

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

Puppies with shelter names for flowers, Bergamot, Mint, Rosebud, with shelter volunteer Bernadette Carter, of Chantilly; shelter staff member Danielle McClammy; and volunteer Peter Fabry, of Annandale, form a huggable line-up for photos.

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



4,000 Beagles Sniffing For Their First Homes

PAGES 8, 9, 10

Commuters Prepare for Metro Station Closures

PAGE 3

Remembering Brion Sumser

PAGE 5

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NEWS

Fairfax City's Brass on the Square

Local brass bands will perform free concerts, the next three Thursdays in August, at Old Town Square in Fairfax City. The music will begin at 7 p.m. at the corner of University Drive and North Street. The entertainment schedule is: Aug. 11 - Rt. 236 Trombone Quartet; Aug. 18 - 7th Position Trombone Quartet; and Aug. 25 - Cathedral Brass Small Ensembles.

Movies Under the Moon in Fairfax

This Friday, Aug. 12, at 8 p.m., the popular movie "Encanto" will be presented outdoors at Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. Attendees of this free movie should bring their own lawn chairs and picnic blankets.

Meals and Live Music in Fairfax City

People dining outdoors in Fairfax City's Old Town Plaza, 10420 North St., may enjoy free, live music every third Sunday, August through October, from 1-3 p.m. Local artists will perform Aug. 21, Sept. 18 and Oct. 16, while diners enjoy meals in the courtyard from restaurants in the plaza.

Called Sunday Sessions, this promotion is a partnership among Fairfax City's Economic Development Office, Parks and Recreation Department and the Old Town Fairfax Business Assn. See the entertainment lineup and participating restaurants at fairfaxcityconnected.com/sessions2022.

Police Department Weekly Recap

MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT STATION

ROBBERY: 6200 block of Richmond Highway, 8/3/22, 12:18 a.m. A man approached the victim, displayed a knife, and demanded property. No injuries were reported.

RECKLESS DISCHARGE: 2800 block of Fairhaven Avenue, 8/4/22, 10:06 a.m. The victim discovered a bullet hole in their ceiling. Officers recovered a bullet that had traveled through the ceiling and into the victim's couch. No injuries were reported.

FRANCONIA DISTRICT STATION

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY: 6400 Backlick Road (Sunoco), 7/31/22, 4:01 p.m. A man entered the business, displayed a saw blade, and

took property. No injuries were reported.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY: 6700 South Van Dorn Street (Kingstowne Sunoco Carwash), 8/4/22, 4:30 a.m. Someone forced entry into the business and took property.

WEST SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT STATION

BARRICADE: 8100 block of Halley Court, 8/4/22, 5:38 p.m. A man was experiencing a mental health crisis and threatening to harm himself. Officers negotiated with the man for several hours until he exited his home on his own. The man was taken to nearby hospital for further mental health evaluation. No injuries were reported.



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
PITTSYLVANIA	13538	612	WYATT FARM RD	SANDY RIVER	7/29/2022
NEW KENT	12711	600	HOLLY FORK RD	GODDINS MILL POND	7/27/2022
TAZEWELL	18482	67	ROUTE 67	SPRING BRANCH	7/26/2022
TAZEWELL	27977	643	ROUTE 643	MUD FORK	7/26/2022
TAZEWELL	18483	67	ROUTE 67	BIG CREEK	7/26/2022
TAZEWELL	18651	680	ROUTE 680	SPRING BRANCH	7/26/2022
BUCHANAN	3815	460	RIVERSIDE DR	LYNN CAMP CREEK	7/25/2022
TAZEWELL	18429	19	GOV G.C. PEERY HWY	BLUESTONE RIVER	7/25/2022
TAZEWELL	18479	67	ROUTE 67	BIG CREEK	7/25/2022
TAZEWELL	18444	19	ROUTE 19 NBL/460 WBL	SPRING BRANCH	7/25/2022
BUCHANAN	3812	460	ROUTE 460	SIX & TWENTY MILE BRANCH	7/22/2022
TAZEWELL	18389	16	ROUTE 16	JOHNSON BRANCH	7/22/2022
TAZEWELL	18390	16	ROUTE 16	JOHNSON BRANCH	7/22/2022
BUCHANAN	3777	80	HELEN HENDERSON HWY	RUSSELL FORK RIVER	7/21/2022
GRAYSON	8690	58	WILSON HWY	BIG WILSON CREEK	7/14/2022
CUMBERLAND	5736	615	GAME FARM RD	BIGGER CREEK	7/8/2022
WISE	23462	686	DERBY RD	PREACHER CREEK	7/7/2022
RUSSELL	16478	658	BIG CEDAR CREEK RD	MOUNTAIN BRANCH	7/6/2022
TAZEWELL	27010	660	LOOP RD	MUD FORK CREEK	7/5/2022
WYTHE	19715	653	GREASY CREEK RD	STUFFLE RUN	7/1/2022

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.

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A 3-year-old train enthusiast and his father Brian come over to the station to look at the action.



The upper entrance at Huntington, where there are a few bus stops.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CAZETTE

Inside Huntington station, the project is highlighted on the map.

Metro's South End Stations Scheduled for a Six-Week Closure

Two-part project will tie in a new station and fix tunnel headaches.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

While the opening is delayed until Fall, Metro is working to complete the new Potomac Yard station, but tying it into the Yellow and Blue lines will take more extensive work. In early fall WMATA will be closing all stations south of the Reagan National Airport Metro station to get this done. Many will be looking to the buses for their commute.

Starting Saturday, Sept. 10, Metro will begin work to connect the future Potomac Yard Station with the mainline rail system and to rehabilitate the Yellow Line tunnel and bridge between Pentagon and L'Enfant Plaza stations. Metro said this six-week project will require the closure of six Blue and Yellow line

stations south of Reagan National Airport through Oct. 22: Braddock Road, King Street-Old Town, Eisenhower Avenue, Huntington, Van Dorn Street, and Franconia-Springfield.

One young boy, age three, loves to go over from his house in Jefferson Manor to see the trains with his father Brian, but they'll have to put that on hold next month. "He loves it," Brian said.

Huntington rider Selena Duvivier works in Georgetown, and heard about the coming project, so she's making plans to get to work. "Maybe I'll just drive to work, it's going to be a big deal," she said.

Another Huntington resident will depend on increased bus activity, like she did last time there was a shut down. "There are usually buses, it's not ideal but it will be fine," she said.

Metro is offering seven free shuttles during

Shutdown between Reagan National Airport and Franconia-Springfield/ Huntington

Six Blue and Yellow line stations south of Reagan National Airport will close Sept. 10 through Oct. 22: Braddock Road, King Street-Old Town, Eisenhower Avenue, Huntington, Van Dorn Street, and Franconia-Springfield. www.wmata.com/service/track-work.cfm

Phase One, including local and express shuttles in Virginia and three limited-stop shuttles crossing the Potomac River. These local shuttles will be available during all Metrorail operating hours, they said.

Phase II of this project is a major rehab of the Yellow Line tunnel near L'Enfant Plaza Station and the bridge across the Potomac River. This phase will begin at the same time as the Potomac Yard Station tie in and continue for eight months from Oct. 23 thru May 2023.

During this phase, all stations will reopen,

and service will resume south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Station and the Yellow Line stations will be served by the Blue or Green lines, Metro said. Riders won't notice the difference much, but the trains won't be labeled "Yellow."

These moves are an investment by Metro in system safety, reliability and the region's economy through its 10-year, \$15 billion capital program, WMATA said. For the first time in Metro's history, the capital program is bolstered by dedicated funding from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Residents Need Safe Routes to Huntley Meadows Park

1,500 foot gap from entrance to sidewalk.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Lockheed Boulevard near Huntley Meadows Park could get a 1,500-foot sidewalk to close a gap leading to the park entrance. Chairman Jeffrey McKay (D) co-sponsored a Board Matter on the proposal with Franconia District Supervisor Rodney

Lusk (D) and presented it at the Aug. 2 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meeting.

"I believe it is important to fill this gap as soon as possible," McKay said. "Not only would it make it a safer route for students to get to Huntley Meadows Park, but also create a safer connection to nearby Hybla Valley Elementary School."

McKay said a second sidewalk from Bedrock Road to the park entrance on Harrison Lane would benefit residents. According to McKay, the project is a candidate for consideration as part of the carryover budget.

SEE 1,500 FOOT GAP, PAGE 11



Lockheed Boulevard leading to Huntley Meadows Park.

SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS

Apartments, Condos, Parking Garages and Retail

Fairfax City Council hears WillowWood Plaza proposal.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City's Northfax area, along Fairfax Boulevard and Eaton Place, has taken a huge leap forward with the addition of new restaurants, a coffee café and an Amazon Fresh grocery store. But it also includes plans for a residential component.

Toward that end, City Council recently heard pre-application information about a proposal to redevelop two, surface parking lots in the WillowWood Plaza Office Center. Owned by Capital City Real Estate, the lots are at 10300 and 10306 Eaton Place.

The land is currently zoned commercial retail, but the potential applicant would need it rezoned to commercial urban, which would be more in line with the City's vision for that area. Fairfax Senior Planner Albert Frederick presented details of the plan during a recent Council work session.

"The proposal is for multifamily apartments with retail, plus two-over-two condos," he said. "It also includes a new, linear park that goes from northeast to northwest and would connect to the future George Snyder Trail, Shiloh Street Park and new trail systems at Acotink."

Initially developed in 1987 and 2000, The WillowWood Plaza Office Center is comprised of four, five-story office buildings. Under the proposal, these buildings would remain. But the lots they're on would be split into two, new lots called Lots 5 and 6.

* Phase One of the project would occur on the 2.9-acre Lot 5 and would consist of a seven-story, multifamily building containing 282 apartments, with 2,100 square feet of ground-floor retail. It would be just west of the office building at 10306 Eaton Place.

This phase would also include a parking garage with 644 spaces, constructed just north of the apartment building. Planned, as well, are a community green and a new retail plaza, plus a pedestrian and bike crossing at Orchard Street and Chain Bridge Road. This site has road frontage and access to Eaton Place.

* Phase Two would occur on the 2.1-acre Lot 6 and would consist of 64, four-story, two-over-two condos with two parking spaces each, for a total of 128 spaces. Also planned is another parking garage

– this one with 375 spaces – to serve the existing office building at 10300 Eaton Place. It would be constructed between that building and Fairfax Boulevard. This site also has road frontage and access to Eaton Place via an existing, internal, private street.

Overall, said Frederick, "According to the City's ADU [affordable dwelling unit] requirement, the multifamily units would have to provide 17 ADUs; and the condos, four ADUs, for 21 ADUs total. The applicant would also need a special-use permit for multifamily and/or upper-story mixed use, plus various special exceptions."

"That's a lot of people to place in this location, but this area doesn't have a lot of homes," said Councilmember Tom Ross. "It does need a traffic analysis, though. Is there any consideration for a traffic signal in this area, in or along Eaton Place, for access and egress at that intersection?"

Frederick said it's being studied. Ross also asked how much parking is there now, and Frederick replied that there are 748 surface parking spaces, not including those in the existing, two-story parking garage. He also noted that – counting the 644 spaces in the proposed Lot 5 parking garage, plus the 128 spaces for the condos and the 375 spaces in the proposed Lot 6 parking garage – the project would yield 1,147 total spaces.

"So there'll be a major reduction in surface parking," he said. That information pleased Ross because it would mean less impervious surface in that area. He also asked what kind of retail businesses could go there, and Frederick said there could be, for example, a coffee shop, small restaurant and service businesses for the residents.

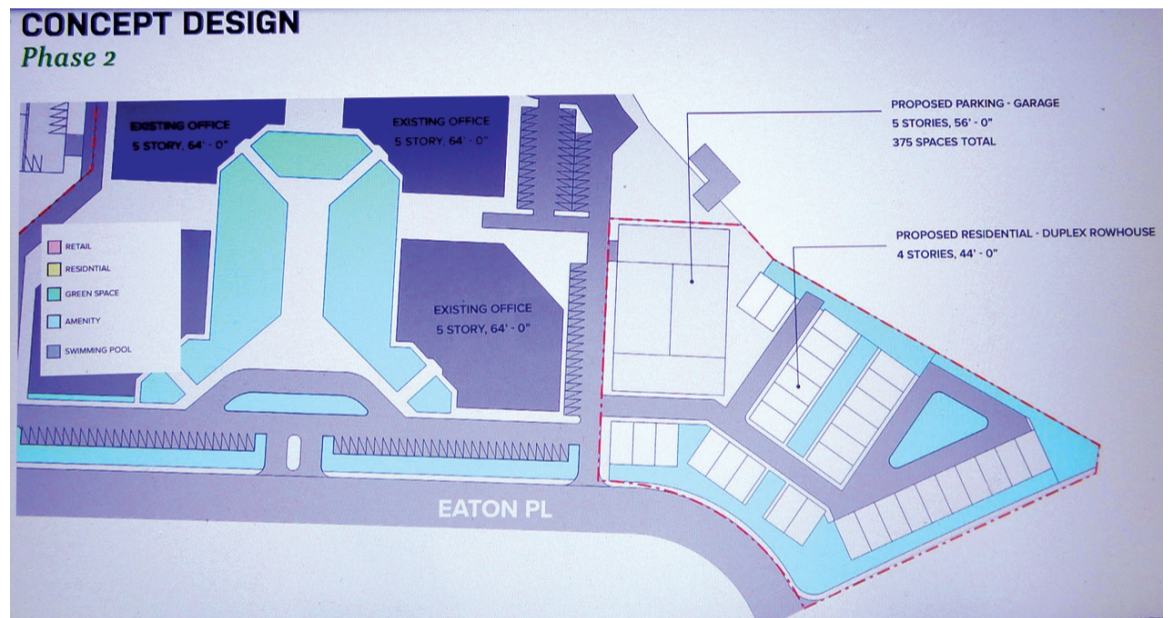
"There could be an opportunity for more retail space," said Councilmember So Lim. "I think 2,100 square feet is tiny."

Councilmember Joe Harmon said he'd "like to see more commercial uses and to have this area be a destination for others – not just the residents." He then asked if the homes would be sale or rental units, and Frederick answered that the multifamily apartments would all be rentals and the condos would be for sale.

"Where will the kids play?" asked Planning Commission member Jim Feather. "Will there be a tot lot?" Frederick said a 10,880-square-foot amenity area is shown on the



The concept design for Phase One of the WillowWood Plaza project.



The concept design for Phase Two of the WillowWood Plaza project.

plans.

Councilmember Janice Miller wondered, "If 75 percent of the multifamily building's first floor was retail, [then] how much retail space would there be?" Frederick said it would amount to 30,000 square feet of retail/office use.

"With all those residents and,

potentially, young children living there, I like the linear park and community green space," added Ross. "And I urge the developer to be creative in its use because it'll be important to the people who'll live there."

At the presentation's end, Director of Community Development

and Planning Brooke Hardin said he now had a whole list of suggestions to pass along to the potential applicant. Among these recommendations, he said, would be that "the housing should be integrated with the green space, and more retail/office use should be added."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SPRINGFIELD TOWN CENTER BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

Springfield Town Center is celebrating the upcoming academic year by encouraging our local community to "Pull Together!" Through a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital

Area, Springfield Town Center is hoping to set local students up for a successful school year by collecting school supply donations. From now through September 6, shoppers can drop off their donations of backpacks and assorted school supplies for students in need. The donation bin is conveniently located in Grand Court on the Lower Level, donations can also be dropped off at the mall's Management or Security offices. Accepted donation items are: Backpacks (must be new, regular or large sized, no mini backpacks or backpacks with wheels) 1" binders

Notebooks
Ballpoint Pens (Black or Blue)
No. 2 Pencils
Crayons (24-ct)
Springfield Town Center will also ring in the new school year by hosting a "Back to School Get Together" on Saturday, August 13 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Grand Court. Families are encouraged to bring a donation to the school supply drive. Kids will have the opportunity to decorate notebooks (while supplies last) and enjoy other activities including character appearances, face painting,

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

Brion Sumser: ‘Generous Man with an Incredible Heart’

Community bids farewell to owner of iconic Fairfax restaurant.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax has lost another icon with the death of Brion Sumser. The owner of the popular Brion’s Grille in University Mall passed away peacefully, July 25, at age 66.



Brion Sumser

ia’s General Assembly honored Sumser with a joint resolution recognizing the Grille as a social gathering place for George Mason students and faculty alike. It noted that, as a former member of the GMU men’s basketball team,

Sumser decorated the restaurant with school memorabilia, named some dishes after members of its athletics department and was a tireless fundraiser for GMU sports.

After his death, his many friends in the community filled his Facebook page with comments and special remembrances of him. “For years, Brion’s Grille hosted our TenderHeart Halloween fundraiser [for medically fragile children],” said Beckie Reilly. “I know what he charged us didn’t cover his costs, but he wanted our events to be successful and the charity to make a generous profit.”

“Brion also hosted so many end-of-the-season soccer and basketball events for both my kids’ teams,” she continued. “He always made us feel like they were his greatest priority, and he loved having the kids at the Grille. We celebrated Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and graduations there and were



Brion Sumser and daughter Maddie at Brion’s Grille, in earlier times.

always treated like we were the most important customers at the restaurant.

“We felt at home at the Grille. We enjoyed visiting with Brion, and we’re all so sad and will miss his presence here on earth. We’re praying for his family, especially his mother Carol and his son and daughter, Sam and Maddie, who are Brion’s pride and joy.”

His daughter-in-law, Meghan Sumser, said, “The world lost a good one. So grateful I got to



Brion Sumser with son and daughter-in-law, Sam and Meghan Sumser, on their wedding day.

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

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Hurricane Preparedness

BY DEL PAUL KRIZEK

Hurricane season has been quiet so far but it's a good idea to be prepared. Nothing can be more damaging and frightening than being in the path of a hurricane. We've been both lucky and geographically blessed to live in northern Virginia, but even here hurricanes can have damaging effects on us. Only two years ago, in 2020, was one of the most active hurricane seasons ever with twelve tropical systems making landfall in the United States. Even though we are two months into the hurricane season, it is mid-August through mid-October when the storms are most active. Historically, Virginia has suffered major impacts from a number of hurricanes after mid-August. Two recent ones that come to mind that impacted us here in the Alexandria area were Hurricane Irene in late August 2011, and Isabel in September 2003. Isabel caused over \$5 billion in damage from North Carolina to Pennsylvania. We experienced winds that peaked at 71 mph, causing severe tidal flooding and massive tree damage. Many of us lost power for a week or more and Old Town's storm surge was higher than its record from the historic hurricane of 1933!

This is my annual reminder to be vigilant and prepared for any major storms that may impact our community over the next several months.

What steps can we take today to be prepared?

FIRST, know the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning; A watch means that hurricane conditions are possible, while a warning means that hurricane conditions are expected. Sign up for local alerts and warnings on your smartphone and listen to the local news and weather reports. Have your own evacuation plan, with a place to stay and a "go bag" full of emergency items. Make sure that your home is protected by cleaning drains and downspouts, and anchoring outdoor furniture. Finally, collect and safeguard critical financial, medical, and legal documents.

STAY INFORMED: EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

You can receive alerts and warn-

SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE CATEGORY WIND SCALE

1 74-95 MPH Some Damage	2 96-110 MPH Extensive Damage	3 111-129 MPH Devastating	4 130-156 MPH Catastrophic	5 157+ MPH Catastrophic
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ings directly from the National Weather Service for all hazards with a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). Some radio receivers are designed to work with external notification devices for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

If authorities advise or order you to evacuate, grab your "go bag" and leave immediately. If you are not in a mandatory evacuation zone, you may still decide to leave the area, you may need to move to higher ground, or you may choose to stay in your home. If you decide to stay home, remember that even if the high winds and floodwaters do not reach your home, you may lose power and water, and you may not be able to leave your home for several days if the roads are impassable.

PLAN FOR EVACUATION

If the danger is significant, state or local government officials may issue an evacuation notice. You can do the following to be better prepared.

Learn your community's evacuation plan and identify evacuation routes.

Emergency shelter location: To find a shelter near you, download

the FEMA app at fema.gov/mobile-app.

Once you determine your evacuation route and shelter location, write them down on your Hurricane Preparedness Checklist.

Make a plan for your pet. To learn more, go to ready.gov/animals.

Remember, if you must evacuate, never drive through flooded areas: even as little as 12 inches of water can carry a vehicle away. Never wade through water: floodwaters can contain dangerous debris like broken glass, metal, dead animals, sewage, gasoline, oil, and downed power lines.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BE READY

Plan for your entire household including children, people with disabilities and access and functional needs, and pets.

Keep your gas tank at least half-full at all times.

Maintain basic emergency supplies (e.g., snacks, bottled water, first aid kit, flashlight, flares, jumper cables and other tools, a wool blanket, and a change of clothes) in your vehicle.

Pick an out-of-state contact everyone can call to check in and report their status.

Know where you will meet up if you are separated and where you will stay.

Pack a "go bag" including items you need to take with you if you evacuate. A "go bag" should be easy to carry and kept in a place where you can grab it quickly.

CREATE YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN

Your family may not be together when a hurricane occurs, or you may become separated, so it is important to know how to contact one another and how to reunite.

Keep important numbers written down in your wallet in case you cannot access the contact list on your phone. Landline and cellular phone systems are often overwhelmed following a disaster, so you may need to use text messages and social media.

Designate an out-of-town contact who can help your household reconnect. Be sure to practice your plan with your family. Get more information by downloading Be Smart Create Your Family Emergency Communication Plan or visit ready.gov/make-a-plan.

FOOD + SUPPLIES

At least a 3-day supply of water and non-perishable food
Infant supplies such as formula, diapers, baby wipes, etc.

Pet food and supplies

Other essential supplies include necessary medications, flashlights, and batteries, critical paperwork, and disinfectants.

Visit www.vaemergency.gov/prepare/ for more information and an extensive guide on what to collect in the event of an emergency evacuation.



BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

balloon twisters, music, crafts and more! Local businesses will also be highlighted that day during the Back To School Vendor Show.

For more information on the Back To School Donation Drive or Get Together event, visit Springfield-TownCenter.com.

FAIRFAX STATION RAILROAD MUSEUM PRESIDENT RETIRES

Long standing Fairfax Station Railroad Museum President, Jack Migliaccio has stepped down from his position after service since April, 2014. He remains on the Board of Directors to provide his experience and knowledge to the Museum's operation and activities. The Museum Board and all its Members wish to thank Jack for his many years of leadership as Museum President. Jack is succeeded by Larry Johnson, Vice-President. Larry has been engaged with the Friends of the Fairfax Station since his involvement in the construction of the building in the 1980s.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GrandInvolve Seeks Volunteers. Would you like a unique and interesting volunteer experience to make a difference in a school, classroom, or in one child's life? GrandInvolve.org facilitates rewarding, flexible adult volunteer opportunities at Fairfax County Title I elementary schools, providing classroom assistance with math, reading, and other simple educational tasks. Visit www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us for details and to complete an interest form. Or email info@grandinvolve.org.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK, AUG. 7-13

Fairfax County Farmers Markets will join farmers markets across the nation in celebration of National Farmers Market Week, August 7-13. Farmers Market Week highlights the role of farmers markets in supporting healthy communities, stimulating local economies, and supporting local farmers. The mission of the Fairfax County Farmers Markets is to provide residents access to locally grown products and create market opportunities for area farmers and food producers. Visit each of the 10 farmers markets August 7-13 to support local farmers and businesses, learn how to prepare fresh ingredients at our cooking demonstrations, participate in fun & educational activities, listen to live music, and enjoy delicious foods from local producers. Farmers Market Week is also Bike to Market Week in Fairfax County. We invite you to bike to your local Fairfax County farmers market. To find a safe route, see the Fairfax County Bicycle Map. While you're at the market, stop by the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) table to learn about safe biking strategies and more.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) EBT cards can be used at select Fairfax County Farmers Markets. Thanks to partnerships with Virginia Fresh Match, FRESH-FARM, Cornerstones, Arcadia and Britepaths, you can use your EBT card at the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon, Annandale, Reston and Lorton Farmers Markets.

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/farmers-mar-

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ket-week for the Farmers Market Week schedule and list of activities.

SEPT. 13 TO NOV. 17

ESL Class. 7-9 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced level English classes. Classes will be in-person or online. Classes will meet twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Books are included in class cost. Email: Heather@andberg.org.

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.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

The Pet Connection will publish on August 31st and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 25.

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

Alexandria
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Special Edition
August 31, 2022

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Beagles on the Hunt for Homes

Area shelters and rescues assist in placement of research-bred beagles.



Beagles, beagles, beagles as Fairfax County Shelter does its part to home part of the 4,000 dogs, in a range of ages, rescued from a trouble Virginia medical breeding operation.



Being a Beagle... Having a good scratch on a hot day.

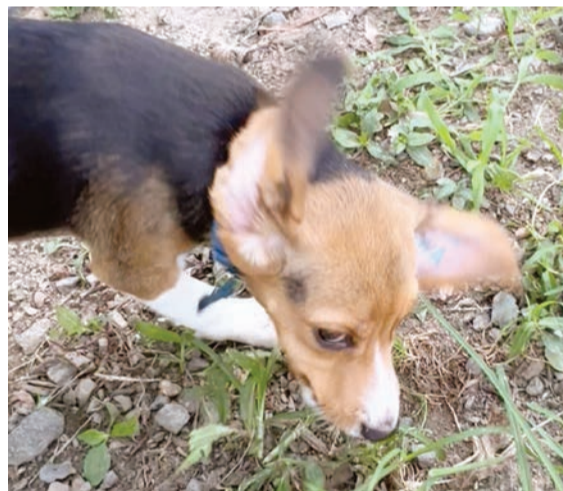


Being a Beagle... Running with friends.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Being a Beagle... Discovering grass for the first time.



Being a Beagle... Learning your ears have a life of their own.



Being a Beagle... Learning that getting all your body parts to go in the same direction can be a challenge.

Sniffing out the prospects of finding love connections, Beagles formerly destined for lives as research or testing subjects, are now putting enthusiastic noses to the search for much easier and pain-free lives as beloved family companions. On Monday, Aug. 8, Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FCAS) held a “get to know the beagles” event for members of the media. That shelter recently received 16 of the approximately 4,000 beagles surrendered by breeder Envigo RMS, which, until recently, bred beagles for medical research in Cumberland, Va. More beagles are expected at the Shelter in coming months. Noses wiggled and tails wagged, as the dogs explored and enjoyed celebrity treatment as the shelter’s

newest group of stars before media cameras. They join the cast of shelter characters — let’s face it, all pets are stars — although animals at the Shelter find themselves in need of new family audiences to delight and amuse. The beagle breed, chosen for research, in part, due to their easy-going nature and manageable size, also are among the most popular companion breeds. The beagle has been the most popular “hound” dog in the United States for decades, and consistently within the top ten most popular breeds on the American Kennel Club’s breed registry; where they currently rank seventh. Described as “merry, loving, lovable, companionable, curious, clever, and energetic” by fanciers, the breed makes an excellent family dog for those who can provide plenty of playtime and are not averse to their hearty voices. For those not already smitten, the flip of a long soft ear, or jolly wag of the characteristically white-tipped flag tail, may start a 10-to-15-year love affair with this winsome 30 pound love-bug.

The beagles now at the Fairfax County animal shelter



Being a Beagle... Exploring every hole.

SEE AREA SHELTERS, PAGE 9



Other shelter dogs also looking for homes include, senior gentlemen from the same household, Peace and Aztec, like bookends, accustomed to doing things together, which the Shelter hopes will extend to being adopted together.



Adult Beagles, like Digger, forced to live in the kennel environment for an extended time, hope to draw the lucky card of a better life in a loving home.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Puppies with shelter names for flowers, Bergamot, Mint, Rosebud, with shelter volunteer Bernadette Carter, of Chantilly; shelter staff member Danielle McClammy; and volunteer Peter Fabry, of Annandale, form a huggable line-up for photos by the press.

Area Shelters and Rescues Assist in Placement of Research-bred Beagles

FROM PAGE 8

ter, ten males and six females ranging in age from two months to six years, were not quite ready for adoption at the time of this writing. FCAS Director Reasa Currier said, "They are currently being evaluated and they need to be spayed/neutered, and some may need additional care. We encourage people to monitor our website. When they are available, they will be posted there."

Currier said that the shelter was able to take only this 16 in the first group, in consideration of the current animal population in the shelter, which is high. "We are committed to continuing to partner with Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to take more beagles over the coming months," she said. The shelter will follow their normal adoption processes and fees, which can be found on their web site

(<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/adopt/steps>). Given their popularity and back story, the dogs are expected to be adopted quickly.

Other adoptable pets already are available for visits during the shelter's open hours. They include appealing senior gentlemen, Aztec and Peace, a bonded pair of border collie mix nine-year-olds, who hope to continue their life journey together. The shelter recently reopened for walk-in visits on July 16th, so adoptions no longer require a prior appointment, and visiting to see the beagles also will be possible once they become available for adoption.

HOW DID so many beagles find themselves in need of homes? In May, a lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court against research breeder Envigo, after the federal Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) cited the facility with multiple animal cruelty violations under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) late last year. On July 15, in a consent decree, Envigo agreed to a permanent prohibition on engaging in any activity that requires an Animal Welfare Act license at its Cumberland Va. facility, and to relinquishing all remaining beagles to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). A large global animal welfare organization, HSUS, which is not a direct adoption organization, agreed to work with its shelter and rescue

SEE BEAGLES ON THE PAGE 10



Being a Beagle... Running with friends.



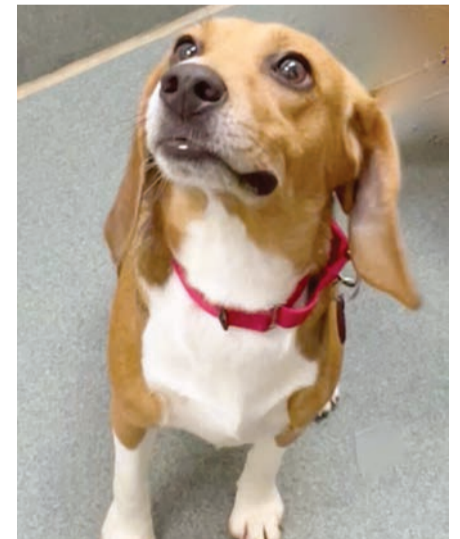
Being a Beagle... Exploring every hole.



Digger is ready to show off her best dance moves.



Adult female, Bumble, is friendly and eager to make friends



Hopeful for loving new homes after rescue from lives as future medical research subjects or breeding stock, Beagles prepare to meet possible adopters at local shelters and rescues soon

Beagles on the Hunt for Homes

FROM PAGE 9

partners to transfer all dogs out of the breeding facility within 60 days; thus closing the troubled breeding operation. [Previous coverage of the Envigo story in Springfield Connection, May 18; April 6; Feb 23.]

Transferring, handling, and finding homes for so many dogs in a short time span is a massive undertaking. After the July 15 settlement agreement, HSUS's Animal Rescue Team, the same team which responds to natural disasters as well as cruelty cases beyond the scope of local law enforcement, began transfer of the beagles in groups on July 21 and 27. Fourteen Virginia shelters and rescues, and other such groups across 19 states, joined in accepting beagles for placement. Each of northern Virginia's city and county shelters, Alexandria, Arlington, Loudoun, have taken dogs, along with several area rescues. A complete list is available at <https://www.humanesociety.org/4000beagles/beagle-partner>.

At Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, Currier says, "The public can come in to meet them [the beagles] along with all of our wonderful adoptable dogs."

PHOTOS BY
SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION



Beagle puppies enjoy exploring their new environment after a life begun with only concrete and wire.



Fairfax County Animal Shelter director Reasa Currier with Zinnia who only recently experienced grass and life outside a concrete floored cage.



Being a Beagle... Following the Nose.



Being a Beagle.... Approaching near air-lift velocity with flying ears...



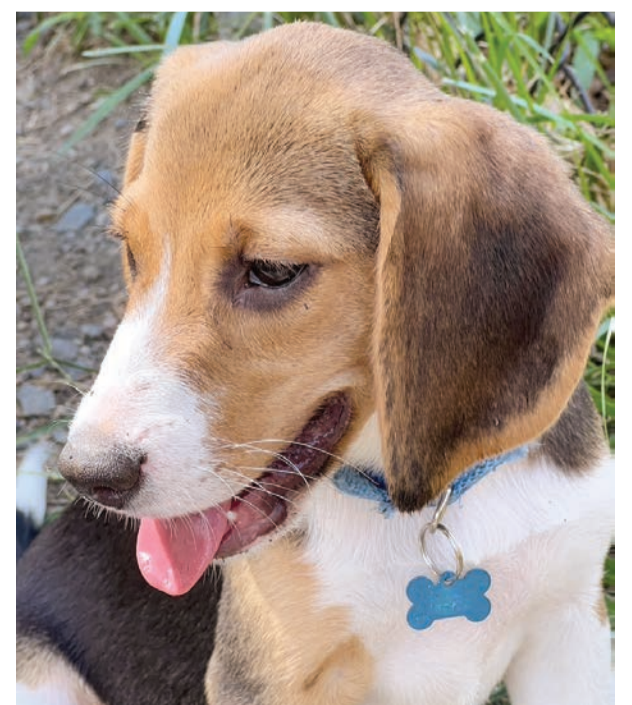
Being a Beagle... Discovering things that move...



Being a Beagle... Learning the joys of chewing a stick.



Being a Beagle... Practicing the art of hunting prey (stuffed fox toy).



More than just a pretty face, but oh, those adorable, winsome faces.



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

The boardwalk at Huntley Meadows Park.

1,500 Foot Gap from Entrance to Sidewalk

FROM PAGE 1

Vice-chair Penny Gross (D-Mason) noted that the matter was not a motion. Because there are so many projects, she advised the board to create a plan for carry-over money for sidewalks and trails. She suggested establishing criteria, and perhaps staff should review them. “All the supervisors have pedestrian projects,” said Gross. “The last time we looked, I think there were a thousand.”

McKay said the board had criteria and an inventory of missing sidewalk segments. He recommended staff recirculate the list of pending sidewalk requests.

“It is the use of carryover money that is sort of a new piece here,” Gross said.

Lusk said he concurred with McKay. He added that equity is one reason for filling this sidewalk gap. The community has the county’s highest rate of elementary students eligible for free and reduced lunch. Hispanic, Latino, Asian American, and African American underserved residents are more likely to walk or bike to public transit and activities.

Another reason, Lusk said, was practicality. A project coming on North Hill would add approximately 1,000 residents less than



Vice-chair Penny Gross (D- Mason).



Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D- Franconia)



Chairman Jeffrey McKay.

Reduced Hours at Huntley Visitor Center

During the remainder of August, the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center at Huntley Meadows will have modified hours on Monday, Thursday and Fridays. The new hours will be 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The park grounds, including the meadow and walking trails, will remain open as normal, from dawn to dusk. Visitors will not have access to the Visitor Center’s indoor interpretative areas and restrooms after 1 p.m. A resumption of regular hours will come in September.

The cause of the temporary reduction in hours is due to current staffing levels.

The Park Authority, like so many employers across the country, continues to encounter difficulty in recruiting staff for positions throughout the system.

The Park Authority continues to use a wide variety of recruitment methods. Visit Jobs at the Park Authority for information about jobs. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/jobs-internships

Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, contact the site at 703-768-2525 or via parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



It is a short walk from Hybla Valley Elementary School to Huntley Meadows Park

a mile from the park. They would also benefit from the sidewalk segment. Ensuring they can access a safe route is critical, Lusk said.

Huntley Meadows Park is “home

to a nationally significant historic house, majestic forests, wildflower-speckled meadows and vast wetlands bursting with life. Some of the best wildlife watching in the

Washington Metropolitan Area is here,” according to the Fairfax Park Authority. Gross closed the matter by saying, “We will see this, I believe, in September.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

7483.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services’ BeFriend-A-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County,

Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50 and older who no longer drive. Volunteer drivers are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Office workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788. **Positive Parenting Strategies Course.** At PHILLIPS, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale. A series of classes and in home consultations taught by

PHILLIPS’ counselors. Open to all local families. Call Stacy Stryjewski at 703-658-9054. **Thermal Camera Loan Program.** Learn where the energy is leaking out of the home with a special attachment for the iPhone or Android. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy or call 703-324-5955 for more. **Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting** 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

REGISTRATION OPEN

2022 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept. 10-24. Register online at www.nvso.us, \$20 for unlimited events. Go to the website for events, rules, eligibility, photos, past results. For information, email nvso1982@gmail.com.

NOW THRU AUG. 27

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road Lorton. Explore history in different ways with this drop-in summer program. Each Saturday will have a host of different activities around a different theme. Savor history, dig in the dirt, and play games as we learn about the 18th century at Gunston Hall. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/events/summer-saturdays-2/>

NOW THRU OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition. At Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach. At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria

FILMS IN THE PARK

Thursdays at 7 p.m. At the Mosaic District's Strawberry Park, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax.
Aug 11 - Encanto
Aug 18 - Under the Stadium Lights
Aug 25 - F9 | The Fast & Furious Saga

AUG. 1-31

Point 50 Story Walk. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. At Point 50 Shopping Center, 10334 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. A StoryWalk is a free interactive way for students to combine physical activity and literacy while reading a book. Beginning Monday, August 1 through Wednesday, August 31, families can walk through Point 50 and read "Nugget and Fang Go to School" by Tammi Sauer and Michael Slack. The book was chosen to get children excited about returning to school, support the City of Fairfax Regional Library summer reading theme of Oceans of Possibilities, and create engagement opportunities with Fairfax City's business community. Visit the website: <http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/storywalk22>

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

Community Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center Quad. Come and enjoy local vendors, Workhouse Campus Artists, new exhibits, the Lucy Burns Museum and more. The Workhouse Arts Center is located at: 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton.

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

Second Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Visit the Workhouse monthly featured artists. All campus studio



Discover Occoquan from Aug. 13-21, 2022 in the Town of Occoquan.

buildings will be open from 6-9 p.m. and the artists will be available to chat about their works and processes. The Workhouse Arts Center is located at: 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton.

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

Make New Friends. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Virtual. Fairfax County Public Library sponsors Virtual Presentation of Make New Friends, a children's book for elementary-aged children. Participants will learn about diversity, equity, and inclusion in a fun way. Visit <https://makenewfriends7.square.site>

AUG. 13-21

Discover Occoquan. Celebrate Occoquan town businesses with more than a week of activities including a Scavenger Hunt, Taste of Occoquan, a Sip & Stroll, plus, Trivia Night, the famous Duck Splash, a corn hole tournament, a concert, and more! Visitors are invited to browse the town's unique shops, boutiques, galleries, and eateries and participate in their special activities, including demonstrations, workshops, and sales to discover all that Occoquan has to offer.

SCHEDULE

Scavenger Hunt
August 13-21, historic district
Visit businesses throughout Occoquan and answer questions about town history on your scavenger hunt passport form. When you finish, enter your passport in our Town Hall dropbox, for your chance to win the Grand Prize.

Taste of Occoquan

August 18-21, historic district
Treat your tastebuds with flights of food as you experience international dishes from award winning restaurants in Occoquan. Over a dozen businesses are participating in this first-time foodie component of Discover Occoquan.

Sip & Stroll and Shop Late

August 20, 4-8 p.m., historic district



PHOTO BY JANE GAMBLE

"A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," features works from more than 20 area artists and includes hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. Through Oct. 17, 2022, free to the public, at the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

One-day only from 4-8 p.m.: order adult beverages at participating restaurants and Sip & Stroll through the historic district while browsing the shops and galleries or attend the free concert in River Mill Park! Enjoy a summer evening out as several Occoquan businesses stay open late!

Town Hall Rededication

August 13, 3 p.m., Town Hall
Join Mayor Porta as he rededicates Town Hall at 314 Mill Street in a ceremony that recognizes Mamie Davis and June Randolph for their devotion and contributions to the Town of Occoquan.

Duck Splash

August 14, at 12 p.m., Town Dock
Adopt a numbered rubber duck from Patriot Scuba, then watch it race along the Occoquan River with hundreds of other ducks! Winners receive \$20-500 depending on their place in the race. All proceeds

benefit Patriots for Disabled Divers.

Trivia Night

August 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., River Mill Park
Test your knowledge during our Beach Party themed Trivia Night in River Mill Park! Six rounds of beachy brain busters and winner takes all! Bring your up-to-8-person team, and camp chairs or blankets. More info can be found at: occoquanva.gov/trivia.

Corn Hole Tournament

August 20, 1-4 p.m., River Mill Park
Cost: \$30 or \$25 if you bring your own boards. Pick up a beverage and snacks before you play.

Concert in the Park

August 20, 7-9 p.m., River Mill Park
Join in the park for a free concert, featuring local band Collective.

Agnes Artwork Unveiling

August 20, 11 a.m., River Mill Park
This ceremony includes the unveiling

of an original piece of artwork commemorating the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Agnes' effects on the Town of Occoquan.

See the schedule at visitoccoquanva.com/discover or see visitoccoquanva.com/events for specific events.

SUNDAY/AUG. 14

T-TRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. A display and running of the T-TRAK (tabletop) Model Train Show. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5 (\$6 special events); seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 17

Free Concerts in the Park. 7 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Mark your calendars and plan to come out to Burke Lake Park every Wednesday night starting July 13 through August 24 for an incredible line-up of bands, food trucks, 2 Silos beer, and Peterson's Ice Cream. The atmosphere is informal, so bring a blanket and lawn chairs, and relax with friends and family.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 17 - Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille (Rock)
Aug. 24 - The Colin Thompson Band (Blues Rock)

THURSDAY/AUG. 18

History Book Talk. 7-8 p.m. At National Museum of the United States Army, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. In this major new history of the Continental Army's Grand Forage of 1778, award-winning military historian Ricardo Herrera uncovers what daily life was like for Soldiers during the darkest and coldest days of the American Revolution: the Valley Forge winter. This event is virtual only; to register for this program, click the link: <https://tickets.thenmusa.org/Policies.aspx>

AUG. 19-SEPT. 5

Circus Vazquez. At Potomac Mills, 2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Woodbridge. See unforgettable one-of-a-kind performances by an international all-human cast of circus superstars in an exciting all-new 2022 show. Led by Ringmaster Memo Vazquez, Circus Vazquez presents an awe-inspiring, death-defying, hilarious and affordable circus experience for Virginia area audiences. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m. on Saturdays; 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets start at \$25 and are available now at www.CircusVazquez.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 19

Plunkey and Oneness. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16 Rizer Pavilion, Lorton. An experienced performer, songwriter, music and film producer, Plunkey has appeared in concert with some of the biggest names in Black music, including Patti Labelle, Ray Charles, Earth Wind & Fire, Yellow Jackets, Frankie Beverly & Maze, LL Cool J, Chuck Brown, and more. Visit workhousearts.org/onstage.

Lake Accotink Park Has a Place in the Community's Heart

60th Anniversary celebration to honor the park with an interesting past.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

When they first met, Arsad Ur Rahman and Tahrin Afrin used to pick up breakfast and sit at a picnic table at Lake Accotink and talk about their future together. Breakfast was always a cup of Hazelnut coffee from Dunkin Donuts and a few maple donuts. Lake Accotink was their spot, and after marrying years later, it's still the place they go regularly with breakfast in hand, to sit and enjoy each other's company, though the breakfast changed a little.

Now it's home-brewed coffee and muffins from their kitchen. "She's a good baker," Arsad said.

Lake Accotink has been a com-

In 1964, the Army declared the lake as surplus and the FCPA bought it the following year for \$88,250.

munity spot for many through the years, and there's a history of the lake that many don't know. On Saturday, Aug. 27, the park will celebrate its 60th anniversary of being a go-to place for many in Springfield.

The original 265-acre park was opened for public use by the Fairfax County Park Authority on Aug. 25, 1962, when John F. Kennedy was in the White House and the surrounding community of Springfield was a sleepy bedroom community. Back then, the lake was used as a reservoir for Fort Belvoir but the Army's plumbing improved and they didn't need the lake anymore so in 1960, they started leasing it to the Fairfax County Park Authority.

In 1964, the Army declared the lake as surplus and the FCPA bought it the following year for \$88,250, and added more land with another purchase in 1968. Through the years, there have been many changes at the lake, including the formation of the Lake Accotink Yacht Club in the early 1970s by Springfield resident Ernest (Buddy) Belote; he held races in the lake from 1972-1982.

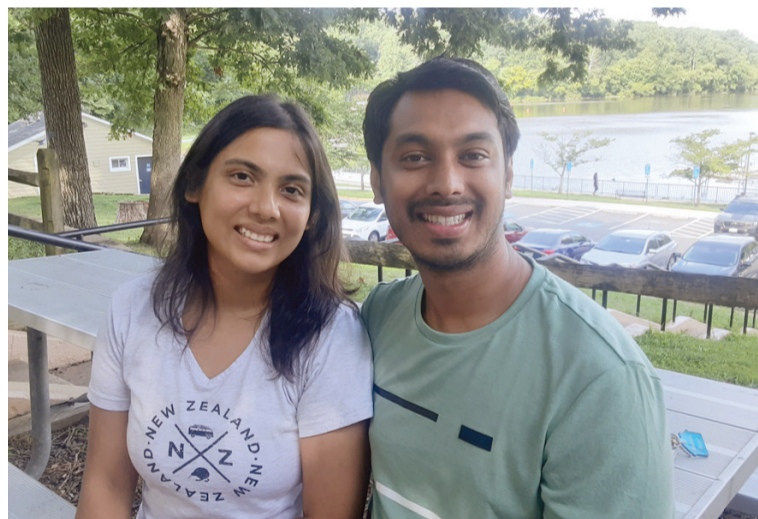
Way Back in Time

Early history includes Indige-
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Lake Accotink has a history and will live on in Springfield.



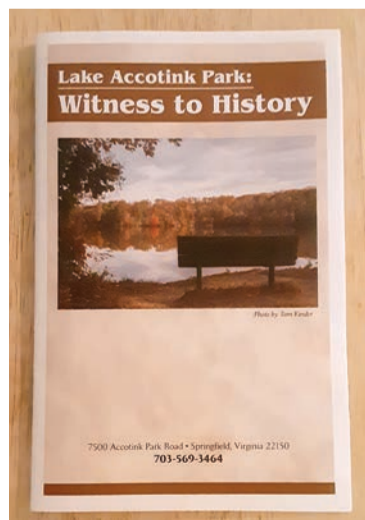
Arsad Ur Rahman and Tahrin Afrin have a place in their hearts for Lake Accotink.

Lake Accotink Day

60th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, Aug. 27
from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.
7500 Accotink Park Road
Springfield
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2022/z-ir091

nous Americans from the Dogue, Piccaway and Patawomeck tribes who lived along Accotink stream.

Years later, the nearby railroad was the site of Civil War action, including a time in December 1862 when Fitz Lee, Robert E. Lee's nephew, was sent to burn the rail-
SEE 60TH ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 15



The park history is captured on paper.



If it wasn't for the dam, there'd be no Lake Accotink.

Brion Sumser

FROM PAGE 5

spend the better part of a decade getting to know Brion and everything he brought to the world; and honored to have shared so many memories with him. Countless friendships and love stories have been born from the space he created, and I hope we continue to honor his memory by pouring into the people we love most."

Brian Drummond called him a legend in the Fairfax/Mason community, and Gaily Green said he'll be dearly missed. Mike Romano said he was "a great man who gave opportunities to a lot of people in the community. He will always be remembered for the man he was."

"Brion will be my forever friend, and forever a champion in life to all of those who knew him," said Bob Seh. "We now have an angel to watch over us."

Shocked to hear of Sumser's death, Matthew Schaerer said, "I worked in his kitchen all through high school; the Grille is what got me into the restaurant industry. I learned a lot from him, and I also met my wife working there."

Barbara Nowakowski said she and Sumser were good friends in high school and he could always make her laugh. Another high-school friend, Fred Doyle, said, "We lost an icon to the community and a very dear friend. May we all keep his spirit with us."

Alyssa See said her college days revolved around softball and Brion's Grille. "For years, Brion gave all he had to make sure the Mason community had a place to call home," she said. "Working there alongside my best friends will forever be some of my most cherished memories."

Friends also left comments below Sumser's online obituary in the Washington Post.

"I have so many wonderful memories of Brion and his beautiful family," said friend Terry Pepin, a former hostess at Brion's Grille. "He was so funny and kindhearted, and I made so many friends there. It wasn't just a restaurant – it was a happy gathering place for so many. Brion put his heart and soul into it, and it showed. He always treated my family like his own; I was blessed to have known him. Fly with the angels, my friend, until we meet again."

Describing Sumser as a true friend for more than 30 years, Paul Kyle said they "shared a love of Mason basketball, the hoopla around the Mason Final Four run in 2006 and supporting many causes within our community. I loved going into Brion's Grille and eating and talking with Brion. He and his family will be in our prayers."

SEE BRION SUMER, PAGE 15
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In past years, the Cardboard Boat Regatta attracted many spectators.

60th Anniversary Celebration to Honor The Park with an Interesting Past

FROM PAGE 13

road bridge that ran across Accotink Creek. The dam was built in 1915, and in 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps built some trails in the area that traverse the current parkland.

All this history was recorded in a 12-page booklet called "Lake Accotink Park: Witness to History," published by Friends of Lake Accotink Park members Mike and Debra

DeLoose and Mary Lipsey, under the supervision of park manager Julie Tahan and the Park Authority, Lipsey said. The booklet is out of print, so there are a few copies around, but since this was before things were online, it's hard to find.

The anniversary event on Aug. 27 will include guest speakers, activities like fishing, mountain bike skills course, guided hikes and history lectures.

Brion Sumser

FROM PAGE 14

Marilyn Larsen Grogan said the community will miss his "warmth, generosity and loving spirit." And Fred Chao said his grief is overshadowed by the many, fun memories he has of Sumser.

"Brion's Grille was one of our favorite restaurants," said Jay Jackson. "Loved half-price-hamburger Tuesdays and the great Sunday brunch. Brion was a compassionate, understanding man who tolerated my ID/ASD son's unusual behaviors when he visited the Grille. [Age] 66 seems way too young to be gone."

"So sad to lose a guy that touched so many people in an amazing way," added Mike McNally. "Never laughed so hard for so long, for so many times in my life, as I did with Brion."

Sumser's niece, Kate, thanked him for "all the good you brought to this world."

Summing it all up, Brent Glove said, "Brion was a generous man whose incredible heart and quick-witted jokes will be missed. There will never be an-



PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKIE REILLY

Brion Sumser (on right) with best friend, Bob Seh.

other."

A Celebration of Life service for Sumser was held last Friday, Aug. 5, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Alexandria. Fittingly, it was followed by a reception for his many friends at Eagle Bank Arena's Patriot Club on the GMU campus.

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Out of the Woods ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... but still very much in the bushes, and I fear without the 'round-the-clock, extremely attentive ICU staff on his case, there may be some predictable out-of-sight/out-of-mind-type problems. Beginning with: the nurses are not responsible for only one patient. They may be responsible for upwards of four or five others. What that mean is the immediate response to whatever problem the patient is experiencing gets back-burnered/deferred to the more pressing demands of some other patient the nurse is responsible for. Unfortunately, unlike Superman (although there are many superwomen too), they can't split themselves in two, as Clark Kent did in one television episode. We understand and appreciate the never-ending demands placed on today's nurses. That being said, if the hospital powers-that-be deem a transfer from the ICU to a regular floor, it's unlikely us powers who can't be have any appeal-type powers to affect that. The previous three weeks have spoiled us, no doubt.

In addition, I'm afraid the reality is for visitors of non-ICU patients, the visiting hours posted on the walls are more restrictive and there will be less time for us to visit and encourage the patient through his excruciatingly long and difficult recovery. Granted, there's likely to be a phone in a regular room and a cell phone as well would similarly be available, but right now this patient doesn't have the strength or capacity to pick up a phone or manipulate its keys. Moreover, as long as he's a breathing through a trach tube (until he can't breathe consistently on his own, which so far efforts to wean him off the ventilator have been unsuccessful; septic shock causes multiple problems), he cannot physically even talk. For us then, the situation summarizes as follows: if he can't talk, and he can't pick up the phone/text (at present he doesn't have the dexterity to do either) and is likewise unable to grab/press the nurse's call button, and moreover, during this time, will likely be unattended and unable to express his needs/requirements (which are too numerous to mention) in any way available, and perhaps you can appreciate the challenging and stressful path forward for him, and to a lesser degree, us.

This transition from 24-hour, many hands-on 'round the clock care in ICU has, (which together with this patient's will to survive, has enabled him to progress to this point), seems not particularly patient friendly; not knowing admittedly, the rules and regulations, policy and procedures that a hospital must adhere to (or else chaos would ensue, I imagine) isn't totally lost on us. However, common sense must prevail occasionally, doesn't it? I mean, a relatively, helpless patient can't be left to fend for himself, or expect to improve if his medical quality-of-life is not being met because his nurse has four other patients with varying needs to tend to, none of which, selfishly speaking, contribute to the health and well-being of this recently transferred patient. But the hospital serves the community, not one patient and it's their responsibility to serve multiple patients. As Spock has said many times on Star Trek: "The good of the many outweigh the good of the few." I get it. But in this case, if logic plays any part in the decisions/process, well; let's just say I don't agree since they're "to do no harm." I understand, one single, solitary patient can't stand (lay, occasionally sit) in the way of progress, such as it is. However, it would be a damn shame if while trying to move forward, we end up going backwards. But what do I know? (As has been made clear many times before in this space: not much.)

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

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