

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

Centreville Hosts National Night Out

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Juliana Hakin, 2 1/2, of Centreville receives a mini-football from Chief Kevin Davis during National Night Out 2021 in Centreville while her grandmother Seham Hakin looks on.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Mom's Organic Market: Stewards of the Land

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FCPS Priority One: Get Eligible Students Vaccinated

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MedStar Washington Hospital Center recognized as one of the nation's top heart hospitals.



Princesita Cezar, a MedStar nurse, became a patient when she needed MedStar's team-based care for a rare heart disorder. Her cardiac surgeon: Ezequiel Molina, MD (left), one of the scores of specialists who contribute to the cardiovascular program's success.

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The criteria required to be ranked nationally include experience in complex cases, patient outcomes, and quality. MedStar Washington Hospital Center also received the highest rating possible for the treatment of two conditions—heart attack and heart failure—and for the performance of three procedures—aortic valve surgery, heart bypass surgery, and transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR).

To learn more about the experience and expertise that earns MedStar Washington Hospital Center national recognition year after year, visit MedStarHeartInstitute.org.



It's how we treat people.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOM'S ORGANIC MARKET

It's a win again for Mom's Organic Market employees as they take their mission statement to protect and restore the environment to heart, helping at Mason Neck State Park.

Mom's Organic Market: Stewards of the Land

Putting their mission statement front and center.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Team Members at Mom's Organic Market take environmental restoration seriously. It is Mom's culture, their stated corporate purpose "to protect and restore the environment." Recently, a group of Team Members at Mom's Organic Market in Herndon donned work gloves, hats, and sunscreen. They walked over to nearby Sugarland Run, literally in their backyard, taking physical action to protect and restore a historic environment along the tributary of the Potomac.

It is land the Manahoac tribe of Indians inhabited centuries ago. In 1692, according to "A Journiall of our Ranging," by Lieut. David Strahane of the Rangers of Pottomack, they explored the area finding "Juice, like Molasses, distilling from the tree." Hence came the name "sugar land," the habitat of the sugar maple. According to the "Journiall," it was in sugar land that the Englishmen tasted the syrup of maple trees for the first time.

Lea R. of Reston, Kendall Hobson of Herndon, Sevlín Roca of Ashburn, Kendall Scott of Leesburg, and Caton Fuller of Herndon wandered the shady, quiet paths and stream banks of Sugarland Run, picking up litter, and waded into the water to remove the trash, restore the environment.

Nicole Schroyer of Mom's said that all



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOM'S ORGANIC MARKET

Kendall Scott and Caton Fuller pull trash out of Sugarland Run in Herndon.

stores had designated "ER" Captains who spearheaded sustainability by educating staff on environmental initiatives, participating in volunteer opportunities, connecting with local environmental non-profits, advocating for local and statewide policy, and more.

"All MOM's stores volunteer quarterly in their communities," said Schroyer. "Team Members may help out at an environmental festival, or on an organic farm, plant trees, or simply walk around their community or local park and pick up trash."

"It's a great program that allows us to encourage everyone to get on board and help out in any way they can," said Schroyer.

According to Kendall Scott, a couple of weeks later, Team Members were back in the environment again. "It was a cleanup and garden maintenance for Mason Neck State Park, one of our VA partners," said Scott.

FCPS Priority One: Get Eligible Students Vaccinated

Expansion of school COVID-19 vaccination clinics underway.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The level of community transmission of COVID-19 in Fairfax County is increasing again. It entered the “substantial” category, the second to the highest level on Tuesday, Aug. 2, following an upward trend reported by the CDC. The same week, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) continued vaccinating eligible students at school-based clinics under a public-private partnership.

During a media event on Wednesday, Aug. 3, while visiting one of the clinics, Superintendent Dr. Scott Brabrand announced that FCPS wants to be ready to roll to get eligible children vaccinated during the school day with parent permission. There are 83,000 students under the age of 12 entering school buildings for in-person learning on Aug. 23, according to Brabrand. Because of their ages, the students are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

Fairfax County Public Schools, in partnership with the County’s Health Department, hosted free school-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics for adolescents 12 years of age and older at three school clinic sites, Herndon Elementary on Wednesday, Aug. 4, Justice High School in Falls Church on Thursday, Aug. 5, and Liberty Middle School in Clifton on Friday, Aug. 6.

ON WEDNESDAY, Brabrand visited Herndon Elementary School to see firsthand the public health initiative underway. According to Brabrand, the division finished the last school year, getting almost 5,000 students their first COVID-19 vaccine dose. The division plans to have additional clinics up running this fall under a public-private partnership.

“[Currently], we are at 75 percent in Fairfax County Public Schools of 12 to 17-year-olds to have their first dose. Now, we want to get that number even higher, so we have school vaccination clinics this week at multiple schools, and we want to continue,” Brabrand said.

“The solution to this pandemic, to make sure all schools return in this county five days in person, is the vaccination of all of our eligible students. Right now, it’s all of our 12-years-olds and up. We are preparing and working very closely to have more school vaccination clinics this fall at, at least 40 locations,” Brabrand added.

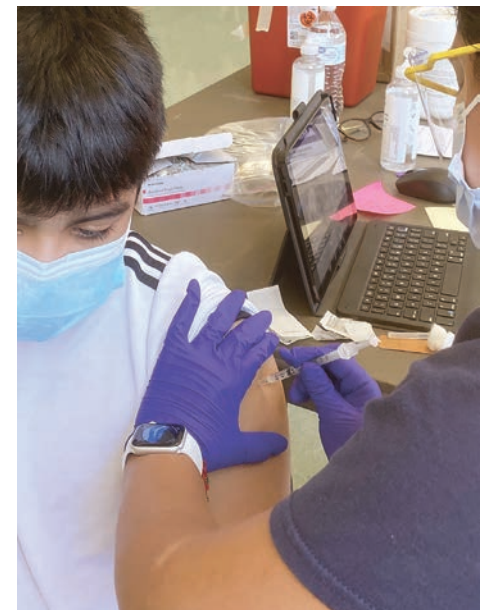
According to Brabrand, as the eligibility age for vaccination goes lower and lower, the division will be able to vaccinate thousands more children “to have a year that is as close to normal as possible.”

“Vaccination is part of the solution,” said Brabrand.

Students accompanied by their parents

(From left) Renee Gorman, Kimberlin Jimenez, 13, Scott Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools, Hansel Molina, and Jeimmy Molina take a congratulatory photo after Kimberlin and Jeimmy receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

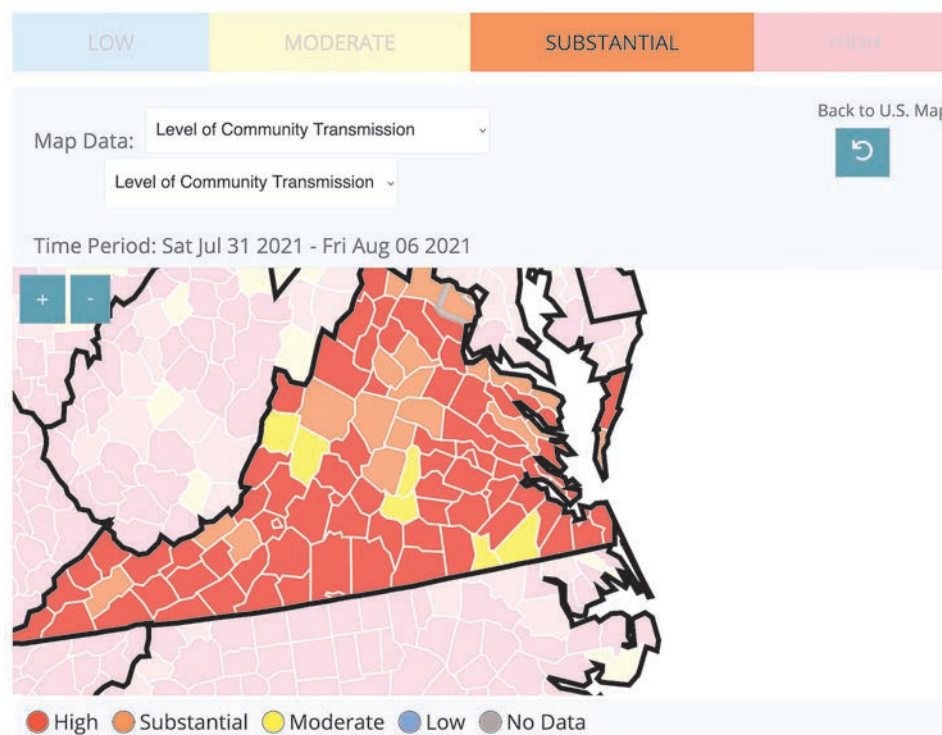
PHOTO BY
MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Maycoll (last name withheld), 12, a Fairfax County student receives his COVID-19 vaccine at a school vaccination site.

Level of Community Transmission in Fairfax County, Virginia



The Level of Community Transmission in Fairfax County, Virginia escalates into ‘substantial.’

and guardians continued to enter the school to take advantage of the COVID-19 vaccine opportunity. Maycoll (last name withheld), 12, sat in the large room with others in the process of getting their vaccination. Maycoll said he would be attending Herndon Middle School in a couple of weeks. After receiving his immunization, Maycoll said, “It didn’t hurt, just a little pinch. I relaxed my arm.”

Rising freshman at Herndon High School, Kimberley Jimenez, 13, of Herndon, was about to exit the school clinic after receiving her vaccine. “I feel safe now because I got the vaccine [but], I will leave my mask on because others may not be vaccinated, and this is my first dose.”

According to Brabrand, like many other

schools in Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Public Schools is starting the school year 2021-22 with universal masking to counteract the Delta variant and reassure staff, students, parents, and the community that the division is committed to safe learning in school buildings.

BRABRAND said FCPS wanted to be very clear about social distancing. “Ninety-nine point five percent of our students are returning in person. Social distancing is not going to be possible in all of our schools and classrooms, and we’re not going to build a false expectation to our community.” He said where schools and classrooms could have additional capacity and additional distancing; social distancing would be possible.

Instead, schools are focused on layered mitigation strategies in line with the CDC—universal masking, upgrades to ventilation systems, and continued sanitation and hygiene efforts practiced well.

In addition, there would be professional monitoring sourced outside of FCPS. “We’ll continue to have safety teams coming in, an outside company similar to the one that Loudon County used, to continue to make sure that our staff is following all the safety procedures to keep schools safe,” said Brabrand.

He added that contact tracing would continue to be done because “the more contact tracing support we have, the quicker we can turn around having kids who may be paused at home, so they can get back in the classroom.”

Brabrand said to make immunization of their children easy for parents and guardians who give their permission; it will be provided within the confines of the school day, even for the youngest children. “So, we’re super excited about that. We really want to model for the rest of the country, vaccinate. We need to move away from the battles. Everybody needs to have kids back in school. Once they’re back in school, we’ve got to make it seamless and easy to get everyone vaccinated, including our students and including our youngest students in elementary school.”

According to Brabrand, FCPS is working on a protocol where parents can give permission and not physically be present with their children when the vaccine is given in school. However, FCPS knows some parents will want to be there, and they are working out the details.

Jeimmy Molina, 13, on her way to Herndon Middle School, received her vaccination. In an interview, Jeimmy answered what she would tell those with vaccine hesitancy. “To my friends and family, I’d say that I did it, and I encourage you to do it too.”

Centreville Hosts National Night Out

Sully Station II: Robust partnerships improve planned community's safety.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Activities Committee of Sully Station II Community Association, located in the heart of the historic Sully District of Centreville hosted its National Night Out 2021 block party Tuesday, Aug. 3. The event celebrated the robust community partnerships between residents of Sully Station II with a membership of 1,328 homes and those who answered the call to join Fairfax County Police Department, most notably those serving at Sully District Station and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, the firefighters, and paramedics of Fire Station 438.

Mandy Collens is Vice Chair of the Activities Committee, and the evening event with its invitation to local first responders to join was, as she called it, her “baby.”

According to Collens, National Night Out had always been one of the Activity Committee's most significant events, drawing more than 400 people.

Hopes remained high even with COVID for “a wonderful turnout, the committee's first event since March 2020”. “We've taken so many COVID precautions, from all individually packaged food to offering face-masks, lots of hand sanitizer, more spacing, encouraging masks, and no indoor use,” Collens said.

Supervisor Cathy Smith (D - Sully District) could be seen talking with many people who lived at Sully Station II.

“National Night Out is a great night to bring together the police and our communities so they can interact and get to know each other. This is a prime event in Sully District. It's a good time for people ... to share a little food, get to meet our police officers, talk to them and find out about the good work they do in the community,” Smith said.

This year, the committee added a thank you table for note card writing and a “no-teline.”

“Our police and fire station have done so much more with the onset of COVID. This string will be strung [back and forth between the tent poles]. We have blue cards for police and red for the firefighters and medics,” Collens said.

Nearby three friends, Dayton Burgess, 12, Mark McLendon, and Brayden Lee, 13, lingered waiting for the event to start. Learning of the notecards, they agreed to write some and share their remarks. “Thank you for all your help in the fires and emergencies,” read Dayton. In May 2018, fires swept through townhome units at Beumeadow Drive and Deer Lake Lane. “Thank you for your help and keeping us safe,” read Mark. “Thank you for serving the department and keeping us safe,” read Brayden.



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Attendance ran in the hundreds at National Night Out 2021 at Sully Station II in Centreville.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey McKay (D - At-large), Supervisor Cathy Smith (D - Sully District), Anna Philmlee, and Mary Philmlee enjoy the evening at National Night Out 2021 at Sully Station II in Centreville.



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

A girl gives Police Service Dog Jack, a Fairfax County Police Department member, a big hug during National Night Out 2021 in Centreville held at Sully Station II.



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Private First Class Meg Hawkins, Community Outreach Officer, hands a young boy a complimentary “Be our guest” coupon card for complimentary Chick-fil-a Nuggets or Chicken Sandwich.

“National Night Out is a great night to bring together the police and our communities so they can interact and get to know each other. This is a prime event in Sully District.

— Supervisor Cathy Smith
(D - Sully District)



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Dayton Burgess, 12, Mark McLendon, and Brayden Lee, 13, write thank you notes to Fairfax County Police officers and Fire and Rescue firefighters and paramedics during National Night Out 2021 at Sully Station II in Centreville.

Jenna Brown, chair of the Activities Committee said they invited personnel from local Fairfax County Fire Station 428 to come with their big engines, Fairfax County Police Department Chief Kevin Davis, and officers at Sully District Police Station. Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeffrey McKay, would stop by as would Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith (D).

According to Brown, organizers wanted the event to be about the police and fire and rescue. “I appreciate their dedication to our HOA; we've always had an open line of communication,” she said. “They always provide us with great information and keep us up to date with everything that is going on in our local community so we can make smart choices and decisions.”

Jason Allegra, Captain Sully District Police Station said he was trying to interact with as many people as possible. “We have a ton of officers out tonight from all over the county... We're extremely happy to be here.”

COMMENTARY

It Is Hot Outside

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



The extended weather forecast for this week indicates that temperatures will be in the mid- to upper-90s. Before the end of the month, it is likely to get hotter. Before complaining, however, we should consider what is happening in other parts of the world with a surging pandemic, extreme weather conditions from droughts to severe flooding, raging fires, and unsettled political conditions.

A report issued in June of this year from the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, titled "The Impact of Climate Change on Virginia's Coastal Areas," advises us that "climate change will have an increasingly disruptive effect on people living in Virginia...and these disruptions will have repercussions across the Commonwealth." VASEM is a nonprofit group made up of the best minds in Virginia's institutions of higher education and other scientific and research organizations. (www.VASEM.org) The report is not yet online but is available in print form.

The scientists advise us that "small recalibrations of the greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere can have enormous implications for the solar energy the earth retains. This surplus of energy, mostly in the form of heat, has set in motion the changes that will define the century." The evidence they have gathered indicates that for most of the past 800,000 years the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has been between about 200 and 280 parts per million, but in the past century that amount has jumped

to more than 400 parts per million. The result has been that the earth has absorbed a tremendous amount of energy that is raising temperatures at a rate expected to be 2.7 degrees by 2050. That increase has been brought on by human activities such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation.

According to Virginia scientists and experts, the results of climate change will have more impact on the weather than simply being hotter outside. While the report focuses on the coastal region of Virginia, the entire state can expect erratic weather patterns of extreme rainfall, extreme winds, and increased variability in seasonal temperatures. These changes can have important consequences for agriculture and growing seasons and for human health. For the coastal area of Virginia, the consequences will be sea level rise brought about by melting ice sheets and glaciers and by thermal expansion of water. The Virginia coastline is affected by land subsidence as land area actually goes down. According to the report, "The rate of relative sea level rise in coastal Virginia which combines both sea level rise and land subsidence, is among the highest rates in the United States."

It is hot outside, but it is going to get hotter! Irrefutable scientific evidence proves the existence of climate change and its resulting weather and other impacts as the VASEM report and hundreds of others like it document. The time for debate is past. We need to move up the date for achieving zero emissions in all sectors of our society and take other actions to stop the changes in our climate.

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Legals

SBA Towers X LLC is proposing to increase the tower height from 106 feet to 147 feet at the following site: VA23548-A Herndon - 101 Elden Street in Herndon, VA (Lat: 38-57-47.74 Long: 77-22-5.24). SBA invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. We request comments by September 4, 2021. Comments can be sent to SBA by mailing a copy to 8051 Congress Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33487, attn: Regulatory or by email to ABecella@sbasite.com.

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-Werner Heisenberg



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THE CONNECTION

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CALENDAR

AUG. 12-SEPT. 5

"An Act of God." At NextStop Theatre Company in Herndon, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The season opens with "An Act of God," a funny comedy in which God, along with his two "wingmen," answer some of the most pressing questions that have plagued mankind since Creation. By David Javerbaum and directed by Tuyet Pham. Season subscriptions are available by calling the NextStop Box Office at 703-481-5930x0 or by visiting www.nextstoptheatre.org.



NextStop Theatre presents "An Act of God" from Aug. 12-Sept. 5, 2021 in Herndon.

Sept 10 -- keeton + 8 Track Jones;
Sept 17 -- The Reflex;
Sept 24 -- Screaming Mönkeys.

SATURDAY/AUG. 14

Bricks by the Lake Event. 3-5 p.m. The Reston Historic Trust & Museum is hosting the first annual Bricks by the Lake event. The community is invited to Lake Anne Plaza to create Lego creations based on the themes of live, work, play and memories. Attendees enjoying the day can view the Lego builds being created on the plaza as well as a Master Build creation inside Reston Community Center's Jo Ann Rose Gallery. Awards will be given for each age bracket. For more information, visit: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/bricks-by-the-lake>.

FRIDAY/AUG. 13

Hillbilly Gypsies. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. The Hillbilly Gypsies perform their own brand of old-time bluegrass and original mountain music at the Braddock Nights Concerts Series. The group has been pickin' 'n' grinnin' for 20 years, and their high-energy live performances have become a crowd favorite at major festivals, fairs and concert venues across the mid-Atlantic region and abroad. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

FRIDAY/AUG. 13

Friday Night Live. 6:30 p.m. 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

Aug 13 -- It's All Good;
Aug 20 -- JunkFood;
Aug 27 -- All-Star Band;
Sept 3 -- Shake the Room;

AREA ROUNDUPS

Reston Woman Killed. McLean Man Injured in a Car Crash

Virginia State Police are investigating a two-vehicle crash in Fairfax County. The crash occurred Aug. 7, 2021 at 6:59 a.m. on Interstate 95 in the Express Lanes at the 169 mile marker.

A 2016 BMW 228i was traveling south in the I-95 Express Lanes when it ran off the left side of the interstate and made an illegal U-turn in the shoulder. Based on witness accounts, the BMW then stopped on the southbound shoulder facing north. The northbound BMW then pulled into the southbound Express Lanes and struck head-on a southbound 2020 BMW 540i. The impact of the crash caused the 2016 BMW to spin around and strike the Jersey wall. Meanwhile, the 2020 BMW overturned and came to rest on the right shoulder.

The driver of the 2016 BMW, Stephanie D. Garcia, 29, of Reston, Va., was not wearing a seatbelt and was thrown from the car. She was transported to Fairfax Inova Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries the next day, Aug. 8, 2021.

The driver of the 2020 BMW, Adrian K. Lund, 72, of McLean, Va., was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment of serious injuries. Lund was wearing a seatbelt.

The crash remains under investigation.

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CONNECTION

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Sole Survivor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's been nearly three weeks since "the burning," and I'm here to say - while sitting down with my left foot elevated, that I am approximately 75% the man I used to be pre-July 17 around 2 pm central standard time. I can now walk, mostly on my right foot, but always with the help and security of my new best friend: the walker. I am no longer housebound or bedridden. Though I still cannot drive for fear of ripping off the brand new skin which has appeared on the balls of my feet (especially the progress on my right/driving foot), healing from the inside out; I am free however to be a passenger, and load myself onto the backseat of our SUV and extend my legs across the entire seat to minimize any discomfort. The pain is very manageable, but on occasion I have taken a few of the percocets that had been prescribed for pain. The relief was hardly immediate and the pill size was moderate so I don't see myself getting addicted (percocet is OxyContin). In fact, the size pill I was prescribed barely dulled the pain; most of which has subsided anyway. (And when I was in severe pain in Texas, the physician's assistant prescribed tylenol with codeine. It did nothing. It wasn't even worth the co-pay. Perhaps a physician's assistant, without a doctor present, couldn't prescribe a narcotic, especially one that has addictive qualities. Presumably, it was for my own protection. At that point however, I didn't need protection. I needed pain relief.)

After seeing a physician's assistant in Galveston, an Emergency Room doctor in Gaithersburg, two Podiatrists in Kensington and my Internal Medicine doctor in Silver Spring, I have been set free-ish. None of these doctors felt the need to see me again. The healing of my feet has progressed far enough that the threat of infection has passed so I am now on my own, sort of. I (my wife, Dina, actually) am to continue dressing my wounds for one to two weeks (depending on which foot) and use our own judgment about when to discontinue the treatment. It appears as if I have survived the ordeal, mostly.

And though there were times at the beginning when the pain was excruciating, and times in the middle when the pain was bearable; at the end, in a week or two, I will be forever grateful that my condition did not deteriorate due to infection, blistering or nerve damage. As it happened, "the burning" was simply the unintended consequence of the damage 11-plus years of chemotherapy has done to my body, inside and out. Because of the neuropathy in my feet (thankfully, there isn't any neuropathy in my hands or other extremities), I can never, because physically I can't, walk barefoot. And because of that pre-existing condition, the bottoms of my feet are as soft as a baby's behind. With no calluses formed on my feet to protect me, I'm kind of a standing duck out there. I found out the soft way how hard it is for me to walk across hot pavement.

And the shoeless choice I made was a choice I, like millions of others who've gone to the beach, made quite casually. I was simply doing something - walking barefoot, that came naturally and historically, as in I've done it a hundred times, especially having walked across hot sand. Not anymore. As a long-time cancer patient, generally speaking, I'm aware of many of the dos and don'ts and what trouble to avoid, but never had I considered that my lung/thyroid cancer treatment might cause a problem potentially, on the soles of my feet if I walked barefoot at the beach. I know I'm supposed to avoid the sun (I'll be the one sitting under a beach umbrella with a hat on my head, sunglasses on my face and covered head to toe, with towels and a tearshirt), but nobody ever advised me that I shouldn't go to the beach. Before "the burning," I would have thought I was an experienced enough cancer patient that I knew what situations might be harmful to my health. Apparently not. It seems as if I haven't quite learned all my lessons, yet.

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

Lt. C.D. Sharp introduces K9 Jack to people in Reston during National Night Out 2021.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

National Night Out 2021 at Hunters Woods Plaza

Enhancing police-community partnerships.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

National Night Out 2021 in Fairfax County kicked off early, beginning at noon on the Hunters Woods Plaza in Reston on Tuesday, Aug. 6. “This is Crime Prevention’s biggest day of the year,” said Crime Prevention Specialist Katy Defoe from Fairfax County Police Department.

In a demonstration of neighborhood spirit, vendors provided resources and giveaways at their tables. Mission BBQ Mobile Catering Truck and the Leidos “Anything is Popsicle” purple ice cream truck, “Scoop” offered their specialties.

According to Defoe, National Night Out is for communities to get together to show crime is not welcome in their community. It is a voluntary program whereby communities invite the police to visit them, not the other way around. “We’re showing up for no other reason except to be social and talk to people out in public without there being something wrong,” Defoe said.

Fairfax County Police officers, Motor Squad, support staff, and Chief Kevin Davis attended the Reston celebration. Davis said that his interest in National Night Out was community and police relationships.

“I’ve been at National Night Out events for the last thirty years, and they’re always special,” said Davis. “The thing that I think Fairfax County should be proud of is the fact we have over 140 National Night Out events just today. That’s an amazing number. It really speaks for itself, the level of community involvement in Fairfax County and I’m just glad to be a part of it.”

Davis said that for folks who could not attend a National Night Out event that day; hopefully, they would see the police at other community events that were not service or emergency-related. “I want the community to know us before they need us, at events that foster a relationship,” Davis said.

As Chief Davis mingled with the crowd, Isaiah Tobin, 11, of Reston, made his way to where the chief stood. “I’ve never met him,” Isaiah said. Walking up to the chief, Isaiah accepted an invitation for an introduction and carried on a conversation with him. In the end, Chief Davis asked Isaiah, “Do you like football? I hope so,” and tossed him a mini-football. Later, Isaiah could be seen running and passing the ball to friends.



Chief Kevin Davis, Fairfax County Police Department introduces himself to people in Reston during National Night Out 2021.

Off to the side, two young girls, Amelia Peirce, 7, and Nora Kim, 7, of Reston, cautiously walked toward D.Y. Kim and M.A. Valentin, of the Fairfax County Police Motor Squad. Officer Kim showed them the siren speaker on his motorcycle. Although they didn’t have much to say, the girls happily accepted the Fairfax County Police Department Junior Officer sticker badges.

Leila Gordon is Executive Director of the Reston Community Center with its entrance on Hunter Woods Plaza. According to Gordon, National Night Out 2021 at Hunter Woods Plaza was a collaboration between the local Reston Police District Station team and the Hunters Woods Neighborhood Coalition. “We jointly produce the event every year, except of course in 2020,” said Gordon.

“From our perspective, it reminds people that public safety is a community responsibility and the right of every neighborhood to expect. We enjoy the chance to connect to the police as people, who all enjoy fun, kids, good food, and a chance to be friendly. That’s what helps our neighborhood thrive.”

National Association of Town Watch Incorporated (NATW) introduced National Night Out in 1984. At that time, the event involved a reported 2.5 million neighbors in 400 communities in 23 states. NATW announced that this year’s celebration attracted 38 million neighbors in 16,000 communities across all 50 states and many U.S. territories and military bases worldwide.



Isaiah Tobin, 11, of Reston greets Chief Kevin Davis during the National Night out 2021 “block party” held at Hunters Woods Plaza in Reston.



A young girl enjoys chatting with McGruff the Crime Dog during National Night Out 2021, noon-style held at Hunter Woods Plaza in Reston.