

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

Storytime in Reston

Children listen to "Mr. K" read "House in the Meadow." Reston Museum, in partnership with Reston's Used Book Shop, offers a free Storytime for Little Historians every Friday at 11 a.m. through August 26.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

'We're Down about 140-plus Officers'

Police chief addresses Sully police station's CAC.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis spoke to local residents during a recent meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). He praised the Department, discussed county-wide crime and explained what officers are doing to make communities safer.

"This is my fourth police department, and this one is the gold standard," he said. "What yours has is its world-class, peer-support system focusing on the health and wellness of your police officers."

Describing this department as "big, busy and professional," Davis said it's the largest in the commonwealth and 32nd largest in the nation. You can eventually do anything you want to do in our department because we're big and busy enough for officers to explore a variety of opportunities, such as K-9, detective, patrol, etc."

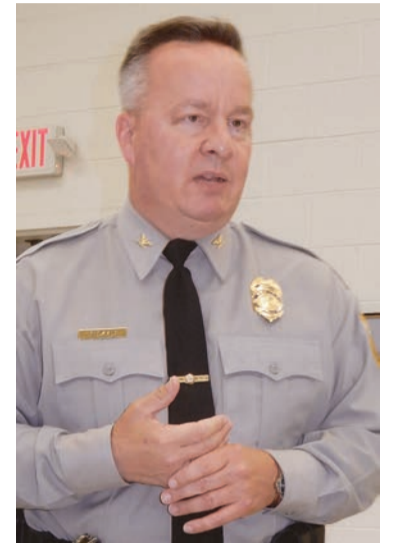
He said the current vacancy rate is just under 10 percent. "We're down about 140-plus police officers – the largest vacancy we've ever had, despite enhanced recruiting efforts. We're trying to be innovative in how we're attracting them and to become more diverse by race and gender."

According to Davis, the county's last police academy graduating class was 33 percent female – the "largest number of women, ever." And over the last couple years, he said, "Racial diversity in our academy classes has been double the amount of that of our incumbent police officers."

However, he added, "At the same time as we're trying to hire more officers, there have also been significant numbers of retirements in the Police Department by those who joined around 1995. It takes about seven years for the average police officer to get really good at their craft. And once they do, we want to keep them."

As for crime, Davis said this year's challenges include automobile thefts and drug use. "We still have the lowest rate of auto thefts among the nearby jurisdictions, but it's rising," he said. "So we're creating an Auto Thefts Enforcement Team to investigate stolen cars."

Another problem is the theft of



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis

catalytic converters from vehicles "because of the valuable, precious metals inside them," he said. "So we now have a full-time Catalytic Converter Unit working on these thefts."

Davis noted, as well, that the Opioid Overdose Squad is busy investigating fatal and nonfatal drug overdoses. "Now, we're dealing with pills laced with fentanyl," he said. "And the biggest spike in the past year has been with high-school students. We recently obtained a 22-year [prison] sentence for a drug dealer who sold drugs that resulted in a fatal overdose."

He also answered questions from those attending the in-person meeting. Saying "I don't go into a Walgreens or pass a school without thinking about mass shootings," John Greenhaugh asked Davis how all the mass shootings throughout the country have affected the training of Fairfax County's police officers.

"We've been training for years for active-violence incidents, and we have strong training," replied Davis. "The delays and lack of action you saw in Uvalde, Texas, wouldn't happen here."

Also answering that question was Capt. Rachel Levy, commander of the Sully District Station. "I can assure you that, after what happened in Texas, we will not hesitate to go in," she said. "Even if the chief says no; rank does not matter – life is the priority – we're going in."

Robert Muskett asked why police SROs (school resource officers) are at the county's middle

SEE POLICE CHIEF, PAGE 5
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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 Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
KING & QUEEN	10620	628	SPRING COTTAGE RD.	MATTAPONI RIVER	6/30/2022
KING & QUEEN	10595	602	WARES CHURCH RD.	DRAGON RUN	6/30/2022
KING WILLIAM	10671	629	ACQUINTON CHURCH R	ACQUINTON CREEK	6/30/2022
KING WILLIAM	10649	600	W. RIVER RD.	AYLETT CREEK	6/30/2022
LANCASTER	10683	3	MARY BALL RD.	BELLWOOD RUN	6/30/2022
GRAYSON	8690	58	WILSON HWY	BIG WILSON CREEK	6/29/2022
WASHINGTON	18877	58	JEB STUART HWY	STRAIGHT BRANCH	6/29/2022
KING GEORGE	10576	625	PRIM RD.	MATTOX CREEK	6/29/2022
ESSEX	6156	629	BATTERY RD.	MOUNT LANDING CREEK	6/28/2022
ESSEX	6183	684	HOWERTON RD.	WHITE MARSH CREEK	6/28/2022
CAMPBELL	4347	738	ENGLISH TAVERN RD.	TRIBUTARY FLAT CREEK	6/25/2022
WASHINGTON	18878	58	JEB STUART HWY	STRAIGHT BRANCH	6/22/2022
CAROLINE	4464	632	EDGEHILL ACADEMY R	MATTA RIVER	6/22/2022
ESSEX	6152	620	CHEATWOOD MILL RD.	HOSKINS CREEK	6/22/2022
CAROLINE	4359	1	JEFF. DAVIS HWY.	STEVENS MILL RUN	6/21/2022
CAROLINE	4409	301	NBL A.P. HILL BLVD	N FORK PEUMONSEND CREEK	6/21/2022
CAROLINE	4411	301	RICHMOND TPKE	POLECAT CREEK	6/21/2022
CAROLINE	4367	17	TIDEWATER TRAIL	GOLDENVALE CREEK	6/21/2022
ARLINGTON	110	1	JEFF DAVIS HWY.SBL	110; I-395NB & I-395 EXP	6/15/2022
PRINCE EDWARD	13930	612	SANDY RIVER RD.	LITTLE SANDY RIVER	6/11/2022
LEE	10734	58	BUSINESS RTE 58	BRANCH	6/6/2022
MIDDLESEX	12085	17	NBL GEO. WASH. PWY	DRAGON RUN	6/2/2022
KING GEORGE	10566	615	BERRY WARF RD.	DEEP CREEK	6/1/2022
MATHEWS	26970	609	BETHEL BEACH RD.	GARDEN CREEK CANAL	6/1/2022

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 <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

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

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

NEWS



Chief Kevin Davis speaks at the scene in McLean July 7 after a Fairfax County Police officer shot and killed Jasper Aaron Lynch, 26.



Chief Kevin Davis speaks at the scene at Springfield Town Center June 30 after Fairfax County Police officers shot and killed Christian Parker, 37 of Reston.

Two Fatal Shootings by Fairfax County Police

FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY
POLICE REPORTS

Fairfax County Police officers shot and killed two men in separate incidents. A Reston man, Christian Parker, 37, was shot and killed in the parking lot of Springfield Town Center on June 30. Jasper Aaron Lynch, 26, was shot and killed in a McLean home on July 7. Investigations are underway. Many questions arise from reading the facts as released by the police. Both incidents were recorded on officers' body cameras, and that footage will be released along with audio recordings "within 30 days or when it no longer jeopardizes the integrity of the investigation."

Per department policy, the officers have been placed on restricted duty pending the outcome of an administrative investigation by the Internal Affairs Bureau.

An independent review will be conducted of both incidents by the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor, Richard G. Schott. The Office of the Independent Police Auditor was established by the Board of Supervisors on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, in the wake of the police shooting death of John Geer of Springfield. The recommendations of the commission also led to the timeline for release of information.

IN McLEAN

According to police, at approximately 7:11 p.m. Thursday, July 7, officers responded to a home in the 6900 block of Arbor Lane in McLean, after a family friend of Jasper Aaron Lynch, 26, called with concerns for his safety. The family friend said Lynch was throwing objects inside the home and pacing.

A designated co-responder unit responded. This team included an officer assigned to our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and a clinician from the Sharon Bulova Center for Community Health. Lynch left the residence prior to the team's arrival at 7:26 p.m. The team checked the home and re-

mained in the area for an additional period of time to attempt to locate him, according to the report, but they didn't find Lynch. The co-responder unit then went to the McLean District Station to speak with Lynch's family by phone.

At 8:34 p.m., a second call for service was placed by a family friend. This time, three crisis intervention trained officers arrived at the home and spoke to a family member on the scene. The officers found Lynch inside holding a bottle and an object, believed to be a large decorative wooden tribal mask. The officers attempted to de-escalate the

The officer is assigned to the McLean District Station.

The name of the officer will be released within 10 days, unless there is a credible threat to the safety of the officer involved or if additional time is required to thoroughly complete the risk assessment process.

A criminal investigation into the use of force is being conducted by FCPD Major Crimes Bureau.

Police report that all information provided in their release is based on preliminary investigative findings and may be subject to revision as the investigation progresses.

"We have crisis-intervention training, and it requires ongoing education. About 42 percent of our agency is trained in it. We'd like to have co-responder mobile-crisis units – a police officer and a mental-health professional in the same car ... It's the wave of the future in public safety."

—Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis during a recent meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee

situation with verbal commands inside the foyer of the home.

Lynch threw the mask at an officer and began to swing the bottle in striking motion. Two officers attempted to utilize their Electronic Control Weapons. Lynch ran toward officers while swinging the bottle.

One officer discharged his firearm, striking Lynch four times. Officers immediately rendered aid until fire and rescue personnel arrived. Lynch was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The officer who discharged his firearm has been identified as a ten-year veteran.

To view Chief Davis' press conference from the scene, see https://youtu.be/n_s66dYFQLs

AT SPRINGFIELD TOWN CENTER

On June 30, officers found Christian Parker, 37, of Reston, in the Springfield Town Center parking lot. Parker was wanted for possession of a firearm by a felon, larceny of a firearm, brandishing a firearm and discharging a firearm within a home.

Parker was wanted after an incident on Sunday at his home in the 2000 block of Royal Fern Court in the Reston Police Dis-

trict. A family member reported Parker stole a firearm from the home and pointed the weapon at a relative. Parker then discharged the firearm inside the home.

The incident was reported more than 10 hours after it occurred. No one was injured at the time of the reckless discharge. Officers obtained warrants for Parker and notified our Fugitive Track and Apprehension Unit. Our officers worked throughout the week to find Parker, eventually finding him in the Springfield parking lot.

Detectives from our Fugitive Track and Apprehension Unit learned Parker was in the area of the Springfield Town Center. Detectives coordinated with the Summer Crime Initiative team to help find Parker. This seasonal team of officers focuses on suppressing crime during the summer months.

Officers found Parker in a parking lot and positioned their vehicles in a manner to prevent Parker's escape.

Parker entered his vehicle as officers approached. Three officers gave Parker several commands to show his hands. Preliminarily, it appeared Parker reached across the passenger seat and retrieved a firearm. At least one of the officers observed a firearm in Parker's hands and alerted other officers. The officers gave multiple commands to Parker to drop the firearm. Parker disregarded these repeated commands, and Police Officer First-Class Daniel Houtz and Officer Ryan Sheehan discharged their firearms. PFC Houtz is an eight-year veteran of the Franconia Police District Station and OFC Sheehan is a two-year veteran of the Mount Vernon Police District Station. Both officers were assigned to the Summer Crime Initiative Team.

An independent review will also be conducted by the Independent Police Auditor.

A criminal investigation into the use of force is being conducted by our Major Crimes Bureau.

To view Chief Davis' press conference from the scene, see <https://youtu.be/1May-cMMYWO8>



Enjoying their chicken sandwiches are (from left) brothers Al and Adam Zaug and Chris Bartholomew.

'We Cook with Love and Everything's Homemade'

Roaming Rooster opens in Chantilly Crossing.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A steady stream of customers flowed through the door of Roaming Rooster on Friday, June 17 in the Chantilly Crossing Shopping Center off Route 50 and Lee Road. They came for the grand opening of this popular, new, chicken-sandwich restaurant – and they weren't disappointed.

"I got the OG Nashville, hot," said Adam Zaug of Chantilly's Franklin Farm community. "It's got a great level of heat that doesn't overpower the flavor. I've driven to Washington, D.C. before to get this. And I was actually emailing the owner, asking when this location was opening."

Adding he'd recommend Roaming Rooster to others, Zaug said, "If you like a classic, fried-chicken sandwich, this is the place to be. And they make their own fries, too."

His brother Al got the OG Nashville, too. "I liked that the spice had a very good flavor, and I loved the vinaigrette slaw inside the sandwich," he said. "It makes it complex and gives it a crunchy texture. And it's also a good-sized piece of chicken. I can't wait to come back. I drop off my daughter at dance, come here and get a sandwich and go pick her up again."

Enjoying lunch with the brothers was Chris Bartholomew of Centreville's London Towne community. He had the honey butter chicken sandwich, medium heat level. "It was my first time trying this restaurant," he said. "My sister went to the soft opening two weeks ago and told me to come here."

"I really enjoyed it," continued Bar-

tholomew. "Besides the honey butter, it has cheddar cheese, so the sandwich had a mixture of sweetness, savory and heat. And I loved the fries because they're fresh-cut, skin-on and well-cooked. I'd recommend this place because they have a great variety of chicken sandwiches and even wings."

Roaming Rooster is owned by Conie Mesfin; her husband, William Biniam and his brother Mike. It's not a franchise, but a family-owned business. There are six locations in Washington, D.C., plus one each in Tysons Corner and Burke, and another will open in Manassas the end of this month.

So why Chantilly? "Our customers come from everywhere," said Mesfin. "We were looking for a place to open in this area, and we liked this shopping center – and it gets us closer to some of our customers."

What sets this restaurant apart from other chicken restaurants, she said, is that the chickens they use are never given antibiotics, are free range and halal – meaning they're prepared according to Islamic, dietary guidelines. Furthermore, said Mesfin, customers may choose the heat level they prefer in the buttermilk-fried chicken breasts in their sandwiches.

"They can choose from no spice to mild, medium-hot or extra-hot," she said. "The extra-hot is that way because of a different, spicy, but secret, pepper we add. Our best sellers are the OG Nashville and the honey butter sandwiches."

But that's not all they offer. There's also a Buffalo chicken sandwich with bleu cheese and Buffalo sauce, and a chicken club with applewood smoked bacon, lettuce, tomato and ranch dressing. Wings have the same



From left are Dismas Nyakudi, Conie Mesfin and store General Manager Ash Ziara outside the new Roaming Rooster in Chantilly.



From left, Friends Lauren Little and Brittany Noetzel are having lunch together.

flavors as the sandwiches, and chicken tenders and nuggets come with either homemade sriracha mayo or honey mustard.

The chicken club salad is made with the same chicken that goes into the sandwiches. And customers choose their heat level for each entrée. Beverages are lemonade, iced tea, soda and water – as well as custard shakes that come in Oreo, vanilla, strawberry and chocolate flavors. And, said Mesfin, "We might add breakfast in the future; we'd serve eggs, bacon and chicken."

Roaming Rooster is at 14394 Chantilly Crossing Lane in Chantilly; hours are Monday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Since its soft opening, June 3, Mesfin said business has

been "really good, and we already have repeat customers. People are excited about our restaurant and tell us they really like our food."

And although several different places sell chicken sandwiches, Mesfin said customers should come to Roaming Rooster because "We cook with love and everything's homemade. And our flavors are unique because we use Ethiopian spices."

"Our hand-cut fries are very popular, too," added Director of Operations Dismas Nyakudi. "And we also have a catering menu where we serve sliders." To order online or to see

Police Chief Addresses CAC

FROM PAGE 2

and high schools, but not at its elementary schools. Levy told him it was “a line item that had to be cut from the budget, years ago. In October, I’ll meet with all the principals, including the elementary-school ones. We’ll be having conversations about what they can do if they don’t have an SRO at their school.”

Davis said the department puts “top-notch police officers” in the schools as SROs.

Muskett said, “To the students, it’s those daily interactions with the man behind the badge that are important.”

Next, John Werderman told Davis, “Over the 13 months you’ve been with us, I notice more technology being used, and I like that.”

“A company called Axon that makes dash and body cameras recently bought a company called My90,” said Davis. “And now, many calls for services will generate a five-question survey back to the person who called, regarding how their interaction with the police was. We’ve just started using it, and we’ve already received 800 responses back in the past few weeks.”

Cholley Moses asked, “Are your officers trained to recognize mental illness, as opposed to someone just acting out?”



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
Chief Davis addresses the Sully CAC.

“Yes,” replied Davis. “We have crisis-intervention training, and it requires ongoing education. About 42 percent of our agency is trained in it. We’d like to have co-responder mobile-crisis units – a police officer and a mental-health professional in the same car – but we need to get the mental-health/behavioral-crisis counselors to be part of it. But it’s the wave of the future in public safety.”

Levy said the new police academy recruits are getting this additional training and “It’s certainly paying dividends. We’re also starting a new program, ABLE – Active Bystander Law Enforcement.” Referring to George Floyd’s 2020 death at the hands of Minneapolis

police, she said ABLE involves “scenario training, requiring police officers to intervene when one officer sees another officer doing something harmful to another human being.”

As the meeting ended, MPO Sabrina Ruck, the station’s crime prevention officer, encouraged local communities to participate in this year’s National Night Out celebrations. These outdoor events enable firefighters and police officers to come together and mingle with residents at cookouts, pool parties and ice-cream socials, so residents may get to know and interact with them in relaxed, informal settings. This year’s National Night out is slated for Tuesday, Aug. 2.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Celebrating Roaming Rooster’s grand opening are (from left) Dismas Nyakudi, Conie Mesfin and Ash Ziara.

Roaming Rooster opens in Chantilly Crossing

FROM PAGE 4

the menu, go to roamingroosterdc.com.

Proud of what the restaurant offers, he said, “The chicken we serve is all-natural and humanely raised, with no growth hormones. And it’s halal because we care where the ingredients come from – we want the chicken to be nourishing and don’t want to profit from suffering.”

The Friday grand opening had a party atmosphere, with colorful balloons outside and a deejay playing music inside. But the main attraction was definitely the food.

Friends Brittany Noetzel and Lauren Little were getting their nails done nearby when they saw

Roaming Rooster’s sign and came there for lunch because they were familiar with it from Washington, D.C. Both had chicken sandwiches and fries.

“I had the honey butter,” said Little. “I love the sweet and salty combination of the honey butter and the chicken. I got the hot chicken, and it was very tender and juicy – it’s not a dry chicken sandwich. The slaw is vinegar-based, not made with mayo, so that makes it crisp, and I also like the jalapeño in it.”

Noetzel chose the OG Nashville. “It’s the best chicken sandwich anywhere,” she said. “And it’s not bland – they’re not afraid to put flavor in there.” Besides that, she added, “I like to go someplace local, instead of a big chain, because it’s supporting a local business.”

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Reston Museum, in partnership with Reston's Used Book Shop, offers a free Storytime for Little Historians every Friday at 11 a.m. through August 26.



Reston Museum, in partnership with Reston's Used Book Shop, offers a free Storytime for Little Historians every Friday at 11 a.m. through August 26.

Storytime for Little Historians

Young children learn about Reston and its founding principles.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

This summer marked the beginning of the second annual Storytime for Little Historians, a half-hour program at Reston Museum in partnership with Reston's Used Book Shop. Until August 26, every Friday at 11 a.m., young children accompanied by their parents or guardians can listen to a story based on one or more of Reston's founding principles.

On July 8, children piled into the big red chairs set up in the museum to listen to "Mr. K" (Kinzer) read "House in the Meadow," written by Shutta Crum and illustrated by Paige Billin-Frye.

"Over in the Meadow," a popular counting poem by Olive A. Wadsworth, inspired the 32-page book that "Mr. K" (Kinzer) slowly read. He told about a spring wedding attended by ten best friends and counting down the days until the community gathered "when spring arrived again" to build a home for the couple. Mr. K's deep voice and



Reston Museum, in partnership with Reston's Used Book Shop, offers a free Storytime for Little Historians every Friday at 11 a.m. through August 26.

the story's cheerful, vibrant collage and cut paper graphics held the interest of youngsters aged 3 to 5. Afterward, the children received a small gift to take home.

As in Reston, the story's community was made of people of many ethnicities and ages

who worked side by side, enjoying the excitement and pleasure of building a house. The story also featured female construction workers-plumbers, roofers, and electricians.

The program is offered free of charge. No registration is required.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



"Mr. K." offers a sticker to participants in Storytime for Little Historians.

Visit <https://www.restonmuseum.org/> to learn more about the organization and its many events, including its upcoming Cardboard Boat Regatta, a fundraiser held on Saturday, August 13. The museum is located on Lake Anne Plaza at 1639 Washington Plaza N, Reston, VA. It is open Tuesday- Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Innovation Center Station runs beside the Dulles Toll Road.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority announced public hearings on raising the tolls on the Dulles Toll road; public comment period will run through Aug. 10.

MWAA Proposes Dulles Toll Road Increases

Public comments accepted through Aug. 10, 2022.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority will propose raising the toll rates on the Dulles Toll Road. MWAA is accepting public comments through Tuesday, Aug. 10 on proposed changes to toll rate which would start on Jan. 1, 2023.

Tolls for a 2-axle vehicle at the Main Line Plaza would increase to \$4.00 from \$3.25. Drivers would incur a second increase at the ramps. The charge for a 2-axle would increase from \$1.50 to \$2.00 on the ramps. If the Airports Authority's Board of Directors approves the amendment, someone driving a passenger car will pay \$12 a day round trip using the Dulles Toll Road rather than the current \$9.50.

The Airports Authority also wants to be able to charge administrative fees to cover the costs it must pay when it bills toll road customers who use the pay-by-plate (license plate imaging) method to pay tolls.

On Tuesday evening, July 12, the Airports Authority held the first of two public hearings — the first meeting a virtual one. The public learned about the Dulles Toll Road's www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Vehicle Class	Main Line Plaza		Ramps	
	From	To	From	To
2-axle	\$3.25	\$4.00	\$1.50	\$2.00
3-axle	\$6.50	\$8.00	\$3.00	\$4.00
4-axle	\$7.75	\$9.25	\$3.50	\$4.50
5-axle	\$9.00	\$10.50	\$4.00	\$5.00
6 or more axles	\$10.25	\$11.75	\$4.50	\$5.50

SCREENSHOT

Proposed Dulles Toll Road Increases

switch to all-electronic tolling, how toll revenue is used to pay for capital improvements in the Dulles Corridor, and the funding and construction of the Dulles Corridor Metro-rail Project.

The Airports Authority seeks public comment not just about the proposed amendment but also converting to all-electronic toll collection will reduce harmful emissions from vehicles idling at toll plazas. It poses questions: Are there other potential environmental initiatives related to the operation or maintenance of the Dulles Toll Road that should be explored? Would offering toll credits or other financial incentives be an effective way to encourage Dulles Toll Road customers to carpool or travel during off-peak hours?

The full text of the proposed changes can be found online at <https://www.dullestollroad.com/toll-setting-process>.



NEXT STEPS

June 2022	<p>06/15/22 Airports Authority Board Committee Meetings Staff report on consultation with DCAC; Request Committee authorization to proceed with the regulatory process for proposed rate adjustments.</p>
July/August 2022	<p>07/11/22 Public Comment Period begins 07/12/22 Virtual Public Hearing 07/18/22 In-Person Public Hearing 08/10/22 End of Public Comment Period Information will also be posted on the Airports Authority website.</p>

SCREENSHOT

Next Steps

A second public hearing, this time in person, is set for Monday, July 18, 2022, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott, Salons A, B, and C, 45020 Aviation Drive, Dulles, Virginia 20166. As per the Airports Authority "There will be no formal presentation, but the information provided in the virtual public hearing will be available for discussion in an open house format. Attendees will be able to visit several information stations to learn about the proposed regulatory amendments, the Dulles Toll Road, and the Dulles Corridor Metrorail project.

Attendees will be able to provide written comments or provide comments to an official meeting stenographer."

Additionally, beginning July 11, 2022, written comments may be submitted using the online comment form at <https://www.dullestollroad.com/toll-setting-process>. One can also phone (703) 253-5896 and leave a statement after the tone. It will be received and entered into the record. All comments must be received no later than Aug. 10, 2022. The Airports Authority's Board of Directors is the only group that can take the final step to adopt these proposed changes.

Learning From Others

BY DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



Jane and I routinely record each "PBS NewsHour" program to allow us to watch it whenever it is convenient for us. Typically, we watch the program during dinner, but the time at which we eat can vary. The recording is always there whenever the time is right for us to watch it. We consider PBS to be our best source of news to keep ourselves honestly informed.

We just returned last weekend after almost two weeks of vacation on a trip to Scandinavia that was planned before the pandemic but only now felt safe to take. We did not get to keep up with the NewsHour daily as we do as part of our regular routine at home. However, what we were able to do was to tune in almost daily to BBC News in the evenings. We sometimes watch BBC World News at home, but the past couple of weeks were especially informative. As you no doubt know from local report-

ing, the Prime Minister of the UK, Boris Johnson, has been forced by events to resign from his position of power. Being in another part of the world and watching the story unfold by a source other than American news reporting was fascinating and very thought provoking.

Boris Johnson has been referred to as a norm-busting politician whose rise to power and his scandal-plagued administration offer some resemblance to a former president of the United States. Indeed, it was the parallels between the two that continued to run through my head as I watched the continuous coverage of the events that led to Johnson stepping down. The BBC coverage of the number of lies and lack of integrity made clear that Johnson was unfit for leadership. They were reporting what members of Johnson's administration were saying publicly about him as first ten members of his administration, then 39, then 50 members resigned. He was being brought down by members of his own

administration.

Contrast that with the experience in the United States when the president continued to be involved in scandals and behavior unsuitable for his office. The 25th Amendment provides a method of removing a president from office, but it was never invoked. His party rallied around him regardless of his outlandish behavior and clear lack of ethics or leadership skills. Some even participated in his treacherous act to try to keep the presidency when he was clearly defeated at the polls. Now, with the better-late-than-never January 6 hearings we are seeing how unsavory the administration was not only at the top but throughout the executive branch. A small but important minority of members of that administration are finally coming forth with unbelievable detail as to what was going on during the administration. A shocking number are pleading the Fifth Amendment.

How much prouder we could have been as Americans if the people around the former president had removed him just as the members of the Boris Johnson administration are doing to him in the UK. It is a lesson we must learn from others.



Nonperishable Food & Hygiene Event

PHOTO BY JANE NASH

The Rotary Satellite Club of Herndon-Reston holds a Nonperishable Food & Hygiene Event monthly on the fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. - noon. Items may be dropped off at Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon benefiting LINK and E.A.I.T.H. Their next event is Saturday, July 23. Rotary thanks you for your generous donations giving back to our community.

Stewart earns Doctor of Optometry Degree

Eric Stewart, O.D., of Herndon, Virginia, was among 134 students recently awarded the Doctor of Optometry degree from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis.

A native of Herndon, Stewart is the son of Marcia and Stan Stewart. He is a graduate of Herndon High School and The

Ohio State University.

Optometrists are independent, primary health care providers who specialize in the examination, diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases/disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures, as well as the diagnosis of related systemic conditions.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Staff Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

In Memoriam
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



CALENDAR

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Summer Programming for Kids. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Reston Museum is launching new summer programming for kids! Visit the Reston Museum to participate in fun and creative activities inspired by Reston's history. Program is free and everyone will receive an Explore Reston packet.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com

SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at Lake Anne Village from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on May 6th, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through November 11. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; breads and pastries; prepared foods; meats: herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County. For more information, see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>

HERNDON FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays through Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 765 Lynn St., Herndon, VA, 20170 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market is open every Saturday, Spring and Summer, 9 a.m. - 1



D'DAT will appear Sunday, July 17, 2022 at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. in McLean.

p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

NOW THRU AUG. 26 (FRIDAYS)

Storytime for Little Historians. 11 a.m. The second annual Storytime for Little Historians program returns this summer. Reston Museum invites our youngest visitors to the Reston Museum every Friday at 11 a.m. to listen to a story about Reston or one of Reston's founding principles. Books for the program come from the Reston Museum and Reston's Used Book Shop. Program is offered free of charge and each child will receive a goodie bag. Program is recommended for children under 7. Visit www.restonmuseum.org.

NOW THRU JULY 24

"Memory and Illusion." At Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza, in Reston. A retrospective exhibit of more than 50 original paintings by Reston-based painter Sandra C Dovberg will be shown in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center-Lake Anne. Dovberg's solo exhibit, "Memory and Illusion," is a highly eclectic collection of paintings that show the versatility of the artist who is also an award-winning silversmith and jewelry designer. Everyone is welcome to an informal reception to meet the artist at the gallery on Sunday, July 10 from 2 until 4 p.m.

NOW THRU JULY 31

Art in Motion. At Reston Art Gallery, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Reston. Mobiles and Stables by Wayne Schifflbein on display. An array of mobiles suspended from the ceiling and stables displayed on tabletops are presented by Wayne Schifflbein in his show, "Art In Motion." The show offers 20 pieces of Schifflbein's latest 'Calder-esque' works that range in size from 1 1/2 inches to 46 inches in width, each with its own distinctive character in combinations of colorful aluminum and glass balanced with stainless steel.

JULY 14-AUG. 18 (THURSDAYS)

Farmers' Market Fun Days. At Town Green, 730 Elden Street, Herndon. Enjoy free kid-friendly entertainment on Thursdays running July 7-August 18 from 10:30-11:15 a.m. on the Town Green, 730 Elden Street. Before or after the performance, people are welcome to shop the locally grown and homemade goodies at the Farmers' Market from 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., on Lynn Street in historic downtown Herndon. If inclement weather occurs, call the Inclement Weather line at 703-435-6866 for the status of the performance.

Entertainment Schedule:

July 14: Drew Blue Shoes - interactive magical miracles

July 21: Marsha and the Positrons - songs about science and how the world works

July 28: Mr. Jon and Friends - Parents Choice Award winning music for kids

August 4: Milkshake - music for little dudes

August 11: Groovy Nate - fun and educational shows using exotic musical instruments

August 18: Rainbow Rock - plays original children's music for the tot rock set

To learn more about the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, visit herndon-va.gov/recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

NOW THRU JULY 17

"Newsies." At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons Corner. The Reston Community Players (RCP) presents a youth-centered production of

"Newsies" this July as part of their new Apprentice Program. Based on the 1992 motion picture and inspired by the true story of the Newsboy Strike of 1899, Newsies tells the story of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy who dreams of a better life. After publishing giant Joseph Pulitzer raises newspaper prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies a ragged band of newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what's right. Newsies will perform July 15-17. Curtain time is 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit www.capitalonehall.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 14

Project Locrea. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Join this ensemble for an evening of eclectic music that crosses cultural and musical boundaries, which fuses modern technology with Western classical, jazz and traditional folk instrumentation from around the world. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

90's JParis Live. Part of the Summer Concert Series. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Join Tysons Corner Center on a tour through the decades! Listen to your favorite songs on the plaza while enjoying drinks and takeout from the plaza retailers. These events are free to attend.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

NVMR Train Station Open House. 1-5 p.m. At Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Stop by the Historic Vienna Train Station where you can see and hear HO scale model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young-at-heart. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. See www.nvmr.org.

SUMMER SUNDAY CONCERTS

The Alden at the McLean Community Center is bringing great music to the great outdoors with its Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park series. The concerts are for all ages and in-

clude a wide range of music genres, from South Asian, to indie rock, to hip-hop, to Southwest Native American jazz fusion. The free concerts are being held at 3 p.m. on Sundays through July 31. The park is located at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.

Sunday, July 17, 3 p.m. D'DAT. D'DAT is a multicultural group that mixes the uniquely American musical traditions of the Native Southwest, jazz and hip-hop. National touring artist Def-1's intelligent, poetic lyrics and hip-hop style blends with the hard-driving instrumental fire of trumpet player Delbert Anderson, the deep funk of drummer Nicholas Lucero and the explorative and expanding groove of Mike McCluhan on bass.

Sunday, July 24, 3 p.m. Lil'Maceo. Old-school funky, foot-stomping R&B saxophone. Lil' Maceo's musical roots in funk, pop, dance and contemporary jazz will get you up and partying.

JULY 22-24

"The Show Must Go On!" 8 p.m. At The Alden Theater in McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Show Must Go On! A Musical Revue marks the return of the McLean Community Players to the Alden Theater after a three-year hiatus because of the pandemic. This gala revue remembers songs from past shows and looks to the future with songs from shows MCP has not done yet.

SATURDAY/JULY 23

Food and Hygiene Event. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Rotary Satellite Club of Herndon-Reston holds a Non-perishable Food & Hygiene Event monthly on the fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Items may be dropped off at Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon benefiting LINK and F.A.I.T.H.

SUNDAY/JULY 24

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Featuring Ranger Rik & The Trash Pandas - Dumpster-diving Rock-n-Roll so good you can't get the taste out of your mouth. Come relax at the Village Centre Green and enjoy laid-back evenings of good music and good times with your neighbors.

ROUNDUPS

Ramps to and from Stringfellow Road Are Closed

The ramps from I-66 West to Stringfellow Road in Chantilly, and from Stringfellow Road in Chantilly to I-66 East, are scheduled to be closed for about eight weeks. This action is needed for continued construction of the new configuration of these ramps. The closure began this week and is anticipated to remain in place through approximately Monday, Sept. 5.

This work is part of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project. Drivers should expect delays if traveling in the area and use alternate routes. I-66 over Stringfellow Road is being widened to ac-

commodate the new, I-66 express lanes and provide room for any future mass transit along I-66. The I-66 ramps at Stringfellow Road are being modified to add full-time, express-lanes access to and from the east.

'Hidden in Plain Sight' for Parents of Teens

Fairfax County police are offering a hands-on, learning adventure for parents and guardians of teenagers. Called "Hidden in Plain Sight," it'll be held Wednesday, July 20, from 6:30-8:45 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

Attendees will be guided through a presentation opening their eyes to what's right

in front of them. This program begins with a setup of a teenager's bedroom which includes close to 100 "red flags" indicating risky behavior. Parents are encouraged to touch everything and identify these red flags.

Afterward is a PowerPoint presentation detailing the red-flag props the room contained and how they indicate or are used in risky behavior. Police include up-to-date statistics and local trends, and law-enforcement officers will share experiences they've had in the community identifying risky behavior and helping put teens on the right path to a healthy life.

Register at <https://bit.ly/fcpdhips0720>. Or register for other, upcoming presentations dates at <https://bit.ly/fcpdhips>. Registration is required, and seats are limited for this free event. For further information or to arrange a presentation for an organization,

club or group, email PFC Meg Hawkins at Fcpdhips@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SULLY DISTRICT STATION

Police report the following incidents:
MALICIOUS WOUNDING: 14000 block of Saint Germain Drive, 7/4/22, 6:12 p.m. A 21-year-old man approached the victim, struck him several times with a metal pipe, and walked away. Officers found the man nearby and arrested him for malicious wounding. The victim was treated for injuries not considered life threatening.

ROBBERY: 5300 block of Chandley Farms Circle, 7/5/22, 1 a.m. A group of men approached the victim at a party, assaulted him and took his property. The victim was treated for injuries not considered life threatening. This does not appear to be a random act.

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Smart Growth America Shows Roads Are Dangerous by Design

Today, Smart Growth America released “Dangerous by Design” documenting the dangers faced by pedestrians on America’s roads. “The Coalition for Smarter Growth urges every official in the DC region, Maryland, and Virginia, to read this report and to make safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on our streets a top priority,” said Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director. <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>

In the past week, two pedestrians were killed in Fairfax County, bringing the total number of pedestrians killed in 2022 to 12,

Officers responded at 10:20 p.m. July 6 for a pedestrian struck on Richmond Highway near Huntington Avenue in the Mount Vernon area. Doris Anita McPhail, 56, of Alexandria, was struck by an SUV. She died the next morning in the hospital.

Keith Thomas, 24, was killed in a crash that occurred at 1:28 a.m., Friday, July 8 on Richmond Highway over the ramp from northbound I-95 to northbound Richmond Highway.

According to the report, national statistics show:

Pedestrian fatalities are up 62% since 2009, totalling 64,073 deaths.

Pedestrian fatalities increased 4.7% in 2020 over 2019 and preliminary data shows 7485 deaths in 2021, a 40-year high.

Arterial highways – think Route 1, Route 355, Route 50, Georgia Avenue, and Route 7 in the DC region – comprise 15% of all lane miles in the U.S. but 67% of pedestrian deaths.

During the pandemic, as traffic congestion went down, more drivers drove faster and death rates went up.

Places that were less friendly to walking before the pandemic had significantly higher increases in pedestrian fatalities during the pandemic compared to places that supported higher rates of walking pre-pandemic.

People of color, particularly Native and Black Americans are more likely to die while walking.

Lower income people and older people are more likely to die while walking.

“Despite better relative rankings than many parts of the U.S. the DC region is still seeing too many deaths and serious injuries to pedes-

trians and cyclists, and like other parts of the country, our suburban arterial roads are particularly dangerous. That’s why Coalition for Smarter Growth has partnered with CASA in a campaign to make Route 7 in Baileys Crossroads safer, helping the Gum Springs community’s fight for a safer Route 1 in Fairfax, and working together with the Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets and Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling for safer streets across Northern Virginia,” said Sonya Breehey, CSG’s Northern Virginia Advocacy Manager.

“Similarly, we support Action Committee for Transit’s fight for safer streets in Montgomery County and are working for safer streets in Prince George’s, which have some of the highest rates of pedestrian injuries and deaths in the region,” said Jane Lyons, Coalition for Smarter Growth’s Maryland Advocacy Manager.

Areas in this region which have higher percentages of people of color and lower-income households, experience disproportionately more fatalities of pedestrians and crashes on arterials than the rest of the region, said Bill Pugh, Coalition for Smarter Growth Senior Policy Fellow.

“Unfortunately, VDOT and MDOT, and many local departments of transportation are not taking the sort of swift and concerted action necessary to make our streets safer. They continue to prioritize vehicle speed and movement over safety, and routinely push back on redesigning our streets – especially our very dangerous arterials to make them safer for people walking, biking, rolling, and using transit,” said Schwartz.

Sonya Breehey concluded, “SGA documents why design matters and we urge a transformation in how our state and local departments of transportation design our streets – using the design guidance from NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) instead of the car-dominant AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials). Funding should be shifted from highway and arterial expansion to redesigning our arterials and streets to make them safer for all users.”

<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>

Man Sentenced for Conspiracy to Distribute Meth on the Darknet

A Fairfax man was sentenced Tuesday, July 12 to 52 months for conspiring to distribute between 15 and 45 kilograms of pills containing methamphetamine via the darknet.

According to court documents, from about May 2019 through December 2019, Tyler Pham, 39, conspired to distribute peach tablets advertised as Adderall, but in fact containing methamphetamine, nationwide through the U.S. mail. Pham used the moniker “addy4cheap” on darknet markets, the Empire Market and Cryptonia. Between August 2019 and December 2019, law enforcement agents conducted 20 controlled purchases from “addy4cheap” on both markets for a total of 767 peach tablets received, weighing approximately 268 grams total.

On Dec. 9, 2019, search warrants were executed at Pham and his co-conspirators’ residences, including the homes of Lien Kim Thi Phan, 37, Fairfax, and Hon Lam Luk, 35, Chantilly. In the home of Phan and Pham, agents found 95 peach tablets, and in Luk’s Chantilly residence, investigators found over 6,000

peach tablets weighing approximately 2.2 kilograms, all of which resembled those advertised on “addy4cheap” and those received by law enforcement through controlled purchases.

As of Dec. 10, 2019, “addy4cheap” had completed 3,665 sales on the Empire Market and received 2,568 reviews. Based on these reviews, “addy4cheap” had received approximately \$482,572.10 in sales for an approximate 44,872 pills sold. As of Nov. 7, 2019, “addy4cheap” had fulfilled 140 transactions on Cryptonia.

Pham’s six co-conspirators all previously entered guilty pleas in connection with the conspiracy and were sentenced to over 13 years in prison combined. Phan and Duong Nguyen, 29, of Springfield received a sentence of time served for their roles in the conspiracy. Son Nguyen, 36, of Annandale, was sentenced to 34 months in prison for his role in the conspiracy. Dat Nguyen, 37 of Alexandria, and Trieu Hoang, 39, of Springfield, were sentenced to 39 months in prison for their roles in the conspiracy and Luk received 46 months imprisonment for his conduct.

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Back in the Cancer Business



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that as an active cancer patient still undergoing treatment you’re ever out, but occasionally, there are intervals where you are less in/have less frequent cancer-centric activities. And it’s important to never let these intervals pass without elevating their importance. A break/brake in any cancer-related action is welcome relief and acknowledging its occurrence is paramount. When you’re living in the cancer world, you must find ways to find the most positive element of your rather negative experience. And if the most positive element of that experience is that absolutely nothing happened/is happening, don’t ever take it for granted. Take it for every advantage, rationalization, and accommodation possible. Any port in a storm is how many of us cancer patients roll, and the more often the roll, the better.

And for those of you who have unfortunately been effected/associated with cancer, you know the storm of chaos and disruption that its diagnosis causes. Talk about upheaval. Your orderly world goes topsy-turvy and everything you knew/understood before the diagnosis no longer applies. There’s the pre-cancer you and the post-diagnosis you. In many cases, you’re different people. It’s as if your brain is rewired. Moreover, assimilating a cancer diagnosis into your regular routine is hardly for the weak of mind. Unless you find a way to incorporate cancer into your life and minimize its deleterious effects, especially emotionally, the sooner some of the more debilitating physical challenges can be relegated somehow.

It’s not simply taking the good with bad – or vice-versa, it’s taking it all in stride and being grateful for any morsel of good news/lack of cancer activities whereby you can try to forget you have cancer and live as normal and rewarding a life as your deficits allow. It’s not exactly making lemonade, but you’re definitely making something. And what’s that something? Peace, that’s what. Acceptance and comfort. Learning to live within your cancer confines (lab work, treatment/medication, side effects, scans, miscellaneous doctor’s appointments, and a pre-occupation with your own mortality) and treat it like any other day – or interval of time. It may be your life, but it doesn’t have to define you.

If you have minimal cancer stuff, celebrate it. If you have maximum cancer stuff – as I do in 10 days, give in to it. There’s nothing to be done about it other than adhere to the schedule. Once you have cancer and are scheduled into the various ongoing/recurring appointments/responsibilities, unless you make light of it, the weight of it will crush you. Cancer is an equal opportunity villain. It goes after everybody everywhere with seemingly no rhyme or reason or sometimes, all the reasons (family history, environmental, smoking/second-hand smoke). It’s not inevitable, but it is undesirable. Avoiding it altogether would be best. If only it were that simple.

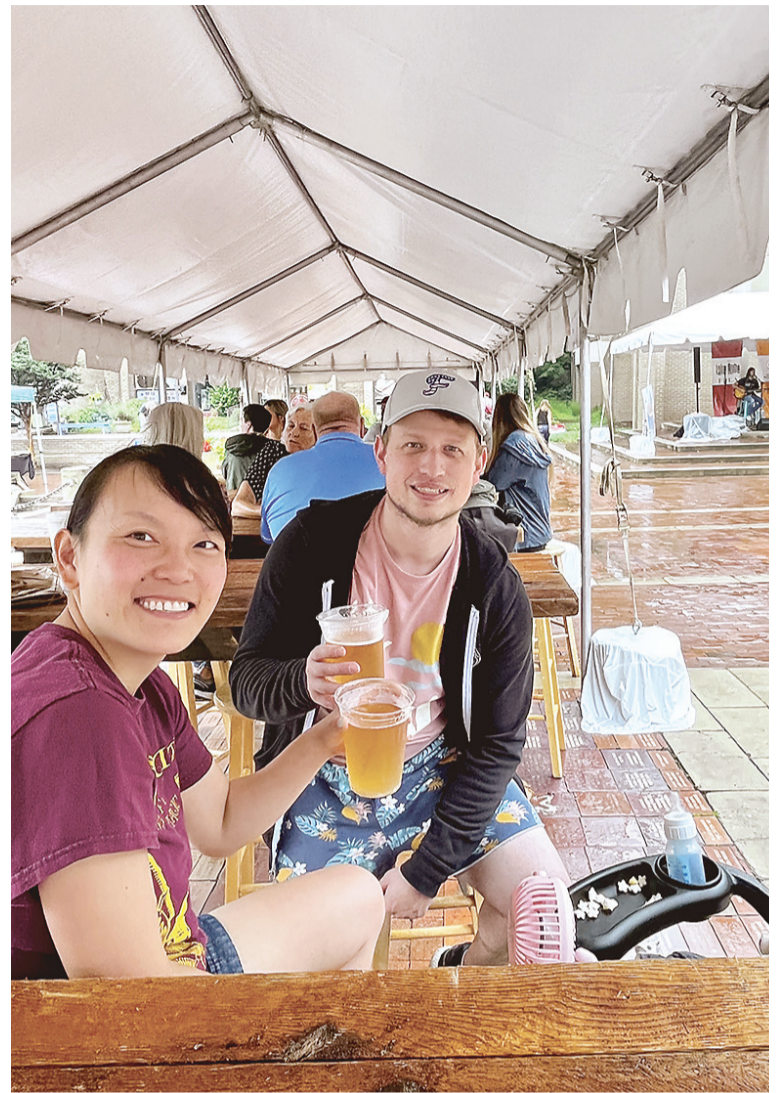
Often cancer is in control even as your doctors are treating it/you. Finding a way to balance the ebb and flow, and to not take the lows too hard and try to keep an even keel when there is some good news (it’s hardly a guarantee of future results, it may even be temporary; it’s a tease almost) seems the only logical pursuit. What you can’t control, you need to accommodate, and in that accommodation, you must find your level, a way to remain level-headed throughout your ordeal. (And cancer is nothing if not an ordeal.) Otherwise, you’ll make an excruciatingly bad situation worse, if that’s even possible. And believe me, it’s possible, and there’s no future in that.

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



Playing on in the showers

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



With summer Saturday soggy, the Ronney family from Reston, Wen, Nick, and their baby, know exactly where to go so the good times roll. The 2022 Roots Festival at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston brings that community feeling and chill'n to the music.

Chill'n at the Roots Festival on Lake Anne Plaza

Community gathers for a fun-filled day in rain.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Roots Music Festival on Lake Anne Plaza played it by ear on Saturday morning, July 9. The rain continued to fall periodically but was reduced to a light shower just after the 1 p.m. start time. As live music rocked the Plaza in Reston, located at Village Center Drive and North Shore Drive, no one seemed to mind the standing puddles.

Reston residents Wen and Mick Rooney sat on stools at one of the many high boy tables beneath a large communal white tent soon filling up with people. Others gathered on covered staircases and under umbrellas. They all appeared to appreciate American folk music, a genre that blends early blues, country, folk, rhythm & blues, and rock elements.

The availability of beer and wine on the plaza and takeout lunch from one of the local eateries contributed to the laid-back atmosphere.

"It's a good environment," said Wen Rooney as she sipped her beer and listened to the performers. "It's a good environment to get out of the house with a little one," she reiterated, looking down at her baby "chill'n" to the music. Nick, her husband, agreed. "It'll be a relaxing Saturday with beer and music," he said.

The Reston Community Center, Fairfax County,



The 2022 Roots Music Festival poster lineup is shielded by a plastic bag to rainproof it

Friends of Lake Anne, Lake Anne Brew House, and Lake Anne Washington Plaza sponsored the six-and-a-half-hour event, which featured six performers.



On Saturday, July 9, folks at the 2022 Roots Festival gather on the covered stairs to listen to the live music played in the rain.