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PHOTO BY MARK MOGLE/THE CONNECTION

Rock legend Joe Walsh performs at the Eagle Bank Arena in the inaugural VetsAid concert Sept. 20.

Burke CONNECTION

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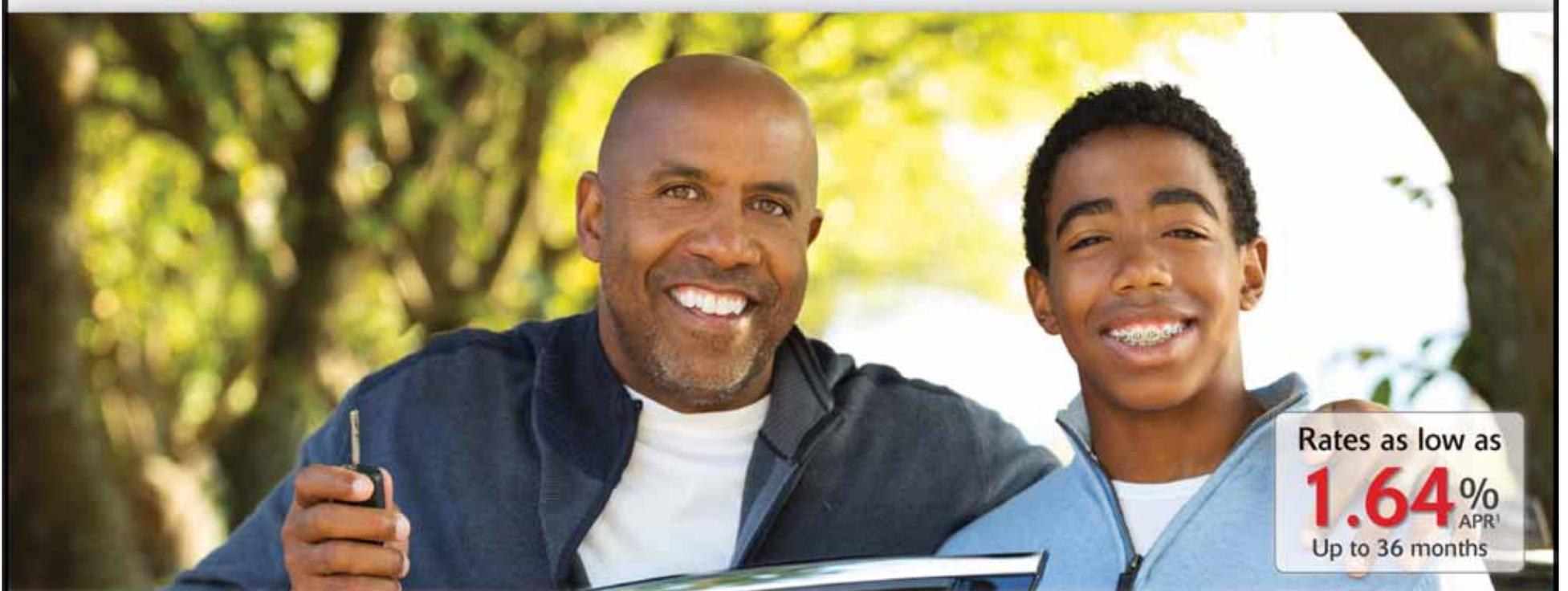


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The Last DACA Clinic

Applications for renewals must be filed by Oct. 5.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

A sign outside Annandale United Methodist Church on Saturday, Sept. 23 read, "Welcome - Just Neighbors DACA Clinic." What the sign didn't say is that this would be the final DACA Clinic.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced President Donald Trump's Executive Order on Sept. 5 repealing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Current DACA recipients with a work permit due to expire before March 5 can apply for a two-year renewal but no new first-time DACA applications can be filed.

DACA is a program that allows individuals meeting certain requirements, who either entered the country illegally as children or remained, to receive a renewable two-year deferred action from deportation and be eligible for a work permit. However, a DACA permit is only a temporary protection and not a path to legal citizenship.

Erin McKenney, director of Just Neighbors Ministry, says 12 people were preregistered for Saturday's clinic with some walk-ins. Immigration attorneys would review the required paperwork to minimize errors and the possibility of missing the deadline. McKinney observes there haven't been a lot of people at the clinics recently. She speculates that maybe they are filling out the paperwork themselves. "I hope so." She says when they had "know your rights" clinics early this year, a lot of the people who first came out for the clinics were later afraid they would be identified and people stopped coming. They were worried that their families were unprotected.

McKinney added, "In general the immigrants feel let down by the repeal. They feel they are as American as anyone and have never known any other country."

Tori Andrea-Babington, an immigration lawyer with Just Neighbors and director of Legal Services for Northern Virginia Family Services, says about half of the applications are being processed by the United States Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS) "super fast and about half are taking about six months. I think there has been a serious effort to turn them around quickly."

The immigration lawyers stood outside a room of eight tables where applicants worked through a pile of papers. The lawyers will review the paperwork before it is sent to USCIS.

McKinney calls the lawyers her "bullpen." She said, "They are the saviors," and added, "we don't send anything forward that we think won't be approved. That just puts the applicant in jeopardy."

McKinney estimates there have been about 2,000 people with DACA permits in Northern Virginia since President Obama established the program by Executive Order on June 15, 2012. The Executive Order



Tori Andrea-Babington, an immigration lawyer with Just Neighbors, says USCIS is processing about half of the DACA applications "super fast" and half are taking about six months.



Erin McKenney, executive director of Just Neighbors, says, since 2012, there have been around 2,000 people with DACA status in Northern Virginia. Over 50 percent of their clients are from Fairfax with 16 percent in Arlington and others in Loudoun, Alexandria and Prince William.



A DACA applicant begins the process of a two-year renewal of her DACA status on Saturday, Sept. 23. Applications for renewals must be filed by Oct. 5 to be considered.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Just Neighbors Ministry held its last DACA Clinic at the Annandale United Methodist Church on Sept. 23. DACA was repealed on Sept. 5.

was issued after several failed attempts by Congress to pass permanent immigration legislation referred to as the DREAM Act bill. There were an estimated 800,000 individuals enrolled in the DACA program nation-wide as of September 2017.

A MOTHER SITS along the wall of the reception area with her 10-year old and 4-year-old daughters who translate for her. The mother is illegal, having come to the United States in 2005. Her two youngest daughters were born in the U.S. and therefore are U.S. citizens. They are waiting for the 17-year-old daughter to finish her DACA renewal application. The oldest daughter joins them in the lobby and said, "I'm kind of upset. I don't remember much about El Salvador, and my friends whose work permits expire after March 5 won't be able to get a renewal." They will be eligible for deportation.

To be eligible for DACA, a recipient must have come to the U.S. before their 16th birthday and prior to June 2007 and have been living continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007. They must have been under the age of 31 on June 15, 2012 and with no lawful status at that time. They must have completed high school or a GED, have been honorably discharged from the armed forces or be enrolled in school. They cannot have been convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor.

Just Neighbors Ministry Inc. is a non-profit organization providing legal services to low-income immigrants in Northern Virginia, focusing on humanitarian cases. Fifty-eight percent of their clients live in Fairfax with 16 percent in Arlington and others in Alexandria, Prince William and Loudoun. Eighteen percent of their cases are for DACA. They have moved to a new location at 7630 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

This is the first part of a series focusing on DACA.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPS

Burke School recently hosted 11 mental health and education professionals from Iraq through the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program

Iraqi Mental Health, Education Professionals Come to Burke School

Burke School recently hosted 11 mental health and education professionals from Iraq through the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program with a focus on Psycho-social Rehabilitation in the Post Da'esh Era. The group included representatives from Iraqi universities, government and community agencies, psychiatrists, and psychologists who work with children who have been repeatedly traumatized by living in a country that has been at war for a significant amount of time.

Objectives for the trip were to examine the social and psychological effects on children who have lived through war, trauma, displacement, and reintegration; understand the chronic vs. acute signs and symptoms of people suffering from post-war trauma and risk factors involved in overcoming trauma; explore treatment and therapies including psychotherapy, exposure therapy, cognitive restructuring, meditation, relaxation, and art therapy (particularly theater); and participate in a volunteer project alongside Americans that involves working with

traumatized children.

Group members are interested in implementing therapeutic interventions into their community schools and also wanted to learn how our schools provide educational services for students with autism.

Principal Frank Tranfa, assistant principal Latif Abdulalim, art therapist Deni Brancheau, social worker Averlyn Mayers, and music therapist V.J. Hyde provided information about Burke School's PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports) program and responsive instruction program. The Burke educators spoke about how they support behavior, the school's social-emotional learning curriculum, its model for crisis intervention and group counseling, and then offered the visitors the opportunity to participate in experiential activities in art and music classrooms.

The Iraqi visitors happened to be at Burke School on the day it was observing Chalk for Peace, and the visitors participated in the event as part of the presentation.



Nativity Parish in Burke Helps Those in Need

Nativity Parish in Burke truly lived their school theme in September with service projects to help those in need "across the street and around the world." As part of the Sept. 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, they turned their entire cafeteria into a loading zone to help mitigate the suffering in Houston, Texas. The school cafeteria was buzzing with excitement — supplies arrived by the cartful, the boxful, the armful. Every child from Kindergarten to eighth grade played a part in packing individual bags to be given to either a male/female adult or a boy or girl in need after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

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Celebrating Eagle Scout Badge

PHOTO BY G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III

Burke resident Ethan O'Connell is awarded the Eagle Scout badge. He is pictured with his parents Conrad and Pam O'Connell and Phil Sternberg, Board of Review Chairman.

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OPINION

Dire and Urgent

Does current repeal effort set the stage for billions in tax cuts for the wealthiest?

“Dire and urgent.” Those are the words used by U.S. Sen. Mark Warner to describe the need to turn back the most recent attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

In addition to repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act with a plan that would result in chaos, the Graham-Cassidy bill also repeals Medicaid as we know it, Virginia’s senators said in a call with reporters last week.

“Why are they going after Medicaid?” asked U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine. Per capita caps on Medicaid have “nothing to do with the Affordable Care Act.”

The proposed cuts include \$243 billion less between 2020 and 2026 for the ACA’s expan-

sion of Medicaid, and cuts to the rest of Medicaid of \$175 billion during the same period, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis. The cuts would grow dramatically in 2027, with nearly \$300 billion more in cuts that year alone.

“Why go after Medicaid? Why?” Kaine asked again. Kaine is pretty sure he knows the answer: To generate money for billions in tax cuts for the wealthiest.

“Senators who support this [repeal], who think that the Federal government should not be paying for health care for the poor, for the aged, for the disabled, are planning to give this money to the wealthiest Americans in tax cuts.

“We must resist that at all costs.” While the Graham-Cassidy bill appears to

lack the votes to pass right now, and many people predict that the Senate will move on from trying to repeal and replace the affordable care act, vigilance is still required.

These ongoing efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act also threaten the quality of coverage for everyone by shredding protection on pre-existing conditions, by stripping funding for addiction and mental health treatment in the midst of a nationwide opioid epidemic, by allowing lifetime caps on coverage that would leave the most seriously ill patients without coverage, by undermining what constitutes “essential benefits,” the very definition of what one expects to be covered by insurance.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

Teen Suicide: Who to Call for Help in Fairfax County

By JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR



COMMENTARY

Stories of teen suicides seem to appear far too often on the news these days.

Unfortunately, the news coverage reflects the fact that teen suicides have drastically increased in the United States and even Fairfax County. According to the Fairfax County Health Department, 98 youths within the ages of 10 and 24 committed suicide in Fairfax County between 2010 and 2015. These numbers are frightening to read, but there is hope. Thanks to the work of PRS Crisis Link and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services board, there are now several Fairfax County programs and initiatives to help families and friends to identify the signs of suicide and prevent it all together.

If someone believes their child

or loved one may be suicidal or dealing with a mental health issue, there are a number of places to find help. In any immediate, life threatening situation call 9-1-1 right away. However, for parents and guardians of teens who may be suicidal or experiencing a mental health crisis, PRS Crisis Link is a valuable resource. PRS has a 24-hour, confidential hotline which can be reached at 703-527-4077. They also have a textline that can be accessed by texting “CONNECT” to 85511. PRS Crisis Link offers crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and information on community resources to address their caller’s specific needs.

Another option available for immediate assistance is the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) Emergency

Services at 703-573-5679, which is also 24/7. In addition to suicide prevention, CSB offers a range of services for mental health issues, substance use disorders, and developmental disabilities. The CSB’s Merrifield Crisis Center offers walk-in screenings for emergency and non-emergency psychiatric cases. Their clinicians will determine the risk of a patient’s situation and help provide the appropriate services, which may include medication, detoxification, or even, in some cases, hospitalization at another facility. CSB can give parents and guardians proper guidance in navigating the mental healthcare system.

There are also opportunities for anyone who would like to receive training on suicide prevention and mental health first aid through the county. CSB offers free online classes called “At-Risk for Middle School” and “At-Risk for High School.” This training

teaches educators and other adults in the community how to identify signs of psychological distress in youth and connect them to the right resources. The CSB also offers a two-day Mental Health First Aid class that “introduces risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems” and “teaches how to help someone who is in crisis or experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge.” The next Youth Mental Health First Aid classes will be held Monday, Nov. 4 and Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2017.

No one should struggle with mental health issues on their own, especially children and teens. PRS and CSB will be there for your family’s time of need. Everyone, including parents and educators, should learn the signs of suicide and save these phone numbers just in case. Together, our community can make a substantial impact on suicide prevention.

Fairfax County at 275 Years

By KENNETH R. “KEN”
PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



COMMENTARY

Fairfax County is celebrating the 275th anniversary of its formation when in

1742 it was split off from Prince William County to be a separate county encompassing what we now know as the current county plus Loudoun and Arlington Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax. It was named for Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax who had a proprietary of 5,282,000 acres. For a time a part

of the county that is now Arlington County and the City of Alexandria was a part of the 10 square miles that makes up the District of Columbia until those jurisdictions were returned to Virginia.

Fairfax County is compared today with jurisdictions throughout the country as it leads in economic growth and development in many ways. That national comparison was not always appropriate. In its early years it was a struggling com-

munity raising tobacco with the labor of enslaved black persons. By 1749 the county’s population was 28 percent enslaved persons; by 1782 that number had reached 41 percent.

The county’s early fame came from its two most important residents: George Mason who wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Constitution and whose work led to the Bill of Rights in our national Constitution and George Washington who as our first president brought the country together and whose service in office set important precedents that continue today.

Surprisingly Fairfax County voted with the South to secede from the Union leading up to the Civil War. While the County was not the scene of major military battles, there were many skirmishes and an almost constant flow of troops passing through it. After the war and reconstruction, investments started to flow to the county that helped its recovery. Although still an agricultural community at that time, the following decades brought significant changes that led to the community as we know it today.

SEE PLUM, PAGE 14

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FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Fall for the Book Oct. 11-14

Local readers have four days to ponder the works of 150 authors Oct. 11-14 at the 19th annual Fall for the Book festival at George Mason University and the Fairfax County Library. Eight branches throughout Fairfax County will sell used books.

Featured author Colson Whitehead will discuss his award-winning novel "The Underground Railroad" at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11 in the GMU Harris Theater.

Children will hear stories in the Old Town Hall Oct. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., beginning with a story hour about pirates and ending with a Saturday afternoon lesson on how to draw comics.

Admission to events are free. Call 703-993-3986 or read the event program online at fallforthebook.org.

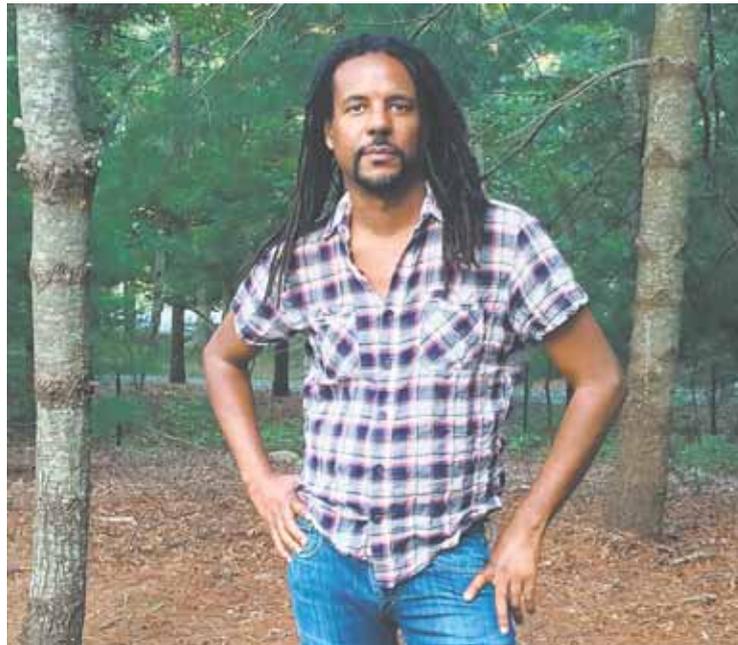


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner Colson Whitehead, author of "The Underground Railroad" is one of the 2017 Fall for the Book headliners. He will appear Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. in Harris Theater on George Mason's Fairfax Campus.

FALL FAVORITES

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Festival takes place every weekend in October. Visit www.whitehall.farm for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Taste of Fall Feast. 7 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. An evening filled with food, entertainment, and a live and silent auction to raise funds to help parents, children and individuals in Fairfax County and City who suffer the effects of poverty. Attendees at the fundraiser can sample food and drink from a variety of Fairfax-area restaurants, wineries and breweries while enjoying music by Pan Masters Steel Orchestra. \$50. Visit www.FACETSCares.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

UCM Ocktoberfest Benefit Night. 5-8 p.m. at Forge Brew Works, 8532 Terminal Road, Lorton. A percentage of the evening's sales will be donated to UCM to help families in need. Flights \$10, free snacks, food truck will be on site. Bring canned food or other items to help stock the UCM Food Pantry. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

OCT. 13-14

Fairfax City Ghost Tours. 7-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Stories of the spirited individuals who may still roam Old Town Fairfax. Comfortable walking shoes advised. Cider and treats provided. \$15. Ages 12 and up. Call 703-385-7858 or email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Fairfax Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Fairfax, Route 123 and Route 236, Fairfax. Over 400 arts, crafts, information, food vendors, children's activities and three stages of music and entertainment for all ages. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

Bunnyman Lecture. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street. County Archivist and Bunny Man expert, Brian Conley, will talk about the legend of the Bunny Man which has captivated Northern Virginia fear-seekers for over four decades. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/ or 703-293-6227.

OCT. 14-15

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit www.whitehall.farm for more.

OCT. 16-19

Halloween Costume Exchange. Drop off various times at Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, pick up new costume on Friday, Oct. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Drop off gently used and clean Halloween costumes Monday through Thursday, and come pick up a great second hand costume for this year on Friday. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-385-7858.

OCT. 20-21

Fairfax City Ghost Tours. 7-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Stories of the spirited individuals who may still roam Old Town Fairfax. Comfortable walking shoes advised. Cider and treats provided. \$15. Ages 12 and up. Call 703-385-7858 or email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Trunk or Treat. 6-8 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church (FUMC) 6037 Franconia Road. Games, snacks, hot cider in the church parking lot. Visit www.franconiaumc.org/ or call 703-971-5151 for more.

OCT. 21-22

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit www.whitehall.farm for more.

OCT. 28-29

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit www.whitehall.farm for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 30

Trick-or-Treating at City of Fairfax Buildings. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Children are invited to come safely trick-or-treat at any of the following City of Fairfax buildings:
 ❖ City Hall – 10455 Armstrong St.
 ❖ Green Acres – 4401 Sideburn Road
 ❖ Sherwood Center – 3740 Old Lee Highway
 ❖ Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center – 10209 Main St.
 Email information@fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855 for more.

Halloween Celebration and Costume Parade. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment, costumes encouraged for parade. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-385-7858.

You can read any of this week's 15 papers digital editions here:

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs



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FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

The Trawick Prize Art Exhibit. Through Sept. 30, various times at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E. Bethesda. Burke artist Michele Montalbano named as one of the finalists for the Trawick Prize. Call 301-215-7990 for more.

Artist Marilyn Harrington's "Dyeing to Change," exhibit, is on display at the Workhouse Art Center, 9518 Workhouse Rpad, Lorton through Oct. 8. Call 703-584-2900 for more.

Lake Accotink Park Carousel Closed, Mini-golf and Marina Open. The carousel at Lake Accotink Park has been closed for the remainder of the 2017 operating season for needed repair work. The mini-golf and marina will continue operating as normally scheduled through Oct. 16. Call 703-324-8745 for more.

Photo Exhibition. Through Oct. 28, 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 for more.

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. every Friday through Oct. 27, at Kingstowne Giant Parking Lot, 5870 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria. Freshly picked, producer-only vegetables and fruit, from-scratch bread (including gluten free), baked goods, kettle corn, salsa, hummus, cake pops, fruit popsicles, and ice cream. Email Chelsea.roseberry@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-642-0128 for more.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

Tai Chi. 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Class will take place in Old Town Square at the pergola. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

Meet the Civil War Author. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Local historian, lecturer and author, Arthur Candemquist will look at a Confederate military railroad that ran between Centreville and Manassas Junction. Free, open to public. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

Visiting Filmmakers. 4:30 p.m. at the Johnson Center Cinema, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series presents: "Cameraperson," free screening and Q&A with Kirsten Johnson. Visit favs.gmu.edu for more.

Mars Rodeo Concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Hometown Thursdays series will host local bands from the Fairfax area. Free. Call 703-385-7858 for more.



Wicked Olde performs a Celtic song at Old Town Square during the 2016 City of Fairfax Fall Festival.

FILE PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

Fall Festival Returns to City of Fairfax

The 41st annual Fall Festival in the historic City of Fairfax offers visitors a Saturday packed with three stages of live entertainment, more than 400 vendors, amusement rides and beer gardens Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department Station No. 3 has a fire prevention and safety event for kids in their open house at 4081 University Drive. Local museums on Main Street and Old Lee Highway also are open for tours.

A 1980s tribute band called The Reflex will entertain the MTV Generation from the Main Stage

between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Stick around the Old Town Square for a rock concert by My Zero Hero from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Free parking is available at the George Mason University Rappahannock Parking Deck at 4400 University Drive and Fairfax High School at 3501 Rebel Run. Shuttles will run festival goers to the heart of downtown between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Call 703-385-7858 or learn more at www.FairfaxFallFestival.com and download their app to your iPhone or Android device.

SEPT. 28-OCT. 1

Fall Book Sale. Various times at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. George Mason Friends, a Friends of the Library organization annual book sale. Call 571-314-1947 for more.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

Geology at Lake Accotink. 5-6 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Participants experiment with rocks and test their hardness in this hands-on class at the park. Call 703-569-3464 visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/.

Wine Tasting. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. This event features wine tasting and a silent auction of goods and services. Free. Visit www.historicfairfax.org for more or call 703-385-7858 for more.

Pilates Open House. 6:30-8 p.m. at Studio BE Pilates, 4211 Fairfax Corner Ave., East, #200, Fairfax. Meet and greet with pilates guru Kevin Bowen and see Pilates demonstrations. Bowen will give a talk about the importance of a Pilates practice as we age. Email info@studioobepilates.com or call 703-222-0122.

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

Bingo. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Smoke free Bingo, free coffee, entertaining

callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com, or call 703-273-3638.

Comedy on Stage. 7:30 p.m. at the Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Hwy, Fairfax. Show by Krish Mohan, a nationally touring stand up comedian. Visit ramannoodlescomedy.com/press/ for more.

SEPT. 29-OCT. 8

Disney on Ice. Various times at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. "Dare To Dream," show featuring an expedition across seas and mountains with characters from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," "Frozen," "Tangled" and "Cinderella." \$20 and up. Call 1-800-745-3000, via www.ticketmaster.com, or visit DisneyOnce.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Kidz Korner. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

Organ Recital. 11:30 a.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The recital on the Noack Pipe Organ with 16 stops, 18 ranks, and 948 pipes will include selections from J. S. Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, and other music from the 18th to 20th Century. Call 703-339-6572 or visit www.pohick.org for more.

Bingo. 1-3 p.m. at Parish Center Gym, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$10 for two cards, proceeds benefit the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. Call 703-426-2824 for more.

Concerts from Kirkwood. 3 p.m. at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Hot Lanes Jazz Band, led by composer, arranger, performer and director Bobby Jasinski. Email concerts@kirkwoodpres.com, visit www.kirkwoodpres.com, or call 703-451-5320 for more.

Twilight Rock-n-Run 5K. 5:30-8 p.m. at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Rd, Lorton. The evening run benefits the South County High School Band program. Call 540-847-1467 or email olivovwriter@yahoo.com for more.

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit www.whitehall.farm for more.

OCT. 2-NOV. 6

Adventures 'N Learning. 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The class starts with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal development,

finance, and more. \$30 for six weeks. Call 703-426-2824, or visit www.scfbva.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 2

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

TUESDAY/OCT. 3

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Story Times at Old Town Square for children every Tuesday morning. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

FRIDAY/OCT. 6

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department hosts smoke free Bingo, \$1000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire & rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com, or call 703-273-3638 for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

She Rocks the World. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 2017 Virginia Girls' Summit, teenage girl forum. Visit www.sherockstheworld.org/ for more.

Walking Tour of Old Town Fairfax. 10-11:30 a.m. at Historic Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Tour includes include a short tour of the Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main St. \$10/adults; \$5/youth, ages 6-12, children 6 and under are free. Family rate (three or more) \$25. For reservations, call Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center at 703-385-8414.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30-10 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. A Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association dance. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

Taste of Fall Feast. 7 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. An evening filled with food, entertainment, and a live and silent auction to raise funds to help parents, children and individuals in Fairfax County and City who suffer the effects of poverty. Attendees at the fundraiser can sample food and drink from a variety of Fairfax-area restaurants, wineries and breweries while enjoying music by Pan Masters Steel Orchestra. \$50. Visit www.FACETSCares.org or call 703-554-3609.

Meet the Artist. 7-9 p.m. at the Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Angelika Schäfer will be on hand to discuss "TransFormations: A Visual Diary." Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

OCT. 7-8

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit www.whitehall.farm for more.

FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Clifton Day Festival Is Set for Oct. 8

Take a Sunday drive along a back country roads in western Fairfax County to experience the annual Clifton Day Festival Oct. 8. The Main Street of this historic town is full of vendors selling arts and crafts, antiques and more from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Live entertainment features home-grown musician Colin Thompson, a blues guitarist who tours in Europe with his dad's group the Randy Thompson Band.

Visitors will not go hungry: The town has at least four restaurants, an ice cream parlor and a cupcake boutique. Plus guest food vendors will sell usual festival fare.

Parking costs up to \$10 in the flood plain. This is the only day of the year the Virginia Railway Express stops in town to drop off passengers from train stations between Rolling Road and Broad Run. Train fare is \$5. Call 703-968-0740 or find more information online at www.cliftonday.com.

Boris Populoh of Clifton pours beer in front of the General Store on Clifton Day 2016. Populoh is originally from Bad Lippspringe, Germany.



FILE PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON

CALENDAR

SUNDAY/OCT. 8

America in World War I Lecture. 2 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. George Mason University professor, Dr. Harry A. Butkowsky will discuss America's entry into World War I in 1917. Free. Call 703-385-8414.

MONDAY/OCT. 9

Funday Monday. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Music, movement, storytelling, performances, and crafts. Free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Story Times at Old Town Square for children every Tuesday morning. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

UCM Oktoberfest Benefit Night. 5-8 p.m. at Forge Brew Works, 8532 Terminal Road, Lorton. A percentage of the evening's sales will be donated to UCM to help families in need. Flights \$10, free snacks, food truck will be on site. Bring canned food or other items to help stock the UCM Food Pantry. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

OCT. 11-14

Photography Exhibit. Various times in the Center for the Arts lobby on George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. "Slavery in Northern Virginia" photo exhibit by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's Photography Club. Visit www2.gmu.edu/ for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

Art and Lunch. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Fairfax Art League event, bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Visit

www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

Poetry Night. 6-9 p.m. at the Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Hwy, Fairfax. An evening of poetry by Shara McCallum author of Madwoman, Jenny Johnson, author of In Full Velvet, and Debra Nystrom, author of Night Sky Frequencies and Selected Poems. Visit www.fallforthebook.org for more.

OCT. 13-14

Fairfax City Ghost Tours. 7-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Stories of the spirited individuals who may still roam Old Town Fairfax. Comfortable walking shoes advised. Cider and treats provided. \$15. Ages 12 and up. Call 703-385-7858 or email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Fairfax Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Fairfax, Route 123 and Route 236, Fairfax. Over 400 arts, crafts, information, food vendors, children's activities and three stages of music and entertainment for all ages. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

Bunny Man Lecture. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street. County Archivist and Bunny Man expert, Brian Conley, will talk about the legend of the Bunny Man which has captivated Northern Virginia fear-seekers for over four decades. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/ or 703-293-6227.

Anniversary Open House. 1-6 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum opening at its present location. Museum members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. \$5 for Special Events. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR or call 703-425-9225.

Benefit Musical. 6:30 p.m. at the The

Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Friends of Sydenstricker Schoolhouse will hold a fundraising event at the Schoolhouse featuring a special musical performance by the Rossi Family and a performance of Will Rogers' USA, a one-man show performed by Rob Cork. Visit www.sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org for more.

OCT. 14-15

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit www.whitehall.farm for more.

OCT. 16-19

Halloween Costume Exchange. Drop off various times at Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Pick up new costume on Friday, Oct. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Drop off gently used and clean Halloween costumes Monday through Thursday, and come pick up a great second hand costume for this year on Friday. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-385-7858.

OCT. 20-21

Fairfax City Ghost Tours. 7-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Stories of the spirited individuals who may still roam Old Town Fairfax. Comfortable walking shoes advised. Cider and treats provided. \$15. Ages 12 and up. Call 703-385-7858 or email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Trunk or Treat. 6-8 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church (FUMC), 6037 Franconia Road. Games, snacks, hot cider in the church parking lot. Visit www.franconiaumc.org/ or call 703-971-5151 for more.



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Experience Betrayal and Revenge

Virginia Opera presents
“Samson and Delilah” at
Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Virginia Opera opens its new season at the Center for the Arts with the epic French opera “Samson and Delilah” by Camille Saint-Saëns. The production of “Samson and Delilah” continues the Virginia Opera “First of Firsts” series. The series aims to produce “an opera completely new to our company and our audiences,” said Adam Turner, Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser, Virginia Opera.

“We’ve managed to stretch our creative muscles while offering audiences fresh and engaging operas never before seen on the Virginia Opera stages,” added Turner. “‘Samson and Delilah’ is just a glorious masterpiece full of evocative musical story-telling.”

The Saint-Saëns opera was written to dramatize the Biblical story of Samson, the legendary Israelite warrior known for his long hair and great strength. Samson fell in love with and was betrayed by Delilah, a Philistine woman. Then Samson sought out his revenge on Delilah.

For its production of “Samson and Delilah” the Virginia Opera wanted to “give modern-day audiences an entry point into a story far removed from their regular lives. This is always a stimulating challenge for us,” said Turner, “With this compelling and thought-provoking production of ‘Samson and Delilah,’ we have drawn an engaging parallel be-

Where & When

Virginia Opera presents “Samson and Delilah” at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$54, \$90 and \$110. Call 703-993-2787 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu. Note: “Samson and Delilah” will be performed in French with English supertitles. There will be a free 30-minute pre-opera discussion by Virginia Opera’s Community Outreach Musical Director, Dr. Glenn Winters

tween the oppressors of Israel in the Biblical story and more recent historical fascist regimes.”

The creative talents of internationally renowned stage director, Paul Curran, and a remarkable set and costumes by Court Watson, are key ingredients to the Virginia Opera production of “Samson and Delilah.” Aiming to evoke a pre-World War II oppressive government regime, “our take on the show feels epic, sexy, dangerous, romantic, intoxicating and energetic,” said Watson, a native of Virginia.

The principal singers of Saint-Saëns’ grand, beautiful music are Virginia Opera veterans. They include tenor Derek Taylor (Samson), mezzo-soprano Katharine Goeldner (Delilah) and baritone Michael Chioldi (The High Priest). The opera is famous for its vivid, if not wild “Bacchanale” and the “Softly Wakes My Heart” aria of Delilah.

With daring staging and energy so patrons experience Delilah’s betrayal, Virginia Opera aims to not only provide grand entertainment for regular opera goers, but to attract new audiences as well. “Samson and Delilah” continues the ambitious vision for Virginia Opera to secure the youngest opera audience in America by 2025.

Inviting those who regularly attend Virginia Opera performances and those new to opera, Turner added that, “it will be a feast for the ears and cannot be missed.”

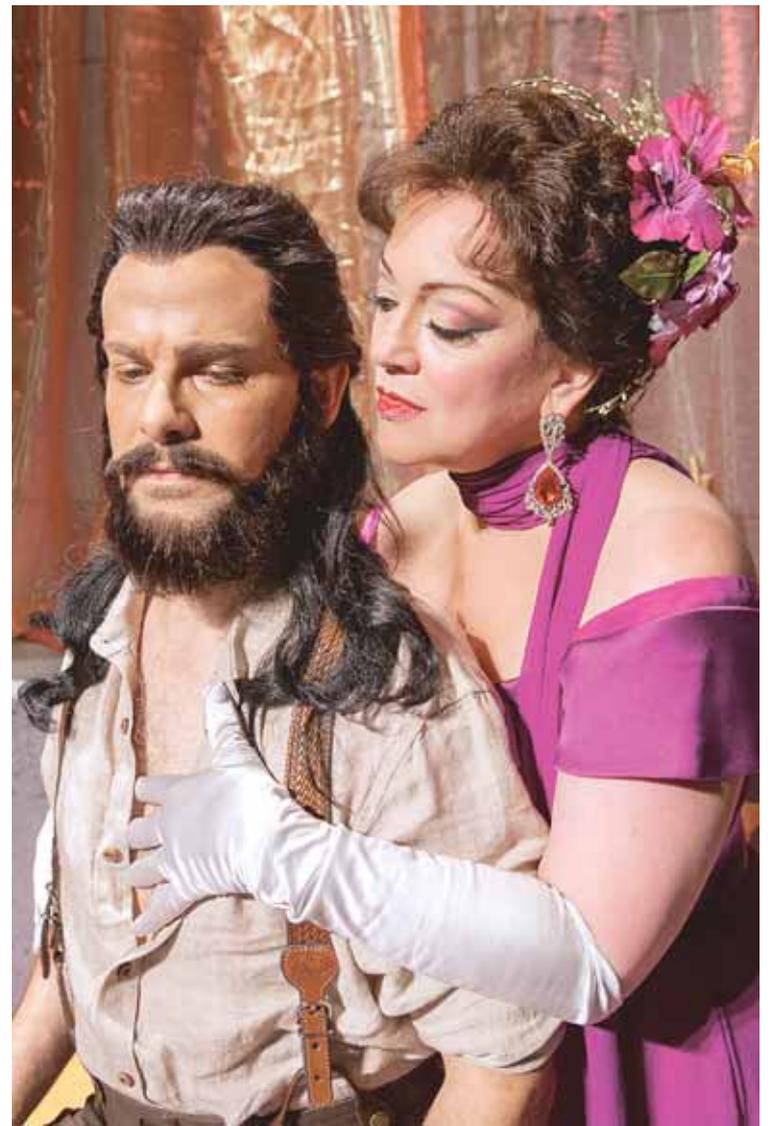


PHOTO BY BEN SCHILL PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY VIRGINIA OPERA

Tenor Derek Taylor (Samson) and mezzo-soprano Katharine Goeldner (Delilah) in Virginia Opera production of “Samson and Delilah.”

‘Moon Over Buffalo’ Jump Starts New Season

Providence Players celebrates 20 years.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Opening its 20th anniversary season, the Providence Players will celebrate with Ken Ludwig’s mad-cap farce, “Moon Over Buffalo.”

“Moon Over Buffalo” has mistaken identities, mixed-up relationships, outrageous plot twists, physical slapstick, along with a slew of outrageous characters. In playwright Ludwig’s comedy, life for the characters is like “Murphy’s Law;” everything that can go wrong, does go wrong.

The production is set in a theatre in Buffalo in 1953. Two middle-aged actors, Charlotte and George Hay are on what may be their last tour. Then they receive word they may have one last shot at the big-time. A Hollywood director might be interested in them for his next picture. From that premise, everything takes off.

For production director Jayne L. Victor, the eight characters in “Moon” are “zany yet they are real. They also all evolve over the course of the play. In the end they are all likable.”

The cast includes Providence veterans and

Where & When

Providence Players present “Moon Over Buffalo” at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: Oct. 6 to Oct. 21, 2017. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees 2 p.m. on Oct. 8 & 15. Tickets: Adults \$20 Seniors (62+)/Students \$17. Seating reserved. Call 703-425-6782 or online: www.providenceplayers.org

those making their Providence debuts. Veteran performer Michael Donahue portrays George Hay while newcomer Maria Watson is his wife Charlotte. Jenny Madorsky plays Rosalind the Hays’ daughter. Making their Providence debuts are Scott Stofko portraying a TV weatherman and Rosalind’s fiancé as well as Chuck O’Toole who plays Rosalind’s ex-fiancé. Robey Manno is Charlotte’s hard-of-hearing mother while Providence newcomer Eric Trumbull is the love-sick lawyer courting Charlotte. Jaclyn Robertson makes her debut as an actress close to George, carrying a major secret.

Donahue described his character of George this way: “George used to be a star, and now he is a fading star, but still chasing the flash of the past. He wants to still



In rehearsal for Providence Players “Moon Over Buffalo,” Michael Donahue as George Hay and Maria Watson as Charlotte Hay.

PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOG/
COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE PLAYERS.

be seen as he once was. Like his wife and soulmate Charlotte; they are both in a state of middle-aged flux.

For Maria Watson her role as Charlotte has personal connections. “Charlotte and I have a lot in common. We’ve been in theatre for a long time. Worked a lot, but never made star status. We ran theatres and acted with our spouses.” The reward in playing Charlotte is

making the character come alive. Charlotte “had dreams that have been dashed.”

This is a rare second time the Providence Players has mounted “Moon Over Buffalo.”

“An audience favorite for our company’s 10th anniversary season. We wanted to bring it back because it is a celebration of having fun,” said Chip Gertzog, Providence Player Board Member.

FALL FUN

Autumn Thrills and Chills at the Workhouse Arts Center

Workhouse presents two thrilling October events with plenty of Halloween haunting specters.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Halloween is just a few weeks away, so the Workhouse Arts Center is gearing up for two events meant to bring haunting delight. First is the return of the annual "Madhaunter's Madhouse Haunted Trail" with a preview opening on Sept. 29, 2017. Another special event to bring in Halloween is the live theater production of "Woman in Black." This indoors live theater production begins on Oct. 21, 2017.

"We're excited to have 'Madhaunter's Madhouse' return," said Frank Pappas, marketing director for the Workhouse. "This year's 'Madhouse' features an almost-entirely redesigned haunted trail. We received lots of feedback from our guests from last year; and we listened. Guests will experience new special effects, including amazing fog and lasers."

According to Pappas, there will also be four entirely new and "terrifying" scenes that have been built from scratch, including a gigantic haunted church, prison scene, and cabins, all featuring scare actors. A giant pallet maze has been reimagined. Guests are expected to encounter demonic clowns, prisoners, and ghosts and ghouls of all shapes and sizes.

The second Halloween-themed event is "Woman in Black" "a wonderfully creepy ghost story that has all the right puzzle pieces for a thrilling night," said Joseph Wallen, Director, Workhouse Performing Arts. "There is humor, a bit of sadness and an unnerving plot centered on the legend of an apparition."

"The intimacy of the Workhouse theatre has a distinct advantage for 'Woman in Black's' atmosphere and tricks used to tell this story. Things will literally happen right next to the audience," added Wallen.

"Woman in Black" is based on Susan Hill's ghost story about a young lawyer who becomes obsessed with the belief that he has been cursed by a woman dressed in black. He is determined to rid himself of his growing fears. He begins investigating the history of the legend and tries to exorcise the terror



PHOTO COURTESY WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

"Madhaunter's Madhouse Haunted Trail" begins with a preview opening on Sept. 29 at 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton.

Where & When

♦ Workhouse Arts Center presents the "Madhaunter's Madhouse Haunted Trail" at 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Trail is open Sept. 29-30, 7-10 p.m. (Preview weekend, \$15). Oct. 6-7; Oct. 13-14, Oct. 20-21, from 7-11 p.m., Oct. 22 from 7-10 p.m., Oct. 27-28 from 7-11 p.m. Oct. 29 and Oct. 31 from 7-10 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Visit www.workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900. Note: The trail is primarily outdoors, so guests should dress for their comfort based on the weather, but also keep in mind there will be mud and grass. A typical visit might be 20 to 30 minutes.

♦ Workhouse Arts Center presents "Woman in Black" at The Workhouse, W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Performances: Oct. 21, 2017 to Nov. 5, 2017. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Visit www.workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900. Note: There is also a separately ticketed VIP Pre-Show Lounge Access available with "Woman in Black." For information about the VIP pre-show call 703-584-2900 or visit www.workhousearts.org.

that has taken hold of him. "He soon finds himself in the midst of true and absolute fear," said Wallen.

"Woman in Black" is directed by Jason Krage (Workhouse's "Solitary Confinement"). It features Casey Fero (Workhouse's "Cabaret") and Anthony Williams (Workhouse's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee").

So, do get ready as Halloween is not so far away. And be at the Workhouse for two thrilling October events with plenty of Halloween haunting specters.

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FAITH



MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Debbie Garrett, left, learns from Diane Bridge, right, how victims of human trafficking in Third World countries can rebuild their lives and earn income safely as businesswomen selling gently-used brassieres in a thriving second-hand clothing market.



PHOTO COURTESY BURKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Youth group volunteer Scott Tennent supervises teenagers of the Burke United Methodist Church youth group as they load cleaning kits onto the church van Sept. 17 before these disaster relief supplies were hauled all the way toward Richmond two days later.

United Methodists Put Faith in Action

Busy hands in Fairfax try to alleviate human suffering on “Outreach Sunday.”

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

“I was ordering this before the hurricanes hit,” explains Christie Johnson on a Tuesday night, Sept 19 as she looks at the large boxes of humanitarian relief supplies stacked in her kitchen and dining room. She is ready for a special service Sept. 24 at the Fairfax United Methodist Church, where anyone willing to participate in outreach missions are called to donate winter coats and accessories for the homeless, gently used intimate apparel women can sell in third world countries, and backpacks for school children in the Philippines.

That’s not all.

Dozens of people assembled 300 personal hygiene kits and filled 25 flood buckets Sunday with cleaning supplies for survivors of six natural disasters. No one could predict the magnitude of catastrophic losses in just four weeks. Certainly not the FUMC congregation, which holds a fundraiser each year during Lent to benefit various church missions.

Burke Gives Back

Generous donors were quick to open their hearts and wallets in response to recent natural disasters. Unfortunately, local charities are bracing for tighter operating budgets soon due to storm fatigue. Jane Wilson, director of outreach missions at the Burke United Methodist Church, said Tuesday she saw this coming.

Her church will respond to one of those critical needs with “Burke Gives Back” – a food drive Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Terra Centre Elementary School, 6000 Burke Centre Parkway.

Volunteers will form an assembly line and pack 25,000 dehydrated meals for Rise Against Hunger – a faith-based mission in Raleigh, N.C., determined to end hunger around the world and feed school children in developing nations. Each meal costs 29 cents.

Wilson says “We’re going to divide food donations between three food pantries,” which are: Fairfax food banks FACETS at 10640 Page Ave. and Food for Others at 2938 Prosperity Ave., as well as Springfield charity ECHO – Ecumenical Community Helping Others at 7205 Old Keene Mill Rd.

“We were blessed with more than we usually collect,” said Johnson. Church members wanted more hands-on mission projects available for multi-generational opportunities in a short amount of time. The Sept. 24 “Outreach Sunday” event puts the surplus to work.

“You’ve come for two hours and you’ve done something amazing,” Johnson said. She and her mother-in-law spent considerable time online ordering disaster relief supplies in bulk to make those dollars stretch and fill as many critical needs that \$3,500 can buy.



MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax United Methodist Church members Carol Gaylor, left, and Charlotte Eddy, right, participate in “Outreach Sunday” Sept. 24 and stand at the end of the assembly line holding their completed cleaning kits that will help flood victims clean their homes.

THE FAIRFAX UNITED METHODIST team received an additional \$2,000 in donations since Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas Aug. 25. The money will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This Atlanta-based charity distributes supplies and cash to first responders in disaster zones worldwide. They also join forces with other humanitarian aid agencies to alleviate human suffering as quickly as possible.

Each personal hygiene bag costs about \$12 to make and each flood bucket costs \$65 to fill. Learn how to assemble these disaster relief kits at www.umcor.org.

SEE FAITH, PAGE 15



MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Cheryl Dickerson of Fairfax United Methodist Church carefully reads assembly line instructions Sept. 24 as she makes one of 300 personal hygiene kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. She uses one of 40 toothbrushes donated to this humanitarian relief project by local dentist Dr. Victor Soyfer of Advance Dental Associates in Fairfax.



MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax resident Christie Johnson is knee-deep in flood buckets and up to her ears in disaster relief supplies Sept. 19 as she prepares for “Outreach Sunday” – when her fellow churchgoers will assemble 300 personal hygiene kits and 25 cleaning buckets for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.



MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Charlie Cole keeps a flood bucket steady as Jim Conklin can add dishwashing liquid to its contents at the beginning of an assembly line Sept. 24 at the Fairfax United Methodist Church.



Joe Walsh pays tribute to service members of the U.S. military during the Sept. 20 VetsAid concert at Eagle Bank Arena.



VetsAid founder Joe Walsh, second from left, performs with Gary Clark Jr., Keith Urban and Zac Brown in the inaugural VetsAid concert Sept. 20 at the Eagle Bank Arena.

Take It to the Limit

By JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Joe Walsh, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and multi GRAMMY Award recipient, took to the stage Sept. 20 at the Eagle Bank Arena to kick off VetsAid, the first annual concert to support veterans and their families.

Walsh was joined on stage by fellow GRAMMY awards winners Keith Urban, Zac Brown and Gary Clark Jr. as well as Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, an Iraq War veteran and double amputee.

“War is hell for everyone involved,” said Walsh, a Gold Star family member whose father died while on active duty in Okinawa, Japan. “I lost my father when I was a baby, before I could even make a memory of him. I stopped counting the number of friends I lost in the Vietnam War or that came home forever scarred mentally or physically or both. We’ve only just begun to appreciate the long-term impacts on our troops home from Iraq. So veterans issues have always been important to me.”

Walsh founded the 501(c)3 nonprofit VetsAid earlier this year and chose Fairfax to debut the concert, which he styled after Willie Nelson’s FarmAid.

“This is our coming out party,” said Walsh, “and we wanted it to be in the D.C. area to



VetsAid founder Joe Walsh, second from left, is joined on stage by Gary Clark Jr., Keith Urban and Zac Brown at the Eagle Bank Arena Sept. 20.

bring awareness to what we are trying to do for our veterans. I am very grateful to Eagle Bank Arena for offering us this location.”

Walsh is no stranger to helping veterans. He has assisted various veterans charities over the years and visited Walter Reed Medical Center, where he offered free guitar les-

sons to wounded veterans.

“In my touring, I was constantly seeing a lot of smaller charities that are in the trenches and doing a lot of good in their communities,” Walsh said. “But they often lacked the profile or manpower to raise funds. These are the charities that I want to help.”

Proceeds from the inaugural VetsAid concert will support veteran- and caregiver-focused charities including: Operation Mend, Hire Heroes USA, Warrior Canine Connection, TAPS, Semper Fi Fund, Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, Stop Soldier Suicide and Swords to Plowshares.

Walsh plans to use this platform to raise funds and awareness for the urgent and significant needs of returning soldiers. Through the establishment of VetsAid and its annual benefit concert, he hopes to give back to those who have sacrificed for our country as well as bring Gold Star families together.

“We allocated tickets to Gold Star families for the concert,” Walsh said. “I feel that bringing these families together is the first step in healing. We want them to know they are not totally alone.”

Walsh plans to continue the VetsAid concerts every year in different parts of the country.

“I had to do something and seeing as though rock-and-roll seems to be what I do best,” Walsh continues, “it’s also the least I could do for those who have served and continue to serve our country. We’re all in this together as Americans and seems to me lately that people are forgetting that.”

For more information, visit www.VetsAid.org.



Keith Urban performs during the VetsAid concert Sept. 20 at the Eagle Bank Arena



Rock legends Joe Walsh, Gary Clark Jr., Zac Brown and Keith Urban appear at a press conference prior to the inaugural VetsAid concert Sept. 20 at the Eagle Bank Arena.

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-Werner Heisenberg

NEWS



Commemoration

The George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, commemorated the 230th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution at historic Pohick Episcopal Church in Lorton on Sept. 17. Pohick Church was the parish church of General George Washington and George Mason. The Rev. Thomas Costa (left), portraying Parson Massey, the rector of Pohick during Washington's time, read the Preamble to the Constitution and gave a benediction. George Washington SAR Chapter President Paul Walden (right) gave a brief history on the Constitution and its relevance to some of today's affairs.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Braddock Road Study Workshops Set for Fall 2017

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a series of community meetings focused on specific sections of Braddock Road this fall. The series started on Monday, Sept. 18, with Guinea Road to Dunleigh-King David. The schedule of upcoming workshops includes:

❖ **Monday, Oct. 2:** Wakefield Chapel to Danbury Forest –

Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke

❖ **Wednesday, Oct. 18:** Beltway area – Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke

❖ **Wednesday, Oct. 25:** Burke Lake intersection – Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke

❖ **Thursday, Nov. 16:** Ravensworth Road intersection – Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale

❖ **Monday, Dec. 11:** Burke Lake intersection, second meeting – Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke

The goal of the Braddock Road Multimodal Study is to develop commuting improvements for the corridor from Guinea Road to I-495 to Ravensworth Road. For more information on the study, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/braddockroadmstudy/.

Plum

FROM PAGE 6

Not surprisingly, one of the big issues was transportation. In the early years most settlements were along the rivers that provided a means for transporting tobacco and crops. As inland developments occurred there was no governmental mechanism for building roads. Those that were in place were narrow without a hard surface. New turnpikes supported by tolls included the Little River Turnpike, Columbia Turnpike, Leesburg Turnpike and Falls Bridge Turnpike. The start of railroads before the Civil War accelerated with the electric trolley lines

that followed. It is estimated that as many as a million passengers or more were carried per year by the Washington, Alexandria, and Mt. Vernon electric railways that ran 30 trips per day.

The growth of the federal government after the Great Depression and the World Wars brought huge growth to Fairfax County. Its population of 40,000 grew to 98,000 in 1950 and by 1970 was 454,000. It is now approaching 1.2 million people. Recognized as among the best places in the country to live and to start a business, we have clearly left behind our humble beginnings. It is worthwhile to remember our history and the 275th anniversary provides many different opportunities (www.fxva.com/275/).

LETTER

Do I Have a Right to Healthcare?

To the Editor:

Many people are saying that healthcare is a right. Does that mean that I have the right to force medical personnel to provide me with healthcare services whether I pay for them or not? Do I have a right to take my neighbor's money to pay for my healthcare?

This does not make sense. Obviously, I do not have a right to healthcare. However, I do have a right to find a doctor who is willing to provide me with medical services at a price we agree upon. So simple!

"You know Obamacare is really I think the worst thing that has happened in this nation since sla-

very," said Dr. Ben Carson (Washington Post, Oct. 11, 2013)

"If healthcare is a right, then all medical personnel are slaves. It would be nice if someone besides Ben Carson said so!" (Twitter posting)

Susan Lider
Clifton

FAITH

Faith in Action

FROM PAGE 12

Furthermore, UMCOR is poised to respond to pleas for help from seven states affected by wildfires out West, according to a Sept. 22 report on their website. The U.S. Forest Service has an interactive wildfire map online at www.fs.fed.us.

"Methodism is faith in action," Johnson affirms and points out UMCOR is among several faith-based charities that help the Federal Emergency Management Agency respond to crisis situations through the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster — a disaster relief association in Alexandria near the King Street Metrorail Station.

BURKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH showed visitors of their booth how to make UMCOR cleaning kits Sept. 9 and 10 at the annual Burke Centre Festival, where they collected \$300 for flood victims.

The church also was a community drop-off center in direct response to Hurricane Harvey and subsequent disasters.

Burke United Methodist collected supplies from St. Stephen's UMC in Burke, St. George's UMC in Fairfax and Sterling UMC in Loudoun County.

"We delivered 136 flood buckets and 101 health kits to the collection point in Richmond," reported Burke UMC outreach missions director Jane Wilson in an email last week. The United Methodist Church in Northern Virginia lists Burke UMC as a flood bucket collection facility through noon Oct. 10 at Burke Center Parkway and Burke Lake Road. She says about 30 cleaning kits have been dropped off this week. Details are available online at www.burkeumc.org and www.novaumc.org/hurricane-relief-information.

Cranford UMC in Lorton and Warrenton UMC in Fauquier County collected flood buckets and other disaster relief supplies through Sept. 22, according to www.novaumc.org. The Arlington Forest and First Vietnamese-American UMC raised funds through a weekend car wash earlier this month before another catastrophic 7.1 magnitude earthquake devastated central Mexico Sept. 19 and Hurricane Maria nearly demolished Puerto Rico a day later, leaving two more humanitarian crises in their wakes.

"We are God's hands and feet in this world," Wilson said.

FAITH NOTES

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

Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia, 10383 Democracy Lane in Fairfax, presents worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and choir practice, open to all, on Sundays from 9-10:30 a.m. www.mccnova.com or 703-691-0930.

Church of the Nativity offers a free general bereavement support group open to all adults on the first and third Thursday of each month 7:30-9 p.m. The church is located at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. Call 703-455-2400, ext. 17.

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Ought To Ship



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't want to praise the Lord too much for providing me with such a trivial and mundane benefit but, I sure am grateful when my 112 pounds of cat litter arrives/is delivered to my front porch, mere feet away from our cats' litter boxes. "Auto Ship," baby. No more am I lugging 28 to 44 pound boxes of cat litter into our five-indoor-cat household from the local supermarket and/or pet superstore. I don't want to plagiarize a television "spokeshing" from my youth so I'll give "Speedy" from Alka Seltzer proper attribution when I write as enthusiastically as I can: "Oh, what a relief it is!"

The litter is my second auto-ship of substance; having made an earlier/similar commitment to 16 pound bags of dry cat food. I do get some fancy, multi-vitamins auto-delivered and my wife, Dina, as well receives special eye vitamins in the mail, but I thought that was the only way to purchase them, given that the manufacturers were out of town so I never considered them an auto-type ship. Previously, I had always resisted inquiring about getting products delivered from a national company when they are available locally. My thinking had been that since I'm home during the day, and regularly in and out doing errands at many of the stores that sell this merchandise, why ship it when I can shop it? It seemed redundant.

Now however, given the pleasure I felt when I saw that litter sitting on the porch without my having had to life one finger; well, a few fingers initially when I "keystroked" my way through this company's online registration, the light has come on. Moreover, given the neuropathy I have in my feet, I'm tired of walking around those giant warehouse stores. Sure, the local proximity and availability is helpful but the bigger the buyer, the more effort the unloading/restocking is required at home. Perhaps I've simply come to a realization, and not necessarily an accommodation to my age, that less effort equals more overall value. And if in addition to less effort, I can buy products at equal or even lower cost than doing so locally, than I am sittin' pretty in high cotton, if I may double-down on the benefit?

Not that I'm overworked and underpaid for the household duties I perform but, I'd rather be under worked and overpaid, if you catch my drift? And given certain realities to the many tasks now performed by hand, it's up to me to reinvent the wheel, so to speak. And so, I'm starting to consider very seriously, ordering more stuff this way, especially bulky/weighty stuff and to let my fingers do the clicking rather than my arms and legs doing the walking and carrying. Let commercial/corporate America do the driving and delivering. I don't have to prove my shopping mettle anymore. I'm ready to sit back and let the boxes do my talking.

I'm not quite ready to order food/perishable however. I feel a certain sense of calm and serenity wandering down supermarket aisles taking mental inventory of what's present and what's not — and what's new and what everything costs. Not that I try many things as anybody who knows me knows, but occasionally, Entenmann's or Hostess or Nabisco will surprise me with a new item and thus will have made the visit all the more sweeter. I wonder if I'll have the same sensation perusing and clicking my way through a site that so far has been unseen — by my eyes, anyway. I guess it can't hurt to explore a bit. I mean, it's not exactly the dark web. (Is it?) Nor do I expect to use bit coins or have to create an avatar for myself. Nevertheless, the process does seem a little daunting; changing habits that have become habitual, and routines which have become routine. Seems a bit like turning an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea. They don't turn on a dime and neither do I. Still, I'm intrigued by the possibilities, and besides, I'm nearly out of laundry detergent.

Perhaps a test is in the offing. I don't think I'm quite ready to join a club/pay a membership fee, but I am open to investigating. Time will tell I suppose, as will my first bill.

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

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7:00pm

Have you been dreaming about a remodeling project? Please join us for concepts, inspiration, and industry insight! Our talented design consultants will provide you with fun and educational information to guide you on your way. Understanding trends, terminology and material performance as well as the benefit of having a personal designer are just a few topics that will be covered in this seminar.

Doors Open at 6:30pm - Seminar begins at 7:00pm
Call today to reserve your spot 703.672.2249 or online at FosterRemodeling.com under Seminars



Big Impact, Small Space
Saturday October 21st, 2017
9:30am

Confused about how to make the most of a small space? Just because it's small does not mean you have to compromise on style or function. Join our creative design team as they help you untap the potential of a smaller space. Using creative solutions, we will help you realize that there may be more than meets the eye!

Doors open at 9:00am - Seminar begins at 9:30am
Call today to reserve your spot 703.672.2249 or online at FosterRemodeling.com under Seminars



Kitchen and Bath Remodeling
Saturday October 21st, 2017
11:00am

Have you been thinking about remodeling your kitchen or one of your bathrooms? Let us update you on the latest design tips and trends. From layouts and new technologies to finishes and code requirements, Foster Remodeling Solutions will get you up-to-date.

Seminar begins at 11:00am
Call today to reserve your spot 703.672.2249 or online at FosterRemodeling.com under Seminars

