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# Fairfax CONNECTION

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Sophia Bellomo, decked out in her own 'Birthday Girl' tank top, celebrates her 11th birthday at Middleridge's National Night Out party, 'the largest in Fairfax County.'

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An estimated 500 people attend Middleridge's National Night Out to bond as a community and relax for a summer's evening.



Pet Rock performs live music throughout the evening including numbers such as "Surfin USA."

## Middleridge Celebrates 'Night Out'

BY JENNETH DYCK  
THE CONNECTION

The smell of grilled burger and smoking coals mixed in the air with live music Tuesday night in Middleridge Park during the community's National Night Out. Hundreds of Middleridge locals came to celebrate their community at the Middleridge Civic Association's annual picnic and festival.

"My kids are having a blast. [They've got] snow cones, they've got fireman helmets, they've got badges from the police," Jenny Scherff listed, a new resident in Middleridge from Alexandria City.

The evening was free for attendees, offering free rides, a bouncy house, ice cream, drinks, face painting, meet and greet local first responders, and more. The yearly event is intended to "take back the night" by bringing neighbors together, promoting local organizations, and opposing crime in neighborhoods, according to Catie Morales, former president of the MCA.

"You can't beat free. You can't beat two hours of family fun," she said. "It brings

people together."

"[My favorite part of the night is] seeing all my neighbors and all the kids that are growing up so quick and just meeting with people. It's a wonderful night. Great music, good food, free sodas, and just watching the kids have a good time," said Rick Jones, past president of the MCA.

Middleridge does not have a homeowner's association, so instead the Civic Association was founded in 1973. According to their website, the MCA's purpose is to protect "the interests of homeowners" and be a "voice for [the] community to local and state governments." Voluntary members are asked to give \$25 in dues yearly to help support events like the National Night Out, halloween parades, Easter egg hunts, Christmas house lights contests, and movie nights.

"I love that there's no homeowners association. That was actually a huge draw for me. But that said, to me this is a big thing that the Civic Association manages to put together, and it's impressive what they do," said Scherff.

For the Middleridge National Night Out, the civic dues and donations from local ven-

## The Middleridge Civic Association puts on the largest National Night Out party in Fairfax County.



From left — Bill Edwards and Richard Esposito prepare hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill for attendees.

PHOTOS BY JENNETH DYCK/  
THE CONNECTION

dors and sponsors helped make the night possible.

"We do very well. We're very fortunate. We have a very high membership rate and with that money, we run these and other activities throughout the year," said Jones.

David Simon, a 3-year-resident and current MCA president, praised the

Middleridge community for being a safe, family-friendly neighborhood. He credits the National Night Out and the MCA volunteers as responsible.

"It's such a great opportunity. I wish more communities would do it. I think we would have less problems in our communities if we had more nights out together."



Catie Morales, former president of the MCA, grabs a quick bite to eat from Richard Esposito before mingling with the community.



From right — Daniel Scherff, 4, and his brother Micah, 3, whittle away at their frozen snow cones after visiting the local firefighters who visited Middleridge Park.

## 'He Just Wanted to Kill Someone'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**K**enan Ozcan was determined to kill someone. He was angry and upset about his life and decided to take it out on someone he didn't know.

At first, said the prosecutor, he wanted to kill a family. But when he saw an elderly woman crossing a road on foot, he targeted her instead, intentionally striking her with his vehicle – not once, but twice.

The tragedy occurred April 14, 2017, shortly before 10:15 a.m., near the intersection of Route 50 and Rugby Road in Fair Oaks. The victim, Maria Amaya de Ascencio, was crossing Rugby Road, eastbound, when she was struck by a 2016 Dodge Dart driven by Ozcan, traveling south on Rugby.



**Kenan Ozcan**

Ascencio, 75, of Fair Oaks, died at the scene, and Ozcan fled. But police arrested him a few hours later. And last Tuesday, July 31, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, he was convicted of murder.

But even then, Ozcan, 33, of Fairfax, didn't fully take responsibility for his actions. Instead of pleading guilty, he entered an Alford plea of guilt – not admitting any wrongdoing, but simply acknowledging that the prosecution has enough evidence to convict him of the crime of which he's accused.

"Are you entering this plea both freely and voluntarily?" asked Judge Thomas Mann. "Yes, sir," replied Ozcan. Mann also asked him the highest level he'd achieved in school, and Ozcan said he has a master's degree in biology.

Then Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Brandon Sloane presented what the prosecution's case would have been, had it gone to trial. He said police dispatched to the scene discovered the victim lying face down in the intersection.

"Several witnesses described a small, gray sedan being in the intersection while the pedestrian was in it and hitting her in the middle of Rugby Road," said Sloane. "They said the impact threw her in the air, 10-15 feet. Then the vehicle made a U-turn and accelerated through the intersection to hit her again before fleeing north on Rugby."

**A LOOKOUT** was given for the car, and a police officer later saw a vehicle with front-end damage stuck in traffic on the Fairfax County Parkway. The officer also noted that the driver was suspiciously watching him as he passed by the officer. But initially, police weren't certain of the car's make and color, so that vehicle wasn't pulled over.

Then, at 12:45 p.m., police were called to Everybody Fitness Center on Fair Ridge Drive in Fair Oaks for a report of a robbery. "A customer there saw the defendant behind the counter and told him he wasn't an employee and didn't belong there," said Sloane. "She tried to photograph him with her phone, and he assaulted her; he took her phone and ripped her shirt."

Sloane said Ozcan was apprehended in a restroom there, and key fobs to three different vehicles were found on him. "He said he owned the gym, but he had no ID on him and wouldn't tell police where his own vehicle was," said the prosecutor. "So an officer went into the parking lot to find the cars responding

to the key fobs."

According to Sloane, Ozcan had keys to his mother's vehicle – which was being repaired – plus keys he'd stolen earlier from someone at the gym. "But he couldn't figure out how the pushbutton start worked, so he had to get a rental car," said Sloane. "And the car in the parking lot that responded to the key fob turned out to be a car he'd rented that morning."

It was a gray, Dodge Dart with front-end damage. "Police obtained strands of hair from the windshield wipers and human biological material from the undercarriage," said Sloane. "It was later compared to the victim and was a match. The coroner determined that she died of blunt-force trauma to the head, torso and extremities."

Furthermore, said Sloane, the police officer who'd found the car at the gym spoke with the officer who'd seen the suspicious vehicle stuck in traffic, and they concluded that it was Ozcan and the Dodge

Dart, both times. In addition, while in jail, Ozcan shared further details with another inmate.

"He told his cellmate the victim's head hit his vehicle and he ran over her again to make sure she was dead," said the prosecutor. "He said he just wanted to kill someone because he was upset about other things in his life, such as his mother losing his house."

"He said he'd planned it for two days and that, initially, he wanted to kill a family – maybe a van full of children," continued Sloane. "Then he saw [Ascencio] and thought she'd be a perfect victim. He said, after he hit her, he saw her still moving, so he struck her again."

Sloane said Ozcan told his cellmate he'd "robbed people before and wanted to know what it was like to kill someone. He also said he was going to pretend he was crazy to try to beat the charge."

**JUDGE MANN** then asked Ozcan, "Are you entering your Alford plea because you don't want to risk going to trial and being found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt?" Ozcan replied affirmatively. In response to another question from Mann, Ozcan said that, at the time of this incident, he was on probation for committing a previous offense. So the judge told him that, as a result of this new conviction, part or all of his probation could be revoked.

Mann further advised him that he could receive a maximum of 40 years in prison and must serve at least 85 percent of his sentence. He noted, as well, that several other charges against Ozcan will be dropped in exchange for his guilty plea. But he stressed that no agreement has been made regarding his sentencing.

The judge asked Ozcan, "Do you understand that, even though the [state sentencing] guidelines may call for a shorter period of probation or incarceration, I can exceed them and give you the maximum of 40 years – and you won't be able to withdraw your plea or appeal to a higher court?" Ozcan said he did.

Mann then officially accepted Ozcan's plea and found him guilty of felony murder. He ordered a presentencing report be made and the defendant returned to jail to await sentencing on Nov. 16.



**The victim, Maria Ascencio**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLIE SCHMIDT

**Dee Schmidt with her beloved dog, Cassie.**

## Family, Friends Mourn Fairfax's Dee Schmidt

**She leaves a legacy of decades of community service.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ongtime City resident and community activist Dee Schmidt died Sunday, July 29, at age 78, after a long battle with cancer. But she will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of all who knew and loved her.

"My mother was truly a special person," said her daughter, Ellie Schmidt. "She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and taught us well. She always put her family first."

And, said Schmidt, "While some thought her to be critical, she was really pushing for her children, grandchildren and the people she worked with to be the best that they could be, to make the community the best it could be. She instilled in us the importance of community service and love of country."

"Mom did a tremendous amount of work in the community," continued Schmidt. "She



**From left, Dee and Ellie Schmidt last December.**

was not motivated by recognition, but by making a positive impact. From the importance of historic preservation to volunteering and giving back, Mom inspired me to follow in her footsteps of service to the community." And that's exactly what Ellie Schmidt did, serving in many volunteer and leadership positions in Fairfax for more than 40 years, including four terms on City Council.

\* Visitations celebrating Dee Schmidt's life will be held at Demaine Funeral Home in Fairfax, 10565 Main St., on Friday, Aug. 10, from 6-8 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 11, from 10-11 a.m. A memorial service is set for Aug. 11 from 11 a.m.-noon.

There'll be a brief, private, graveside service with family, followed by a reception at the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Station, 4081 University Drive in Fairfax. Schmidt supported Inova Schar Cancer Institute and the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department and would be pleased with contributions to both.

## Obituary

Dee Schmidt's official obituary, written by her family, follows:

Born May 21, 1940, to the late D.C. and Margaret  
SEE HONORING, PAGE 10

# OPINION

## An Open Letter to Readers and More

Buy an ad in our annual **Newcomers and Community Guide**, please.

Adapted from a 2016 editorial ...

**H**as your organization been featured in the Connection Newspapers, or the Alexandria Gazette Packet or the Mount Vernon Gazette or the Centre View or the Potomac Almanac?

Have any of our papers taken note of your business when you and/or your employees pitch in to help the community? Or when you opened your doors or celebrated a milestone?

Are you an elected official whose messages are enhanced by coverage of issues in the Connection?

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

Our annual Newcomers and Community Guide is a pullout section that will appear in the Aug. 22, 2018 edition of all 15 Connection Newspapers, published by Local Media Connection. Deadline is Aug. 16.

We are striving to create a quality special issue, and we need your help. Whether you invest in a small ad in a single paper (super af-

fordable), or a full page in all 15 of our papers (super value), we appreciate your help this month.

To put on my publisher's hat (and not my editor's hat) for a minute, if you have a marketing budget, and you value coverage of local newspapers (not just ours), why wouldn't you spend a portion of that budget (any portion) supporting that platform? Heed the cautionary tale in the closures of many newspapers in the last couple of years.

But this request is more than a charitable effort.

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tions, businesses and campaigns know they want local newspaper coverage, newspaper advertising is an effective way to reach voters, residents, clients. The Connection reaches more than 150,000 readers, in print and online, including remarkable demographics. Our readers include local and national decision makers in the public and private sector.

The deadline for the Newcomers and Community Guide is Aug. 17. Digital enhancements and support are available. Email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431 for more information.

EDITORIAL

### Share Tips about Community

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

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

What are your favorite parks? Favorite historic sites? Lunch place? Spot for coffee? What tips do you have for someone getting to know the community?

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to new-

comers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, and information on how to vote and more.

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

Email tips and photos to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com) or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/> by Wednesday, Aug. 15.

— MARY KIMM

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## Back to School Safety Tips

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK  
BRADDOCK DISTRICT



COMMENTARY

**T**he sleepy days of summer are coming to an end. In a few weeks children will don their backpacks and step into yellow buses when the Fairfax County Public Schools start on Aug. 28. Back to School season is a hectic

time for many Fairfax families. This increase in activity means we all must take extra precautions to keep our children and neighbors safe, especially on the road.

Our entire community should be aware during the morning and afternoon school commutes. This time of day will bring a flurry of buses, carpools, cyclists and pedestrians all across the county. Morning commutes will be more crowded as more than 1,700 school buses get back on the road. Drivers should leave a few minutes earlier to allow for more time in their commute.

School buses carry thousands of children to school and back every morning and afternoon. Please respect their important role in our community. When a school bus is stopped with red flashing lights, all cars must stop unless they

are in another lane divided by a median. So if you are traveling in a two lane roadway that has no median, all cars going both directions have to stop when the bus is loading or unloading. The same goes for a two lane roadway with a center turn lane and a four lane roadway without a median separation. The only time you can continue driving when a bus is stopped is if you are driving on the other side of the median.

It is important to also keep in mind that many children will be walking to school and to neighborhood bus stops. Make sure to yield to children crossing the streets, especially near schools. Look out for crossing guards and follow their instructions. Keep your car off the cross walk when stopped. Be prepared to stop for children who may make unexpected movements into roadways. And finally, follow the school zone speed limits when the signs are flashing. Most school zones have a 25 mph speed limit, but they may vary.

Parents, please remind your children about street, pedestrian, and bus safety. Try to get to the bus stop early so no one gets hurt while rushing to catch the bus. If you are crossing a

roadway, make sure that cars are stopped in both directions before crossing. Teach them to use designated crosswalks if they are available and only approach the bus once it has come to a full stop. If you have young drivers in the family, take time to review the rules about school zones and school buses.

Every Fairfax County child has the right to an education. We all must work together to protect that right by making sure students travel safely to and from school. Please help us keep Fairfax County students safe this year.

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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

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# NEWS

## Brothers from Fairfax Participate in International Geography Bee

Rohil and Samik Bhinge (ages 14 and 13) got back last month from Berlin, Germany, where they represented the State of Virginia at the International Geography Bee World Championship. ABC 7 channel aired an interview with the family the day before they flew to Berlin. The Bhinge brothers, who are both First Place United States National Champions in the International Geography Bee, brought home a total of 6 medals – 2 golds, 1 silver and 3 bronzes.

Students from 21 countries competed in six individual and four team events at this weeklong World Championships. The events consisted of Jeopardy-style buzzer competitions, written exams and team events.

One of the fun team events was a Treasure Hunt where students had to travel extensively on the Berlin Metro locating historical landmarks and taking quizzes to earn points. David Madden is the founder of the International Geography Bee. Madden won 19 consecutive days at Jeopardy in 2005 for a winning total of \$432,400 (all time seventh highest).

Both Rohil and Samik have been interested in Geography since their pre-school days. They are current school champions and they both have competed at the State and National levels at various geography competitions.

After the Berlin championships, the boys spent a day in Istanbul (Turkey) and then Rohil and his fa-



Rohil and Samik Bhinge (ages 14 and 13)

ther, Deepak went backpacking to Athens and Thessaloniki (Greece) and Sofia (Bulgaria). Rohil's best moment of this trip was a 1-hour scooter ride in the Greek Island of Aegina. Samik enjoyed riding the Berlin Metro during the competition and visiting the Olympic Stadium and Potsdam Palaces.

Rohil is a rising 10th grader at the Woodson High School and he loves to travel all over the world. He has visited 38 US States and 16 countries. As a freshman, Rohil competed in the "It's Academic" competition on NBC and helped his high school team win the first-round playoff in January 2018.

Samik is a rising eighth grader in Frost Middle School and he loves violin, squash and math. Samik's school CyberPatriot team finished third in the 2018 Virginia National CyberSecurity Tournament in Fairfax.



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# Youth-led Protest at NRA Draws Hundreds

Expertise plus traction equals movement for change.

BY MARTI MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**H**undreds of activists gathered Saturday for three hours at 11250 Waples Mill Rd. in Fairfax to protest gun violence at a youth-led rally called March on NRA.

The event was held on the birthday of Joachim Oliver, a student who was fatally shot on Valentine's Day earlier this year at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Seventeen people lost their lives to a gunman too young to buy beer yet old enough to buy an AR-15 assault rifle he purchased legally last year, according to police reports of the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

Oliver would have turned 18 on Aug. 4 and be old enough to vote on Election Day 2018. A graffiti mural was spray painted Saturday afternoon in his honor and participants wrote their names and messages on the wall. Around 1:30 p.m., a crowd sang "Happy Birthday" and cake was served to protesters.

**HIS PARENTS**, Patricia and Manuel Oliver, stood in front of the newly-painted mural in their son's honor with another grieving Marjory Stoneman Douglas parent, Fred Guttenberg, the father of 14-year-old Jaime Guttenberg.

Also at the rally: Anna Gonzalez and David Hogg, who survived the Parkland Shooting then turned their anger into action as founding members of Never Again MSD. Their speeches, and 6 minutes and 20 seconds of silence last spring at the March for Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C., moved people from all walks of life to join the hurting teenagers in a nationwide movement for change.

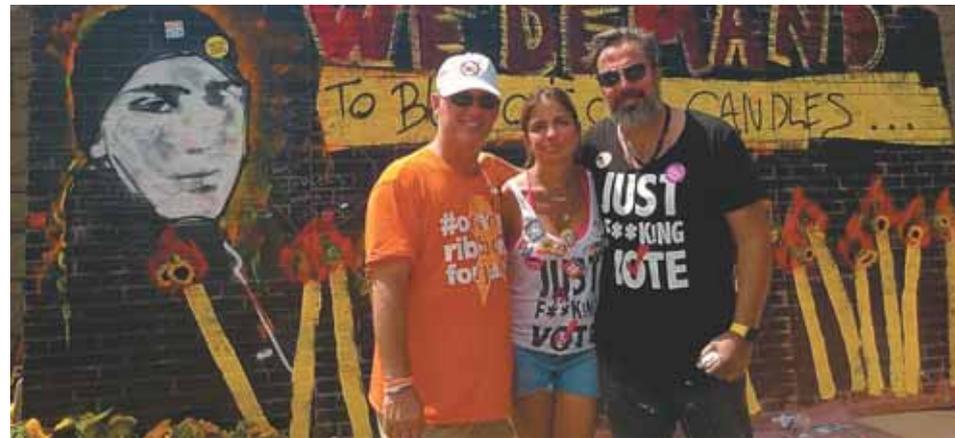
Alex Heckel, 13, his mother Andrea Heckel and younger brother Matthew Heckel, 10, of Alexandria listened to speeches Aug. 4 near the same spot where Matthew Heckel spoke against gun violence at another youth-led NRA protest April 14. Both boys will attend George Washington Middle School in the City of Alexandria, where a student resource officer accidentally discharged his firearm March 13. Alex Heckel said the SRO, who is on administrative leave without pay, is well-liked by students. Alex Heckel believes the incident was an honest mistake. "Every kid forgives you at the school," he said, "and wants you to come back."

Falls Church activist Kris Gregory of the Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence is no stranger to the sidewalk along Waples Mill Road between the north and south entrances to the NRA parking lot. Each month since the Dec. 14, 2012 killing of 20 school



**Fairfax resident Ashleigh Conrad, 28, center, holds a protest sign she made for the March on NRA rally Saturday at the National Rifle Association headquarters in Fairfax at 11250 Waples Mill Rd. Conrad believes the NRA is not a non-profit but a lobbying firm "and Congress should revoke their tax-exemption status," she says Aug. 4**

PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION



**From left: South Florida residents Fred Guttenberg, and Patricia and Manuel Oliver support each other Saturday afternoon at the March on NRA protest in Fairfax. Guttenberg lost his 14-year-old daughter Jaime Guttenberg, to a mass shooter Valentine's Day at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. — where the Oliver's son, Joachim Oliver, also was killed. Aug. 4 would have been Joachim's 18th birthday and his life was celebrated with song, cake and a graffiti wall spray painted during the rally with his image and the message: "We demand to blow out our candles."**

children and six adults inside the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., Gregory and other grassroots activists in Northern Virginia have organized a small protest at the NRA in which participants stand along the walkway and hold up signs that decry gun violence and the nation's largest gun rights lobby.

For more than five years, this alliance has worked with elected officials to introduce what they call "common sense" firearm safety bills — which eventually are killed by majority lawmakers both in the Virginia General Assembly and Congress.

"We're all poised to attack," says Carol P. Luten of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence a few days before a student-led protest at the NRA April 14. At the time, she and fellow activists were awestruck by a new citizens' group mad as hell by gun violence: Teenagers. They sprang into action with national student walkouts and the March for Our Lives rally with sister protests across the country.

"Oh my gosh, this is what's going to push



PHOTO COURTESY CAROL P. LUTEN

**A buffer zone across Waples Mill Road in Fairfax keeps nearly 50 gun rights proponents in a state with open carry handgun laws from clashing with hundreds of participants at the March on NRA rally Aug. 4 in Fairfax. Both camps are within shouting distance from each other on this hot summer day. Counter protesters use bull horns to provoke March on NRA activists, who argue with them. Fairfax County Police officers monitor this war of words.**

it over," Luten realized last spring.

Teenagers sparked a movement and have been taking their message all over America, with support from other newly-formed student groups — like March for NRA — who are eager to help them change laws that prevent future deaths to gun violence.

"It's a symbiotic relationship in which we have the expertise and they have the traction," states Luten, who believes the preparation of her group and others before hers — like the Brady Campaign To Prevent Gun Violence — is key in their hope for change.

Gregory appreciated the size and diversity of the crowd Aug. 4 March on NRA. She said the protest was wonderful.

"We need everybody involved," she said Saturday afternoon.

Although student organizers anticipated at least 2,000 participants, about a thousand showed up on this hot and humid Saturday afternoon, which offered protesters lots of sun. And sunflowers.

According to organizers, one of the last things Joachim Oliver did for his girlfriend, Tori Gonzalez, was buy her sunflowers. Bouquets decorated the street and organizers handed out sunflowers, bottled water and ice cream to participants as they listened to speeches, cooled off beneath shade trees along the sidewalk or engaged in a heated exchange of words with nearly 50 counter-protesters cordoned off on the north side of Waples Mill Road at the Interstate 66 overpass.

**COUNTER PROTESTERS** were displeased they weren't allowed to stand along Waples Mill Road in front of the NRA office building during the rally. Paul Brockman, 50, of Annapolis of the gun rights group The Patriot Picket believes it's their right to protest under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

"We're just here to support the NRA and the Second Amendment," he said before the rally started.

A buffer zone set up and monitored by the Fairfax County Police Department at the north end of the NRA parking lot kept both groups separate but within shouting distance.

"I think the police did exactly the right thing," says U.S. Rep. Gerry E. Connolly (D-11), who attended the rally Saturday. He believes we learned the hard way last year in Charlottesville, Va., what happens when law enforcement officers stay on the sidelines and are not actively involved in crowd control.

"We don't want that in Fairfax County," said the Congressman, who is running for his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives against Republican challenger Jeff A. Dove Jr. and Libertarian candidate Stevan M. Porter.

"Today is my son's birthday," said Patricia Oliver. In lieu of discussion about political issues, the grieving mother just wants to give her son "love, justice and tolerance." And sunflowers.

"We are here for a reason," she adds, "to make a change."

# Preparing for New School Year

Home organizing saves space and time.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The sight of store shelves overflowing with school glue sticks and crayons signals that the beginning of school is just around the corner. While squeezing in one last vacation, the thought of turning an eye to getting one's home in order before the school bell rings might be met with dread.

"It can feel like a daunting task to organize when artwork overflows from school or small trinkets come home from birthday parties, the end of summer is a great time to purge a lot of unnecessary items to make way for new school year ahead," said Allie Mann, designer-senior interiors specialist, Case Design/Remodeling. "And it's always a great time to donate gently used items as well."

"Especially now as families are preparing to get back to school, it's so important to get organized," added Anne M. Walker, Esq., Allied ASID, Owner + Principal Anne Walker Design LLC. "Nothing is more stressful than searching for something when you're already five minutes late, it's pouring down rain, it's picture day at school, and you have a big work meeting in 45 minutes."

Now that organization is often considered a part of interior design, the tools and hacks available are more stylish and innovative than ever, say local designers. "In a kitchen in Old Town, Alexandria I installed four shallow drawers underneath the countertop at the island — one for each family member," said Sarah Glenn, interior designer and project manager, Braswell Design+Build, Alexandria. "I designed the drawers to be just large enough to store school papers and a laptop so that each family member would have a dedicated temporary storage space without creating four individual junk drawers."

A Potomac, Md. family recently enlisted Walker's help in redesigning and reorganizing their home from top to bottom with an eye toward all things chic and stylish. She began in the bedrooms of the family's teenage daughter, creating custom closets.

"After the new closet was installed, I spent the better part of two days helping this teen fill the closet with all of her belongings, putting things where they were visible and readily accessible," she said. "Organization is important primarily because of the time it saves. If you can find what you need to get out the door right away, you can sleep 20 minutes later."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

**This kitchen by Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths features custom cabinets of painted Maplewood and quartz countertops. An abundance of drawer space helps with organization.**



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

**Hooks for backpacks and jackets, like this one by Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling, are a must for an organized mudroom.**

A similar closet was created for the family's middle school aged son. "Amazing how even young children can keep their rooms tidy as long as there's a system in place that they can understand and is practical enough for them to use," said Walker. "If you know exactly where all of your clothes are, and exactly where to put them back after laundering them, it will seem like you just won the lottery. You won't believe how many things you have, many of which have been long forgotten, stuffed in the back of some drawer or under the bed."

One of the most important tasks on Walker's agenda was organizing a large basement space with abundant shelving to create a home office. "In an office this size, children could easily use it for homework while the parent was working there, also," she said. "Sometimes it's calming and comforting just to be in the same space, even if you aren't actually helping the child with their work."

A home's mudroom is supposed to serve as a gateway into the main house, creating order and keeping clutter from overflowing into the home's interior, but often that isn't the case as clutter overtakes the space. In a recent mudroom project, Mann incorporated elements into the design that addressed the family's lifestyle. "Cubbies and bench storage for sports and after-school activities for older children are a must," she said. "If space allows, allocating a designated cubbie for each child is best to keep things separated and from getting lost."

"With organization, you are constantly trying to strike a balance between carving out enough space for a specific function without over-organizing to the point that you lose flexibility to change what you store as your life evolves," added Glenn.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

**Interior designer Anne Walker installed a custom closet by Capitol Closet Design in the bedroom of this Potomac, Md. home to create an organized space in time for school.**



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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Misty Zani chooses ripe, red tomatoes from Tyson Farms at the Fairfax farmers market.



Sima Mahboubi purchases white hydrangeas, squash and bell peppers.



Ida Beylee, owner of Havabite Eatery on Main Street, is ready to serve baklava and stuffed cabbage.

## Tomatoes, Peaches, Flowers, Squash, Baklava and Crepes

The City of Fairfax hosts three farmers markets each week. The Tuesday market, at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., runs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Saturday and Sunday markets are both at 10500 Page Avenue and run from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., respectively. These photos were taken at the Saturday, Aug. 4, market.



Customers peruse the flowers and produce at the Valdez Brothers' stand at the Fairfax farmers market.



Angela Williams holds a banana-Nutella crepe freshly made by the owners of Joie de Vivre Fine Foods.



(From left) Co-owners of Baku Delicious, Namig and Natavan Bahadur, and Sevda Tahirli, general manager, offer a pistachio treat called dolama, plus walnut baklava, at their stand selling Azerbaijani, Turkish and Russian foods.



Vivian Nguyen of Viet Lotus sells Vietnamese vases.

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## CAMP

**Youth Arts Summer Camps.** At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Multiple sessions available for ages 3-17. Themes include Doodle Tots (ages 6-10), Visual Arts Explorers (ages 6-10), Fine Arts Innovators (ages 11-13), Summer Arts Intensive for Young Adults (ages 14-17), Short Film, and Game Design. New Music and Theatre Camps include Let's Play Guitar Camp, Vocal Arts Camp, Performing Arts Summer Camp Challenge, and Experimental Theatre Project Camp. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

## ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: Free Beer (and other lies).** Through Sept. 2, at Arches Gallery at Workhouse Arts Center, Building 9, 9518 Workhouse Way., Lorton. Featuring works by John Hartt, who is known for his quirky oil paintings which have been described as strangely comforting. His latest kooky collection, "Free Beer (and other lies)," explores some of the concepts and stories surrounding beer, drunkenness and lies as only Hartt can interpret them. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). For more information about John Hartt, visit [www.jortt.com](http://www.jortt.com).

**The Sunday Farmers' Market.** Through Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit [www.fairfaxsundaymarket.com](http://www.fairfaxsundaymarket.com).

**Saturday Community Farmers' Market.** Through Oct. 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit [www.fairfaxsaturdaymarket.com](http://www.fairfaxsaturdaymarket.com).

**Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit [www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/](http://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 9

**Evenings on the Ellipse with Robin and Linda Williams.** 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. Paradise Springs Winery and The Winery at Bull Run will be providing complimentary tastings; glasses of wine and full bottles available for purchase. 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/performance](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance).

**Hometown Thursdays: Lesson Zero.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Third Thursdays in May-September. The new series will host local bands from the Fairfax area. Meet up with friends, grab dinner at one of the many restaurants in downtown, and listen to great music. A free, family-friendly event for all ages. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/hometown-thursdays](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/hometown-thursdays).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 10

**Burke Lake Golf Center Junior Club Championship.** 8 a.m. at



Fairfax Station Railroad Museum celebrates with First Responders Day.

## First Responders Day

Volunteer Fire and Rescue personnel as well as Fairfax County Police Officers will bring emergency vehicles for display and offer hands-on activities to demonstrate the critical role played by modern day first responders. Civil War Re-enactors will help visitors learn about medical and relief practices then and now. Fairfax Station was the site of a massive relief effort during the Battles of Ox Hill and Second Manassas in August 1862. Sunday, Aug. 26, 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfaxstation.org](http://www.fairfaxstation.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

Burke Lake Park, 6915 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Junior golfers age 7-17 will compete in this season-ending tournament from 8 a.m. to noon. This is an 18-hole, individual stroke tournament for all age divisions: 10 & under, 11-13, and 14-17. There will be closest-to-the-pin contests and prizes for first-, second- and third-place in all three divisions, plus a special prize for overall low-gross champion. \$20 for junior program members and \$30 for non-junior program players; includes lunch. Call 703-323-6600 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake).

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638.

**Movies Under the Moon: Moana.** 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/AUG. 11

**Community Family Safety Day.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 11230 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. Sponsored by Jubilee Christian Center, Focus Family Martial Arts, and other local businesses and organizations. Free activities, including: inflatables, demonstrations on how to keep children safe, and sno-cones. Food vendors will be on-site. Call 703-383-1170 or visit [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).

**Opening Reception: Free Beer (and other lies).** 6-9 p.m. at Arches Gallery at Workhouse Arts Center, Building 9, 9518 Workhouse Way., Lorton. Artist John Hartt is known for his quirky oil paintings which have been described as strangely comforting. His latest kooky collection, "Free Beer (and other lies)," explores some of the concepts and stories surrounding beer, drunkenness and lies as only Hartt can interpret them. Visit

[www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). For more information about John Hartt, visit [www.jortt.com](http://www.jortt.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/performance/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights).

## MONDAY/AUG. 13

**Donation Deadline.** During bank hours at Sonabank, 10855 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax. Sonabank is collecting school supplies at all branches, including: notebook paper, three-ring binders, spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, No. 2 pencils, pencil pouches, colored pencils, calculators, crayons, pencil erasers, dry erase marker, glue sticks, bottle glue, pocket folders, three-prong folders, pocket dictionaries, markers, highlighters, rulers, tissues, hand sanitizers, copy paper, sticky notes, backpacks and blunt-end safety scissors. Visit [www.sonabank.com](http://www.sonabank.com).

## TUESDAY/AUG. 14

**Farm to Fairfax Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market, will be producers-only — meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

**Erin's Epic Stories.** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square at the pergola, Tuesdays June-August. Weather permitting. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square).  
**Wagging Tails and Dogfish Ale.** 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. at Dogfish Head Alehouse, 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Dogfish

Head Alehouse will donate 15 percent of proceeds to Guiding Eyes for the Blind. There will also be a raffle and silent auction. Visit [www.dogfishalehouse.com](http://www.dogfishalehouse.com).

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 15

**Springfield Nights.** 7 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring: Dr. FU (Rock/Cover Band). 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.

## WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/AUG. 15-16

**Studio Ghibli: Howl's Moving Castle.** Wednesday, 7 p.m. (Japanese with English subtitles); Thursday, 11 a.m. (English dubbed) at Angelika Film Center — Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. The Angelika Mosaic will feature animated films from the celebrated Studio Ghibli praised for their originality, stunning animation, and ambitious storytelling. All tickets are regular admission. Visit [www.angelikafilmcenter.com](http://www.angelikafilmcenter.com).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 16

**Evenings on the Ellipse with Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra.** 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. Paradise Springs Winery and The Winery at Bull Run will be providing complimentary tastings; glasses of wine and full bottles available for purchase. 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/performance](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance).

**Aviation and World War II.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. World War II marked a new era in aviation technology, weaponry and strategy. Christian Godart of the National, Air and Space Museum's Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center will discuss the

important role aviation played in the Battle of Britain. Intended audience: adults and teens. Free. Call Kings Park Library Information at 703-978-5600 or visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3545032](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3545032).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 17

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 18

**The Holy Yoga Experience.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The half-day event includes Holy Yoga practice, instruction, Bible study, worship and fellowship. It's an opportunity for people of all levels of yoga experience to engage with the local Holy Yoga community. \$15. Call 571-239-3416 or visit [www.holyyoga.net](http://www.holyyoga.net).

**Pet Adoption Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet).

**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/performance/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights).

## SUNDAY/AUG. 19

**Table Top N Gauge Model Train Display.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Table Top N Gauge Model Trains (TTRAK) will be on display and running. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 21

**Farm to Fairfax Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market, will be producers-only — meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

**Erin's Epic Stories.** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square at the pergola, Tuesdays June-August. Weather permitting. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square).  
**Burke Lake 4.5 Mile Race.** 6:45-8 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Chip-timed 4.5 mile race around beautiful Burke Lake. Sponsored by D.C. Road Runners, this race will have awards and refreshments at the post-race celebration. \$10 in advance; \$15 on-site registration. Visit [www.dcroddrunners.org/sign-up/thurston](http://www.dcroddrunners.org/sign-up/thurston) for more information.

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### Announcements

### Legals

#### ABC LICENSE

Caboose II, LLC trading as Caboose Brewing Company, 2918 Eskridge Rd, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Matthew Greer, Managing Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

### Legals

#### ABC LICENSE

Diva Nails, LLC trading as Diva Nails, 3912 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Day Spa license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Niknaz Hoy, Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

### Legals

According to the Lease by and between unit #1083 Cristin Halla and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit(s), the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found to contain: bags, tubs, baby items, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday August 17, 2018 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030 703.352.8840 Ext 2.



**Dee Schmidt (at far right) with family members (from left) daughters Ellie Schmidt and Bridget Shepard, granddaughter Jessica Thornton, grandson Rick Schmidt Jr. and son Rick Schmidt.**

## Honoring Dee Schmidt

FROM PAGE 3

Ransone, she's survived by her brother, Dennis Ransone; children, Eleanor Schmidt, Roderick Schmidt and Bridget Shepard; grandchildren, Roderick Schmidt Jr. and Jessica Thornton; great-grandson Harrison Thornton and Swedish son, Henrik Johansson.

Dee Schmidt mainly grew up in the Kansas City area. After attending college in Colorado, she and her husband had three children and moved to Fairfax City in 1969, Dee immediately became involved with the community when she joined the George Mason Junior Women's Club. She served as president and in other leadership roles and received recognition for many of the club projects she led.

Dee later transitioned to the Woman's Club of Fairfax where she continued her community service through club projects to include helping coordinate the Fairfax City Bicentennial Ball celebrating the nation's 200th birthday. As a club representative, she was actively involved in establishing the Interservice Service Club Council in 1977.

In recent years, she served in several, Woman's Club leadership positions, including president. She coordinated the establishment of the club Website and Facebook presence and also served on the fundraising committee that's produced successful fashion shows to fund its scholarship program.

Always keeping a watchful eye on Fairfax City happenings, Dee expanded her service to the community by getting involved in Fairfax City boards and commissions. Beginning with the Community Appearance Committee, she worked to increase focus on cleaning up the community and preventing litter, while helping the City establish the original recycling center on Pickett Road.

During this time, the City received its first recognition from Keep America Beautiful and Keep Virginia Beautiful. Dee was then appointed to the City of Fairfax Planning Commission, serving from 1976 through 1994. She was chairman for many years and was quietly amused by a political car-

toon in a 1989 Fairfax Connection depicting her as "Batman" during the transition to televised Planning Commission meetings.

Always keeping the greater good of the community at heart, the necessary needling of local politicians – with the goal of keeping them in line – was a service she provided, without public recognition or compensation, besides a bit of private pride (and sometimes, amusement).

Some secrets go beyond the grave, but mysterious happenings in City of Fairfax political lore may or may not have a connection to Dee Schmidt. She appreciated the art of tossing balls in the air and watching to see where they landed.

Besides her community service, she was always involved in volunteer activities relating to her three children. Among other things, she served as room mother, Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout den mother and Fairfax Little League snack-bar coordinator while her children were in school.

Planning and development were always a passion. Beginning her career in the late 1970s, Dee was employed at local law firms in the area of commercial and residential real estate. After working for a commercial lending institution, she joined a real-estate development company before retiring 10 years ago.

Her adventurous spirit never dulled, and she found great joy in travel, especially to Europe and to Christmas markets to hunt for treasures and to sample the warm, mulled wine. She enjoyed the theater and availed herself of the Washington, D.C., offerings, from old-time classic like "Camelot" or newer productions of "Kinky Boots" or the "Book of Mormon."

Dee was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She always put family first and truly enjoyed big, family gatherings. She could be hard to predict but was absolutely one of a kind and will be missed by her friends and family. She found the perfect balance of proper and irreverent; and those who knew her well knew she carried that balance with dignity and grace to the end.

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### Announcements

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THE CONNECTION  
NEWSPAPERS

# BULLETIN

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

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** is looking to expand its team of volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Tax-Aide, now in its 51st year, offers free in-person preparation and assistance to anyone, especially those 50 and older, who can't afford a tax preparation service. Volunteers make a difference in their communities by assisting many older, lower-income taxpayers, and their families, who might otherwise miss out on the tax credits and deductions they've earned. To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide) or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277).

**Docents Needed.** Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

## 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).

## SUNDAY/AUG. 12

**Spiritual Prosperity Workshop.** 1:30-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Learn how to make changes in life using spiritual laws of abundance in this workshop with nationally-known author and speaker Edwene Gaines. Workshop is offered on a love offering (donation) basis. Call 703-281-1767 or visit [www.unityoffairfax.org/four-spiritual-laws-prosperity-workshop-s](http://www.unityoffairfax.org/four-spiritual-laws-prosperity-workshop-s) for more.

## AUG. 13-SEPT. 9

**Pool Closure: South Run RECenter.** Four Fairfax County Park Authority RECenter pools will be closing for regular, periodic cleaning and maintenance next month. Consider trying out another county pool during the temporary shutdown. RECenter passes are valid at all nine Park Authority RECenters. Dates are subject to change. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter) for more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 18

**Interfaith Prayer Breakfast.** 9-11 a.m. at NOVA Family Church, 9461 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Faith, civic and community members are invited to join together to pray for the community and nation. On this day, join with Muslim friends to honor Eid-al-Adha, a holy day that celebrates Abraham's faith. Guest speakers include Muhammad Irfan Qureshi and Fr. Bayo Adrian. The event is hosted by the American Clergy Leadership Conference of Virginia (ACLC). Donations appreciated. Email [wmselig@gmail.com](mailto:wmselig@gmail.com) or call 240-274-1744 for more.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 21

**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](mailto:fairfaxlions@cox.net) or visit [www.fairfaxlions.org](http://www.fairfaxlions.org) for more.

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## "Slow Progression"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

OKAY. It's not exactly what I wanted to read in the email from my oncologist interpreting the results of my July 25 CT Scan.

Since August 2013 when I was hospitalized for a week with fluid in my lungs, "CT stable" has been the recurring message. Now the message is different.

My question, which will be addressed Monday afternoon: can I live with 'slow progression?' I would imagine that there are more aggressive characterizations of 'progression.' Nevertheless, I have to wait three more days to find out.

What has been suggested so far by my oncologist is simple enough: reduce the interval of my infusions or change medications. Sounds reasonable and not particularly drastic. What's distressing (but not at all drastic) however, is the fear of the unknown.

Not having had a reason to change in five years, I've grown awfully comfortable and confident in the ebb and flow of my life vis-à-vis my cancer treatment/side effects. I've known what to expect and when to expect it.

For a terminal cancer patient still undergoing treatment, this kind of regularity/normalcy is as good as it gets. Accordingly, I've been able to live a relatively manageable life.

And by 'manageable' I mean a life worth living and one not consumed by, if I may retrieve a phrase from last week's column: "cancer centrality." Not that I don't have deficits or spiritual, emotional or psychological problems/complications, I do, but I have so much more than that. I not only have a present, I have a future too.

No small caveat when one considers I was given a "13 month to two year" prognosis on Feb. 27, 2009. Over nine years ago - and counting. As Maurice Chevalier sang to Hermione Gingold in "Gigi" (1958): "I remember it well."

So life has indeed gone on and I'd like to think that despite this most recent email from my oncologist, life will continue to go on. I have to think positive; I'm my father's son, and deceased though he may be, he wouldn't have it any other way.

Besides, as Dr. Mobley said to Augustus McCray in the epic mini series, "Lonesome Dove," (1989) when Gus refused to let him amputate his remaining leg: "I assure the alternative is gloomy."

Well, Gus was rarely gloomy and considering my circumstances, neither have I been gloomy. There's just no future in it.

Right now, it's the present I'm concerned about. Specifically, Monday afternoon when my oncologist and I (we, actually; my wife, Dina will be on the phone as well) will talk.

Having a three participant phone conversation is a little awkward. The questions and answers might not flow as easily as if the three of us were sitting together in an examining room. But since that's what's happening/been scheduled, we'll endeavor to make the best of it.

What probably will help, oddly enough, is the three days Dina and I will have to think about what concerns we have, what questions we'll ask and what answers from the oncologist we anticipate hearing.

Then, with the doctor's encouragement, together we'll be able to make an intelligent decision concerning a prudent course of action/treatment going forward. A discussion we've had many times before.

And given our respective history over the last nine-plus years, there's no reason to think we can't achieve similar success living forward.

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

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