

CONNECTION

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Investing in Early Childhood

NEWS, PAGE 3

As part of their back-to-school tour, Virginia's First Lady Pamela Northam listens as U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine plays harmonica for children at Main Street Child Development Center in Fairfax City.

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Gathering to Remember

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Forest Bathing

PAGE 6

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Virginia First Lady Pamela Northam reads a story about animal noses to the children while (from left) Main Street lead teachers Doris Quiroz and Josh Green, plus Sen. Tim Kaine, listen.



From left, Tim Kaine, Pamela Northam, Dan Helmer and Jeff McKay discuss the importance of early childhood education.

'You Can See the Joy on the Children's Faces'

Dignitaries visit Main Street Child Development Center.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's not every day that state-level dignitaries sit on the floor with preschoolers and read a book, sing a song and even play a musical instrument. Yet that's exactly what happened, last Friday, at Main Street Child Development Center in Fairfax City.

Visiting were Virginia First Lady Pamela Northam, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Del. Dan Helmer (D-40) and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay. And Main Street Executive Director Carol Lieske was delighted.

"They're here to see the very finest of Fairfax – its children," she said. "We're so proud to show them what a comprehensive, high-quality, early childhood education program looks like in a community setting."

The young students, of course, didn't know how special their visitors were. But they loved it when Northam read them a picture book about animal noses, when she and Kaine sang, "You Are My Sunshine" and when Kaine then played that song for them on his harmonica.

Northam also had the children applaud their teachers for all their hard work. She then presented that class of 4- and 5-year-olds with the book, "If I Had a Sleepy Sloth," and gave each child a challenger coin adorned with the Virginia State Seal.

However, the visitors also came for a more serious reason – to acknowledge the importance of early childhood education and the need for financial support, plus partnerships with state, federal, local and private sources. "We want to show you how vital what we



Carol Lieske welcomes Jeff McKay to the school.

do is, for the future of our children and the country," said Lieske. "We meet and exceed standards to do the very best for our children, and our model must be sustained."

Open since 1973, Main Street Child Development Center provides affordable childcare and early education for children from low-income families in Fairfax City and Fairfax County. And because it's open from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., it also enables their parents to maintain full-time employment.

Some 80 percent of the children are from low-income families, 70 percent of these families speak English as a second language, and 48 percent of the children are from single-parent homes. But their teachers equip them with the critical, school-readiness skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Housed in the City's Green Acres Community Center – a former elementary school – in FY 2020, Main Street served more than 150 children and 200 parents/caregivers. It offers preschool for children ages 2-5, and



Connor Pierce, 4, chats with (from left) Tim Kaine and Dan Helmer.

currently has an enrollment of 90.

Main Street also provides a school-age program for children attending Daniels Run Elementary and includes before- and after-school care. It typically has 20-25 children, in grades K through five, before and after school, and all summer.

Last Friday, Sept. 10, the dignitaries came to Main Street as part of their Back-to-School Tour. They toured the school, interacted with the children and teachers, and stressed the importance of funding public schools, as well as nonprofit private schools, such as this one.

Saying, "We rely on donations and grants," Lieske noted that the school received federal Payroll Protection Program funds, plus some CARES Act money from the county, including a Safety Net Foundation grant.

"In an economic downturn, organizations don't get the donations they need," said Kaine. "And in a pandemic, you can't hold big fundraisers."

So, said Lieske, "We really need your



Tim Kaine and Pamela Northam pose with Main Street office staff Melany Hearin, Katherine Pardo and Ruth Martinez.

help."

After their tour, Northam said, "You can see the joy and enthusiasm on the children's faces here. And it's good to see them making great strides in learning."

"This program is really high-quality and has had tough challenges during the pandemic," added Kaine. "So now we're working on the next big bill to help childcare programs."

Next year, said McKay, "Fairfax County will have a \$100 million bond referendum for early childhood education. This is infrastructure that's life-changing."

Furthermore, said Kaine, "In Congress, we're on the verge of making the largest investment in early childhood education ever. We need to make sure we're putting resources into critical programs like this."

"It's important that children have a good start, and we're doing everything we can to help them," said Northam. "And we know children learn best in person."

As for Main Street, said Helmer, "The investments we've made in early childhood education are paying off here. Schools like this are getting to stay open, and kids like this are getting the educational foundation they need."



Jason R. Jenkins, assistant fire chief, Fairfax County government



Jeffrey McKay, chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Don Graves, deputy secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce

To Honor the Lives Lost of 9/11

In unity, they remember; united, they serve in tribute.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

For twenty years, it's never been an easy day, the 11th of September. But the people of Fairfax County gather. Painfully, they recall the death and destruction, souls lost, and souls who forged forward united by compassion. On Saturday morning, Sept. 11, at the Fairfax County Government Center, many from across the county joined together.

More than 800 people turned out on A Day to Remember, the 20-year anniversary of 9/11, and VolunteerFest 2021. They were there to support first responders, remember the nearly 3,000 people who died in the terrorist attacks, and in tribute, transform 9/11 from a day of tragedy into a day of doing good.

Days earlier, Hollie D'Amico Gordon, manager of corporate service events at Volunteer Fairfax <https://www.volunteerfairfax.org/> said they deliberately moved up their annual signature event to align with the observance of Sept. 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. VolunteerFest is an annual community-wide day of service that supports area nonprofits by adding volunteer power for wish list projects.

"For those of you who remember 9/11 as vividly as I do, you know, it was an eerily similar beautiful day that turned into a tragic day," said Chairman Jeffrey McKay, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. He and several of his colleagues were there in remembrance and to help kickoff VolunteerFest, 2021. Steve Mutty is chief executive officer at Volunteer Fairfax who introduced public safety and elected officials at the event.

They recalled the loss of life, the collapse of the World Trade Center's North and South Towers, and the gaping holes of destruction in the western rings of the Pentagon, in a field in Pennsylvania, and the hearts of many.

"It is right and just that we focus our undivided attention right now and reflect on those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to all the families without their loved ones today," said Jason Jenkins, assistant fire chief Fairfax County Government. For many, he said, even twenty years later, the sadness and anger are forever etched in them. However, while tragic, Jenkins said, "It emphasizes preparedness, embraces interoperability, [and] ensures resiliency, all of which reaffirms our commitment to those we serve



Mathew M. Lopez, piper, Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society of Pipe Band



Volunteers and community members gather for the 20th anniversary remembrance of 9/11 and the kickoff of Volunteer Fairfax's 26th annual VolunteerFest featuring more than 30 projects.



From left, Chairman Jeffrey McKay; Assistant Fire Chief Jason Jenkins; Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield); M. Lattimer, and D. Bourassa.



From left, Jason Jenkins, assistant fire chief, Fairfax County; Jeffrey McKay, chairman, Board of Supervisors; Caroline Evey, firefighter, Company 40; Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield); E. Cory; C.A. Stewart; and Supervisor Walter Alcorn (Hunter Mill).

as we near 10:28 a.m."

Sept. 11, 2001 also united many communities. People dropped everything to help others regardless of differences. McKay said people realized whatever they were doing at that moment was immediately unimportant compared to what was happening in our country. He recalled 184 people who died at the Pentagon. "But also, on that day, our first responders, their families, and our community stood up and said, 'We will be resistant, and we will protect Fairfax County and the United States of America.'"

According to McKay, in the aftermath of 9/11, many individuals considered what they could do to help the community heal

and how to do it better. "Many of us volunteered," McKay said. "Most people in Fairfax County have stepped forward in unprecedented ways to serve and never forget the lives that were lost."

In his remarks, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly said on 9/11, he was struck by the juxtaposition of people fleeing in terror down the steps of the Twin Towers while first responders were going up. "People risked their lives to save others," he said. Connolly recalled a Monsignor part of the Vatican representation in Washington and that he observed the horror of people jumping out World Trade Center windows when faced with jet-fueled flames coming at them.

"But what this Monsignor observed was that total strangers ... at the last minute held

hands [as they jumped]. It was a statement of love and fraternity, where one victim said to another, 'You will not be alone in these final moments.' And that kindness suffused America that day and for months following," he said.

According to Connolly, the terrorists who took over the planes targeted America because, "They wanted to destroy what we stood for, freedom and the inalienable rights...life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unfettered here. We believe those are universal human aspirations; they're not limited to us." He added that twenty years later, Americans are fighting amongst themselves, and although the country lost nearly

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

SEPT. 14-NOV. 18

Free ESL Classes. 7-9 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. In-person placement testing for free on-line ESL classes. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., on-line using Zoom, 9/14-11/18/2021. Placement testing is in-person at Lord of Life Lutheran Church 9/9/2021, 7 p.m. Must register at www.lordoflifeva.org/ESL. Class sizes limited. Visit the website: www.lordoflifeva.org/ESL

THURSDAY/SEPT. 23

Volunteering with Youth and Aerospace – 7-8:30 p.m. at Irving Middle School, 8100 Old Keene Mill Rd. Civil Air Patrol Open House. Ages 12-Adult. Learn about Cadet Programs, Aerospace Education and Emergency Services. Free. Visit gocivilairpatrol.com or vawg.cap.gov/units/Burke.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Living History Presentation. 2 p.m. At Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Topic: Seeing the Elephant: Soldiers, Civilians, and Enslaved Peoples' Experience in the Civil War. In the Civil War "seeing the elephant" (battle, combat) weighed on the minds of soldiers and civilians. Listen to the words of Civil War soldiers as they prepared for combat and prepared for hardships and risks of war. Hear the stories of women, enslaved people, and free black people who made difficult decisions to preserve their homes or lives during this cataclysmic period of the United States of America. Presented by the 17th Virginia Infantry, Co. D, Fairfax Rifles Living History Group and guests as we mark the 160th anniversary of the American Civil War. Call 703-591-0560.

COMMUNITY MARKET ON SATURDAYS

Workhouse Arts Center hosts its Community Market Every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

through October 30, 2021. Located at 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. September celebrates Harvest Fest all month long. Local vendors include: Bites by Sam, Apple Juice Tea Party, Honeycakes, Bangkok Bites, Bowls by Bowles, Jen and Pat Designs

STEM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The AAAS STEM Volunteers Program, stemvolunteers.org, needs STEM professionals to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in school districts in the DC metro area during the 2021-22 school year. If you care about K-12 STEM education and have time to share your knowledge with students and teachers, please send a note to bcalinge@aaas.org with your home address.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-mindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

19th Annual

ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN

(Outdoors, formerly on King St.)

Art fest

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Sat./Sun. 10am - 5pm

John Carlyle Square @ Duke St.
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TAX NOTICE CITY OF FAIRFAX PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Personal Property tax bills have been mailed and are due

October 5, 2021

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid a 10% late payment penalty and interest charges, payment must be made in full online, in person or postmarked by close of business on

October 5, 2021

Taxes may be paid in person Monday -Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a bill,
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Saturday, Oct 2, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct 3, 2021 • 3:00 p.m.



Featuring:

- Beethoven's Fifth Symphony
- Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with sparkling virtuoso, Michelle Cann
- Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*
- *Umoja* by Valerie Coleman, recently commissioned by the Philadelphia Orchestra.



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Ana Ka'ahanui (left) asks the group to feel rooted to the earth and explore using senses beyond sight

Forest Bathing on National Day of Reflection

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/
THE CONNECTION

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

As part of the national day of reflection, Fairfax County Park Authority's observance included a Forest Bathing event on the National Day of Service and Remembrance, Sept. 11. Participants were invited to "Tune into the beauty and wonder of nature with all your senses." Held in Lorton by Laurel Hill Park's Volunteer Team, the event was led by Ana Ka'ahanui, a certified forest therapy guide, with a supporting group of Virginia Master Naturalists and park volunteers.

Ka'ahanui led about a dozen participants to stroll, pause, look, listen, touch, smell, and engage with the woods around them. Mid-way in the session, participants built a simple branch habitat as a refuge for wildlife, before joining Ka'ahanui's invitation circle. Participants were invited to share their experience of heightened awareness during their walk along the woods trail. Each then collected an item from the forest, as they were sent on a brief exploration of textures and color. Then explaining what drew their attention, before adding their items to the tea circle.

A ritual tea pouring provided a moment to reflect on their experiences of the day and of the past, given the significance of the remembrance. Sipping hot lavender tea together after first offering a cup to the forest, the session ended with stillness, before a ceremonial bell broke the silence, ending the session.



Robin Butler makes her offering to the tea circle



Group forms a circle to share their sharpened senses during the woods walk. (L to R) Craig and Catherine Chamberlin, Ronalda Meson, guide Ana Ka'ahanui



Forest bathing participants and hosts, (left to right) Catherine Chamberlin, Bridget Kraus, Lekha Chowdhuri, Craig Chamberlin, Robin Butler, Ana Ka'ahanui, Susan Laume, Susan Gledhill, Camile Glendhill, Frances Chamberlin, Blake Cambry, Kari Schilling, Ava Belmont; not pictured Ronalda Meson, Maureen Kraus, Ryan Holechko

The practice of Forest Bathing, or shinrin-yoku, began in Japan early in the 1980s. Bathing invites full sensory immersion in the beauty and wonder of trees and nature. Attention to smell, touch, and sounds draw one into a closer connection with the natural world. Researchers in Japan and South Korea have documented positive neuropsychological effects, and reduced stress, anger, anxiety, depression, and sleeplessness. Participants often observe lowered blood pressure and stress levels, and greater mental clarity.

The session, advertised in the "Celebration of Trees" campaign event calendar, is one of many nature related events that can be found at www.plantnovatrees.org highlighting the environment and the importance of native trees to our wellbeing.

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 8 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made and other vital community information.



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Fairfax County Observances for the 20th Anniversary of 9/11

The events of 9/11 hit Fairfax County hard, being so close to the Pentagon. Parts of the tragic day unfolded in our backyard. On Saturday, the 20th anniversary of 9/11, communities around the county held remembrances in different manners. Some were like the keystone County Remembrance held at 2 p.m. at Bailey Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department in Falls Church. Many first responders from there were deployed to the Pentagon on 9/11. A video of the remembrance can be viewed on the Fairfax County Government Facebook Page.

Others were ceremonies like the one held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial featuring keynote speaker LTG (R) John R. Wood of the U.S. Army.

In the Town of Vienna, organizers held the 20th Anniversary Remembering 9/11, on the Freeman House Lawn, with keynote speaker Anne Dellinger, former digital content editor at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

In the Town of Herndon, an evening candlelight vigil at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church gathered people in remembrance. These are only a few of the observances.

In Reston, two trees, now part of the landscape, grow in memory of Norma Cruz Khan and Leonard Taylor of Reston, who died aboard American Airlines flight 77 when it crashed in the Pentagon.

Six trees are planted at the Freedom Memorial in Great Falls to remember the residents they lost.

LOCALS LOST ON 9/11

<https://pentagonmemorial.org/explore/biographies>

- LTC Dean E. Mattson, 57, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Eddie Dillard, 54, of Alexandria, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Capt. Robert Edward Dolan, 43, Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Diane M. Hale-McKinzy, 38, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]

- Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan, 40, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Bryan Creed Jack, 48, of Alexandria, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Steven D. "Jake" Jacoby, 43, Alexandria, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- MAJ Stephen V. Long, 39, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Terence M. Lynch, 49, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- MAJ Clifford L. Patterson, 33, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- CDR Robert Allan Schlegel, 38, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- LTC Gary F. Smith, 55, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Norma Lang Steuerle, 54, of Alexandria, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Sandra Carol Taylor, 50, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Meta L. Waller, 60, of Alexandria, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- LTC Stephen Neil Hyland, 45, of Burke, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Charles E. Sabin, 54, of Burke, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Stanley R. Hall, 68, of Centreville, Va. (American Flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Karl W. Teepe, 57, of Centreville, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Col. Canfield Boone, 54, of Clifton, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- CAPT Jack Panches, 51, of Clifton, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Khang Nguyen, 41, of Fairfax, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Michael L. Selves, 53, of Fairfax, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Sandra Teague, 31, of Fairfax, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]

- Mary Jane "MJ" Booth, 64 of Falls Church, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Brenda C. Gibson, 59, of Falls Church, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- 1st Lt. Richard P. Gabriel, USMC, Retired, 54, of Great Falls, Va. (American Flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Ann Judge, 49, of Great Falls, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Barbara Olson, 45, of Great Falls, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Lisa J. Raines, 42, of Great Falls, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Diane M. Simmons, of Great Falls, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- George Simmons, of Great Falls, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Capt. Charles "Chic" Burlingame III, 51, of Herndon, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Mark E. Schurmeier, 44, McLean, Va. (World Trade Center) [Legacy.com]
- TC Kip P. Taylor, 38, of McLean, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Norma Cruz Khan, 45, Reston, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Leonard Taylor, 45, of Reston, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Rosa Maria "Rosemary" Chapa, 64, of Springfield, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- LCDR Charles Droz, 52, of Springfield, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- CDR Patrick S. Dunn, 39 of Springfield, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Ada L. Mason, 50, Springfield, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Patricia E. "Patti" Mickley, 41, of Springfield, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Marjorie C. Salamone, 53, of Springfield, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Janice Scott, 46, of Springfield, Va. (Pentagon) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]
- Vicki C. Yancey, 43, of Springfield, Va. (American flight 77) [The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial]

— MERCIA HOBSON

To Honor the Lives Lost of 9/11

FROM PAGE 4

3,000 souls that day 20 years ago, "in the last 16 to 17 months, we've lost 650,000."

"We can't agree on masks. We can't agree on vaccines. We can't agree on lockdowns or quarantine or contact tracing," Connolly said. As we rededicate ourselves to try to come back together, we find what brings us together are commonly shared values, he said.

Don Graves, deputy secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, attended the remembrance and VolunteerFest kickoff. Graves said that as we remember the victims of 9/11 and honor the Americans who responded twenty years ago, he hoped that "we as a nation, in the midst of ongoing tragedy in the suffering and pain that our nation is finding and countless others around the world, that we come together as a nation."

"Remember, all that binds us is greater than what separates us," Graves said.

IN AN INTERVIEW a few days before the gathering at the Government Center, Mutty, CEO of Volunteer Fairfax, said on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, he left home late and was stuck in traffic, "right next to the Pentagon."

"I saw the whole thing in my rearview mirror," Mutty said. At a dead stop and seated inside his vehicle only hundreds of feet from the Pentagon, Mutty watched American Airlines flight 77 fly into the building and erupt in a fireball. The crash, Mutty said, nearly took out the Pentagon helipad firehouse beside him.

So, on the 20th anniversary of 9/11, and officially kicking off Volunteer Fairfax's 26th annual VolunteerFest involving over 800 people and more than 30 projects, Mutty said that day of service, on Sept. 11, 2021, "maybe more than any recent years, held special meaning for him."

"It is a demonstration of our resilience and caring spirit. May that spirit continue to grow, and may we never forget what sparked that spirit on this morning 20 years ago."

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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Structure ID	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
AMELIA	1247	615	NAMOZINE RD	DEEP CREEK	8/27/2021
PATRICK	13246	103	DRY POND RD/ROUTE 103	BACK CREEK	8/26/2021
PATRICK	13245	103	DRY POND HY/ROUTE 103	SANDY CREEK	8/24/2021
MONTGOMERY	12292	663	WALTON ROAD/ROUTE 663	CRAB CREEK	8/19/2021
LYNCHBURG	20519	9	NINTH ST	KANAWHA	8/19/2021
PITTSYLVANIA	13623	686	MARKHAM RD	GEOGES CREEK	8/18/2021
WYTHE	19710	649	ATKINS MILL RD	SPILLER BRANCH	8/17/2021
GRAYSON	8910	732	LAUREL CREEK RD	LAUREL CREEK	8/16/2021
SCOTT	16635	611	LOWER GRASSY CREEK	GRASSY CREEK	8/15/2021
AMHERST	1451	631	STONEWALL CREEK RD	STONEHOUSE CREEK	8/10/2021
BLAND	3048	604	WALKERS CREEK RD	BIG WALKER CREEK #3	8/9/2021
WYTHE	19714	653	GREASY CREEK RD	STUFFLE RUN	8/5/2021
LEE	10768	421	ROUTE 421	STONE CREEK	8/3/2021

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

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

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

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

SEE HELPING. PAGE 7

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'Interesting and Unique Things that Tell a Story'

Fairfax Funky Flea opens Sept. 25 in Fairfax City with up to 60 vendors, music, food and more.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Get ready for the Fairfax Funky Flea. Owned and organized by longtime Fairfax City residents Kathy Hackshaw and Sharon Buttram, it's being put on in partnership with the City of Fairfax Parks and Rec Department.

This community event is slated for Saturday, Sept. 25, in the Fairfax City Hall parking lot, 10455 Armstrong St., from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. And it's called "funky" for a reason.

"Besides liking the alliteration, we're aiming for a casual, fun, relaxed atmosphere that'll attract all the generations that live here," said Hackshaw. "We'll even have acoustic music in the background. And we want to appeal to high-end vendors – we don't want people bringing in things they'd throw away. Customers should think of this as a place where they can buy gifts for the holidays, teachers, acts of kindness, etc."

"We want people to be able to discover unique items they can't find anywhere else," said Buttram. "Instead of things they could get in a store, these will be more collectible, for people wanting to decorate with boho, upscale items – eclectic, and not the same things everyone else has."

Some local artists will also sell their work there. In addition, Gracious Me Music, Valeria Stewart, Jim Thorpe Music and The Brae-ed Chord will perform folk music throughout the day. As for food, Fairfax restaurant Red Hot & Blue will be selling its Memphis barbecue.

Nonprofit Britepaths is offering pre-packaged snacks and drinks as a fundraiser to help their clients in need. It will also be there at the Oct. 30 Funky Flea, along with Coyote Grille's Tex-Mex food truck, The Roaming Coyote.

And, said Buttram, "We're working with GMU's Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship to bring young entrepreneurs to sell their packaged coffees and teas at the market."

"Visitors may expect to find the perfect things they never knew they needed," said Hackshaw.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
From left are Sharon Buttram and Kathy Hackshaw.

"Flea markets are typically a fun mix of vintage items, art, antiques, newer things and crafted/upcycled items. You never know what you'll find – which adds to the fun."

There's space for about 60 vendors in the area next to the community garden at the top of the parking lot. The market will be open, rain or shine, except in extreme weather conditions (high wind and all-day rain events). Check the Website, www.fairfax-funkyflea.com, to be sure, and for further information, including the latest COVID-19 guidelines.

"It's not too late to become a vendor," said Buttram. "They should just go to the Website to register, and information will then be emailed to them. As long as space is available, spaces will be reserved for them. We're also on Facebook under Fairfax Funky Flea. And people with just a few items to sell can share a space with others."

Cash and Venmo are common payment methods at flea markets. Not all vendors may accept credit cards, but nearby banks have ATMs. Prices will be clearly marked, but customers are free to haggle – because bargaining is part of the flea-market fun.

Both Hackshaw and Buttram love going to flea markets themselves, so it was only natural that they started one of their own. "I enjoy the entire experience – people-watching, seeing what's displayed and setting up my own display," said Hackshaw. "I like explaining the history behind certain

SEE FUNKY FLEA, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Early Voting Options Expand

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

As calendar pages turn toward the Nov. 2 election day for Virginia's State-wide offices nears, voters have several voting options. Driven by COVID-19 work around considerations, Virginia's legislature has authorized new contactless voting options, including in person early voting, voting by mail and voting by dropping your completed ballot in a secure drop box. Early voting in person begins Sept. 17 at three locations.

County voters may wish to begin thinking about, not just their candidate selections, but also about how they will place their votes.

On the ballot: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, your member of the House of Delegates, and a School Bond Question for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Sample ballots are posted <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/sample-ballots>.

DROP BOXES will be available at Fairfax County early voting locations, and on election day, at all polling places, during voting hours. Voters may return their completed, sealed "mail in" ballots to a secure drop box, without involving the U.S. Postal Service. The drop boxes, located either outside of regular voting rooms or near building entrances, provide a quick, contact-free way to assure one's ballot is received, and without need to affix postage to return it. The Fairfax County Government building also has a secure drop box installed outside, permitting voters

to drop off their ballots there 24/7; providing a return option when early voting sites are not open. Drop boxes are available for use on election day at all polling places from 6 am - 7 pm.

Those wishing to vote early, by mail, can request a ballot starting now. Ballots are sent to requestors as received, beginning 45 days before the election; that's beginning mid-September. Once marked and sealed, ballots may be returned by mail, or to the special secure drop boxes at the early voting locations outside of the mail stream.

Details on voting by mail are available here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee-voting-mail>

EARLY IN-PERSON voting locations are open Sept. 17 - Oct. 30 at three government center sites: Fairfax County, Mount Vernon, and North County.

Any registered Fairfax County voter may vote early at any Fairfax County early voting location.

Early in-person absentee voting is available for the November 2021 General & Special Elections at the following three locations from Sept. 17 through Oct. 30.

❖ **Fairfax County Government Center**

12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax 22035

❖ **Mt. Vernon Governmental Center**

2511 Parkers Ln, Alexandria 22306

❖ **North County Governmental Center**

1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston 20190

stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

Docents Needed. Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

Haven of Northern Virginia is committed to offering, support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. Volunteers provide individual and group support to those suffering from a loss. Volunteers must participate in a 30 hour training. Training will be offered in October 2018. To volunteer, call Haven at 703-941-7000.

Secure drop box option joins mail-in and in-person voting starting Sept. 17.

Thirteen additional early in-person voting sites are open Oct. 21 - Oct. 30. The list of early voting sites, their addresses, and days/hours of operation can be found on the Board of Elections website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections.

Another early option, in-person curbside voting is available at every early voting location for people 65 or older or with a physical disability. But the elections website warns: curbside voting doesn't put you at the front of the line, and voters should expect to wait. Voters are recommended to go to the Fairfax County Government Center which has 20 curbside spaces set aside. Curbside voting also is available on election day, Nov. 2. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/disability-services>

On Election Day polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you will be able to vote.

Questions about early voting, including voter registration, voting options, damaged ballots, and ballot tracking may be addressed to the Board of Elections at voting@fairfaxcounty.gov, or by calling 703-222.0776, Monday- Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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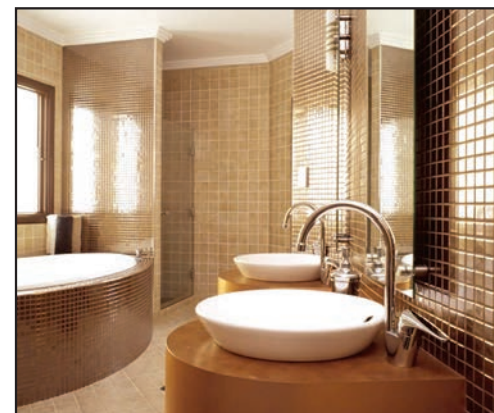
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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

ONGOING

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org.
STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program,

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Legals

In accordance with New York law, the National Rifle Association of America announces that its Annual Meeting of Members will be held October 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Charlotte, North Carolina in the Symphony Ballroom at the Sheraton & Le Meridien Charlotte Hotel Complex.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

All Rice 4289 LLC trading as All Rice Thai, 7001 L Manchester Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22310-3212. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Chantira Sungkijboon, Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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**Let us know
about an
upcoming event**

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

CALENDAR

SUNDAY/SEPT. 17

Visiting Filmmakers Series with Shaolin Jazz: Can I Kick It? 7 p.m. At GMU Fairfax, Mason Pond Lawn. Free. The Visiting Filmmakers Series will be co-hosting an outdoor screening with Shaolin Jazz. SHAOLIN JAZZ - CAN I KICK IT? is next level. Gerald Watson and DJ 2-Tone Jones present a unique film experience made for lovers of Kung-Fu flicks, the music they inspired, and everything else in between. Black Panther will be screened and scored (scene-by-scene) with a blend of Hip Hop, Soul, Funk and more mixed live by DJ 2-Tone Jones.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 18

Tour Historic Burke Property. 1-4 p.m. Originally the Burke School House at 9324 Old Burke Lake Road, Burke. The house, now named Whiteoaks, was built in 1911 and began life as a two-room school house known as the Burke Elementary School. Contact Jennifer Mack of Pearson Smith Realty at 703-672-0038.

SEPT. 18-23

Boomers and Beyond Academy. 9-11:30 a.m. Virtual event. Join AARP Virginia and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) for the Boomers and Beyond Academy. A special three-day virtual event designed to help you make plans for better living. Learn about the positive powers of lifelong learning, tips for determining if you are on track for a secure financial retirement, practical strategies to help you achieve retirement peace of mind, and more. You will get information about important life matters that you are faced with today or may face tomorrow. These tips and tools will help you make your own decisions about how you want to live. Visit www.aarp.org/boomeracademy

The program will be divided into three sessions:
Sept. 18 from 9-11:30 a.m.
Sept. 21 from 7-8:30 p.m.
Sept. 23 from 7-8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 18

Special Naturalization Ceremony. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall as they welcome some of America's newest citizens. The ceremony will take place in front of the historic mansion. Visit the website: gunstonhall.org/events

ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL

19th Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



PHOTO BY ARTHUR FOURNIER

The 2019 Britain on the Green Best of Show winning 1955 MG TF owned by Bill Laux of Alexandria. This year's Britain on the Green will be held on Sept. 19 at Gunston Hall in Lorton.

Where: 300 John Carlyle St. in Alexandria, VA
Free Admission
<http://www.artfestival.com/festivals/19th-annual-alexandria-old-town-art-festival>

SUNDAY/SEPT. 19

Annual Civil War Show and Sale. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge on Rt. 50 in Fairfax. General admission is \$5 per person. Vendors are welcome. The fee for an 8-foot table is \$75 per table. SCV members will receive a table discount. The show is sponsored the Frank Stringfellow Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Contact Bud Mayo, Camp Commander, at 703-1505 or mayo5304@cox.net

SUNDAY/SEPT. 19

Britain on the Green. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. The 23rd Britain on the Green show will feature 200 British cars and motorcycles, music, food trucks, youth activities, and admission to historic Gunston Hall and grounds. For 2021, they will feature a special display of classic British cars and their modern counterparts. Cost: Adults: \$10 Children 6-18: \$5 Children under 6: free. Visit the website: <http://www.capitaltriumphregister.com/bog/>

SUNDAY/SEPT. 19

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 at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 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 the website: www.fairfax-station.org, www.Facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

Fairfax Funky Flea

FROM PAGE 8

items, plus the event's festive atmosphere. It's an outdoor, fun, community day."

"I like to find really interesting and unique things that tell a story," said Buttram. "And I like the idea of recycling and re-loving things. Instead of going into a landfill, these items get to be reused and go to a home that'll love and appreciate them."

Her own, favorite, flea-market find is a large, old, metal, Esso gasoline sign – and she even remodeled her kitchen around it. "My father was an Esso gas dealer, so it reminds me of him," she said. "Plus, it's graphically vivid and has bright colors – I just love it."

Hackshaw's treasure was a large box of old, interior, hand-painted, Italian tiles. "I got dozens of tiles for less than \$10," she said. "I've set cheese or plants on them and used them as coasters. I've also given some as gifts; they're now all over the Washing-

ton, D.C., area, and it's nice knowing that."

She said nearly everyone attending a flea market "relaxes, strolls and takes time to peruse the items. And because each vendor is different, there's a whole variety of items to see. Our location is also within walking distance of GMU's campus, so students can get here easily."

Furthermore, added Buttram, "We think it's a great opportunity for people who haven't come to Fairfax City to see what's here – great restaurants, shops, parks, etc. And now, we're one of those things."

There's free parking at City Hall, plus limited street parking. Public restrooms will be available inside City Hall during the event. Attendees should bring their own, reusable bags for their found treasures.

To protect everyone's health and safety, no one should enter the market if sick. Those age 2 and over who are not fully vaccinated should wear masks.

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On My Late Father's Birthday No Less



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

To say I'm looking forward to my next round of scans (CT and bone) on Sept. 23 would be "Geminological." I am, and I'm not. I am not looking forward to the scans because the results, likely emailed to me within day or two - or three if late, will indicate whether my life hangs in the balance or, whether what happened to me in the Houston airport on July 20th was in fact a healing miracle - for which I'm quite eager to find out, or merely the act of a kind-hearted, well-intended soul spreading the gospel that Jesus saves.

As I mentioned in one of the "arc" columns recounting the second degree burns I accidentally inflicted on the soles of both my feet on Crystal Beach (actually it was the pavement I walked across from Crystal Beach to our accommodations) near Galveston, Tx. There, on the way home, I met a woman in the airport named Solange who offered to change my life through the power of healing prayer as practiced/performed at the Dwelling Place Church located in Houston where she is a congregant and devotee. Even though the gate in the airport where I was sitting was extremely crowded, she navigated her way through all the commotion and managed to end up near where I was sitting. It's almost as if she sought us out, somehow. Anyway,

She made her way over to the row of chairs at the departure gate where I was sitting, stretched across two chairs in a meager attempt to lessen the pain in my feet. My wife, Dina, looked at Solange as she sort of looked around for somewhere to sit and apologized for my taking up multiple seats, explaining briefly that I was in pain due to the burns on my feet. Without hesitation, Solange immediately offered up some healing prayers if I were amenable. Looking over at Dina, while sort of snickering, we said "Sure, thank you." And after motioning for a nearby male friend/fellow church member to join her, the two of them soon began praying on my behalf, not in unison, but similar.

I can't remember if she - or they touched my feet but soon enough they were invoking God, Jesus Christ, God's children, relieve my suffering and one or two other healing-type prayers. When they finished, after 10 seconds or so, we thanked them again. Then thinking to myself, I got greedy. I said aloud to Solange something like "Actually, the burns on my feet aren't my most serious problem: I have cancer." To which she instinctively offered up another round of prayers, with our blessing of course, for good health and future well-being. When she finished she walked away and re-joined her friends. In taking it all in, I felt quite fortunate for the experience and extremely grateful she reached out to someone she didn't even know.

It's been nearly eight weeks since our meeting at the airport. Given the excruciating pain I experienced for weeks upon my return home to Maryland, I can't say with too much conviction that my feet healed any quicker than the "weeks, not months" advisory we got from the Urgent Care doctor I visited back home later that evening. But that was then. This is now.

I have quarterly scans ahead which given the "terminal" nature of my papillary thyroid cancer, I could really use a miracle. So as naive as it may sound, I'm kind of looking forward to these upcoming scans. Certainly it would be a great story/unbelievable turn of events if my oncologist emailed me a "What happened? The tumors are gone." Although, for this kind of totally unexpected result, I imagine he'd probably call. I'm not holding my breath though, but with the combined efforts of Solange, modern medicine, and perhaps my late father pulling a few strings for me on his birthday, maybe, just maybe, I'll have a Paul Harvey-type "rest of the story" to share with you. If not, I'll continue to manage as I always have since I first was diagnosed in late Feb., 2009: I'll remain positive about the negative.

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



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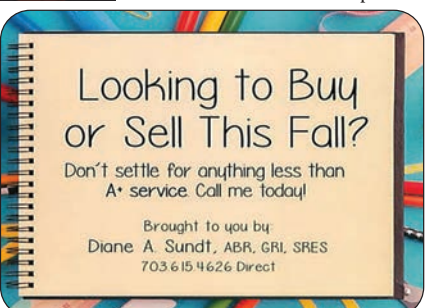
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