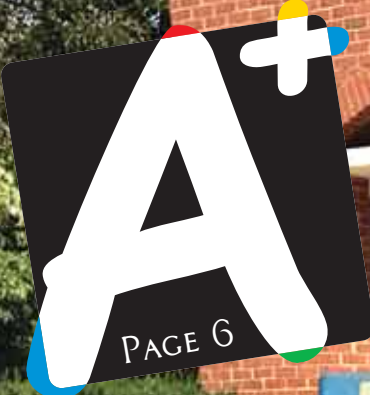




# Fairfax Station Clifton & Lorton



**Lorton Library:  
Reading Fun  
for Everyone.**

## Lorton Library Makes Summer Reading Fun

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**Murder Case Mistrial  
After Jurors Deadlock**

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**Battle of the Bands in Fairfax**

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# Murder Case Mistrial after Jurors Deadlock

Case involves post-wedding stabbing at Cabell's Mill.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he criminal case against Kempton Bonds involved anger and hostilities at a wedding reception. Those two elements derailed his murder trial, too – but this time, the unpleasanties were among the jurors.

Bonds, of Clifton, is accused of the Aug. 6, 2016 stabbing death of Tyonne Johns at Cabell's Mill in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. But after hearing hours and hours of testimony during his five-day trial, July 11-14, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, his jurors hopelessly deadlocked Friday night and a mistrial was declared.

Johns, of Washington, D.C., was 35 and the wedding's caterer at the time of the tragedy; Bonds was 19. A 2015 Robinson Secondary School graduate, he was a seasonal employee of the county Park Authority – and he took his job seriously. According to the wedding party, he was such a stickler for the rules that he and they clashed throughout the evening.

Bonds took down decorations not allowed to be taped to the walls of the historic building and removed fake rose petals from the



Kempton Bonds

Chef  
Tyonne  
Johns



grounds outside because they weren't biodegradable. He also turned off the music at 9 p.m. when, according to the contract, it had to stop – an hour before the event ended at 10 p.m.

He and Johns never argued until it was cleanup time and her folding chairs were being separated from those provided by the Park Authority. But during the course of the wedding, Bonds felt so threatened by the others that he began taping them on his phone. He even called his supervisor for advice, as well as the police, saying he feared for his wellbeing.

**BONDS VIDEOTAPED** the eight minutes before and after the stabbing, and the court watched that tape several times and heard what was said by everyone – including the threats and cursing of the wedding party and Johns toward Bonds. The bride, Camellia Sutherland, testified that she normally didn't talk that way, but did so “after five hours of frustration.”

When Bonds told her the music had to stop at 9 p.m., she said, “He was sarcastic and rude to me and asked if I wanted to see a copy of the contract.” And, she added, “My dad was upset we couldn't have our

father-daughter dance because the music had been turned off.”

Johns's chairs were being loaded into a U-Haul around 10:35 p.m. Until then, asked defense attorney Peter Greenspun, “Had you ever heard Bonds raise his voice or threaten anybody? Was he cursing, assaulting or touching anyone?” Sutherland said no.

“Johns said [to him], ‘I'll smack you, I don't care. I have bail money, I don't give a f—,’” said Greenspun. “Did he say anything?”

“No,” replied Sutherland. “He just stood there with a smirk on his face. I was angry.” Sutherland also acknowledged that, as heard on the tape, she, too, was cursing at and threatening Bonds.

“You called him a ‘f—ing idiot,’ right?” asked Greenspun. Yes, she replied. “And your husband said he was going to mess him up next time he saw him at Bull Run Park?” Yes, answered Sutherland. “You said, ‘Boy, I'm about to f— you up – and on my wedding day – I swear to God.’” Again, she said yes.

“Who said he was going to follow [Bonds] home – your father?” asked Greenspun. “Yes,” said Sutherland. She also admitted that she and her husband threatened Bonds that they'd file a lawsuit against him and get him fired.

Sutherland is white and her husband is black and, on the tape, her husband calls

SEE JURORS, PAGE 3

## Grander ‘Brewfest’ Heads Back to Workhouse

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**“B**rewfest” is returning to the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. With the success of the inaugural event last summer, this year's “Brewfest” will be even grander.

“Our Workhouse ‘Brewfest’ was a great success in 2016. Our guests loved it, Fairfax County was a huge supporter, and the participating breweries, wineries, cideries, and distilleries felt that it was the perfect way to introduce new audiences to the art and craft of their products,” said Ava Spece, CEO and President, Workhouse Arts Center.

Along with 15 different area craft companies participating in “Brewfest,” patrons will also be able to discover 12 galleries of original, high-quality art, meet 85 artists who create and exhibit at the Workhouse, as well as enjoy about a dozen bands performing throughout the day.

Asked about the response to last year's “Brewfest,” Spece indicated that “looking at our post-event survey responses, it's clear that people had a fantastic time talking with brewers, tasting samples of beer and cider and whiskey, dancing and singing along with their favorite bands,



Patrons under the tent at Workhouse Brewfest 2016.

or enjoying time in our air conditioned galleries.”

For Casey Jones, CEO, Fairwinds Brewing Company of Springfield, the event “showcases the fine craft breweries in the area.”

“Brewfest” will include food trucks and vendors on-site to offer a variety of dining selections. There will also be locations to

try craft sodas, including a “Root Beer Garden.” Free water will be available. The event goes on rain or shine.

One outdoor artistic project on display will be for those who look skyward. Workhouse artist-in-residence Martin Cervantez has transformed some of the unused guard towers still standing from the days when the Workhouse was a detention facility.

### Where & When

“Brewfest” at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, Aug. 12, 2017, 1-8 p.m. (rain or shine). Information about ticket options from \$20 to \$85, and \$10 parking available at [workhousebrewfest.org/contact/](http://workhousebrewfest.org/contact/) or call 703-584-2900.

Note: Designated Driver tickets are available. While children are permitted to attend the event, programming is intended for an adult audience. Children or those under the age of 21 who wish to attend will need to have a Designated Driver (non-drinker) ticket, and will have grounds access, unlimited root beer and bottled water, and be able to enjoy on-site musical performances. Children are required to be accompanied by an adult or guardian. As per Workhouse policy, pets are not permitted at “Brewfest.” Service animals are welcome in the studios, galleries, museum and theatre.

They are now outdoor kaleidoscopes.

“With events like ‘Brewfest,’ we're able to introduce the Workhouse to audiences who might not otherwise have visited, all while showcasing the talents of regional small businesses, like Fair Winds Brewing. These businesses create good jobs, great products, and whose successes contribute to the strength of Fairfax County and our regional economy,” said Tim Rizer, Chair, Workhouse Board.





A photo of the Cabell's Mill patio.



Historic Cabell's Mill.

# Jurors Deadlocked in Murder Trial

FROM PAGE 2

Bonds a racist. Sutherland said they'd reached that conclusion because they saw Trump bumper stickers on a vehicle they thought was Bonds' car. But they had the wrong car and both Bonds and his mother later testified that — not only isn't he racist — but he's mixed-race, himself, half white and a quarter each black and Cherokee Indian.

Tensions boiled over when, on the patio, someone asked how many chairs the Park Authority provided and Bonds said, "80." Johns reacted by walking swiftly toward Bonds and telling him to "Shut the f— up." Both Sutherland and another guest testified that they never saw Johns touch him or pin him against the patio railing.

But during his four hours of testimony, Bonds said Johns grabbed him around the neck and was choking him. He said he only stabbed her to get her off him and save his life.

Police Officer David Stewart testified that he responded to the venue after Bonds's non-emergency call to police, around 9:20 p.m., about disorderly conduct there. "He stated he was being harassed by two of the wedding guests," said Stewart. "It was clear there'd been an argument ... I told Bonds to just stay away from the wedding party until it was over."

Stewart also said he'd told the teen the police would stay there, just out of sight. But when they had to respond to a traffic accident on Route 50, they left suddenly without telling him. This fact became critical later on when, after the altercation with Johns — not realizing he'd stabbed her fatally and believing himself to be the victim of an attack by her — he shouted for the police, and they weren't there.

Medical examiner, Dr. Meghan Kessler, performed the autopsy on Johns. She said Johns sustained two, quick, stab wounds to the left chest. "Both contributed to her death," said Kessler. "One went into the left

**A new trial date will be set in August.**

lung and heart."

Bonds's mother, Madeline Smith, testified that Bonds's father was a custom-knife maker and had made that folding knife. When he died, three years ago, she gave it to their son as a keepsake. But since they also had horses on their property, she said Kempton used that knife regularly to make repairs and cut open bales of hay or boxes. She also noted that, on July 16, 1994, she was married at Cabell's Mill.

Bonds testified that, when he went there that day, he was excited because it was his last day of work before vacation and the start of college at VCU. He also said that, in the 35 other events he'd handled for the Park Authority, he'd never had any problems and no one had complained about him.

Explaining how he was threatened that night, Bonds said one person said he was going to wait until everybody was gone and follow him home. He said another one picked him up from behind. Bonds called his supervisor, Zane Stivers, and told him he was going to call the police "because I didn't feel safe there by myself." But no one from the Park Authority came to his aid in person, and the police who responded left.

Later, while the chairs were being loaded, Bonds was leaning against the patio railing with his arms behind him, cell phone in left hand. He said he was standing where the police had earlier told him to stand, while people were "yelling at me about how awful I was and how I'd ruined the evening." Noting that the bride and groom had been the most verbally abusive toward him all night, he said he was surprised when the 60-pound-heavier Johns suddenly joined in and walked quickly toward him saying, "Boy, I'm gonna knock you out."

"I was confused — it wasn't her wedding,"

said Bonds. "And as a caterer, she knew what it was like to deal with a bad wedding party. Her hands go up around my throat, she's pushed me and I can't breathe, I can't move. I could feel her thumb digging into my neck. I open the knife in my pocket and stab her to get her off me. The phone falls to the ground and I scream for the police and yell for the others to stay away from me."

He then called 911 to say he'd been attacked and asked police to come quickly. Bonds said he hadn't realized he'd wounded Johns fatally until he heard it over the police radio in the squad car following his arrest. When Greenspun asked him why he'd stabbed her, he replied, "Because she was trying to kill me."

Judge Daniel Ortiz told the jurors they could either find Bonds guilty of second-degree murder or voluntary or involuntary manslaughter and explained the differences between each offense. He also said they could find him not guilty if they believed the incident was self-defense.

**IN HIS CLOSING ARGUMENT** on Friday, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Brandon Shapiro said Bonds talked to the wedding party in a disrespectful, not-intimidated manner and antagonized, taunted and baited the bride and groom on their special day. He also said the wedding guests weren't attacking Bonds, despite what he told the police.

Noting that second-degree murder is an intentional act done with malice by someone under the control of reason, Shapiro said, "Malice is taking that knife out of his pocket, jabbing twice and twisting up. [Bonds] never shoved, punched or kicked Johns; his first move was to go for a deadly weapon."

He never stopped to see what would happen [after the first wound] — he went for death."

Regarding Bonds not being able to breathe, Shapiro said he was able to shout,

"Get the f— off me." For self-defense, said the prosecutor, Bonds had to "reasonably fear for his life or believe he's in danger of great, bodily harm. No one's yelling for her to get him and there's no evidence that she had a weapon. This is not a situation where deadly force is appropriate. It was not an accident — he did this with malice, and that's murder in the second degree."

But Greenspun said it was everyone else who was "vile and disrespectful" to Bonds. "They called him 'Boy,' in a condescending, verbally assaultive manner, but he never once raises his voice at them," said Greenspun. "[Yet] he had no reason to believe he'd be attacked by Johns."

"She launched herself at him with her arms up and going for his throat. Otherwise, her arm would have blocked the knife and she'd have been stabbed in the arm — and the medical examiner agreed. Johns is dead and that's a tragedy, but she brought the fray on, herself, and [the others] and their vile language incited her actions. What's recorded on the phone tells the facts of what happened, contrary to what the others testified."

But Shapiro said the others were telling Johns, "Ty, no," not egging her on. "At no time was Bonds significantly intimidated by these people," said Shapiro.

"He had a knife on him, and that made him 7 feet tall."

The jurors deliberated six hours, but sent word at 7:45 p.m. that they couldn't reach a consensus and, therefore, any verdict. In fact, said the judge, there was so much animosity among them that "They're already no longer speaking to each other." He then had the jury brought into the courtroom, where the foreman said they'd "reached an impasse" they couldn't overcome.

Ortiz then declared a mistrial and Shapiro said the Commonwealth would retry Bonds, who remains on \$250,000 bond plus house arrest. A new trial date will be set in August.



# OPINION

## Help Prepare Children in Need for School

Many opportunities to contribute; tax-free back-to-school shopping is Aug. 5-7 across Virginia.

**W**e live in an area where many, if not most, families have the means and desire to do almost whatever it takes to give their children the best chances for success.

But for thousands of students, families lack the financial resources to equip them for success on the first day of school and beyond.

In our affluent area, there are many poor families, families who are barely making it, families who are not able to indulge their children in a shopping spree before school begins, families who are already having trouble making up for the meals their children would be getting at school.

### EDITORIAL

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch. In some schools, volunteers pack snacks for the students to take home on weekends. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 8,000 of the city's 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county's 23,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000 students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

The Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing (and preparedness and energy savers) is Aug. 4-6. This is a little extra savings that could be paid forward to students in need.

The three-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 a.m. and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear; hurricane and emergency preparedness items; Energy Star and WaterSense products without paying sales tax.

Each eligible individual school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. For other details see [www.tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday](http://www.tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday)

## Where To Give in Fairfax County

❖ **Fairfax County Collect for Kids** is a public private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year, and has provided more than 100,000 supply kits and backpacks since

2010. Collect for Kids is made possible through a partnership with Kids R First, Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and numerous community-based organizations (some listed here) and businesses in the Fairfax County area who are working together to provide supplies in a more cost-effective and efficient way. See [collectforkids.org/resources](http://collectforkids.org/resources).

❖ **Cornerstones** will work to provide backpacks and other necessities to 3,000 Reston and Herndon area students. You can buy backpacks and other items online and have them delivered to Cornerstones. Or deliver the backpacks to Cornerstones Administrative Office Aug. 7-11, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston. In addition to backpacks, Cornerstones also requests donations of new underwear for elementary school age children, and Payless gift card donations (\$25) so young clients can get a new pair of shoes. Contact Cornerstones at 571-323-9568 or [volunteer@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:volunteer@cornerstonesva.org). Visit [www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/](http://www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/)

❖ **United Community Ministries** annual Back to School campaign is underway. Donations are needed by Friday, Aug. 4. A gift of \$40 completely outfits one student. Please drop checks and backpacks off at UCM's main office (7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306) weekdays from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Emily Griffin at [emily.griffin@ucmagency.org](mailto:emily.griffin@ucmagency.org) or by 571-255-8973 or visit [www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2017.html](http://www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2017.html).

❖ **Britepaths**, participates in the Collect for Kids Back to School Program each summer and is working to help more than 2,500 students in central Fairfax have everything they need to succeed this fall. Cash donations help purchase supplies at a steep discount. Donate backpacks or calculators by Aug. 5. Larger size backpacks especially needed. Donate cash through Aug. 31. Checks are welcome. Make checks payable to "Britepaths," write BTS in the memo line of the check. Mail to: Britepaths 4080 Chain Bridge Road, 2nd Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030. If delivering in person, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., except for holidays. Call 703-273-8829. Visit [www.britepaths.org](http://www.britepaths.org).

Drop-off sites until Aug. 5:

- Cinema Arts Theatre At Fair City Mall, 9650-14 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22031
- Cox Farms 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville, VA 20120
- Del. Kathleen Murphy Constituent Office, 6888 Elm St., Ste 1C, McLean, VA 22101
- GAP Solutions, Inc. 205 Van Buren St, Herndon, VA 20170; Drop off in Suite 205
- Gathering Grounds Cafe At University Mall, 10637 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
- Dr. Gene Sweetnam, OD 5204A Rolling Road, Burke, VA 22015
- Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031

— Pure Performance 3805 Pickett Road, Fairfax, VA 22030

— Quest Diagnostics 14225 Newbrook Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

— Solaris Laser and Skin Care 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna, VA 22180

— Spine and Joint Institute 9990 Fairfax Blvd. #115, Fairfax, VA 22030

— STEM exCEL 4010 University Drive, #104, Fairfax, VA 22030

— Sugar Mama's Ice Cream 11208 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

— Union Bank Burke 6050 Burke Commons Road, Suite A, Burke, VA 22015

— University Mall Theatre At University Mall, 10659 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

— Westminster School's Camp Griffin 3819 Gallows Road, Annandale, VA 22003

❖ **FACETS** is seeking to equip more than 300 students in need with backpacks filled with supplies. Use the checklist at the link below as a guide for purchasing backpacks and supplies. Place purchased supplies in backpacks or other bags and deliver to FACETS. Drop off supplies through Aug. 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030. Contact FACETS at 703-272-3710 or visit [facetscares.org/summerbacktoschooldrive/](http://facetscares.org/summerbacktoschooldrive/)

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service** is able to buy supplies at a value that beats retail price. Every \$1 donated by July 27 can purchase \$2 worth of school supplies. Mail checks (payable to NVFS, with BTS in the memo line) to: Northern Virginia Family Service, Attn: Back to School, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Donations of new backpacks and new school supplies will be accepted on Friday, July 28, and Monday, July 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 13868 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151 (between Lotus Vegetarian and PetSmart – our storefront has white-washed windows). [www.nvfs.org/support/back-to-school/](http://www.nvfs.org/support/back-to-school/)

❖ **Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools** [www.fcpsfoundation.org/donate.html](http://www.fcpsfoundation.org/donate.html) accepts online donations only – to purchase school supplies in bulk quantity

❖ **Apple Federal Credit Union** [www.applefcu.org/appleweb/collectforkids](http://www.applefcu.org/appleweb/collectforkids) accepts online donations and backpack donations at local branches.

❖ **Fairfax County Board of Supervisors** Offices will be collecting backpacks during the month of August. See website for office locations and hours of operation. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/about-the-board-of-supervisors.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/about-the-board-of-supervisors.htm)

❖ **Fairfax County Public Schools** Backpack donations at the Gatehouse and Willow Oaks Administrative office locations. [www.fcps.edu/](http://www.fcps.edu/)

❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** accepts online donations and backpack donations. Check website for more details. Deliver Backpacks to WFCM (July 17-Aug. 11, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.) to WFCM's Office at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, Chantilly, VA 20151. Please bring backpacks to the back door of the Food Pantry. [wfcmvva.org/how-you-can-help/annual-backpack-program/](http://wfcmvva.org/how-you-can-help/annual-backpack-program/)

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Tim Peterson**  
Community Reporter  
703-314-0789  
[tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kyle Kincaid**  
Editorial Assistant  
[south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
**e-mail:**  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Steve Hogan**  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418  
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Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
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**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)





## LETTERS

### When Will Trump Catch Up?

To the Editor:

Bloomberg news reported that a study by the U.S. Department of energy showed our current grid can perform with wind and solar power. A leaked draft of the Energy Department's highly anticipated study on grid reliability finds that renewable energy doesn't harm grid reliability; that market trends, not regulation, have driven the shift to cleaner, safer forms of energy; and that technology like energy efficiency and demand response are actually helping to increase reliability.

These findings contradict statements made by high-level Trump administration officials – including Energy Secretary Rick Perry, who has raised concerns about the impact of renewables on the grid. In the last few months, we've seen the Trump administration repeatedly risking public health by trying to move us backwards towards coal, slashing the EPA's budget and tearing down limits on mercury, smog, and carbon pollution.

Donald Trump put a politician who sued the EPA over a dozen times, and helped raise nearly \$4 million from corporate polluters in charge of protecting our kids

from pollution.

Instead, we should be putting more funds into the EPA for programs like The Solar Training Network, which addresses a critical need for high-quality, local, accessible training in solar installation and related skills. This is smart policy that can support economic transition as coal is dwindling in supply, harming our environment, and no longer cost-effective.

This study from experts and President Trump's own administration show his attacks on clean energy are unfounded – renewable energy does not threaten grid reliability. Trump administration allies, including the former head of Trump's Energy Department tran-

sition team, are already scrambling to downplay the significance of this report because it demonstrates how their attempts at attacking clean energy are out of step with the realities of America's electricity markets and how they operate.

Despite President Trump's best efforts, the unstoppable shift to clean energy is already underway, driven by American states, cities, and businesses that see the economic opportunity climate action presents.

There's a reason why the private market is trending toward clean energy like wind and solar – it's safe, affordable, and reliable. When will Donald J. Trump catch up?

**Kelsey Crane**  
Fairfax

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com



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### THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online Special Edition PET Connection

Publishes: July 26, 2017 • Ads close: July 19, 2017

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets. Reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention.

The Pet Connection will publish on July 26, 2017, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 19. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

Find more information about submissions online at  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets).

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# Summer Book Clubs for Children

**Ideal time to instill a love of reading, say experts.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**E**ncouraging children to read during summer months can be challenging for some parents, but worth the effort, say local educators, because diving into books offers students an opportunity to boost their reading skills before the start of the next school year. Book clubs with their peers allows children to read in a relaxed, informal setting.

“Book groups during summer vacation are the perfect time for friends to gather and share the love of reading,” said Julie M. Esanu, lower school librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. “The summer is a perfect time for readers to explore and enjoy a variety of books across different genres and formats, including ebooks, audiobooks, and graphic novels.”

While parents must provide a basic structure for the book club, Esanu says that allowing children to be involved in the planning and book selection, will cultivate a positive attitude toward books and reading.

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge,” said Esanu. “Consider the members of the book group and their various interests when selecting titles and let the members have a say in what they’re reading.”

Allow for organic discussions inspired by the readers rather than formal discussions that require too much preparation, advises Esanu. “[Formality] feels too much like homework for students and we want them to dive into books during summer,” she said. “Kids have a lot to say about the books that they read and that can lead to fabulous conversations. It is important for children to select the books that they read, especially over the summer.”

In her role as the lower and middle school librarian at Bullis School in Potomac, Katherine Brewer helps students make book selections by asking them about the last book they read and enjoyed. “This helps me find out what types of books they are into and suggest other titles they might like,” she said. “I might ask what about the book they liked. Then I will give several suggestions.”

Preparing and organizing the book club session without over planning, avoids chaos and leads to success, advises Laura Maffei,



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Studies show that reading self-selected books cultivates positive attitudes towards books and reading, says librarian Julie M. Esanu.**

humanities teacher at BASIS Independent School McLean. “Set the stage by helping the children to understand the setting and any unfamiliar events or vocabulary they might encounter,” she said. “For example, before reading ‘Misty of Chincoteague’ learn about Virginia, specifically Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, watch a documentary on the round up, make a craft that teaches the parts of a horse and its riding equipment, look at examples of life in the 1950s to see how it differs from today.”

**WHEN THE MEMBERS** of the book group are not all at the same reading level, as can be the case with children, reading the same book can be pose a challenge, says Maffei. “... An option would be to read the same content, but each reader gets a book at their reading level,” she said. “I’ve done this with Shakespeare, Greek Mythology, and classics like ‘Peter Pan’ that come in a variety of book types from picture to early reader to original text.”

“If the children aren’t around the same age [and] reading level or have varying interests, I would select a topic and suggest books that they could read and share,” added Brewer. “Students can have the book read to them or listen to an audio version if they prefer.”

Brewer, who runs book clubs for students at Bullis, says that during her meetings, children share the book they read and encourage others to read it. She also discourages

penalizing children who haven’t finished the book. “We use the book talk format popularized by [the television series] ‘Reading Rainbow,’ share a bit about the book and why others would want to read it, but no spoilers,” she said. “They will be more interested if they have choice and input in the club’s topic, books and activities.”

Book club activities are an important tool in helping children develop a love of reading, says Tom Longano a third grade teacher at the Heights School, an all boys school in Potomac. “With most of our books I will invent a quick game that includes acting out the characters or key events from the story,” he said. “I have found this to be an excellent way for the boys, who often have a very concrete approach to the world yet boundless imaginations ... to enter into the stories and feel them as actually real. This generates a love for the books that goes beyond just reading them, because they have in a sense lived them as well, acted them out.”

Longano says that this excitement about books can also be achieved with dramatic readings and assigning children characters from the book and having them act them

out. “Anything to bring the text off the page and into their direct environment,” he said.

“The activity should be fun and hands on, with the children taking the lead on the project,” said Brewer.

Summer book club activity ideas include visiting local public libraries or bookstores and browsing the shelves for ideas, says Esanu. “Visit the Alexandria or Arlington Public Library or an independent bookstore, such as Hooray for Books! in Alexandria or One More Page Books in Arlington, and browse the shelves for ideas,” she said. “Each book club member could choose a book that catches their eye and then the group could vote on which book they want to read.”

Reading a book and taking a field trip that is related to the book is another activity that Esanu recommends. “For example, Tonya Bolden’s award-winning book, ‘How to Build a Museum’ shares a behind-the-scenes look into Smithsonian’s National Museum for American History and Culture,” she said. “This is a great way to explore the museum before a visit.”

“Jack and the Geniuses: At the Bottom of the World” offers inspiration for another journey, says Esanu. “It’s the first book in a series packed with adventure, science and engineering and is written by Bill Nye [from the children’s television series, “Bill Nye, the Science Guy”] and Gregory Malone,” she said. “This would be the perfect book to read before heading the National Building Museum to explore the Hive Interactive Exhibit [which runs through Sept. 4].”

Guiding a discussion by asking questions that connect the book to current or personal events, playing games such as Charades, 20 Questions or Pictionary can help spark a

lively discussion of the book, says Maffei.

“If the book has a movie version, watch the movie after reading the book,” she said. “Look for differences in plot, how the characters and setting look compared to how you thought

**“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge.”**

**— Julie M. Esanu,  
Lower School Librarian,  
St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School**

they’d look.”

Offer an opportunity for children have a snack to talk informally, advises Esanu. “Make sure that there’s food involved and find new places for the group to meet, maybe in a park or by the pool,” said Esanu. “Mix it up.”

“Themed snacks are fun,” added Maffei. “Maybe something that gets eaten or drank in the book or something from the same time period or place.”

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416.

Burke resident **Hannah Zakaria** was named to the named to the spring 2017 dean’s list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

**Juliana Ray**, of Burke was named to the dean’s list at Olivet Nazarene University (Bourbonnais, Ill.) during the spring 2017 semester.

Burke Native Taryn Falkenstein Inducted into Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society

**Taryn Falkenstein**, a Television-Radio major at Ithaca College’s Roy H. Park School of Communications and a Burke native, was inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, the honor society of the National Association of Communication.

**Nathaniel Craig Fischer**, of

Burke, earned a B.S. in business administration from the College of Business at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Carlos Maldonado-Hurtado**, of Burke was named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) president’s list for the spring 2017 semester.

**Yetbarek Fekadu**, of Burke, graduated from Becker College (Worcester, Mass.) with a B.S. in exercise science.

**Megan Cantwell**, of Burke, was named to the dean’s list at Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, Pa.) for the spring 2017 semester.



## NEWS

# Lorton Library Makes Summer Reading Fun

Lorton Library makes the scorching season fun for children and adults alike.

BY BASMA HUMADI  
THE CONNECTION

A typical day at Lorton Library during the summer can involve anything from hosting a youth watercolor class for ages 9-16 to hosting “Jammin’ Book Parties.”

Sarah Peters of Centreville brought her 9-year-old son, Daniel, to a watercolor class held Monday, June 17 at the library. “He loves art,” Peters said. “His dad’s an artist. He likes interesting ways of showing art. I took him to watercolor painting today because it’s one of the things he hasn’t tried doing yet.”

At a young age Daniel could be found doing a lot of finger-painting and even painting on walls – which his mom then spent about \$400 on repainting. For Daniel, who is homeschooled, attending fun and free interactive sessions like those held at Lorton Library are a great benefit for him and his mother.

From holding “Terrific Two to Fives” to Summer Reading Bingo for adults, to its National Night Out, the Lorton Library is a busy and thriving hub for all members of its community this sizzling summer.

**EVENTS AND ONGOING BOOK CHALLENGES** are offered to all age groups: children, teens and adults. Melissa Kariger, who oversees Youth Services at the library, helped to start “STEAM Team” events this summer at the Lorton Library. STEAM refers to science, technology, engineering and mathematics field together with art. STEAM Team events found at the library vary from “Splash into Science” where children attempt to build miniature water slides or “Spy Camp” where children go through a spy training program and solve the library mystery.

The library’s “Terrific Two to Fives” and “Babies & Tots” programs going on during the summer have also shown to be successful ongoing events.

Held on various Wednesdays during the summer, “Terrific Two to Fives” allow kids from 2-5 to come in and sit down for an interactive storytime with books, songs and rhymes. Babies & Tots happens once a month for children ages 0 to 23 months.

“That one’s really nice for young moms to come and bring their baby,” said Lyn McKinney, branch manager at Lorton Library. “There’s a little bit of singing and little bit of movement and a little bit of story reading and then one of the nice things for them is networking with other young moms.”

Depending on what grade they will be entering in fall, children and teens are challenged to read a certain number of books during the summer and win a coupon booklet in return after completing. To fit the library’s theme of “building by design” the library also created Reggie the reading robot, a robot made of boxes and cardboard who stands in the main area in the library. “When kids are done with their reading logs and turn them in and get their coupon book, they also have an opportunity to create a gear or a gadget for Reggie and then tape it onto Reggie,” said McKinney. “So he’s growing through their reading too.” Adults also have a reading challenge at Lorton



Reggie the Robot stands in the main area at the Lorton Library.



Ann Heising, a landscape watercolorist who’s been painting for 20 years, leads the watercolor workshop and displays one of her recent paintings.

Library: Summer Reading Bingo.

“We’re just asking adults to read any five books from any of the spaces – they don’t have to be in a bingo row,” said McKinney. “Then we’re putting their names and our Friends of the Lorton Library have donated three \$25 gift cards to Amazon that we’ll be giving away at the end of the summer.”

**ON AUG. 1,** Lorton Library, in conjunction with the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) and South County Cares will also be holding a “National Night Out” where community members can become acquainted with their local safety personnel. The event, which will have a face painter and other children’s activities, will start at 6 p.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m.

McKinney, who worked as a school librarian for 21 years in Montana, recently moved to Fairfax County and started working at the Lorton Library not too long ago.

“What’s really been fun for me is getting to know the children and families in the area,” said McKinney. “Since I’m new to the area, one of the best things about working in a public library is meeting people and helping them with their questions and interests that they have.”

PHOTOS BY BASMA HUMADI/THE CONNECTION

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# ENTERTAINMENT



**Monique Hamm, communications director with Supervisor John Cook's office, pictured with the voting jars for Battle of the Bands.**



**Enjoying the Battle of the Bands under a tent at Lakeside Park/Royal Lake are Giuliana Vellucci, David Clark, Jules Coryell, Joan Richards, and Linda Vellucci of Fairfax.**



**The Glory Days Grill of Burke booth gave away free water.**

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

## Battle of the Bands in Fairfax

### Ten local bands compete for spot in the 2018 Braddock Nights Concert Series.

Ten local bands competed in a Battle of the Bands on two stages Sunday, July 16, at Lakeside Park/Royal Lake in Fairfax. Between 3 and 8 p.m., the audience members could vote for the best band winner who will earn a spot in the 2018 Braddock Nights Concert Series.

Sponsored by Braddock District Supervisor John Cook's office, the event coincided with the debut of Royal Lake, one of five lakes in the watershed, which had a ribbon-cutting ceremony the previous day for having completed a re-dredging process.

"Well, it's a perfect day out here and it's great to be able to give our local Fairfax County bands, some of which are profes-

sionals, and some are amateurs, the chance to play and for the community to come out and enjoy the day together for free," said Cook.

"This is a great way to bring the community together and support our local arts at the same time," added Monique Hamm, communications director with Cook's office.

The winner of the Battle of the Bands contest was the St. Stephen's UMC Youth Band. The other nine bands competing included: Cinema Hearts, Messenger, Cooler Full of Empties, City Saints, Mars Rodeo, Steve Young & the Sounds, Line Item Veto, No Right Mind, and Irresponsible.

— STEVE HIBBARD



**Drew Guenther, 5, Claire Guenther, 9, and Hannah Nelson, 9, of Fairfax enjoy their ice cream.**

**The crowds enjoy the first Battle of the Bands at Lakeside Park/Royal Lake in Fairfax on Sunday, July 16.**

### CALENDAR

Send entertainment notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](mailto:connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

#### ONGOING

**Senior Line Dancing** 1-2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8 week session. [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) 703-524-3739

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. [nvshag.org](http://nvshag.org).

**Exercise Program** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

**Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).** Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you

always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**Smoke Free Bingo.** 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). [www.fairfaxvd.com](http://www.fairfaxvd.com). 703-273-3638.

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: [va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

**Stories From Strawberry Park** 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic, Strawberry Park, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Visit [www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/](http://www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/).

**Funday Monday** 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however

especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts)

#### CAMPS & CLASSES

**Art Camp.** Various times July 24-28, and July 31-Aug. 4 at the Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke or the second location is Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Lessons by Carol Zeitlin. Call 703-250-6930 or visit [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) for more.

#### DEADLINE AUG. 26

**Senior Olympics.** Registration has begun for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics which runs Sept. 9-20. Participants must be at least 50-years-old by Dec. 31, 2017. Register at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us) until Sept. 2 or via U.S. mail before Aug. 26 with forms available at area recreation centers. To volunteer contact RSVP Northern Virginia at 703-403-5360 or email [rsvp@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:rsvp@volunteerfairfax.org).

#### THURSDAY/JULY 20

**Lunch N' Life.** noon-2 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. The guest presenter will be Elizabeth Gray, Esq., speaking on legal issues for

older adults. \$10. Sponsored by Shepherd's Center. Call 703-273-5730 or see [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org).

#### Summer Under the Stars Concert.

8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater (adjacent to City Hall), 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Alte Kameraden band. Visit [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org) or call 703-385-7855 for more.

#### FRIDAY/JULY 21

**Topgolf and a DJ.** 7-10 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Sway DJ, food and drink. Visit [topgolf.com/us/alexandria/](http://topgolf.com/us/alexandria/) or call 703-924-2600.

#### SATURDAY/JULY 22

**Civil War Amputees.** 2 p.m. at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Artificial Limbs in the Civil War" with Guy R. Hasegawa, Pharm D. Learn about the wartime provisions made for amputees and the stark differences between the resources and capabilities of the North and the South. Free. Call 703-591-0560.

#### Aspiring Filmmakers Screening.

4:15-7 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Each screening will be followed by an award ceremony. Call 703-584-2900 for more.

#### Mount Vernon Nights Concert

**Series.** 6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Free old-time musical performance by the Sheets Family. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance) or call 703-780-7518.

**Topgolf and a DJ.** 7-10 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Radyus DJ, food and drink. Visit [topgolf.com/us/alexandria/](http://topgolf.com/us/alexandria/) or call 703-924-2600.

#### Stargazing and Snacking on S'mores.

8:30-9:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about the creatures that fly through the night skies. Ages 4 to adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/).

#### SUNDAY/JULY 23

**Z Scale Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Z scale is the smallest mass-marketed model train available anywhere. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), or call 703-425-9225 for more.

**Cancer Fundraiser.** 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Dolce Vita Restaurant, 10824 Fairfax Blvd. Supporting Team Kristen Strong in the 192 mile Pan-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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**Chick-fil-A to Host Grand Opening in Burke**

Camping out at new Chick-fil-A stores has become the norm, since free sandwiches are part of the deal, and the new Burke location promises to be no different. On Wednesday, July 26, campers will gather at 5815 Burke Centre Parkway, for the grand opening the next morning on June 27. The grand opening events also will include the opportunity for campers to package 10,000 meals which will be given to a local charity while the community is invited to donate children's books to a local organization. Read the complete rules at [thechickenwire.chick-fil-a.com/News/Future-Openings](http://thechickenwire.chick-fil-a.com/News/Future-Openings).

**WEEK IN FAIRFAX**

**Rock the Block  
after Dark**

Thousands of people attend the City's Rock the Block concerts on the fourth Fridays of the month during the summer. But to promote the local restaurants, Fairfax is offering Rock the Block after Dark to hopefully retain the concertgoers after the music ends. Beginning with the July 28 event, participating City restaurants and pubs will offer 15-

percent-discount coupons good for that night, from 7:30-11 p.m. Printed coupons must be presented to take advantage of the discount. Go to [facebook.com/FairfaxCityEDA](http://facebook.com/FairfaxCityEDA) for event dates and a list of participating restaurants.

**Play Auditions on July 30**

The Shoestring Theatre Co. will hold auditions for its upcoming play, "The Best Doctor in Town," on Sunday, July 30, at 1 p.m., at the North Street Pop-up Theatre, 10427 North St. in Fairfax.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Haven of Northern Virginia** provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

**Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke** serves those 50 and older who no longer drive. **Volunteer drivers** are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. **Office workers** are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788.

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

- service will be provided at the following sites Monday-Friday, 11:30-1 p.m. No service on July 3 and 4. In the Springfield area, FEEDS is offered at the following schools:
- ❖ Springfield Gardens Apartments, 6116 Cumberland Ave.
  - ❖ Springfield Square Apartments, 7000 Rhoden Court, starts at noon
  - ❖ Chelsea Square Apartments, 5734 Backlick Road, starts at noon

**THURSDAY/JULY 20**

**Lunch N' Life.** noon-2 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. The guest presenter will be Elizabeth Gray, Esq. to speaking on legal issues for older adults. \$10. Sponsored by Shepherd's Center. Call 703-273-5730 or see [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org) for more.

**ONGOING**

**Positive Parenting Strategies Course.** At PHILLIPS, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale. A series of classes and in home consultations taught by PHILLIPS' counselors. Open to all local families. Call Stacy Strykowski at 703-658-9054.

**Thermal Camera Loan Program.** Learn where the energy is leaking out

of the home with a special attachment for the iPhone or Android. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy) or call 703-324-5955 for more.

**Master Gardener Training.** The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit [fairfaxgardening.org](http://fairfaxgardening.org) or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

**Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting** 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. [fairfaxrotary.org](http://fairfaxrotary.org).

**NARFE Monthly Meeting** Every Second Tuesday 11:30 a.m. American Legion Post 177 located at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. NARFE Fairfax 737 monthly luncheon meeting. Enjoy lunch accompanied by a special program. Lunch at noon. Cost: \$11 Speaker/Program-12:45PM. [rrharney2@cox.net](mailto:rrharney2@cox.net) 703-501-0020

**Civil War Research** scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides in Fairfax, Fairfax City, Prince William County, Manassas City, or Manassas Park from the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable in Centreville, Va. Visit [bullrunwcrt.org](http://bullrunwcrt.org) for more.



# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

Mass Challenge, proceeds of the night will go to Team Kristen Strong, as they raise money for The Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Call 703-385-1530 or email [Info@DolceVitaFairfax.com](mailto:Info@DolceVitaFairfax.com).

## JULY 24-28

**Fine Arts and Crafts Camp.** 12:30-3:15 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive. Instructor Carol Zeitlin. Drawing and/or watercolor, mixed medias. Ages 8 and up. Visit [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930 for more.

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

**Pop Up Adventure Playground.** 10 a.m.-noon at Kutner Park, 3901 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. LEGO, Games, crafts, coding and more. This program is free, no registration required, and all ages welcome. Child care is not provided. Parents or guardians are required to attend with children not old enough to walk to and play in the park on their own. Call 703-385-7858 or email [karen.lussier@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:karen.lussier@fairfaxva.gov) for more.

## THURSDAY/JULY 27

**Summer Under the Stars Concert.** 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater (adjacent to City Hall), 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. City of Fairfax Band. Visit [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org) or call 703-385-7855 for more.

## FRIDAY/JULY 28

**Rock the Block.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. "The Reagan Years," '80's band is featured. Food available, Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, children can wear swim suits and bring towels to enjoy the spray pad! No pets allowed except service animals. For more details visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock)

**Topgolf and a DJ.** 7-10 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Silver DJ, food and drink. Visit [topgolf.com/us/alexandria/](http://topgolf.com/us/alexandria/) or call 703-924-2600.

## SATURDAY/JULY 29

**Taste of Springfield.** noon-6 p.m. outdoors event at the Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall Drive. Locally focused, family friendly 'feast-ival' with tastings, entertainments and activities for all ages. Weather dependent. Visit [www.tasteofspringfield.com](http://www.tasteofspringfield.com) for more.

**Scarf Painting Workshop.** noon-3 p.m. at the Fairfax Art League Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive. The Fairfax Art League invites the public to a hand painted scarf workshop. \$10. Call 703-569-8760 for more.

**Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series.** 6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Free musical performance by Jarekus Singleton. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/) performances or call 703-780-7518.

## SUNDAY/JULY 30

**G-Scale Model Train Show.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS) will have a G-Scale train display running. 4 and under free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225 for more.

**Yoga on the Square.** 10 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring a yoga mat and a water bottle. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

## MONDAY/JULY 31

**Funday Monday for Children.** 10:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Storytelling and songs. Weather permitting. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) or call 703-385-7855 for more.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 1

**What's in the Virginia Room.** 7-9 p.m. at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road. Burke Historical Society research seminar about the Virginia Room's collection presented by Elaine Mcrey. Visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org) for more.

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## And So It Begins



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in almost exactly 25 years: bathroom demolition, times two. With financial assistance from my father-in-law, along with use of our home equity line, we have committed to and contracted for, a complete renovation of our two full bathrooms ('full' meaning: tub/shower, commode, sink, vanity, mirror, shelves, lights/fixtures, counter top, floor and shower tile, and paint). Ergo, over the next eight to 12 weeks, our house will officially become a construction site.

Never having experienced this level of upheaval and chaos in any of our previous homes before, we are looking forward since we have no reference looking backward.

We know one thing for sure: our five indoor cats will be miserable and scared and likely hiding for days on end. Considering that the workers will be in our home from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., I don't know when the cats are going to feel like eating since their routine will have been completely thrown off having so many new people in the house for so many hours per day. (I don't even want to think about the litter box implications.)

Nevertheless, time marches forward, and given that our home is historic/over 250 years old, its bathrooms, though not exactly pre-Colonial, definitely are showing their age. Their design, form, function, efficiency and attractiveness barely blip the radar. Both bathrooms are old, and that's the only compliment I can give them.

I imagine the next two to three months will likely be a journey of discovery; Columbus-like in that we will be discovering a new world with modern bathroom amenities and conveniences, color coordination and functionality, many of which we've not been the beneficiaries of in over 25 years.

Our kitchen remains as it has been all those years ago: large but clearly deficient in many ways compared to modern kitchens. As a matter of fact, as the designer, project manager and I walked into the kitchen looking for the access panel to the adjacent bathroom, I said, "As you can see, our kitchen needs work, too. Any chance you all offer a 'BOGO? Buy one, get one free?" Of course, they both laughed and shook their head. They didn't have to say "No." It was more a rhetorical question anyway.

Considering the time we've all had together, we have no doubt the contractor and his workers know what they're doing. We're not sure however, as homeowners that we know what we're doing. From our first meeting, a few months back, the process has seemed clear enough as do the drawings/design ideas we've now seen/decided upon do. Still, when it goes from their paper to our property, how will it all transfer? They seem confident and complimentary which certainly has been reassuring but we're novices in this transformation.

For us each step forward is yet another step into the great unknown. And since we can only take it one step at a time, we have no choice but to live and learn and hopefully not regret and decisions we've already made (although changes can still be made).

So far – and it's not very far – so good. However, it's the process of starting and ultimately finishing that worries me. Not that I run on a schedule (heck, I can barely walk), but my wife, Dina, sort of does; and it seems as if she and the workers might be occupying the same space at the same time.

I suppose the timing and all eventually works itself out but it's the interim with which I'm concerned. I realize there are no guarantees in any of this.

I guess I just have to deal with it as I do with my having cancer: take the bad with the good, keep a sense of humor and try to remain positive. Doing so has kept me alive for eight years and four months. I'd like to think I can manage for another eight to 12 weeks.

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





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