

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

Sunset over Lake Accotink was a perfect reading spot for Megan Huber while enjoying the kick-off of the 2018 Braddock Nights Concert Series.

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JULY 12-18, 2018

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Enjoying Braddock Nights

Lake Accotink is the site of the Braddock Nights Concert Series this summer.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Braddock Nights concert series lives on since then-Supervisor Sharon Bulova started it nearly 10 years ago, and the beat goes on throughout the summer. To kick off the series this year, the “Main Street Community Band” filled the pavilion at Lake Accotink last Friday with big band sounds of the summer.

The concert began with a medley of Beach Boys tunes, led by conductor Geoffrey K. Seffens. “You just can’t beat that to start your summer,” he said at the end of the musical rendition.

The band went into a 1925 baseball song called “The National Game,” and continued for the next hour to an enthusiastic crowd. The band sounds were occasionally interrupted by the train that flew by about 100 yards from the pavilion, but no one seemed to mind.

The emcee was Meghan Walker who is a member of the Friends of Lake Accotink Park. She unveiled this year’s official Braddock Night’s tee shirt which she referred to as a “collectors item.” Some members of the audience were wearing last year’s tee shirt.

Walker is a supporter of the lake and is following the county decision to dredge it or not.

It’s filling up with silt carried into the lake by storm water drains and creeks. Braddock Nights “wouldn’t be the same without the sunset over the lake,” she said.

“Carol the Mom,” as she called herself, was watching her daughter Sharon, who played clarinet in the band. Sharon started on clarinet back in elementary school and continued into high school at Lake Braddock Secondary School, and then into college. “She just enjoys it, she enjoys the comradery of the band,” she said.

On a bench down by the water, Megan Huber was reading her book, but within earshot of the band. She is a Vienna resident that had driven her friends who were in the band. “A perfect spot, I had no idea this was here,” she said.

Next Friday at Lake Accotink, it will be the sounds of Karl Stoll and the Danger Zone. There is another Braddock Nights concert series every Friday at Royal Lake in Fairfax.



Springfield residents Laura Binz with husband Chris and daughter Cecily jamming to the sounds of the Main Street Community Band.



Meghan Walker holds the official 2018 Braddock Nights tee shirt.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Big band sounds from the Main Street Community Band.

Concerts Schedule

Braddock Nights shows are at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park, Springfield, or Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Showtime is 7:30-8:30 p.m.

❖ Lake Accotink Park
Friday, July 6: City of Fairfax - Main Street Community Band (Concert Band)
Friday, July 13 Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone (Rock, Blues)
Friday, July 20 BG & The Mojo Hands (Blues, Swing,

Rockabilly)
Friday, July 27 Marian McLaughlin Ensemble (Chamber, Folk)
Friday, Aug. 3 Empty Bottle String Band (Old-time, String Band)
Friday, Aug. 10/2018 The Ragbirds (Folk, Roots, Pop)
Friday, Aug. 17 City of Fairfax Band - Alte Kameraden German Band (German)
Friday, Aug. 24 St. Stephens United Methodist Church Youth Band
❖ Royal Lake Park

Friday, July 13 Gina DeSimone and the Moaners (Blues, Swing)
Friday, July 20 BG & Laura Lea & Tripp Fabulous (Party Rock, Cover Band)
Friday, July 27 Natty Beaux (Swing)
Friday, Aug. 3 Veronneau (World Jazz)
Friday, Aug. 10/2018 Frankie Addison Band
Friday, Aug. 17 Thrillbillies (Roots)
Friday, Aug. 24 Mars Rodeo (Rock)

Safe Virginia Initiative Looks ‘Beyond Thoughts and Prayers’

The ADAMS Center event focuses on communities of faith’s response to violence.

On July 5, the Safe Virginia Initiative (SVI) hosted its first Northern Virginia event, “Beyond Thoughts and Prayers,” at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society Center in Sterling.

In keeping with the title, the event focused on communities of faith’s response to gun violence, as well as violence in general. Representatives from Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Catholic and Quaker communities addressed the assembled crowd, while a number of members of the House of Delegates listened to the varied concerns of those assembled. Attendees came from all sides of the firearms debate, from members of Moms Demand Action to members of the Virginia Citizen Defense League.

The program began with a number of faith leaders discussing how their faith dictates how to respond to violence and gun violence in



From right: Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (speaking) and Delegates Kathleen Murphy, Rip Sullivan, Wendy Gooditis, Danica Roem, Mark Levine, Jennifer Boysko, Kathy Tran, David Reid, Vivian Watts, Ken Plum and Karrie Delaney.

particular. Next, various questions were posed to the audience about how they would like to see officials respond to gun violence, what laws were sufficient and what should be changed.

Members of the crowd discussed “gun free zones,” firearm carry in places of worship, and whether or not faith leaders should speak about methods to prevent gun violence from the pulpit. The event ended with an “open mic” for audience members to speak about what the General Assembly can do to reduce gun violence moving forward.

Just a few weeks following the Parkland tragedy in Florida, the

Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates announced the formation of a bipartisan Select Committee on School Safety. While the committee’s formation was considered historic, it was announced that the select committee would not address gun violence nor discuss potential legislative solutions with regard to guns. Following this announcement, the House Democratic Caucus formed the Safe Virginia Initiative (SVI). The SVI is organizing events between May and October of this year related to gun safety. These events will continue to occur throughout Virginia and will include public input. Prior events have included a

town hall focusing on inner city violence in Richmond and a panel on the nexus of mental health and gun violence in Lexington.

The Safe Virginia Initiative is co-chaired by Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) and includes the following regional co-chairs: Del. John Bell (Northern Virginia), Del. Chris Hurst (Southwest), Del. Delores McQuinn (Metro Richmond) and Del. Marcia Price (Hampton Roads). The group will work with experts from the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Attorney General, local leaders from both parties and law enforcement to draft policy proposals for the next legislative session.

“I appreciated the opportunity to hear from a diverse group of people on how to best curb and combat gun violence,” said Filler-Corn. “This is the whole point of the Safe Virginia Initiative, we want to hear from everyone, because only by finding common ground can we move forward in a substantive manner on these issues. I look forward to continuing this conversation across the Commonwealth over the next few months,” she added.

Those interested in following the activities of this working group can like the “Safe Virginia Initiative” page on Facebook or follow @svi_va on Twitter.

Teenagers Organize ‘Rally to Reunite’

To the Editor:

In light of the humanitarian crisis on the border, high school students were not able to sit back and watch people struggle and suffer. Virginia teenagers, Tarina Ahuja, Perrin McHugh, and Bee Hyland, organized a rally titled “Rally to Reunite” that took place in front of the ICE building in Fairfax.

The event was full of inspirational speakers and performers, loud chants, colorful signs, and a pervading message that the people are watching and refuse to stay silent. The speakers included Rajwant Singh, president of EcoSikh; Mansimran Kahlon, the vice chair of the 10th District Democratic Committee in Prince Williams County; and a musical performance by Gurl Music.

The enthusiasm was contagious. Cars, pedestrians, and cyclists would stop to cheer and show their support for the cause creat-

ing a larger sense of unity and solidarity with the separated families. Throughout the day, speakers and organizers emphasized the need for both adults and young people to vote.

According to these young people, civic engagement, no matter your age, is the key to creating a government that we can be proud of. The students emphasized that having young people involved is what will bring our country forward. They emphasized that youths have new ideas, new perspectives and also will be the ones with solutions in the future. Many people have told these students that young people do not belong in politics, but they hold strong in their belief that the voice of their generation is valuable and something that is necessary considering our current political climate.

Tarina Ahuja
Ashburn



Rally organizers, from left: Bee Hyland, 17, Leesburg; Tarina Ahuja, 16, Ashburn; and Perrin McHugh, 17, McLean.





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Designing a Midsummer Table

Using flowers and color to create a summer wonderland.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Along with sunshine and longer days, summer offers an array of design opportunities. From backyard barbecues to brunch in the garden, the right decor can add a touch of flair to a midsummer gathering.

Designing a table with the vibrant colors of summer fruit creates an air of liveliness, says interior Bridget Francis of Colors by Bridget. "Watermelon, blueberries and strawberries are plentiful now, so if you're serving them you can use those colors as a base for your table," she said. "Think zinnias and red roses with white serveware."

Limiting a table to two or three colors lends simplicity to a design, advises Francis. "For example, I use light blue and white dishes with white table linens," she said. "I add floral arrangements with white and pale pink roses and blue hydrangeas, some white votives, and voila, a crisp, clean summer table."

When creating those dinner party arrangements, make sure the height of the flowers is low so that guests can see and talk to each other, advises Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living. "Flower arrangements are supposed to be a lovely addition to the table, not an irritant because they're blocking your view," she said. "I just love a beautiful arrangement that you can look down and see, and that everyone at the table can enjoy. Right now hydrangeas and roses are big. When we make arrangements we're adding rosemary and lavender for a touch of green."

"Etched glass hurricanes are a beautiful addition to a table setting," said Todd Martz, owner of Home on Cameron. "They create a lovely ambiance for an outdoor setting and let you stay outside longer to enjoy the stars and fireflies."

Be it a frosty margarita or a glass of tart lemonade, infusing summer drinks with summer foliage adds warm weather appeal to a gathering. "Think of a few rose petals floating in a pitcher of sangria or sprigs of lavender in a pitcher of lemonade," said Francis. "It not only looks and smells great, but the flowers can infuse the drink with a subtle hint of flavor."

In fact, Francis says that summer blooms can be

incorporated into meal prep. "I think that a cake with simple white icing, decorated with pink roses and blue hydrangeas is the epitome of summer elegance," she said. "I also use a pastry squeeze pen to make flower designs for cupcakes. You can use the pen to squeeze whipped cream to make flower toppings for ice cream. It's especially pretty when they are the same flowers that are in your centerpiece."

"For additional table accents, add a decorative shell or accessory to hold down napkins," said Martz. "Try placing a tray in the center of the table to keep all the dining essentials in one place, making it easier to bring them out and take them in."



A few scented candles, grouped in the center of the table, creates a festive look, says Todd Martz of Home on Cameron.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Limiting a table design to one or two colors of summer can create an elegant table.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB
Newcomers & Community Guide
August 22, 2018

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

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

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

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Crash in Clifton Investigated

Fairfax County Police Crash Reconstruction Unit is investigating a collision that injured three teenagers. Detectives believe speed was a factor. Officers responded to Fairfax Station Road near Colewood Estates Road around 1:55 p.m. July 10 for the report of a single car crash. A 2005 Jeep was traveling westbound on Fairfax Station Road when the car left the roadway and hit a tree. Two of the teens were taken to the hospital by helicopter with life-threatening injuries. The third teen was taken to the hospital by ambulance — according to FCPD Media Relations Bureau.

Fatal Pedestrian Crash in Annandale

Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives are currently investigating a fatal pedestrian collision. A preliminary investigation reveals 78-year-old Ok Soon Kim, of Annandale, was hit shortly after 5 a.m. Tuesday morning, July 10, while attempting to cross Columbia Pike at Gallows Road outside of the marked crosswalk. The driver was travelling eastbound on Columbia Pike. He stayed at the scene and is cooperating with investigators. Speed nor alcohol appear to be factors in the crash. At this point, no charges are expected.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

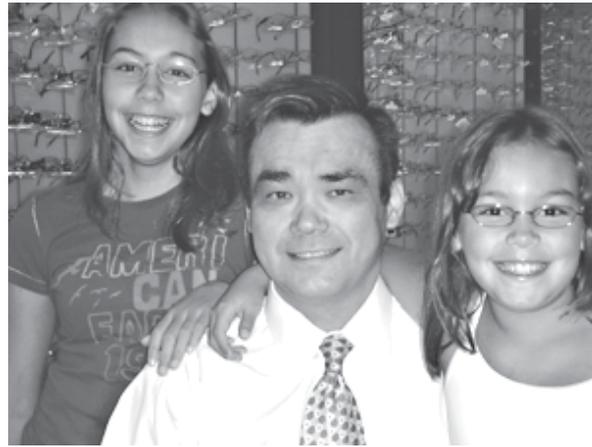
The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Merrifield Center offers a new stand-up information kiosk. Part of a pilot project, the new feature aims to improve the customer service experience and decrease wait times for individuals who are seeking mental (behavioral) health services. To check in, individuals respond to five simple questions, then the CSB's Patient Track software alerts staff. Based on clinicians' schedules and availability, as well as the needs of the client, individuals are triaged and seen by the next available staff member. For more information on available services, call the CSB at 703-383-8500 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). In an emergency 24/7, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679 or the Fairfax Detox Center at 703-502-7000 (TTY 703-322-9080).

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Butler Appointed Chief of Fire and Rescue Department

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed John S. Butler as the county's next Fire and Rescue Department chief. He succeeds Chief Richard Bowers, who retired in April. Butler's appointment is effective Sept. 1.



Butler has been with the Howard County, Md. Department of Fire and Rescue Services since 1993 and was appointed chief in 2014. He began as a firefighter-paramedic in Howard County, rising through the ranks to serve in a variety of roles with that department, including as battalion chief, emergency medical services chief and administrative chief. In addition to his firefighting experience, Butler served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 21 years, including two combat tours.

"After an extensive search including a community engagement process, Fairfax County is pleased to appoint Chief Butler to the position of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Chief," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"He will have the opportunity to lead an elite world-renowned department and I look forward to working with him."

During his tenure in Howard County, Butler ex-

panded services, hired the most diverse firefighter/paramedic trainee class in the department's history, helped establish the first and only local affiliate of the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services (iWomen), established numerous community outreach programs, led the construction of several fire stations and improved service delivery and response times.

"We had a number of strong candidates, however, Chief Butler demonstrated the leadership, vision and communications skills that will move our excellent Fire and Rescue Department forward," said County Executive Bryan Hill. "His proven experience and successful leadership at the helm of a large department will continue to strengthen our culture and contribute to a positive future for the department."

Butler holds a Master of Science in management from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Baltimore.

He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and holds a certificate from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Leadership in Crisis Program. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Human Relations Committee and Maryland's Emergency Medical Services Board and is a 2014 recipient of Johns Hopkins University's Global Achievement Award for his humanitarian work in Africa.

He will receive an annual salary of \$201,878.77.

Hayfield Student Participates in the Congress of Future Medical Leaders

Hayfield Secondary rising junior Ashley Pearson participated in the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Massachusetts this summer.

An honors-only program for high school students with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher who want to become physicians or enter medical research fields, the Congress aims to honor, inspire, motivate, and direct the top students in the U.S. to follow their goals and provide a path, plan, and resources to help them reach their goal.

As an attendee, Pearson heard from Nobel Laureates and deans of top medical schools, learned about cutting-edge advances in medicine, and witnessed a live surgery. She will remain a member of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists and continue to be mentored and supported. Pearson, who wants to become a physician, is



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ashley Pearson

currently volunteering at Fort Belvoir Hospital over the summer.

She is a member of the varsity swim and dive team, varsity volleyball team, and is a member of the Science National Honor Society.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

James Brandow and Emma Sachs

Lake Braddock Students Attended National Leadership Conference

Lake Braddock Secondary School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) joined more than 7,500 FCCLA student leaders, members, and advisers at the Omni Hotel at the CNN Center in Atlanta, Ga., June 28 - July 2 to participate in the annual FCCLA National Leadership Conference (NLC).

The conference provided LBSS FCCLA students opportunities for listening to inspiring speakers, attending learning sessions, competing on the national level, and networking with other leaders. The theme of this year's conference was "Inspired by FCCLA," which inspired attendees to discover the unlimited possibilities within their reach while exploring career oppor-

tunities, developing leadership skills, and growing personally while making difference in their families and communities.

James Brandow and Emma Sachs from Lake Braddock Secondary School FCCLA participated in one of 30 Family and Consumer Sciences related Competitive Events offered at NLC, including STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events and the FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl. These events support foundational, leadership, and workplace skills in areas such as advocacy, culinary arts, and entrepreneurship.

Brandow and Sachs achieved 1st Place Gold Medal in the junior level Life Event Planning category for their Perfect Party Planners Sweet "16" Neon Rave Party.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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CAMP

Art Camp 2018 in Burke for 5-8 year olds, 8 years and up. One-week sessions take place Monday-Friday, July 16-20, and July 23-27. Camp is held through Burke Centre Conservancy at the Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Second location is Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Call instructor at 703-250-6930 or visit www.czartlessions.com. Camps include:

- ❖ Fine Arts & Crafts Camp (8 and older) – \$142 plus \$25 supply fee.
- ❖ Drawing Camp (8 and older) – \$142 plus \$25 supply fee
- ❖ Drawing Plus Color & Craft Fun Camp (5-8 years) – \$120 plus \$20 supply fee

Summer Bible Camp. Monday-Friday, July 16-20, 9 a.m.-noon at Harvester Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Road, Springfield. Sail away to Summer Bible Camp for rising 1st graders through 6th graders. Free. Register at www.harvesterpca.org or call 703-455-7800.

Summer Drama Camp. Through Aug. 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. City of Fairfax Theater Company offers its Traditional Summer Drama Camp with week long sessions in July and August. The Summer Drama Camp teaches children to create a staged performance at the end of each week. \$170 per camper for any one-week session, \$600 per camper for all four sessions. Visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org for weekly themes and registration.

ONGOING

Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center. 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/.

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.

FRIDAY/JULY 13

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

Movies Under the Moon: ET – the Extra Terrestrial. 8 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a night under the stars in Van Dyck Park with family and friends with a movie for all ages to enjoy. Free admission, bring chairs and blankets.

SATURDAY/JULY 14

United States Army Chorus. 3 p.m. at Westwood Baptist Church on Saturday, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The United States Army Chorus performs a free alumni concert. This concert brings together 60 years of alumni from “Pershing’s Own” to perform giants of the choral literature. Free and open to the general public. Visit www.usarmyband.com/chorus/the-us-army-chorus.html.

Japanese Obon Festival. 3-9 p.m. at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Celebrate with Japanese drumming, a Hawaiian band, participate in traditional Japanese dancing all while enjoying traditional Japanese food and desserts such as chirashi, yakisoba, huli huli, daifuku. There will also be children’s games, a challenge course, and vendors selling authentic Japanese items. End the evening by lighting a candle in the Japanese garden to remember a loved one who has passed away. Free admission. Call 703-239-0500 or visit ekojiobonfestival.weebly.com.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County’s diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County’s special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

Stories of the Stars. 8:30-9:30 p.m. at Burke



The U.S. Army Chorus has established and maintained a reputation of excellence in the performance of choral literature.

United States Army Chorus

The United States Army Chorus performs a free alumni concert. This concert brings together 60 years of alumni from “Pershing’s Own” to perform giants of the choral literature. Saturday, July 14, 3 p.m. at Westwood Baptist Church on Saturday, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Free and open to the general public. Visit www.usarmyband.com/chorus/the-us-army-chorus.html.

Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Stroll with a naturalist along the lakeshore at Burke Lake Park and learn about the constellations. An astronomical naturalist will identify the stars, and there will be telescopes for use. The evening concludes with a campfire and s’mores. For participants age 3-adult. \$6 per person; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

SUNDAY/JULY 15

Virginia’s Indian Heritage. 3-4 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road. Dr. Karenne Wood of the Virginia Indian Program (Virginia Foundation for the Humanities) will present her research on the history and culture of Virginia’s Native American people and communities. Free. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

Hooray For Hollywood. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Enjoy an evening of popular movie themes presented by the Reunion Music Society, Inc. and the NVCC-Annandale Campus. Adults, \$15; students w/ID, \$10; NOVA students w/ID free; children 12 and under, free. Free parking. Call 703-569-0973 or visit www.eventbrite.com and search “Hooray for Hollywood.”

WEDNESDAY/JULY 18

Springfield Nights. 7 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring: The David Kitchen Band (Pop/Rock). Bring a picnic dinner, blankets, your dog, and lawn chairs and relax with friends and family. Beer and food will be available for purchase. Call 703-451-8873.

THURSDAY/JULY 19

Evenings on the Ellipse with Memphis Gold. 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Evenings on the Ellipse summer concert series is a family-friendly event featuring a wide range of musical genres. A Farmers Market (2:30-6:30 p.m.) will also be on site selling fresh fruit and savory snacks. Rain or shine. Free. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Burke Historical Society. 7 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Burke Historical Society member Mary Lipsey will speak about the story of Mount Vernon and how it was saved by the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association. Lipsey has a new book. Visit www.mlhbooks.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 19-22

“Suessical the Musical.” Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2:30 (child/sensory friendly) and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m. at Church of the Nativity, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. “Oh, the things you can think” when Dr. Seuss’ best-loved characters collide and cavort in a musical caper. Adults, \$10; \$8 seniors and

County’s diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County’s special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

Stories of the Stars. 8:30-9:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Stroll with a naturalist along the lakeshore at Burke Lake Park and learn about the constellations. An astronomical naturalist will identify the stars, and there will be telescopes for use. The evening concludes with a campfire and s’mores. For participants age 3-adult. \$6 per person; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Animals in the Shallows. 8-9 a.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Explorers age 8-adult will search for animals that call the littoral zone home. Snakes, fish, turtles and insects all rely on these lake shallows to survive. Catch and release animals found in this program. \$6 per person; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Wear shoes that can get muddy and wet. Call 703-569-3464 visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink.

Discover a World of Animals. 1-1:45 p.m. and 2:15-3 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. In the “Animals Underground” program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, children age 2-5 will investigate who lives in the dark, damp world under the forest floor. Learn about moles, earthworms, termites and other creatures of the soil. \$6 per child; children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-941-1065 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 4-6 p.m. at Franconia Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield. Focus will be on planning a fall vegetable garden. Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Call 703-324-8556.

students, \$8. Visit www.nativityburke.org/nativityparish/summer-theater-ministry/.

FRIDAY/JULY 20

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

SATURDAY/JULY 21

Mount Vernon Nights. 7 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax

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Legals

**Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment
and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for
Implementation of the 2018 Integrated
Natural Resources Management Plan
Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508, and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, 32 CFR 651. The EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the implementation of the 2018 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir.

The EA is incorporated by reference in the Draft FNSI. Based on the EA, the Army has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would have no significant adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on the quality of the human or natural environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

A copy of the EA and Draft FNSI are available for review and comment at the following libraries: Fort Belvoir MWR Library, and Fairfax County Public Library at the following locations: Lorton Branch, Sherwood Regional Branch, and Kingstowne Branch. The documents are also available at: <http://www.belvoir.army.mil/environdocsection2.asp>. Comments on the EA and Draft FNSI should be submitted by mail to Mr. Felix M. Mariani, Fort Belvoir DPW Environmental Division, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, or usarmy.belvoirimcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this Notice of Availability.

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NEWS

**Electrical Mal-
function Causes
West Springfield
Townhouse Fire**

On Friday, July 6, at 10:13 p.m., units were dispatched for a reported townhouse fire in the 8800 block of Surveyors Place in the West Springfield area of Fairfax County. Units arrived on scene of a two-story, middle unit townhouse with fire showing from the rear of the home. Crews discovered a fire in the basement that extended to the upper floors. The fire was quickly brought under control. There were no reported firefighter or civilian injuries.

There were seven occupants home at the time of the fire. Two adult occupants saw smoke coming from the backyard deck moments before the smoke alarm sounded. One occupant called 911. All occupants self-evacuated the townhouse prior to fire and rescue arrival.

Fire Investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature and started under the backyard deck.

The cause of the fire was a malfunction with the air conditioner unit. An arc event occurred, which subsequently ignited nearby combustibles.

Seven occupants were displaced because of the fire. Red Cross as-



PHOTO COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Damages as a result of the fire were estimated to be \$193,750.

sistance was offered and accepted. Damages as a result of the fire were estimated to be \$193,750. Approximately \$30,000 of that total is the result of fire damage to a townhouse next door.

**Central
Springfield Little
Leaguers Honor
Veterans**

On Thursday, July 5, members of the Central Springfield Little League All-Star teams and their families arrived early at Reagan National Airport to greet an Honor Flight from Central Missouri. The flight carried more than 100 veterans in town to visit the monuments. The Central Springfield Little League members gave them a warm welcome thanking them for their service to our country. For more information on how you can greet an Honor Flight visit <https://honorflightdca.com/>.



BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. Volunteers provide individual and group support to those suffering from a loss. Volunteers must participate in a 30 hour training. Training will be offered in October 2018. To volunteer, call Haven at 703-941-7000.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnib517@verizon.net.

THURSDAY/JULY 12

Story Time: Perspective Taking, 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support perspective taking in young children. Perspective taking is an evidence-based executive functioning skill that forms the basis for children's understanding of their parents', teachers', and friends' intentions. Registration is limited and required for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 15

Public Input Deadline. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is conducting a study to better understand how people get around the Franconia-Springfield area of Fairfax County on the Fairfax Connector transit network. Complete a survey to help FCDOT better understand transportation-related needs and issues. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/franconia-springfield-optimization to complete the survey.

TUESDAY/JULY 17

Story Time: Making Connections, 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. Making Connections is at the heart of learning. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support this evidence-based executive functioning skill in young children. Registration is limited and required for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more.

RSVP Senior Volunteers, 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. RSVP Northern Virginia will hold a seminar on senior volunteerism. The one-hour event is free and open to anyone 55-years-old or better. RSVP, the region's largest volunteer group for seniors and retired people, provides individualized support to those seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Visit www.rsvpnova.org or call 703-403-5360 to register.

New FTD Support Group, 4:30-6 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Beginning Aug. 7, Insight will be offering a support group specifically for families affected by Frontotemporal Degeneration. The group will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month to give families an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation, learn from each other, and share resources. Email lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org, call 703-204-4664 or visit InsightMCC.org.

Lions Dinner Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Lions Club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Guests are welcome to learn about the mission of the Lions Clubs "We Serve," meet club members and learn to help serve the community. Free to first time guests. Email fairfaxlions@cox.net or visit www.fairfaxlions.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 18

Understanding Behaviors, 1-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. For those with memory impairments, sometimes the only form of communication provided is through behavior, both positive and negative. Learn strategies for communication and dealing with difficult behaviors. Free. Respite care may be available by request; call to make arrangements. Register at www.insightmcc.org or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.

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A Relative Unknown



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I knew we had family in Argentina. I knew that one of my maternal grandfather's younger brothers, Simon, had immigrated from Eastern Europe to South America in the early 1900s.

I knew, or thought I knew, that someone from his family - removed or not, I never know, had visited my parents and first cousins a time or two in Florida in the '80s and '90s. But until recently, neither my brother Richard nor myself had ever met any of these distant - double entendre-intended - relations. Well, that ended on Wednesday, June 27, in Union Station at 5:55 p.m.

There outside Gate "G" my wife, Dina and I stood holding a sign with my cousin's name on it: Eduardo Blacher (my middle name is Blacker). He had flown into New York City from Buenos Aires earlier that morning and then boarded a south-bound Amtrak train to visit us in Washington, D.C.

My first cousin, Ronnie (formerly of Florida, now of Massachusetts) with whom Eduardo has corresponded and visited over the years, had emailed us a selfie Eduardo had taken so we had a pretty good idea of his general appearance. Along with our handwritten sign, we were pretty confident the familial connection would be made.

And so it happened a bit after 6 p.m. as he walked through the gate into the station looking around for someone he'd never seen. We cautiously saw one another and then immediately hugged and kissed and said: "Great to meet you!"

Eduardo's English was pretty good so we were able to coordinate our exit from the station where, once outside, we met my brother, Richard, who had been sitting in his car waiting for our appearance. As soon as he saw us, he got out of his car and quickly walked over to Eduardo and likewise gave him a hug and kiss: mishpocheh (Yiddish for family).

When my widowed mother died in 2008, Richard and I felt orphaned, so to speak. Our parents, as in most families, were the keepers of the family faith. Having both been born 10 years before "The Great Depression," they knew the family history dating back to before the turn of the century. When they died (in 2006 and 2008, respectively), their knowledge and memories died with them. It was a palpable loss that Richard and I still feel.

We are lucky though; my cousin Ronnie (my mother's niece) has lots of family information and has become our go-to resource for all things Blacher/Blacker. She facilitated this much-anticipated visit (Eduardo is seeing her next).

To try and put Eduardo's visit in some context; in the 10 years since my mother's passing, given the ages of the surviving family members in the United States with whom we're in touch, we've not really gained any family members, let alone connected with an entire line of cousins going back to before World War I.

Eduardo has three children, four grandchildren, a sister in Israel and parents, both of whom are their mid-80s still alive and well. In familial fact, his father is my grandfather's nephew and knows lots more about my grandfather than I ever did, and has knowledge of the Blacher/Blacker family going back over 125 years as well in and out of our respective countries.

Given the pogroms and the Holocaust, for many Jewish people my age, a treasure trove of family history/knowledge like this was thought to be lost forever. Now, I have found some of it. Talk about filling a void. In facts and feelings, it has - and is about to, fill everything.

For three days, until Eduardo's departure Sunday morning, we rarely left one another's side. In addition to touring Washington, D.C., we shared photos, exchanged email addresses, talked nearly non-stop about everything, downloaded WhatsApp which we'll enable us to message each other in the future, and together on Friday night lit the Shabbos candles and together prayed in Hebrew.

I can't really express how I feel other than to say I've been crying while I've been writing this column. And it's the best cry I've had in years.

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

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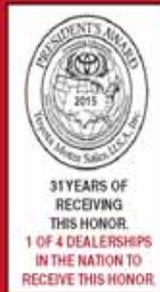
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