017 NOVA District Office The Potomac Room 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030	Monday, October 2, 2017 Hilton Garden Inn Richmond South/Southpark 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834
Wednesday, October 4, 2017 Holiday Inn Lynchburg 601 Main Street Lynchburg, VA 24504	Tuesday, October 10, 2017 Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	Thursday, October 12, 2017 Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive Roanoke, VA 24017

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/> beginning August 29, 2017.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may also send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or SixYearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov and on rail, public transportation and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov. Comments will be accepted until October 20, 2017.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

Cooper's Hawk beckons to local wine lovers who seek quality wines: ultimately the menu items pair well with the wines.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



A Taste of Napa Valley in Reston

Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurants offering upscale dining experience.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

With the late August opening of the ultra-glamorous Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurants Reston location, upscale dining got another member in an elite gathering of area restaurants. With its expansive dining area and bar seating plus the enclosed private section, Cooper's Hawk beckons to local wine lovers who seek quality wines: ultimately the menu items pair well with the wines. Indeed, at the main entrance patrons find a wine-tasting room that will make people feel like they have come to a Napa Valley winery — only this is in Reston.

The brainchild of owner/founder-CEO Tom McEnery, Cooper's Hawk with its numerous locations, takes an unusual approach to dining out: wine and wine pairings take center stage. McEnery's idea for this extensive restaurant group came after he had worked in a specialty restaurant in Illinois.

A graduate of Purdue with a degree in Restaurant and Hotel Management, McEnery had

“The French chef taught epicurean cuisines, and he impacted me with the basic culinary principles: pay attention, respect food, and understand how making dishes comes together and sets us apart.”

— Laurence Cohen,
executive chef at Cooper's Hawk



**Laurence Cohen,
Executive Chef,
Cooper's Hawk**

the restaurant training and business background to initiate a unique restaurant business. This he did 12 years ago, when he realized that few wineries had their own restaurant. So as an ardent lover of wine and high-end cuisine, he and his wife launched their first restaurant in Orland Park, Ill.

Since then, the brand has spread across the Midwest and the Southeastern US: Reston's Cooper's Hawk makes 30 restaurants in all. McEnery has also established a Cooper's Hawk wine production facility in Illinois, where about 60 different wines are aged and bottled. Not surprisingly, the Cooper's Hawk wine labels are the only ones the restaurants sell.

But besides the compelling wines, of course, comes the outstanding dishes served on the extensive menu that features such appetizers as candied bacon and artisan cheeses and Mexican drunken shrimp to

soups and main course salads to assorted burgers and sandwiches (what about a peppercorn ranch burger?); luncheon entrées; and select chicken, beef, and seafood entrées. And, yes, pasta...and whatever else one might want to order, never, ever skip the gnocchi carbonara, made in-house and paired with pancetta, chicken, peas, and sheets of Parmesan cheese.

IN CHARGE OF Reston's Cooper's Hawk's kitchen crew is executive chef Laurence Cohen, who comes to this job with years of top-class experience. And he started cooking as a child with his mother and grandmother, where he got to experiment with different recipes. Cooking was not his first career choice, but something he began as the result of an accident elsewhere. He soon realized, however, that he loved cooking, and attended the Baltimore International Culinary College, after which he went to work with a French chef in Ireland. “The French chef taught epicurean cuisines,” he said, “and he impacted me with the basic culinary principles: pay attention, respect food, and understand how making dishes comes together and sets us apart.”

And before heading off to the kitchen to resume his cooking duties, Cohen paused and noted, “I love food and I love cooking. It is more and more appetizing.”

Cooper's Hawk Gnocchi Carbonara

The restaurant's most popular dish, and no wonder... If you wish, add shrimp or pulled chicken to the dish when the cream begins reducing. Serves 2 to 4

Ingredients:
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
Two 1/8-inch-thick slices pancetta, cut into 1/4-inch x 10-inch slices
20 ounces cooked gnocchi, precooked and cooled
2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
1/2 cup Cooper's Hawk chardonnay
1 cup fresh chicken stock
2 1/2 cups heavy cream
Kosher salt and fresh cracked black pepper to taste
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh sage
1/2 cup peas
1/3 cup Reggiano Parmesan cheese, grated
Freshly shave Parmesan cheese

Procedure

In a medium-hot pan, add the olive oil and butter. When butter melts and turns slightly brown, add sliced pancetta. Toss until pancetta starts to brown. Add gnocchi and toss until gnocchi browns slightly, 3 to 4 minutes. Remove from pan, and set aside. Add the garlic, and toss until garlic softens, about 1 minute. Do not brown garlic.

Add wine, and reduce by half; add chicken stock, reduce by half, and add cream, and bring to simmer. Begin to reduce sauce, add gnocchi, and cook over medium-low heat until the sauce coats the back of a spoon. Season to taste with kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper. Add sage, peas and 1/2 of the parmesan cheese and stir to incorporate.

Remove to a platter and garnish with the remaining freshly shaved Parmesan Cheese.

Making Fresh Gnocchi

Ingredients:
1 Pound Golden Yukon Potatoes
3 to 4 Large Egg Yolks
1/2 cup Freshly Grated Parmesan Cheese
1/4 tsp Freshly Grated Nutmeg
1/2 tsp sea salt
1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
1 cup all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting board and dough

Method

Bake the potatoes in a preheated 400 degrees F oven for 1 hour until fork tender. Let sit until cool enough to handle, cut in half, and scoop out the flesh.

Pass the potatoes through a potato ricer. Make a mound of potatoes on a table or work surface with a well in the middle, like making pasta, add 3 of the egg yolks, the cheese, nutmeg, salt, and pepper. Mix in the potatoes and mix well with fingers. Sprinkle 1/2 cup of flour over the mound and, using your fingers, press it into the potatoes. Fold the dough over on itself and press down again. Sprinkle on more flour, little by little, folding and pressing the dough until it just holds together, (do not to knead it.) Work any dough clinging to your fingers back into the dough. If the mixture is too dry, add another egg yolk or a pinch of water. To test if the dough is the correct consistency, take a piece and roll it with your hands on a well-floured board into a rope 1/2-inch in diameter. If the dough holds together, it is ready. If not, add more flour, fold and press the dough several more times, test again.

Keeping work surface and dough lightly floured, cut the dough into 4 pieces. Roll each piece into a rope about 1/2-inch in diameter. Cut into 1/2-inch-long pieces. Lightly flour the gnocchi as you cut them. You can cook these as is or form them into the classic gnocchi shape using the back of a large fork.

As you shape the gnocchi, dust them lightly with flour and scatter them on baking sheets lined with parchment paper.

When ready to cook, bring a large pot of water to a boil and add a few TBL of salt. Drop in the gnocchi and cook for about 90 seconds from the time they rise to the surface. Remove the cooked gnocchi with a skimmer, shake off the excess water, toss with a bit of oil and cool on a sheet pan in refrigerator until ready to use.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Reston Farm Market, Saturdays, through Dec. 9, 8 a.m. - Noon, Lake Anne Village Center, 11401 North Shore Drive, SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program. (CLOSED for Multicultural Festival Sept. 23)

Herndon Farm Market, Thursdays through Nov. 9, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., by the Red Caboose. SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program

SEPT. 9-20

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Various times and locations, more than 50 different events taking place at more than 25 venues across Northern Virginia. Call 703-403-5360 or visit www.nvso.us.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 13

Contact Center Nation. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. Networking and call-center professionals meeting. Visit www.contactcenternation.com.

Elections Have Consequences. 7:30-9 p.m. at Hunter Mill District Community Room B, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. League of Women Voters will look at the scope, history, and overall effect of the number of Virginians who don't believe that their vote counts and stay home on election day. Free. Call 703-476-5758 or visit www.lwv-fairfax.org

THURSDAY/SEPT. 14

Steel Drum Sandy. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Musicians are one of a variety of different entertainment each week at Fountain Square, every Thursday, through Oct. 19. Free. Go to www.restontowncenter.com.

Lunch Bunch Thursdays. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. BYO lunch and see different entertainment in the Pavilion at Fountain Square each week. Rain or shine. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Fashion Tip Thursdays. 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. This week, how to wear plaid this season. Call 571-526-4185 or visit restontowncenter.scoutandmollys.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 15

Chalkfest. noon-11 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Professional artists and sponsors will create chalk drawings on the pavement. Viewing is free. Call 703-467-9797 or email info@publicartreston.org.

Lullabye a Lamb. 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Come to Kidwell Farm at Frying Pan Farm Park to see the bedtime routine for the park's farm animals. Bring a flashlight or lantern for this twilight tour of the park and see how animals on a farm settle down for the night. \$8. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

8K Race and 2K Walk/Fun Run. 8:30 a.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. In memory of Timothy P. Susco. This race is hosted each year by Tim's family to honor and remember his life, as well as to promote brain aneurysm and organ



Art Crawl

Music is part of the Third Thursday ArtCrawl, Sept. 17 at 750 Center St., Herndon.

donation awareness. Visit www2.fcps.edu/SouthLakesHS/.

ChalkFest. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Rain or shine. Registration fee for participation includes supplies. Call 703-467-9797 or email info@publicartreston.org.

Fairfax County Brewfest 2017. noon-6 p.m. at Mustang Sally Brewing Company, 14140 Parke Long Ct A-C, Chantilly. Featuring live music from Scott Kurt and Memphis 59 and The Blues Buckets. A portion of the proceeds will benefit K9 for Warriors, \$10 pre-sale online; \$15 at the door (while tickets last) includes admission and logo tasting glass. Visit www.msbrewing.com.

Lulu's Fate in Concert. 4-6 p.m. at Art Space Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Traditional Appalachian and Americana music. Free. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org

Lullabye a Lamb. 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Come to Kidwell Farm at Frying Pan Farm Park to see the bedtime routine for the park's farm animals. Bring a flashlight or lantern for this twilight tour of the park and see how animals on a farm settle down for the night. \$8. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 17

Exercise with Athleta. 11 a.m.-noon at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Season finale with RoChiB Zumba. Free. Call 703-668-0256 or visit stores.athleta.net/store-4866/.

MONDAY/SEPT. 18

Photography Exhibit. 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts of all skill levels to attend meetings on the third Monday of the month. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 20

"Mean to Be." 7 p.m. in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center Lake Anne. The Reston Historic Trust & Museum presents "Meant to Be: How Reston Almost Wasn't" with Timothy Beatley. Free. Seating is limited, reservations are welcome. Contact 703-709-7700 or restonmuseum@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21

Food for Kids Community Packing

Event. 10-11:30 a.m. in Room 6 at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Email LynnB517@verizon.net or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Lunch Bunch Thursdays. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. BYO lunch and see different entertainment in the Pavilion at Fountain Square each week. Rain or shine. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Fashion Tip Thursdays. 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. This week, Victorian collars and accents. Call 571-526-4185 or visit restontowncenter.scoutandmollys.com.

Third Thursdays Art Crawl. 6 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. ArtSpace exhibits art throughout Herndon. Free. Go to www.artspaceherndon.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 22

Lullabye a Lamb. 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Come to Kidwell Farm at Frying Pan Farm Park to see the bedtime routine for the park's farm animals. Bring a flashlight or lantern for this twilight tour of the park and see how animals on a farm settle down for the night. \$8. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza. A celebration of the diversity and community spirit that is found in Reston, featuring music, entertainment, dress, food, and cultural treasures from all over the world. Everyone is encouraged to dress in attire from their own cultural roots. All ages. Free. Rain or shine. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

Lullabye a Lamb. 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Come to Kidwell Farm at Frying Pan Farm Park to see the bedtime routine for the park's farm animals. Bring a flashlight or lantern for this twilight tour of the park and see how animals on a farm settle down for the night. \$8. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

Walk to End Alzheimer's. 1:30-5 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Join in and unite in a movement with the Alzheimer's Association Register at 703-359-4440 or samartey@alz.org /walk.

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Legals

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Sodexo Operations, LLC trading as Sodexo Operations, LLC, 11600 American Dreamway, Reston, Fairfax VA 20190 . The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Caterer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Lorna Donatone, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

NEWS

Third RA Director Resigns

At-Large Director Ray Wedell is the third director to resign from the RA Board this year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RA

Wedell

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Reston Association At-Large Director Ray Wedell resigned from the association's board, effective Sept. 1. His term was to expire in April 2018.

Wedell was elected to the board in 2015 and was a member of the Board Operations Committee, which is responsible for reviewing and setting board agenda items each month.

The announcement by the RA mentioned no reasoning for Wedell's resignation. Wedell did not respond to inquiries for comment from the Connection.

He is the third director to resign from the RA Board this year.

In June, former At-Large Director Eve Thompson resigned amidst complaints alleging she failed to disclose conflicts of interest during votes regarding Lake Anne, which were later dropped. The RA Board filled her vacant seat by appointing Sridhar Ganesan to a vote of 6-1 — Wedell casting the only vote in favor of another candidate.

In December 2016, former North Point District Director Dannielle LaRosa announced that she would resign her seat in April 2017, exactly two years before her term was to expire in April 2019. She attributed her premature exit to the mounting time commitment needed for the job and her desire to spend more of her time with her three young children who are still living at home.

LaRosa's seat was added to the

spring RA election. RA members vote each spring to elect three new individuals to the board. The nine-member board is made up of eight directors chosen by the members, with four serving specific Reston districts. The ninth member is selected by Reston apartment owners.

The resignations and spring election shook up the leadership, leaving a majority of the board to newly-elected or appointed Restonians. Only three of the nine-member board are individuals who held their seats prior to the election: Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District Director Sherri Hebert, At-Large Director Michael Sanio and South Lakes District Director Julie Bitzer. After the election, the board members voted Hebert to be president of the board and Sanio — who was previously the board's vice president — to secretary.

Call For Candidates

By unanimous consent of the directors, the RA issued a call for candidates who are interested in serving out the remainder of the term for the vacant at-large seat, which runs through April 2018.

Any association member can submit a statement of candidacy by U.S. mail, via email to Sabrina Tadele at stadele@reston.org or in-person at RA headquarters by noon Sept. 22. Certified candidates will meet with the board on Sept. 28 to discuss interests and qualifications. Visit reston.org/.

Suspect Charged in Abduction and Attempted Sexual Assault in Reston

Dominique Ashley Childs, 33, of Reston was charged with the abduction and attempted sexual assault of a 22-year-old woman who was walking on the 1200 block of North Shore Drive in Reston on Aug. 14, according to the Fairfax County Police Department.

Childs was arrested in Manassas on Monday, Aug. 28, after FCPD detectives received a tip. He was charged with abduction with intent to defile and is being held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, according to police.

The victim was walking in the afternoon of Aug. 14 when Childs allegedly approached her from behind, and dragged her into nearby woods, according to police. Once in the woods, he tried to remove the victim's clothing, but



Dominique Ashley Childs, 33, of Reston

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

then left suddenly, according to police. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Detective Christian at 703-246-7866 or police at 703-691-2131.

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**THE CONNECTION
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BULLETIN

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

IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold four in-person forums and three 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 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. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.org.

In-person forums:

- ❖ **Sunday, Sept. 17** at 2:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center: Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.
- ❖ **Thursday, Sept. 28** at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax.
- ❖ **Wednesday, Oct. 25** at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

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 theinsidescoopvtv@gmail.com or on call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on: **Monday, Sept. 11** at 8 p.m.; **Monday, Sept. 18** at 8 p.m.; and **Monday, Oct. 2** at 8 p.m.

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

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

ONGOING

Sunrise at Reston Town Center offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com to RSVP.

Exercise for Parkinson's. Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. parkinsonfoundation.org. Call Natalie McCall nmccall@onelifefitness.com 703-904-7600 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 or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Passages DivorceCare. For those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, the caring community at Vienna Presbyterian Church offers Passages DivorceCare. This 15-week program offers a path toward healing. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna. Cost to cover materials is \$20, scholarships available. For more information or to register call 703-938-9050, go to www.viennapres.org, or send an email to Passages@ViennaPres.org.

The Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities, arts and crafts, mealtime, entertainment and much more. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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"Kenny's Story"



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Ordinarily I wouldn't have given the Lyrica television commercial too much attention. But there sat a spokesperson named Kenny, his name clearly printed in red script on top of a white oval located above his right breast pocket on his custom-work shirt, a middle-aged white man like me, holding his left foot across his right knee talking about a medical problem that we both feel: the "shooting, burning, pins and needles of diabetic nerve pain." It was odd seeing someone named Kenny on television referring to a problem that not-on-television Kenny also has, though my symptoms are not from diabetes; they're from eight and half years of chemotherapy. Nevertheless, as Babe Ruth said about the sound of his throat-cancer-ravaged voice on "Babe Ruth Day" at Yankee Stadium on April 27, 1947: "It feels just as bad."

Campaign to date, according to ISpot.tv, within the last 30 days, "Kenny's Story," as it's identified, has had "74 commercial airings." And though I don't think for a moment that this Kenny could be confused with that Kenny, considering that he's an auto mechanic who "grew into a free-wheeling kid" and "enjoyed every step of fatherhood," and I'm not 'free-wheeling,' not a father and know zero about cars, I do feel his pain - literally.

Now the fact that the words of advice are coming from someone named Kenny does give me pause however. Not that all Kennys have identical personalities or life's experiences but knowing how little familiarity I have with this product makes me distrust him somehow. My name is Kenny and I'm not prepared to make those statements. How can he?

It reminds me of a long-ago M*A*S*H episode when Major Frank Burns was feeling paranoid (as he said: "I'm only paranoid because every one's out to get me") because he thought "someone else is using my face." None of which makes any more sense than my not believing spokesperson-Kenny just because his name happens to be Kenny.

But there's no accounting for viewer reaction, probably. That's likely why there were a total "1,271 airings" of Lyrica diabetic nerve pain commercials nationally over the last 30 days. "Kenny's Story," at 74 airings, was a small percentage of at least a dozen variations on this theme as well as a parallel campaign to address Fibromyalgia, a similar condition also treated by Lyrica.

It's odd, of the multiple spots that have appeared on television, all of which show people living active lives - and being grateful for using Lyrica, only three: "Kim's Salon," "Michael," and yours truly are "given-named." All the others: "Coach," "Grandpa," "School Teacher," "Keep the Beat Going," "Helping Others", as a few examples, are not.

I'm wondering if "naming"/invoking names in these spots does in fact personalize the experience for viewers in a way that the pharmaceutical companies think is counter productive? Maybe naming the spokesperson/sufferer causes a reaction among Kims and Michaels that yours truly is feeling/writing about?

Moreover, given that "Big Pharma" probably doesn't want to limit its reach by excluding a segment of the market because of name recognition possibly lends some credence to the presumption that using a name to identify the individual in one of these spots is rare because it's unhelpful. As it relates to these spots and their names, perhaps less is more, given how many research/clinical dollars (hundreds of millions of dollars we're often told) are invested in the process of bringing FDA-approved products to market? Accordingly, I suppose "Big Pharma" can't afford to leave any potential stone/"prescriptee" unturned.

I certainly don't know the answers to any of these questions. I can only wander - and wonder what is it that makes sense here and where I fit into their universe. The commercials have hit their intended target: me, a patient with "shooting, burning, pins and needles ...", but I have to tell you: I don't like "Kenny."

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

Rosh Hashanah — Not Just a New Year

BY RABBI LEIBEL FAJNLAND
DIRECTOR OF CHABAD OF RESTON-
HERNDON



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rosh Hashanah is not just the Jewish New Year. It is the first step in a month long process of self-discovery, a month which guides us towards a deeper place within ourselves, our universe, and our Creator.

What is Rosh Hashanah? Rosh Hashanah is a reality check.

Instinctively, we are wrapped up in what we need, what we want, where we need to go and what we need to do. Not in a bad way necessarily, but life — when left to its own devices — is me, me, me. We need to work with that. Life is supposed to be about our responsibilities — the responsibilities we have to ourselves, and to our loves ones.

But ultimately, life is a gift, and it is granted for a reason: To lead a meaningful life, and strive towards a higher purpose than simply fulfilling our own needs and wants. And that ought to be our North Star.

This is not to suggest that we do not partake of the world, and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Yet simultaneously we must ask ourselves why? How? Are our motives purposeful? Am I divorced from the world around me?

Rosh Hashanah is about setting our self-image, our desires, our neuroses and our various gravitational pulls to the side, and affirming that we will endeavor in this new year to lead a more meaningful life, even when it is uncomfortable.

That is Rosh Hashanah. But that is only the beginning.

Rabbi Leibel Fajnlend

Real commitment is not an easy thing. Genuine, full-bodied commitment doesn't come from a simple conversation with oneself. Rosh Hashanah begins a 10-day process of trying to find authentic connectedness, a genuine bond, with those around us, and ultimately with the Divine. Day by day, we peel away layer after layer of our own ego and self-interest.

Until the 10th day: Yom Kippur.

At that point, we're ready for Oneness.

We set aside our physical needs — our food and drink — and we zero in on the core of our lives, the central point of our existence and the North Star by which we will find a life of meaning.

We connect. For real.

Once we have done that, Sukkot — the Festival of Tabernacles, the next holiday of the month — is a natural consequence. We can resume life. But it is done within a simple wooden hut under the wide open sky called a Sukkah. Surrounded by its flimsy walls and leafy roof, we are enveloped in a divine cosmic embrace.

At one with the vulnerability around us. Not ensconced away from it. Aware of our responsibility to repair our broken world.

So now you have the Tishrei journey, the spiritual path of this month. And perhaps we never needed it more urgently than now.

The call of the Shofar nudges us toward finding an authentic sense of bonding with something loftier and greater than us.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year for the Jewish calendar year of 5778.

High Holiday Services Schedule

In anticipation of the upcoming Jewish New Year, Chabad of Reston-Herndon has announced its High Holiday Services schedule.

For information on Chabad's open to the community services for Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 20-22) and Yom Kippur (Sept. 29-30), as well as to reserve, visit www.chabadrh.org.

Membership is not required to join. All are welcome, regardless of

background or affiliation. We do ask for you to make a reservation however so that seating can be assured.

The services will be user-friendly, with a Hebrew-English Prayer Book (Machzor) making it enjoyable and meaningful for both the seasoned and the unversed.

The services will be traditional, yet thoroughly contemporary, interspersed with traditional and modern Jewish

tunes, English readings and a running commentary led by Rabbi Fajnlend.

In addition, a special children's program will accompany the adult services.

For more information on the above event, call Rabbi Leibel Fajnlend at 703-476-1829, visit www.chabadrh.org, or write to Rabbi@chabadrh.org.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of Herndon invites the community to join them for praise and worship followed by a stirring message from the Word of God on Sundays starting at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (with Sunday school at 7:30 and 9:30 a.m.). Visit www.mtpleasantbaptist.org or call 703-793-1196.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. Visit ShalomDC.org.

Hope Fellowship Church will temporarily be meeting at Hyatt Place, 21481 Ridgeway Circle, Sterling. Sunday worship services are Sundays at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., a Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and a weekly prayer conference call is Thursdays at 9 p.m.

The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. Call 703-599-3527 or visit www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org.

Epiphany United Methodist Preschool, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3- to 4-year-old students. Call 703-938-2391 or visit www.epiphanypreschool.com.

Washington Plaza Baptist Church will hold Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at Lake Anne Village Center.

The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

needs knitters the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Prayer Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. Email shawl@saint-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

Nondenominational Christian businessmen meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and noon Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7:30-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation.

\$12 or \$6 for students, seniors and unemployed. Call 202-986-2257 or visit www.meditation-dc.org.

OBITUARY

Evan Hershey Helmuth

Evan Hershey Helmuth passed away in Los Angeles, Calif. on July 18, 2017 of complications from a stroke. Born in 1977, Evan lived in Reston until age 10, when he moved with his family to Ames, Iowa. For many summers, he attended the Interlochen Arts Camp in northern Michigan, followed by three years of high school at the year-round Interlochen Arts Academy. He graduated from the Academy in 1995 as a theater major, receiving the school's highest award for an individual arts graduate. He further pursued his dramatic studies at the University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts, where he received numerous awards and graduated in 1999 with the Jack Nicholson Award for outstanding actor. He lived in Los Angeles since that time.

Helmuth's film credits include the Farrelly Brothers' "Fever Pitch" where he appeared opposite Jimmy Fallon and

Drew Barrymore as Fallon's Red Sox-loving sidekick Troy; William Brent Bell's 2012 horror movie "The Devil Inside" as Father David; and Joshua Michael Stern's 2013 Steve Jobs biopic "Jobs" starring Ashton Kutcher. His TV credits spanned the likes of ABC's "Alias," CBS' NCIS, Fox's "Bones," TNT's "Rizzoli & Isles" and more recently CBS' comedic drama "Battle Creek."

Evan is remembered as a warm, kind, generous, and talented person by family and friends. He is survived by his sister, Erika Fairchild Helmuth Saunders of Hershey, Pa.; his stepmother, Paula Forrest of Ames, Iowa; and his beloved dog Sasha. He was preceded in death by his father John William Helmuth and his mother Kerry O'Brien Helmuth. Memorial contributions can be sent in Evan's name to the University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts and the Interlochen Center for the Arts, Theatre Division.

COMMENTARY

Plum

FROM PAGE 5

for at least 15,000 years before that time. That makes all of us except for Native Americans descendent of immigrants. There is seldom a day that passes that I do not meet someone who may be brand new or first or second generation Americans who are making our communities, society and economy stronger and better. Many choose to ignore the history of immigrants especially most recently that of dependent children. They may be undocumented, but they are not "illegals" — people are not illegal. Certainly our im-

migration system needs work. Endless paperwork, complex bureaucracy and an entanglement of laws sometime stand in the way of people who should be given a path to citizenship that can be navigated. I thought that Richard Cohen, head of the Southern Poverty Law Center, expressed it best when he said of the decision to rescind DACA that it was "one of the most senseless, heartless, inhumane acts of any president in recent memory."

We should know better and certainly we must insist that all act better!

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 5

ducted, including findings of fact, evidence collected and witness statements."

The Panel will hold public meetings on issues within their jurisdiction and police policies and practices. At these meeting, public comment is invited to assist the panel in making their reports for improved policies and practices to the Chief of Police and the Board of Supervisors.

To find out how they work, i.e., the specific authorities and procedures of the Independent Police Auditor or the Civilian Review

Panel, go to their respective websites:

❖ IPA — www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/policeauditor/

❖ CRP — www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/

Both the IPA and the CRP may be contacted via email at IPAPoliceAuditor@fairfaxcounty.gov and by telephone at 703-324-3459. If you are interested, you might contact them and ask to be put on the mailing list for their reports and schedules of their meetings.