

CONNECTION

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An uprising of mummies was reported in a West Springfield community.



All Out for Halloween

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More Than Just Parking
PAGE 3

Light Festivals Readied
for Next Holiday
PAGE 6

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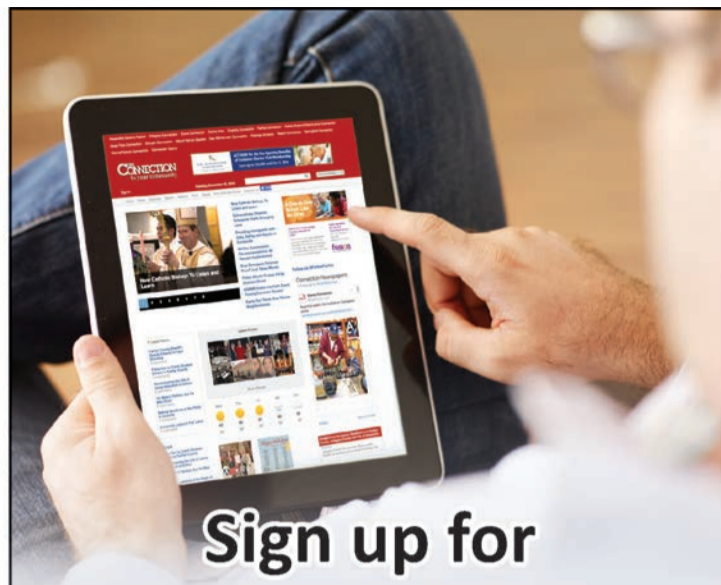


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NEWS

Notice for Voters in Towns Of Herndon, Clifton and Vienna

Fairfax County voters in the towns of Herndon, Clifton, and Vienna may have recently received a notice from the Virginia Department of Elections in Richmond advising them of an incorrect location and address for their polling place.

The Fairfax County Office of Elections is mailing the voters affected a letter confirming their correct voting location on Election Day.

Additionally, you may find your correct voting location and other correct information here:

- ❖ Your voter registration record on the Department of Elections Citizen Portal: vote.elections.virginia.gov

- ❖ On the green sample ballot and voter information flyer received in the mail the first week of October from the Fairfax County Office of Elections.

Contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections with questions. 703-222-0776 TTY 711

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.

SUNDAY/NOV. 6

"The Oldest Hatred; Fighting Back."

11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Via Zoom. The Generations After, an organization primarily comprised of children of Holocaust survivors, as well as survivors, and grandchildren of survivors, will present a program on antisemitism. "The Oldest Hatred; Fighting Back" will feature guest speakers Mark Weitzman and Jonah Cohen. Mark Weitzman is Chief Operation Officer of the World Jewish Restitution Organization. He previously served as Director of Government Affairs for the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Weitzman spearheaded the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) 2016 adoption of the Working Definition of Antisemitism. Cohen is the director of communications for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA). His articles on Jews, Israel, and human rights have appeared in numerous publications. Following the program, The Generations after will hold their annual meeting and elections, at approximately 12:15 PM. To register for the program and/or the annual meeting, copy this link:

The Oldest Hatred; Fighting Back, Nov 6, 11 AM ET + Annual Meeting/Elections, 12:15 PM | Cognito Forms

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Garage Construction Dominates Central Springfield

Multiple uses planned for the Springfield Community Business Center Commuter Parking Garage.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

A towering parking garage is under construction in central Springfield with cranes and trucks dominating the scene, and this lot includes a pedestrian bridge over Old Keene Mill Road.

The project is known on paper as the “Springfield Community Business Center Commuter Parking Garage,” and it is designed to provide commuter park-

ing, and a place for a slug line for drivers to pick up passengers to commute on the express lanes for free with three or more passengers.

The \$63.81 million project is a six-level structure that will hold approximately 1,000 parking spaces, the county said, and includes the installation of a bus transit center and seven bus bays, commuter (slug) spaces, a short-term parking area for pick up and drop off and a pedestrian bridge over Old Keene Mill Road, connecting the garage to Springfield Plaza. It includes

SEE GARAGE CONSTRUCTION, PAGE 5



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The blue county sign tells the tale.



Towers to support the pedestrian bridge that will pass over Old Keene Mill Road.



A crane towers over the new paved areas behind the structure.

‘Creative Energy to Promote Growth’

Tess Rollins becomes Old Town Fairfax Business Associations’ leader.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Tess Rollins was appointed by the Old Town Fairfax Business Association as its first full-time executive director. As such, she’ll be tasked with growing the organization and promoting Fairfax City’s downtown businesses.

The OTFBA accomplished this milestone with the business community’s encouragement and a \$50,000 grant from the City’s Economic Development Authority. The grant is part of the EDA’s commitment to supporting and strengthening both the OTFBA and the Old



Tess Rollins

Town commercial activity center.

“Tess has deep experience rooted in organization development

and marketing,” said Chris Bruno, the City’s economic development director and executive director of the EDA. “I’m convinced the OTFBA board made the right choice in selecting her.”

OTFBA Chair Josh Alexander agrees. “The OTFBA is enthusiastic and eager to have Tess on board to implement initiatives to support the efforts of the association, increase the OTFBA’s impact, and expand reach to benefit our membership,” he said. “She brings creative energy which can foster relationships and collaborations to promote growth.”

In her new position, Rollins will work to advance the OTFBA’s mis-

sion as a merchant association, while increasing its membership base. She’ll advocate for the Old Town Fairfax businesses, formulate strategic promotions for them and create events advancing a sense of place in downtown Fairfax. And Bruno said that’s just what’s needed.

“Fairfax City deserves a strong and vibrant merchants association to develop and program events that lead to an identifiable brand for residents and visitors from across Northern Virginia,” he explained. “And we’re excited to partner with Tess as she builds on the meaningful foundation provided by the board and business owners.”

“Rollins brings a wealth of expertise as a small-business owner and marketing professional,” said OTFBA Secretary Kelly O’Brien. “Her purpose statement, both personally and professionally, is to find common ground to cultivate professional passions.

“She first became acquainted with the OTFBA as a volunteer at this year’s Asian Festival on Main, providing creative marketing and organizing skills to ensure the event’s success. Her experience elevating local, small businesses in their visibility, viability, communication and community engagement are a welcome addition to the association.”

HALLOWEEN

Captured Halloween Capers

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Normally quiet neighborhoods heard sounds of screams, squeals, and shrieks ... of delight, as locals celebrated the favorite holiday of many, children and adults alike. After what was a two year hiatus from normal trick or treating, even rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of ghouls, witches, and, of course, of super heroes.

An increased number of witches have been seen flying in the Springfield area for weeks. On All Hallows eve there was an uprising of mummies seen in the Ridge Road Estates neighborhood. We have also learned that our firefighters boast a level of bravery that is not diminished by ghosts. A comfort given the number of bizarre sightings this year. It was a wild world out there and we hope you had fun.

We learned our brave fire fighters are not even afraid of ghosts.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

A block party with well organized chaos, 'Boo Crew' shirts, activities, food, haunted house, and themed movie viewing kept the attention of young celebrants in the Ridge Road Estates community.



An uprising of mummies was reported in a West Springfield community.



This unlicensed spooky laboratory will likely be shut down by inspectors, but not until after creeping out a few unwary viewers.



Many pets get into, or are unwillingly dressed for the holiday, but few look quite as elegant as Bowen, of Alexandria, in his satin smoking jacket, channeling his inner Hugh Hefner to attract the ladies.



What's Halloween without a haunted house? This one cleverly make with balloons, eerie lights, and popcorn plastic flooring creating creepy foot sounds for every walker brave enough to enter.



Witches were seen taking to area skies in increased numbers in the lead up to All Hallows eve.

What's scarier and more fun than discovering a mummy? Making your own.



What's scarier than making your own mummy? Being that created mummy. Why? Because you can't run away.

Motorcycle Crash Kills Fairfax Man, 27

A Fairfax man died following a fatal crash while driving his motorcycle last Tuesday, Oct. 25. Fairfax County police identified him as Andrew Dearing, 27. Officers responded at 6:19 p.m. to West Ox Road at Ox Hill Road for a report of a crash involving a 2018 Yamaha MT07 motorcycle and a 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Preliminarily, detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit determined that Dearing was traveling south on West Ox Road in the left lane. The driver of the Jeep was in the northbound turn lane on West Ox Road, waiting to turn left onto Ox Hill Road.

According to police, "The motorcycle proceeded straight through the intersection from the southbound left lane and struck the Jeep. The Jeep continued through the intersection, struck a pedestrian sig-

nal and collided with a 2013 Lexus GS350. The Jeep spun around and struck the Lexus a second time before coming to rest. Dearing was thrown from his motorcycle and taken to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased."

No one else was injured in the crash, and all involved parties remained on scene. Detectives don't believe alcohol or drugs were factors in the crash, but they're continuing to investigate speed as a possible factor. Police will present details of the investigation to the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office for possible charges.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

- BONNIE HOBBS

Garage Construction Dominates Central Springfield

FROM PAGE 5

community areas for gatherings and events on the ground level and rooftop.

As the pandemic wanes though, the question remains: with the influx of people working at home, is it needed? The need for this garage is based on a 2014 feasibility study but with the pandemic impacting everything from work habits to traffic levels, things are not the same.

"Teleworking replaced nearly half (48 percent) of all weekly commute trips in 2022," reported the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Commuter Connections program in a September 2022 news release.

Commuter Connections also reported that driving alone continued to be the primary mode of transportation for commuters, and 78 percent of trips to outside work locations were by driving alone, which is an increase of 14 percent from 2019. Commuting is climbing back up though. In March 2020, commuting was down 21.9 percent, but a year later, it was only down 14.6 percent, and by December 2021, commuting was only down by 4.1 percent than in 2019 before the pandemic.

"The Springfield Community Business Center Commuter Parking Garage will be a hub for transportation of all kinds and will be a center of activity to support the Springfield Community Business District. It will

include a bus transit center, dedicated slugging spaces, a pedestrian bridge, bicycle storage, and community spaces," said Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D). "Traffic along our roads and highways has approached near pre-pandemic levels, and the need for improved transportation options in Springfield and Fairfax County moving forward remains,"

Construction Continues

Springfield Boulevard which links Old Keene Mill Road to Backlick Road was closed for construction, and some would like to see it reopened. "That road has been closed for too long," said Eli, the manager of the I Phone Repair shop next door.

Around the corner from the construction is the American Legion Post 176 where General Manager Carl Simchick worked with the construction team throughout the project. In return for letting them use his parking lot, they patched his parking lot and took a tree out that was dead. "We bartered with them and got some work done," Simchick said. He appreciated the construction team's openness.

The project is fully funded by the Federal Transit Agency, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (Federal Highway Administration), and the Fairfax County Commercial and Industrial Tax, Fairfax County said.

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Holiday Shows ‘Light’ Up the Season

NOVA Parks Offers Three Popular Light Festivals.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

If you are one of those charged with setting up the family’s holiday house or tree lights, and recall the struggles of taming tangles, locating bulb outages, reaching power outlets, and the challenge of packing it all away again after the season, then you might begin to empathize with the job of Evan Inkley. He and his crew of special event employees create the “Festival of Lights” at Bull Run Park, arguably the largest such display in Northern Virginia.

Imagine, if you can, the effort needed to manage a festival of more than a million bulbs and thousands of strings of lights and power cords; enough to extend over the 64-mile distance of the Capital Beltway. The largest individual display is 40 feet tall and almost seven feet wide; just one of 600 light displays. Forty some of those displays with animation require individual set-up and programming using laptop computers.

Employees communicate in an elf-like code, using names for displays like: “Jack & the Beanstalk,” “Flight School,” “Elf Cottage,” and snow tubes. They have a dedicated workshop where one can imagine the magic created rivals that at Santa’s famous workshop at the North Pole. Questions asked by crew reveal the intricacy of their work and set-ups, “Does the snowflake arch cord running across the road need a male end on the left side or right side?”

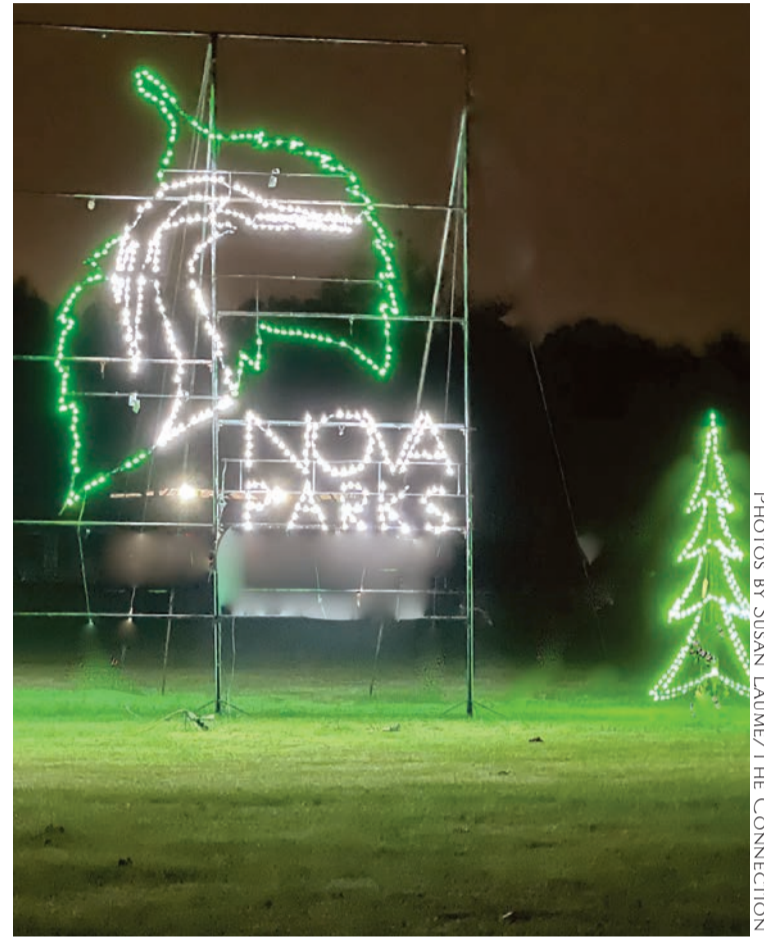
What does it take to put all these



Night work reveals any missing bulbs or unplugged cords before show opening.



A fleet of van trailers is needed to store all the materials that make up the seasonal display.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

NOVA Parks huge “Festival of Lights” welcomes seasonal celebrants with hundreds of displays.

elements together to create such a huge show with new features every year? Inkley says that “many hands and several months” is the short answer. Although the events crew works year-round creating new displays and making repairs, intense activity occurs between mid-August and the show opening in early November each year. The eight to ten member regular staff is increased during crunch time by pulling crew members from other park maintenance teams and the park system’s headquarters, to reach 25 helpers. They may pull 12 hour shifts to be ready for opening night. This year on November

11th.

Old style bulbs have been replaced with more efficient LEDs in all displays and the old bulbs recycled. Generators line the storage area ready for duty remote from permanent power sources. The closed park is active now at night with large crane equipment stretched out in the darkness, like metal brontosauruses reach-

ing high into the trees, to place lights in the canopies and on tree trunks. Pick-up trucks and carts move materials like a roving army of ants. Many of the displays are lit up, viewed only by wildlife and the crew members, who know that perfection can only be achieved in the dark. Displays set up in the day do not look the same at night, and night reveals missing bulbs and

unplugged cords.

The show displays coexist, for the most part peacefully, with the park’s abundant wildlife. Inkley says animals typically avoid the lights at night. On occasion, daylight reveals a hoof print where a deer has stepped on a wire without injury ... to the deer. One curious fox, of the several that make the

SEE NOVA PARKS, PAGE 11



Inside the workshop, rivaling Santa’s famous operation, employees Kelly Gilfillen and Evan Inkley hold elements which will become part of the magical glow.



Shelves full of display materials, power cords, and generators await service along the event route.



Special events manager Evan Inkley demonstrates the heights and lengths he and his crew go to inside the 3,000-square-foot storage building to make the festival a memorable holiday excursion.

Scouting for Food On Nov. 12, 2022

On Saturday, Nov. 12, Scouts and their adult leaders from Troops and Packs all over Northern Virginia will be gathering food donated by their neighbors and bringing it to local charities in the annual Scouting for Food collection.

All food is donated to local charities that distribute the food to those in need in our community. Last year, over 680 scouts and 500 adult leaders collected 44,350 pounds of food in the Powhatan District covering Great Falls, Herndon, Reston, Oakton, and Chantilly.

Four charities will receive food from the scouts on Nov. 12 and the public is also welcome to drop off nonperishable food between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The charities are: LINK receiving food at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon; Community of Faith UMC Food Pantry at 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon; Cornerstones, receiving food at St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Rd, Reston; and the South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry receiving food at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 1133 Reston Ave, Herndon.

Betty Eidemiller, of the LINK charity on Scouting for Food: "Food insufficiency in Herndon, Sterling, and Ashburn is great and LINK volunteers are working hard to provide, thanks to all the generosity that we see from the community." LINK's 2021 holiday program served over 1,008 families and 5,284 individuals.

Rev. Robert Vaughn, of the Community of Faith UMC Food Pantry on Scouting for Food: "Scouting for Food is an important link in providing food for families in our neighborhoods. Eighty-five percent of all the non-perishable items come from the annual collection – every can, box and bag make a difference in the lives of our clients. Some of our families receive their entire week's groceries from the food ministry." Recently, 196 families were served in a single week.

Roberta Gosling of the South Lakes High School Food Pantry on Scouting for Food: "We pack 20-25 pound bags of food and distribute that along with many other items to approximately 140 families each week at South Lakes High School. These groceries serve students and families in the SLHS Pyramid. Prior to the pandemic, we knew that approximately 30% of the students at SLHS were food insecure — that's approximately 730 students. Many have told us that these groceries and other products have been a life-saver for them."

Minnie Orozco of Cornerstones on Scouting for Food: "Scouting for food as well as other food drives are really important to Cornerstones food pantry — they help us provide food for our community who are in need and who cannot afford to buy food." Cornerstones' Assistance Services and Pantry Program (ASAPP) is the largest food pantry in northwest Fairfax County. In FY2021 ASAPP served 1,347 households, benefiting 4,810 people, with an average of 450+ households served per month.

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HALLOWEEN



Fair Oaks District Station Cmdr. Camille Stewart and Asst. Cmdr. Patrick O'Hara.



From left, police 2nd Lt. Matt Kourt, CAC Chair Kim Barber and PFC Steve Monahan.

Halloween Costumes, Decorations and Candy Galore



Virginia State Police Trooper Alex Pak.



FCPD Chaplain Michael Shochet and wife Denise.



From left are Juvenile Court's Megan Wright and Paula King.



Bumblebee Amelia R., 2.

Fairfax County police & friends' Trunk-Or-Treat was Oct. 19 outside the Fairfax County Government Center.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



Most Creative winner: Fairfax County Animal Protection police, (from left) 2nd Lt. D. Pitts and administrative assistant Dana Grimm.



Excavator Liam Molina, 3, with Fair Oaks police Capt. Camille Stewart.



Brothers (from left) Benjamin, Isaac and James Seibert with lots of candy.



Grandma Linda Crocker with Dylan, 3-1/2, and mom Logan Nolan holding Jackson, 9 months.

Fairfax High Presents 'Peter and the Starcatcher.'

Actors portray parts of the set, as well as characters.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 60, "Peter and the Starcatcher" is all set to burst upon the Fairfax High stage. Show times are Thursday-Friday, Nov. 10-11, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 12, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10, adults; \$7, students, at the door or via <https://www.fx-players.org>.

The prequel to "Peter Pan," the play depicts how three, orphan boys on a ship called "The Neverland" meet Molly, an unlikely friend who helps them escape. She also shows them a trunk containing a mysterious substance, "starstuff," that lets people be whatever they want to be. Pirates then sink the ship, but Molly, the boys – including Peter, and the trunk get to an island where further adventures ensue.

"The show's about play and imagination, and the actors bring lots of that to their characters," said Director Chris Whitney. "And we're staging it so the magic happens right in front of the audience, rather than by special effects. We'll also have a two-story set that'll give the impression of an 1800s ship with ropes, sails and wood planks.

"The characters will swing on ropes and play on a slide, and we'll use every inch of the stage. The actors will think back to the joy of playing at recess when they were kids and bring it to the stage and, in turn, to the audience. And they don't just portray characters, but also set pieces, such as doors, tables, chairs and walls. They're constantly changing and creating the set – even swaying to become part of the boat."

Besides some traditional, 18th-century costumes, some characters will also wear modern clothing with a twist to make the story more familiar to the audience. And there'll even be music.

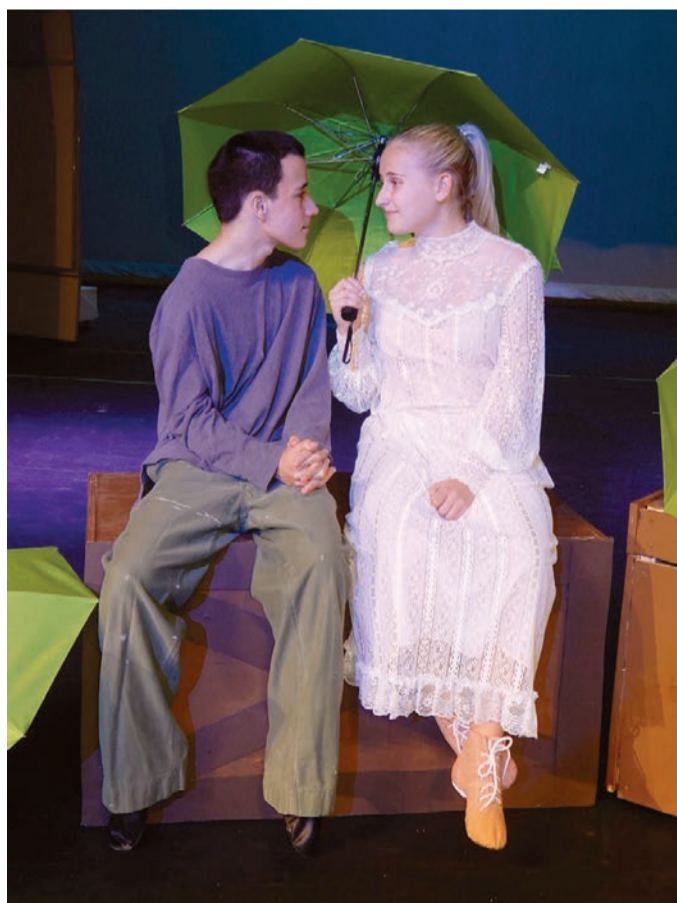
"The show's hilarious and fun," said Whitney. "And deep down, it's about finding your own identity and your family."

Portraying Peter is senior Hank Hawkins. "He's a very lost boy – an orphan who's learned to survive on his own, but he's miserable," said Hawkins. "But Molly shows him a sense of adventure and sees something in him that no one else has ever seen before, and they have an instant connection. She gets him to finally start thinking outside himself, and he eventually evolves into the leader he was meant to be. Yet, although he grows up, a part of him never does."

Calling Peter "a joy to play and uncover,"



Onboard "The Neverland" ship are (from left) Hank Hawkins, Noa Canenguez (Molly's nanny), Noah Murphy and Ann Marie Seybold.



Hank Hawkins and Ann Marie Seybold play Peter and Molly in Fairfax High's "Peter and the Starcatcher."

Hawkins said, "He's a solemn character in an otherwise whimsical world. Even though the show goes to dark places, he eventually finds the wondrous spirit the entire show is centered around. I feel like Peter's jour-

ney is parallel to my own because, through it, I'm growing into a leadership role."

Hawkins said the audience will like "how unapologetically fun this show lets itself be. This play is pure storytelling, with the goal of engaging the audience in the action. And all the cast members have such a unity of spirit that combines to create a beautiful picture."

Senior Coni Vigna is Molly's understudy but will also get to perform this role onstage. She said her character is 13 and is always seeking more knowledge. "She's really curious and independent, with a sunshiny personality; she's a fun, positive girl."

"Molly likes making new friends and is also an apprentice starcatcher but wants to be a leader," continued Vigna. "A starcatcher is someone who has secret powers that they can use to destroy the starstuff before it can be used for evil purposes."

Loving her role, Vigna said she wanted to be like Molly at that age because "she's adventurous and outgoing, not princessy and girly-girl. She's also pretty comedic, and I love making people laugh."

She said the audience will appreciate how creative this show is. "There's really good music, and our set is going to be cool and amazing," said Vigna. "This play takes the magic of 'Peter Pan' and makes it original and fun to watch."

Portraying Smee, righthand man to the pi-

rate captain, Black Stache, is junior Kaylee Williams. "He's dedicated to Black Stache but also plays ukulele and sings," said Williams. "He's comedic, but always wants to work. And because of his intense loyalty to the captain, he's funny without realizing it."

"He's really fun to play," she continued. "I can be really big and extra and don't have to tone things down. I like playing his ukulele song, and it's fun to work with Isabella Jackson, who's playing Black Stache. I also have to be manly and 'aaargh!' pirate-like."

Because it's not a serious show and is about being like a child, Williams said, "It'll remind the audience of their own memories as children. And since it's a prequel to 'Peter Pan,' a lot of the characters people will have heard of before."

Senior Noah Murphy plays sailor Alf. "He's a fun, goofy, quirky guy on 'The Neverland' – a ship full of dirty, gross sailors," said Murphy. "But he's a nice guy; he helps the orphans and gives them hope. And he even falls in love with another character. He doesn't have much social awareness, but people like him and his personality."

"I enjoy playing him," said Murphy. "I get to be quirky and physical, doing weird, odd motions. And I also like portraying the dynamic between him and his boss, Bill Slank. Alf doesn't like him because he's not a good person, but he has to serve him, anyway."

As for the audience, Murphy said, "People will love that this show is an ensemble piece with so many people onstage forming so many props and set pieces or being part of the background. Everybody is onstage almost all the time, and it's really cool to watch everything come together."

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

A New Springfield Discussed at Chamber Meeting

New elements around the town center will bring needed economic development.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Plans for changes around the Springfield Town Center include an Amazon entertainment outlet, apartments in the parking lot and a Lego Discovery Center, making it even more of a destination than it already is.

That was the message at the recent Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting at the Belle Haven Country Club.

"I'm committed to working with every developer," said Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia). "Springfield is going to change," he added.

Eric Christenson, the general manager at the Town Center, was also looking forward to these ideas. "There's a lot to be excited about," he said, as he introduced Steven Reilly to the other business leaders in the room. Reilly's presentation had a lot of Springfield numbers about the hotels in Springfield, the predicted job growth and places for the industrial market.

"Springfield has the highest concentration of hotel rooms in the area, outside of Tyson's," he said. "It's a more affordable option than

hotel space in Washington, D.C.," he said.

Although the town center and the surrounding area is a main focal point, it's not the only change they were looking at. The Transportation Security Administration moved into a new building just south of the town center and there is a new 750,000-square-foot Inova Hospital planned for a lot on the corner of the Franconia-Springfield Parkway and Beulah Street, which is about two miles east of the town center.

For the hospital, they are expecting buildings to sprout up here and there to hold supporting medical entities. Over the next 10 years, they're looking at an additional 245,000 jobs.

As an example of where similar development was used in this manner, Reilly talked about the area around Atlanta. It was a success and "that's what is possible," he said. To accompany his four themes, he had 27 action items so a few things need to happen before the plan moves forward. "This is not something that will happen overnight," Reilly said. A timeframe mentioned was 24-30 months, and the pandemic could affect the time as well.

Transportation was not a focal point, but when it was time for questions, the only question had to do with parking. There are plans to add another level to one of the parking garages, but Christenson said there are always parking spots available.

"The parking garages are never full," he said.

Another decision that was discussed had to do with combining the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce with the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. The new name will be the Mount Vernon Regional Chamber of Commerce.



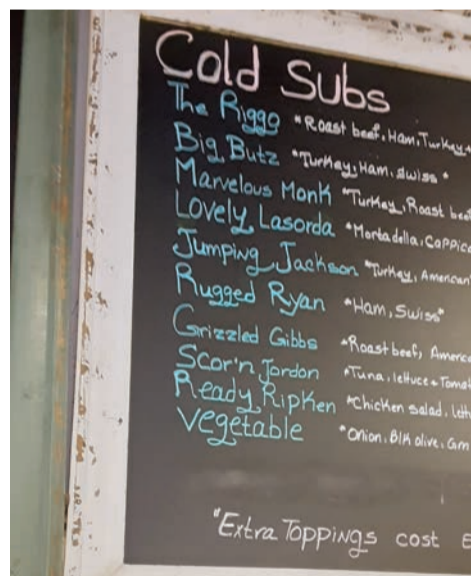
PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The gray box is where the new apartments are planned.



Steven Reilly was armed with economic numbers.

Local Deli's Sandwich List Resembles the Old Ball Coach's Playbook



The handwritten menu screams 'home-town classics.'



Franconia Pizza has a local following.



The Riggo.

Franconia Pizza

6112 Franconia Road
703-971-4766

Washington football stars go down in Franconia Deli history.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In the 1980s, football around this area was dominated by Riggo to the right, Riggo to the left, Riggo up the middle. When Washington was looking for the end zone, a lofty ball to Wide Receiver Art Monk was the answer. The Washington football team won a few Super Bowl rings too, but those glory days are long gone.

There is a way to keep in touch with those times though, at least for the lunch hour at Franconia Pizza, a little sandwich and pizza place right across the street from the Franconia District Government Center that houses the police station and Supervisor Rodney Lusk's office. Their specialty sandwiches are named after a few of the Washington players, including John Riggins, the powerhouse running back. "The Riggo," is roast beef, ham and turkey, while the "Big Butz," named after lineman Dave Butz, is turkey, ham and swiss. Others included the Marvelous Monk, Grizzled Gibbs, after Coach Joe Gibbs, and

the Ready Ripken after an ex-quarterback that banged his head on the wall in the end-zone after a touchdown.

Lusk has ordered the pizza before, and his staffer Aaron Campbell is a fan of the Marvelous Monk. "Really nice guys at the front there, I've never had anything I didn't like, and the prices are good," Campbell said.

Lusk's predecessor at that office, Chairman Jeff McKay also got the pizza a few times, but not the sandwiches named after the "hogs," - a name the Washington players adopted in the 1980s. "I always loved their pizza and I always try to support local family businesses like this one," McKay said.

A couple of customers stopped by for a sandwich and one guy particularly wanted the steak and cheese. "I was having a craving today," he said. Another nearby resident looked at the Riggo. "My memory of him was when he was flirting with the judge, he wanted her to loosen up," she said.

She was referring to an infamous event in January 1985 when John Riggins might have had a few drinks too many before a formal dinner at the Washington Sheraton. He was seated with Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and when she was about to leave, Riggins walked over and noted how the night was still young. "Come on, loosen up, Sandy baby, you're too tight," he reportedly said. It was all over the news for the next week.

NOVA Parks Offers Three Popular Light Festivals

FROM PAGE 6

park home, has shown an ongoing interest in the happenings inside the large maintenance and storage facility and workshop. One wonders if the woodland creatures see themselves depicted in several of the light displays? Or if the deer are in awe of the arching leaps their light counterparts achieve over the road?

Recall your own attic, garage, or closet storage space available for seasonal items. Then appreciate the vast number of elements under Inkley's stewardship. The park's dedicated 3,000-square-foot maintenance and storage building contains shelves with row upon row of large plastic containers, a number that makes one's home storage pale in comparison. Still, the building and bins are not sufficient to hold it all. Twelve 53-foot van trailers and three shipping containers supplement storage for the seasonal items.

At the culmination of this colossal preparation effort, from the ease and comfort of your car, you and your family can enjoy the festival's sparkling, colorful lights, which add to the uplifting spirit of the holidays. Drive along the two and a half mile stretch of holiday light displays, and expect to hear ooh's and aah's continue as passengers recognize favorite symbols, characters, or representations of outdoor activities. Bull Run's festival hosted over 62,000 vehicles in 2022. With timed entry tickets sold by vehicle, it's estimated that about a quarter of a million people saw last year's show. It's become a traditional holiday outing for many. Bull Run's festival is the first show undertaken by NOVA Parks, which now offers three light shows in the area.

Your festival driving adventure of 30 to

45 minutes might end with a stop at the park's Holiday Village for a hot cocoa by the bonfire, fun at the carnival, posing for photos, shopping for holiday merchandise, or a camel ride — yes, a real live camel lets you image yourself as a biblical Wiseman ... or Wise-child. After the final drive through of the festival's close on January 8th, Inkley and crew start the two to four month process to take down all the displays ... perhaps after a celebratory hot cocoa of their own?

When asked if he decorates his own home for the holidays, given his almost year-long immersion in holiday decorating, Inkley says, "I do decorate but it takes extra motivation." That motivation comes, not just from his young family, but also from a friendly neighborhood lighting contest. With his professional background, does he have an edge? Says Inkley, "They changed the rules recently to have no back-to-back winner."

Bull Run's Festival of Lights is located at 7700 Bull Run Dr, Centreville; for reservations, event calendar and discount dates, see <https://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights>

Other area light shows by NOVA Parks include: Meadowlark Park, Winter Walk of Lights, a half-mile walk through lighted features with a nature theme (9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct, Vienna)

<https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights/ticket-information>; and Ice & Lights, a lighted winter village with walls through, and with day and night time skating (4001 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria), <https://www.novaparks.com/events/ice-lights>

schools, providing classroom assistance with math, reading, and other simple educational tasks. Visit www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us for details and to complete an interest form. Or email info@grandinvolve.org.

NOW THRU NOV. 17

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

ADOPT A WARRIOR FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

So many of our Military families today find themselves in financial crisis, now more than ever. This will be especially true during this Holiday Season. To give back, Able Forces Foundation (AFF) is once again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Warrior Family Christmas program. As in years past, Able Forces Foundation will adopt families from each of the five Military Service branches. All adopted families are identified by military Advocates on military bases or military Recovery programs in the Washington, DC Metro area. These families have been vetted and referred to AFF. Based on need, financial support will ensure each family will have: • A Christmas Tree • Complete Christmas Dinner (for up to 8) • Stocking Stuffers • the ability to provide up to 5 gifts per child 100% of all donations go directly to support this program. There are no administrative or overhead fees taken out of donations. All donations contributed between Oct. 25 and Christmas will go directly to support this program. If you can help, go to: www.ableforces.org/adopt to make a contribution.

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

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Stoney Lonesome Cemetery served as a resting place for Lorton Prison/Workhouse indigent inmates until the 1960's.



The quiet small plot believed to hold 50 to 100 unmarked graves is surrounded by a wrought iron fence and the Red Cedar trees emblematic of cemeteries and church graveyards.

Local Cemetery Holds Sad History

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

An iconic theme of Halloween is the haunted cemetery or graveyard. Graveyard superstitions abound with tales of lingering spirits of the dead who are said to have had a sad ending or unfinished business, which delays their departure from the living world after death. Such tales are ripe fodder for scary story telling and costumes during the October celebration. A favorite holiday for many, Halloween, has awakened a whole industry segment of fright events. An entertainment website (<https://www.virginiahauntedhouses.com/>) maintains a list of haunted houses and Halloween attractions in Virginia, including nine haunted cemeteries or graveyards. At those nine graveyards, there have been reports of apparitions, unexplained sounds of footsteps and other noises, sudden temperature drops, and eerie feelings. Many include a sad story connected with someone interred there, or the cemetery is associated with a battleground.

Most real cemeteries do not have a reputation for being haunted and instead are seen as the end of one's journey on earth. They can, however, also provide a sense of forlorn continuance. And often a glimpse into history.

At a Lorton cemetery, called Stoney Lonesome, (not alleged to be haunted despite the eerie sounding name), sad stories and history combine. The 100-by-30 foot plot, behind a Victorian-style wrought iron fence in a grove of cedar trees, now on private property, is the final resting place of 50 to 100 former inmates of the Lorton Workhouse and Prison. Indigent inmates who died at the prison were laid to rest here in hand-dug graves in rows of 10 to 14 in simple pine boxes made in the prison's carpenter shop. The individual graves now are

unmarked and the burial records long lost. The last burial here was likely in the 1960s for the prison that operated between 1910 and 2001. At one time there could have been wooden name plaques attached to the coffins, but those names have since rotted away. Only some depressions now are visible to mark the dead, and a few concrete markers thought to show manufacturers' names, not names of the deceased. Red Cedars stand as sentinels over the grave site.

'Cemetery' is from the Greek word for 'sleeping place;' the term 'graveyard' typically refers to a sleeping or resting place for the dead attached to a church. Red cedars, like those at Stoney Lonesome, are typically planted at burial sites for their many years of growth. They are used so often that they have become known as "graveyard trees." An early American superstition suggested transplanting of a red cedar would bring bad luck or early death. The Cherokee people consider the tree sacred for holding the spirit of ancestors.

The men and women who died while imprisoned at Lorton Prison, without friends or family who could claim them, and without independent means to provide for their burial lay at Stoney Lonesome. They would have died from disease, including the Spanish Flu which was rampant in 1918; or from fatal injuries or drowning, as they worked in Workhouse operations. Brick making kilns located near the river used clay material extracted from the Occoquan, providing the possibility of death by drowning, and other work involved use of farm machinery with possibility for severe injury or death.

Only three men buried here are known: William Collins, who died October 18, 1943; James Plumb, died January 17, 1946; and Earl Mc Farland, executed July 9, 1946.

McFarland, a 23 year old, heavily decorated Marine, was arrested in 1944 for the rape and murder by strangulation of 18 year old



Only depressions, no name headstones show the position of individual graves, dug by hand.

Dorothy Berrum of Haines Point in 1940. After his arrest, he broke out of the D.C. jail by overpowering a guard and stealing his uniform. He was recaptured eight days later in Knoxville Tennessee. He was found guilty of the crimes and sentenced to death by electric chair. History reports that after a last breakfast, he walked to the chair himself, kicked off his shoes, lit a cigarette, and helped the guards adjust the wired helmet which would deliver its fatal electric dose. Fifty years after his execution, historian Irma Clifton reported receiving a call from McFarland's family seeking to locate him to "bring him home." His burial location within the cemetery had been lost by that time, so he remains there today surrounded by the cedar trees and history.



A few cement markers with "Star 12" and "Vandyke" are thought to name manufacturers, not the dead buried here.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU NOV. 15

Fruit Sale Signup. 7-11 p.m. Signup now for Fairfax Lions notices and discounts for Lions Club Fruit Sales in November and December. They sell fresh Florida oranges, mandarins, grapefruit; maple syrup, peanuts to raise funds for charity. Website: <https://www.fairfaxlions.org/citrus-sale-notification/>

NOW THRU NOV. 17

ESL Class. 7-9 p.m. 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 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Books are included in class cost.

OCT. 1 TO NOV. 5

Workhouse Haunt: Nightmare Harvest. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. This year's Haunt, titled "Nightmare Harvest," will run on weekends from Saturday, Oct. 1 through Saturday, Nov. 5. Friday and Saturday hours are 7-11 p.m. and Sunday hours are 7-10 p.m. The Haunt will also perform on Halloween night, Monday, Oct. 31, from 7-9 p.m. Each Friday and Saturday night from Oct. 7 through Oct. 29, live bands will perform in the Rizer Pavilion near the Haunt Bar, where guests can purchase snacks and beverages. Tickets are now available for purchase and prices start at \$30 per person. Visit www.workhousearts.org for schedule and event details.

FRIDAY/NOV. 4

Holiday Open House. 1-5:30 p.m. At Gunston Hall Museum Shop, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Join the Gunston Hall Museum Shop in kicking off the holiday season at the yearly Holiday Open House Event. Receive 20% off your entire purchase and complimentary gift wrapping all while sipping on light refreshments. ChatuckTreats will be back by popular demand as holiday takeaway cookies. No RSVP required but if you wish to schedule a private or virtual shopping time, reach out to Nicole at nicole.ryan@gunstonhall.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 5

Historic Pohick Church First Saturday Tours. 1-3 p.m. At 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. 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. Visit <http://www.pohick.org>.

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

Revolutionary War Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Join Colonel Mason and his fellow Virginians as they support



Wicked Sycamore will perform at Workhouse Arts Center on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022.

Wicked Sycamore

7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16, McGuireWoods Gallery, Lorton. An all-female trio hailing from the Baltimore/DC area, their sound can be described as contemporary folk with a mischievous edge that is grounded in traditional roots, Americana, and bluegrass. Their original music ranges from fun and light-hearted sing-alongs to deep, introspective tunes for the ages. Visit workhousearts.org/onstage

the war effort. This family-oriented program has activities for all ages that may be explored in whatever order desired. \$10/adult, \$8/child, 50% off for members

SATURDAY/NOV. 5

Nrityagram Dance Ensemble. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. In collaboration with Chitrasena Dance Company. Set to the sounds of live flute, violin, harmonium, manjira, and drums onstage, Āhuti is a mesmerizing performance and collaboration between Mason Artist-in-Residence Nrityagram Dance Ensemble and the Chitrasena Dance Company. Through the classical movements of Odissi dance, Nrityagram Dance Ensemble brings stories of the Hindu epics to life with their bodies. Chitrasena has been leading the development of Kandyan dance in Sri Lanka, being a key proponent to opening this dynamic style to women, whilst also preserving it as a cultural tradition.

SUNDAY/NOV. 6

Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Pass It On: 60th Anniversary Musical Celebration. 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band's iconic and exuberant "Big Easy" sound will have you up and dancing from the beginning to end of their concert! This fall, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band is embarking on a nationwide tour to celebrate the Hall's 60th anniversary.

SUNDAY/NOV. 6

CROP Hunger Walk. 1 p.m. At Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. This marks 30 years of walking in the Burke/

Fairfax CROP Walk to help stop hunger and transform communities. Good way to get to know neighbors better. Students receive community service credit hours. There will be a celebration at BCP after the walk. There is also a food collection for ECHO. Visit the website: www.crophunger-walk.org/burkeva

NOV. 11

Charity Duck Race. 10:30-11 a.m. At Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. This Veterans Day, join Brain Injury Services honoring and supporting our veterans and others, living with a brain injury in Northern Virginia, by sponsoring a duck in our 3rd Annual Charity Rubber Duck Race! Your support matters and is vital to assisting us in providing free services to our clients, their caregiver families in Northern Virginia. Have fun while supporting those in need! 1st place winners in 5 categories will receive an award. Visit the website: www.braininjurysvcs.org/bisduckrace

TUESDAY, NOV 15-17

Citrus Fruit Sale. 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. at the American Legion Parking Lot, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Fairfax Lions sell fresh Florida oranges, mandarins, grapefruit, maple syrup, peanuts; we raise funds for charity. Sign up now for notices and discounts on the web page.

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Obituary

Obituary



Andrew Lawrence Dearing, a fitness manager at Gold's Gym in Reston, VA, passed away October 25th, 2022, at the age of 27. He was a loving husband, son, grandson, brother, cousin, nephew, and uncle who was a bright, friendly, and positive person. He treated all people with respect and kindness and although he was talented and strong, he was humble and always giving of himself. He was known for his smile and overall good nature.

Andrew is survived by his wife, Martyna Dearing; mother, Andrea Brubaker; father, Corey Dearing; stepfather, Benjamin Brubaker; mother-in-law, Kamila Nowacka; brothers, Corey Dearing II and Lucas Brubaker; sister, Julia Chappell; brother-in-law, Michal Nowacki; nephew, King Chappell; grandparents, Barbara Thacker, Haywood and Vanessa Grant, Sharon Brubaker, and Jim Brubaker; uncles, Aldo Falla, Brian Thacker, Paul Ludolph, Stephen Grant, Wesley Dearing, and Stephen Brubaker; aunts Lisa Thacker-Falla, Pam Thacker, Kerry Ludolph, and Melissa Brubaker; dogs, Mila and Morty Dearing; cats, Chuck Brubaker and Luna and Emmie Dearing; multiple cousins and his best friends. He was predeceased by his grandmother, Mary Dearing, and his grandfather, Bill Thacker.

Andrew was born November 29, 1994, in Warrenton, VA. He was a graduate of Culpeper County High School and later continued his studies at Laurel Ridge Community College and Foothill College. He had certifications with NCSF as a Certified Personal Trainer, NASM as a Certified Nutrition Coach and as a Youth Exercise Specialist as well as ACE Certification as a Sports Performance Specialist. He previously worked as a coach for F45 in Fairfax, VA, as a sales representative at Clawes Carpets, Inc. in Alexandria, VA, and as an Account Executive at Triple 'S' Termite and Pest Control in Manassas, VA. He also worked independently as a personal trainer and fitness instructor. It was one of Andrew's passions to help people meet their fitness goals. In Andrew's free time he enjoyed basketball, playing guitar, hiking, traveling, skateboarding, and good food. He provided guitar and fitness tutorials on YouTube and had many friends in those communities. Andrew and his wife Martyna were together for four years and have enjoyed many adventures and travels during that time. They also had a shared passion for fostering pets in need.

Andrew will be celebrated as an honorary co-captain for the Washington Wizards on October 28th at 7:30 pm during the game at the Capital One Arena. Friends and family will be in section 207. 27 balloons will be released in his name on Saturday, October 29th at F45 Training after both classes in Fairfax, VA.

A viewing for family and friends will be held November 1st from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Moser Funeral Home in Warrenton, VA. Funeral services will be held on November 2nd at 2:00 pm at the same location. Following the services, friends and family will gather at Death Ridge Brewery in Jeffersonton, VA from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm for a celebration of Andrew's life. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the development of a charity in Andrew's name to support youth basketball and music programs at <https://www.gofundme.com/give-for-andrew-dearing>. Online condolences may be expressed at www.moserfuneralhome.com.



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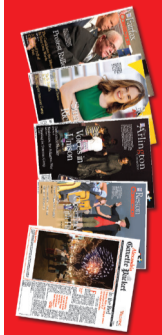
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Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before 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.

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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.

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I've had health insurance with the same provider for 20+ years. For the past seven years I had been accepted into a special, more fortunate subgroup. Initial qualifications were simple: Serious illness (like my cancer) qualified. The application was a two-page pamphlet asking half-a-dozen, token-type questions. Nothing beyond name, rank, and serial number – and disease, of course. Naturally, I was accepted. The plan paid all co-pays for office visits, scans and such, and every dollar of any prescription medication I was prescribed. It was a freebee, so to speak; and to invoke Dennis Eckersley, formerly of the NESN/ Boston Red Sox television broadcasting crew (while describing a particularly fortuitous event on the field): "It was a beautiful thing." And when you consider the cost of cancer drugs, receiving a pass such as this, was instrumental in my survival – financially (you'll learn why: keep reading). Not incurring these costs has been a Godsend for my family.

A year or so ago however, my provider changed the rules. No more would seriousness of disease be the trigger. It would now be means-tested requirement where you had to make less than minimum wage, if you know what I mean? But the application was still modest in its initial approach. I answered a few questions and amazingly made the cut somehow and the benefits were renewed for another year, until Oct. 4th of this year. Apparently, the provider felt the pinch of its generosity. In response to my renewal application submitted 30 days before this year's expiration, the provider responded by mail a few days before my coverage was scheduled to terminate; that they needed additional financial documentation: tax returns, (all schedules), W-2s, 1099s, et cetera. They further advised that I could expect a response 45 days after receipt. This meant that I would be out of time/coverage when my cancer medication was due to be refilled. The timing could not have been worse.

I tried to reorder the medication as near as possible to the end of my current coverage so it would last through the 45 days until I was possibly renewed (hardly guaranteed), but I was advised by the pharmacy that the order was placed too soon, and I'd have to wait until, you guessed it, as it happened, after this special coverage had ended. Frantic, I called the provider's home office, spoke with a pharmacy coverage specialist, and explained my dilemma. She was understanding and said the provider offered a once-per lifetime accommodation for these exact transitional-type circumstances (when the patient now has to pay), to pay for the medication as they previously had: zero dollars. I was ecstatic. I thanked her profusely and hung up. When it was timely to reorder, I called the pharmacy and submitted the order. A day or so later, I received a text advising me that my medication was ready, and the co-pay would be \$985 – for one month. Disappointed (to say the least, panicked to say the most), I called the local pharmacy which was processing the order and asked if they were familiar with this special one-time dispensation. They said they were. Then I said, that's what this order was about. I was then put on hold as the pharmacy tech. went "to get the pharmacy manager," she said. (I feared this day of reckoning would occur one day. Not to be a fatalist, more so a realist, but I figured this amazing benefit had to end at some point. I couldn't be this lucky forever. Now however, I might say the eagle has landed. Moreover, given the co-pay I received today, let me amend that statement to say the eagle has crashed and burned.)

Within 30 seconds or so the pharmacy manager comes on the line and asks if she can help. I briefly review with her the basic components of my expectation and ask why the co-pay is \$985 (I'm rounding up, to be fair). She says: "You are covered." "This is not the price that the home office told me I would be paying. It sure doesn't sound like I'm covered." I pleaded, calm. Then she said those words that led to this column: "I'm afraid that one-time offer doesn't apply for this medication." I snickered. You can probably imagine what I said to myself. Then I said: "I don't consider \$985 'coverage.'" Again, she assured me: "You are covered." I snicker, louder and more aggressively this time. You call \$985 for one month, "covered?" She responds that my regular policy still covers medication, just not like the special coverage I had previously did: free; and this \$985 is my current co-pay due. Otherwise, the medication would cost upwards of \$20,000." I hem and haw and eventually hang up the phone after asking how long the prescription will remain available for pick up. I still have a few weeks before I have to decide to pay the piper or not take my cancer medication. Either way, I'm worse off than I am now. Hardly a prescription for future good health.

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



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