

CONNECTION

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Children Enjoy 'Juice Box with Cops'

NEWS, PAGE 4

Grant and Elinor Yanchuleff, ages 3 and 5, of West Springfield, and Wesley Knowles, age 4, of Fairfax, try out the ride in a police transport vehicle, which Wesley called "really cool." A 'Juice Box with Cops' event was held at the West Springfield Police Station.

Summer Thunderstorm Impacts Roads, Bridges

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The Best Shot: Vax Up!

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OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 11

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

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The Best Shot: Vax Up!

County families and educators discuss COVID-19 School Year 2021-22.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The first day of the much anticipated, in-person return to school for SY2021-22 looms for many families, friends, and educators in Fairfax County's independent, public and home-based education systems. The question of whether to mask up or not is now off the table given State Health Commissioner, M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA pursuant to §§ 32.1-13 and 32.1-20 of the Code of Virginia, issued a mandate in the form of public health order. He cited that the public health emergency due to COVID-19 continued to exist and required all individuals aged two and older to wear masks when indoors at public and private K-12 schools to inhibit the spread of the virus, as recommended and described by the CDC. Exceptions were noted in the Order.

Educators can now focus on student mental health, learning loss, credit recovery, and achievement gap mitigation, but only if learning does not unhinge due to COVID-19. Virginia Department of Health stated on its website, "Vaccination is the most important public health action to end the pandemic."

The Connection opened a discussion about the vaccine and education to those who walk the front line, educators, families, and alumni, to gain their insights while balancing comments with data and science.

RETIRED FCPS TEACHER Ron Goad urged others to get vaccinated. He was "appalled to know" some of his friends were vaccine-hesitant or refused to get it. He hoped that COVID vaccines for students would be the crucial panacea to keep schools open as the virus bears down in a fourth wave forecasted to increase in Fairfax County by the CDC.

Goad recalled the Salk polio vaccine [1955], developed with March of Dimes funding. "I was just a little boy. My parents were very smart; they didn't question science. I remember seeing a sign on the back of a hearse that said, 'Get your shot or choose your plot...'. I think we've been too cordial and polite to allow foolishness to have a voice."

Karen F. (last name withheld upon request) is a retired FCPS teacher too. Like Goad, she recalled the Polio vaccine. "I was a tiny girl when Polio vaccines were required of all. I know my parents were married happier knowing I was not going to get Polio. Our freedoms come with responsibilities as well as rights. Given the threat of this pandemic, I think our responsibility to each other is greater than our individual rights just



Returning Strong and Staying Strong-Fairfax County Public School students. Source: Return to School - Safety | Fairfax County Public Schools.

and we are committed to continuing to do our part to stay safe and help others around us in this pandemic," Kohler said.

QUESTIONS have been raised about actions by wealthier countries, like the U.S. stockpiling vaccines and wondering if they are doing enough globally to vaccinate individuals in poorer countries. Mamta Murthi, World Bank's Vice President for Human Development, said Aug. 3 from her Washington D.C. home in a podcast,

"The situation that we see right now is absolutely unacceptable because a large part of the world remains unvaccinated, and this is a danger for all of us... We could be in a situation where the pandemic is prolonged... We also run the danger of the emergence of mutations as the pandemic is prolonged and the virus circulates amongst newer populations. And this means that we are all at danger of being victim to a new mutation that actually escapes the immunity that is being provided by vaccines."

Source: Mamta Murthi (@MamtaMurthi) / Twitter.

Finally, there is the question about additional FDA-approved and emergency use drugs for those who get COVID, no matter if they were unvaccinated or the virus broke through. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved only one drug treatment for COVID-19, the antiviral drug Veklury (remdesivir) for adults and certain pediatric patients with COVID-19 who are sick enough to need hospitalization. The FDA also issued Emergency Use Authorizations for several monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19 to treat mild or moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients, among them REGEN-COV for adults and pediatrics, according to FDA U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

Abdul Rashid Abdullah of Herndon said that parents should be vaccinated in addition to their children if they wished to send their children to school. "You have to push for the entire household to be vaccinated; otherwise, breakthrough infections can and will occur. We have to get totally ahead of this virus. We either are all out Patriots and love our country, our children, and our communities and are ready to do whatever is necessary to protect them or not," he said. As a U.S. Army Veteran, Abdullah took his oath seriously when he said he would protect against 'All enemies', both foreign and domestic. "And this virus is yet another enemy. Just like the ignorance that we're combating regarding it," he said.

No matter the type of schooling students in Fairfax County attend, public, independent, home-based, and other, at the beginning of SY2021-22 remember: "We are a community connected. Stay strong. This too will pass."

Vaccinations in Fairfax County, Virginia

How Do I Find a COVID-19 Vaccine?

People Vaccinated

Total	662,033	590,435
% of Total Population	57.7%	51.5%
Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	659,097	588,517
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	67.8%	60.5%
Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	600,077	538,771
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	68.1%	61.2%
Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	111,287	100,742
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	69.4%	62.8%

See more information on what these data mean.

Percent of Virginia's fully vaccinated recipients with valid county of residence: 51.3%

States with lower percentages for valid county of residence should be interpreted with caution.

	At Least One Dose	Fully Vaccinated
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CDC | Data as of: August 13, 2021 6:00am ET. Posted: Friday, August 13, 2021 4:36 PM ET

CDC has capped the percent of population coverage metrics at 99.9%. These metrics could be greater than 99.9% for multiple reasons, including census denominator data not including all individuals that currently reside in the county (e.g., part time residents) or potential data reporting errors. Estimates may change as new data are made available.

Vaccination rates in Fairfax County as of Aug. 13, 2021. Source: CDC COVID Data Tracker

now."

Karen does not see the vaccine as an option. She has imagined the past two years through teachers' eyes. "As a friend of many FCPS students' parents, I have seen their struggles, too. I think I can get behind the plans for students to be vaccinated as a requirement," she said.

FCPS alumnus K. H. (name withheld upon request) is an uncle to students preschool to high school-aged, across the learning spectrum from homeschool, to private school to public school. K.H. said that he trusted the effectiveness of vaccines, that they would protect him and others against COVID-19 breakthrough as he works in Fairfax County. However, he held concern for his nieces, nephews, and all those students under 12 years of age. "I am concerned about the potential for outbreaks among children too young to get it [the vaccine], and if schools will be able to effectively control the spread while still giving children a worthwhile edu-

cation," he said.

As the Delta and Lambda variants infect quicker and burn through the lungs faster, questions arise about the vaccine effectiveness. A preprint study found that the Pfizer vaccine during the Minnesota Delta variant prevalence in July 2021 showed a "more pronounced reduction in effectiveness" at 42 percent effective in the Mayo Clinic Health System. However, further evaluation in dosing and vaccine composition was warranted, the study said.

One person who responded sees COVID in a brutal light. She is a COVID-19 ground zero case, infected in March 2020. Taralyn Sharp Kohler of Reston, parent of a high school and college student, is "still experiencing long hauler symptoms including no taste and smell for over a year and a half."

"I do not wish on anyone what I've experienced. I want to trust that the vaccines will provide protection against Covid-19 and variants. My family has been vaccinated,

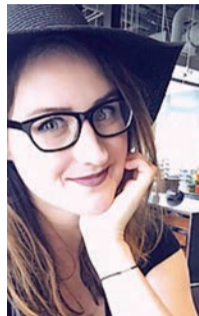
Childcare in Fairfax County: A Labor of Love

BY ELLISA BLAKE

Ellisa Blake is Fairfax County School Aged Child Care head teacher and SEIU Virginia 512 union member.

As our Fairfax community is preparing to return to school in just a couple of weeks, we're also approaching a major opportunity to transform our county for the better. While the Board of Supervisors moves closer to passing a collective bargaining ordinance, workers are uniting in our union, SEIU Virginia 512, to ensure that the Board provides the meaningful rights necessary to strengthen workers' voices and improve resources. Like many county employees, I am pushing for the right to collectively bargain. My colleagues and I are in this fight because of our love for Fairfax families and our dedication to providing essential services.

My name is Ellisa Blake. Every day, I educate and care for the incredible children in Fairfax County. For more than two years, I've worked in the county's School Aged Child Care (SACC) program. I'm one of many county employees tasked with empowering local fam-



Ellisa Blake

ilies through comprehensive support. Guiding developing humans can be messy and difficult. Still, my colleagues and I love our work and go the extra mile daily to help children play cooperatively and grow emotionally. Through original programming, we constantly seek ways to introduce our children to ideas and experiences that challenge them to solve problems, think outside the box, and create something exceptional. All this requires high levels of expertise, patience, and energy.

During the pandemic in 2020, we were among the very first to offer full-day programs in schools for working families. We took every measure to create the safest environment possible and we taught children proper disease prevention habits. We frequently adapted to new safety standards and changing circumstances. Supporting Re-

turn to School (SRS) teachers were pioneers in creating healthy and engaging classrooms in the midst of a pandemic. Because of our success, FCPS teachers were looking to the systems we had in place for guidance on how to create a safe learning environment when they returned to in-person school months later.

That's why it's troubling that so many in SACC and throughout the county workforce are overworked, overwhelmed, and struggling to get by. We face inadequate staffing levels, last-minute communication about county decisions, and insufficient wages. SACC teachers largely cannot afford to live in the communities they serve. Inexplicably, numerous SACC employees are categorized as "non-merit." This means that many essential caregivers in Fairfax County are denied health care, benefits, paid time off, and are forced into part-time work. Numerous qualified educators are forced out of the program because their position offers no reliable way for them to provide for themselves and their families.

Workers' rights and quality programs are intertwined. Data shows

that industries that unionize see significant improvement in the services they provide, and it's not hard to see why. When organizations support workers, workers are able to take care of themselves and their communities. And who deserves a higher standard of care than children -- our future community leaders? There's currently an empty seat at the decision-making table that needs to be occupied by employees working directly with the community. We must have a say in negotiating our wages, benefits, and working conditions. Our voice should be represented, especially in times of emergency. We know most intimately what is needed in our programs and for our families. Through collective bargaining, we could develop more comprehensive programs, minimize wasted resources, and support practical policy choices. We could attract the best applicants and retain our most qualified workers. SACC's unique before-and-after school program could be a nationwide example of exceptional, community-based childcare. It's time for us to elevate Fairfax County to new heights with strong collective bargaining.

Changing Face of Virginia

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

The results of the 2020 U.S. Census remind us that the world around us changes in more ways than we might consciously detect or understand. That small sliver of the world known as Virginia has undergone many changes before and after receiving its name.

For many, the history of Virginia started with the English landing at Jamestown in 1607. Humans inhabited the land area of what is now known as Virginia for 15,000 to 20,000 years before the English arrived. Its first inhabitants probably crossed the glaciers at the now Bering Straits and made their way along the edges of the glaciers down river valleys and probably entered what is now Virginia in its southwestern area. Archaeological findings support this explanation of the settling of Virginia.

At the time English colonists arrived in the spring of 1607, Virginia was inhabited by the Powhatan Indians, who had a total population of about 13,000 to 14,000 with a rich history of culture and traditions and a government of 30-some tribal groups. With aggressive English expansion throughout the state the number of Indians in Virginia was but a fraction of the number at its highest point and with the Racial Integrity Act of 1924 were eliminated from official statistics. Adding to the original settlers were thousands of enslaved Black persons who were brought here without their consent.

The census report released last week paints a different face for Virginia. The country passed two milestones on its way to becoming a majority-minority society in the coming decades: For the first time, the portion of white people dipped below 60 percent, slipping from 63.7 percent in 2010 to 57.8 percent in 2020. And the under-18 population is now majority people of color, at 52.7 percent.

Between the 2010 census and the new census, Virginia's population grew by 7.9 percent, slightly higher than the national growth rate of 7.4 percent. Virginia remains the 12th most populous state.

the county, they are no longer the majority, making up 47.1 percent of the overall population with 542,001 residents — a drop of nearly 50,000 people from 2010, when the county's 590,622 white residents constituted 54.6 percent of its population. Compared to the rest of the United States, Fairfax County ranked 42nd out of 3,143 counties in the country on the racial and ethnic diversity index of

the 2020 Census. This new face of Virginia as identified in census results will be redistricted at the federal, state and local levels. Virginia will retain eleven seats in the House of Representatives, but the boundaries of the districts will be redrawn by the General Assembly to reflect shifts in populations. Likewise, House of Delegates and State Senate seats will be drawn by a commission approved by the voters last year to reflect population shifts. That Commission has already been hard at work holding public hearings throughout the state. Local governments will redistrict themselves.

Even before official counts until today we can trace a different face for Virginia.



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Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Water overflowed the banks of Long Branch and damaged newly-paved Newington Road.

Summer Thunderstorm Impacts Roads, Bridges

Hot, humid weather paves the way for extreme storms.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The severe thunderstorm that hit in the early morning hours of Sunday, Aug. 15 dumped a few inches of rain, causing waters to overflow the banks of Long Branch in southern Fairfax County, damaging the new asphalt on Newington Road, and closing this transportation link for several days following the storm.

Road crews were out the following Monday morning, and the road was reopened that afternoon, though the pavement was only milled.

Other damage this storm did in the Mount Vernon area included stream damage in Hollin Hills, a tree on the hiking path in Huntley Meadows Park, and another at Lake Accotink in Springfield that closed the main park entrance for about 24 hours, but it reopened the following Monday morning.

According to the National Weather Service, the storm dumped 2.62 inches of rain in one storm which is about half of the rainfall this area received in the month of July. These rainfall amounts were recorded at Reagan National Airport.

Jeremy Geiger at the local National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration office looked at the storm as a normal occurrence, that seemed to hang over the southern Fairfax County area. "When there is heavy rain over a short time period, the impacts are a lot higher," he said. For this storm, there was a "flash flooding concern," he added.

The social media feed for the www.connectionnewspapers.com



Looking east, the shifted pavement went in the direction of the water.

Fairfax County Emergency Management was on it by 2:41 a.m. on Sunday morning. "Wow, that was a lot of rain in a short period of time," they said, recommending people to stay indoors during and shortly after the storm.

The month of July was mild for weather, according to NWS. Only 4.24 inches of rain was recorded and the average temperature was

near normal. It was the coolest July since 2018, and the average temperature was 80.7 degrees. The total precipitation was 98 percent of normal and the NWS said it was the driest July since 2016, when only 3.13 inches of precipitation fell. A record warm low temperature of 78 degrees was set July 12th. This broke the old record of 77 last set in 2017.



A thunderstorm caused this tree to topple over, damaging this house in Franconia.

Telegraph Road at Hayfield Road Fairfax County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 7 p.m.
www.virginiadot.org/TelegraphatHayfield

Find out about planned improvements in the area of Telegraph Road (Route 611) and Hayfield Road (Route 635) to reduce congestion and improve safety and operations. The improvements include adding a second northbound through lane on Telegraph Road at the Hayfield Road intersection, reconfiguring southbound Telegraph Road just beyond Hayfield Road by converting the existing on-road parking to a second through lane, and converting the eastbound Hayfield Road through lane to a shared left-turn through lane.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at www.virginiadot.org/TelegraphatHayfield. The project team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

Review project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2907 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement created pursuant to the Code of Virginia §10.1-1188(b), VDOT has determined the planned improvements are exempt from the State Environmental Review Process due to a minimal effect on the existing natural and historic resources. However, all required environmental clearances and regulatory approvals will be obtained prior to project construction.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **September 13, 2021** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Ms. Hong Ha, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Telegraph Road at Hayfield Road" in the subject line.

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State Project: 0611-029-467, P101, R201, C501
UPC: 116086

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Thursday, September 9, 2021 at the same time.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ECOACTION ARLINGTON

As part of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges' Heat Watch project, EcoAction Arlington volunteers (from left) Marissa O'Neill and Aisha Husain joined Executive Director Elenor Hodges, holding sensor devices that measure ground level heat.

Universities Measure Heat Disparities in Virginia

Marymount professor and student join 'Heat Watch' effort to measure heat disparities in Virginia.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Enduring dangerously high temperatures, Marymount University student Bader Hakami and biology professor Susan Agolini spent a day working as community scientists. The collected data that will help locate northern Virginia's heat islands, urban areas that experience higher temperatures than suburban neighborhoods.

Volunteers from Northern Virginia, including students, faculty and representatives from EcoAction Arlington and the Virginia Department of Forestry, recorded air temperatures and humidity using handheld thermal sensors. Their work was part of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges' (VFIC) Heat Watch project.

"The information that we gather can better inform policymakers and urban planners as they allocate funding for green spaces and invest in urban designs that can minimize the heat islands," said Susan Agolini, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Biology, Marymount University.

More than 20 students, faculty and volunteers from northern Virginia joined the project as part

"Information that we gather can better inform policymakers and urban planners as they allocate funding for green spaces and invest in urban designs that can minimize the heat islands."

— Susan Agolini, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Biology, Marymount University

of their commitment to protecting the environment.

"I participated in 'Heat Watch' because I wanted to give back to the community," said Bader Hakami, a nursing student at Marymount. "I learned how the heat-mapping process is conducted and most importantly how the information might be put to good use for the environment."

July 2021 was the world's hottest month ever recorded, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Information. 'Heat Watch' was conducted on July 15.

Previous VFIC collections have revealed temperature differences

as significant as 16 degrees between the coolest and hottest areas. Heat islands are often found in low-income communities, says Agolini.

Poor housing conditions including lack of air conditioning and small living spaces put these communities in danger of heat-related illnesses and deaths.

"Being aware of these heat islands can also help health care providers and advocates know which areas, and therefore populations, are going to be most susceptible to heat-related health issues," she said.

Angelino estimates that the group will be able to identify heat island within the next eight weeks.

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NEWS

Area Campgrounds Offer a Rustic Oasis Just Outside the Beltway

Various levels of camping varies from roughing it in tents, to RV sites with running water.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

At a time when the travel and vacation industry took a hit from the pandemic, the few campgrounds in Northern Virginia stayed busy as people looked around for something to do within the CPvid-19 restrictions.

There are several parks in the Fairfax County Park Authority system and Nova Parks where campers can sit around the campfire, telling ghost stories and roasting marshmallows, but still be a few miles from home.

"It was one of the few things you could do," said Nova Parks CEO Paul Gilbert. "It is an amazing alternative," he added.

At FCPA, there are campgrounds at Burke Lake Park and Lake Fairfax, and in Nova Parks, formerly the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, there are cabins, cottages and camping at Bull Run, Pohick Bay and Algonkian Regional Parks in the area.

AT POHICK BAY, Vanessa Ryan was in from California to camp with her family members in a big recreational vehicle-type camper. The camper was hooked up to water and electricity, and the campfire was the central gathering spot. Although campers at Pohick can only stay up to two weeks, their "Welcome to the Nelson's" sign was up. "It's like saying 'this is us,' in a welcoming way," said Ryan. They were right up the hill from Pohick Bay, and if there was any fisherman amongst the campers, they could just go down the trail and cast their line in. Pohick Bay has catfish, bass, crappie and other game fish.

Ryan's son is a resident of Woodbridge, right across the Occoquan River, but to them, the campsite was a vacation. "Truly a treat for me," said Ryan. She's not alone either. According to the numbers, the popularity of camping is soaring too at Nova Parks. In FY2020, there were 10,910 nights of camping vs 13,800 in FY2021, and a projected 15,000 in FY2022. "That is a huge uptick for one year," Gilbert said.

Pohick Bay Regional Park's family campground features 150 shaded sites--100 with electric 50/30-amp hookups and 50 tent sites. Pohick has three campgrounds: family campground, youth and



At Pohick Bay, Vanessa Ryan was in from California to camp with her family members.



Pohick's assistant manager Brad Jackson.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



A couple of cabins are part of the camping experience at Pohick Bay.

non-electric which was for tent campers who are closer to "roughing it." Burke Lake Campground is open daily beginning Friday, April 9. Last night to camp is Saturday, Oct. 30. Lake Fairfax camping is open March-November.

At Nova Parks, the variety of campsites available at Bull Run Campground are RV sites with electric only service, RV sites with full-service (which includes sewer, water and electric), rustic cabins and group camping areas. All campsites have a charcoal grill, fire ring and picnic table. There are two bathhouses in the campground that offer hot showers, sinks, toilets and laundry facilities. The camp store sells camping supplies, snacks, ice and firewood and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fees range from \$31 a night to \$55 a night.

At FCPS, the busiest season is fall, followed by spring. Summer sees regular RV visitation but the tent usage drops off due to the heat, they said.

Nearly eighty percent of FCPA campers are from the DMV area. The others are from just about anywhere in the country. The close proximity to the nation's capital makes Fairfax County a destination location for both RVs and tourists while they are in town.

Camp Culture and Nomadland

The camping culture may have gotten a boost from the recent box office hit "Nomadland." The plot is about a woman in her sixties embarking on a journey through

SEE CAMPGROUNDS PAGE 9

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West Springfield Police Station's parking area was filled with a child's delight of police vehicles, lights flashing and sirens sounding, to give a look at the world of law enforcement.

Children Enjoy 'Juice Box with Cops'

Child IDs produced on site at the West Springfield Police Station.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Officers and police equipment from Fairfax County Police Department, the Sheriff's Office, and George Mason University Police and Public Safety Department were at the West Springfield Police Station on Aug. 14 to engage with the community. The event directed toward kids, "Juice Box with a Cop" mirrors past community outreach events, called "Coffee with A Cop," geared toward adults.

Fairfax County Police Crime Prevention Officer, Tony Capizzi, explained that "community outreach is important with people concerned about how things are now [with police relations]." His office holds events every month or two to give citizens an opportunity to engage with police officers and ask questions about policing issues. This child's event gave kids an opportunity to meet police in uniform, see flashing lights, hear sirens, and get into police vehicles for a close-up look. Cuddly crime dog, McGruff, was on hand too, badge showing in his detective dog trench coat.

The Sheriff's Office Deputies provided free Child Identification Cards at the event. The plastic ID card produced on site, with the child's photo, fingerprint, and measurements, is provided for family safekeeping. The card could assist law enforcement should the child ever become missing; and producing the card is a fun and positive way for children to interact with police. For privacy, none of the child's information is retained by the Sheriff's Office. Upcoming ID card events scheduled in August can be found on the Sheriff's Office website.

Many attending families brought school supplies to donate after hearing of the need through the event and Scout and church announcements.

Did the kids have fun? Attending with her husband Sean, and children, Wes and Madeline, Sarah Akius, of Springfield, said, "You had us at the juice box."



The Akius family, Sean and Sarah (center) of Springfield, brought a large donation of school supplies received by Auxiliary Police Officer Tom Gaetjen (left) and MPO Robert Urps (right), while their children Madeline and Wes (not pictured) explored a police vehicle.



Hobbs Haler, 2 1/5, of Springfield, gets his height measured as his mother provides information for his ID card.



Instead of clues, Crime dog McGruff collected hugs from James Rowley, 5, and high-fives from Walker Cook, 3, both of Fairfax; Officer Capizzi (left) watches the interchange with Rowley and his mother viewing a related



James Rowley, 5, Fairfax, examines the fingerprint side of his new Sheriff's Office plastic ID card. The cards carry information critical to police in the event a child becomes missing.



Emily Silverman, 4, of Springfield, wore her own police uniform to take her place behind the wheel.



Sheriff's Deputy Scott collects fingerprint of Ryan Bischoff, 4, of Springfield.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

CALENDAR

NOW THRU 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

Aug. 18 The Colin Thompson Band (Blues Rock)
Aug. 25 Rescheduled show / TBD

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 18

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. At Lee District Park, Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, Franconia.
Aug. 18 - Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattler Verein (Alpine Dance/Music)
Aug. 25 - Sharon Clark Quartet (Jazz)

SATURDAY/AUG. 21

History Walk. 9 to 10 a.m. At Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale. Join site manager and historian Michael McDonnell for an outdoor walk and learn the history of the Manassas Gap Unfinished Railroad. Part of the bed of that project borders Annandale Community Park/Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Find out why the railroad easement still exists. Learn of nearby places to investigate more of the railway bed. The fee is \$7 per person, and the program is appropriate for those age 15 and older. Advanced registration is required. Call 703-941-1065.

SATURDAY/AUG. 21

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/AUG. 21

Mount Vernon Nights. 8 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton.
Schedule
August 21 - Dom Flemons (Acoustic Blues)
August 28 - The U.S. Army Field Band, Six String Soldiers (Americana, Folk, Bluegrass, Irish)

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

Kidz Korner -- Oh Susannah. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Join in a fun morning with your family. 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Old Town Square. Pre-registration is required. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

LESSON ZERO Performs. 6-9 p.m. At Crafthouse, 1161 Palace Way, Fairfax. For additional information see: www.youtube.com/lessonzero or www.reverbnaton.com/lessonzero

SUNDAY/AUG. 29

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m. At The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK group will be running N gauge model trains. Admission: Children 4 and under and Museum members, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and military (active and retired) \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

Campgrounds

FROM PAGE 7

the American West after losing everything in the recent recession, living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad. Although the limit at Nova Parks campgrounds is two weeks, the folks in Nomadland find ways around stay-limits and other conventional rules. The movie, starring Frances McDormand, won three Oscars last year.

There is a two-week limit at FCPA too, but in the off season between Labor Day to Memorial Day, campers can stay the maximum of 28 consecutive nights.

One way to get free camping is to work at the campground as a camp host, and in FCPA, there is a three-month contract, and the host "provides services for the benefit of the campground," said Brad Jackson, the assistant park manager at Pohick.

It's a year-round effort with each camp host putting in a 16-20 hour week cleaning cabins, bathrooms, campsites and even manning the check-in counter in the office but then the site fee is waived, Jackson said. In Nomadland, the camp host job was one way they got by, and the other was working for Amazon.

At Lake Fairfax, Campground Hosts serve as a "live-in" host for a four week period, the park website said.

On occasion some campers may become a little loud after quiet hours. Generally the campground host resolves these behavioral situations, park officials said. Fairfax County Police support the campground operation with routine patrols through the Fairfax County parks.

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"In accordance with New York law, the National Rifle Association of America announces that its Annual Meeting of Members will be held September 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in Houston, Texas at the George R. Brown Convention Center."

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMELIA TOWNSEND

The cast of "The Frenchman" (from left) Wendy Labenow as Louasa, Danny Seal as Charles, Camilo Eraso as Pierre du Tubeuf, Brian Clarke as Robert Brown, Evan Zimmerman as François, Ed Johnson as Simon Perchant, and Lydia Matson as Eusebe.

Shoestring Theatre Co. Presents 'The Frenchman'

Original play about a French colony in Virginia.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In the 18th century, a citizen of France traveled to America, came to Virginia and changed it forever by founding a French colony here. And in the new, original play, "The Frenchman," presented by the Shoestring Theatre Co., local audiences will be able to learn about his adventures and accomplishments.

Performances are set for Friday-Saturday, Aug. 27-28, at 7 p.m., at Veterans Amphitheater in Fairfax City. It's next to City Hall at 10455 Armstrong St. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and a picnic dinner.

If desired, audience members may also get into the spirit of the story by dressing in 18th-century attire. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Purchase them via <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-frenchman-tickets-155727736853>.

The Frenchman was Pierre du Tubeuf; and in a remote corner of Southwest Virginia, on the Clinch River, he staked his claim to build the colony of St. Marie. His goal was to create a new French settlement far from the threats of the French Revolution.

He brought with him letters of introduction from the Marquis de Lafayette – and dreams of establishing a new coal enterprise in Virginia. However, his enterprise was fraught with hardships.

Du Tubeuf was forced to leave part of his family behind in France. Then, he and his fellow French settlers survived a deadly sea voyage, only to have their servants abandon

them upon their arrival in Virginia. But their nightmare was only beginning. In Virginia's Russell County, du Tubeuf soon discovered that nothing was as he had been promised.

"This is a remarkable true story that changed the course of history in southwest Virginia," said Director Amelia Townsend. "And the land where Pierre dreamed of a French colony became Virginia's newest state park in 2021."

Excited to share this story with audiences, Townsend is also proud of her "talented, hardworking and stellar" cast members. They include Camilo Eraso as the visionary Pierre du Tubeuf, Janet Devine Smith as Marie du Tubeuf, John Geddis as the Marquis de Chauhier, Danny Seal as Charles DeSpada and Thomas Jefferson, Edgar Johnson as Simon Perchant, Evan Zimmerman as Francois du Tebeuf, Wendy Labenow as Louisa, and Lydia Matson as Eusebe. Matson is also the show's costume designer.

Jon Roberts, an award-winning sound designer and projectionist, is the production designer. Original, 18th-century music was provided by the Sons of Liberty, a trio of high-school brothers from Big Stone Gap, Va.

Besides the two shows this month, "The Frenchman" will also be performed Sept. 11, as part of a dinner theater, in the gym of the St. Leo the Great school, 3704 Old Lee Hwy., in Fairfax. In addition, a performance is planned for Sept. 18 at ArtSpace Herndon. For more information, contact Townsend at 703-731-2895 or shoestringtheatrecompanyva@gmail.com.



The nonprofit Shoestring Theatre Co. brings the authentic culture of Southwest Virginia to life through original stories presented across the Commonwealth. It's supported by the City of Fairfax, the Fairfax Commission on the Arts, the City of St. Paul, Va., the Knights of Columbus, and the Four Winds at Oakton.

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Hopping and Hoping



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I approach my four-week anniversary of "the burning," I do so with cautious optimism that one day soon, I'll be walking upright once again and doing so without the assistance of my walker. No more leaning over at the waist to grab the walker's waist-high grab bars. No more pulling/pushing myself up as I try to gain leverage in order to balance my weight so as not to fall backwards or to the side. And finally, once standing, no more hopping on my right foot as I favor the left; the location where the podiatrist pointed to and said at our last appointment: "You can see where that is ground zero;" meaning, the worst of the burn. And four weeks later, 'ground zero' is still ultra sensitive and not bearing too much weight. The emergency room doctor had said the healing will "likely take weeks, not months." And four-plus weeks into my recovery, I would say her assessment/prediction was spot on. But I'm not there yet. I'm somewhat better than I have been, but I'm still not ready to solo. Although I did drive for the first time yesterday. It was no problem (my driving foot is my right foot so pressing on the pedals was not the least bit painful. However, if there had been a clutch involved, I wouldn't have been up to driving). Still, success, and a feeling of independence once again.

Fortunately, the clown shoes that the local emergency room provided finally are proving to be useful. The strappy, cushiony, black, open-toe sandals with the thick white soles I'm now wearing all day were designed to give the foot breathing room along with some support. However, in the early weeks following "the burning," when I placed my foot in the sandal, the insole felt rough as if it were tearing the bottoms of my feet, exactly where the second degree burns had occurred. Since it seemed like it was hindering my recovery, I rarely wore them and instead put on thick socks (over the bandages lined with medication) and walked around on the heels of my feet while attempting to keep the balls of my feet (where the burns were) elevated and off the floor. It enabled me to mostly get around, but now, being able to wear the sandals, I'm much more ambulatory.

And so it finally feels as if the worm has turned, as they say. The sole on my right foot is exhibiting all the proper signs of new skin having formed and is a few days away, according to my nurse-wife, Dina (who has been bandaging my feet up to three times daily since "the burning") of returning to its pre-burned status. As such, I am nearly able to put all my weight on my right foot as necessary as I continue to favor the "ground-zero" left foot. However, if I ever inadvertently place my full weight on my left foot, I am transported emotionally back to July 17 when I first stepped on that hot pavement. I don't exactly see stars, but I certainly feel pain until I lift up that left foot and start to hop on my right. Oh, what a relief that is, as I attempt to retrieve my bearings and find some place to sit, immediately.

That being said, I am most definitely on the mend. Getting on my feet, still with the aid of my walker, doesn't conjure the same fear and loathing and pain as it once did. Urges to visit the bathroom are no longer delayed as much as possible. Nor are they fraught with anxiety and exasperation concerning the effort required to make the short walk to water the closet, especially in the middle of the night when the house is dark. But today, I can just about see the future (and a return to normal/independence) which may include a visit to close friends who live in Ocean City, Maryland, a k a the beach. And when I do, I'll certainly be upright and walking normally, but I won't ever be barefoot, inside or out. I can't take any chances. As slow as my recovery has been, I don't suppose its pace has anything to do with my underlying medical condition: thyroid cancer. Nevertheless, I don't see any benefit to stressing my immune system anymore than is absolutely necessary. It already has more than enough to do attempting to keep the cancer in check.

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



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