

CONNECTION

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The Ahmaei family, Sophia, age 2; Mya, age 8; Adrian, age 5; and parents Allison and Ismail, arrived at Newington Elementary School on the Friday morning before school start, as did many of the school's families, for a short and well attended "meet your teacher" and drop off classroom supplies event.

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

AUGUST 25-31, 2022

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Loose Pig is Under Control at Nalls Produce

Wild chase in Franconia conjures images of earlier days when livestock was the norm.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Pigs just don't run around like loose pets so when residents along Beulah Street in eastern Fairfax County, they took to the phones and social media to get to the bottom of it. There is a well-known pig in those parts named "Penny," the resident pig at Nalls Produce so naturally all thoughts went there, and the phone lines at Nalls were busy.

"Our phone was ringing off the hook, they thought it was Penny," said Valerie Nalls.

The chase was on, and the folks at Animal Control know about Penny so they kind of counted on Cary Nalls and the staff to look into it. There were reports coming in for a few days on the whereabouts of this pig, and finally it was spotted at a property right next to Nalls. "This pig got some mileage over those few days," Valerie Nalls said.

With the pig in a semi-confined area, Cary and Valerie Nalls enlisted the help of a few others, and got an old coat, and went for the pig. He's a young pig that looks kind of like a wild boar, but no one knows for sure. "He didn't want to be caught," she said.

They finally cornered him, wrapped him up in a coat and brought him into Nalls. They were careful to cover his eyes at first which is known to subdue a wild animal, and now the pig has its own cage, not near Penny though.

"I keep it separate, I want to make sure it's healthy," Cary Nalls said. Penny is a miniature pig too, and the newcomer is not that type of pig, but they aren't exactly sure what kind it is.

The officials at Fairfax County Animal Control got involved, but once they saw that Nalls had a pen, and have pig experience from taking care of Penny for all these years, they were glad to keep him in the pen at Nalls. The rule on a loose animal like this is to keep it for 10 days, and then announce it so the owner can step up and claim it.

At Nalls, they think it's unlikely that someone will claim it because in this area, the owner of a pig needs two acres of land, which they have at Nalls. If no one claims it, Nalls has some connections. "We know so many farmers," Valerie Nalls said.

For now, it's eating and drinking like there's no tomorrow. "The whole thing was pretty weird," she said.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The pig is in his pen at Nalls for at least 10 days.

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



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Laurel Hill Elementary School's lawn, sidewalks, and parking areas were jammed with parents and children making their way to school.



At Laurel Hill Elementary School's announced opening time, teachers greeted students at the door for the start to the new school year.

Return to School 2022

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

This week, if you noticed bright yellow school buses, crowded morning sidewalks, scrubbed bright faces and children with backpacks, then you might know that Fairfax County observed the start of the 2022 school year on Monday, Aug. 22. Some glad and eager to start, some bemoaning summer's end, parents, teachers, and students will have only a short two weeks in session before observing a long weekend for Labor Day.

But for the needed breaks all will look forward to, this year's school calendar includes traditional holidays, such as Labor Day and other special days, and student breaks for Spring and Winter. The school system also is recognizing religious and cultural observances, as it did in 2021, but not by closing schools for these days. They include All Saints Day, Dia de los Muertos, Bodhi Day, Three Kings Day/Epiphany, Orthodox Epiphany, and First Full Day of Ramadan. While these days are not holidays for all students, those observing the holidays and taking excused absences need not worry about missing tests or other assessments, field trips, guest speakers, or assemblies, sporting events or special activities, auditions or try-outs, safety drills, or conferences, which are not scheduled on those days.

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Addie Brown's face, and shirt, say it all; happiness is your first day in first grade at age 6.



PHOTO COURTESY SARA HELFER

Brother and sister, Levi & Cora Newman, age 13 and 12, ready to leave for Washington Irving Middle School.



Students await door opening at South County Middle School.



High school parking lots are full again, like this one at South County High School as students and teachers drive to school.

FAIRFAX CITY RESTAURANT WEEK



The Louisiana Pasta at P.J. Skidoos



The Steak Frites entrée at The Wine House.

Taste of the Globe Without the Travel

Fairfax City's Restaurant Week is Aug. 29-Sept. 4.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Get your tastebuds ready: Fairfax City is offering a summer Restaurant Week. Set to run Aug. 29-Sept. 4, it'll offer tantalizing food from 27 globally diverse, independently owned restaurants.

Throughout the City, diners will be able to enjoy brunches/lunches for \$20/person and three-course, pre-fixe dinners for \$35/person, with couple and family-meal options available. Offered, as well, will be two-for-\$10 deals at participating bakeries and coffee shops.

The restaurants participating include Anita's New Mexico Style Bar & Grill, Baku Delicious, Bellissimo, Big Buns, Bollywood Bistro, Capital Ale House, Coyote Grille & Cantina, Dolce Vita Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar, Draper's Steak & Seafood, and Earp's Ordinary.

Also taking part are: El Pollo Rico (pollo a la brasa), Hamrock's, High Side (Asian street food), Kim's Kitchen & Bar (Vietnamese food), Marumen (ramen shop), Okonomi Asian Grill, Ornerly Beer Co., P.J. Skidoos, Patriots Pub & Grill, Ruffino's, Red Hot & Blue, Slice of Matchbox, The Auld Shebeen (Irish food), and The Wine House.

The two-for-\$10 deals will be found at Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates, CupCakes & Beyond, and Foundation Coffee Roasters. For example, Cameron's special will be a four-piece box of any Belgian truffles plus a 16-ounce, hot Cameron's Blend coffee or hot or iced tea. And CupCakes & Beyond will offer flatbread and smoothie combos.

"We are so excited to give folks one more reason to visit Fairfax City in the summer," said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "From the cultural richness of our City to the many



Taco Salad at Anita's.

outdoor festivals, concerts and parades and our walkable shopping districts, we have a lot to offer as a summer destination. With the summer rendition of Fairfax City Restaurant Week, we are excited to sweeten the deal and showcase our unparalleled restaurant community, while visitors taste, sip and savor dining that is uniquely Fairfax City."

In addition, diners may help a worthy nonprofit while enjoying some top-notch meals. The Lamb Center – a Fairfax City drop-in, daytime shelter serving the poor and homeless – was chosen as the event's featured charity to receive support from participating restaurants. Also during this week, some restaurants will give back a portion of their proceeds from gift-card sales to The Lamb Center.

Fairfax City is proud of its diverse culinary scene, and the upcoming event is its first official summer Restaurant Week and marks

the start of two Restaurant Weeks per year. This will be the fifth such event and builds upon the success of the previous ones.

The sponsors are the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. The 2022 Restaurant Week Committee plans and carries out the event. The goals are to let visitors and area residents know what Fairfax City has to offer, increase the number of diners each restaurant welcomes during this week, and expand brand recognition for the participating restaurants.

Diners are encouraged to follow at @FairfaxCityRestaurantWeek on Instagram and Facebook and tag #FairfaxCityEats. For more information, go to <https://www.fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com/>.

Below are examples of just some of the many entrees (not the whole meal, including appetizers and desserts) that a sampling of the restaurants will be serving:

Bollywood Bistro

Chicken Lababdar - Grilled chicken cooked in onion-tomato sauce; Lamb Patiala - Chunks of lamb cooked with Punjabi spices and potatoes; Sarson Machhi - White fish cooked in mustard sauce; Panir do Pyaza - Cheese and diced onion tossed with special sauce; Malai Kofta - Carrots and cheese croquettes simmered in rich muglai sauce. Each entree is served with a side of basmati rice.

CupCakes & Beyond

BBQ Chicken Flatbread - Barbecue sauce, mozzarella, smoked gouda, red onions, topped with arugula; Margherita Flatbread - Fresh mozzarella, Roma tomatoes, classic marinara, olive oil drizzle; Pepperoni Flatbread - Mozzarella cheese, pepperoni and classic marinara sauce; and Smoothies: Strawberry Banana, Triple Berry, Peach, Mango, Caribbean Colada.

Dolce Vita

Steak Pizzaiola - Whiffle Tree Farms hanger steak grilled and sliced with capers, olives, white wine, tomato sauce, and served with roasted potato and local seasonal vegetable; Pan-Roasted Bronzini (Mediterranean sea bass) with gremolata over Mediterranean couscous; Capellini Pomodoro Fresco - Homemade angel-hair pasta served with heirloom cherry tomatoes, basil, garlic and olive oil (Vegetarian). Diners may add a wine pairing for each course for \$15/person.

Slice of Matchbox

The \$20 lunch includes a choice of pizza, plus three doughnuts (beignets). Pizza selections are: cheese, holy grail margherita, fire + smoke (chipotle, roasted garlic, onions, roasted red peppers, smoked gouda, basil, zesty tomato sauce), garden veggie,

SEE RESTAURANT WEEK, PAGE 5
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

FAIRFAX CITY RESTAURANT WEEK



Bollywood Bistro's Chicken Lababdar.



Marumen's Spicy Miso Ramen.



The Auld Shebeen's Shepherd's Pie.

Taste of the Globe

FROM PAGE 5

pepperoni, Matchbox meat, chicken pesto, and fig + prosciutto (fig jam, ricotta truffle sauce, garlic puree, bleu cheese, mozzarella, oregano, prosciutto).

P.J. Skidoos

BBQ Ribs - Half rack served with fries and coleslaw; Shrimp Scampi - Shrimp, tomatoes, scallions, garlic in a lemon-butter, white-wine sauce over linguini; Chicken Scaloppini - Sautéed chicken breast with lemon butter, mushrooms and capers served over linguini in a light cream sauce; Louisiana Pasta - Shrimp, chicken, andouille sausage, tomatoes, scallions, spicy Creole cream sauce, penne pasta; Broiled Atlantic Salmon - Served with honey-mustard glaze or lemon-butter sauce on a bed of spinach

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with a side of rice; London Broil - Marinated flank steak, thinly sliced over mashed potatoes, with a mushroom wine sauce.

The Wine House

Braised Lamb Shank - Served with cannellini beans and chorizo, red potatoes, rosemary demi-glace; Faroe Island Salmon Fillet - With leek beurre blanc, saffron risotto cake, haricot vert; Wine House Jumbo Lump Crabcake - With basil aioli, mixed green salad, pommes frites; Pork Tenderloin - With prosciutto and olive tapenade, red-wine Bordelaise, mashed potatoes, haricot vert; Steak Frites - Flat iron steak with pommes frites, black-peppercorn cream sauce; Braised Boneless Short Ribs - With chipotle demi-glace, mashed potatoes, haricot vert; Summer Risotto - With champagne cream, asparagus, haricot vert, Parmesan cheese.



CupCakes & Beyond: BBQ Chicken Flatbread and a peach smoothie.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCFRD

The house under construction on Leehigh Drive in Fairfax.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCFRD

The burned lumber in the basement.

Investigators Seek Help Identifying Fairfax Arsonist

Fairfax County fire investigators are seeking the public's help in obtaining information about an arson in the basement of a home under construction in Fairfax. The fire happened sometime between Monday evening, Aug. 15, and early Tuesday morning, Aug. 16, in the 11500 block of Leehigh Drive.

Workers arrived there last Tuesday, around 9 a.m. and discovered a large stacked pile of 2x4 finished lumber smoldering in the basement. At 9:11 a.m., fire department units responded to the scene and extinguished the smoldering wood before it became a larger fire. A few cans of original flavor Twisted Tea were found at the scene.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Capt. Tim Palmer with the Office of the Fire Marshal, Fire Investigation Section at 571-221-1049 or timothy.palmer@fairfaxcounty.gov.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Springfield Teen Convicted of Manslaughter; Used 'Ghost Gun'

A Springfield, Va. teen was convicted this week of two counts of manslaughter in a homicide that involved a ghost gun as the murder weapon, said Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano.

Zachary Burkard, 19, was convicted by a jury Monday and the same panel recommended a 20-year prison sentence on Tuesday. The charges against him stemmed from a double homicide at a residence on Winding Way Court,

Springfield on April 25, 2021. Two 17-year-old males were killed in the shooting in which Burkard used a ghost gun he made after purchasing parts for the weapon. The shooting followed a fist fight that had just occurred between two other teenagers, and the gun utilized was a handgun capable of firing in fully automatic mode.

"Anytime a young person's life is taken, it's a tragedy. But especially when it's done with a

gun that should have never existed," Descano said.

Ghost guns are weapons that can be assembled privately and are not traceable.

"The proliferation of untraceable guns in our communities continues to be unconscionable and I will keep fighting for stronger laws to address this crisis," Descano said.

Burkard has a formal sentencing hearing scheduled for Dec. 15.

NEWS BRIEFS

Man, 32, Dies after Fairfax Motorcycle Crash

A 32-year-old man was killed recently after the motorcycle he was driving collided with an SUV in a Fairfax City intersection. He was identified as Dexter White of Ijamsville, Md.

On Monday, Aug. 8, at 3:32 p.m., City of Fairfax police responded to the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Eaton Place after receiving a report of a traffic accident there. According to police, preliminary investigation revealed that the motorcycle was traveling north on Chain Bridge while the SUV was turning left from southbound Chain Bridge onto eastbound Eaton.

"Both vehicles collided in the intersection, resulting in the two drivers being transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital," said police. "The motorcyclist died as a result of his injuries. The other motorist sustained minor injuries."

This incident remains an active investigation. Police ask anyone who has information or who may have witnessed this crash to call them at 703-385-7964.

Don't Speed in Fairfax City School Zones

It's never a good idea to speed in a school zone, and Fairfax City police are driving home that point with speed-enforcement cameras. Toward that end, they're reminding motorists that these cameras became operational on Monday, Aug. 22 – the first day of school in both the City and Fairfax County.

Speed-enforcement cameras have been installed in school zones on

Old Lee Highway, Route 236/Main Street and Jermantown Road, near the City's four schools – Daniels Run and Providence elementaries, Fairfax High and Katherine Johnson Middle – and two county schools, Woodson High and Frost Middle.

Labor Day Car Show in Fairfax City

The 23rd annual Labor Day Car Show is set for Monday, Sept. 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Fairfax City. Held rain or shine, it's jointly sponsored by the City and the Clifton Lions Club. More than 300 cars, trucks and motorcycles of all kinds will line University Drive between Armstrong Street and Sager Avenue and will also be displayed in the bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive.

This free, fun, family event also features food such as hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and Italian ice, and raises money for several charities. People may register vehicles to participate at www.labor-day-carshow.org or outside Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive, from 6 a.m.-noon, the day of the event.

Lamb Center Needs Kitchen Volunteers

The Lamb Center in Fairfax City is a daytime, drop-in shelter serving the poor and homeless, and it needs volunteers to join its kitchen team, once a week, on a regular basis. Shifts are usually three hours, in either the morning or afternoon. For more information, email barb-delisa@thelambcenter.org.

CONNECTION

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'Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution'

Documentary Looks at Disabled, Achievements and Passage of the ADA.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Everybody knows about the Woodstock concert back in 1969 where peace and love were there for everyone to enjoy, except maybe if you were someone with disabilities and weren't able to walk for miles in the traffic jam or navigate a field full of hippies and mud.

What many don't know about is the gathering two years later at Camp Jened in Hunter, NY where people with disabilities went for another version of the Woodstock utopia while protesting the way the things work for disabled people.

"There I was, I was at Woodstock," one of the camp participants said. "Freedom," by Richie Havens played in the background, giving it that Woodstock feel.

It has all been put in a grainy documentary called "Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution," that was recently shown by Fairfax County and followed by a discussion by disability advocate Judy Heumann about their Oscar-nominated documentary. Heumann is a lifelong advocate for the rights of people with disabilities and has been instrumental in the development and implementation of legislation such as Section 504, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the U.N.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HONIGSBAUM

Scenes from the Crip Camp documentary

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, said on the county invitation.

Peoples Video Theater shot the film in the summer of 1971 and the film was edited in 2016 by Nicole Newnham and Jim LeBrecht as a catalyst for change, LeBrecht said. "It was Nicole's and my hope that our film would start conversations, reframe for many what having a disability means, both inside and outside the disabled community, and create positive changes to policies and push back against the biggest barrier most face: the negative stigma of disability," LeBrecht said in an email.

Following their initial edit with the film, President Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, "Higher Ground," took on



the film and now they are among the Executive Producers of the final version.

Crip Camp is full of powerful scenes of ac-

tivity in Camp Jened including an emotional softball game, dances, bus arrivals and lots of smiles and hugging. The soundtrack was "Sugar Mountain," by Neil Young.

LeBrecht was born with spina bifida so he was in his wheelchair the whole time, but he raced around the camp with joy. Awareness like this led to the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990, which they mention in the film. Many of the people featured in the film were also in the government protests years later that led up to the passage.

In an interview, LeBrecht was asked about the name of the documentary, because "crip" short for crippled, is not a term that's used anymore, but it was there in the title as an eye-opener. "We wanted everyone to know this wasn't your average film about disability," he said. The film was a 2020 Sundance winner in the "Audience Award, U.S. Documentary" category.

As with all film projects, there is a part called "the cutting room floor," for parts that didn't make the final cut and "Crip Camp" is no different. It was a time issue, they said. Newnham and LeBrecht talk about those scenes in a separate online part.

One was LeBrecht getting his first car, which was a "great equalizer," for someone in a wheelchair, and another about a woman named Denise Jacobson that lived in New York in a second-floor apartment with no elevator. She was stuck in the apartment with limited human contact until going to the camp, where she met her first friend. "I felt like I was a human being," Jacobson said.

Crip Camp is now available for anyone to watch on YouTube.

Burke Irish Dancers Take Top Honors at North American Competition

Dancers from McGrath Morgan Academy of Irish Dance (McMa) took three top honors at the North American Irish Dance Championships held in Montreal over the Independence Day holiday:

14-year-old North American Champ: Aisling Reynolds (who also won in 2019)

11-year-old North American Champ: Isabella Renzi

Dance Drama Team North American Champs (also reigning world and southern region champions)

Aisling Reynolds and Isabella Renzi, along with a dozen top-placing solo dancers, are qualified to compete at the 2023 World Irish Dancing Championships in Montreal in the spring.

Aisling Reynolds reclaimed the title she first won in 2019, before COVID canceled subsequent competitions.

Reynolds began dancing at age 5. School founder Lauren McGrath Dutton said she always knew Reynolds had that special something that captures judges' attention.

There were 120 competitors from Canada, United States and Mexico, as well as Ireland and the United Kingdom. Each dancer performed a soft shoe and a hard shoe dance. The top half of the dancers were recalled for a solo set dance.

Both Reynolds and Renzi were members of the 20-person drama team that took first place with their performance of "The Belle of Belfast." Choreographed by Morgan, the drama features a storm that destroys the roof of St. Anselm's school; a class of feisty school children; divine intervention that leads their teacher, Sister Madonna, to compete in a local beauty pageant; and the shenanigans that ensue with competitors vying for the title (and monetary prize) "Belle of Belfast."

"I've competed in solo and traditional ceili team competitions since I was 10 years old. But that is very different than dancing in a drama with 19 other dancers, where acting is involved," said 21-year-old Mary Kate Gareau, who dances the lead role of Sister



The 20-person drama team took first place with their performance of "The Belle of Belfast."

Madonna/Belle of Belfast.

These McMa dancers qualified to compete at the world championships, which will be held in Montreal in the spring: Jessie Welgos, 2nd, girls under 16; Annabelle Baker, 3rd, girls under 14; Meghann Mullarkey, 4th, girls under 18; Ciara Foley, 6th, girls un-

der 10; Patrick Gareau, 6th, boys under 17; Gabrielle Brown, 8th, girls under 11; Reilly Savage, 8th, girls under 15; Shawn Dongieux, 9th, boys under 19; Bridgette Hettinger, 9th, girls under 10; Kendall Smith, 14th, girls under 15; Rory Kipp, 15th, girls under 15; Kate Doherty, 16th, girls under 11.

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SENIOR LIVING



PHOTO COURTESY OF ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS

Since its founding, the chorales of Encore Creativity for Older Adults have performed at Strathmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and locations throughout Europe.

New Season of Singers

Registration is open for Encore Creativity for Older Adults for any adult 55 or older.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Singing in his church choir as a child and taking a mandatory class in middle school was the extent of Don Greenwood's musical training. Growing up in Arlington, the 74 year old father of two adult sons and one grandchild has always been passionate about music but never took lessons. The extent of this connection to music was singing along with the radio. He pursued a career as an architect with Fairfax County's Building Design and Construction Division and after he retired he began to search for hobbies that were both enjoyable and challenging.

"I didn't want to sit around watching Netflix," he said.

His wife suggested that he consider music and suggested that try Encore Creativity for Older Adults, a choral organization for Adults over 55.

Those, like Greenwood, who find pleasure in music will have a chance to warm-up their vocal chords and start crooning. Encore's new season begins next month with groups in Arlington, Fairfax and Montgomery counties.

Registration is now open and students can join either Encore Chorales, a group whose vocalists learn music that spans a wide range of styles and eras or Encore ROCKS with a repertoire that includes true rock & roll music from the 50s through the 80s. Auditions are not required.

Though Encore is open to all singers regardless of their skills or abilities, founder Jeanne Kelly envisioned an organization in which the chorales are filled with serious singers. Since its beginning, her chorales have performed at Strathmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and locations throughout Europe.

"Encore has expectations of our singers," said Kelly, who is now retired. "When you age people stop having expectations of you, but I always was quite demanding of the singers and they really appreciated that. It made them feel important."

Chorales are led by professional conductors and rehearsals and concerts are structured to cultivate musical excellence. "My first rehearsal was an eye opener. I felt like a deer in the headlights," said Greenwood.

"When you age people stop having expectations of you, but I always was quite demanding of the singers and they really appreciated that. It made them feel important."

— Jeanne Kelly, Encore founder

"I didn't have experience with multi-part arrangements. I didn't understand sheet music, but during the rehearsals we deconstructed each song, the conductor gives us feedback so I learned pretty quickly in an environment where you're encouraged."

In addition to music Kelly hopes that Encore singers will find that music protects and strengthens their cognitive abilities and helps them make social connections which are often difficult to build and maintain as one ages.

"When you retire, you gradually drift away from the friends you had at work and you eventually lose those connections," said Kathleen Lyman, a retired Navy captain who lives in Springfield. "I've met new friends through Encore and we often go out to lunch after rehearsals."

Kelly expanded her vision of removing some of the barriers that make music inaccessible to some when she created a choral group called the Sentimental Journey Singers that is free and open to those with dementia, Alzheimer's and other similar conditions and their caretakers. "My mother passed away from Alzheimer's and she always found joy in music," said Kelly. "There was always music in our house and I majored in music."

Greenwood said that his Encore experience motivated him to delve into writing song parodies and satires. "Some people have to get over the hump of thinking that they can't sing," he said. "In retrospect, I wish I'd joined earlier."

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CALENDAR



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.

REGISTRATION OPEN

2022 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Sept. 10-24. Register online by Aug. 31 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 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. 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>

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.

SUNDAY/AUG. 28

Burke Historical Society. 3-4 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Ann Shields returns to speak in more detail on her extensive research into P.O. Box 1142, the top-secret military intelligence camp at Fort Hunt, Alexandria, during the Second World War.

AUG. 29-SEPT. 4

Fairfax City Restaurant Week. During the week-long event, over 20 participating restaurants will offer three-course prix fixe menus of \$20 for lunch/brunch and \$35 for dinner per person with couple and family meal options available. In addition to the curated menus, specialty restaurants will offer a Two for \$10 Deal providing food lovers the opportunity to further explore Fairfax City's regionally lauded diverse culinary scene. Visit www.FairfaxCityRestaurantWeek.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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SEALED BID SALE SALE OF REAL ESTATE 8846 Ox Road Lorton, VIRGINIA PMI 6798

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the office of the Northern Virginia District Right of Way and Utilities Division located at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, until, but no later than, September 27, 2022 for the following property:

Wooded lot, located at 8846 Ox Road (Tax Map #1062-02-0001C) in the Springfield Magisterial District of Fairfax County, on the corner of Route 123 and Rommel Drive. The lot consists of 0.4484 acre, more or less, land, is relatively level at an elevated grade with a slight slope towards the rear of the property. Percs for a conventional three bedroom septic system.

The value placed on this parcel is \$298,000.00.

Employees of VDOT, their immediate families or any person employed with the valuation and/or acquisition of this property are ineligible to bid. The property is being sold “as is” with conveyance by deed without warranty. For further information and proposals, contact VDOT at the above address or call Jordan Cheresnowsky at (703) 259-2971.

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Erica S. Olds, Attila Kan Owners trading as The Perfect Pita, 7653 Fullerton Road, Suites C & D, Springfield, Fairfax County, Va 22153 - 2897. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail On and Off Premises Wine and Beer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Erica S. Olds, owner. Date notice posted at Establishment: 8/18/2022. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

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Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 31

NCS to Host Open Hire Event. 5-7 p.m. At Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Room 206, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Services is hosting an Open Hire Event on Wednesday, August 31 to fill multiple Activity Facilitator and SACC Day Care Teacher positions located at various community centers and SACC program sites. Apply and interview on the spot for different positions. Please bring multiple copies of your resume to the event.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Historic Pohick Church First Saturday Tours. During the Colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of our country's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give free guided tours of the historic colonial church on the first Saturday of every month between 1:00-3:00 p.m. Historic Pohick Episcopal Church is located at 9301 Richmond Highway in Lorton, on U.S. 1 between Telegraph Road and Pohick Road, not far from Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall. For more information call the church office at 703-339-6572 or visit the website at <http://www.pohick.org>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

BRAD KOLODNER. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16 Rizer Pavilion, Lorton. A Baltimore-based clawhammer banjoist represents the next generation of Old-Time musicians pushing the boundaries of the tradition into uncharted territory. Regarded for his delicate touch, expressive style, and original compositions, Kolodner has rapidly gained national attention for his unique approach to the banjo. Visit workhousearts.org/onstage.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 4

TOM TEASLEY. 2:00 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16 McGuireWoods Gallery, Lorton.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.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) For more information on the Back To School Donation Drive or Get Together event, visit SpringfieldTownCenter.com.

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



Fairfax City Restaurant Week takes place Aug. 29-Sept. 4 in Fairfax.

Described in the Washington Post as "a percussionist in the widest and most exuberant sense of the word," he has maintained a unique career as a solo percussionist, composer and collaborator. A 2010 Helen Hayes Theater Award recipient for outstanding sound design, he tours frequently throughout the world performing his unique style. Tom will be performing his own interpretation of the music for the movie "Modern Times", a classic Charlie Chaplin comedy. Visit workhousearts.org/onstage.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 7

Local German POW Camps of WWII Talk. 10-11:30 a.m. At Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Ann Shields, DOD retiree, will talk about the history of local WWII German POW camps (Ft. Meade, Ft. Hunt, Fairfax).

Sponsored by NARFE Chapter 1159. In person meeting with refreshments. Also available by ZOOM; contact doujones500@verizon.net by 9/4/22 for link and passcode.

Involve.org/volunteer-with-us for details and to complete an interest form. Or email info@grandinvolve.org.

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.

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.

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.rsvpva.org.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper-local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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Four Weeks and Counting



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

To invoke one of my late mother's favorite expressions, which most definitely applies to this patient's current tenure in the hospital: "It's enough already." But it's not, unfortunately. It is about slow incremental progress which enables the doctors to contemplate a more substantive plan going forward. The next two steps (not literally) involve the patient being able to breathe on his own, and in so doing, disconnect him from the ventilator. Then, and in what order I haven't a clue, eliminate the need for kidney dialysis. Once the patient can breathe normally and exhibit stable kidney function, he will have succeeded where none of the doctors initially treating him in SICU thought he would. I remember one critical care doctor's assessment of this patient very clearly: "He's the sickest patient in the hospital." (At last check, there are over 900 beds in this hospital.) And yet, here we are, relative calm with the patient getting better every day or so it seems (comparatively speaking). As his recovery continues to improve, a different physician from his treatment past and present: critical care, internal medicine, pulmonology, cardiology, nephrology, general surgery, and burn surgery to the physical, occupational, and respiratory therapists, and of the course all the nurses who have seen him at his worst; and to a man/woman, they are all amazed at how far he's come. Apparently, septic shock is all it's cracked up to be.

We are so proud of his will to survive and we're constantly reminding him of how amazing his progress has been. Nevertheless, it's not having the desired effect. Oddly enough, the better and more back to normal he gets, the more aware he is of situation/hospital confinement. Though he's hooked up to a lot less stuff (at one time, he had eight different I.V.s connected to his body, plus a feeding tube, a 24-7 dialysis machine, a heart monitor with a 24-7 heart rate, pulse, and oxygen measures, along with a full time blood pressure cup, a ventilator and a wound vac for the leg where the infection that precipitated this near disaster in the first place and what am I forgetting? Something, I'm sure. In addition, his arms are still restrained (because he's pulling at - and out, some of his tubes) and so he can hardly move and certainly hasn't had any food or water down his throat because of the trach tube inserted just below his Adam's apple. And what's worse, as he improves every day and becomes more aware of his current condition, he is becoming increasingly frustrated by his limitations. And what's even worse, we can't do anything about any of it except talk and try to reassure and encourage him. But as they say: "Talk don't feed the bulldog."

Moreover, I know he's sick of us talking, trying to keep his spirits up. We try to keep him current on news, weather, and sports, to the minimal extent to which he's interested. But mostly, he wants his car keys so he can go home. (To say that's not possible is the understatement of the year.) The dilemma is that what's likely to lead most to a speedy recovery and return home, is exactly what he or the doctors absolutely can't rush: time. Until his body/bodily functions become more normal, he can't do anything but lay in waiting, so to speak. There is a television in the room but his interest in watching anything is negligible. We can tell however that his mind is beginning to process information as he's asking more questions, especially the existential kind: "What am I doing here?" But it's only over time that we'll be able to put his thoughts, plans, hopes and dreams into practice. And on his best day, before any of this happened, he's kind of impatient. On his worst days: now; well, let's just say it's becoming increasingly more difficult to placate him (understandably so). He's come so far, but I worry that these next few steps (some literally, actually), might be his toughest yet. However, from what I've witnessed over this last month, I have no doubts that he'll be up and at'em eventually. It just won't be soon enough for him. Still, he's lucky to be alive, really, and you can be sure that we'll tell him, repeatedly.

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

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