

CONNECTION Inside PET CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

Lola, Thoroughbred, 13 years old, cared for by Adriana Gomez, Lorton, regularly trains at Laurel Hill Equestrian Center.



Dealing with 'Dog Days' of Summer

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First Asian Festival Held on Main

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Body of Emily Lu Found and Man Charged

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	VA Struc No.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
WYTHE	1086	52	FORT CHISWELL RD	GALENA CREEK	7/7/2021
WYTHE	1093	52	FORT CHISWELL RD	STREAM	7/7/2021
HANOVER	6016	617	SPRING RD	SOUTH ANNA RIVER	7/6/2021
SMYTH	6345	800	ST. CLAIR CREEK RD	ST CLAIR CREEK	7/3/2021
RICHMOND (M)	8034	7542	GROVE AVE	ROUTE 195 & CSX RR	6/24/2021
SCOTT	6505	617	SHELLEYS RD	BRANCH	6/17/2021
BUCHANAN	1060	460	RIVERSIDE DR	LOONEYS CREEK	6/15/2021
BUCHANAN	1107	T1012	RAILROAD AVE	LEVISA RIVER	6/15/2021
WISE	6219	630	SOUTH MOUNTAIN RD	BAD CREEK	6/11/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit www.virginiadot.org and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

NEWS

Former FCPD Officer Indicted for Sexual Misconduct With a Minor

Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano issued the following statement on July 20 regarding the indictment of former Fairfax County Police Officer John Grimes for engaging in sexual misconduct with a minor in the Fairfax County Police Public Safety Cadet Program:

"Between the dates of Nov. 12, 2019 and Dec. 16, 2019 former Fairfax County Police Officer John Grimes is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor in the Fairfax County Police Public Safety Cadet Program over whom he maintained a supervisory relationship.

Upon reviewing the investigation into this matter, I determined that it was appropriate to charge Mr. Grimes with three counts of custodial indecent liberties and a grand jury agreed. Today I am therefore announcing the indictment of John Grimes on these charges.

Crimes in which young people in

our community are taken advantage of by those in positions of authority within the criminal justice system are particularly egregious and threaten our community's confidence in the system. I will therefore always act to hold those responsible for such heinous crimes accountable. I am hopeful that this indictment will serve as a first step toward justice in this case."

FCPD was notified of the officer's criminal misconduct on Dec. 13, 2019. The Internal Affairs Bureau immediately acted and relieved the officer of duty, stripping him of all police powers. Major Crimes Bureau initiated the criminal investigation.

"Trust is the cornerstone of any Police Department. I have no tolerance for police officers who abuse that sacred trust," Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis said. "This former police officer allegedly took advantage of a teenager, and he did so in and out of a police uniform — a uniform meant to symbolize public safety."

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Body of Emily Lu Found and Man Charged

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The person of interest is in custody after detectives found the body of Emily Lu, a Lorton resident who died recently. On the evening of Friday, July 23, detectives received information that Ms. Lu may be in the area of Dudley Drive and Laurel Crest Drive in Lorton. Detectives responded to that area and located Ms. Lu in the woods near the traffic circle. Sadly, she was deceased. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy to determine the manner and cause of death, the Fairfax County Police said.

Brian George Sayrs Jr., 25, of Woodbridge, was charged with second degree murder and felony concealment of a body. He is being held at the Adult Detention Center without bond. Sayrs Jr. was a tenant at Ms. Lu's home at the time of her disappearance, police said.



FCPD
Brian George Sayrs Jr., 25, of Woodbridge.

In early June, detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau initially investigated the disappearance of seventy-two-year-old Emily Lu. Officers responded to Lu's home in the 9200 block of Davis Lane in Lorton on Friday, June 4 at 2:26 p.m. after her employ-



A makeshift memorial occupies the spot off the traffic circle where the body was discovered.

er requested a welfare check when she did not show up for work. Lu's car was discovered in the driveway with groceries recently purchased from a nearby store. Officers checked the home and spoke with neighbors but were unable to find her. A family member contacted officers that afternoon and provided an address in Belle Haven that Lu

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



The traffic circle near Dudley Drive and Laurel Crest Drive in Lorton, down the street from the Laurel Hill Golf Course and the South County Middle School.

frequently. Officers checked the home but did not find her.

While searching Lu's home, detectives uncovered evidence suggesting she may have been harmed inside. Based on these preliminary investigative findings, her absence from work and the unusual lack of response to family members, detectives believe she was missing under suspicious circumstances.

Further investigation revealed Lu was last seen at the Aldi, 1329 Gordon Plaza in Woodbridge, around 7:52 p.m. on Jun 3. Lu arrived home but never took all of her groceries inside.

This is being investigated as the 13th homicide year to date in Fairfax County.

Victim specialists from Major Crimes Bu-

reau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure that the victim's family is receiving appropriate resources and assistance.

Detectives continue to investigate to determine the circumstances surrounding Ms. Lu's death. Anyone with information about this case is asked to call Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. 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 – Click [HERE](#). Download our 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.

Firearms Trafficking Strike Force to Crack Down on Crime Guns

Eastern District of Virginia to participate in cross-jurisdictional strike force.

The U.S. Department of Justice has launched five cross-jurisdictional strike forces to help reduce gun violence by disrupting illegal firearms trafficking in key regions across the country. Leveraging existing resources, the regional strike forces will help stem illegally trafficked firearms from into five regions: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area/Sacramento Region, and Washington, D.C.

Each strike force region will be led by United States Attorneys, who will collab-

orate with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and with state and local law enforcement partners. These officials will use the latest data, evidence, and intelligence from crime scenes to identify patterns, leads, and potential suspects in violent gun crimes.

"All too often, guns found at crime scenes come from hundreds or even thousands of miles away. We are redoubling our efforts as ATF works with law enforcement to track the movement of illegal firearms used in violent crimes. These strike forces enable sustained

coordination across multiple jurisdictions to help disrupt the worst gun trafficking corridors," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The Department of Justice will use all of its tools – enforcement, prevention, intervention, and investment – to help ensure the safety of our communities – the department's highest priority."

According to gun trace data, a significant number of firearms recovered in Washington, D.C. originate from outside the city. The new strike force will help ensure sustained and focused coordination between law enforcement and prosecutors in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, including in the Eastern District of Virginia, with their counterparts in locations where many of the

firearms originate.

Acting U.S. Attorney Raj Parekh said: "Disrupting the flow of illegally trafficked firearms is critical to reducing the painful toll that gun violence inflicts on our communities and loved ones. Through our participation in the cross-jurisdictional strike force, EDVA will bring to justice gun traffickers and others who enable this tragic cycle of violence. ... Because many of the firearm source locations for the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area overlap with the source locations for firearms recovered in the New York City area, we will work closely with our New York City counterparts to help make our communities safer for everyone."

Economic Recovery Is More Than Escaping COVID-19

Our local economy is in a precarious position, and it's not just because of pandemic.

SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY
(R-SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT)



Over the last year, our economy struggled to hang on amidst unpredictable changes in pandemic regulations, with over 45 percent of small businesses in the region closing permanently or temporarily, and roughly 49,000 Fairfax County residents remain unemployed. As businesses reopen and vaccination rates increase, we hope for recovery but the long-term threats to our economy are increasingly coming to light.

Virginians have been rightfully distracted by news about the pandemic and turmoil in their personal lives. Many have missed the introduction of policies that are making Virginia and Fairfax County anti-business, anti-worker, and anti-taxpayer.

In the past year, the General Assembly passed legislation to allow local option for public collective bargaining, project labor agreements (PLAs), a Meals Tax without a voter referendum, a Plastic Bag Tax and more. Public collective bargaining will be a substantial burden on taxpayers, project labor agreements will

disadvantage local small and minority-owned businesses, and a plastic bag tax will place significant costs on businesses. These policies could hurt even a strong economy, much more a recovering one.

Still, the Board of Supervisors is moving forward with each of these, despite the estimated impact, the already 45 percent increase in property taxes over the last ten years, and the sharpest inflation increase in 12 years.

On top of legislation that already passed the General Assembly, a repeal of right-to-work continues to hang in the balance. If right-to-work is repealed, we will see an exodus of workers from Virginia to avoid payments to union bosses. Businesses will surely follow.

Now more than ever, we need to support our local businesses by engaging our representatives at the local and state level about policies that will aid in our recovery instead of sending Virginia backward.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thinking About 'Good Trouble'

To the Editor:

Today I was thinking about "Good Trouble." Once upon a time when I was a young girl my father worked with a young impetuous man named John Lewis. He was chomping at the bit for change and made it clear to all the Civil Rights players in the 60s, barely deferring to Martin Luther King at times. My Dad adored him. My Dad was a young White Presbyterian minister. Jump to 2014, my husband's law firm threw a reception to honor Mr. Lewis and I attended. I approached him and said, "I am Dave's daughter" (mind you I was and am old) - he doubled back and then embraced me in a huge bear hug. I giggled. He then said with a huge smile on his lips, "Your Dad was always fighting and challenging everybody in the Movement." We both laughed. He never, ever saw my Dad as White, he saw him and loved him as a colleague and a friend.

Elizabeth Ramage
Great Falls

prevent students from having an open and equitable history education - one that both acknowledges the role of racism in the United States and portrays the lived realities and viewpoints of people in marginalized communities accurately.

As someone who was born and raised in Oklahoma before moving to Northern Virginia, I have seen this censorship first hand and the disparities in history curriculums from state to state. In the past year, my Fairfax County public high school, McLean High School, has done an excellent job incorporating a multitude of perspectives into both our English and History courses and provided several opportunities for open and honest dialogue about the discrimination faced by Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities. We have been assigned readings like Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds, as well as had a plethora of projects centered around unheard voices. While the experiences of some, such as those of disabled and LGBTQ+ folk, have been less recognized, these conversations and assignments are exactly what history classrooms around the state and nation should look like. This free and open exchange has benefits for all students, and it has personally improved my academic experience significantly. We must continue to acknowledge and teach about the value, cultures, histories, and modern-day contri-

butions of all Americans, particularly of marginalized communities that are often the most invisible in many classrooms. All young people, especially students of color, deserve an equitable education and the right to learn and talk about issues such as racism and their own history.

Susan Shobeiri
McLean High, 12th Grade

Let's Have an Intellectually Honest Gubernatorial Contest

To the Editor:

As a lifelong Republican who voted for Trump twice, I'm truly dismayed by our party's reliance on false narrative and grievance-driven politics. Virginians deserve a Gubernatorial contest that's an intellectually honest contest of ideas between Youngkin and McAuliffe.

I'm obviously speaking of the Big Lie. I wish Trump had won, but he simply didn't. Who says? He lost the Nov. 4 election. He lost multiple recounts in battleground states. He lost an effort to prevent Congress from certifying the election. He lost no fewer than 86 election fraud lawsuits covering Arizona, Georgia, Mich-

igan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, including rulings by 38 Republican judges, some appointed by him. In what universe of reality is this record not dispositive?

Just the other day I heard Trump talk about "untold thousands of dead people voting," so I checked. Georgia has 2 confirmed illegal votes in 2020. Pennsylvania confirms only 1 attempt to cast a ballot on behalf of a dead person. Michigan reports no confirmed cases. You get the idea.

I'd hate to see Virginia become a national embarrassment like Arizona. Arizona election auditors found 182 cases of potential voter fraud out of more than 3 million ballots cast. That's a fraction of 0.00006. Of the 182 cases, only 4 have led to charges. Of the 4, 2 votes favored Biden and 2 favored Trump. The Arizona "audit," cloaked in secrecy, was supposed to conclude in April. I strongly suspect they've found nothing material and are working to concoct "inconsistencies" to muddy the debate, satisfying whoever's paying them.

The Commonwealth has such a storied history, politically speaking. Our state is the home of giant political intellects such as Jefferson, Madison, Mason, Henry, etc. We would dishonor them and diminish ourselves to let Virginia become Arizona.

John Christmas
Alexandria



Free and Open Exchange Benefits All

To the Editor:

Across the nation, state lawmakers are actively working to

Fairfax to Host 'A Brief Shakespeare Festival'

Live theater and supper in the natural outdoor beauty of Fairfax's Veterans Amphitheater.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

It may have been hot and humid outside of Fairfax's Kathryn Johnson Middle School, but inside a bevy of six young actors were a whirlwind of fresh energy rehearsing for the City of Fairfax Theatre "A Brief Shakespeare Festival." And as director Olivia Hinebaugh enthusiastically cheered them on as they hit their marks; "You got this!"

Hinebaugh, also the Festival script adaptor and scenic designer, was building a team environment. She reminded her charges to "help each other" during rehearsals and performances.

"This production is all about making Shakespeare fun and ac-



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF FAIRFAX THEATRE COMPANY

Amana Herman Snellings,
Producer, "A Brief Shakespeare Festival" and Artistic Director,
City of Fairfax Theatre Company

Where and When

City of Fairfax Theatre Company (CFTC) presents "A Brief Shakespeare Festival" outdoors at Veterans Amphitheater, 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax, July 30 to Aug. 8, 2021. Performances at 6 p.m. with outdoor seating area available starting at 5 p.m. Performances: Friday, July 30, Saturday, July 31, Sunday, Aug. 1, and Friday, Aug. 6, Saturday, Aug. 7, Sunday, Aug. 8. Tickets: \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids ages 3-12. Tickets at www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org or at the door. Note: "A Brief Shakespeare Festival" is approximately two hours with one intermission.

cessible to the Fairfax community. For anyone seeing a Shakespeare play for the first time, they're going to get to know the story and characters of some of the most famous of his works very well," said Amana Herman Snellings, producer of the Festival.

"For someone who is a long-time fan of the Bard, they'll enjoy

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 11

This special focus section will include stories focusing on enhanced lifestyle for seniors among Connection readers and their families, including spiritual, physical, mental and financial well-being. Advertising allows you to target the many mature adults exploring new opportunities by showcasing your products and services in this special section with the award-winning Connection Newspapers print and digital media.

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Tia, Vizsla, 14 yrs old, (cared for by the author, Springfield) advises, “Insist on air conditioned limo rides. It’s better than an open window, and far more dignified.”



Lani, mixed lineage, 6 yrs old (cared for by Ana Ka’ahanui, Burke): “Take your squeaky toy battles from the hot, sunny deck to a cool grassy yard or wooded path. Then only the squeaker will be uncomfortable.”

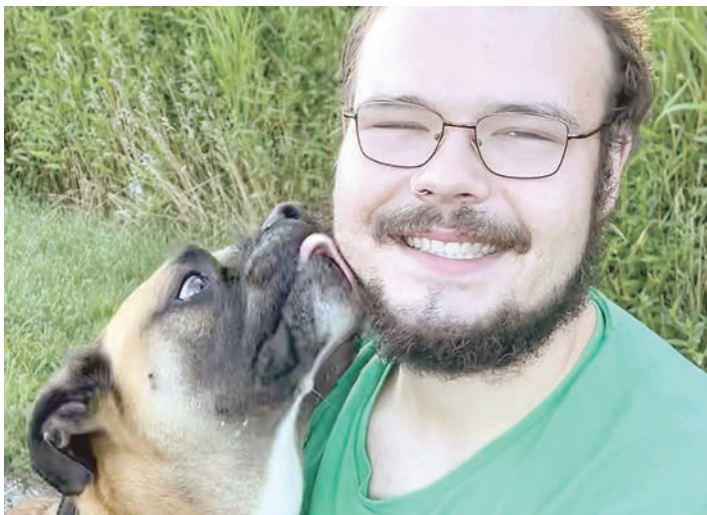
Dogs Dealing with Summer ‘Dog Days’

Keeping cool advice from the experts.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Noting the phrase, “dog days of summer”, The Connection went straight to the experts for advice on how to beat the heat of the year’s hottest weather. That’s right — we went to the dogs.

We asked some smart dogs how they keep cool and their advice seems to work for humans as well. But how did dogs, who certainly appreciate keeping cool as much as we humans do, get associated with the hottest of hot weather? The phrase derives from the summer rising of the star Sirius, also named Alpha Canis Majoris, or the Dog Star. The brightest star in the night sky was recognized and named by the ancient Greeks as it loyally followed the constellation Orion, the hunter across the sky. Thus the name, the Dog Star; the hunter’s loyal companion. Its rising in late summer was soon connected with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, fever, and even bad luck. Approximately 8.7 light years from earth, the star is too far to actually affect earth’s weather. Could this have been the start of blaming the dog for things for which it was not responsible? If you’d like to see the Dog Star, it’s visible in the east in the pre-dawn hours. However, the dogs advice, “every day is a dog day; might as well sleep in.”



Dexter, boxer mix, 6 yrs, (cared for by Wiley Shaw, Lorton): “Kissing those you love is cool in any weather.”



Baxter, poodle mix, 3 yrs, (cared for by Kari Schilling, Lorton): “Smart to stay in the AC unless dragged out, and do only early and late shady walks. Please...it’s the hair, Baby!



Carter, a cool weather loving Husky, one of the experienced dogs in beating the heat of the “dog days” of summer.



Bosco, Lab, 5 yrs, (cared for by Bill Beletsky, West Springfield) recipe: “Bring your sticks into the stream to play. Also be sure to shake near others after your swim to help everyone cool off.”



Carter, Husky, 4 1/2 yrs, (cared for by Kristen Furman, Lorton) suggests: “Go for early morning walks on shady trails. Back home, enjoy homemade frozen doggie ice cream made from blueberries, peanut butter, goat’s milk and yogurt as the coolest treat.”



Riders Anne McFarland, Fairfax; Jeanne Hechmer, Fairfax Station; Kim Cook, Woodbridge; and Sarah McClaffin, Leesburg receive course instructions from Melissa Smith



Jeanne Hechmer, Fairfax Station, with Citation, an 8 years old Irish Draft horse



Kim Cook, riding Loki, of Lorton, a 29 years old Tennessee Walker.

Horse Clinic Offered at Laurel Hill Center

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

The Clifton Horse Society, a 300+ member group, sponsored a full day event at Laurel Hill Equestrian Center in Lorton, on July 24. Participants had an opportunity to practice handling through obstacles under the

direction of Melissa Smith, Clinician, for the relatively new sport of Working Equitation. In the sport, first recognized in 1996, riders compete in four trials: dressage, ease of handling, speed and cow (a group event). The Clifton group offered the seminar as one of several opportunities to promote camaraderie among horse enthusiasts.

Bogey Is Missing

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

If you own a dog, you may have shuttered a bit after seeing posters pop up throughout the area alerting to lost dog Bogey. Bogey's "adventure" is continuing longer than that of most lost dogs. According to the ASPCA, 93 percent of dogs who stray are found within 24 hours; the chances of finding a dog drop to about 60 percent thereafter. Dogs are well known for their ability to backtrack home to loved ones. But working against Bogey's nose and scent trail was heavy drenching rain for several days after the start of her run.

Bogey, an eight year old Redbone Coonhound mix, was lost on June 11 during a 1 a.m. yard outing for relief after overindulging in a cicada feast. A strong dog, she pulled through her older collar and away from her

owner, Annie Ballentine, of Fairfax, near the intersection of Route 29 and Fairfax County Parkway, to explore the wonders of the night. She left the GPS collar she's worn since past adventures sitting in its recharging station.

Working in favor of Bogey's return is a committed family and a team of supporters. Ballentine, an animal shelter volunteer with over seven years experience, quickly received help from fellow volunteers and was knowledgeable of the recommended actions for dog searches. Team

Bogey peppered social media and area streets, parks, and vet offices with posters alerting the public to watch for the lost dog. Ballentine hired professional dog trackers multiple times, who were able to trace Bogey's movements through ground and air scenting. Through tracing and sighting they learned, that while most lost dogs stay within

Would you know what to do if your dog was lost?

one or two miles of home, Bogey has covered a roughly 11 mile triangle of territory, including areas around Burke Lake, Lake Mercer, and the South Run trail system; and that she was in the Fountainhead area over a four day period.

What can you do to help bring Bogey home? While a lost dog can potentially survive months or even years on their own, Bogey's family wants her back and Bogey likely wants to be there too. If you have a critter camera or security camera, please check the footage often. The experts say, if you spot Bogey, don't call her, leave out or offer her food, or chase her. Instead call Ballentine (703 596-9296), to whom Bogey is much more likely to respond once she recognizes her familiar scent. You can keep up with news of the search on Facebook at "finding Bogey".

Losing a dog is a worry owners share, with



Browser found a place on the squad, sniffing for electronics.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPD

Police Armed with a High-Tech Dog Nose

New K-9 can sniff out thumb drives and cell phones that may be evidence.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Police Department has a new tool to fight cyber crimes and it's a black Labrador retriever named Browser, that specializes in sniffing out computer related evidence like thumb drives, cell phones or laptop computers that may have been used by criminals, particularly in child exploitation.

Browser is one of two certified electronic detection canines in Virginia and he finds these items by detecting a distinct chemical found in electronics. Browser can pinpoint where the electronics are and can find devices as small as a microSD card. This comes in handy "if a suspect throws a phone," police said.

Last year, Browser helped with 50 search warrants, FCPD said.

Browser was purchased with a donation from a community partner. He received several months of initial training from the vendor and spent an additional 40 hours with his handler, Detective Ray McCoy. To fine tune their skills, the pair completed another 200 hours of training sponsored by a federal partner. When they are not conducting a search, Browser and Detective McCoy con-

tinue to train twice a day to keep their skills sharp.

Browser and McCoy are assigned to the Child Exploitation Unit in the FCPD Major Crimes, Cyber and Forensics Bureau, and are stationed in the police headquarters in Fairfax. During a search, K9 Browser is led by his handler, and if he finds a device, he sits down and is rewarded with food. An example of the work Browser performed since becoming a member of the Department took place last summer when Browser and McCoy were called to help a Fairfax County Probation and Parole officer search the home of a registered sex offender. During the search, Browser alerted on a bag. The probation officer found a hidden device that had inappropriate recordings of women from a neighboring jurisdiction.

Browser and McCoy also help Northern Virginia Washington, D.C. Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force with search warrants related to investigations involving child sexual exploitation materials. With the help of Browser, the FCPD has been able to expand investigative functions and abilities with cases involving digital media.

When Browser is not working or training, he is an office companion and member of the McCoy family.

LOST DOG



703-596-9296

Female Redbone Coonhound. 8 years old. 48 lbs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FINDING BOGEY
Posters on area streets and in parks alert the public to lost dog.

spending for collars, harnesses, leashes and tracking systems accounting for part of the over \$22 billion dollars spent for dog supplies each year. Many times efforts to prevent dog loss are insufficient. The American Humane Association says that one in three pets will become lost at some point during their life; over 10 million dogs and cats are lost or stolen in the U.S. every year.



Patta Ross, Burke, and Keng Ross, just arrived for a visit from Thailand, enjoy festival foods, including pastry from French trained owner/chef of ToiMoi Bakery.



Festival volunteers, Abby Boteler, Mary Pitman, Brian Pham, Jessica Nguyen, and Andrew Sprentelmeyer staff the entry booth.

First Asian Festival on Main

Fairfax hosts the event celebrating Asian cultural heritage.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Joy and happiness roamed Fairfax's Main Street on July 25, in the form of a Chinese Lion who chased away evil spirits to the delight of the large crowd of event goers. With a vision of "togetherness, love, and the celebration of community" Old Town Fairfax business owners organized the one day, one block festival which highlighted Asian heritage through food, arts, and crafts. Performances benefit Asian-American and Pacific Is-

lander (AAPI) charities. The first of its kind in Fairfax, the Asian festival was envisioned by Fairfax business owner Wendy Wong. In just over three months, Wong gained support from the city and an impressive list of sponsors and supporters. The well organized event closed Main Street to vehicle traffic and gave over the space to food trucks, performing artists, games, and tea for the free event.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Henry Hsiang, member of True Taichi, demonstrates the martial art.



Chinese Lion dances up Main Street collecting tribute and head pats.



Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe members, Zoe and Kathy, perform the Red Handkerchief Dance, according to Chinese legend, showering the audience with good luck.



Stage designer, Fairfax design architect Sucha Khamsuwan, and organizer and business owner Wendy Wong celebrate the festival's start.



The Choy Wun Lion Dance Troupe opened the entertainment with traditional Chinese cultural dance, thought to bring happiness and destroy evil.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



Undergrounding the wires has a lot of advantages.

‘Strategic Underground’ Throughout County

Dominion Power is undergrounding wires throughout Fairfax County.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

During the frequent thunderstorms that are forecasted throughout the summer, flashlights and candles may have been the short-term answer in the past, but Dominion Energy has another option with a program they are offering called “Strategic Underground,” so the lines won’t be exposed when lightning strikes.

“Strategic Underground is a system-wide initiative focusing on shortening outages following major storms,” said Dominion’s Heather Montville in their promotional video, where they moved to identify outage-prone lines. “Our goal for you is to provide minimal impact,” she said.

Dominion Energy Virginia’s Strategic Underground Program is an initiative to shorten power restoration times following major storms, they said. Dominion En-

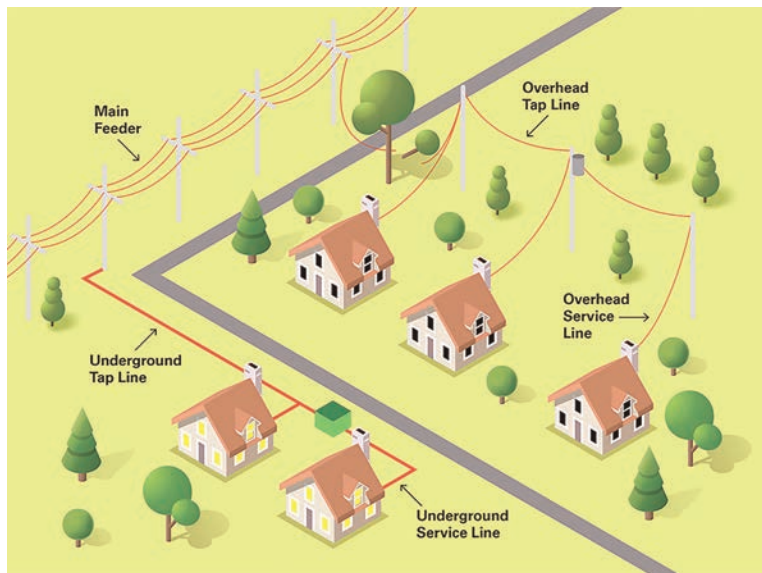
ergy accomplishes this by finding the most outage-prone overhead power lines and moving them underground for protection.

“Tree limbs falling on lines and weather are two of the greatest contributors to outages,” Montville said.

Moving the most frequently damaged power lines underground benefits customers by making outages in those areas shorter and less frequent. When crews don’t have to make as many repairs after a storm, it takes much less time to restore power to all customers. Faster power restoration means that life returns to normal more quickly and decreases the economic impact on homes and businesses across the area.

Dominion uses a data-driven process to continually analyze the performance of tap lines over a 10-year period. Those most prone to outages will be considered for

SEE DOMINION, PAGE 11



This Dominion diagram shows undergrounding advantages in a neighborhood.

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CALENDAR

		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31		

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For more information on dates and registration:
<https://www.virginiaredistricting.org>
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CALENDAR

JULY 8 TO AUG. 29

Summer Table. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Building W-8, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Ceramic Artists Pam Eisenmann and Joan Ulrich offer two takes on convivial dining. Celebrating summer gatherings with lively handmade tableware: serving pieces, vases, sippers and more. Meet the artists on August 14th, 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

CONCERTS AT BURKE LAKE

Grab your friends, a picnic blanket, and meet at 7 p.m. at Burke Lake Park for the annual free concert series. Arrive early to get your spot on the lawn and grab a drink from 2 Silos.

SCHEDULE

July 28 The Road Ducks (Southern Rock)
Aug. 4 The Johnny Artis Band (Blues, Rock & Roll)
Aug. 11 Practically Einstein (Vintage Rock)
Aug. 18 The Colin Thompson Band (Blues Rock)
Aug. 25 Rescheduled show / TBD

WEDNESDAY/JULY 28

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. At Lee District Park, Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, Franconia.
July 28 -- Pablo Antonio y La Firma (Merengue/Cumbia/Salsa)
Aug. 4 - Junkyard Band (Go-Go, Funk)
Aug. 11 - The U.S. Navy - Cruisers (Pop/Rock)
Aug. 18 - Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattler Verein (Alpine Dance/Music)
Aug. 25 - Sharon Clark Quartet (Jazz)

THURSDAY/JULY 29

Rosslyn LIVE from Gateway Park. 6:30 p.m. Located at Gateway Park - 1300 Lee Hwy., Arlington. Beginning on July 15, you're invited to grab a drink and experience three themed nights of interactive dance performances,

sing-a-long moments, and Instagrammable installations throughout Gateway Park. Website: <https://www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-live> Thursday, July 29, 2021 6:30 p.m. Drag.

SATURDAY/JULY 31

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Summer Saturdays is back! Join them virtually or in-person for hands-on history activities. Cost is \$0 to \$10. This program occurs at the same time every Saturday until August 28th. Visit the website: www.gunstonhall.org/event

SATURDAY/JULY 31

Mount Vernon Nights. 8 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton.
Schedule
July 31 - Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)
August 7 - The Pietasters (Ska)
August 14 - Crys Matthews (Jazz, Blues, Funk)
August 21 - Dom Flemons (Acoustic Blues)
August 28 - The U.S. Army Field Band, Six String Soldiers (Americana, Folk, Bluegrass, Irish)

GOLF CAMPS

Join the nationwide resurgence of the lifelong game of golf. Laurel Hill Golf Club and Twin Lakes Golf Course are offering weeklong summer camps taught by professionals from The Eisman Golf Academy. Junior golfers ages 8-14 will learn and improve on golf fundamentals in a fun environment. Class sizes are limited for personalized instruction and camp includes on-course play. Also included are swag bags, hat, games and prizes. Camp will take place at Twin Lakes on Aug. 9-13, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, visit the Junior Golf Fairfax website. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road in Clifton.

Dominion

FROM PAGE 9

placement underground. Tap lines, the overhead wires that go into neighborhoods, typically sustain the most damage during storms and require the highest number of repairs.

As of the beginning of June, they have converted more than 1,700 miles of overhead taplines and removed close to 2,500 annual outage events. These proj-

ects have directly affected almost 42,000 customers, Dominion said.

As areas and neighborhoods are identified, a project team will begin a comprehensive outreach process to work cooperatively with property owners and neighborhood groups on a plan for undergrounding portions of the lines. Dominion Energy will work closely with property owners to obtain the rights necessary to perform the work, their project information stated.

Shakespeare Festival

FROM PAGE 5

those lines and moments that are most well-known. We can't wait to bring the community back together in the perfect outdoor setting for an evening of great performances for all ages!" continued Snellings.

Snellings noted that the outdoor setting for the Festival at Veterans Amphitheater permits patrons to bring their own dinners.

"A Brief Shakespeare Festival" will be performed by a wide range in ages of local students and adults with excerpts from The Bard's works. There will be scenes, monologues and sonnets presented with the student actors performing adaptations from "The Tempest" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (elementary school age students), "Twelfth Night" and "Macbeth" (middle school group) and "Romeo and Juliet" and "Hamlet" (High School/College group). Each

student will play several characters. Between the student performances adults will provide theatrical interludes as bookends.

Parents of the elementary school age students were enthusiastic about the Festival and the participation of their children including how excited their children were. As one parent noted, "the idea of doing Shakespeare was a little intimidating at first for a ten year old, but she has fallen in love with Shakespeare's humor."

There are more than two dozen children and adults from the local community who are the cast members and creative team for the "Brief Shakespeare Festival." As individuals and as team members, they are working to bring a joyful, rewarding evening to all.

In inviting the community to the outdoor "Brief Shakespeare Festival" Snellings made clear the Festival will be "be truly different and unique."

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Bedridden in Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It all started innocently enough: on Crystal Beach in Galveston Texas while enjoying a family vacation. Due to 11 years of chemotherapy, I have neuropathy in both feet. As a result, I never walk barefoot, especially on a beach, unless of course, I go into the water. Which on the Saturday before last. I did. When I returned to my beach chair, with my feet all sandy and wet, I elected not to put my sneakers and socks on for the 50-yard walk back to our accommodations. Oh (literally), how I wish I had.

Not 10 feet from the end of the beach was a narrow strip of road (tar, concrete, I can't remember) which we had to cross to reach the grassy margins which would then take us to our house. No sooner had I stepped left, right, left, that I felt like a buffalo which had been shot on the Great Plains, as I immediately collapsed onto a neighbor's yard swearing in pain as I landed; as the heat of the pavement seared through the bottom of both feet. As I sat on the grass with my heels clenched and my toes pointing skyward, I thought, "I'm not going to be able to walk the 25 yards to our house." Somehow, within a few minutes, I summoned up the strength to stand and somehow I managed to hobble my way home. (I'll spare you the details of the excruciating pain I endured walking up the 20+ wooden steps to get inside our house.)

The following day, I remained inside with my feet off the floor and my socks on angling for some kind of relief. The only times I had to move (to visit the bathroom) were sheer torture. Later that day, I relented and let my wife, Dina, look at my feet. She removed my bloody socks and recoiled in horror. To say it wasn't a pretty sight isn't really stating the obvious. It's stating that I was oblivious. I suffered through the rest of the night, taking only Extra Strength Tylenol for pain. It didn't really work. The next day we drove to Urgent Care.

I was seen within 15 minutes of my arrival. The physician's assistant on call removed my socks and assessed the damage. He said I had second degree burns on the soles of both feet. He prescribed an antibiotic pill, a pain pill and some medicinal cream. The cream was to be smeared on a non-adhesive bandage which then was to be placed on the affected areas and wrapped with a self-sticking, ace-type bandage which was to be changed twice a day. I was given my prescriptions and a set of crutches. Soon I was out the door - via a wheelchair, and then Dina drove us across the street to a pharmacy where we picked up our goodies. Finally, we had a treatment plan and relief was in sight. Oh (literally) how I wish it were so.

The next day was our last day of vacation. Of course I was no use to anybody as the house was cleaned and everyone packed their stuff as the cars were loaded with luggage (and back down those same 25 wooded steps). It was nearly three hours later (after a two-hour car ride) with Dina driving (don't tell the car rental place) as I squirmed in pain, until we arrived at our airport gate with yours truly getting wheelchair assistance.

Circumventing lines to drop off baggage and pass through security, with haste and super efficiency, we eventually were deposited at Gate A17 in plenty of time to make our departure. Unfortunately, the pain had not really subsided. In my mind I knew I was going to Urgent Care later that night after we arrived home in Maryland. These painkillers couldn't kill a fly let alone the pain from a second degree burn. (We were seen that night at a local Urgent Care around 11 pm. They confirmed the diagnosis, but they prescribed a more serious painkiller: percocet. Which so far hasn't stopped the pain. Duller it, maybe?)

Back at the gate, while we waited to board, a woman came over to sit next to where I had stretched out across two seats to minimize the pain. Dina explained to her the reason why I had my legs outstretched was because I was injured. She smiled and said: "Would you mind if I ... ? Stay tuned to this space for "Still Bedridden in Burtonsville" publishing Wednesday, August 4th.

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



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