

# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

The Blair Rich Project (from left) Maggie on guitar, Julia on drums, Rives on bass, and Blair on guitar is the first in the live music lineup at Jimmy's Outdoor Party in the Alley with its All-U-Can Eat Pig Roast Buffet, held Sunday, Sept. 5 of Labor Day Weekend.



## Labor Day And Live Music

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## Looking Back at 9/11

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 8-14, 2021

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## NEWS

### Social Worker Charged: Illegally Filming a Minor

Fairfax County police have charged a 64-year-old social worker with unlawful filming of a minor. He is Henry Pacheco of Clifton (geographically Centreville), and police arrested him last week.

According to police, the alleged crimes happened several years ago, but the victim didn't notify them until Aug. 23. Police say she first met Pacheco, around 10 years ago, while he



Pacheco

was employed as a social worker providing services for a family member of hers. Detectives believe Pacheco "began grooming the victim's family [by] offering vacations, gifts and his home for shelter."

"The victim recounted to detectives three occasions when she [reportedly] found recording devices hidden in the bathroom and a bedroom

SEE SOCIAL WORKER, PAGE 7

### Runaway Vehicle Kills Chantilly Man

A Chantilly man died early last Thursday, Sept. 2, after being struck by his 2013 Toyota 4Runner in front of his home. According to Fairfax County police, officers responded at 12:09 a.m. to the 13500 block of Tabscott Drive and found Edgar Gutierrez, 65, pinned between his SUV and a light pole.

Rescue personnel freed him from the vehicle and pronounced him dead at the scene. Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives determined Gutierrez was working on his SUV and left it in gear when he exited the driver's seat. The SUV then began to roll, and he tried to stop it. But the vehicle rolled out of

his driveway and across the street, pinning Gutierrez between his vehicle's door and the pole.

Detectives continue investigating the circumstances that led to the tragedy, but do not suspect foul play. Preliminarily, alcohol does not appear to be a factor. Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), texting "FCCS" plus the tip to 847411, or by going to <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/>.

- BONNIE HOBBS



#### Cardiac Surgery Team

Front Row (L-R) Michael Fiocco, MD, Abeel A. Mangi, MD, Ezequiel J. Molina, MD, Back Row (L-R) Jeffrey E. Cohen, MD, Ammar S. Bafi, MD, Christian C. Shults, MD, Brian T. Bethea, MD, Ricardo O. Quarrie, MD, Hiroto Kitahara, MD

## MedStar Health opens Cardiac Surgery Office in Reston

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## LOOKING BACK AT 9/11, 20 YEARS ON

# Looking Back at Sept. 11 Tragedy

## Local man worked at Windows on the World.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

*This story originally appeared in the Sept. 15, 2011 Centre View, and is being reprinted for the 20th anniversary.*

Centreville resident Syed Ahsan didn't watch the TV specials about the 10th anniversary of 9/11, and he finds it difficult to even talk about that time.

That's because, on Sept. 11, 2001, he and one of his best friends were both banquet waiters at Windows on the World – the famed restaurant on the 106th and 107th floors of the North Tower of New York's World Trade Center.

Ahsan's friend, Salahuddin Chowdhury, 32, was working that morning and died in the terrorist attack. Ahsan lived – but only because he wasn't due to work that day until noon. And the pain of his friend's death still hurts.

Chowdhury's wife, Ashrafi Barahee, was nine months pregnant and had a doctor's appointment that day. So, the day before, Ahsan and his buddy talked about it.

"I asked him why he wasn't going to the appointment, instead of to work," said Ahsan. "But he said, 'Don't worry; it'll be my last day working and I'll take many days off after that.'"

Ahsan and Chowdhury knew each other from back home in Bangladesh. "He was a good friend of mine and my family's," said Ahsan. "When we were single, he was my roommate in Queens, for four or five years." On 9/11, they'd both worked six years at Windows on the World.

Ahsan and his wife, Sarwar Jahan Choudhury, married in 1992 and have a son and a daughter. The morning of Sept. 11, Ahsan was in the shower when his wife told him



A 1996 birthday celebration in New York included Salahuddin Chowdhury (second from left), his wife Ashrafi Barahee (second from right), Syed Ahsan (holding his niece, child on the left) and his wife Sarwar Choudhury (next to that girl).

PHOTO COURTESY OF SYED AHSAN

one of his colleagues called and asked if they were watching TV. She normally worked in a department store, but was off that day.

They lived on Long Island City by the Queensborough Bridge, about 4 miles from the World Trade Center and, said Choudhury: "From my kitchen window, I had a view of the Twin Towers."

They turned on TV and learned a plane had crashed into the North Tower. "From where I worked, I'd always see small planes flying around, so I thought it might have been one of them," said Ahsan. "Then I saw it was a big plane. My cousin called to make sure I wasn't working that day, and she was very relieved. At that moment, I saw the second tower get hit."

Years before, he said, "When we had orientation to work in the tower, they told us this building would never collapse. So I never thought it would be destroyed."

But instead, said Choudhury, "I watched the Twin Towers falling down from my kitchen window. I was crying – I didn't believe it."

Ahsan's cousin asked him if he knew anyone working that day. "I hung up the phone and started screaming," he said. "Then we drove to our daughter's school to get her. I didn't know what happened; I was really scared, and I wanted my daughter safe at home."

After dropping her off there, Choudhury's brother-in-law took care of her so they could go to Salahuddin and Ashrafi's house. "We didn't know if he was coming back, or not," said Ahsan.

After the attacks, they lost phone service, but pagers still worked. Ashrafi paged her husband many times, said Choudhury, but he didn't respond.

"She was in shock and wasn't talking," said Ahsan. "She didn't know if her husband was alive. She kept saying, 'Check outside; maybe he'll be here any minute.' Most of her friends and family were there, but nobody was talking – you could have heard a pin drop."

In the following days, they checked the

hospitals, in case Salahuddin was there. "We had hope that maybe he was injured, but alive," said Ahsan. "It was really hard for his wife; she was expecting any moment."

On Sept. 13, 2001, Ashrafi gave birth to their son, Farqad, now 10. They later moved to Oklahoma, near her sister, and still keep in touch with Ahsan and his family.

Ahsan's manager at Windows on the World also perished on 9/11, as did another co-worker from Bangladesh. He said 100 guests were eating at the restaurant, the morning of 9/11, so four waiters plus the manager were working. Looking at her husband, Choudhury said, "I'm thankful to God it wasn't him."

When the phones weren't working, said Ahsan, "Our relatives all over the world couldn't get in touch with me." So for some three days, his parents back home had no idea he'd survived, and they were worried. Meanwhile, he and his wife were devastated over the loss of their good friend, Salahuddin.

Furthermore, with his place of employment destroyed, Ahsan had no job and couldn't find another. "I looked for a whole year," he said. "Business wasn't good then. After 9/11, the economy was bad, and nobody was hiring." He collected unemployment and received help from the Red Cross. He worked a while for a limousine service, and his sister and a nonprofit helped his family with rent.

But by early 2002, he decided to leave New York. "My sister-in-law lived in Alexandria then, so we moved to Virginia," he said. Ahsan bought a barbecue restaurant in Centreville but sold it in 2004 because it wasn't successful.

His son was born in 2003 and, the next year, Ahsan began working again as a banquet server in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, D.C., where he's still employed. "I struggled three years, but I survived," he said. "And now, looking back at the tragedy that happened 10 years ago, I pray to God this won't happen anymore to anybody, anywhere in the world."

## Donna Teepe: Memories and Moving On

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

*This story originally appeared in the Sept. 7, 2006 issue of Centre View, being reprinted this year for the 20th anniversary of 9/11.*

Centreville's Donna Teepe is a grandmother for the first time, and proud of it. But it's a joy she can't share with her husband Karl because he was among those killed at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

A retired Army lieutenant colonel, he was 57 and had worked there 10 years as a civilian budget analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency. When terrorists crashed a hijacked airplane into the Pentagon, Karl

Teepe was in the center of the C ring; the plane's nose struck his office and split it in two.

Five years have passed since then and life has moved on for his wife and children. But it hasn't been easy.

"After a while, I stopped saying 'Why?' and wishing 'If only...' because that doesn't get you anywhere," said Donna Teepe. "I think I'm fine. But there are those little wishes and ifs, and I still miss him and I'm sure that'll never end."

The Teepees were married 34 years and raised two children, Wendy and Adam.



Karl Teepe



Donna Teepe

Donna's the preschool director at Christ Presbyterian Church in Chantilly. And Karl, with an insatiable passion for learning, loved reading and taking classes. They lived in Centreville for two decades and were a

close-knit family.

Now, as the fifth anniversary of the tragedy approaches, Donna still lives in their home and directs the preschool. "This is where my friends and job are," she explained. She said her occupation gives her "a purpose, friends to see and something to get up for."

She also finds comfort and pride in her


## Centreville 9/11 widow, five years later.

family. Adam, now 27, took a year off from school to be with his mother after his father's death. He then got a master's in Environmental Science at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Afterward, he returned to Virginia to work for an environmental-consulting firm in Vienna. Wendy, now 33, works in the computer field. She and husband Derek live in Colorado and are parents of daughter Natalie, nearly 3 months old.

In her spare time, Donna enjoys seeing friends and making Creative Memories scrapbooks. She also belongs to a support group of 9/11 survivors; and through that, she said, "I met a nice man. His wife died at the Pentagon, too. We date and do things

SEE CENTREVILLE 9/11, PAGE 7



**Back to School**

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## OPINION

# When Odds Are Stacked Against the Many ...

We need our local leaders to set an example for the type of world class workers' rights that will attract and keep working families, budding professionals, and hungry entrepreneurs here.

BY ANDRES JIMENEZ

Out of many, one. It's a phrase carved into marble facades across Washington and the United States and woven into the founding fabric of our country. Whenever a moment arises where the odds are stacked against the many, unification is usually the only path forward -- unite or die.

This principle has been at the foundation of the three great passions of my professional life. First, I've spent decades fighting for our environment. I've seen that when it comes to tackling problems on a global scale, we need unified voices to carry a loud message to those that need to hear it.

Second, I fight every day to diversify organizations. I know that when a group of people don't have a seat at the table that it's time to get a bigger table.

And last but not least, I've always stood shoulder-to-shoulder with my brothers and sisters in the labor movement. Their fight is the fight of all working families everywhere and they know that there's always strength in numbers.

For generations union members have organized, vocalized, and realized better outcomes for not only themselves and their co-workers, but the betterment of all in our society. The core mission of a labor union is to take the key components that make up a company (its employees) and unify them to provide equal and solid footing for the fair and equitable treatment of its workforce and serve as an example to all others. In essence, it is the most American, democratic, and equitable thing I can think of. It is no wonder that the United States is a global leader on workers' rights -- it's in our society's DNA to fight for what's right.

Yet, it's not enough to simply know this. You have to understand it, appreciate it, and build upon it. That's why I'm hopeful that not only will the Commonwealth of Virginia continue to welcome this new era of labor organizing with

open arms, but that my home locality of Fairfax County will usher it in by leading the way on thoughtful, respectful, and forward-thinking collective bargaining.

Fairfax County has a rich tradition of tackling new, complex problems head on. It's that spirit that's transformed this area into one of the country's most diverse, beautiful, and prosperous economic engines. However, it's not enough to attract world class businesses to our community. We already offer incredible schools, safety, and transportation. Now we need our local leaders to set an example for the type of world class workers' rights that will attract and keep working families, budding professionals, and hungry entrepreneurs here.

The Board of Supervisors can do that by passing a meaningful collective bargaining ordinance.

If we're going to live out the values we preach; if we're going to stand up in front of working families year after year and tell them we're here to fight with them; if we're going to truly live up to the One Fairfax policy, then we need to admit that out of the many that make up Fairfax County, we can never be one until we recognize that its most significant constituency is that of its dedicated workforce across every industry.

Whether you're a fellow civil servant, advocate, worker, or simply a citizen that appreciates a 40-hour workweek, a newfound ability to work from home, or the sacrifices so many made to keep our community afloat through this pandemic, I encourage you to reflect on the many benefits we've all reaped from generations of labor organizing, learn more about how pivotal a tool collective bargaining truly is, and call on the County to pass collective bargaining today.

*Andres Jimenez is an at-large Planning Commissioner in Fairfax County and sits on the Commonwealth's Attorneys Advisory Council on Criminal Justice Reform, among other community service positions.*

## CONNECTION

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# NEWS

## Scout Troop 577 of Centreville Completes a Project For Fairfax Station Railroad Museum

Ryan Park and other members of Scout Troop 577 in Centreville recently completed a land conservation project for the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum in fulfillment of Ryan's Eagle Scout requirements.

Troop members cleared a dedicated natural area of invasive species and restored natural water drainage in order to help retain the natural setting around the Museum and the immediate neighborhood. Multiple Eagle Scout projects have been carried out over the last year at the Museum. Scouts have managed the complex projects while complying with COVID-19 protocols to assure the health and safety of all participants.



Ryan Park (center) and members of Troop 577 help preserve a natural set-off at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.



Ryan Park (sixth from right) and members of Troop 577, Centreville, VA.

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### Route 50 STARS Safety and Operational Improvements Study – Chantilly Fairfax County

#### Virtual Public Information Meeting

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 7 p.m.**  
<https://www.virginiadot.org/Route50ChantillyStudy>

**Find out** about a STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) study that in its first phase assessed potential safety and operational improvements for nearly two miles of Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Highway) between Route 28 (Sully Road) and Stringfellow Road (Route 645). Based on public feedback from the first phase, the second phase is further assessing potential innovative intersection improvements, including partial median u-turns, at Lees Corner Road and Stringfellow Road. The second phase is also assessing potential safety improvements for side street intersections along the Route 50 service road.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/Route50ChantillyStudy>. 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 703-259-1999 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

**Give your comments** during the meeting, or by **October 8, 2021** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Ms. Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Route 50 STARS Safety and Operational Improvements Study -Chantilly" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

*In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at the same time.*

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# Social Worker Charged: Illegally Filming a Minor

FROM PAGE 2

of his residence, [allegedly] recording her as she was in various stages of undress. The victim was a juvenile at the time.”

After speaking with her, detectives executed search warrants last week for Pacheco’s home and vehicle and said they seized “multiple pieces of electronic and digital evidence.” They then arrested Pacheco, charging him with two counts of unlawful filming of a minor and one count of attempted unlawful filming of a minor.

For more than 30 years, Pacheco worked with at-risk youth via a variety of contract positions throughout the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau continue reviewing the evidence they recovered. They currently be-

lieve the alleged criminal offenses were confined to Pacheco’s home.

However, police are asking anyone with information about this investigation, or who may have had inappropriate contact with Pacheco to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), texting “FCCS” plus the tip to 847411, or by going to <http://www.fairfax-crimesolvers.org/>.

Meanwhile, specialists from the police Victim Services Division are making sure the alleged victim is receiving appropriate resources and assistance.

— BONNIE HOBBS

# Centreville 9/11 Widow, Five Years Later

FROM PAGE 3

together, and it’s less lonely. The worst part of this whole situation is you’re all alone.”

“I think about Karl every day,” continued Donna. “Mostly, I miss his sense of humor. I find myself thinking, ‘I haven’t laughed in a while,’ and that’s sad because I like to laugh. But my son is a lot like him and laughs at my jokes. Basically, I’m a happy person, and I think that’s a good way to be.”

As for her new friend, she said, “We talk about getting married, but I don’t know.” It’s been helpful, though, sharing their thoughts about the losses of their spouses.

“We can understand how the other feels,” said Donna. “We’re about the same age, and he has two daughters who are going through the same problems of losing their mom as my children are, after losing their father.”

But she didn’t begin the relationship lightly. Instead, she said, she finally allowed herself to not feel guilty about having feelings for someone else, because she knows it doesn’t take away from anything she and her husband shared.

The support-group members initially met once, every other week, with a facilitator. Now, they’ve all become friends and get to-

gether socially, too. At first, said Donna, “We just talked about issues upsetting us, at the time, and it’s amazing how talking it out can help you.”

About a year-and-a-half after Karl had been killed, I went into a meeting and said, ‘The future isn’t here like it was supposed to be.’ And they said, ‘That’s right; it’s the same for us.’ But I felt better having expressed that.”

She also shared her grief with her daughter, telling her how she wished Karl were there to see their new granddaughter, and Wendy said she did, too. “Karl and I knew each other in high school, and I couldn’t see my life without him,” said Donna. “But life does go on, and I’m glad I have my children and my friend. He provides another addition to my life, which is good.” (2021 update: The couple is now engaged).

As for the fifth anniversary of 9/11, Donna doesn’t see it as any more meaningful than any of the others. “I think about it because I think about Karl,” she said. “I’m glad they’re doing the Pentagon Memorial to honor Karl and the others who lost their lives, and that people won’t forget that this happened. But it’s not like he can come back.”

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

Fairfax County 20th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. 2 p.m. At Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, 3601 Firehouse Lane, Falls Church. Join Fairfax County to remember those we lost and honor those who served on Sept. 11, 2001. Now, 20 years later, we come together in remembrance at Fairfax County’s Fire Station 10, where many first responders deployed from to assist at the Pentagon. This ceremony is taking place in the afternoon in order to accommodate the Pentagon’s 9/11 Ceremony and morning volunteer activities at the Government Center. RSVP to [publicaffairs@fairfax-county.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@fairfax-county.gov).

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony. 9 a.m. At Great Falls Freedom Memorial, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls lost six residents to the attacks on September 11. The ceremony will honor them and all who sacrificed on that day and in its aftermath. The event will include a color guard, patriotic songs, remarks by retired Army three-star general Robert Wood who was present at the Pentagon on 9/11, and a candle-lighting for each of the September 11 victims from Great Falls. The Freedom Memorial is located behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike. The ceremony is open to all. Ample parking is available in the library parking lot. In case of rain, the ceremony will move to the library meeting room. Limited seating will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring portable chairs.

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# Left Wondering If I’m Right



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I admit, I watch more than my share of television. However, that being admitted, there certainly seems to be an awful lot of campaign-style, public service-type, advertising/announcements on television. From Medicare negotiating drug prices - or denying access to much-needed medication, to building back America by fixing our infrastructure, to creating millions of climate-improving, alternative energy driven “good paying jobs” to the NRA espousing their core values that everyone should carry a gun, and on and on and on. Where it stops, nobody knows.

I can appreciate how important it is for one to get their message out as often as possible, but now the message is not only often, but on multiple channels. And it’s not even an election year. However, it is a legislative year and there’s still a few months before Christmas recess. Will all the bills presently under consideration, amid the hyper partisan politics affecting pending legislation, allow any bills to ever see the tip of President Biden’s pen? Nevertheless, there appears to be no shortage of dollars to promote any and all viewpoints. Now how much of it makes sense is beyond me. But since I don’t really have a direct vote, I suppose a phone call will have to suffice. It seems too little too late though. The elected officials have their own agendas, and my voice is really only heard every two years anyway.

But with the Republican Party making it ever more difficult for us average voters (those of us not already in “the Big Tent”), perhaps all these “info-type-mercials” will fall on deaf ears, so to speak, or at least attached to heads attached to bodies finding it ever more difficult to actually vote. Granted, I may not be in the minorities that seem to be particularly targeted, but I am in a minority nonetheless: the percentage of Americans that actually casts a ballot. Often elections are won not by a majority, but by a plurality. If more people voted, perhaps some of us wouldn’t be so angry about a regularly disenfranchised minority being further discriminated against. It’s not fair, but apparently it’s partisan: divide and conquer.

And right now, with all this pointed outreach on television, I feel, as a country, we’re going backwards instead of manifesting our destiny going forward. So what if there’s diversity? My grandparents were part of that diversity. It’s what made all of us big and strong. Obviously it’s wrong to restrict access for any segment of the population. America has always been about diversity. That’s what’s been right about this country ever since George Washington crossed the Delaware and forever changed the fortunes of America. You can’t stop a trane (and I don’t mean the HVAC company) of thought that is, or change; and certainly you can’t stop free speech (except in a movie theatre). It happens naturally and frequently because it’s been characteristic of America ever since the Founding Fathers took quill to parchment.

Now, after some of the legislative changes which have occurred, and some others which have been “filibustered” to near death, there’s a sense that what’s blowin in the wind is not going to make Bob Dylan happy or guarantee my constitutional rights since I may play for the wrong team. I’m not looking to denigrate a percentage of the population, or restrict people’s access to life-saving medication or censor all the news that’s fit to print. Moreover, I don’t want anything inhibiting my ability to find a job, raise my family, get an education or deny other groups similar opportunities. Quite frankly, I wish I could just mind my own business. Unfortunately, that seems short sighted and ill-advised. And besides, there’s no “I” in my team.

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

# Labor Day Weekend Performances

The powerful force and positive energy of live music returns.

Music can impact our mood, and it has been a while since the good times rolled. The last year and a half of COVID-19 precautions canceled most opportunities for folks to hear live music at their favorite haunts. Pre-COVID, live music events provided opportunities for connecting with others.

Possibly needing live music more than ever in the COVID digital life with people “connecting to” rather than “connecting with” each other, folks in Reston, Herndon, and neighboring communities turned out in force at two Labor Day Weekend music events.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, the Friends of Lake Anne & Lake Anne Washington Plaza brought a performance lineup of over 8 hours of live music to its 14th Annual Jazz & Blues Festival held on the plaza. The 16-piece Doc Dikeman Big Band kicked off the production. “We’re excited to be here,” said Steve Lovecchio, bandleader.

Joana DiPaolo of Reston said she had planned to attend two Saturday events at Lake Anne, back to back but came late to the Farmers Market but on time for the Jazz Festival. “I’m excited to hear the acts as long as I can stand eating and drinking all day.” Her friend Pete Hendrickson called the Jazz Festival a hidden gem. Organizers did not hold the festival last year due to COVID.

“Over the years, it has brought really nice quality music like Véronneau that’s coming up,” said Hendrickson. The performance featured the acoustic world-jazz sound band, fronted by French Canadian vocalist Lynn Véronneau and her British husband guitarist

Ken Avis.

The secure base of live music that afternoon proved the means to experience human connection and an antidote to COVID isolation. “Live music facilitates bonding and instantly increases your mood,” according to a study by Live Nation conducted in partnership with research agency Culture Co-op. Among the key takeaways of the study, “The Power of Live,” was that nearly 70 percent of participants showed significant synchronization of body movements which served as a proxy for oxytocin, the hormone that facilitates bonding and human connection. “And the feeling is lasting – even after the encore, participants had a mood increase of 5X compared to how they felt before the show,” according to the study. Asked to reflect after a live music event and rate how emotionally intense they felt, 78 percent of respondents reported they felt “high emotional intensity.” In addition, according to the study findings: “Respondents reported that they were 10 percent more likely to value live music over sex.”

On Sunday, patrons turned out for the 2021 Labor Day Rally in the Alley at Jimmy’s Old Town Tavern in Herndon’s Historic Downtown District. The Outdoor Party in the Alley began at noon with their All-U-Can-Eat Pig Roast Buffet and live music.

Like the live music lovers in Reston, those in Herndon generated a similar vibe, glad to be there to hear the music and be with family and friends.

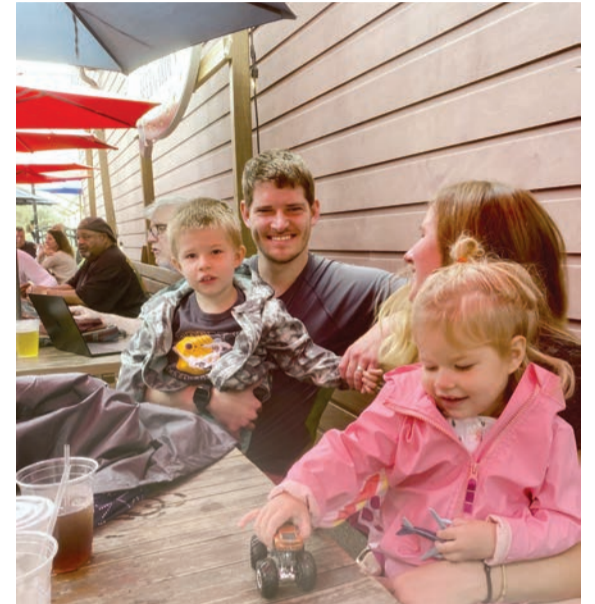
Proceeds from the event benefited the Firefighters Fund of Fairfax County and the Herndon Fraternal Order of Police.



The Doc Dikeman Band performs at the 14th Annual Jazz & Blues Festival presented by the Friends of Lake Anne & Lake Anne Washington Plaza on Sat. Sept. 5.

PHOTOS BY  
MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Folks at the 14th Annual Jazz & Blues Festival presented by the Friends of Lake Anne & Lake Anne Washington Plaza on Sat. Sept. 5 applaud the performance.



The Giuliani family of Herndon (from left) Grayson, 4, Stephen, Katie, and Layla, 2, enjoy drinks before the first band is up and the All-U-Can-Eat-Buffer opens.



Jimmy’s Outdoor Party in the Alley with its All-U-Can Eat Pig Roast Buffet and Live Music held Labor Day weekend is standing room only as tables fill within minutes of the event’s opening on Sun., Sept. 5.



Shawn Kennedy of Herndon reaches his hand out to introduce himself and Glenna Sullivan (on his left) to a woman who sat at their table to listen to the band, The Blair Rich Project, at Jimmy’s Outdoor Party in the Alley held Labor Day Weekend 2021.



Pete Hendrickson and Joana DiPaolo chat, eat, drink, and enjoy the music at the 14th Annual Jazz & Blues Festival held on Lake Anne Plaza Saturday, Sept. 5, Labor Day weekend.