

Great Falls CONNECTION

Great Falls Resident's 'Most Exciting Job'

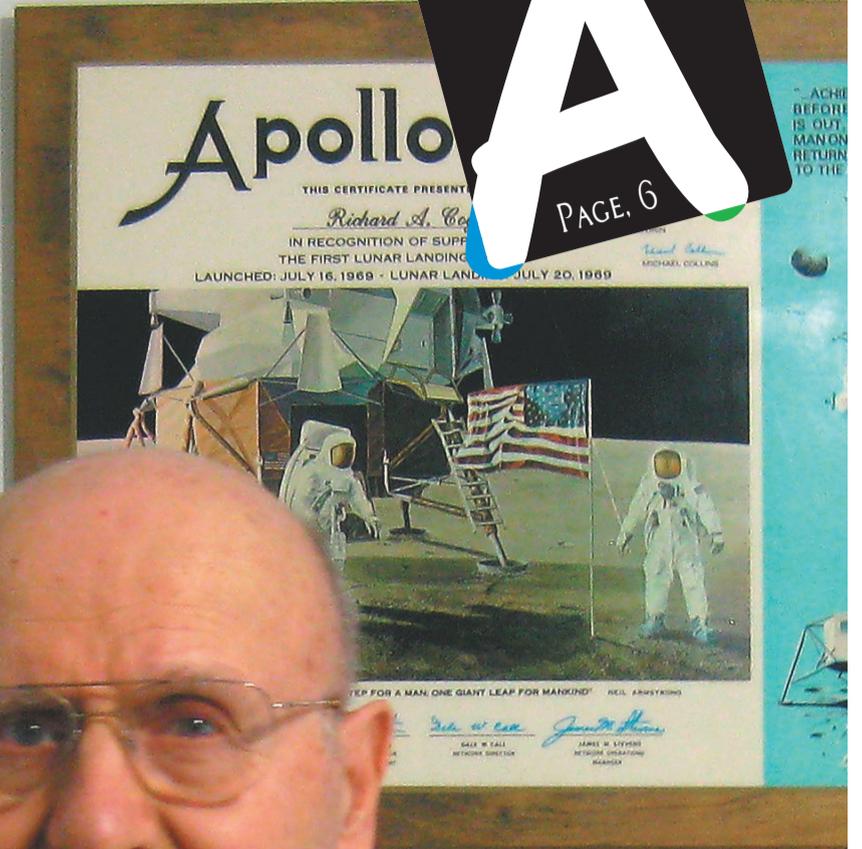
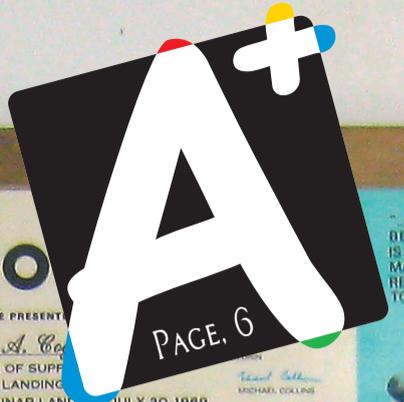
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Great Falls resident Richard Cogan holds a model of the Saturn V rocket, which sent Apollo 11 on its way to the moon. Cogan was recognized for his contribution to the historic mission to the moon.

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Donations are still welcomed at www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org/fireworks

Great Falls Library Promotes Summer Reading

BY ZACHARY SCHONFELD
THE CONNECTION

While students have a break from school assignments this summer, the Great Falls library is making an effort to keep students reading.

Residents of all ages began signing up for Fairfax County public libraries' annual summer reading program earlier last month – the library offers three different challenges for kids, teens and adults. This year's theme, "It's Showtime at your Library!" will feature musical guests and other events to encourage students to read during their time off from school.

Readers can sign up online or in-person at the library to receive a reading log to partake in the challenge. The challenge's requirements depend on the participant's age: birth through third graders read 15 books, fourth through fifth graders read 10 books and sixth graders through age 17 read 5 books. Participants can read eBooks or listen to audio books, which are both available through the library.

Participants who complete the appropriate requirements by Aug. 31 can visit the library to receive a coupon book filled with discounts for food, attractions and more from more than 20 businesses and organizations.

"No matter what your summer is like, you can create your own experience," Devin Parris, the library's youth services manager, said. "You can travel through the library and through books all summer."

While the challenge is underway, the library will host free events like an art show and a performance by Latin Grammy winning children's musician, 123 Andrés; teens can even participate in teen-exclusive events, including henna tattooing. The summer will conclude with an ice cream social to celebrate the summer reading program finishers on Aug. 22.

"The library is a welcoming, fun and adventuring place for all kids and their families," Parris said. "It's all about making memories. You can remember each summer by your favorite book you read."

The Great Falls library will also host an adult reading program this summer for ages 18 and up. Participants can either read five books, or read four books and complete a suggested challenge, like following the library on social media or using one of the library's online databases.

Readers will receive a coupon book and can also enter a raffle for autographed books and other specialty items.

"Our mission is to bring books and libraries to our

communities as much as we can," Parris said.

FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE of programs and more on the summer reading challenge, visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library.



As part of the program, the Great Falls Library will host events, like musical performances and an ice cream social throughout the summer for participants.



The Great Falls Library will raffle autographed books and other items for some finishers of the challenge.



Participants can display their name in many areas of the Great Falls Library – even a Lego area.

PHOTOS BY ZACHARY SCHONFELD/THE CONNECTION



Issac Siren, 7, of Oakton, learns about the milling process by examining a disassembled grinding station.

PHOTOS BY ANNA KARL/THE CONNECTION

Experiencing History at Colvin Run Mill

BY ANNA KARL
THE CONNECTION

Children and adults from all around the area gathered at Colvin Run Mill on Sunday, June 30, to learn about the milling process in the "Run of the Mill" class.

Stephen Golobic, the expert miller on the site, ran a hands-on program demonstrating all he knows about milling and the Colvin Run site specifically.

The property was once owned by George Washington, and the mill itself was built around 1810. It was in use until 1934, and then lay dormant until 1968 when Fairfax County bought and began to restore it.

The county restoration strived to take the mill back to 1810, no longer using a water mill and instead building and restoring it to the way it was

originally used. Around 70 percent of the building is original.

"Our goal is education and preservation," Golobic said.

The class began with a detailed tour of the building's four floors, each accompanied by explanations and demonstrations by the miller.

Following the tour, community members were given the opportunity to partake in the milling process themselves. Golobic instructed the attendees on how to clean, mill, and sift grains using their antique equipment, and each person was able to take home their own sample of what they produced.

There will be an identical class on Sunday, July 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill



Miller Stephen Golobic gives a detailed history of the Colvin Run Mill.

Human Trafficking Supply and Demand

BY BILL WOOLF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JUST ASK TRAFFICKING
PREVENTION FOUNDATION.

The recent news about Jeffrey Epstein's arrest in New York on new sex-trafficking charges involving allegations that date to the early 2000s is alarming to many.

It wasn't for us. That's the bad news. The Just Ask Trafficking Prevention Foundation, a global leader in combating human trafficking, is all too familiar with cases like Epstein's.

The good news is we're doing something about it. Our real-world experience and global knowledge about combating human trafficking enable us to do much more than sympathize with Epstein's victims of these alleged new crimes. We know how to fight back, and we are.

To better understand what we do and why we first must understand what sex trafficking is. The federal government defines it as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age (22 USC § 7102).

There's a lot more to sex trafficking than just prostitution. The sex trafficking industry is a part of the world's second largest and most lucrative criminal enterprise grossing more than \$150 billion annually.

Defeating a billion-dollar industry isn't merely a battle. It's a world war with the good guys significantly outgunned financially. For example, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund, created in 2010 to provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of human trafficking to increase the number of those rescued and supported, and broaden the extent of assistance they receive, only received \$6.7 million as of May 2019. Jeffrey Epstein's proposed bail package is estimated to be as high as \$77 million alone.

Winning the battle is simply a matter of understanding and then eliminating the logistics behind the world's second largest criminal enterprise. Logistics? Yes, we need to reduce both

the supply of victims for human traffickers and the demand for them. Our best weapon? Human trafficking awareness and prevention is the most effective and least expensive method to reduce and ultimately eliminate the supply and demand for the sex trafficking industry.

First, we must stop the supply of human trafficking victims by educating at-risk populations about what human trafficking is, how they can be targeted, and what to do to become immune to their tactics. Most victims fall prey to the likes of predators like Epstein because they are unaware they are being lured in by lies or false



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bill Woolf receives the 2018 Presidential Medal for Human Trafficking efforts from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

promises for things like money, prestige, power, or safety until it is too late. Then, trapped, the victims become resolved to their fate, impoverished, or worse, suicidal because of their sense of hopelessness. On average, once a person becomes involved in human trafficking, their life expectancy plummets to just seven years because of the enormous stress and physical abuse, their bodies and minds endure.

Secondly, we need to acknowledge criminals

like Jeffrey Epstein exist. Our awareness of them is the first step toward defeating them. As awareness grows for potential victims, awareness grows for prospective clients of human traffickers. By educating potential sex trafficking clients about the realities of prostitution and sex trafficking as a crime, research has proven it lowers demand by swaying them not to purchase sex or tolerate or support the practice of buying sex within their peer groups. In addition to awareness programs, the enforcement of our human trafficking laws can help deter future criminals by making it clear to the public that if you participate in human trafficking, you're going to get caught and more importantly, you're going to be held accountable.

The Just Ask Trafficking Prevention Foundation is a global leader in education and awareness campaigns for people of all ages, demographics, occupations and nationalities. One of our most effective programs is our school-based curriculum, which has reached more than 160,000 students worldwide and continues to grow. In northern Virginia, two counties, Fairfax and Loudoun, employ our programming directly through the school system's Family Life Education (FLE), maximizing the opportunity to engage our children when they are most at risk. Programming in schools is critical because it's where most of the victims are. Statistically speaking, while anyone can be a potential victim of human trafficking, the primary target for predators are girls between the ages of 14-16 years-old.

Just Ask does more than educate children, though. We educate parents, teachers, school officials, police officers, businesses, politicians, local, state, federal government employees, and even world leaders about what human trafficking is and how to combat it. ...

The bottom line is we have to condition communities to not only resist becoming victims of human trafficking but remove the desire to participate in it as customers as well. Criminals who are always on the prowl for successful money-making opportunities will vacate human trafficking as a business model once they see the funding potential dry up. ...

If you want to help, us eradicate human trafficking, visit our website at www.justaskprevention.org.

Just Ask Trafficking Prevention Foundation is based in McLean.

Pet Connection, Send Photos

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, July 25.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone num-

ber, just your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

For advertising information, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

— MARY KIMM

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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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NEWS

Ponchos for Hospitalized Children in Memory of Gavin

Meg Smith of Great Falls and her friend and business partner, Cindy Hargroves, are on a mission to provide fun, warm, fuzzy ponchos to hospitalized children. Meg's son, Gavin, was a student at Colvin Run Elementary School, Vienna, during which time he was in and out of hospitals battling CVID, Common Variable Immune Deficiency. Meg designed ponchos for Gavin to wear because robes, sweaters and jackets aren't functional with IV and PICC lines. The poncho design of the capes provide warmth in hospital beds, wheelchairs, and when traveling between home and hospital.

On Monday, June 24, Meg and Cindy, through their business CapeIvy.com, delivered 22 ponchos to INOVA Children's Hospital in Fairfax. Through purchases of ponchos from their website (buy one and CapeIvy.com donates one) and monetary gifts to CapeIvy.com, they hope to give away as many capes as possible to "frequent flier" children in hospitals to honor and remember Gavin, who lost his battle with his disease 2 years ago.

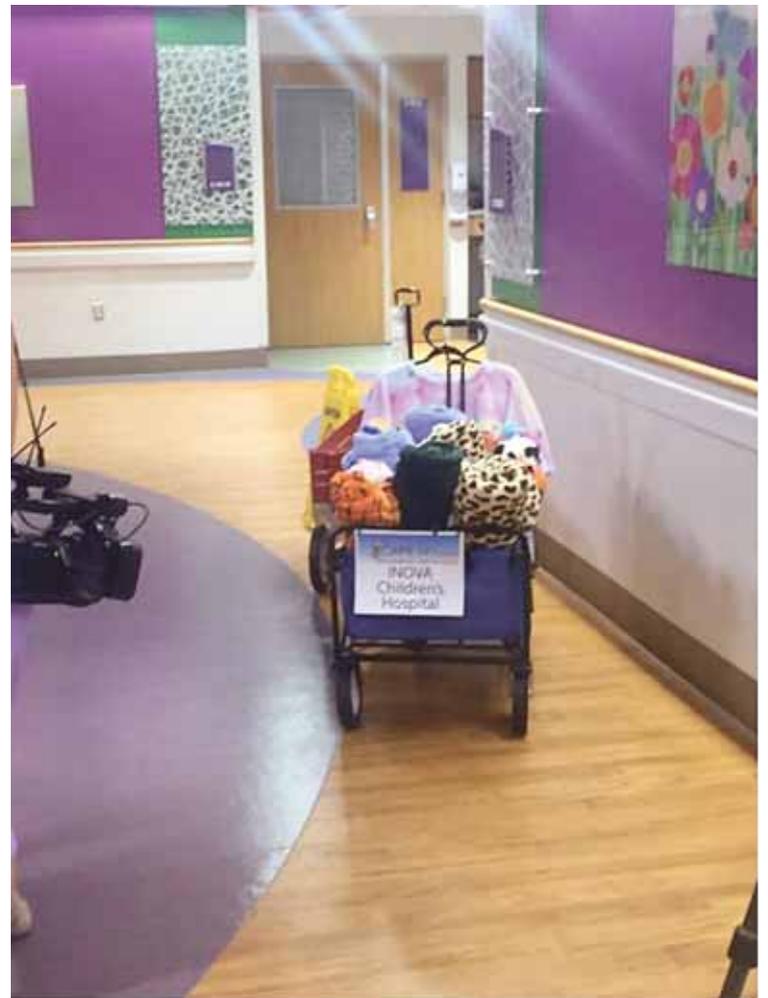


Meg Smith (left) and her friend, Cindy Hargroves, have a mission to distribute ponchos to hospitalized children in honor of Meg's son, Gavin.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Gavin Smith, shown with his father, Keith Smith, has a visit from a therapy dog. He is wearing a poncho made by his mother, Meg Smith. (December 2016).



CapeIvy.com's "cape wagon" provides colorful ponchos to hospitalized children. The Child Life staff at the hospitals receive the ponchos to distribute to children with illnesses that cause them to visit hospitals often. At INOVA Children's Hospital, several patients selected their favorite poncho from the wagon.

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Creating Travel Journal With Children

Helping children capture vacation memories through journaling.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

A collection of rocks collected at Mt. Vesuvius in Naples, a souvenir from the leaning tower of Pisa, crayon-on-construction paper drawings of the beaches in Naples, Italy are all part of the travel journals that Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez preserved. These are keepsakes that her son began creating when he was in preschool. Recently she perused those journals, reliving the memories with her son who is now a 22-year-old college student.

“As a military spouse I had the opportunity to live in Naples, Italy,” said Pruneda-Hernandez, who now works as the Director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives at Montgomery College. “When we traveled in Europe, I provided my son travel journals. As a preschooler, he drew pictures of the places we visited and I would write parts of our conversations on the drawings. As he learned to write, his travel journals began to become more complex with him drawing and writing. I saved those journals and he is able to relive the memories of those experiences.”

Journals created during summer vacations allow families to maintain the experience of their trips long after they’ve returned home. Whether one’s plans include a safari in Kenya or a staycation among the monuments along the National Mall, keeping detailed records gives children who are living in the age of selfies and social media posts, a thoughtful option for holding onto memories.

“Travel journals are important because they [allow children], to have those memories of those experiences,” said Pruneda-Hernandez.

Advanced planning leads to creative journals that are a form of self-expression, suggests Wendy Rowe, a writing tutor and art teacher. “Before you leave for your trip, ask your child to think about what they’re most excited about and the type of journal they’d like to keep,” she said. “For example, my daughter likes to paint watercolor pictures of things that she sees. Other children might make a journal that’s a written narrative. What’s important is that parents allow children to choose the type of journal they want to make and then purchasing and packing the supplies that they might need, whether it’s colored pencils and craft paper or a simple notebook and a pen.”

Such diaries can spark family conversations and create opportunities to practice writing skills, advises Michelle Villano, a fourth grade teacher who encourages her students to write accounts of their summer adventures. “Children can enjoy a vacation and learn from the scenes around them,” Villano said. “A child’s travel journal shouldn’t just be a list of things that

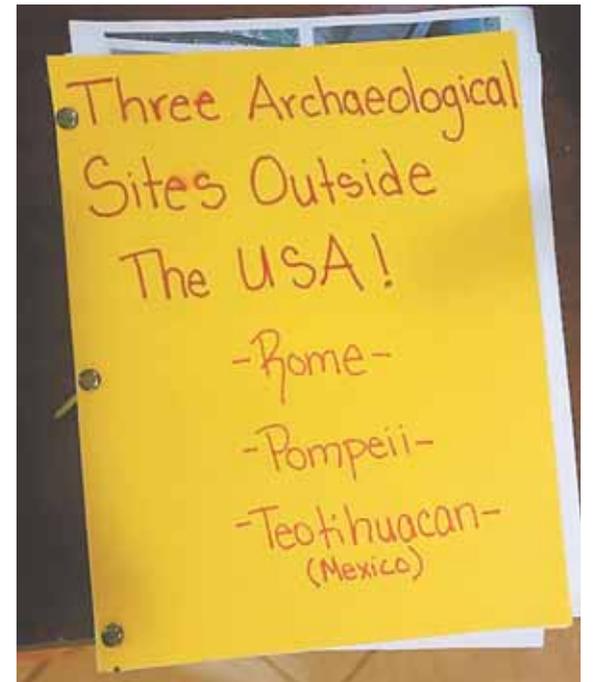


PHOTO COURTESY OF SONIA PRUNEDA-HERNANDEZ

Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez created this journal with her son when he was younger. Now that he’s 22, he enjoys looking at them and reliving childhood memories.

“Travel journals allow young children to be actively involved in the experience of their journey.”

— Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives at Montgomery College

they did or saw. Parents should encourage them to engage all of their senses like sound, touch, taste and feel. For example, if you’re on a vacation in Paris, did you smell freshly baked baguettes when you walked into a restaurant for lunch? If you ate a croissant, could you taste the butter or feel the flakes on your tongue?”

The options for both the format of journals and the way that a child chooses to describe their experiences are abundant, says Rowe. “Children can include museum tickets, airplane boarding passes, leaves they collected from a park they visited,” she said. “Parents should encourage them to think long-term about things they might enjoy remembering later.”

“Travel journals allow young children to be actively involved in the experience of their journey,” added Pruneda-Hernandez. “They do not have to be written. Children that are not able to write yet, should be provided opportunities and materials such as a simple notebook, markers, crayons, or pencils to draw what they see and their experiences.”

Prompts can be used to encourage those who are resistant to keeping a record of their vacations, says Villano. “Start by asking them to write about something they saw by describing its color or shape,” she said. “They can describe the shape and color of a rock they saw while hiking in the Grand Canyon.”

“Parents can sit and ask open-ended questions at the end of the day,” said Pruneda-Hernandez. “This provides a [them] an opportunity to express themselves orally and provides opportunities for them to think about the experience.”

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PET Connection

Publishes: July 31, 2019 • Ads close: July 25, 2019

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PEOPLE

Great Falls Resident's 'Most Exciting Job'

Richard Cogan reflects on his contribution to the Apollo 11 mission.

On this week's 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 landing and historic first steps on the Moon, Great Falls resident Richard Cogan reflects on his contribution to the space program.

In 1969 he was a software engineer working at Goddard Space Center in Greenbelt, Md. His team was responsible for testing the software which would provide telemetry streaming to and from the spacecraft. Just before Memorial Day of that year, Cogan discovered a problem with the software. He and a colleague worked long hours through the holiday weekend to resolve it. They finally succeeded on Memorial Day.

Cogan was so elated that he wrote a letter to Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins, reassuring them that the telemetry software had been thoroughly checked. To his great sur-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Great Falls resident Richard Cogan displays an award he received for his work on the Apollo 11 mission.

prise and delight, he received a reply from them, just days before the launch.

For Cogan, working on Apollo missions 8 through 17 was the most exciting job in his career.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Ronni Jolles with her paintings with layered paper.

Great Falls Senior Center Announces August Event

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) event for Aug. 20 features Ronni Jolles, Artist. Jolles creates her signature paintings using an innovative process that she calls "Painting with Paper." Jolles's network of paper sources located around the world include countries such as Thailand, France, Italy, Bhutan, China, Japan, Korea, India, Nepal, Philippines, Egypt, Zimbabwe, and Mexico. Her paper artworks are featured in galleries, craft shows, and art spaces throughout the country. Jolles has also created numerous commissioned works for businesses, hospitals, hotels, libraries, and

many private clients.

The Aug. 20 event will be held at The Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes lunch. Donations are appreciated. Reservations should be made with Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net or call 703-759-4345. The Event sponsor is Brightview Great Falls, an assisted living and memory care community in an environment of possibilities, independence and choice with independent living, assisted living and memory care needs, located 10200 Colvin Run Mill, Great Falls.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Drop-in Mah Jongg. Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Players should have a basic understanding of the rules and should bring their current American MJ League card. For McLean District residents. Email emvarner@verizon.net for more.

Oak Marr Farmers' Market. 8 a.m.-noon at Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Every Wednesday through Nov. 13, rain or shine. Vendors include produce, meats, eggs, cheeses, pies, cured and smoked meats, popsicles, sorbet, bread, croissants, falafel sandwiches, humus, and pesto. Call 703-281-6501 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr for more.

McLean Farmers Market. Fridays, through Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Sixteen local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, coffee, and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org for more.

Oakton Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit community-foodworks.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

Nottoway Nights: The Aloha Boys. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

FRIDAY/JULY 19

Get Hooked on Fishing. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Riverbend is offering "River Fishing by Boat." In this class, participants age 5- adult will learn to fish for smallmouth bass and sunfish from a canoe or jon boat. Previous experience rowing or paddling is not required, and boats, PFDs, fishing rods and bait are provided. There will be a maximum of three participants per boat, one of whom must be 16 or older. Each participant must register. \$16 per person. If the weather's bad or river conditions are hazardous, the program will be canceled. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Summer on the Green: Chillin' on Church: Mudlark (classic rock and blues). 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. Friday nights through Aug. 23. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 19-21

Seussical The Musical. Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Community Players return to the Alden Theatre with the musical "Seussical," which opens July 12, 2019, and runs weekends through July 28. "Seussical" brings together many beloved Dr. Seuss characters. \$15-\$28. Email info@McLeanPlayers.org or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 20

Open Mic Night. 7-10 p.m. at Caffe Amouri, 107 Church St. NE, Vienna. Every Friday, a featured host is the main performer and also the emcee who introduces other performers who show up to play music, recite poetry, or do a comedy routine. Free admission. Call 703-938-1623 or



Seussical The Musical

The McLean Community Players return to the Alden Theatre with the musical "Seussical," which opens July 12, 2019, and runs weekends through July 28. "Seussical" brings together many beloved Dr. Seuss characters. Running weekends: July 19-21 and July 26-28; Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$15-\$28. Email info@McLeanPlayers.org or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org for more.

visit caffeamouri.com/events-calendar.

last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

SUNDAY/JULY 21

Visit Colvin Run Mill. Noon-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. See, hear and taste history with a visit to Colvin Run Mill. Grinding demonstration turns wheat or corn into flour and meal, and free wood carving lessons onsite. Mill tours are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students 16 and up with ID, and \$6 for children and seniors. All ages are invited to enjoy these historic demonstrations, and no reservations are required. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

Summer Concerts: Justin Trawick and the Common Good. 5 p.m. in the gazebo of McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The Alden at the McLean Community Center is again sponsoring free summer concerts in the gazebo of McLean Central Park featuring a mix of musical genres. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green: the Unfinished. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Bring picnic baskets, chairs and blankets for an evening of live music. Free. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Summer on the Green: Vienna Community Band. 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

TUESDAY/JULY 23

Kids on the Green: Michael Cantori (magician). 10 a.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The Kids on the Green series is a weekly collection of interactive animal shows, magicians, puppet performances, and more, running through Aug. 20. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

Stories, Songs & Sprinklers. 1 p.m. on the Freeman Store lawn. Partnering with Historic Vienna, Inc., the Town of Vienna invites young children and families to an afternoon of storybook reading, short songs, and fun with water sprinklers. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

Family Movie Night: The Incredibles 2. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville's fourth Family Movie Night of the summer will feature The Incredibles 2 (PG). A dinner of pizza will be served. Bring a lawn chair and friends. The community is welcome, visitors do not need to be a member of Lewinsville. Visit www.lewinsville.org/events/family-movie-night-4/.

THURSDAY/JULY 25

Nottoway Nights: Randy Thompson Band. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Nottoway Nights: Radio King Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

FRIDAY/AUG. 2

Summer on the Green: The Rockits (rock and Motown). 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. Friday nights through Aug. 23. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

TUESDAY/AUG. 6

Kids on the Green: Groovy Nate (kids songs and puppets). 10 a.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The Kids on the Green series is a weekly collection of interactive animal shows, magicians, puppet performances, and more, running through Aug. 20. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

Self-Driving Cars. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Assistant Director of the Mason Experimental Geometry Lab, Anton Lukyanenko, will show participants how an algorithm can program the path of self-driving cars and witness a demonstration with mobile robots. Free. Email joyce.fitzpatrick@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 8

Nottoway Nights: The Johnny Artis Band. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

FRIDAY/AUG. 9

ESL Playdate Cafe. 1-2 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Meet other caregivers of young children. Adults practice English while children enjoy play time in the same room. Birth-5 years with adult. Free. Call 703-242-4020 or visit ibrarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5260042.

Summer on the Green: Shenandoah Run (folk). 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. Friday nights through Aug. 23. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

SUNDAY/AUG. 11

Concerts on the Green: Vinyl Invention. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Bring picnic baskets, chairs and blankets for an evening of live music. Free. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 13

Kids on the Green: Wildlife Ambassadors (live animals). 10 a.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The Kids on the Green series is a weekly collection of interactive animal shows, magicians, puppet performances, and more, running through Aug. 20. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 15

Nottoway Nights: The Seldom Scene. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

FRIDAY/AUG. 16

Summer on the Green: Big Bad JuJu (rock and dance covers). 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. Friday nights through Aug. 23. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

BULLETIN

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

CAMPS

Camp Invention. Monday-Friday, July 22-26, at Wolftrap Elementary School, 1903 Beulah Road. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$265. Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to find their inner inventor. Various STEM-based activities; at the end of the program, each camper will bring home a robot. Visit invent.org/camp.

Summer Choir Camp. Monday-Friday, Aug. 12-16 and Sunday, Aug. 18 at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road NE. \$125 fee includes lunches, recreational activities, music education and camp t-shirt. All children in rising 2nd-7th grade are welcome. No prior music experience or training required; solid reading skills are highly recommended. Scholarships are available. Download registration forms at www.holycomforter.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

Memory Cafe. 2-4 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Connect with others living with loved ones with dementia. Helping those with dementia and their caregivers find

fun, resources and "family." Email Carol Blackwell at lovriver@aol.com or call at 571-236-6933.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. The Park Authority Board's 12 appointed members establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Open to the public. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

SUNDAY/JULY 28

Movie Screening: Proof of Heaven. 2-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Best-selling author of Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife, Dr. Eben Alexander will describe his personal near death experience and the lessons he has learned. \$25. Register at proofofheavenunity.eventbrite.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Nomination Deadline. The nomination process for the 2019 annual Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards are underway. The program honors youth, coaches and parents for extraordinary service in pursuing victory with honor in various athletics programs throughout Fairfax County. Anyone can nominate a player, coach or parent for consideration of a Champions of Character Award. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/athletics/champions-of-character for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Final Six Performances!

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July 19-28

SUNDAY MATINEES ON JULY 21 AND 28 AT 2:00 P.M.

Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA

Tickets: **866.811.4111**
www.McLeanPlayers.org

The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Audio description by the Metropolitan Washington Ear is available on July 21. Seussical is presented through special arrangement with MusicTheatre International (MTI), 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019.

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NEWS

Trash Collection Staffing Is Tight, Resulting in Cutbacks of Service

Occasionally cans go untouched on trash day.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Let's face it, it might not be a dream job, riding on the back of a truck, jumping off, throwing in more trash, with the smell plus possibility of flies, maggots, rodents, and other surprises. There are nicer jobs, and lately the labor force numbers have been showing a shortage of trash collection workers. It's having an impact on trash collection schedules.

Some are cutting back from two days a week to one, and the residents are feeling the crunch.

According to the National Waste & Recycling Association located in Arlington, the solid waste industry directly employs about 420,000 people as of early 2018 with a total payroll of more than \$21 billion. Brandon Wright, the communications representative for NWRA noted the staffing shortages for the industry. "The labor market is tight in our industry," he said. There is a driver and mechanic shortage "felt by a number of companies," he said.

In Fairfax County, private collection companies pick up trash and recycling for ninety percent of residents and businesses while the county trash service is only responsible for 10 percent. Residents are billed by the collection company or pay via their Home Owner Association fees.

"The (county) Solid Waste Management Program is aware of the national driver shortage," said Matthew Kaiser, the information officer for the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. The county is running advertisements for heavy equipment operators, i.e. trash truck drivers, and they've even gone as far as making a video to attract applicants.

❖ What's your experience with trash collection? Send letters to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

The county is running advertisements for heavy equipment operators, i.e. trash truck drivers.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

In Fairfax County, private collection companies pick up trash and recycling for ninety percent of residents and businesses while the county trash service is only responsible for 10 percent.

"Endless opportunities here with the county," said the person in the video. The message they are promoting includes great pay and benefits, a family friendly atmosphere and the room for advancement.

The driver shortage has not impacted the county collection schedules, but Kaiser is aware of private collection companies that have reduced their collection frequency. They are still meeting code requirements though, Kaiser said. Companies that fail to meet the requirements are handled through enforcement actions.

Some county supervisors' offices have heard from their constituents about missed trash pick-ups, possibly the result of staffing. In Mount Vernon, this occurred a few times in June but they haven't heard any complaints since then.

In Springfield, the issues were with houses that were under contract with Republic Trash Services. Republic has not returned any messages about this issue.



FROM PAGE 9

TUESDAY/AUG. 13

Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's focus is an open discussion on caregiver stress. Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

THURSDAY/AUG. 22

Hispanic Connect NOVA. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at 8300 Boone Blvd. in the Partners' Conference Room, Suite 450, Vienna. Join the Virginia Hispanic Chamber for this recurring event series designed for chamber members and newcomers alike. Members, business owners, community leaders, entrepreneurs and more connect with their peers, share ideas and gain useful knowledge. Free for members, \$10 nonmembers. Register at www.vahcc.com/hispanic-connect-nova.

SUNDAY/NOV. 3

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. 9-11 a.m. at Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet's rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional \$10 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics 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.northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna

Caregivers' Support Group takes place first and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

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.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

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Stamp of Disapproval



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you still going to the post office and buying/selecting stamps, this column is for you (and for others too with a memory of such tasks).

Since I am among a dwindling number of those who actually affix their own stamps and mail their own correspondence (bills, birthday cards and miscellaneous other such hard copies), rather than bill-pay online, greet electronically or text incessantly, I may be writing uphill here. (Remember readers, parking is almost always free at the post office). Nevertheless, I will continue trudging on.

Like many of my generation, I've been accustomed to having my hands wrapped around or placed in proximity to, that which I'm reading, writing or "arithmeticking" (tactile you might say). And in the course of such endeavors, doing so with a pen in hand rather than with opposing thumbs side-saddling a device.

In so doing, I am regularly buying stamps – myself – and selecting from a variety of seasonal, promotional and "commemorative" (I make up words, like my father did; "surgerize" and "confliction" being two of his favorites) offerings. However, I am not "philatelic" in the least. In the most, I am a buyer and a sticker. Not a collector at all.

To that end, I am merely at the post office to justify my means: mailing my correspondence/parcels in a timely and efficient manner. Other than Christmas stamps my wife, Dina, will request that I buy, I care very little about the particular stamp/book that I purchase.

In fact, you could call me a stamp-contrarian (among other descriptions, I'm sure).

What I typically say in response to the post office clerk's question about my stamp preference is: "Give me the stamps on top (as they flip through their stamp booklet)," or "Whatever you're tired of looking/wanting to get rid of." And generally speaking, they're happy to comply, as you might imagine, giggling a bit as they hand over the stamps.

When I'm given the stamps, often I'll make a casual comment about their look and then "Exit stage, left," (to quote Snagglepuss, the most famous cartoon cougar from the Yogi Bear Show of the 1960s). Never, ever, will I return/replace them. I will use them and not think once, let alone twice, about them. In fact, I prefer to use the stamps most out of favor, most inappropriate to the time (Christmas stamps in July, as an example; and I jokingly always ask for a discount) and most undesirable (apparently, to the stamp-buying public). It pleases me to be the user of these "undesirables" until yesterday, that is (or should that be, was).

I went to my local post office. Stood in line. Approached the counter when called and then made my usual/per-this-column request. I received my first class stamps and while barely taking notice of them, affixed them to my envelopes and "slotted" them in the outgoing mail. I then walked out to my car, opened the door and as I sat down, tossed the remaining stamps in my car's auxiliary tray.

That's when I actually took notice of them and "Heavens to Murgatroyd," realized what I had done/purchased. I had bought and then used "Love" stamps on two bill-payment envelopes. Can you imagine?

Hardly would I want to impart that message in a communication with VISA. I mean, it wasn't exactly a wedding invitation. Quite the opposite. It was more like a divorce, if anything, and love definitely wasn't in the air.

Unfortunately for me though, it was on the envelope.

"What do you say to that? What do you say to that?" (I learned while going online that, amazingly/coincidentally, Snagglepuss and I have the same birthday.)

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

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