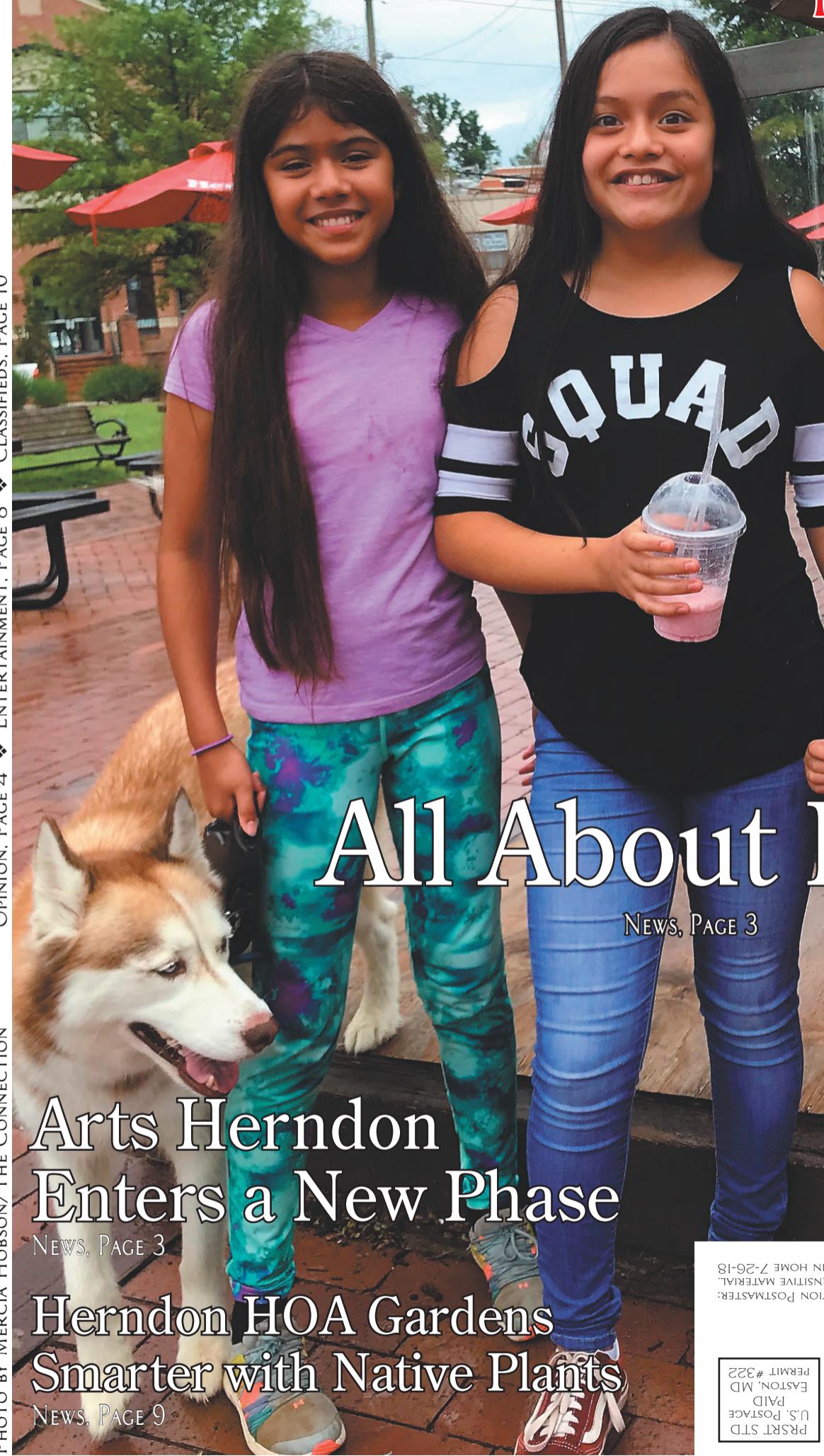


Oak Hill Herndon **CONNECTION**

PET CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



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Herndon HOA Gardens Smarter with Native Plants

Sycamore Ridge institutes earth-friendly and sustainable gardening practices saving money and time.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Native perennials promise regeneration year after year enhancing gardens and signifying seasonal changes. Being pre-adapted to local conditions, they are drought tolerant. Even the smallest garden area can conserve resources, restore native ecology and create a wildlife habitat.

Wanting to promote eco-friendly practices that would save replanting and watering costs, Sycamore Ridge Homeowners Association in Oak Hill decided to take action last fall. They began, as HOA President Gwyn Whittaker stated, "a sustainability plan for the neighborhood."

Months earlier, Whittaker had urged HOA members to consider not continuing the

association's practice of purchasing annuals seasonally, which required costly planting, replanting and watering fees but instead to consider naturescaping and the use of organic pesticide and fertilizers. "New homeowners want pesticide-free. People care about the environment," said Whittaker.

The HOA members agreed and outsourced a landscape company to convert part of the entrance's border plantings to include those found in a naturalized local meadow. The fruits of the HOA's decision are seen as pollinators land on the Bee Balm, Black-eyed Susans, Tickseed and Geranium Maculatum. Although the plants are small, they will grow rapidly in the next two years, filling in the negative spaces.

"It's a work in progress; an investment in long-term sustainability," said Whittaker.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Gwyn Whittaker, president of the Sycamore Ridge Homeowners Association in Oak Hill and her dog Duncan check on the native perennials the HOA planted last fall at the entrance to their development. "It's a work in progress; an investment in long-term sustainability," said Whittaker.

Arts Herndon Enters a Next Phase with New Leader

An Interview with Joanna Ormesher, Arts Herndon's New President & CEO.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Last week, the board of Arts Herndon named longtime Fairfax City arts leader Joanna Ormesher President and Chief Executive Officer. Ormesher has been the City of Fairfax Cultural Arts and Marketing Director since 2003 and brings 28 years of experience in fundraising, leadership and externals relations to her new role. Ormesher said she would assume her role as President and CEO at Arts Herndon on Sept. 1.

Ormesher will lead Arts Herndon, an independent 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that serves as the official arts agency of the Town of Herndon and operates ArtSpace Herndon, a small art gallery and performance space at 750 Center Street in Historic Downtown Herndon.

Among its many services, the organization provides arts events, programming and education both on and off-site, works of public art, scholarships and grants.

On Thursday, July 19, Ormesher sat down for an interview about her new position. She welcomed all in the community to experience the arts and talked about the positive impact the arts have on local and regional economies. Ormesher shared her thoughts



On a rainy Saturday morning, July 21, Joanna Ormesher, the newly appointed President and CEO of Arts Herndon, visits the organization's art gallery and performance space at 750 Center Street in Herndon.

on possible ways to increase revenue streams for Arts Herndon, maintain and create new programming and events, retain existing supporters and stakeholders while attracting new ones and measure success.

Q: Are there any myths or common perceptions about the arts you would like to debunk?

A: Ormesher: "Too often when people say



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Joanna Ormesher assumes the role of President and Chief Executive Officer of Arts Herndon on Sept. 1, 2018. Arts Herndon operates ArtSpace Herndon, a small art gallery and performance venue located at 750 Center Street.

'the arts' it becomes an overarching perception of specific art forms such as a symphony, an orchestra, a ballet, an opera, an exhibit or a portrait gallery. Art is actually everywhere in our day-to-day lives, and arts are for everyone."

Q: How best might Arts Herndon reach out to diverse populations in the town and surrounding communities?

A: Ormesher: "People coming into the arts do not see geographic boundaries. They want to come in and see a show, participate in an art walk, experience a class. There are a couple of existing programs Arts Herndon could use to encourage new audiences, such as our children's programming, and we might also look into possible re

SEE MOVING GOAL POSTS, PAGE 9

OPINION

Do Not Separate Children and Families

What we have learned.

BY SEN. DAVE MARSDEN
STATE SENATOR (D-37)

The cruelty enacted by the Trump Administration in separating minor children from their parents is egregious on its face. What concerns me even more is that the science around the detention of young people is available and widely understood.

The science is clear, unless a child poses an imminent public safety risk or an imminent risk to themselves, alternatives to detention and separation from family should be pursued.

I spent part of my career as a probation officer making decisions around whether to remove young people from their families for their criminal behavior. Fortunately, in 1974, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act prohibited the detention of status offenders — runaways, truants, incorrigibles — in secure, locked facilities. The rest of my career was spent as superintendent of Fairfax County's Juvenile Detention Center and a 2-and-a-half-year stint in Richmond as chief deputy and acting director of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) — which operated probation, parole, and confinement for 1,200 incarcerated delinquents convicted of criminal offenses. In the Fairfax Detention Center, I had as many as 137 children and 55 beds. We had to sleep kids on mattresses on the floor. Today we average 30-40 kids in the Fairfax Detention Center and have fewer than 300 in the DJJ. Why has the dramatic drop in populations occurred?

One factor for the dramatic drop in juvenile incarceration is that we now know better and

COMMENTARY

only detain or incarcerate those who are an imminent public safety risk. We now know that detained kids who are not public safety risks are only made worse by the experience. Children who are unnecessarily detained fall victim to the principle of "the self-fulfilling prophecy." What this means is that children we thought we were teaching a lesson to were not learning how to behave but were rather having their worst feelings about themselves confirmed by the juvenile justice system — ultimately making them more likely to live a delinquent lifestyle.

In 2001, as acting director of the Department of Juvenile Justice, we initiated a best practice of creating structured decision-making or risk instruments to determine, on a more scientific basis, whether youngsters should be detained in local juvenile detention centers or could be released to their families on outreach detention or electronic monitoring pending their court dates.

We are making better decisions today because in the past we did not know the impact of our actions on these children and their families. We thought we were helping by teaching them a lesson but we were actually making things worse.

All of this is background for what is happening at the border and the damage that can be done to children in this thoughtless and ill-informed policy of separating these children and their families.

In 1997, the Adverse Child Experience Study (ACE) was completed by Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). What this study demonstrated for us is how critical a decision it is to separate a child from their family and the damage that is perpetrated on that child. All of us have the capacity to overcome a temporary negative experience.

What children often do not have the capacity to overcome is prolonged trauma that this separation inflicts on them. Detention itself can have traumatic impact even if families are together. Younger children who witness or experience abuse, violence, emotional mistreatment, and privation can fundamentally be psychologically rewired in ways that hinder their ability to handle normal life situations. The best example of this is a parable told by a psychiatrist from San Francisco I heard at a conference. She said, "Imagine yourself a child walking alone in the woods and coming across a bear. The child runs from the bear and is terrified but in the normal course of events, with comfort from the family, the frightening episode can be overcome and life can move on without permanent adverse impact. Now, imagine that you live with the bear." Clearly, it is not only the separation from family itself but the duration of the separation that has dramatic impact on children.

This is the science and what we know about thoughtless interventions that may appear to solve our problems but rather damage others irrevocably. While some children are dangerous and do require confinement and treatment, almost no child taken from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border fits this category.

Whether they are our children or children seeking asylum from another country, our obligations as people who know better, are clear. These children may end up staying in the United States under our asylum laws. Do we want them healthy and capable of contributing to society or traumatized and unable to function appropriately? This is an easy choice no matter how you feel about immigration. The science and our experience tells us not to separate children from their families. The unintended consequences can be serious.

Protect Immigrant Students from ICE

BY DIANE BURKLEY ALEJANDRO

Fairfax County is poised to improve its policy governing law enforcement in schools significantly, but the current draft fails to protect immigrant students, and must be changed.

The matter is urgent because the policy on deployment of armed police School Resource Officers (SROs) to all public middle and high schools in the county is being considered at the School Board working meeting on Monday, July 23 and will be voted on at the Thursday, 7 p.m. Board meeting. It will be implemented with the start of the school year next month.

Those who support making schools off limits to immigration authorities should send emails to their School Board member and, most importantly, attend these upcoming meetings, which are open to the public.

Forced separation of immigrant youth from their families is not just happening at the border. Police in schools throughout the country are feeding information to federal immigration authorities about undocumented students.

Some examples:

♦ In Long Island, N.Y.; SROs sent information to the Immigration and Customs Enforce-

ment (ICE) on undocumented students they couldn't arrest due to lack of evidence, leading to their arrest for deportation.

♦ The Boston school system was sued over its sharing students' info with ICE.

♦ A child in Durham, N.C. was arrested on his way into school.

Immigrant students in Fairfax public schools fear that it can happen to them, too. Students and school counselors have reported that many immigrants avoid reporting crimes against them, or stay away from school altogether.

Unfortunately, the draft agreement between the police and school system does not prevent them from helping ICE. The deficits in this proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the police and public schools are two-fold:

♦ The MOU gives law enforcement access to students and their information if they have a "warrant." This can be read to include not just warrants issued by judicial authorities but so-called warrants issued administratively by ICE itself.

♦ Police are not prohibited from giving information about students to ICE if it is included in "law enforcement records" created by SROs. These records are not subject to FERPA, the

privacy law protecting student records. Even directory information on students is dangerous, because ICE can use addresses and other contact information to track down students and their families.

To remedy these deficits, ACLU People Power together with National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) propose that the School Board amend the draft MOU to require that ICE have a criminal warrant or subpoena issued by a court in order to:

♦ obtain student information, including non-public directory information that could be used to locate household members

♦ interview or search a student, or
♦ arrest any student or their household members on school property.

Other progressive school systems across the nation (including New Haven, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles) have already addressed this concern.

It is time for Fairfax public schools to do so as well. If you agree, please make your voice heard.

Diane Burkley Alejandro is the lead advocate for ACLU People Power Fairfax. She was a member of the SRO Community Review Committee set up to provide input on the new MOU. This column first appeared in *The BlueView*, blueviewfairfax.com

Oak Hill & Herndon CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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PET CONNECTION



Caps Fans, Sully (age 3) and Zeke (age 2)

Caps' Fans from Oak Hill

Lindsey Smith of Oak Hill, Chief of Staff for Supervisor John C. Cook (R-Braddock District) writes: "We have two beagle mix pups, Sully (age 3) and Zeke (age 2). Even though I work for Braddock Supervisor Cook, I live in Oak Hill in the Sully District, so that's where the name comes from. Actually, every time I see former Sully Supervisor Michael Frey, he never asks about me, only about my dog! Zeke was a rescue pup that we adopted last year and the two of them get along very well. And of course they were super excited that the Caps went all the way."



Curious pups

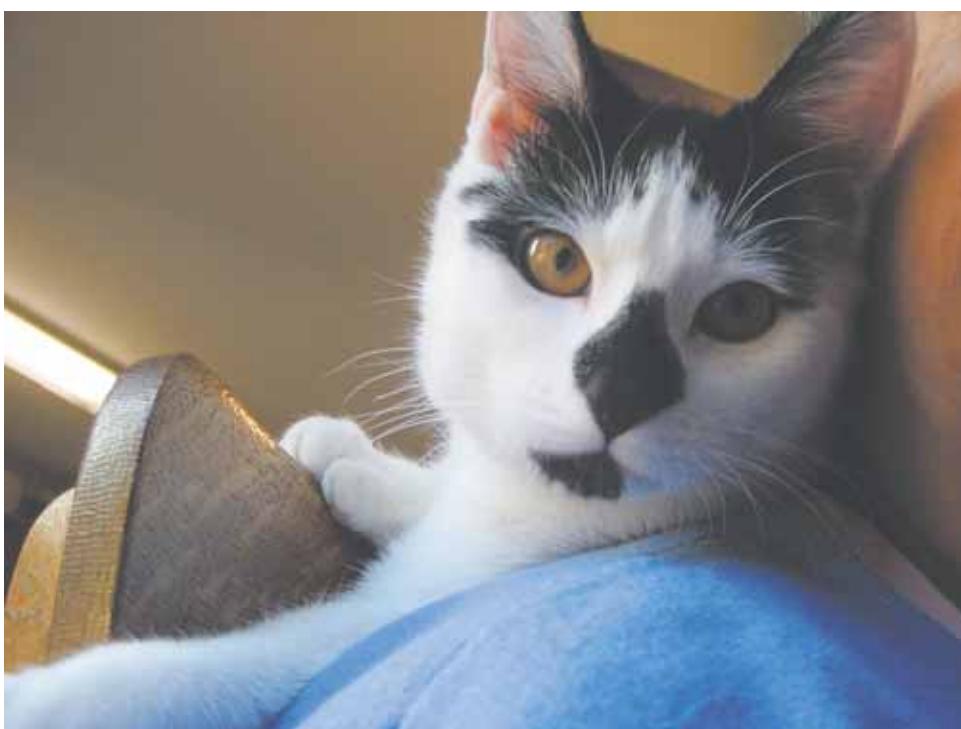


Sully kisses



People & Pets

Barbara Glakas of Herndon: "My cat named Mouse loves sitting on my shoulders to simply hang out or to nap. She was a stray kitten found in the woods two years ago in Farmville, Va. But she is now a very happy resident of Herndon."



The Best Dog the Girl Could Have

Nicki Crane Koolmees of Oak Hill and her daughter Heidi both wrote haiku poems about their love for their dog Gwenie that passed away. "She was the best dog a girl could have. She sat with me for two months at the end of my bed when I was on bed rest with preeclampsia with my daughter, Heidi. And, she loved our daughter to the max letting her lead in walks around the neighborhood."

Here are the poems:

Awesome Gwenie

BY HEIDI KOOLMEES

Warm yellowish fur
Kisses and cuddles and walks
Platypus chew toy



Gwenie playing catch with her platypus chew toy

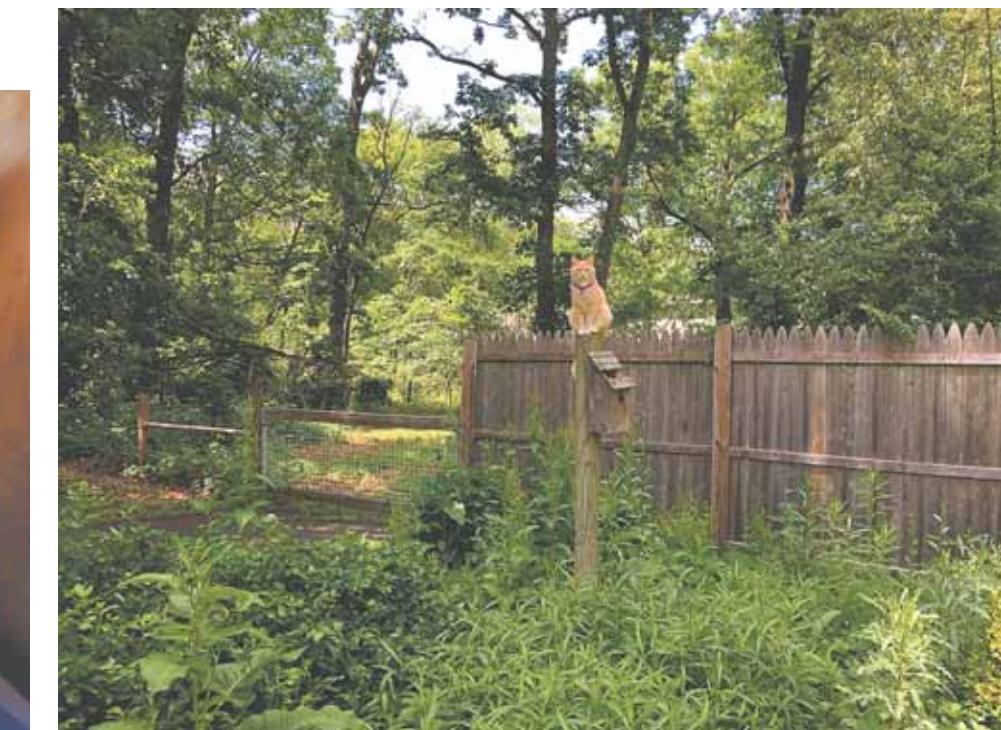
Heidi's Guardian

BY NICKI CRANE KOOLMEES

Sleeping by my bed
Head softly resting on feet
Babe kicking inside



Parker Berg, 5, of Herndon loves Dumbo Rat Rudy. "Who wouldn't love those dark eyes?"



KC the cat is one cool kitty and has the best lookout in the yard, the bird house. KC is owned by Valerie Winstead of Herndon.



Gwenie, with Heidi when she was age 2 and mom Nicki.

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ONGOING

Art Exhibit: Herndon Town

Calendar Competition. Through Aug. 8, gallery hours at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This exhibit features finalists in the 8th Annual Herndon Town Calendar Competition. Jurors evaluated images submitted to the competition by photographers and select finalist photographs for the exhibit. Visitors to the gallery can vote for the People's Choice. The 12 winning photographs and People's Choice will be announced during the Awards Reception on July 29. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

SUMMER CAMP

Reston Community Center is gearing up for an exciting 2018 summer camp season, with selections that offer something for everyone. Want to play chess, kick a soccer ball or practice tae kwon do? Want to make jewelry, play paintball or design a video game? Find all that and more through RCC. Registration is ongoing, but camps are filling quickly. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

Toddler Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join for fun stories, songs and finger plays. Age 2 with adult. Register beginning July 11. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Dog Days of Summer. 4-7 p.m. in the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion when it is transformed into an off-leash play area each week. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Arrr! Ahoy Mateys. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Pirate Busia Bear and his crew as he sets sail for a high adventure family story time. All ages. Register beginning July 11. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/JULY 26

Baby Play and Explore. 11 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join in an hour of unstructured play and social time for babies. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library (FRRRL). Age birth-18 months with adult. No registration required. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Monthly group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. Group will be discussing "Panic: the story of modern financial insanity" by Michael Lewis. Free and open to the public. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/JULY 27

Summerbration Concerts. 7-9 p.m. at Reston Station, in the open-air plaza atop Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Don't just watch, get up and learn dance steps from a pro at Reston Community Center's Summerbration featuring Alfredo Mojica & Friends with Latin dancers (dancing and instruction). Parking is free in the



The free, weekly event Dog Days of Summer is held in the Pavilion at Reston Town Center, Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m. through Sept. 26.

Dog Days of Summer

Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion when it is transformed into an off-leash play area each week. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m. through Sept. 26 in the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com for more.

ParkX parking garage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. during the concerts. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-390-6166.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 27-29

Charly's Attic Sale. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Special sale of the beautiful, bizarre, maybe battered, possibly tattered, elegant editions and ephemera collected over the years. Book collectors, crafters, lovers of the tangibly terrific – this is the sale. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Little Mermaid. Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. at Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust St., Herndon. Join Summer Grand students as they present Disney's The Little Mermaid, a family-friendly, musical adventure that follows young Ariel on her quest for independence — and true love. \$10-\$15. Call 703-475-4933 or visit herndon drama.org. Before the Sunday matinee performance, there is a "Behind the Seas" children's program, 1-1:45 p.m.; interested families should email Herndon.Theatre.Boosters@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 28

Easy*Fun*Raw. 11 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. How to add more raw food to the family's diet for health and for the planet. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Green Screen Photo Booth. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Visit the library's Green Screen Photo Booth and be directly in the story. This is a part of the Great American Read programming schedule. No registration required. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

My Reptile Guys. 2:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman

Towne Drive, Reston. See live snakes, lizards and other reptiles. Cosponsored by the FRRRL. Age 6-12. Register beginning July 14. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Concerts on the Town: Incendio. 7:30-10 p.m. (rain or shine) at Reston Town Center. These family-friendly concerts include a wide range of musical styles including Motown, swing, blues, jazz, Latin fusion, Celtic, bluegrass and zydeco and take place every Saturday night through Aug. 25. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 29

Reston Readings. 5:30-6:40 p.m. at Reston's Used Book Shop at Lake Anne Plaza, 1623 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Hear stories, poems, and writings of various styles. Meet writers. Free, open to the public. Visit tinyurl.com/y7zel2rq.

Sunday Art in the Park. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market St., Reston. Greater Reston Art Center, in partnership with the Reston Community Center, welcomes visitors to the Sunday Art in the Park series. Before attending the Sunday concert in Reston Town Square Park, come to the gallery to see the exhibition and drop in on an art making activity. Free and open to all ages. Visit restonarts.org.

Award Reception: Herndon Town Calendar Competition. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This exhibit features finalists in the 8th Annual Herndon Town Calendar Competition. Jurors evaluated images submitted to the competition by photographers and select finalist photographs for the exhibit. Visitors to the gallery can vote for the People's Choice. The 12 winning photographs and People's Choice will be announced during the Awards Reception on July 29. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

MONDAY/JULY 30

Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at

Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. An interactive storytime for you and your child. Age 12-23 months with adult. No registration required. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Open Orchestra Rehearsals. 7:30 p.m. at Sunset Hills Montessori School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Join members of the Reston Community Orchestra for open rehearsals during July and August. For those who have wondered what it would be like to play with the Reston Community Orchestra, looking for a chance to play between seasons or semesters or who have an instrument that's collecting dust but keeps calling them to come back. Music and stands provided. \$20 per session; \$75 for all four. Register at restoncommunityorchestra.org/2017-2018-concert-series/open-rehearsals.

TUESDAY/JULY 31

Red Cross Blood Drive. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The American Red Cross will be at Reston Regional Library, consider donating the gift of life. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Wild West (Science Tellers). 2:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Science Tellers presents an action-packed Western adventure with science experiments. Cosponsored by the FGMRL. Age 6-12. Registration is open. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 1

Dog Days of Summer. 4-7 p.m. in the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion when it is transformed into an off-leash play area each week. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 3

Totally Trucks. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at RA's Central Services Facility, 12250 Sunset Hills Road, Reston. Check out all the big trucks that Reston Association uses to make Reston beautiful. In addition, there may be a police and fire truck on display. Children will receive a "Totally Trucks" construction helmet. Horn free hour 8:30-9:30 a.m. Rain or shine. \$1 per person, 0-2 years old; \$2 per person, 3 and older. Register through web1.vermontsystems.com/wbws/varestonhoawt.wsc/splash.html, email Ashleigh@reston.org or call 703-435-6577.

Summerbration Concerts. 7-9 p.m. at Reston Station, in the open-air plaza atop Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Reston Community Center's Summerbration featuring Anthony Swamp Dog Clark. Parking is free in the ParkX parking garage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. during the concerts. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-390-6166.

SATURDAY/AUG. 4

Concerts on the Town: Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band. 7:30-10 p.m. (rain or shine) at Reston Town Center. These family-friendly concerts include a wide range of musical styles including Motown, swing, blues, jazz, Latin fusion, Celtic, bluegrass and zydeco and take place every Saturday night through Aug. 25. Free. Visit www.restontowncenter.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 6

Open Orchestra Rehearsals. 7:30 p.m. at Sunset Hills Montessori School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Join members of the Reston Community Orchestra for open rehearsals during July and August. For those who have wondered what it would be like to play with the Reston Community Orchestra, looking for a chance to play between seasons or semesters or who have an instrument that's collecting dust but keeps calling them to come back. Music and stands provided. \$20 per session; \$75 for all four. Register at restoncommunityorchestra.org/2017-2018-concert-series/open-rehearsals.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 8

Dog Days of Summer. 4-7 p.m. in the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion when it is transformed into an off-leash play area each week. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 9

Alzheimer's Association Raffle. 6-9:30 p.m. at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Raffle fundraiser for Alzheimer's Association Walk To End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia. Free admission. Visit www.alz.org/walk.

FRIDAY/AUG. 10

Summerbration Concerts. 7-9 p.m. at Reston Station, in the open-air plaza atop Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Don't just watch, get up and learn dance steps from a pro at Reston Community Center's Summerbration featuring Scott Kurt & Memphis 59 with country dancers (dancing and instruction). Parking is free in the ParkX parking garage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. during the concerts. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-390-6166.

ENTERTAINMENT

NextStop Theatre Presents Musical ‘Amour’

Observing a special anniversary with a special engagement.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With its 30th anniversary as a Herndon performing arts organization approaching, NextStop Theatre will be producing the area premiere of the multi-Tony Award nominated musical fantasy “Amour.”

The music of “Amour” was composed by Michael Legrand, the widely praised French creator of innovative music such as pop hits like “The Windmills of Your Mind,” and “What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life.” The production is sung through with about 20 musical numbers; there is no spoken dialogue.

The “Amour” theatrical production is part of NextStop’s month of August celebration of its 1988 founding as the community-based Elden Street Players, noted Evan Hoffmann, NextStop producing artistic director. “Amour” will be a very special all-volunteer event with cast and creative team



Teresa Danskey featured as Isabelle in the NextStop Theatre all-volunteer production of “Amour.”



Ryan Khatcheressian featured as Dusoleil in the NextStop Theatre all-volunteer production of “Amour.”



Evan Hoffmann, producing artistic director, NextStop Theatre.

COURTESY OF NEXTSTOP THEATRE

composed of many Elden Street Players alum. In 2013, the then Elden Street Players moved into the professional ranks of D.C. area theatre troupes becoming NextStop Theatre Company.

“Amour” is based upon a French fable about a lovelorn man. The production will welcome some of the Elden Street Players artistic collaborators; actors and creative team members. Helming the production and its thirteen member cast is veteran director

Gloria DuGan, who Hoffmann calls a “powerhouse.” The music director is Blake Brophy with choreography by Jeannie Torres.

“Amour” is set in Paris shortly after World War II. The featured character is a shy, unassuming clerk who mysteriously develops the ability to walk through walls. He challenges himself to be a decent, moral person with his new powers. He also decides to help others better their lives including

Where and When

NextStop Theatre presents “Amour” performing at 269 Sunset Park Drive, (Inside the Sunset Business Park), Herndon. Performances: Aug. 3-26, 2018. Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturdays Aug. 4, 11, and 25 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 18 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: General Admission: \$30. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org

the less fortunate around him. As a result his own life changes for the better too.

The character Dusoleil is played by veteran Northern Virginia actor Ryan Khatcheressian. Dusoleil thinks himself almost invisible saying to no one in particular, “I don’t deserve your attention.” His new ability to walk through walls can cause havoc to those who have been mean to him such as his boss. Then Dusoleil also falls in love with Isabelle, a woman in an unhappy marriage. Will their lives be fulfilled for the better? Isabelle is portrayed by Teresa Danskey

In an interview, DuGan described “Amour” as a “sweet love story about a man who finally finds love. It is whimsical show; a light happy fun show though it does have some sad moments. It is great summertime entertainment.” DuGan added, “Amour” is a perfect fit for NextStop.”

Moving Goal Posts for Arts Herndon

FROM PAGE 3

sources to go out into the community bringing arts out to the community. However, it is early days, and I need to understand better what happens, and where everything is based.”

Q: There is a phrase, “Make new friends but keep the old.” If friends are events and programs, what new ones might be explored at Arts Herndon, and how will you decide which existing programs and activities to keep?

A: Ormesher: “When I look at the current arts programming at Arts Herndon, it is superb. It will be exciting to work with staff and expand the arts in Herndon as we look to the building of our new 18,000 square foot arts center.”

Q: Who or what groups do you hope to reach out to cross-pollinate skills thereby fostering even more dynamic programs, events, and classes?

A: Ormesher: “We will continue to reach out to all businesses, schools and the community at large for their input and public outreach.”

Q: How do you seek to foster and nurture partnerships with corporate and community leaders?

A: Ormesher: “It’s about recognition and building on existing partnerships and encouraging new partnerships. Arts Herndon might potentially consider a new public art policy which could take art into the community.”

Q: What do you anticipate might be some fiscal challenges for the arts in Herndon and what ideas do you have to overcome them?

A: Ormesher: “Arts Herndon will continue to seek income from grants, sponsorships, corporate partners, and general public support, as well as continu-

ing to generate revenue from other multiple sources such as rental and sales income, ticket sales and class and programming fees.”

Q: How will Arts Herndon measure and gauge success?

A: Ormesher: “You have to look at your return on investments. We are entering a new phase of Arts Herndon; the goal posts are changing. We are moving into a new temporary space. Success can be gauged through increased attendance at programs, events, and classes and through customer feedback.”

Q: What is the best thanks Arts Herndon can receive?

Ormesher: “Support. The public’s support would be the very best thanks Arts Herndon can receive. Come and be with us. Come on this journey with us. Be part of it and tell us what you want.”

Q: What inspires you personally and makes you smile?

Ormesher: “The arts create a community and a great place to be. I feel we can make so many stunning things together. I love what I do, and I want others to be part of the arts. When I see children, people, families, people of all ages enjoying the arts, really enjoying the arts, I know we have checked the boxes.”

Q: Any final thoughts?

A: Ormesher: “Initially, my aim is to listen to people and our partners. What we are looking to do is develop the arts as an economic driver in the new downtown development.”

“Herndon is already very arts-centric, the Mayor and Council, the businesses and the residents are all supportive. We are on the cusp of a great opportunity for the whole community, a new downtown anchored by an arts hub, an 18,000 square foot arts center and an Arts Walk that will create vitality and viability in this beautiful and historic downtown.”

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

Announcements

LETTERS

Taking Exception On Leadership

To the Editor:

In regards to a letter of July 18-24 issue, 'A Great Friend and Leader':

In a letter recently printed in this space, Mr. Vogelzang lauds Congresswoman Barbara Comstock as a "caretaker of the budget" (in spite of her vote for a fiscally irresponsible tax bill) and praises her attention to local issues. This may be sufficient to earn Mr. Vogelzang's vote, but voters should also consider what is best for our country.

In this, Barbara Comstock falls short. This is a parlous time for our nation. Our democracy is under attack from enemies both internal and external. Our president habitually lies, promotes racism, and most frightening of all, exhibits every indication of being compromised by a foreign power.

The framers of our Constitution foresaw that a situation like this might arise, and allocated powers to Congress that can rein in the president. However, the Republican-controlled Congress has shown no willingness to restrain our president's reckless and dangerous behavior or confront his conflicts of interest. Although Barbara Comstock may occasionally make public statements critical of our president, she is complicit in this abdication of authority.

For example, she has refused to support legislation that would compel the president to make his tax returns public or legislation to protect the Mueller investigation. And if a constitutional crisis should arise, we can hardly expect courageous action from someone who doesn't even have the guts to face her constituents in a town hall event.

Safeguarding the democracy that we all cherish requires that the Congress assert its authority to check the president, and for that reason I will be voting for the Democratic candidate for Congress, Jennifer Wexton, this November.

Richard Markeloff
Herndon

Tax Cut Good for Families Like Mine

To the Editor:

State Senator Jennifer Wexton (D-33) says she wants to roll back the tax cuts passed by Congress last year. What she's really saying is she wants to take money back out of my family's pocket.

The tax cut law has been good for my family. The lower rates, combined with higher standard deduction and child tax credits, all mean more money in our pocket – both as higher take home pay and a lower overall tax bill.

The results have been widespread. Most Virginia families are going to save over \$1,500 due to the tax bill. Businesses across the region and the country have been handing out bonuses, increasing wages, and hiring more workers.

Overall, the tax cut has been good for my family. I'm not going to let Wexton ... take it away.

Mark Decker, Sr.
Great Falls

A Voice Beyond The Region

To the Editor:

Representative Barbara Comstock is often applauded for being a strong voice throughout our region. What should not go overlooked though is Rep. Comstock's strong voice beyond our region as a vo-

cal advocate for human rights around the world.

She is a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, previously chaired by Representative Frank Wolf. Through this commission, Comstock is a strong advocate for internationally-recognized human rights norms.

Her legislative record is also strong on this issue. She's voted for legislation to provide emergency relief to genocide victims in the

Middle East, supported grant programs to protect faith-based community centers across the country, and backed legislation to support religious freedom and Human Rights around the world.

Comstock's voice abroad is one that we can be proud of here at home.

Abbas Alaghebandian
McLean

A Champion for Women and Parents

To the Editor:

All too often parents, many of them mothers like myself, have to choose

whether or not they can be with their child immediately after birth and use limited vacation days just to make sure they are there. These are not choices parents should make when they need to be focused on caring

for their little one right after birth. Barbara Comstock understands these choices – she was a working mother to three children as a young mom and had to make those tough choices.

That's why Barbara Comstock is taking the lead in Congress by introducing legislation to provide 12 weeks of paid leave to federal employees so parents don't have to make that choice. The Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2018 will give federal workforce parents the opportunity to spend more time caring for their children without worrying about how much time off they have from work and allows for essential bonding time that reduces the mortality rate of infants – a metric that is way too high in America! – and has been shown to keep women in the workforce after they have a child. Childbirth can be expensive and legislation like this one gives parents flexibility to focus on their home-life and not their work-life when they need it most.

Barbara is a champion for women and parents and she already offers 12

weeks of paid parental leave to her staff. Her legislation applies to those who adopt too; she knows that a stable family leads to a happy family and happy families mean better communities for our kids to grow up in. I'm glad that my Congresswoman has championed this issue so that my friends and neighbors who are federal employees can focus their attention on their children at a critical time in childhood.

Diep Nguyen
Great Falls

Write

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

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Herndon Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call 703-917-6444
Email herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

Online Reputation Management Strategies.

8:30-10 a.m. at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. Having a positive online reputation is playing an increasingly important role in business success today. Rick Hogan, CEO and Co-Founder of Bleevit Interactive LLC, will provide a deep dive into online reputation management. \$15 for visitors; free for members. Visit www.restonchamber.org for more.

THROUGH AUG. 3

Public Comment Period. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting three public hearings to inform and solicit comments from the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road. An "online open house" will be available at www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process throughout the comment period. It will contain an explanation of the informational exhibits and a comment form. Comments may also be submitted at the public hearings, via email to dtrcomments@hntb.com or mailed during the comment period to: MWAA Public Comment Period, c/o HNTB, 2900 South Quincy St., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22206.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 8

Is Your Website Wasting Time? 8:30-10 a.m. at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. Jennifer Ferraro Randolph and Kevin Taylor, both of cbd-x, will explore the hidden power of the website's backend, and the benefits of tapping that power for small and medium-sized businesses. Visit restonchamber.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 15

Candidate Filing Deadline. 5 p.m. Reston Community Center (RCC) is seeking interested candidates to run for seats on its Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is a nine-member body responsible for oversight of RCC. All residents of Small District 5, ages 18 or older, are eligible to run for appointment to the RCC Board of Governors. Candidates must complete a Candidacy Statement in order to have their names placed on the Preference Poll ballot. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 22

2018-2019 Social Media Trends. 8:30-10 a.m. at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. With 4 billion people around the world now online, new digital behaviors are emerging. To keep up, business owners need to rethink their strategies, create new capabilities, and quickly adapt. Rachel Adler will present her expert analysis of the major trends in digital and social and share how businesses can take advantage of the biggest opportunities in 2018 into 2019. Visit restonchamber.org for more.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

ONGOING

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 lynnieb517@verizon.net.

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Phoning It In



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For my next post-scan, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist, we won't in fact be seeing him face to face. Instead, we will be speaking with him phone to phone. This bothers or concerns me not in the least. "I only mention this in passing," ("The Exorcist," 1973) and as a topic for this week's column since I'm being CT-Scanned on Wednesday, July 25.

Typically, we would meet my oncologist in person a week or so after my scan to allow for proper reporting/interpreting of the scan. This appointment would have been made — or attempted to have been made, during the previous face-to-face appointment, three months prior. However, sometimes the computer program managing such scheduling doesn't provide the doctor's schedule so far in advance.

When this happens, the doctor/staff makes a note in the computer's margins, so to speak, to schedule me automatically when the appointments become available. Well, for some reason, that didn't happen this cycle. That became clear to me when, a few weeks before my presumptive appointment, I went online to see when my it had been "computerized." I noticed it hadn't. I immediately called oncology to make inquiries and to schedule this kind-of-important, post-scan appointment.

I spoke with one of the nurses — with whom I'm familiar, and explained my circumstances. She went on the computer, entered my member number and, if I understand the process correctly, typed in something like "next available appointment."

"Aug. 31," she said.

I said "What? I usually see the doctor the week after my scan."

"That's the next available appointment," she repeated. (I'd mutter "incredible" to myself but I have some prior experience with such blips.)

Stammering as I gathered my thoughts, the nurse casually offered up the chance of a phone appointment. "Sure!" I said, (having received a similar offer once before).

The nurse said "How about Aug. 6?" 12 days post scan and much sooner than Aug. 31. (Normally we try to schedule the follow-up in-office appointment for the following Friday, 10 days after the Wednesday scan which ideally would have been Aug. 3.)

"Perfect," I said, since I'm home on Mondays and my wife, Dina, coincidentally had already scheduled that day off from work. (The phone-appointment process involves putting the phone on speaker — so that all parties can participate, and exercising some patience. It's a little awkward but given the appointment unavailability, it's what we have to do.) Not stressing too much about this unexpected set of circumstances, I am now prepared to move forward and hope for the best — results.

The only semi concern I do have is what is the conversation, different than the previous phone-appointment conversation, involves some significant decision-making/discussing about Kenny's life treating forward. If the conversation is potentially life-altering, I'd rather look my oncologist in the eyes rather than hear his voice over the phone.

And, of course, being that there are very few guarantees in the cancer business, there is absolutely no assumption to be presumed that since I'm having a phone appointment that somehow that means all is well with yours truly. Hardly. I haven't even had my scan yet. It simply means that the doctor is already double-booked for the time frame in consideration.

However, on the totally-plus side: There's no 45 minute drive to and from. Once on site, there's no 15- to 20-minute wait in the reception area. Then there's no 10- to 20-minute wait/getting vitals in the examining room until my oncologist comes in. And finally, there's no 30- to 45-minute appointment with my oncologist since there's no physical examination and no ability as well to computer-review the actual scan. It's simply questions and answers. This all works perfectly well when the scan shows "stable."

But, what if?

I don't do "what-ifs." I do what I do until I'm told otherwise (that's why I'm a good husband). Moreover, I don't worry about things I can't control. My scan is in 10 days and it will show what it shows.

In the interim, I will hope for the best and await further instructions.

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

'Inclusion Revolution' Comes to Area

Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia at Reston Town Center raises funds and awareness.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Officers from Fairfax County Police Department came out in full force Saturday morning, July 21 to support the inaugural Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia at Reston Town Center. Law enforcement agencies are among the largest supporters of Special Olympics, and the Fairfax County Police Department proved to be no exception.

The grassroots event is more than a run. Funds raised help the organization fulfill its mission to change attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities and provide year-round sports training, competition, leadership opportunities, and health services to more than 21,000 athletes in Virginia of all abilities.

Ellen Head, Senior Director of Development for Special Olympics Virginia was on hand at Saturday's Torch Run. In an interview, Head told how 100 percent of the proceeds from this event would go to support Special Olympics Virginia. Although Special Olympics is one of the top three recognized brands, Head stated, "People have no clue Special Olympics is not a one-day event, and it is not just for kids."

"There is some sport going on nearly every day, and we have tons of different sports," said Head. "Powerlifting, soccer, swimming, basketball, even sailing. The events give our athletes a place to compete. It's about social engagement and the building of self-confidence which transcends other aspects of their lives." Special Olympics provides opportunities, removes isolation and improves health, skills and abilities.

Head pointed out that anyone who participates in the Special Olympics is an athlete, and most of the athletes are not children but adults over the age of twenty-two.

Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Chief of Police Fairfax County mingled with the ath-

letes and their families at the Reston Pavilion before the start of the 1.43-mile run. Roessler was recently named Chair for Virginia Special Olympics Law Enforcement 2018-2019. "We are proud to support our Special Olympic athletes in Fairfax and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia," Roessler said. "The funds raised directly provide wellness care to all and this is a global effect."

The athletes are the soul of Special Olympics. Ricky Portillo of Fairfax stood ready to participate in the inaugural torch run. Wearing an athlete's green t-shirt, Portillo shook hands with Roessler Jr., and got a photo with him.

Like many Special Olympics athletes, Portillo competes in several sports year-round and has done so year after year. "Ricky does everything," said his mother, Miriam Portillo. "He plays golf, baseball, skis, kayaks and more."

Head told the crowd that not only was today the Law Enforcement Torch Run but it was the 50th Anniversary of Special Olympics. Head shared there was a new movement at Special Olympics, an "Inclusion Revolution." The organization's website describes its renewed purpose to "End Discrimination Against People with Intellectual Disabilities and Create Inclusive Communities ... Special Olympics is moving from an organization for people with intellectual disabilities to a social inclusion movement led by Special Olympics athletes."

Joey Wheeler of Lorton was the Athlete Speaker for the torch run. Wheeler led the crowd in the Special Olympics Athlete Oath. "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

With that said, Wheeler stepped off the stage with the torch to lead his fellow athletes, Fairfax police, family and friends in the inaugural Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia.

To get involved with Special Olympics Virginia, visit www.specialolympicsva.org or call 800-932-4653.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY MIKE PERSICO/FCPD

At the inaugural Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia at Reston Town Center held on Saturday, July 21, 2018, athlete Joey Wheeler of Lorton accepts the Flame of Hope from Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Chief of Police, Fairfax County Police Department before the start of the run.

Athletes participate in the inaugural Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia at Reston Town Center held on Saturday, July 21, 2018.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY MIKE PERSICO/FCPD

The colors are presented by the Fairfax County Police Honor Guard at the inaugural Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia at Reston Town Center on July 21, 2018.

Timothy Field, Assistant Commander McLean District Station Fairfax County Police Department sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia at Reston Town C

Fallen Tree Destroys Car at North Shore Drive

Saturday's storm brought down this large oak tree, completely blocking North Shore Drive and destroying one car. It happened about 50 yards up North Shore from Lake Anne Elementary School.

PHOTOS BY
JOHN LOVAAS





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and Whole Home Remodels...

We have a lifetime of Solutions for your home.

When you decide to remodel with Foster, your family is in the forefront of every decision we make. Our passion is creating beautiful living spaces where function and design harmonize to meet your family's real life needs. From home additions to master suites or aging-in-place modifications, Foster Remodeling Solutions, Inc. has the in-house know how and industry knowledge to take your project from concept to turn-key completion.

For an in-home complimentary consultation call

(703) 672-2249

or online at FosterRemodeling.com.

- Kitchens • Bathrooms
- Whole Home Remodels
- Additions • Entertainment Areas
- In-Law Suites
- Electrical Services • and much more



Our Design-Build Process Makes Remodeling Easy

We believe that a carefully considered process and excellent communication add a great value to your experience. Since we started remodeling in 1983, we've been building and refining a remodeling process that maximizes creativity and efficiency, while minimizing foreseeable disruptions. We are proud to offer you a design-build service that keeps your remodeling project organized and delivers exceptional results. We have in-house expertise for every phase of the remodel. Foster Remodeling Solutions, Inc. wants you to rest easy knowing that your project is being managed by a team of highly skilled craftsmen and designers. Our team guides you through every detail giving you peace of mind and making your remodeling experience easy.

(703)672-2249

VISIT OUR DESIGN
AND SELECTION
SHOWROOM

A trip to our newly remodeled 3,500 sq ft Design and Selection Showroom will get your creative juices flowing. You will see full kitchens and bathrooms on display which feature the latest top of the line materials. This showroom sets us apart from other contractors because it allows you to make your product selections right in our office. No traveling from granite yards to flooring dealers to cabinet warehouses, with Foster, it's all at your fingertips.

Schedule your own private showroom tour today by calling 703-672-2249 or online at FosterRemodeling.com

