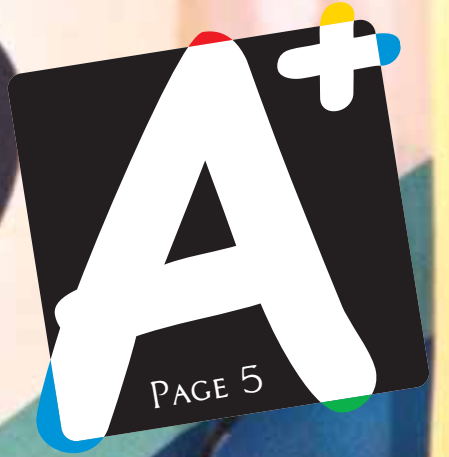




Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION



Eileen Curtis gives her thanks and appreciation to those who attended the event to honor her 23-year tenure as the president and CEO of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber, Community Honor Eileen Curtis

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

JULY 19-25, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



"City Cycling" by Janice Jones, Joy category.



"The Pearl of Great Price," by Patsy Kaufman, Inspiration category.



"Marafiki" is Swahili for "friend." Quilter Barbara Allen believes people are "born with a shared heart and love for each other; racism is a product of broken adults." Peace & Brotherhood category.

Sacred Threads, Powerful Messages

The Sacred Threads quilt exhibition comes every two years to Floris United Methodist Church in Oak Hill. Within each work, artists tell stories of love, loss, joy, hope, healing, spirituality, peace and inspiration.

Now in its 12th year, this national, juried exhibition of more than 200 quilts runs through July 23, Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Meet the artists, Saturday, July 15, 2-4 p.m.



"A Wildfire-Breathing Dragon," by Julie Hallquist, about how, inexplicably, a forest fire destroyed her neighbor's house, while hers survived. Grief category.



"Pulse" by Laurie Ceesay in memory of those killed in the 2016 Orlando nightclub tragedy. Done in the style of the late Yvonne Porcella, who founded an international art quilt association.



"Vinyasa" yoga poses by Susan Kline, Healing category.



"No Olvidados/Not Forgotten," in memory of those who died trying to cross the U.S./Mexico border and were buried, unidentified, with crosses reading "No Olvidados." Grief category.



"Origins" by Lucinda Graber, Peace & Brotherhood category.



"Art with Benefits," by Diane Dresdner of Chantilly, Healing category.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS

"Smile: Whatever It Takes," by Earamichia Brown, about a girl who's survived abuse. Healing category.





At her retirement celebration, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Eileen Curtis was honored with a parade of former Chamber Board Chairpersons, wearing top hats and each presenting the honoree with a rose.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce Board member Arsalan Lutfi, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and new Chamber President and CEO John Boylan at the retirement of Eileen Curtis, Boylan's predecessor.

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce Honors Eileen Curtis

Hundreds attend event for retiring Chamber President and CEO.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Back in 1994, Eileen Curtis attended a Herndon Chamber of Commerce mixer wearing a sticky-type name tag that read "Eileen Curtis, Job Seeker." Her confidence and creativity impressed then-Chamber Board Chairman Bob Gallaway and his colleagues. Shortly thereafter, Curtis' new, permanent name tag read "Eileen Curtis, Executive Director."

Twenty-three years later, addressing the sell-out crowd at her retirement dinner at the Hyatt Regency Dulles on July 12, Curtis said she is still amazed and incredibly grateful to have received that job offer. "I still don't know why they hired me. I had no experience or credentials for the job. But I think it turned out ok."

"Job-seeker Curtis" brought with her a resume where she served as the Director of Music and Cultural Affairs for WGMS Radio. She had a background in broadcast journalism and special events, helping to produce the event on the Washington Mall to welcome home the Iran hostages. Helming the Chamber may have been a second career for Curtis, but it seems she was the perfect fit for an organization that was also preparing for new responsibilities, new priorities and a new place in the community.

UNDER HER LEADERSHIP, the Herndon Chamber grew into the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce (DRCC), establishing itself as an engine for economic growth in the community and becoming an important partner in the transformation of the area into a thriving high-tech hub.



From left: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, and supervisors Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and Pat Herrity (R-Springfield.) "She is a tremendous advocate for business in our area. I am particularly grateful for her partnership in my annual job fairs," said Herrity.

Twenty-first century issues, opportunities and challenges faced Curtis and the Chamber, and Curtis was instrumental in directing the organization to face them all head-on. During her tenure Curtis helped the Chamber become a renowned advocate for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education, innovation and business and workforce development. Curtis also developed partnerships with six area high schools to mentor students and help prepare them for the changing skills demands of today's businesses.

Curtis launched the annual Innovate Conference, where the works of today and the ideas for tomorrow are discussed by business leaders and innovators from around the Commonwealth. At last year's fifth edition of the event, Gov. Terry McAuliffe was the keynote speaker.

Curtis and the Chamber also worked toward making the Silver Line Metro expansion a reality, realizing that transportation and infrastructure were critical to the success of area businesses small and large, and of importance to the community as a whole.

Controversial issues didn't stop Curtis, either, as she persuaded the Board to adopt

a platform of immigration reform. The DRCC is the only chamber in Virginia or within the metro area to have done so, with the exception of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

At her retirement dinner, accolades poured in, both from those present, and via video submissions of congratulations and thanks from McAuliffe, Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel, and many more. In attendance at the affair were Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, Supervisors John Foust (D-Dranesville), Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), and Kathy Smith (D-Sully). State senators and delegates were also on hand, as were other officials and business leaders too numerous to name.

"Eileen has meant so much more to this chamber than being its president," said DRCC Chairman of the Board James Lawson. "We are all better people for knowing her as both a colleague and a friend."

AFTER ACCEPTING certificates, and proclamations, and other tokens of appre-



James Lawson, Chairman of the Board, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce conducts the business of electing the organization's new officers and the new President and CEO, John Boylan, at the celebration of outgoing leader Eileen Curtis.

ciation, Curtis took to the podium to make her farewell remarks – and she still had one last surprise in store for her audience. "Bet you didn't know I used to be a singer," she said, before breaking into a re-lyricized version of the song "Memories" from the musical "Cats" – and bringing the audience to their feet with her operatic talents and the witticisms of her revised lyrics.

Curtis already has plans for "what's next." There's travelling and volunteering on the agenda, as well as a turn as an author. Her first book is almost ready. "Chamber Tales" will "answer the burning question of what a chamber actually does," said Curtis. A few of her colleagues responded with exaggerated looks of alarm and laughing requests to "please be kind" when recounting some of those tales.

Mixing business with pleasure, Lawson also oversaw the votes approving the new officers for the coming year, and for the installation of John Boylan as the successor to Curtis. "They are big shoes to fill, but we are looking forward to further success and further community service under John's leadership, but Eileen, know you will be missed and remembered."

OPINION

Help Prepare Children in Need for School

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

We 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

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.

❖ **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. Visit 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 or by 571-255-8973 or visit 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.

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/

❖ **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/

❖ **Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools** 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 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

❖ **Fairfax County Public Schools** Backpack donations at the Gatehouse and Willow Oaks Administrative office locations. 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. wfcmbva.org/how-you-can-help/annual-backpack-program/

— MARY KIMM

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Summer Book Clubs for Children

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

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Encouraging 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, 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



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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

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.”

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.”

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 they’d look.”

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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.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Jazz in the City Exhibit. Various times at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Kristine Keller and Robert Gilbert paint with an interest in New York. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

Cardboard Boat Regatta.

Registration now open for race on Aug. 12, 2-6 p.m. at Lake Anna, Reston. Participating teams of all ages will construct and decorate their own life-size cardboard boats. For more information or to register a team, visit www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard.

Teen and Adult Art Classes

ArtSpace Herndon Every Monday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. 750 Center St., Herndon. Drawing and Mixed Media with Melanie Stanley - During Fall and Winter of 2016. Cost: \$45/class. The class will use a variety of techniques for drawing, painting, mark making, and collage using fine arts tools and materials. Students will be taken down a creative path to learn to use drawing tools and brushes more effectively. Register by emailing Melanie, and she will send you the supply list and payment options/information: ridingfree2@gmail.com. 703-956-9560. www.artspaceherndon.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 20

Farmer's Market. 8-12:30 p.m. on Lynn Street in downtown Herndon. Fresh produce and baked goods, with live entertainment on the Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St. Through Aug. 31. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

ZoosDay. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. Animal and miniature animal petting zoo with hands-on, educational experiences. Child-friendly giveaways plus activities like Legos and Play-Doh. Free. Rain or shine. restontowncenter.com.

City of Fairfax "Main Street Community Band." 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Kidwell Farm, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Thursday Evening Concert Series. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

JULY 20-AUG. 20

NextStop Theatre. Various times at 269 Sunset Park Drive (Inside the Sunset Business Park on Spring Street), Herndon. "Rodgers & Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing" \$17.50-\$55. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 21

Live Music at Tavern64. 6-10 p.m. at Tavern64, 1800 Presidents St., Reston Town Center. Live music every Friday night. Call 703-925-8250 or visit tavern64.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 22

Guava Jelly Concert. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. Children and adults will be dancing and singing along with music infused with a lively island feel. Free. Call 703-476-4500, or visit restoncommunitycenter.com/ffe for more.

Family Game Days. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St., Herndon. Different games each Saturday from corn hole to sack races. Free. Email



Karen Vincent and Matthew Hirsh in "Rodgers and Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing" at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive (Inside the Sunset Business Park on Spring Street), Herndon. Performances: July 20 to Aug. 20. Tickets \$17.50 to \$55. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

PHOTO BY S. METCALF
COURTESY OF NEXTSTOP THEATRE

parksandrec@herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300 for more.

African American History Lecture.

5:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road. Radcliffe Bailey and Dr. Tuliza Fleming. Q&A with the audience to follow the formal discussion. Free. To RSVP, email William.Parker@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Scythian Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Play a blend of Celtic and klezmer music. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts for more.

Eddie from Ohio Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Arrowbrook Centre Park, Field Point Road, Herndon. Cross between folk and alternative music. Call 703-324-7469 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance.

SUNDAY/JULY 23

Artists Reception. 4-6 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Artists submitted photos for the 2018 Herndon Town Calendar, and are eligible for to receive the Herndon Town Calendar People's Choice Award. Photos will be on display from July 11-Aug. 5. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

TUESDAY/JULY 25

Design and Wine with the Artist. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Mary Sears, local Herndon artist and art educator, presents "Painting by the Seashore." \$35 per person which covers wine, light snacks and supplies. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com/ev/design-wine-painting-seashore/.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

The Grandsons Jr. (Children Songs). 10-11 a.m. at the Visitor Center Pavilion, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Wednesday Morning Children's Series. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Meet Me at the Movies. 10 a.m. at Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Reston Association presents "Gifted." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information at Ashleigh@reston.org, 703-435-6530, or reston.org.

Dog Days of Summer. 4-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion as it is transformed weekly into an off-leash play area. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet friendly giveaways, and more. Every Wednesday through Sept. 27. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 27

Farmer's Market. 8-12:30 p.m. on Lynn St. in downtown Herndon. Fresh produce and baked goods, with live entertainment on the Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St. through Aug. 31. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

ZoosDay. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. Animal and miniature animal petting zoo with hands-on, educational experiences. Kid-friendly giveaways plus activities like Legos and Play-Doh. Free. Rain or shine. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Jazz History Lecture. 6-7 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103. Michael J. West is a jazz journalist that delivers a lecture followed by open conversation. Free. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

The Spiritual Rez (Reggae/Funk). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Kidwell Farm, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Thursday Evening Concert Series. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

JULY 28-30

Willy Wonka. Various times at Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St. Summer Grand cast presents play and tour of the chocolate factory. \$12, tour is \$3. Visit www.herndondrama.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Family Game Days. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St. Different games each Saturday from corn hole to sack races. Free. Email parksandrec@herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300 for more.

Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. A show filled with audience participation and humor. Visit restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500 for more.

Hillbilly Gypsies Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Arrowbrook Centre Park, Field Point Road, Herndon. Bluegrass music. Call 703-324-7469 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance.

SUNDAY/JULY 30

Sunday Art in the Park. 3-5 p.m. in the Park Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market St. See local art and talk to artists. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242 for more.

Film Screening. 6 p.m. in Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. Martin Scorsese's newest film about a 17th century Portuguese Jesuit priest. Email kkinsolv@yahoo.com or tallen1@fcps.edu for more.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ by noon on Friday.

THROUGH JULY 28

Vendor Application Deadline. Reston Community Center is seeking arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and civic organizations of all cultures for the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form at restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf.

THROUGH JULY 31

Backpacks for Students. Various times at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Christ the King's Team Service is collaborating with Reston's aid to families organization Cornerstones and school supplies collection organization Kids R First to help youngsters in the community. Collections will run through July; drop off in the church lobby. Visit www.gflutheran.org or call 703-759-6068.

TUESDAY/AUG. 15

Candidate Filing Deadline. Reston Community Center (RCC) is seeking interested candidates to run for seats on its Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is a nine-member body responsible for oversight of RCC. All residents of Small District 5, age 18 or older, are eligible to run. Candidates must complete a Candidacy Statement in order to have their names placed on the Preference Poll ballot. Candidacy Statements will be available at RCC facilities or online at www.restoncommunitycenter.com beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1. The deadline for candidacy filing is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

THROUGH AUG. 18

Artist Application Deadline. Visual artists who wish to participate in the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival art exhibit "Art Mirrors Culture" may visit restoncommunitycenter.com. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf.

THROUGH AUG. 25

Summer Lunches. The Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Food and Nutrition Services will be hosting the FEEDS (Food for Every Child to Eat During Summer) BBQ program, a USDA-funded program is free to all children 18 years and under and \$2 for adults. There is no registration involved, and open to everyone. Meal service will be provided at the following sites Monday-Friday, 11:30-1 p.m. No service on July 3 and 4. In the Reston-Herndon area, FEEDS is offered at the following schools:

- ♦ Dogwood Elementary School, 12300 Glade Drive, Reston
- ♦ Hutchison Elementary School, 13209 Parcher Ave., Herndon
- ♦ Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon

ONGOING

Sunrise at Reston Town Center offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com to RSVP.

Exercise for Parkinson's. Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. parkinsonsfoundation.org. Contact Natalie McCall at nmccall@onelifefitness.com 703-904-7600 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.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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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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KITCHEN REMODELING DESIGN TIP:

Finding Focal Points

.....
Avoid confusing and visually busy patterns in your kitchen space by selecting one or two focal points. Invest in items that will make the strongest impact. A backsplash, accent countertops, furniture, textured walls, and fixtures can all act as the foundation of your focal point.



BATHROOM REMODELING DESIGN TIP:

Capturing the Resort Feel

.....
Plan on a variety of shower heads like a ceiling mounted rain shower and a body sprayer for a spa-resort like feel. Free standing or pedestal bathtubs make a nice focal point in a bathroom. Ceiling-mounted light fixtures add style and sparkle, while additional wall-mounted lights positioned at eye level illuminate your face from both sides.



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BASEMENT REMODELING DESIGN TIP:

Endless Possibilities

.....
Basements are ideal for entertaining adults and children. Incorporating good lighting and maximizing space along with adding built-in shelving and storage areas are few things to consider when you're planning the layout and design.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT FLOORING TIP

.....
When choosing a new floor for your home, asking yourself a few key questions at the beginning can dramatically increase your satisfaction in the end. Is it a high moisture area? Are pets or kids walking on this floor? What is your square foot budget? Do you want flooring that requires very little maintenance?



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