

Curiosities

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Cirque du Soleil "KURI-
OS-Cabinet of Curiosities"

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NEWS

Fairfax County Deer Archery Program Begins Sept. 10

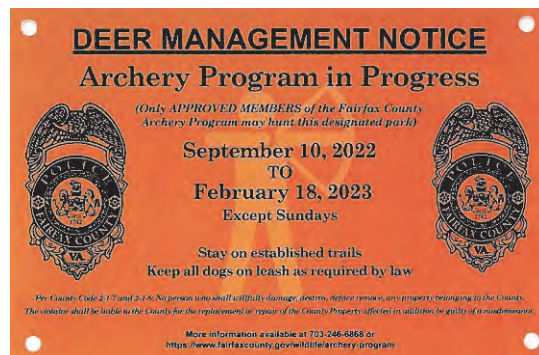
The Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program begins Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, and runs through Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023.

Under the oversight of the Fairfax County Police Department, in collaboration with the Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks, and other public landholders, the archery program is conducted in parks and other locations throughout Fairfax County.

The archery program began in FY 2010 and is part of an integrated Deer Management Program to reduce and stabilize the white-tailed deer population in Fairfax County in efforts to minimize safety and health hazards and other impacts related to an overabundance of deer. These impacts include deer-vehicle collisions, potential spread of diseases, and environmental damage attributed to deer that can impact the ecosystem. The program was approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2000 and is recognized as a safe and efficient method of deer population control by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Because of its track record of safety, archery is a preferred deer management method in Fairfax County. Archery is a compatible use with residential areas and community parks, allowing for deer population management in urban and suburban areas. Since Virginia began tracking hunting injuries in 1959, no bystanders have been injured by an archer hunting deer anywhere in the Commonwealth. The Fairfax County Deer Management Program is conducted on approximately 100 properties countywide. Last year, 726 deer were harvested through the use of archery by hunters in the county program. The archery program accounted for 94% of the total deer harvests in the Fairfax County Deer Management Program.

Fairfax County's Archery Program standards require that all archers meet state hunter licensing, education and safety requirements and must pass qualifications to demonstrate skill and marksmanship, in addition to carrying program identification.



Signs are posted in archery program areas, at park entrances and trailheads.



Archers are also required to have completed additional training through the International Bowhunter Education Program to participate in the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. All archers must also pass a criminal background check to be eligible for the program. Only hunters that have gone through this screening and selection process

rules.

Parks remain open to the public during the archery program. Florescent orange signs are posted in parks where hunting is authorized. Hunters can only take shots at deer from elevated tree stands; hunting from the ground level is prohibited in county parks. Tree stands must not be located closer than



Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program begins Sept. 10, 2022, and runs through Feb. 18, 2023.

with the Fairfax County Police Department may hunt within the designated parks. All archers must comply with state and federal game laws and regulations, local ordinances, and program

100 feet from property lines or closer than 50 feet from established park trails. Archers are not allowed on private property without permission by the owner or tenant. Archers are approved to hunt at assigned sites Monday through Saturday during legal hunting hours, 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

No hunting is allowed on Sundays in county parks.

More information about the Fairfax County Deer Management Program can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/deer-management-program>.

Here Come the Senior Olympians

The opening ceremonies of the 40th Northern Virginia Senior Olympics will take place Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St. Arlington. NVSO Chair Herb Levitan of Arlington, said, "The public is invited to attend the opening starting at 9:30 a.m. and stay for seven track events that will follow."

The annual competition is made possible by the sponsorship of eight Northern Virginia jurisdictions, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun,

The oldest participant is Vera Punke of Arlington, age 107, who is registered to play duplicate bridge.

Fauquier and Prince William. Participants in NVSO must reside in one of the jurisdictions.

Competition will take place at 25 different venues throughout Northern Virginia and continue through Saturday, Sept. 14. Levitan reported that 831 senior adults have set a new record for participation. They will be competing in 70-plus events.

Pickleball, track, field and table tennis have garnered the most registrants. The oldest participant is Vera Punke of Arlington,

age 107 who is registered to play duplicate bridge, said Levitan. The complete schedule of events is on the NVSO website, www.nvso.us. Results of each event will be posted on the website as the competition continues. All events are open to the public.

"We are also fortunate to have 15 Gold Patrons this year who have contributed \$1,000 each," said Levitan.

The Patrons are Aarondale Assisted Living, Advanced Hearing Services, Anthem Health-

Keepers Plus, Ashleigh of Lansdowne, Chesterbrook Residences, Goodwin Living, Greenspring Retirement Community, Facial Plastic Surgery Center, Heatherwood Retirement Community, The Jefferson, Koons Toyota Arlington, Paul Spring Independent and Assisted Living, The Wellington by Lake Manassas and Westminster at Lake Ridge.

NVSO is a non-profit-C-3 organization and 100% of money donated is used entirely for NVSO activities.

For more information, check the website www.nvso.us or email nvso1982@gmail.com.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Acro net training. It takes a team to make one acrobat propel another. Because it is such a big net, they would not go very high if it were one person jumping. It must be done precisely, with a team getting the bounce timing correct. The team can propel the acrobat up to 45 feet in the air.

Behind-the-Scenes at Cirque du Soleil KURIOS

Reopening the Cabinet of Curiosities in Tysons.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Spoiler alert. Before you take your seat at KURIOS, know you may want to run away and join Cirque du Soleil. It is billed as a contemporary circus of “rule breakers and moment makers in a world of wonder and magic.”

Cirque du Soleil “KURIOS-Cabinet of Curiosities” is touring under the Big Top in the round at Lerner Square, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons, through Sept. 25. Produced by Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group, based in Montreal, Canada, the company is rebuilding its business after suspending all 44 shows in response to the COVID-19 shutdown. Gradually the company reopened in the summer of 2021. It is currently recapturing revenues by providing live entertainment globally, with over 20 shows, some of which are touring, such as KURIOS, and others of which are resident.

“We are thrilled that Cirque du Soleil is returning to Washington, D.C. for the first time since 2019,” said Mike Newquist, president of Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group’s Touring Show Division. Now more than ever, being reunited with our incredible audiences means the world (to us).”

The first thing through the gate for this reporter was a COVID test, and with its negative result, onto the entrance tent. What would follow would be a tour of the artistic tent featuring wardrobe, training, workouts, and warm-up, and a stop in the 2,500-seat performance tent to view the bounce and rebound of acro net training.

According to Becky Williams, the senior publicist at Cirque du Soleil, KURIOS three tents require a six-day setup and two-day teardown. There is staff for nearly every job. The kitchen team serves between 300



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Costumes are custom-made and fitted

and 400 meals a day. A front-of-house team welcomes guests. Engineers, electricians, IT technicians, riggers, and more ensure the special effects and world-class acrobatic feats go on.

Performers and others hired by Cirque du Soleil come from across the world. Outside the performance tent, the flags on top are all the countries the staff presents. Generally, the artists specialize in various disciplines. They are the athletes, clowns, dancers, action sports athletes, and musicians. Arias said that the entire staff to produce KURIOS is about 120.

Rachel Williams is KURIOS’s artistic director. “It does take a village of people to put this show on, and every single one of them does it because they have passion,” she said.

Touring shows, like KURIOS, typically perform 270 to 310 times a year. Artists train on average 12 hours a week in addition. They are on-site for approximately 9-weeks each tour. Lodging is a private room at a hotel, or staff can rent a home or apartment through a company like Airbnb, generally going in together. The company will ship up to three suitcases for each person.

This reporter witnessed some of the work that goes into the two-hour theatrical-style show that immerses the audience in the explosive and strangely confounding curio cabinet of an industrial-age inventor, the Seeker. His worldly characters like Klara, The Kurios, and Mr. Microcosmos enter the Seeker’s improvised mechanical world, which is set in the late 1800s.

The Seeker’s curiosities come to life one

by one through the power of his imagination, and they create a world of curiosity “when anything seems possible.” When the audience enters, they should look for the clock set to 11:11 and double-check it when they leave.

The original music by two composers sets the style and tone of the show’s steampunk-inspired universe. “The musicians perform everything from Mozart to a little bit of techno during different points in the show, but there is a coherent theme that attaches to the story,” Williams said.

The wardrobe department of KURIOS is housed in the artist tent along with a gym, performance equipment where the cast practice their routines, and a lounge area.

SEE KURIOS. PAGE 8

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COMMUNITY



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A previous 9-11 ceremony



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

9-11 ceremony at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial (File photo)

9-11 Ceremony Planned for Great Falls

All are welcomed.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022, marks the 21st anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. A Remembrance Ceremony will be held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, located at 9830 Georgetown Pike, behind the Great Falls Library. The event will honor and remember the six Great Falls residents who died in the attacks and others who perished or suffered. All ages, including children, are welcome.

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Richard L. Haver, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Great Falls resident is the keynote speaker. The observance will feature patriotic songs performed by the U.S. Army 29th Infantry Division Band, the sounding of "Taps," and the posting of the colors by Great Falls BSA Troop 55. A candlelight vigil will conclude the event.

Since the memorial has limited seating, guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs. If it rains, the ceremony will take place in the library's meeting room. Check www.gffreedom.org for updates.

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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.

PET CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
Elsa Scherm loves sweet Thor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
Petra Scherm cuddles her velvety-furred Mini Rex rabbit, Bucky.



COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
Stina Scherm carries her veiled chameleon on a stick.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
The Scherm family named their chickens after the First Ladies of the United States. Elsa embraces Roz (Carter).



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
The Scherm family named their chickens after the First Ladies of the United States. Lars has Martha (Washington) and Lucy (Hayes) in his grasp.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI SCHERM
Stina Scherm rides her favorite horse, Dime, at Turner Farm.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Budding veterinarian Coco Burkholder comforts Sandwich after surgery.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
In the Phillips household, live lop-eared bunnies make good pets.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
In the Phillips family, a chicken in hand is worth...



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
A lap of bunny love is commonplace for the Phillips family.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
The Phillips family includes the fluffiest kitty with the longest whiskers.



PHOTO BY HUNTER VEROCK
Goldendoodle Ellie dons Hunter's baseball cap.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
At the Phillips home, their horse is tacked up and ready to ride.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THE SCOTTO FAMILY
Pooch Cassidy is a good sport, getting a makeover with play lipstick.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY ZEMIL
Charlie Zemil with Zeus



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY ZEMIL
Lane Zemil with Zeus



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ELEANOR DICKERSON
Minka the cat and Max the dog, members of the Dickerson family, are seen sharing a meal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY VEROCK
Jackson and Hunter with Ellie at Nike Park following a Great Falls Little League game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOELLE PIERSON
Sutton Pierson poses with Tucker, who proudly displays its most magnificent tail.

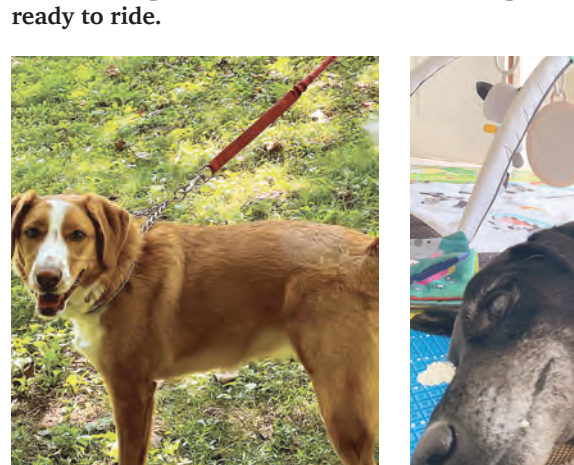


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
Coffee and Penny, take a stroll through McLean Central Park. Coffee is named for her richly colored auburn-brown fur.

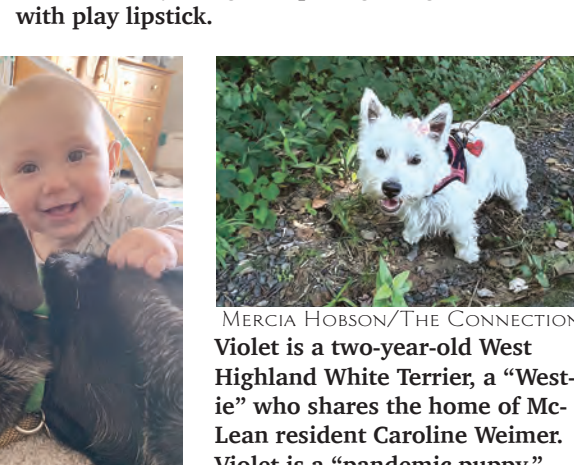


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THE SCOTTO FAMILY
India, the grey-muzzled Scotto family dog, shows her little human sibling how to relax.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY ZEMIL
Ben Zemil with Zeus, Buddy, and Gus



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Christie Lavin's family pets are Moose, 17 months, and his new sister, Bitsy Bella Rose, 2. Bitsey Bella Rose is one of the Envigo beagles rescued from a lab testing mass breeding facility.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Bear and Coco Burkholder with their baby goats Fly Trap and Pickle.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TERESA SANDSTROM
Teresa Sandstrom says, "Our pets are Tucker, the tan dog with Will, Rosabelle Pinky Pie, the pink dog with Sophia, and Purply, the purple dog with Charlotte."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE CLARK PHILLIPS
Nothing like a good back scratch to convey love.

2022-2023 NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Alexandria Gazette Packet
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac ALMANAC

Publishes: Sep 14, 2022 | Advertising Due: Sep 8, 2022

Our annual Newcomer's and Community Guides, for each of our 8 communities, provides inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, their real power players, how to get involved and more. Inside you'll find information about local history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made, and other vital community information.

This year's guide will also include a SENIOR LIVING section. We'll cover topics like local senior services, senior villages, cultural and social activities like Senior Olympics, education, jobs and volunteering.

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Behind-the-Scenes at Cirque du Soleil KURIOS

FROM PAGE 4

A look at the process of maintaining the lavish costumes provided a glimpse into the world of the untraditional big top that defies convention.

All designer costumes are custom-made in Montreal, three for each performer. They must be washed and dried after each use of the up to three daily shows, six days a week. Because they are on stage so frequently, even the technicians wear costumes. Seven people work as permanent staff in the wardrobe department. The company hires two locals to launder and iron.

"We don't only have costumes as traditional fabric items that you wear over your body, we have props that artists wear, so they are considered part of the wardrobe department, including our big robot," Williams said. Other examples would be the Winch and Plunger.

Because so many other materials and processes go beyond what a wardrobe department traditionally uses, it takes much more craftsmanship than just sewing skills. Milli-

ners and textile artists could be seen prepping costumes for performances.

The cast is taught how to apply their makeup, an integral part of their costumes. It can take anywhere from five minutes to two hours, depending on the steps they learn in Montreal.

According to Rachel Lancaster, artistic director of KURIOS, every Cirque du Soleil show is created by a different team of people. "We have five big top shows, but they are all different." Lancaster is a former artist who decided to leave the stage and make a career transition. Opportunities are offered to support artists throughout their careers with Cirque du Soleil.

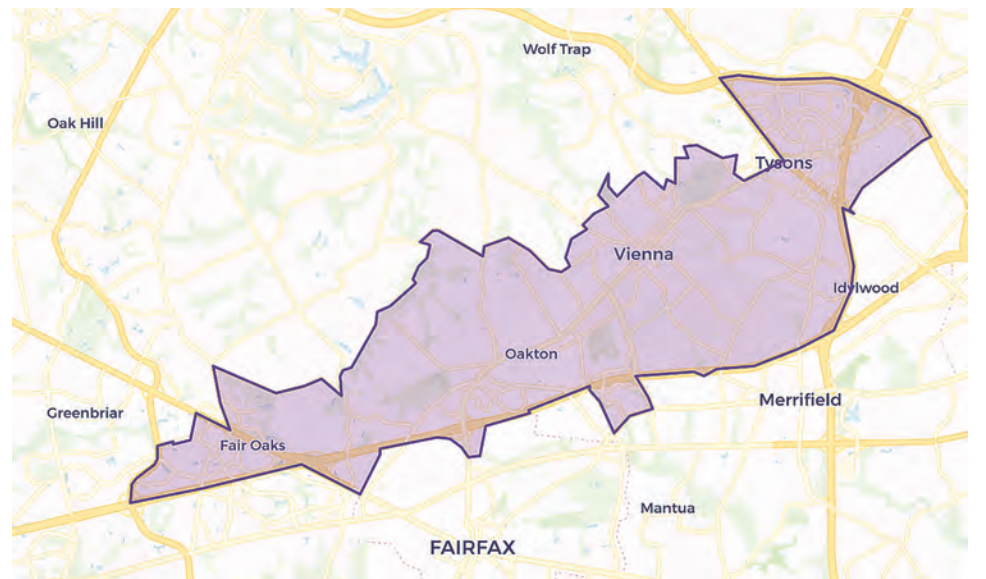
For acrobat Anne who performs on a bicycle, it is about doing things at the right time for every trick. "It is about being calm and concentrating enough to trust that you have to wait for the right moment," she said.

For ticket information, visit <https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/usa/washington/kurios/buy-tickets> To view the official trailer, visit <https://youtu.be/RXSpuKIWeVs> [youtu.be].





PHOTO BY NED OLIVER/VIRGINIA MERCURY



MAP VIA VPAP.ORG

Map of the Virginia House of Delegates 35th district.

Del. Mark Keam, D-Fairfax 35

Del. Mark Keam Stepping Down from Virginia House

Timing of special election unclear as Vienna democrat departs for full-time federal job.

BY: GRAHAM MOOMAW
VIRGINIA MERCURY

State Del. Mark Keam announced Tuesday that he's stepping down from the House of Delegates, setting up a possible special election this fall in a Democratic-leaning district in Northern Virginia.

In an email to constituents, Keam, 56, a Democratic attorney who has served in the House since 2010, said he was resigning for a job in the Biden administration that will require him to work full time.

"While I have loved every moment of the past thirteen years as your state legislator, I have decided to continue my public service in another capacity," Keam said.

Keam's departure won't impact the balance of power in the House, where Republicans currently have a 52-48 majority. Last year, Keam was re-elected to his Fairfax County district, which includes the town of Vienna, with 68.7% of the vote.

At least one other Democrat, nonprofit leader Holly Siebold, Founder and Executive Director of BRAWS: Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters, had already announced a run for the seat, and the field was already growing Tuesday with the news the incumbent was bowing out of the race.

Karl Frisch, a member of the Fairfax County School Board, announced his own candidacy for the seat a few hours after Keam broke

the news.

It's unclear when Democrats will pick a nominee or when a special election might take place.

In a statement, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee said it was working on "plans to operate an open and fair process to choose our nominee."

"We thank Mark for more than a decade of public service in the House of Delegates and honor the history he made as the first Asian-born immigrant and the first Korean American elected to any state-level office in Virginia," said Fairfax County Democrats Chair Bryan Graham.

The timing of Keam's departure creates some legal uncertainty over the process to replace him.

All 100 House districts were redrawn last year, but several Democrats said a special election would be held under the old district boundaries to fill the remainder of Keam's term, which was set to expire in 2024. That means whoever wins the seat will be running in a slightly different district next year if they choose to seek a full term.

Under state law, either the governor or the House speaker get to set the dates of special elections to fill vacancies in the General Assembly, depending on whether the legislature is in session or not. The General Assembly is still in a special session and will return to Richmond Wednesday to pick a new judge for the State Corporation Commission. But if House

Speaker Todd Gilbert, R-Shenandoah, doesn't formally set the election date by the time that session adjourns, the power to schedule the election will fall to Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

In his farewell message to con-

stituents, Keam said he too did not know when a special election might take place to allow his district to pick a new representative for the 2023 legislative session.

"However, I am confident that our neighbors will be served well

by anyone who is committed to the ideals of our nation which I cherish," Keam said. "... Seeking to live free in a democracy is why my family and I came to America, and it is the core reason why I chose my public career path."

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY/SEPT. 8

Blood Drives Return This Fall. Noon to 5 p.m. McLean Community Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations! It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need. Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. All donors will receive a \$10 Amazon Gift Card via email. For an appointment, click here or visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor word: HEARTOFGOLD, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Eligibility Questions: Call 1-866-236-3276.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

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

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

DOGFEST Reston Town Center on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, 11-3, for DogFest Washington DC 2022 benefiting Canine Companions. Furry friends and their families are invited to join us for a day of fun, festivities, contests, graduate speakers, dog demonstrations, and more! Register for free at www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC to receive a FREE DogFest bandana for your dog. Canine Companions provides expertly trained service dogs to adults, children, and veterans with disabilities FREE of charge. Celebrate the community of people and dogs that make it possible for Canine Companions to show that the most advanced technology capable of transforming the lives of people with disabilities has a cold nose and a warm heart. www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC

SATURDAY, SUNDAY SEPT. 24, 25

The Annual Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show will be held at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22031, on Saturday and Sunday Sept. 24 and 25, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days. Admission is \$5 per person. Vendors are welcome. For information, call Bud Mayo, 703-389-1505 or mayo5304@cox.net

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

Wheel of Fortune Live! At Capital One Hall, Tysons Corner. Guests can audition to go on stage and feel like they stepped into the game show itself. They will have the chance to spin a replica of the Wheel and solve the puzzles on the tour's puzzle-board to win fantastic prizes including \$10,000, a trip to Paris,

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.

FY 2024 BUDGET IS THE TOPIC OF MCC GOVERNING BOARD SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

The McLean Community Center Governing Board will discuss the center's FY2024 budget at two upcoming meetings in September. Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A, who support the center, are invited to attend the meetings to share their ideas and suggestions by mail or email. All MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public. MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

The FY2024 budget year begins July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024. The first meeting, the Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 7. MCC Finance Committee Chair Shivani Saboo and the full board have worked to develop the proposed FY2024 budget. The departmental and consolidated

Hawaii and more. Tickets start at \$51. For tickets, visit www.WheelofFortuneLive.com. Call (800) 514-ETIX (3849).

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Oktoberfest Vienna. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Church Street in Vienna. 3 Stages of Entertainment, Two Beer and Wine Gardens, Great International Food, Free Kids Activities and Games, Car Show, Business Expo, Vendor Market, Handcrafters. Visit the website: ViennaOktoberfest.org.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

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

NOW THRU DEC. 31

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

SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

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

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

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

HERNDON FARMERS MARKET

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

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market is open every Saturday, Spring and Summer, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

budget proposals will include a review of FY2022 year-end actuals, the current year's budget (FY2023) and new proposals for FY2024. The preliminary consolidated budget will be posted on MCC's website, www.mcleancenter.org, and will be available at the center's welcome center a week prior to the public hearing.

The FY2024 Budget Public Hearing, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28, gives residents an opportunity to review and comment on the budget proposal. Residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville who wish to speak at the hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY:711, to have their names placed on a speakers list. For those who cannot attend the hearing, written comments can be sent to the MCC Governing Board by mail (address to McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101), or email to evan.braff@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped 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 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 ominous 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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And Now We Wait



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When my sister-in-law Vanessa and I were first requested to attend a "family meeting" with the chief attending physician in SICU, the surgeon originally scheduled to perform the Colo-rectal surgery on Richard, the consulting oncologist, and the head of Palliative Care at the hospital, Richard's recovery was far from certain. Still, the hospital felt it timely and prudent to get feedback from the patient's immediate family.

Basically, they wanted to know what kind of person Richard was/what mattered to him. They were trying to gain an understanding from us - since Richard was unable then to express/indicate even his wishes concerning what he was willing to endure, risk and possibly live with should he recover from the surgery, a surgery which was fraught with danger and whose success, given the size and location of the tumor was hardly guaranteed. The surgeon offered up some percentages for success, which were still an estimate given the unknown/unpredictability of what and where they'd find the mass and, if there were other organs impacted. The scans can only show so much, unfortunately. Moreover, the surgeon said she won't know definitively my brother's prospects until she has him on the operating table. Given that "chemotherapy failed," according to his longtime primary care physician, the surgery may be his only option, as risky as it is.

Now, Richard is awake and talking and very much aware of his condition and his 'failure,' and that surgery, however frightening is the next and only remaining option. And barring any unexpected setbacks from his previous septic shock, and presuming he continues to "get stronger," per his surgeon's assessment, Richard will indeed have his surgery on Tuesday, Sept. 6, two days from when I'm writing this column. When that date was first mentioned at the family meeting, it seemed like an eternity before we'd ever get there, Richard's tenuous recovery notwithstanding. Now the surgery is very nearly here. It all seemed so unrealistic six weeks ago. Then, all we were thinking about was day to day. Now, almost seven weeks have passed. We were all afraid to hope for this day thinking it was too great a leap. Nevertheless, our faith in Richard and the staff has been rewarded and here we are two days before the date. As George Allen famously said in 1971 when he became coach of The Washington Redskins: "The future is now!"

I can't imagine the excruciating time (Vanessa and I) will endure as we sit idly by at the hospital waiting for the surgeon to come out of the operating room and update the family. (Covid rules mandate only two people can be present per day and as of a recent inquiry, those two people can't be visiting the patient/hospital at the same time. We've been so preoccupied even getting to this point that we haven't yet asked if we'll both be allowed in the hospital.) Somehow, we'll get through it. It will give us time to talk about Richard's next phase. We don't know exactly what his schedule will be or his whereabouts, either. I guess he'll return to SICU after surgery and whether he returns to a regular room on a hospital floor or is immediately transferred to a Rehabilitation Hospital, we also don't know. Whatever happens, we'll be ready to accommodate the patient. For what he's accomplished these past few weeks, surviving against difficult odds, it's the least we all can do to assist him in whatever help he needs to adjust to his new normal. He's made us all extremely proud to be a part of his extraordinary recovery. We'll do whatever we can now during his rehabilitation/recuperation to support him during this next challenge. He's certainly earned it.

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



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