

Great Falls CONNECTION

Behind the Scenes at Summer Concerts On the Green

NEWS, PAGE 4

The Sunday evening Concerts on the Green, at the Great Falls Village Centre, draws a large crowd on June 27, kids, blankets, lawn chairs, and dinner in tow.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Seen in TJ's Freshman Class

NEWS, PAGE 3

Naturalizing the Grange Hall Oak Grove

NEWS, PAGE 4

Great Falls
Village Centre
Shops, Offices and Restaurants

CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6 ❖ CALENDARS, PAGE 7

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION

POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECR WSS
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
REQUESTED IN HOME 7-1-21

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT # 322

July 4th Hometown Celebration Parade, Festivities & Fireworks

SUNDAY, JULY 4TH

Schedule of Events

8am-9am	5K Walk/Run <i>Great Falls Freedom Memorial</i>
8am-2pm	INOVA Blood Drive <i>Great Falls Fire Station</i>
9am-9:45am	Little Patriot Parade <i>Great Falls Village Centre Green</i>
10am-10:45am	Main Parade <i>Great Falls Village Centre</i>
10:30am-2pm	Festivities, Food, Games & Fun <i>Great Falls Village Centre</i>
6pm-10pm	Fireworks Celebration <i>Turner Farm Park</i>



Little Patriot Parade

Great Falls Village Centre Green

Calling all babies thru kindergarteners (siblings welcome) to dress up in patriotic costumes and walk or be pulled in a decorated "ride" around the Green for the annual Great Falls 4th of July Little Patriot Parade! Awards for "Young George Washington," "Miss Betsy Ross," "Little Liberty," and more. Don't miss this Great Falls tradition since 1955!

9am Registration at the Gazebo
9:15am Little Patriot Parade start

Email questions to roz@rozdrayer.com.



FIREWORKS!

6:00 PM FIREWORKS & FUN TURNER FARM PARK

Pack up the family and come enjoy the evening with your neighbors at Turner Farm Park. Gates open at 6:00 pm. DJ, games, rock climbing wall and food trucks will entertain until the Big Show gets underway just after dusk.

Main Parade Information

Registration

To be in the parade, all floats, cars, entertainers & others need to register online at

www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org

Parade staging will take place at 9:30am on Lunenburg Rd. between Minburn and Columbine Streets.

Make a Float!

We encourage neighborhoods, local businesses, or any group to make a float for the parade!

PRIZES!!

BEST BUSINESS FLOAT
BEST NEIGHBORHOOD
BEST ORGANIZATION
BEST MINI-FLOAT (under 8')



Young Bikers & Walkers

Young Bike Riders (no motorized cars) & Walkers along with their parents can join the parade in the Village Centre. Gather in the Wells Fargo large parking lot to view the parade before joining it.

No need to register



12:30pm Performance by
The Great Zucchini located
on the Village Green!



Celebrate Great Falls Foundation

Sign up for our email list at
www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org

For weather cancellations or more information, visit our website

www.celebrategreatfalls.org

5K Walk/ Run on Great Falls Trails

Great Falls Trail Blazers again will host the Annual 5K Walk/ Run on local trails. Race begins promptly at 8am from the Freedom Memorial on the library grounds. View route maps and register at

<https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/GreatFalls/July45K>.

Also register on site, the day of the race, prior to 8am.

Volunteers Needed for this Event!

The Hometown Celebration is run entirely by community volunteers. We still need 20 people for t-shirt and concession sales, making snow cones, and helping kids with games. Shifts are 10:00-12:00 or 11:45-2:00. Please sign up online at www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org

Platinum Partners



Gold Partners

- The Old Brogue & Katie's Coffee House
- Roz Drayer, Roz Drayer Real Estate, TTR/Sotheby's International Realty
- Keller Williams @Realty, Great Falls/McLean
- John Nugent & Sons, Plumbing & Heating
- Great Paws Mobile Veterinary Services
- Oliver's Corner Butchershop

Silver Partners

- Great Falls Citizens Association
- Great Falls Friends & Neighbors
- Loebig Chiropractic & Rehab
- The Arts of Great Falls

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Seen in TJ's Freshman Class

In 2021, the U.S. News Best High Schools report ranked TJ the number one school nationwide for the second year running.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology admitted 550 students strong as its Class of 2025. The population reflects broader diversity, equity, and inclusion than any other class in school history. Changes to the TJ Freshman Application Process by the Fairfax County School Board on Nov. 9, 2020, and later decisions to transition to a holistic approach upended the selective secondary school's 36-year troubling trend of racial and economic admissions data disparities resulting in equity gaps.

In June of 2020, Ann N. Bonitatibus, Ed.D., TJ Principal, sent a letter to the families of TJ students. She wrote, "Our school is a rich tapestry of heritages; however, we do not reflect the racial composition in FCPS... Do the TJ admissions outcomes affirm that we believe TJ is accessible to all talented STEM-focused students regardless of race or personal circumstance?"

THE SITUATION was not new. Nearly a decade ago, "across all four grades TJ in 2009-2010 school year, approximately 1.78 percent of students were black, 2.84 percent of students were Hispanic, and 1.74 percent were poor," the Connection reported on June 26, 2012. "Fully 25 percent of students in Fairfax County are poor enough to qualify for free-or-reduced price meals. Do we believe poor students are less talented than students from wealthier families?"

According to Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand in a June 23 news release, "Last year, Fairfax County Public Schools moved to ensure increased access and opportunity to TJ for students with an aptitude and passion for STEM. The data around TJ's prospective freshmen class speaks volumes to the fact that when we truly center our work on equity, all of our students have an opportunity to shine."

According to Regulation 3355.14 from the Superintendent's Office on TJ Admissions, TJ is annually designated by the Virginia Department of Education as an academic-year regional governor's school for science and technology. It is under the sole direction and control of the Fairfax County School Board. Existing in the very diverse County of Fairfax, it serves select students who meet the eligibility requirements not only from Fairfax, including the City of Fairfax but four other Northern Virginia school divisions-Arlington County, Falls Church City, Loudoun County, and Prince William County.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Students in their lab coats set to learn at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.



Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools, describes the revised admission process for TJ.

— Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools

In 2021, the U.S. News Best High Schools report ranked TJ the number one school nationwide for the second year running. TJ offers a challenging, comprehensive college preparatory program, with research-based learning emphasizing STEM-related courses and activities. In addition, TJ offers a complete high school curriculum, fine arts and performing arts, and world languages. There are over 180 clubs and activities, according to FCPS.

Previously, attending one

of the top three middle schools in Fairfax County, Carson, Longfellow, and Rocky Run Middle Schools, seemed to give students a better chance of attending TJ. Operating under the newly revised 2020-21 Eligibility Requirements for the In TJ's merit-based admissions application process, students were allocated a number to be identified, making it race, ethnicity, and gender blind. For the first time in ten years, every middle school in the Fairfax County Public School division is represented at TJ as seats in the Class of 2025 were allocated for the top 1.5 percent of applicants from every middle school's eighth-grade student population. Students from historically underrepresented schools increased to 30.73 percent versus 5.56 percent (2020-21).

According to TJ Admissions Data, students in the Class of 2025 are "high performers and are well prepared for TJ's academic rigor." The average GPA [Grade Point Average] for applicants was at 3.9 on the scale between 1.0 and 4.0, slightly higher this year than in the past five years. The average reported GPA, 3.9539, remained high for those offered admissions, in line with previous years.

The new TJ admissions process also resulted in "a significant increase in access to teaching for groups who have faced barriers to entry, including special education students, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and English Learners," said Brabrand.

FCPS staff increased outreach efforts to encourage students to apply, resulting in a 17 percent increase in enrollment applications, 3,034 applications versus 2,539 applications for SY2020-21.

THE CLASS OF 2025 represents greater diversity and inclusivity. According to FCPS: Black students increased from 1.23 percent (2020-21) to 7.09 percent. Hispanic students increased from 3.29 percent (2020-21) to 11.27 percent. Female students increased from 41.80 percent (2020-21) to 46.00 percent. White students increased from 17.70 percent (2020-21) to 22.36 percent.

The most significant increases occurred in the number of economically disadvantaged students [those eligible to receive reduced-price or free meals at school] from slightly greater than 0.5 percent (0.62 in 2020-21) to 25.09 percent. In addition, 2.36 percent of accepted students are special education students, and 7.09 percent of accepted students are English Language Learners. Asian students continue to constitute a majority of the class at 54.36 percent.

"As usual, all newly admitted students will have access to comprehensive support from school staff to ensure a smooth transition and a successful experience for every student enrolling," said Brabrand. "We want to be sure we are providing them the support so that they can maximize their talents."

"As usual, all newly admitted students will have access to comprehensive support from school staff to ensure a smooth transition and a successful experience for every student enrolling."

Senior – Research Laboratories

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astronomy & Astrophysics • Automation & Robotics • Biotechnology & Life Sciences • Chemical Analysis & Nanochemistry • Computer Systems • Energy Systems • Engineering Design • JUMP Lab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microelectronics • Mobile and Web Application Development • Neuroscience • Oceanography & Geographical Systems • Prototyping & Engineering Materials • Quantum Physics & Optics
---	--

Mentorship: include but not limited to Children's National Medical Center, NIH, MITRE Corp, Naval Research Lab, GMU, GWU, Smithsonian, Northrop Grumman, Georgetown University Medical Center

Possible course offerings senior year at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Behind the Scenes at Summer Concerts on the Green

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Celebrate Great Falls presented another evening of its 2021 Concerts on the Green at the Great Falls Village Centre. On Sunday evening, June 27, the audience received a mix of Oxymoron's new songs, the best of the old, and their award-winning originals. Billed as a night of "hip-shaking New Orleans funk, soulful blues, Americana roots, classic rock, and cutting-edge guitar-driven songs," the artists did not let the audience down.

Celebrate Great Falls pulls off these weekly Sunday concerts 6-8 p.m. in June and mid-August through September. Deborah Nagy, Assistant Director of Celebrate Great Falls, shared a bit of what it takes to produce the eleven productions for the 2021 Concert Schedule.

According to Nagy, Celebrate Great Falls is fortunate to have "wonderful sponsors" for its Concert Series, Concerts on the Green. "We focus on connecting with Great Falls groups. For tonight's band, the Oxymorons, the drummer lives in Great Falls and was our previous Scoutmaster at Troop 673."

Nagy said Celebrate Great Falls doesn't have a problem filling performer slots in the series because so many people want to be a part of "this glorious event, especially since we were very limited last year."

The setup is minimal. Nagy said they didn't have their sound people run the soundboard for that night's concert. The band had hired people, and they set up beforehand and would break down themselves.

"So, the only thing that we need to do is set up a table, and sponsors also set up tables like this week. Great Paws Mobile Veterinary Service has a balloon man, so that's fun for the children, and we have corn-

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The Sunday evening Concerts on the Green, at the Great Falls Village Centre, draws a large crowd on June 27, kids, blankets, lawn chairs, and dinner in tow.

holes too," said Nagy.

The concerts are free and open to the public. Organizers remind all that pets and alcohol are not permitted on the Village Centre Green. Attendees should observe COVID-related protocols in place at the time of a concert. Weather-related cancellations will be announced on the Celebrate Great Falls website, Facebook, and Next Door Great Falls.

As a reminder, the 4th of July Hometown Celebration and Parade is Sunday, July 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., with evening fireworks at Turner Farm Park. Gates open at 6 p.m. Celebrate Great Falls is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Please consider a tax-deductible donation or sponsorship by becoming a "Friend of the Fireworks." Learn more at the Friends of the Fireworks page. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

VIEWPOINTS How Does It Feel After Lockdown?

The Connection asked people at the June 27, Celebrate Great Falls Concerts on the Green held at the Great Falls Village Centre, "How does it feel to be here after the lockdown?"



Chilo Obolensky of Great Falls, retired: "Delightful. We are having a great time being back in fun gatherings. We've been coming here for 20 years."



Christie Lavin of Great Falls: "It's a total joy and feels like freedom."
Molly Lavin, 3, of Great Falls: "I like the people and playing on the porch."



Dr. Al Lee, Suburban Hospital: "Free to be with my friends. We oldsters, boomers, we need that one-on-one contact we've been missing."



Martha Conteh of Reston: "It's wonderful. I've never been here before. I'm with friends from Stone Spring Hospital Center [HCA Virginia]."



Victoria Conteh, 5: "I like the music."



William Donner: "I like the music and rhythm, the way they are playing."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Chris Rich speaks about the detrimental impact of invasive plants.

Naturalizing the Grange Hall Oak Grove

Great Falls Citizens Association takes on invasive plants.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Great Falls Citizens Association Environment and Parks Committee, co-chaired by Winifred Frost and Susanne Black, met in early June to discuss restoring the oak grove at the Grange Hall Park. An invasive management area has been identified, and efforts are underway by Black to initiate a habitat restoration.

Jerry Peters and Chris Rich presented a plan to the committee members to naturalize the landscape in the oak grove behind the Grange Hall and protect large oaks throughout the identified area.

Vital to the success of the three-part plan is volunteer support needed first to remove the invasive plants. Rich leads the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jerry Peters explains the three steps to restore the oak grove behind the Great Falls Grange.

work and asks for volunteers to sign up as Invasive Management Area Volunteers through Fairfax County Partakes.

SEE INVASIVE PLANTS, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The second stage of the naturalization plan involves restoring organic material to the soil around trees.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left: Winnie Frost, Raylynn Oliver, Linda Henderson, Mary Cylke and Friends for the Great Falls Library President, Lynn Peterson Mobley.

Friends of the Great Falls Library Spring Fundraiser

Jigsaw puzzles galore was the theme of the Friends of the Great Falls Library Spring Fundraiser featuring used and new jigsaw puzzles for all ages. Held outside at the Great Falls Library on a Saturday morning in June, the sale was a great success.

Lynn Mobley, President of the Friends group nurtured, advertised and collected donations together with other Friends' volunteers.

The Friends of the Great Falls Library is a non profit organization that supports the library by providing financial support for

an array of events and activities such as Children and Adult Programming and Book Clubs, Summer Reading Program and ice cream social, smart phone charging stations in the library, to name a few. May and November book sales are the Friends' largest fundraising event. This fall book sale will take place Sept. 24 - 25 with a special preview night on Sept. 23 for members only.

If you are interested in book/puzzle donations, or to become a member, email to friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com

State Farm Insurance G. STEPHEN DULANEY

IN GREAT FALLS



**AUTO • HOME • LIFE
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Like A Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There.®



Open Saturdays

Complementary Insurance and Financial Review

Visit www.gstephendulaney.com



703-759-4155

731-C WALKER RD. · GREAT FALLS, VA

State Farm Insurance Companies
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois

Proud Supporter of Military Appreciation Mondays





It's why I'm here.

Kyle Knight Ins Agcy Inc
 Kyle Knight, Agent
 11736 Bowman Green Drive
 Reston, VA 20190

ACROSS FROM RESTON TOWN CTR.
WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG
 703-435-2300

Your home and car are more than just things. They're where you make your memories – and they deserve the right protection. I get it. It's why I'm here.

LET'S TALK TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
 State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
 Bloomington, IL

**Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!**

TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates 703-999-2928

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Sign up for

**FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
to all of our papers**



www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Upgrade Your Home with a **NEW METAL ROOF**
Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER
\$500 OFF
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% off

Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIC Metal Roofs

Call today to schedule your **FREE ESTIMATE**
1-844-902-4611

This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Eric Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Eric"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires October 1st 2021. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Eric or its affiliates and service providers using automated technology notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homesevices.com/plans. All rights reserved.

AN ORGANIZED HOME IS A HAPPY HOME

Add space to your kitchen and time to your busy schedule with ShelfGenie's custom pull-out shelves installed in your existing cabinets

ShelfGenie
EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH
a neighborly company

50% OFF INSTALLATION*

*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Shelves. EXP 6/30/21

Schedule Your **FREE** Design Consultation:
(866) 982-2260

Hours: Mon - Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 10am - 4pm EST

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
844-947-1479

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

CLASSIFIED
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

To ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Services

PRESSURE WASHING PROS

In Business for 25 Years

- Soft Wash
- Deck Cleaning/Staining
- Fences
- Driveways

pwashingpros.com

(703) 378-8645

Call the licensed and bonded pros with the best pricing in the NoVA area today.

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

GENERAC PWRCELL
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!*
1 (833) 688-1378

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

TRANSFORM YOUR BATH OR SHOWER IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY

CALL NOW

FOR \$500 Off
OR
NO PAYMENTS & NO INTEREST UNTIL 2022

Offer Expires 6.30.2021

BCI BATH & SHOWER Military & Senior Discounts Available
"We make bathing safer"

844-945-1631

*Includes product and labor, bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires June 30, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic Inc.

Leaf & Filter
GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & **10% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE SENIORS & MILITARY!

+ 5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY! WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
Promo Code: 285
*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only. †The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. CSLB# 1035795. DGPL #10783658-5501. License# 7659. License# 50145. License# 41954. License# 59385. License# 125344. License# 215294. WA UDR# 603.233.077. License# 2102212986. License# 2102212949. License# 2204382153A. License# LEAFMWD2212. License# W055912. License# WC-29599117. Massau HC License# H01057000. Registrations# 126442. Registrations# HC-05-99905. Registrations# C122229. Registrations# C122230. Registrations# 36692918. Registrations# PC6478. Registrations# R231804. Registrations# 13VH5953500. Registrations# PA059383. Suffolk, NC License# 52225-H. License# 2205169445. License# 202000022. License# 262000403. License# 0086990. Registrations# H-19114.

SATURDAY/JULY 3
15th Amendment Kick-Off. 6-8 p.m. At the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave., Vienna. A showcase of community musicians performing songs with a justice theme. The event will also feature food vendors, civic organizations, voter registration and more.

ONGOING
In-Person Worship Begins. 10:15 a.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. In-person worship services will resume with some restrictions. Details at: https://faithconnector.s3.amazonaws.com/goodshepherdva/files/revised2_in_person_worship_begins_june_13.pdf

GREAT FALLS SUMMER ART CAMP
WEEK 4 — July 6-9
Color Study in Oil Paints with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 4a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/register
Color Study in Oil Paints with Michela Mansuino Ages 10-18; Session 4b — 1:30-4:30pm details/register
WEEK 5 — July 12-16
Cartooning with Bud Little Ages 8-14; Session 5a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/register
Photography for Middle & High Schoolers with Joe Willmore Ages 12-18; Session 5b — 1:30- 4:30pm details/register
WEEK 6 — July 19-23
Classical Drawing with Michela Mansuino Ages 8-12; Session 6a — 9:30am-12:30pm details/register
TEEN Classical Drawing with Michela Mansuino Ages 12-18; Session 6b — 1:30- 4:30pm details/register

Great Falls CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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

Published by **Local Media Connection LLC**

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Salome Howard-Gaibler
Display Advertising
703-415-5394
salome@connectionnewspapers.com

Taking on Invasive Plants

FROM PAGE 4

Habitat Restoration at Great Falls Grange Park- Sunday, July 11, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. "Invasive plants are a huge threat to local wildlife, including migrating birds. Help out these creatures by volunteering to remove invasive plants at Great Falls Grange Park," reads the volunteer signup page. The form is available online at Invasive Management Area Volunteer.

Individuals should sign up by noon on Friday for weekend workdays/events and must be 11 years of age. An adult must accompany volunteers aged 11-13. The number of volunteers per site is limited.

The second stage of the plan will involve restoring organic material to the soil around the oak trees. The third stage is to bring back native plants for the understory of the oak grove. The combination of the three efforts will preserve the oak area and site borders.

Peters and Rich are coordinating the GFCFA effort with the Fairfax County Park Authority, Great Falls Grange Foundation, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and other groups and organizations wanting to improve the ecological health of the public spaces.

John Burke, Branch Manager at Fairfax County Park Authority Natural Resources attended the early June meeting. He concurred with the three-step plan of removing invasive plants, restoring organic matter to the soil, and planting natives to the under-



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Invasive plants threaten the oak grove behind the Grange Hall.

story as vital to the plan's success.

Maria Harwood, Urban Conservation Specialist for Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District, suggested taking a virtual tour of Mount Cuba Center in Delaware to get an idea of successful natural land management. According to the nonprofit's website, gardening is on a higher level... home to thousands of native plants <https://mtcubacenter.org/visit/tour/spring/>.

CALENDAR

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

In Virginia, there are lots of great places to view fireworks, at the National Mall in Washington, hosted by the National Park Service: George Washington Memorial Parkway, including U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Netherlands Carillon grounds, Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove, Gravelly Point Park, and along the Mount Vernon Trail from the 14th Street Bridge to Theodore Roosevelt Island. Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only.

City of Fairfax - Saturday, July 3 - Independence Day celebrations will start with a parade at 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax at 10 a.m. The parade loops around downtown Fairfax, along Chain Bridge Road, Main Street, University Drive and Armstrong Street.

On July 4, an evening show will kick off at 6:30 p.m. with on-stage entertainment followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Fairfax High School, 3501 Lion Run.

Herndon - July 4 at 9:30 pm. Fireworks launched from the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Viewing opportunities at Bready Park, 814 Ferndale Ave. with access for parking and field seating opening no earlier than 8 pm. There will be no food concessions or entertainment this year.

Lorton - July 2nd, Workhouse Arts Center Fireworks - 5-10 p.m. (VIP Access) 6-10 p.m. (Drive In Tail Gate Access). Workhouse Arts Center Campus, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Phone: (703) 584-2986.

Lake Fairfax Park - July 3 - 9:15 p.m. 1400 Lake Fairfax Dr., Reston, VA 20190. Park admission is free, but advance tickets cost \$10 per car; day-of tickets may be purchased at the park for \$15 per car. Phone: 703-471-5415.

Mount Vernon. -This event is sold out - Independence Fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon: June 25 to 26, 6 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

FRIDAY/JULY 2

Friday Night Live. At Herndon Town Green, Herndon. Popular free outdoor concert series returns to regular performances. This will be the 27th season for the concert series which is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce.

Schedule

July 2 -- Under the Covers;
July 9 -- Turtle Recall;
July 16 -- The Rockets;
July 23 -- Herr Metal + Dr FU;
July 30 -- Kristen and the Noise;
Aug 6 -- Social Call;
Aug 13 -- It's All Good;
Aug 20 -- JunkFood;
Aug 27 -- All-Star Band;
Sept 3 -- Shake the Room;
Sept 10 -- keeton + 8 Track Jones;
Sept 17 -- The Reflex;
Sept 24 -- Screaming Mönkeys.

Friday Night Live! is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce and brought to you by its title sponsor Volkswagen Group of America.

WOLF TRAP SCHEDULE

July 1 - Fifty Years Together: A Celebration of Wolf Trap with National Symphony Orchestra, JoAnn Falletta (conductor), Cynthia Erivo (vocalist), Christine Goerke (soprano), Joyce Yang (piano)
July 2 + 3 - Wolf Trap Opera: Sondheim "Sweetie Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet" in Concert with National Symphony Orchestra, Roberto Kalb (conductor)
July 7 - Watchhouse (formerly Mandolin Orange)
July 8 + 9 - Beethoven and Bologne with National Symphony Orchestra, Jonathan Heyward (conductor),

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004
FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL
K & D ELECTRIC	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...	Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
Quality Tree Service & Landscaping	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
Summer Cleanup...	
	Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.
25 years of experience - Free estimates 703-868-5358	
24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	

Landscape Drainage	Landscape Drainage
	
A JES Services, Inc. Company Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More Your Neighborhood Company since 1987!	
703-772-0500 www.ProDrainage.com VA. Licensed Class A Contractor	



**Sign up for
FREE DIGITAL
SUBSCRIPTION**
to any or all of our 15 papers
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE



And the "Scancer" Is ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... stable, with a side of shrinkage, however modest. No jeopardy here, final or otherwise. Simply more of the same here, but hardly ho hum. A status quo with which I am fond of writing: I can live. Promises and guarantees left the building on that fateful day in late February, 2009 when an oncologist who I had previously never met summarized my condition and identified it as stage IV, non small cell lung cancer. A "terminal" disease if there ever was one, and of course there are many. And along with that bombshell came the excruciatingly unpopular prognosis: "13 months to two years." I was 54 and a half with no history of cancer in my immediate family.

Much has happened and many medications prescribed since I infused my initial chemotherapy back in early March, 2009. Most of which you regular readers know. If you recall anything from my 12 years of weekly cancer columns, it is that regular diagnostic scans: CT scans, bone scans, P.E.T. scans and MRIs have been recurring nightmares. Every three months, I am scheduled for some type of scan, sometimes more than one ("BOGO, I call it) which based on its findings will determine my subsequent course of treatment. If the results are encouraging, a change in my treatment is unlikely. If however, tumors are growing, newly appearing or spreading then it's "Katy bar the door," as we say in New England. Which means, hang onto your hat, among other things, as a new health situation presents, and one without an automatic solution. After years of conversations with my oncologist, I've learned: The best one can hope for is a definite maybe. It's this unpredictability which fills my day - and night.

Nevertheless, my life has gone on way longer than my oncologist anticipated. It may be because I was misdiagnosed (as a Georgetown Cancer Center oncologist suggested) and had a slow moving form of papillary thyroid cancer rather than an aggressive form of lung cancer which kills more often than it cures. Or, I may simply be my oncologist's "third miracle," as he's fond of saying. Presumably my positive attitude and good humor about my circumstances in conjunction with the many supplements I ingest with alkaline water exclusively have contributed to my unexpected survival. Regardless, as Frankenstein might have said: "I'm alive."

As scary as Frankenstein, Dracula or Lon Chaney ever was, a cancer diagnosis tops them all. Being told by a doctor you have never met that you have two years to live, at best, is as you might imagine, nearly impossible to process. It's not exactly what you had planned on or expected hearing when you sat in the doctor's office. Yet, as Ralph Edwards used to say; "This is your life." And as many others have said: "You're stuck with it." And as grim as you feel about your future, this is no fairy tale. As always, reality beats make-believe any day, and in this instance, not in a good way.

But I am in a good way. I am still typing, among other activities. And after having just received a "looks good" comment from my oncologist concerning this week's CT and bone scan, my warranty has been extended for another 90 days, when the results of my next quarterly scan will be emailed. Until then, I am in high cotton. To say I'm not worried is of course naive, but in the interim, between scans, I am in "the rocking chair, good buddy," to invoke a familiar CB-ism. This is how many cancer patients live: from one scan to the next. It's not ideal, but it is a living, and one for which I'm extremely grateful and fortunate to still have. It may not have been the life I expected, but I'm glad to live it nonetheless.

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



DIANNE VAN VOLKENBURG

Buy with confidence. Sell with success



When Results Matter - Call Today!



List Price \$1,699,000



List Price \$1,750,000



List Price \$1,050,000



List Price \$1,399,000



List Price \$1,399,999



List Price \$875,000



List Price \$1,450,000



List Price \$750,000



List Price \$1,299,999,000



List Price \$1,599,000



List Price \$899,000



List Price \$1,599,999



List Price \$1,225,000



List Price \$1,150,000



List Price \$999,000



List Price \$1,025,000

LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE | CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066
703-759-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com



703-757-3222

sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com