

CONNECTION

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(From left) are Jack Connolly, Elms service technician; Priscilla Botten, Elms property manager; Donna Smith, Elms service manager; and Auxiliary Police Officer Bob Battani celebrating National Night Out.

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NEWS

Activist and Herndon Leader Lester (Les) Zidel Dies

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Lester (Les) Zidel, 74, of Herndon died on Oct. 9, 2020. Born in Reading, Calif., he was educated in Malden, Mass., and later attended Boston University. Transferring to Wisconsin University, Les became active in politics and student government. In 1968, he received his degree in Political Science from Wisconsin.

Les is survived by his brother Howard Zidel of Salem, N. H., his sister-in-law Linda Crowe-Zidel, niece and kindred spirit Leia Jane Mellott of Methuen, Mass., and her husband, Peter Mellott. Les also leaves behind his closest and dearest friend, Jason Finklestein, who resides in N. Y. They were friends for over 60 years and grew up together in Malden.

According to his brother Howie, Les loved so many things, his Boston hometown sports teams – Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox, the ocean and memories of family vacations on Cape Cod and the seashore of Maine. He loved the theater, music and the arts but the things he



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Les Zidel at his recent 74th birthday gathering.

loved most outside of family and friends were politics and a lively discussion. “He was a master of critical thinking and loved to learn and self-educate,” said Howie.

Fellow Rotarian and long-time friend, Richard Downer said Les was brilliant. “The ultimate Renaissance Man. He read everything and was always kind and gentle, unless he was angry about politics.” Les also thought about his adopted “home” town of Herndon. With unwavering and selfless acts, Les served to make the Town the best it could be.

HIGHLIGHTING the many recognitions for his remarkable achievements, Les received the following awards: Rotarian of the Year 1987, Herndon Chamber of Commerce Business Citizen of the

Year 1992, Town of Herndon Distinguished Volunteer 2010, and Herndon Community Cultural Arts Center Citizens’ Advisory.

Les received multiple proclamations, among them the Town of Herndon Proclamation 2016, for his essential service on the Herndon Festival Executive Committee and Festival’s development, execution, and growth. The Festival’s expansion and success would not have occurred without his dedication and involvement. Les ushered Festival from a small two-day event to one that ran four days earning awards and statewide recognition. Les also served on the Town’s Planning Commission from 1986-1995. With unwavering and dedicated service, he challenged the Town to reach toward the future by asserting innovative planning ideas and applying them to decision making. Former Chair of the Planning Committee, Charlie Allen called Les an extraordinary man. “I served with Les on the Town’s Planning Commission where he was a leader, thinking about Herndon’s future and development. More than anything, he was an intelligent, warm and close friend.”

Fellow Councilmember Cesar del Aguila added that not only was Les a good friend, they became friends because Les was patient, understanding, forgiving and loved diversity in people and thoughts. “He always saw the diversity in people and places...

(and) found something special in Herndon and its people. I think he saw our potential. We were lucky to have him here helping us to improve as a town and as better people,” said del Aguila,

Les co-authored the “Think Village” concept for the Downtown, which contributed to the Town’s Village Streets Policy. Mayor Lisa

Merkel said Les was one of the smartest, most compassionate, big thinkers she ever knew. “Much of what I know about municipal financing, the arts and creating community spaces I learned from Les... I will always treasure our marathon conversations and that the last words he ever said to me were, ‘I love you, my dear.’ I will miss him every day,” said Merkel.

According to Downer, Les was the driving force for the Arts in Herndon. They meant the world to him. Les founded Elden Street Players in 1988, later known as NextStop Theatre Company. He also co-founded Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts in 2003, which merged to form Arts Herndon. Les served as an executive board member for each nonprofit organization and volunteered thousands of hours between the two. Downer said, “If we ever get that art center, The Zidel Theater for the Performing Arts would be such an appropriate way to honor Les.”

FRIEND AND VICE MAYOR Sheila Olem said, “I lost my friend Les Zidel Friday. For the past 20 years when Les and I would talk late at night, he would say ‘Bed Check, little sister’ as he was calling to see if I was safe at home. I will miss my friend and mentor every day.”

Les loved everyone he met, and his rich, deep voice, hearty laugh, and even those marathon phone calls will be missed.

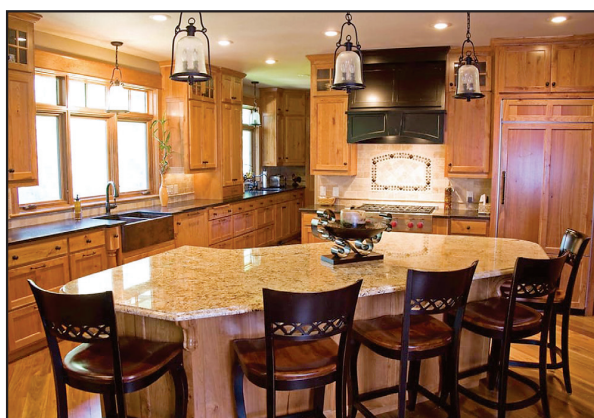
Arrangements for a Celebration of Les’s Life will be announced when all can safely gather.

In the meantime, if you are so inclined, the family arranged for memorial gifts in Les Zidel’s memory be made to Arts Herndon, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, EIN 52-1432391. Visit <https://artsherndon.org/donate-arts-herndon> to learn more.

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News



Attending Chantilly Highlands' National Night Out are Fair Oaks Police Station's Bike Team members (from left) PFC Bryan Russo, PFC Nathan Musser, PFC Edwin Pastora, PFC Jordan Griffin, 2nd Lt. Brad Metz and PFC Charles Nagy.



(From left) Jim Beckwith, Tom and Alice Zorn, and Robin Beckwith have cookies-and-cream ice cream together in Chantilly Highland.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

'Good Way to Bring the Community Together'

Centreville, Chantilly celebrate National Night Out.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Because of the pandemic, this year's annual National Night Out celebration was shifted from the first Tuesday in August to the first Tuesday in October. And although the local events were fewer and more low-key than normal – so as not to attract large crowds – they were just as heartfelt.

The fun included music, food trucks and a chance for residents to meet and chat with their community's first responders, plus their own neighbors. Below are details of two of the Oct. 6 gatherings in Centreville and Chantilly Highlands.

The Elms of Centreville

Instead of being held inside their clubhouse, the event for the residents of The Elms of Centreville, on Braddock Springs Road, was held directly outside it. A barbecue food truck offered main dishes to go with the chips, cookies, beverages and candy provided by the property managers.

"It's good to get folks together, since we've been stuck in our houses so long," said Regina Peterson. "And it's nice to see some neighbors and new faces."

"I love doing this and involving the first responders and residents," said Donna Smith, The Elms service manager. "It lets the residents get to know one another, and it's always nice to have the police here so we can let them know we appreciate their service."

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Penelope Peterson, 3, having fun eating a cupcake at The Elms of Centreville's National Night Out event.

Police officers from the Sully District Station – including Assistant Commander Josh Laitinen and Crime Prevention Officer Sabrina Ruck – stopped by, as did Auxiliary Police Officers Bob Battani and Nelson Fernandez. And 2-year-old Ethan Nam was thrilled as his mom, Claire Kim, held him up and let him peek inside a police cruiser.

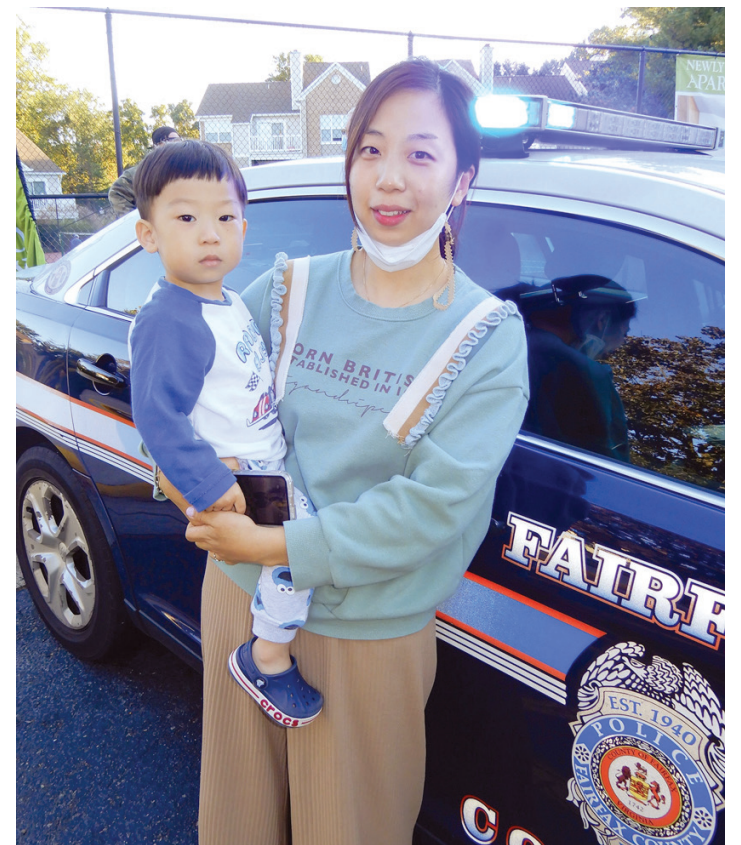
"My son loves seeing police cars on TV, so he's excited because, today, he gets to see inside a real one," said Kim. "We're also getting to meet our neighbors, and everyone's so friendly."

"National Night Out has always been a great time for the police to get together with

the neighborhoods and communities," explained Battani. "And I think it's even more important now – with the way things are in the world – for the police to show their support for the community, and the community to show its support of the police."

Agreeing, Fernandez said it's a good idea for law-enforcement and residents to have an opportunity to spend time together and talk with each other in a friendly and relaxed environment. "For the police to be effective, we have to have a good relationship with the community, because we rely on them for information when a crime is committed."

Meanwhile, 8-year-old cousins Anushka



Claire Kim with son Ethan Nam, 2, who loves police cars, at The Elms of Centreville.

Adhikary and Anshil Dahal were just having a good time being outdoors together and having snacks. "I like that there are more kids around, and you can hang out and have fun," said Anushka. "I haven't seen a police officer up close before, so it's cool having the police here. And I loved the brownies."

Chantilly Highlands

Music filled the air at Chantilly Highlands' National Night Out celebration. It was held on a grassy field off Kinross Circle and fea-

SEE NATIONAL NIGHT, PAGE 6

OAK HILL/HERNDON / RESTON / CHANTILLY CONNECTION / CENTRE VIEW ♦ OCTOBER 14-20, 2020 ♦ 3

Vote Yes on Amendment #1

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



In a campaign that promises "fair maps" by voting yes for Amendment #1 on the ballot this election cycle and the opposition that promises "fair districts" by voting no, there is little wonder that there would be confusion in the minds of voters. As a strong supporter of Amendment #1, I turned to Ballotpedia, a nonprofit whose

COMMENTARY

mission is to inform people with neutral content about politics, to define objectively what a yes or no vote means on the Virginia ballot question ([https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_Question_1_Redistricting_Commission_Amendment_\(2020\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_Question_1_Redistricting_Commission_Amendment_(2020))):

A "yes" vote supports transferring the power to draw the state's congressional and legislative districts from the state legislature to a redistricting commission composed of state legislators and citizens.

A "no" vote opposes transferring the power to draw the state's congressional and legislative districts to a redistricting commission, thus keeping the state legislature responsible for redistricting. If you are interested as I am in ending partisan gerrymandering of legislative

districts, you will vote "yes." I am not alone in my belief that this is the best vote.

The Amendment is supported by the League of Women Voters, AAUW, ACLU, Common Cause, Princeton University Gerrymandering Project, Brennan Center for Justice, AARP, leading political scientists, historians and law professors in Virginia, and the major newspapers in the state.

As Dr. Samuel Wang, a Princeton University professor and director/ founder of the Princeton Gerrymandering Project, and his associates wrote in an opinion column in the Virginia Mercury, an online newsletter, "We are proud to endorse Amendment 1 because never before has the Commonwealth seen such an open and transparent redistricting process. Such citizen involvement will help protect communities that have split up in the past." (September 16, 2020)

Eight professors from Virginia's largest and most prominent universities including three from the University of Virginia contributed to an article that appeared in the January 29, 2020, Richmond Times Dispatch stating "As scholars of elections and redistricting, we believe this Amendment represents an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen Virginia's democracy—one that we cannot afford to miss."

David Daley, a senior fellow at FairVote and author of Ratf**ked: Why Your Vote Doesn't Count, wrote in a column in the Washington Post on November 22, 2019, "Politicians usually do a lousy job of regulating themselves. But if this (Amendment #1) moves forward, it would be the strongest set of redistricting reforms to ever emerge from a state legislature in American history."

Editorial writers at the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star could not have been more direct than when they wrote on September 19, 2020, "Vote 'Yes' for Amendment 1, which will keep politicians from choosing their voters."

The Washington Post has had several editorials in support of Amendment #1 including most recently on September 27, 2020, stating that "If the constitutional amendment is approved by Virginia voters, they would be the likely winners, and baldfaced partisan gerrymandering in Richmond would sustain a mortal blow." They also suggested that "To imagine that rejecting the amendment, and leaving redistricting in the hands of the legislature, would produce fairer and more balanced maps is to believe in leprechauns and forest sprites."

If you have not already voted or made your plan to vote, please do so. The process of voting this year could not be easier, and the stakes could not be higher for the state and the nation!

Fall in 2020, the Lost Year

BY JOHN LOVAAS
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND FOUNDER
OF RESTON FARMERS MARKET



Ah, October! It is one of my very favorite months of the year with the clearing and cooling air, and the trees showing their fall colors. In a normal year by this time we would have planned our annual

fall excursion to Harpers Ferry where Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland meet. We love the scenic vistas overlooking the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, walks by train tracks and along the Potomac, and the visits to the John Brown museum and the armory where he and his tiny band holed up.

This year our day in Harpers Ferry has been delayed, perhaps by a later change in the leaves, the presence of Covid-19 menace and the tension in the air as elections near. Still, we are determined to make the visit even though it won't be possible for the whole family as has been the norm for many years.

Fall in our area is just not the same this year of Covid-19. Where is Fort Pumpkin? Where are the community fall festivals? Where was Reston's wonderful Multi-Cultural Festival at Lake Anne? We certainly missed the German Military Command's annual Oktober-

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

fest in the huge hangar at Dulles and Euro Bistro's Oktoberfest, complete with the best little beer band of Munich! And we're getting stressed thinking about Thanksgiving just around the corner without the whole family—20 plus—together at our house. The baseball Fall Classic, the World Series, just won't be the same without the fans; and college and pro football missing crowds of 50-100,000 fans.

Happily, the Reston Farmers Market is still in operation, with lots of pumpkins and all the other fresh goodies you can imagine—every Saturday morning 8 a.m. to noon all the way through Dec. 5! And with shoppers and vendors alike wearing increasingly colorful masks, every Saturday is like Halloween!

Then we get to the event of greatest national significance on November 3, 2020. Besides the election of Congressmen and women and US Senators, we the people finally will have the opportunity to remove this president.

Under normal circumstances, this would be the pinnacle of our routine civic duties as citizens, to select the head of our government. But Covid-19 also intrudes here. Covid makes it necessary for people to work a little harder in order to reduce the risk that goes with simply going to local polling stations to cast their votes. If all those eligible to vote actually did so, the polls would be dangerously overcrowded and amount to being giant super-spreader events.

However, we have a proven alternative way of voting—absentee ballots sent via the US Mail. Millions use this vehicle every election safely and efficiently. Even the incumbent president uses the mail ballot when he votes! But, he has decided to propagate another false conspiracy theory to try to persuade voters that absentee voting is loaded with a risk of fraud. He hopes this lie will scare off enough people from voting to increase his slim chance of winning. Instead, his scheme seems to be generating more disgust with his behavior, even within his own party, than fear of voting.

Besides making the change at the top, Virginia voters have another vital matter to deal with on their ballots. Our voters, at long last, are getting the opportunity to reform the Commonwealth's crooked process of gerrymander-

ing to make a fairer process of drawing legislative districts. This is an easy one—just vote YES on the Constitutional Amendment. A small group of Democratic delegates (but not our Delegate Ken Plum) are trying to save the gerrymander, apparently believing that now that they are the majority party they can use it to their advantage. They want a NO vote.

I hope you will join Delegate Plum, our Senator Janet Howell, the League of Women Voters and yours truly by voting YES on the Constitutional Amendment. With a change of president and the amendment, 2020 will not be a total loss!

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Home Library Design

Designers offer ideas for spaces with style and comfort.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Once thought of as space for academics to smoke cigars and sip whiskey, the era of covid-19 has transformed home libraries into now cozy places of refuge. Those who've grown tired of Netflix and election coverage might find solace in curling up with a book. From a reading nook with a small chaise to a grand room with a fireplace and soaring ceilings, five local designers offer inspiration for creating a home library.

Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design

Whether ornate or minimalist, design ideas for accommodating one's personal taste abound, says Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design in McLean. "When it comes to home libraries, the customization options are endless," she said. "Some of my favorite things

"When it comes to creating a space that feels relaxing, while still put together, it's always best to keep it simple."

— Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design in McLean, Virginia.

er, it's always best to keep it simple," she said. "Use soft pillows and throws, textured fabrics on upholstery, and be sure to include a soft rug."

Even for those with a vast collection of tomes, Morris believes in leaving a few open spaces on the shelves to display accessories, like picture frames or bookends. "Completely filled shelves can be overwhelming," she said. "Balancing it with other accessories will make it look stylish, yet relaxed. I like to break up the shelves by including some books turned horizontally with a decorative object resting on top."

One of Morris' most memorable home libraries was at once stately and serene. "We opted for a completely wood-filled space with rich leathers," she said. "Since the space was filled with darker wood tones, we used large windows for added brightness. We also had the mullions of the windows faux painted to match the wood for a seamless look."

Doubling as a home office, the space includes a fireplace focal point. "We used swivel chairs that can pivot towards the fireplace in the room or towards the desk, plus putting an ottoman in between provides a soft place to kick up your feet," she said.

Rebecca Penno, Penno Interiors in McLean,

Determining homeowners reading style and the way the room's overall purpose, is the way that Rebecca Penno, Penno Interiors in McLean, Va. approaches each home library design. "Some home libraries



A fireplace, leather chairs and large windows combine to make this wood-filled home library by Tracy Morris both stately and comfortable.



Large windows add additional lighting to this wood paneled library and home office by Rebecca Penno.

function as a work space, others as more of a den," she said. "This is always a struggle with homeowners when styling their built-ins. "Many homeowners have a true book collection that they do not want to let go of. Other homeowners have books with no attachment. If possible, we always eliminate all paperback books."

An expansive library with multiple functions, says Penno included a desk, fireplace and television. She designed the room to serve as library, home office and a space to relax. "In order for the homeowner to be able to use all three of these focal points, we used comfortable lounge chairs on a swivel base to provide flexibility," she said. "The starting point was the oak paneling. It provided a masculine backdrop with the deep wood tones and strong grain. From there, we layered patterns of all brown tones paired with brass accents."

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National Night Out Celebrated

FROM PAGE 3

tured a snow cone/ice cream truck, plus live, jazz music by The Recorda Gang.

Three of the members, Brady Markin, Jesse Chon and Ethan Makokha, attend Chantilly High and are in its jazz band; and the fourth, Travis Hanover, is a student at Rachel Carson Middle School. They formed the band during the pandemic, yet the young musicians performed as if they'd been together for years.

Watching her son Jesse play the drums, Lawan Chon called National Night Out "a good way to bring the community together, have a sense of joy and belonging, and share something fun together." A resident since 2005, she said, "I like my neighborhood's camaraderie, and the people are always friendly, saying hi and helping each other."

Lindsey Smith, on the homeowners' association's Board of Directors, has lived there since 1990 and echoed Chon's sentiments. "Chantilly Highlands is one of the friendliest and safest neighborhoods," he said. "It's just wonderful and family-friendly, and my cul-de-sac is very close-knit."

Smith said National Night Out is important to promote neighborhood safety. "It's wonderful to have police officers come, interact and mingle with people, and answer questions," he explained. "People need to not ever be afraid to contact them when they need them."

He and Mary Williams, the community's event coordinator, plus events committee member Sudha Bhat

organized the festivities. And, added Smith, with 909 homes in Chantilly Highlands, "It's great to have something like this to bring neighbors together, because some people don't know others on the other side of the subdivision."

Jim and Robin Beckwith enjoyed the evening chatting with friends Tom and Alice Zorn, while socially distancing and eating cookies-and-cream ice cream. "We wanted to see the band and support the neighborhood," said Robin Beckwith. "And it's nice to come out in unity and meet neighbors and the local police officers."

Alice Zorn said it's a nice thing for the community, "particularly when we've all been inside, due to COVID. I've lived here 41 years; Chantilly Highlands is small enough to walk around and convenient to shopping centers. It has nice tennis courts and a swimming pool, and it's a great community to live in and a good place to raise kids."

Members of the Fair Oaks District Station's Bike Team attended, as well. "It's a lot of fun," said PFC Charles Nagy. "It's pretty neat to see people in a different and friendly environment when we're not policing."

They can ask questions, and the main part of building trust is meeting people in the community."

"We enjoy National Night Out," said 2nd Lt. Brad Metz. "It's a tremendous opportunity to engage, one on one, with the community, foster new relationships with the residents and see old friends."

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CALENDAR

NOW THRU OCT. 18

Virtual Nature Center Walk or Run. Friends of Reston (FOR) announces its 17th annual run and walk fundraiser for the Walker Nature Center will begin Friday, October 9 and end on Sunday, October 18. This year's event is now the Virtual Nature Center Walk-or-Run, organized to allow for more participation of all ages and abilities. Runners and walkers can choose their selected route of 5K, or 10K, or just 1 mile, to complete the Virtual Nature Center Walk-or-Run at any time within the span of 10 days. Proceeds from registration fees, \$25 (13 years and older), and \$15 (12 years and younger), will support facility enhancements, programs and projects at the Walker Nature Center. Virtual Nature Center Walk-or-Run, direct link:

<https://www.active.com/running/distance-running-virtual-events/virtual-nature-center-walk-or-run-2020?int=>

NOW THRU NOV. 1

Twilight Wagon Rides. 5:15 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy a journey through the forest and fields, taking in the changing fall colors. After your wagon ride, roast marshmallows and enjoy time by the light of a crackling campfire. These private family outings are being offered on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Nov 1, 2020. Tours begin at 5:15 p.m., and the cost is \$45 per family. Call 703-437-9101, or visit Frying Pan Farm Park.

NOW THRU NOV. 5

Haunted Wine Tours. 6:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. The Haunted Wine Tours are back for the fifth year in a row, in a new condensed version, so you can enjoy real ghost stories and award-winning wine all while staying safe. Due to the restrictive environment surrounding COVID, there are far less tickets available this year. Therefore priority access to tickets go to wine club members.

NOW THRU DEC. 7

MCC Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt. Join your friends, family and community for McLean Community Center's Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt. This exciting fall virtual event allows for you and your team to compete against others and win prizes. This is the perfect event to stay local and have fun with your friends and family. The Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt is a game played on a smart phone in which teams complete 75 missions (or challenges) both indoors and outdoors. Missions include answering questions, taking specific photos or videos, finding a specific item, geocaching or completing specific tasks as given in a list provided by the Game Master. The scavenger hunt will take place in and around McLean and from your own home. Participants work in small teams of 4-10 players. Team captains must be 16 years old or older. Visit the website www.McLeancenter.org.

NIGHTMARE ALLEY

The Workhouse Arts Center announces that "Nightmare Alley" Haunted Drive-Thru is coming to Lorton for this year's Halloween season. "Nightmare Alley" is the first immersive drive-thru Halloween experience in the region. Zombies, swamp creatures, creepy clowns, and scary dolls are among 13 different scary scenes taking up residence on the Workhouse campus. These new campus inhabitants will scare and entertain visitors experiencing the attraction from the safety of their cars. There will be 13 nights of fright, starting on now through Saturday, Oct. 31. Fridays and Saturdays will run from 7-11 p.m. each weekend in October, and Sundays in the middle of the month (October 18, and the 25) will run from 7-10 p.m. Visit <https://www.workhousearts.org/nightmare-alley/>

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 15 AND OCT. 28

Gallery Walks -- Live Stream (30 minutes). Presented by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Join the VMHC Education Team for the free virtual exhibition highlight tours! The topics covered during these 30-minute tours will change regularly, so mark your calendars for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. Each

gallery walk will be streamed live on the museum's YouTube and VMHC Education Facebook page. Visit www.virginiahistory.org/events.

THURSDAY/OCT. 15

Ribbons of Okra: The Black Cooks of the Federal Era. Fire, Flour & Fork -- Virtual Program. Presented by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Fire, Flour & Fork returns this fall for its seventh year with all-virtual programming in partnership with the VMHC, and tickets are on sale now! Evening sessions are \$10 each, or buy all three for \$25. Purchase all classes and ticket to Food U and receive the entire package for \$50. Discounts will be automatically applied when the correct number of classes are added to your cart. Visit [www.virginiahistory.org/](http://www.virginiahistory.org/events)

FRIDAY/OCT. 16

Night Flyers Campfire. 6-7 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. If you've ever wondered why a moth is attracted to light, then come to the "Night Flyers Campfire" at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and go mothing with a naturalist.

Once you've finished looking for these delicate flyers, gather around the campfire, make s'mores and discover why moths are drawn to light. Learn what you can do to conserve them. The program is designed for participants age 4 to adult. It runs from 6 to 7 p.m. and supports the Earth Day theme "Protect Our Species." The cost is \$8 per person.

Call 703-631-0013.

OCT. 16-18

Capital Craft Fair. At Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly. The Capital Craft Fair will bring more than 100 juried artisans in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood to the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. Hours are Friday, Oct 16: noon - 7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct 17: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday, Oct 18: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Senior discount available; children under 12 free. Ticket information: www.CapitalCraftFairs.com.

OCT. 16-18; 23-25; AND OCT. 30-NOV. 1

The Alden Theatre at the McLean Community Center (MCC) is presenting its third and final fall performance of its popular, socially distanced theater program, Drive-Thru Drama in October. New York City-based company Recent Cutbacks was commissioned by The Alden to write the new show, "Objects in Mirror May Be Spookier Than They Appear." The show will be presented over three weekends, from 6 p.m.-8:15 p.m., Friday-Sunday, Oct. 16-18, Oct. 23-25 and Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Tickets are \$20 per car/\$15 MCC tax district residents. The performances will be held in the parking lot of MCC at 1234 Ingleside Ave. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Garden Photography Workshop. 1:30-4 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Learn how to create beautiful images in the garden, from inviting vistas to intimate plant portraits. Instructor Cindy Dyer, a USPS stamp artist, combines the skills of a professional photographer and graphic designer with the enthusiasm of an avid gardener. She will share her tips and tricks for photographing gardens and flowers in their best light, whether shooting with a DSLR, point-n-shoot, or smartphone. Cost: AHS members \$50; non-members \$60.

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Redefining the Classics -- Who and What Defines the Nature of Classical Theatre. 2 p.m. Part of the Virtual Round Table Discussion Series at 1st Stage in Tysons. Free. In these forums, they'll talk and share questions and thoughts with artists, actors, designers, musicians and directors about experiences they have faced as professional artists. Artists participating include Debra Kim Sivigny, Bob Barlett, Ron OJ Parsons, José Carrasquillo, Thembi Duncan, and more. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration is available now at www.1ststage.org.

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"And Awaay We Go!"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As Jackie Gleason would say as he segued from his monologue into the sketch comedy that followed on his Saturday night entertainment hour on CBS. So too does my entertainment - or lack thereof, continue. Six weeks or so after my treatment for thyroid cancer (three pills a day) began, per doctor's orders, we have put a halt to the proceedings. Due to increasing values in my bi-weekly lab work (monitored exactly for this purpose), specifically my kidney and liver functions, I am standing down and standing by. We will retest this coming Thursday and then wait for further instructions (smaller dose, intermittent dose, no dose?). In addition, some of the side effects that I am experiencing (fatigue, shortness of breath, a little depression/a little malaise) also encouraged my oncologist to pause the treatment. Hopefully, it's the pause that refreshes as Bud Collins the long time tennis commentator for NBC once said to describe female tennis star, Amanda Paz.

The lab work is the first line of defense and indicator, along with side effects as to what might be going on inside. A scan would be useful as well but due to the radiation exposure, the doctors try to keep its use to an absolute minimum. And since I'm not scheduled to be scanned for another month (every two months), my status is best determined by how I feel and what the lab work shows. In the interim, I will ride the roller coaster of emotions and fear and try to enjoy the reduction in the side effects (which I can do. I'm good that way). I just have to hope that the values in my next lab work go back down or I may very well go off the rails and onto some other ride that might not be so manageable.

All that remains is 'all that remains.' Nothing in my life/cancer routine is likely to change much. Again, what I have I've been told is that what I have incurable: stage IV papillary thyroid cancer, the kind that doesn't respond to radio iodine therapy, so every minute of every day will be spent hoping, praying, wondering and waiting to see if the end is near or thankfully not near at all, like a mirage, almost. Just another day in my cancer conundrum. As Tom Branson said on an episode during the final season of Downtown Abbey about something completely unrelated: "What a palaver!" But that's really what being a cancer patient is all about: Confusion, lack of clarity, few guarantees and changes in your attitude along with your latitude if Jimmy Buffet were writing this column. If my wife were, it would be about going with the flow. However, since I'm writing it, it's about changes, constant change; sometimes more of the same, something completely different. and being prepared, always, to go up and down and all around and everything in between. It's highs, it's lows and its all-overs, too. It may not sound like a great way to make a living, but I can assure you, it sure beats the alternative.

As my mother used to say: "enjoy poor health," especially since isn't seem likely I'll be changing horses anytime soon. But I can do it, I'm a Red Sox fan. I've lived with disappointment and determination my whole life - and thankfully, I've lived to see some World Championships, too. The goal is to try and keep moving forward and remain positive. Like my old friend Ray use to say: "my attitude is my blood type: B+." What's another blip on the cancer radar? I've been on it so long now, Feb., 2009 that it would be abnormal not to appear. And since the experts have been telling me that it's unlikely I won't be off the grid until it's too there's either a new grid or a new drug, I am happy to take a break in the short term if it helps in the long term. Because the goal is to finish, not to falter.

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

Centreville Day Celebration Begins Oct. 17

Variety of events will be both virtual and in-person.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The 28th annual Centreville Day will be different this year, due to COVID-19, but the community may still participate and enjoy some fun activities. The organizer, Friends of Historic Centreville, has worked hard to create a special festival for people of all ages.

"The official date is still the third Saturday of October, the 17th," said event Chairman Cheryl Repetti. "But since a large gathering of people isn't practical, the Centreville Day Planning Committee is instead presenting a set of activities that people can choose from."

"These include small-scale, in-person activities like a walk with your family, tours from your vehicle, or activities you can enjoy in the comfort of your own home. And you can do these things on Oct. 17 or anytime throughout the remainder of this month and beyond."

Starting this week, virtual programming will be posted on the Centreville Day Website, www.CentrevilleDay.org and Facebook page. It includes video tours of historic locations, people discussing growing up in Centreville and safety-expo videos. Those wanting something less virtual may use these same sites as portals to exploring local history. They can learn about driving-tour apps or go outside and enjoy the fall weather by visiting Mount Gilead, the Old Stone Church, Sears House, Covered Way, and St. John's Episcopal Church, among other sites, via the Centreville Historic District Walking Tour.

The tour may be downloaded from the Website or picked up in a brochure at the Stuart-Mosby Cavalry Museum when it's



A bake sale on the grounds of St. John's Episcopal Church at a previous Centreville Day.



The Stuart-Mosby Cavalry Museum has reopened to visitors.

open. Directional signs at street corners in the Historic District (off Braddock Road, across Route 29 from the IHOP) will guide people to the many locations of interest for history enthusiasts. And for children, there's even a Fairfax History Scavenger Hunt.

The Stuart-Mosby Cavalry Museum is open Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, 1-4 p.m.; and Mondays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. It's at 13938 Braddock Road, just behind the Havener House, in the Centreville Historic District, and features a unique collection of Civil War artifacts about cavalry officers JEB Stuart and John S.

Mosby.

The building was originally a gas station

moved from Lee Highway. According to local lore, the stones used to build it were salvaged from the crumbling remains of a Centreville home known as the Four-Chimney or Grigsby House. And this Saturday, weather permitting, the museum will have additional activities and people on site to answer questions about Centreville's past. All visitors must wear masks and maintain social distancing of 6 feet. The Historic District has limited parking and sidewalks, although the museum has a small lot for museum visitors. On-street parking is available along Pickwick Road and Wharton Lane. Pedestrians should be cautious, since few of these streets have sidewalks.

Although only the museum will be open, people may visit the following historic sites:

❖ Spindle Sears House: Purchased in 1933 from a Sears catalog and shipped here by train.

❖ Mount Gilead: Built as a tavern in 1785, the "House at the Sign of the Black Horse" is the oldest surviving building in Centreville, dating back to the original crossroads village of Newgate.

❖ Old Stone Church: Visible in some of the most well-known photos from the Civil War, this quiet church served as a hospital during the Civil War. It's currently the Church of the Ascension.

❖ Havener House: Now a Christian Science Reading Room, this building has played many different roles over its more than 200-year history.

❖ St. John's Episcopal Church: With its steeple and neo-Gothic architecture, it's the picture of a quaint, country chapel, but it was once featured on the front page of the New York Times. A lovely yard and historic cemetery surround the church.

For more Centreville Day information, go to www.historiccentrevilleva.org.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Stringfellow Road Ramps Are Now Two-Way

As of this week, the Stringfellow Road ramps to I-66 East and from I-66 West will convert from alternating, one-way travel to full-time, two-way travel, as part of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project. Drivers on Stringfellow heading to I-66 East, and drivers on I-66 West going to Stringfellow will now be allowed to use these ramps 24 hours/day. HOV-2 restrictions will remain in effect during peak periods. Only buses, two-axle and emergency vehicles will be permitted to use the ramps then. Trucks will not be allowed to use the ramps at this time.

Sexual Assault Suspect Arrested in Reston

A 21-year-old Reston man is facing felony charges after a woman was assaulted on Oct. 7 in an apartment community. Officers responded shortly before 8 a.m. to an abduction in the 11000 block of Reston Station Boulevard. A woman was working inside the building when an unknown man grabbed her and attempted to sexually assault her. The woman was able to fight him off, causing him to run away. Detectives worked through the night to identify, locate and charge the suspect, Kendrie Roberts-Monticue, of Reston, with attempted rape and abduction with intent to defile. He is currently being held without bond at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Victim specialists from Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure that the victim is receiving appropriate resources and assistance. Detectives are asking anyone with information about this event or who may have witnessed it to call our Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text - Type "FCCS" plus tip to 847411, and by web. Download Mobile tip411 App "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers." Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

New Exotic Treat Served in Reston

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

Locals can now celebrate the reopening of area restaurants, and for Reston residents, a big culinary—and exotic—treat has opened in Plaza America, a few doors down from Whole Foods. That's Bonchon, a Korean restaurant group that offers both traditional and modernized Korean chicken dishes, plus much more. For anyone who craves chicken in any way, shape, or form, Bonchon is an ideal des-

tination.

According to Bonchon's main website, the whole fried chicken concept derives from South Korea, as is quoted on the web: "The Bonchon Korean Fried Chicken concept was inspired by restaurants in 'my hometown' (Bonchon translated) in South Korea specializing in ultra-crispy twice-fried fowl." The word "bonchon" means "my hometown," which must reflect where the founder got the inspiration for these homey and tempting fried chicken, fried rice, and other South Korean faves.

Presently during restricted in-

door seating because of the pandemic, this tiny restaurant offers very limited seating with a table and bench or two and a stand-up counter for eating. On a recent day, it seems that take-out orders were the solution for the patrons who dropped in.

What is available? At the ordering counter, patrons can read through an enormous overhead menu broken into starters, main dishes, salads, soups, and sides, and, of course a range of their signature fried chicken dishes. Or for easier pickings, management hands out paper menus that dupli-

Restaurant Review: Bonchon opens in Plaza America.

cate the offerings. As it turns out, the luncheon specials menu is considerably shorter than the regular selections. So for those dropping in midday, that's a good place to start. First up is the restaurant's signature fried chicken—spicy, soy-garlic, or half-and-half. Then patrons can choose between wings, drums, strips, boneless wings or a combo, plus Korean-ish sides...onion rings are not really Korean, after all.

Also not Korean, not really, is another luncheon option that pairs Korean flavors of spicy and crunchy chicken pieces into taco wraps, dressed with a sweetish sauce and

thickened with lettuce pieces and some coleslaw. Talk about combining cultures: this dish is a smash hit. Other luncheon options include bibimbap, a bowl of warmed white rice with add-ons; house fried rice, plain or dressed up with chicken, bulgogi, or seafood; and chicken katsu, a Japanese-sourced dish of crunchy-fried strips of chicken.

All worth a try, lunch or dinner....

Bonchon Reston, 11652 Plaza America Dr., Reston. 703-789-9464. Daily: 11 a.m to 8:30 p.m.