

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

Sully Community
Center Opens to Fanfare

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Celebrations
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Patrons relax in the shade at the Multicultural Festival 2022, held at Reston Town Square Park.

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NEWS



Herndon High School's Band Showcase

On Sept. 24, Herndon High School's band, The Pride of Herndon, is hosting their 25th Showcase event, an all-day Marching band competition. Around 29 marching bands from the region will perform throughout the day with The Pride of Herndon band performing at the end of the event. This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the Herndon High School's band which started with an original group of 15 musicians in 1947 and has grown to have 90+ students playing more than 25 instruments. And this happens to be the 25th Annual Showcase of Bands hosted by the Pride of Herndon. The Showcase will be an all day event from 10am to 8pm. The event will have something for everyone, with great music and beautiful marching performances that will be presented by bands all day. And of course concessions will be available too. This is a ticketed event and this year entry will be free to kids wearing a Herndon Pyramid shirt with a paying adult. Tickets are available online at <https://www.herndonband.org/showcase>

— SHARONI DASGUPTA

CALENDAR



The Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival will take place Sept. 24-Oct. 30 in Reston.

UNTIL SEPT. 30

Summerfest. 7 – 9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. The Summerfest continues through September with Earl's Happy Hour, Kids Concert Series, Tysons Fit Club, Outdoor Family Movie Nights, Summer Concert Series, and live music on the plaza.

SEPT. 15-OCT. 2

Mlima's Tale by Lynn Nottage. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road Tysons. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

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

SEPT. 24-OCT. 30

Fall Festival. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. The festival will run

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Among those cutting the ribbon are (fourth and fifth from left) Del. Karrie Delaney (D-67), Del. Irene Shin (D-86) and (at far right) Sen. George Barker (D-39).



A front view of part of the new Sully Community Center.

Sully Community Center Opens in Chantilly/Oak Hill

A place for fitness, senior activities, sports, classes and healthcare.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Whether seeking gym space, yoga classes, senior activities, afterschool programs or healthcare, area residents of all ages will find these offerings and much more at the Sully Community Center. The new, 36,000-square-foot facility at 13800 Wall Road opened Saturday afternoon to great fanfare and jubilation, as dignitaries and residents alike gathered for the celebration.

Constructed by Fairfax County, it's on 5 acres at the intersection of Wall Road and Air and Space Museum Parkway in Chantilly/Oak Hill. And after the center's September 2020 groundbreaking and two years of eager anticipation, people finally got their first look inside the nearly \$22 million building. First, though, came speeches and the ribbon cutting.

"We live in a community of multigenerational and multicultural people who believe we're stronger and better when we celebrate our diversity," said county Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay. "Coming out of COVID, we want to enjoy each other's presence; and now, we'll be able to come together in a remarkably beautiful, state-of-the-art community center that'll last for generations."

Boasting a wide array of services, programs and activities for people of all abilities, it contains three multipurpose rooms for day and evening use, an arts-and-crafts room, game room, exercise room, gym with two basketball courts, offices, kitchen and pantry. It also has a meeting place for groups and organizations.

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Lloyd Tucker

In addition, the facility now serves as the new home of the Sully Senior Center (formerly in leased space), offers School Age Child Care (SACC) and features an approximately 4,000-square-foot healthcare suite. Managed by HealthWorks for Northern Virginia, it'll provide comprehensive, primary health-care services – especially for those who are underserved and have faced barriers in accessing healthcare.

"In 2016, county voters approved the bond referendum for the money to build the community center," said McKay. "This facility was needed because there'd been tremendous growth here between 2000 and 2016. There was a 46-percent population increase within a five-mile radius of this area, where countywide, it was 18 percent." He then thanked everyone responsible for the new facility – including county staff, the architect



Jeff McKay



Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu



Chris Herrington



Jai Cole

and the contractor – plus "all of you here today to celebrate this momentous achievement."

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) said how fortunate everyone is "to have this beautiful community center. It's a priority to co-locate services in one building, so that's why the health center is here. We want people to come in and see what's been built for them, and we hope you enjoy this center."

Lloyd Tucker, director of the county's De-

partment of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), thanked his staff members and NCS Regional Manager Evan Braff for their contributions to this center. He also acknowledged the efforts of partners including the county Health Department, Park Authority, Department of Public Works and Environmental Sciences (DPWES), and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM).

SEE SULLY COMMUNITY CENTER, PAGE 4

Sully Community Center Opens in Chantilly/Oak Hill

FROM PAGE 3

“We hope to grow this center and the opportunities it provides,” said Tucker. “And we want to continue to meet the evolving needs of the community.” He noted, for example, that SACC will be there before and after school and, if needed, seniors will be able to get meals, as well as rides to doctors’ appointments and grocery stores courtesy of the Shepherd’s Center. “Thank you for your vision and guidance, Sully,” he added. “Congratulations on your new community center.”

Next at the podium, DPWES Director Chris Herrington said, “We come here to celebrate the collaboration and strong partnerships between [the various county entities] and our private partners.” He also praised the center’s many green, environmentally friendly attributes.

“This building is powered primarily through the sun (via solar panels) and also has an energy-efficient electrical system and electric-vehicle charging stations,” said Herrington. “And we’re on track to be Gold LEED certified. To all our partners, may this facility serve you as well as you serve our community.”

County Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole said providing more space for basketball and other sports was particularly important to her. And, she added, “We’ll work with NCS and others to make sure all the activities here are affordable to everybody. I took ballet and learned to swim at a community center – they really bring people together. And this community center is the first one in the county to offer a healthcare suite.”

Fittingly, county Health Department Director, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, spoke next. “It’s exciting to have HealthWorks for Northern Virginia provide comprehensive healthcare services in this community center,” she said. “It means that more residents will have greater opportunities to have a high-quality, affordable, medical home, as well as health and wellness opportunities.”

A nonprofit, federally qualified health provider, HealthWorks offers integrated medical, dental and behavioral healthcare to anyone, regardless of income, insurance or immigration status. It serves newborns to seniors, with a sliding fee scale, and has a long partnership with the county’s Health Department.

Furthermore, said Addo-Ayensu, “We’re also excited to bring to this community center our Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program, which will provide supplemental nutrition services. The Health Department is in the process of hiring two community nutritionists who’ll be based at this center.”

She said the community center partnerships also enable the facility to promote healthy eating via the fresh-food pantry there stocked by WFCM with fresh produce from its garden. And she’s pleased that this center connects families with health, nutrition and wellness activities all in one place.

“Building healthy communities means we must engage with people where they live, work and play to promote healthy



Kathy Smith



Rita Gworek



Sapphire Sanson



Arianna Das and dad Debasish check out the building.



David Tchommo, 12, shoots the basketball.



Anthony R., 3-1/2, paints on canvas in the arts and crafts room.



From left, a resident gets a brochure while HealthWorks Director of Human Resources Rochelle Fashaw confers with her assistant, Carlos Harrison-Lee, and medical assistant Maggie Xie unpacks water bottles to give out.



Dad Sanjeev Vohra hits the ping-pong ball to son Arjun, 10.

behaviors and environments,” explained Addo-Ayensu. “This center is an example of public health in action and affords great opportunity to create a healthier Fairfax for all.”

Rita Gworek, Sully Senior Center Advisory Council president, said the senior center

began in 2000 and is for those 50 and older. Its activities include exercise classes, ping pong and pool tables, painting, knitting and crocheting, plus board games, puzzles, mind-challenging games and a library.

“We also have weekly trips for entertainment, holiday events and celebrations,” said Gworek. “We have the same offerings as in

the last center; but now, we can accommodate all the people who want to participate in our most popular class – Jazzercise Low [Impact].”

Actually, she said, “I’d like us to eventually be called the Sully Senior Center for Active Adults. We’re so excited to have this new facility. We’re appreciative and thankful that this is our new home.”

SEE SULLY COMMUNITY CENTER, PAGE 6
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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

OPINION

Needless Government Meddling

BY DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



There have been too many examples in recent times of needless government meddling in the lives of people. Interestingly, social conservatives who profess support for limited government are the very ones who are promoting this meddling. Some examples that come to mind: the response to the Supreme Court overturning the Roe v Wade decision; Virginia's proposed policy on transgender students; and election fraud.

Supreme Court justices who during their confirmation hearings swore that laws related to abortion were settled voted to overturn precedent of a half century to reopen the issue for states to resolve. Already there have been numerous states meddling in the most difficult decision a woman will ever have to make related to her reproductive health. One-size-fits-all kinds of solutions that range from women having to report miscarriages to government authorities to outright bans on abortion and in some instances with life-begins-at-conception notions of banning contraception. It is likely that the Virginia General Assembly will see some form of all these extremes introduced next year. The circumstances leading to the decision about an abortion are as numerous and as complex as one can imagine. The government should be involved in the process only to the degree of ensuring that women have a right to make a decision without government or others meddling.

Governor Youngkin's administration has taken legislation passed by the General Assembly to ensure the rights of transgender students and twisted it to have the government meddle in the personal lives of transgender students and their families to the detriment of these individuals' lives. A model policy

that was to protect transgender students has been turned into a policy that drastically restricts their rights. The policy would restrict students to accessing programs and facilities according to the sex they were assigned at birth. It would require legal documentation to change a student's name and would allow teachers to refuse to refer to a student by preferred name or pronoun if it is against the teacher's personal religious beliefs, citing their protection by the First Amendment and the right to free speech. Larger school systems like Fairfax are likely to ignore this proposed meddling, but if adopted it could lead to major discrimination against transgender students across the state and to numerous lawsuits.

Attorney General Miyares has appointed a twenty-person task force to look into election fraud in Virginia even though there have been no documented cases of voter fraud in the state. This meddling into a system that works incredibly well comes about as there is a concerted effort nationally to undercut confidence in voting as part of the "Big Lie" from the last presidential election. My observation has been that those who express the most concern about voting fraud are the same people who seek to limit the right to vote to their voters. Virginia has had a horrible record on restricting voting rights but now has some of the best voting laws in the country. Mr. Miyares may not like the outcome of some of those elections, but there is no need for his meddling.

Car Seat Inspections, Sept. 22

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected this Thursday, Sept. 22, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are asked to wear a mask and adhere to social-distancing and safety precautions.

They should also install the child safety seat themselves, so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed, if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly, in the future. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for Oct. 6, at the same place and time.

CONNECTION

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Sully Community Center

FROM PAGE 4

Lastly, Sapphire Sanson, an NCS volunteer and high-school student, said she likes giving back to her community and encouraged others to volunteer in the county, too. "Community centers are amazing resources for all ages," she added. "And I hope people will take advantage of everything this one has to offer."

Then, after the ribbon cutting, attendees thronged into the new building to check it out, register for classes and activities, paint, play games and admire the bright, spacious and modern new facility. They learned about the fitness classes, youth camps, garden plots, therapeutic recreation services for people with disabilities, plus the technology and computer instruction available there.

They also enjoyed food, family activities and live entertainment outside in the large parking lot.

Debasish Das came with his daughter, Arianna, 12. Living in nearby Discovery Square, they're within walking distance of the community center. "We're so excited," he said. "We've been wanting this to open. We'll walk and run here and take some classes, and my wife is interested in doing yoga."

WFCM Executive Director Harmonie Taddeo was also in the crowd. "WFCM has a free-food fridge here, stocked with orange juice, milk and fruit," she said. "If HealthWorks and WIC determine someone is food-insecure, they'll give that person healthy food immediately."

Desiree Tchommo was there with sons David, 12, in middle school, and Cedric, 14, a Chantilly High student. "I'm really happy because my kids will be able to walk to this center after school," she said. "There's a lot of variety here for them; it's a great addition to the community. It has basketball courts – which is their passion – and I want to do yoga and art. It's also an opportunity for both them and me to socialize, get to know more people in the community and make more friends."

Another nearby resident, Yvette Jones, said, "I watched this being built and am very excited about it. I plan to take Jazzercise and yoga here. I'm loving this center; it's a beautiful, modern facility, and I like all the activities they have for the various age groups. I already took a yoga class and loved it."

The Sully Community Center is open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information about its programs and services, go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/sully-community-center>.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 2

Friday, Saturday and Sundays September 24 to October 30 with five 90 minute online ticketed sessions. Fall Festival hours are Friday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. \$28 per child and \$7 per parent, children 2 and under free. For times and tickets visit <https://www.restonfarm.com/fall-fest>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Harvest Happenings. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Celebrate autumn with your family! Harvest Happenings is an indoor-outdoor festival with live entertainment, a petting zoo, crafts and games. Visit the pumpkin patch and purchase a pumpkin to decorate at the crafts station. Visit mcleancenter.org

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

DOGFEST. 11-3 p.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. 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/DogFest-WashingtonDC 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/SEPT. 24

Reston Association (RA) presents Dog Paddle. Register in advance at RA Dog Paddle events. Then bring your dog to swim at the Ridge Heights Pool that has closed for the season at your registered time. Located at 11400 Ridge Heights Rd, Reston.

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, 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

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Featuring Mars Rodeo - original, classic and modern rock. Come relax at the Village Centre Green and enjoy laid-back evenings of good music and good times with your neighbors.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

NatureFest. 1-5 p.m. At Runnymede Park, 195 Herndon Parkway, Herndon. NatureFest is a hands-on nature event, which spotlights the animals, plants, and insects that live in Runnymede Park. Event participants can visit eighteen different nature stations, which include butterflies, fish censusing, life in the meadow, birds, and Nature Olympics. Visit herndon-va.gov for more information.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

Food For Others 5K & Fun Run. 8 a.m.- Kids race, 8:30 a.m.-5K race. At Tysons Corner Center (parking lot), McLean. Food For Others nonprofit organization serviced in Northern Virginia focuses on the distribution of food to communities in need. In support of the 5K race is to help those struggling with food insecurity. The \$35 registration fee for the race will contribute to helping 21 families with a gallon of milk, 7 students with week-end meal packs, or 1 family with 3.5 days' worth of meals. Same-day registration for the race starts from 7am to 8am for \$40. Visit

<https://foodforothers.org/tysons-5k-and-fun-run/>

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

The Caboose Comes to Town. 7 p.m. At the Herndon Historical Society Depot Museum, 717 Lynn Street, Herndon. Email HerndonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com for Zoom information.

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/OCT. 1

Reston Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. 12018 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Reston 75-family Yard Sale. Halley Rise Complex, 12010 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Register at RA's Community Yard Sale. Bargains on children's clothes, toys, furniture, and more. Sign up for a booth covering two parking spaces.

THURSDAYS/OCT. 4-25

Big & Messy Art classes for kids, a four-session class. Brown's Chapel Recreation Area, 1598 Browns Chapel Road, Reston. Click this link to register or for further details: Big & Messy Art class details. Kidcreate Studio partners with Reston Association.

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/>

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We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784

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Publishing Since 1784

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CENTRE VIEW

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.

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.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>
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Having My Cake, and Eating It Too



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After way too many months to remember; my eagle, so to speak, has finally landed. The Entenmann's "Marshmallow Iced Devil's Food Cake" is once again in the house. The only problem is its size, it's too small. A sheet cake type-size would be ideal. Nevertheless. Cake one will likely be consumed in a day, two maximum. Followed by cake number two which will suffer a similar fate. In my house anyway, if the Entenmann's cake referenced above was an animal, it would sit atop the endangered species list. Moreover, I had written in a previous column moaning about my difficulties finding this item locally; even going so far as calling the parent company, "Bimbo Bakers USA" at their headquarters in Horsham Township, Pa. My thinking was, perhaps if I could speak with a distribution or public relation's person, maybe they could determine where, specifically, this item is being delivered. Unfortunately, the call was in vain, as the cake couldn't be located. In fact, the woman with whom I spoke wasn't even familiar with this item. Amateur. This escalation is some context for what action has followed.

This unsuccessful attempt followed my initial pursuit which was to visit my local Giant supermarket (after perusing the Entenmann's website which also proved unsatisfying) to speak with the store manager about possibly adding this cake to their rather pedestrian weekly inventory of cookies, other cakes, donuts, and such. I was told that the Entenmann's order is handled by a middleman-type vendor who isn't even a Giant employee. As a result, Giant has no control/ability to submit any amended weekly list to accommodate my needs. Very disappointing. Therefore, I am stuck between a chocolate fudge cake, a cheese Danish/pastry, and an array of miscellaneous donuts/popems. None of which compares to the "sinfully good cake with heavenly Marshmallow frosting" as it's described on the Entenmann's website under "Delicious Products."

The reason I was forced to take this action is because the Entenmann's website provided no relief. There is a "store locator" feature on the site which enables the user to specify the item and then find it, if available/delivered within a 20-mile radius (maximum distance, from the zip code provided). After multiple visits to their site, I came away unrequited. I was out of any alternative ideas to reach this promised land. Then it hit me, perhaps the cake is located/distributed in other less local - to me, supermarkets, and so on a few occasions when I was further than 20 miles from my home, I would stop in a local supermarket or two (it didn't have to be a Giant; I've bought the cake at Safeway before, twice) and cross my fingers and hope to buy. That too, on the occasions which presented themselves, likewise proved unsuccessful.

And there the pursuit has remained, stalled almost, until Sept. 10, a day that will live in Lourie lore. That's the day when the eagle that had been flying around with no place to land indeed found its landing spot. It all happened so unexpectedly, so innocently, when I wasn't necessarily even thinking about the cake (it's rare, but it does happen) that it makes the reward all the more sweeter. As former vice president Hubert Horatio Humphrey, Jr. (1965 to 1969) might have said: "I am pleased as punch" to have found and already eaten in their entirety, both cakes. They never stood a chance, really. (And yes, they were as delectable as ever.) Not that it had been years since I was last lucky enough to find/eat this cake, it only seemed like it. Nevertheless, it was still long enough by half for yours truly to be deprived of something so essential to my existence; especially considering that as a cancer patient who was initially diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, you want what you want because you may never be able to want it again. A "13 month to two-year" prognosis will do that to you.

Next week the details of this most fortuitous circumstance which led to this auspicious and memorable occasion. The working/likely title: "As I Was Saying Last Week."

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



Capoeira Luanda performs Brazil's fast and graceful Capoeira at the Multicultural Festival 2022. It is a blend of dance, martial arts, and acrobatics developed by enslaved West Africans in Brazil in the 16th century.



Attendees at the Multicultural Festival 2022 enjoy the event while resting in the shade provided by the tree canopy. They take advantage of the green spaces that feature built-in seating at Reston Town Square Park, located at 11900 Market Street in Reston Town Center.

Multicultural Festival 2022

Relocates to Reston Town Center.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022, Reston Community Center and Reston Town Center Association presented the Multicultural Festival 2022. The event, produced from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in partnership with the National Council of Traditional Arts, displayed diversity through song, dance, art, and vendors.

Mac Cummins, the new chief executive officer of the Reston Association, worked at the organization's tent, just one of many onsite vendors. Cummings saw the Multicultural Festival through the lens of a newcomer to the community.

Cummins described the festival as an opportunity to bring people together and foster a sense of community through a greater understanding of diversity and difference. He estimated that thousands of people were in attendance, enjoying the music and opportunities to showcase diverse backgrounds and histories.

"It relates to Bob Simmons's vision of building community through interaction and physical space," said Cummins. "That was his core concept. Those goals lead to this type of gathering."



Patrons enjoy the Multicultural Festival 2022, held at Reston Town Square Park.



Shoppers browse the textile artisan wares of vendors.



Children's art



Mestre Jelton Vieira founded Capoeira Luanda in 2007 and has groups training in more than ten academies across the United States and countries worldwide.



Mac Cummins, chief executive officer of the Reston Association

PHOTOS BY
MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION