



Burke CONNECTION

Boxer is named for the British holiday Boxing Day (Dec. 26, the day he came to his new home home). He's developed quite a fan club, both in person and on his Facebook page, where he posts pictures for holidays. Here, he is celebrating Cinco de Mayo.



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County Pursuing Environmental Goals

Bulova hosts County Environmental Showcase.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Part exhibition, part symposium, and part networking opportunity — there was something for everyone even vaguely interested in environmental issues at the Environmental Showcase, hosted by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova on Saturday, July 22 at the county's Government Center.

The Fairfax County Environmental Vision was first adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2004, when U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was the board's chair. Working with then-Supervisor Bulova and others like Supervisor Penny Gross (Mason District), an environmental advisory committee was established to help develop and direct the region's environmental agenda.

The board recently updated the Vision document, so the event provided the community with some insight into the revisions. It also acknowledged the achievements of local government departments and non-profit organizations and civic groups, while recommitting to the task of protecting the local environment and developing models of sustainability as the county continues to grow.

There were kudos enough to go around.

Bulova noted Fairfax County reduced its per capita emissions by 10 percent from 2005 to 2012 and reduced greenhouse gas emissions from public buildings by 21 percent from 2006 to 2015 — at the same time that county properties have grown in square footage.

More than 60 percent of the county's Fairfax Connector buses are "mini-hybrids" which utilize engine cooling systems to reduce emissions and save on fuel bills.

BOTH BULOVA AND CONNOLLY noted the county's goal to increase tree cover in Fairfax County by 45 percent by 2037 has already been met — and exceeded. In addition, according to the Park Authority, said Connolly, the goal of preserving 10 percent of all land in the county is well within reach. "9.26 percent there," said Connolly. "Only 1,864 acres more to go."

Connolly also praised the board for "once again taking a leadership role" and adopting a resolution to sign on to the National Climate Action Agenda to uphold the standards agreed upon by 195 nations at the Paris Climate Summit. "President Trump has withdrawn us from the agreement," said Connolly. "Congratulations. We've joined the ranks of Nicaragua and Syria, the only two other countries who refused to sign ... and Nicaragua only declined because they thought it didn't go far enough."

Much of Connolly's remarks centered on the redevelopment of Tysons Corner.



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova was the host of the Environmental Showcase at the Government Center: "We've come along way since the adoption of the first Environmental Vision, but there's always work to be done."

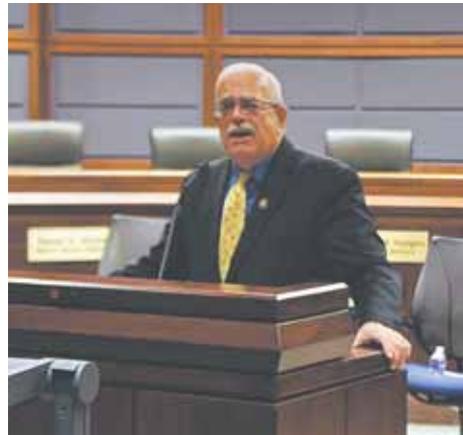
"Consider the revolutionary provisions developed by the citizens Tysons Task Force. America's Next Great City is being built in a transit-oriented manner ... ensuring for the first time in Fairfax County that transit, biking and walking will be the safest, most convenient modes of transportation."

Connolly listed a number of additional achievements that had been made, and pointed out that all had been accomplished in partnership with the business community. He also paid tribute to the "unsung heroes in much of our environmental progress," referring to the hundreds of individuals and civic groups who have not only advocated in support of environmental protection, but also put in the hours and added their expertise for the good of the whole community, today and for the future.

A diverse panel of government employees and business leaders made presentations highlighting the partnership that Connolly spoke of. Kambiz Agazi, who Bulova introduced as the "Environmental Orchestra Conductor," is the county's environmental coordinator. Agazi mentioned some of the changes in "Vision 2.0" and also informed the audience that a new "environmental inventory" measuring environmental impact and improvements would be soon forthcoming.

Also present from Fairfax County government were James Hart, planning commissioner, and Susan Hafeli, senior utility analyst.

Tom Fleury, executive vice president of Bowman Consulting; Dr. Dann Sklarew, Ph.D. from George Mason University; and Steve Smith, principal with Cooper Carry architects, all spoke of innovations within their various disciplines that were aimed at marrying profitability with efficiency and environmental stewardship.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was a guest speaker at the event. Connolly was the board chair when the first Environmental Vision for Fairfax County was developed and adopted.

Kaspowicz of Vienna ("just over the Reston line") who was impressed by the quantity of information being gathered and the work planned to restore and protect those resources.

Patrick Keenan, hotel operations project manager with Maryland-based B. F. Saul Company, Hospitality Group, stopped by to visit with Raea Jean Leinster, self-described "Chief Yuck Officer," of Yuck Old Paint recycling company. B. F. Saul is a client of Yuck. "Everybody can do their part," said Keenan.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION made its presence felt at the Showcase, as well. Members of ESLI – Eco-Schools Leadership Initiative – were also on hand. Sophia Applegate, a rising senior at Oakton High School, joined Madison High School rising junior Kathryn Hammond and VCU fresh-



The panel at the Showcase symposium and Q&A. From left: James Hart, Fairfax County Planning Commissioner; Tom Fleury, executive vice president, Bowman Consulting; Steve Smith, principal, Cooper Carry; Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County Senior Utility Analyst; and Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University professor and Sustainability Initiatives coordinator. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator, also joined in.

Smith had the assembly particularly interested in the description of his company's pilot project, re-designing a test floor in a hotel to align with "wellness building concepts." "In these rooms, even the shower is thinking about your health" with a Vitamin C infused water flow, he said. Before and after the speakers' presentations and questions for the panel, an estimated crowd of about 200 visited booths set up in the conference center lobby and in the main forum.

In the week ahead Reston Association will be reviewing its first major "RASER" – Reston Association State of the Environment Report. The work for the 190-page document was conducted over the last year by Doug Britt and a nine-person volunteer army who donated more than 1,000 hours to the task of unbundling information from a variety of sources and physically viewing, monitoring, testing and observing the natural environment in the area. The Reston booth drew quite a crowd, including Joan

man Archana Nakkara of Vienna to talk about the program that helps other youths learn about environmental issues and start their own environmental initiatives. The three met at an ESLI Conference, and their mutual interest in environmental protection has brought them together to help spread the word. "We love to do the programs especially in the middle schools and even younger. It's great to get kids started early, knowing how important it is to protect the Earth we live on and the community we live in," said Applegate.

There was no disagreement among those gathered. The work needed to be done on environmental issues and on combining the goals of growth and sustainability will probably never be done. "Things keep changing. People, technologies, the world around us, and we need to keep looking ahead to be ready," said Bulova.

The Fairfax County Environmental Vision can be reviewed at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/sustainability/.

Pay It Forward with Candy Bars Goes Viral at WSHS

“Throw Shine” messages captured on Mars Candy video.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

There was a girl in Audrey Wever’s math class at West Springfield High School last year that could use some cheering up, so as part of Audrey’s covert effort to “throw shine,” around the school, she discreetly dropped off a 3 Musketeers bar and message of encouragement that made the girl’s day. It was part of her and fellow student Rodney Wrice’s effort last year to spread positive vibes around that grew into something they never imagined.

“It felt so good, you can be a really good stranger,” Wever said.

Through the power of the Internet, teenage idealism, and candy bars with positive messages, the students’ plan grew into a school-wide feeling of togetherness and a video by Mars Candy thrusting Wever and Wrice into a nationwide 3 MUSKETEERS #ThrowShine campaign. “It got so big, very unexpected,” said Wever.

IT ALL STARTED last fall when Rodney Wrice saw a Throw Shine video that 3 Musketeers put out, and it gave him an idea to do the same thing at West Springfield, a “pay-it-forward,” effort to spread good feelings. There was negativity and cyber bullying going on in the world, and he wanted to do something about it locally.

According to Mars Candy, the 3 MUSKETEERS #ThrowShine campaign started last fall with a message on each candy bar and videos designed to create an environment for young people to give props to their peers or make someone feel good. It is the positive counterpart to the isolation and embarrassment that comes with “throwing shade,” an internet slang term for being negative towards something or someone.

The two students went out, bought some 3 Musketeer bars, hand wrote some positive messages of their own, anonymously placing them in lockers, desks, and other locations so the intended parties would get them. They had to be discreet so no one associated the effort with them. “I would come in at like 6:20 in the morning, we would hand write all the notes,” said Wever.

As more candy bars and notes went out, Wrice created a Twitter account, and more students started following it, posting pictures of the bars and messages they received. “The Twitter account was noticed by our community management team who brought it to the attention of Mars, who then made the decision to send 2,800 bars to the school,” said Lori Shachtman, a spokesperson for the ThrowShine campaign.

“[Mars Candy] called Mr. Mukai,” the West Springfield principal Wrice said, “he



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Audrey Wever and Rodney Wrice were throwing shine, via candy bars at West Springfield High School.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Audrey Wever and Rodney Wrice’s positive message activity got praise from Fairfax County officials last spring.

emailed us, he was really excited about it.”

It wasn’t long before Mars sent a video team from Warhorse Filmmaker to tape a

video at West Springfield to capture the ThrowShine feeling around the school. With the cameras rolling, “we just talked about



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Social media played a big role getting the message around.

everything, it took the whole school day,” Wever said.

Mukai had a speaking part in the video as well. Film releases were signed by all, and when the crew left that day last spring, there was a long wait, longer than either of them had imagined.

“I don’t know what took them so long,” said Wrice.

“I was checking YouTube every day for two weeks,” added Wever.

In late June, at 1 a.m., Wrice saw the link. “I watched it first and sent her the link,” to Wever, who was in Germany on vacation.

WITH A TWITTER LINK, pictures on the internet, and a YouTube video, social media played a big part, which they learned from as well. “It opened doors on what we could do,” said Wever. The positivity of the whole effort was part of their Christian background, and during the process, Fairfax County got wind of the Throw Shine campaign at West Springfield in March.

“We won the Fairfax County peace award for our school,” said Wever. Wrice is off to college this year, but Wever plans on continuing with the positive message scenario during her senior year at West Springfield.

“I’m glad I did it, it was a good experience,” she said.

West Springfield High School is being renovated as well, so Principal Mukai is planning on adding a “throw shine,” element to the new look. “We’re going to have a positive mural dedicated to Audrey and Rodney,” he said.

See the West Springfield Throwing Shine video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJ0kpeWF-cA&feature=youtu.be.

SCHOOLS

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

The following students were named as Student Ambassadors for the 2017-2018 academic year at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

❖ **Hannah Zakaria**, of Fairfax, is a senior majoring in business administration.

❖ **Hope Zakaria**, of Fairfax, is a sophomore majoring in communication disorders.

In addition to providing tours to prospective students, ambassadors welcome guests to the University campus and answer questions about the many academic, spiritual, social and cultural opportunities available at Bob Jones University.

John Gaboriault-Whitcomb, of Burke, has been named to the dean's list for the 2017 spring semester at Youngstown State University (Youngstown, Ohio). Gaboriault-Whitcomb is a STEM First Year Engineering major.

Natalie Cardillo, of Burke, has been named to the University of Delaware (Newark, Del.) dean's list for the spring 2017 semester.

Naomi Kristien Sproule, a rising senior English major at Hollins University (Roanoke, Va.), has been named to the dean's list for the 2017 spring semester. Sproule is the daughter of William and Pia Sproule of Burke. She is a graduate of Robinson Secondary School.

Evan Leonard, of Burke, graduated from the University of Vermont (Burlington, Vt.) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science

Nathaniel Fischer, of Burke, was named to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln dean's list for the 2016-17 academic year.

Marie Desrochers, of Burke, made the dean's list at the Georgia Institute of Technology for the spring semester of 2017.

Katherine Christine Kunc, of Burke, made the dean's list at University of Kentucky for the spring 2017 semester. Kunc is a junior majoring in economics

Daniel E. Cox, of Burke, made the dean's list at University of Kentucky for the spring 2017 semester. Cox is a senior majoring in music education.

Jacob Stenstrom, of Burke, who is studying economics, made the dean's list for the 2017 spring semester at Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, N.Y.).

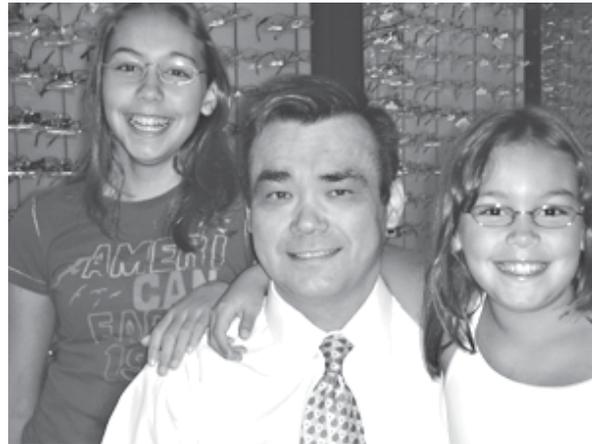
Emma Enav, a Burke native studying at Ithaca College (Ithaca, N.Y.), is conducting research this summer as part of the School of Humanities and Sciences' Summer Scholars Program. Enav's research topic is "Infant Locomotion and Executive Function".

Sumin Kim, of Burke, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in architecture from Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.) in spring 2017.

Kelly Yuson, a University of Iowa student from Burke, was awarded academic honors for the spring 2017 semester.

Marissa R. Bossard, of Burke, made dean's list at Clemson University (Clemson, S.C.) for the spring 2017 semester. Bossard is majoring in science teaching.

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OPINION

Help End Domestic Violence

There were 1,483 calls to the domestic violence hotline in 2016, averaging 124 calls per month.

BY JOHN C. COOK
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (BRADDOCK-R)

Strong families are held together by love, support, and commitment. They are the very foundation of a strong society. If the core of the family is replaced by violence, then all of society is weakened.

Domestic violence affects one in four Fairfax families and causes nearly 1,600 arrests in Fairfax every year. It is almost guaranteed that anyone reading this knows a victim of domestic violence, even if they are unaware of it. These statistics alone paint a dire picture. However, there is a way you can make a positive difference.

Fairfax County's Domestic Violence Prevention Council, which I chair, rolled out the "Make the Call" campaign earlier this year. Its purpose is to encourage victims and witnesses of domestic violence to call Fairfax County's 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline at 703-360-7273. This number is completely safe and confidential. The hotline is staffed by experts always ready to offer information, counsel, and resources to victims and concerned citizens. Callers can receive vital information on where



to find shelter, legal resources, financial aid, and even a safe haven for their animals. Anyone can call to learn about the signs of domestic violence and even confirm possible incidents.

The hotline is proving to be highly effective and even lifesaving. The Fairfax County Office for Women received 1,483 hotline calls with an average of 124 calls per month in 2016. At least 98 percent of those who called for services said the hotline better prepared them to make a safety plan. This call can mean the difference between life and death for those escaping abuse.

Domestic violence is sometimes difficult to identify for bystanders, as well as victims. Abusers will often convince their victims that

they deserve the abuse, which shames victims into hiding the problem instead of speaking out. Many abusers threaten their victims with harsher, deadlier punishments if they look for help. These and other factors make domestic violence more difficult to recognize without the help of a seasoned professional. This is why we need more people to make the call when they have that gut feeling that something is amiss.

For bystanders, it could be a black eye, a passing reference, or even a loud argument overheard next door. You do not have to be sure. If you think domestic violence maybe happening, make the call and let professionals help.

For victims, the hotline is available whenever you need it. If you feel threatened, alone, or unsafe in your own home, please make the call. You do not have to go through this difficult time alone. The staff at the hotline is here for you at any hour of the day and will do everything they can to help secure you and your family's safety.

Again, the number is 703-360-7273. Please, make the call, it could save a life.

Victims and witnesses of domestic violence can call Fairfax County's 24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotline at 703-360-7273.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Catastrophic Events' Can Happen to Anyone

To the Editor:

I am a senior citizen and I have read about the situation with health care or lack of in this country. Your article mentioned many factors that the general public is ignorant of. I personally believe that a country's strength and greatness is reflected in how they treat the least of their people.

We have failed on an epic level as a people. No person wants to be on welfare, Medicaid, public assistance or food stamps. The prevailing ignorant opinion by the vastly uninformed public is that it is an easy ride and that the individuals on welfare want to live off the state.

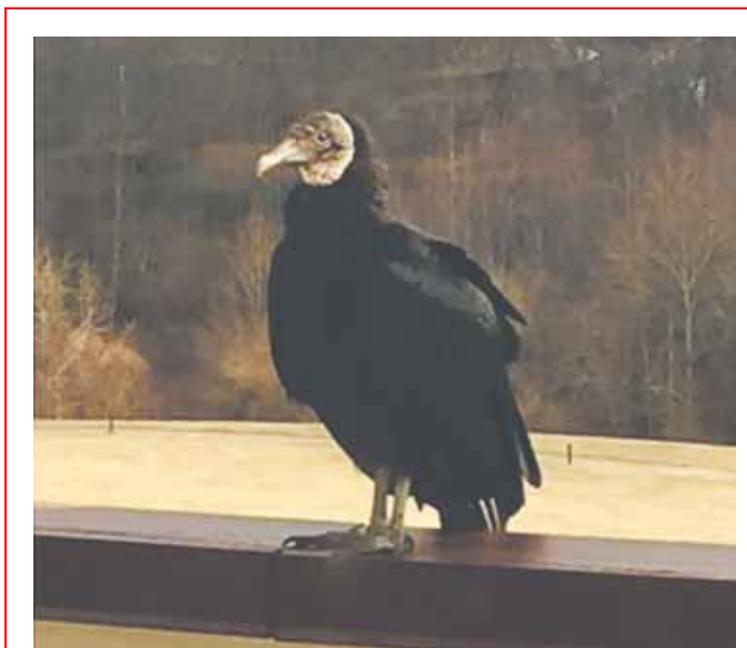
The truth of the matter is that "catastrophic events" can happen to anyone and it only takes the loss of employment and devastating medical bills to suddenly be forced to be on state assistance. It is a true nightmare. It is a degrading humiliating process and I honestly cannot think of anyone who truly wanted to be on Medicaid or welfare. It puts a person in a negative life-altering position where the

judgment by people is harsh and unsympathetic. People make assumptions that those on assistance are no good lazy bums getting a "free ride."

The truth is that President Johnson and his "great society" brought about the demise of social security. He opened the doors to the looting of the program for non-related financial projects.

I am an independent voter. I am a senior. I used to be an employee of United Airlines. I lost all my benefits and do not have any retirement. I also was a part time teacher. I have no teacher's pension. I have no savings and no retirement to fall back on and am living on S.S.I. of \$735 a month and that is my sole income. It is impossible to live on this. I have no money by the middle of the month.

I injured myself in a freak accident at Dulles airport. I lost my job. it was a devastating loss for me. I could not find any work. I was forced out of desperation to apply for Medicaid. I do not like Medicaid because the types of cli-



"Victor the Vulture is our new office pet. While he's not very cuddly, we enjoy his visits to our office balcony, which he uses to 'scope' out the area. From time to time we get to watch him dive bomb from the fifth floor of the Government Center. Although we are unsure of his success rate. Victor is bigger than most cats and I wouldn't want him near mine!"

— BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN SHARON BULOVA

ents I have to associate with and choice of doctors is very limited.

Having grown up in a family where my mother was a Democrat and my father a Republican I have

had two viewpoints. My maternal grandfather was with the Burlington Northern Railroad 30-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

Burke
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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Pictured, from left: Doreen Pfeiffer, Kings Park West resident; John Palmer, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES); Amber Lum, ASI Construction LLC; Paul Gross, President, Friends of Royal Lake; George Lamb, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NCSWCD); Anthony Vellucci, Park Authority Board, Braddock District Representative; Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock District); State Sen. Chap Peterson; Randy Bartlett; Darold Burdick and Dipmani Kumar, DPWES; Laura Grape, NCSWCD; Tim Hackman, Park Authority Board, Dranesville District Representative; and a friend of Royal Lake.

Lakeside Celebration Marks Completion of Royal Lake Dredging

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Lakeside Park on Saturday, July 15, to mark the completion of the rehabilitation and dredging project at Royal Lake in Fairfax. The celebration also marked the completion of the broader Pohick Dams project – a multi-year commitment by Fairfax County and its partners to meet current dam standards and restore the sediment pool of the lakes formed by dams at four county parks.

Dredging at Royal Lake began in mid-June 2016 and was completed in spring 2017. The \$5.5 million project will result in such projected water quality benefits as

the removal of 31 tons per year of sediment, 150 pounds per year of phosphorus, and 2,500 pounds per year of nitrogen. An important component of the project was the creation of forebays in the lake that provide water quality benefits and facilitate future maintenance dredging. This was a project that depended on partnerships including the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Park Authority, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, ASI Construction LLC, other contractors, and nearby residents who enjoy the amenities that Royal Lake provides.

PET CONNECTION

Hannah Johnson, 16, of Fairfax Station, with her Great Pyrenees named Thor.



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PET CONNECTION



Cinco de Mayo



Mardi Gras

Boxer for All Occasions

Our Boxer is certainly a lovable guy. Named for the British holiday Boxing Day (Dec. 26, the day he came home to us), he's developed quite a fan club, both in person and on his Facebook page, where he posts pictures for holidays.

Boxer is a 3-year-old Dutch with striking good looks ... we think that he's handsome enough in his "tuxedo" to be considered as the next James Bond and he obviously has plenty of romantic appeal. He is a vegetarian who likes quiet dinners with family, rearranging the "furniture" in his cage and watching "Dancing With The Stars," although he is disappointed that they have yet to perform the Bunny Hop.

Our little guy (he weighs about six pounds) loves to meet new people and is particularly fond of children. He will happily sit for ages being petted and will repay you with bunny kisses (licking your fingers). Although he is clearly adorable, rabbits have a life expectancy of up to 10 years and require daily socialization and attention, in addition to their regular food and supplemental fresh veggies - while Boxer obviously turns on the charm for the camera, please recognize that caring for a bunny is much more than just a photo op.

— SUSIE NUÑEZ

Boxer's humans are occasional contributors to The Connection and his grand-humans' family manages circulation for the Springfield/Burke/Fairfax editions each week.



Easter 2015



Santa



St Pat



Valentines Flowers

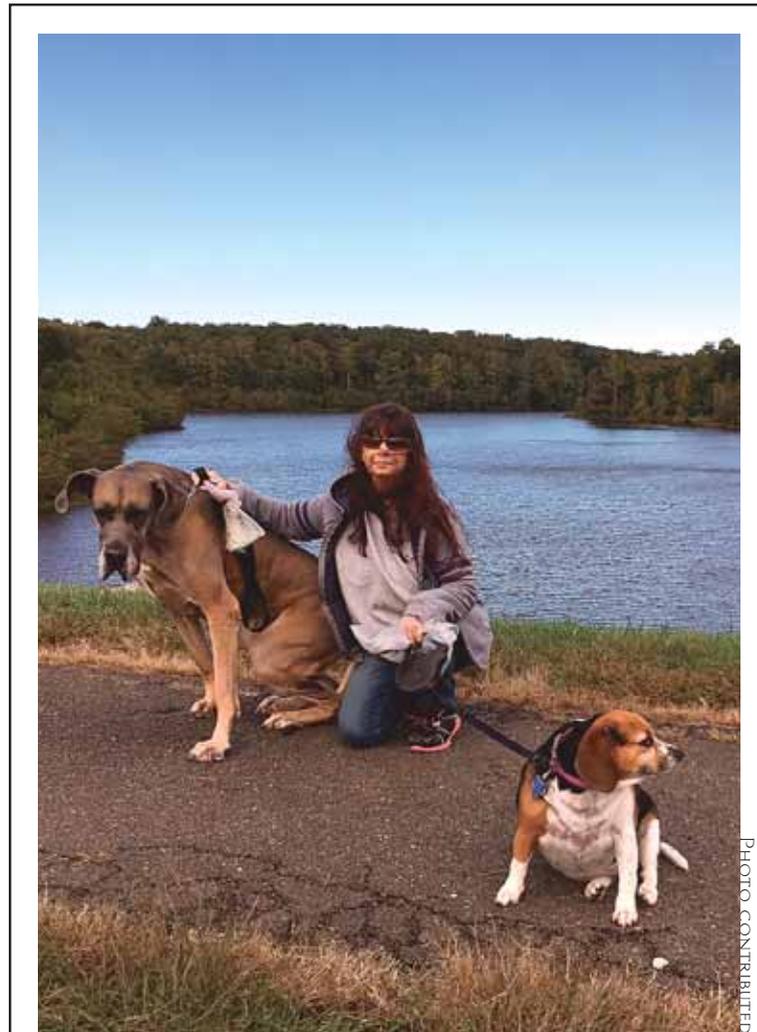


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cheryl Sheppard, of Burke, with Doobie on the left and Emma on the right in a photo taken at Lake Mercer.

Gentle Giant of Burke

"Meet Doobie on the left, Emma on the right and I'm Cheryl Sheppard (of Burke). We adopted Emma from Fairfax animal shelter when she was just a puppy, eight years ago. She's the alpha of the pack and always first to greet us howling when we come home from work. Doobie's not three steps behind. Doobie was adopted from our good friend who rescued him from a shelter in North Carolina five years back when Doobie was 2

years old. Doobie is a gentle giant with a big heart. He's learned so much from Emma but Doobie is still working on his table manners. Without these two I'm sure this photo, taken at Lake Mercer, wouldn't have happened. Our family is blessed to have these paws in our household."

— SUBMITTED BY KEVIN SHEPPARD, BURKE



The Camp family of Fairfax adopted Lulu when her owner had to give her up. She does not care to have her picture taken...and tends to stick her tongue out.

PET CONNECTION



Special Connection

This is the picture of our family English bulldog Bandit with Ryan Saba. In this picture Bandit is 10-weeks old and Ryan is 23 working for Horn Point Laboratory and about to start a master's program at the University of Maryland. On the day the picture was taken, Ryan drove from Cambridge, Md., just to see Bandit.

They were inseparable: Ryan would be wrestling with the little puppy, taking him for walks (mainly carrying him in his hands), turning Bandit into the next Hollywood star by taking countless pictures and videos and letting the puppy fall asleep in his arms exhausted from all the play. This picture was taken three years ago, just days before the tragic car accident took Ryan away from us and Bandit.

This picture of a smiling young man and his beloved puppy will always be very special and dear to our family and everyone who knew Ryan. Today Bandit is a 3-year-old beautiful and loving dog who



is full of energy and who will always remind us of that special connection he had with Ryan and the connection we will always have with Bandit.

— KATE SABA, FAIRFAX STATION

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The Nativity Players Theater Ministry at Church of the Nativity in Burke presented “Godspell” on July 20-23, 2017, in Burke.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The cast of “Godspell” performs.

Nativity Players Present ‘Godspell’

First-ever production at Church of the Nativity in Burke.

The Nativity Players Theater Ministry presented “Godspell,” its first-ever production on July 20-23, 2017, at the Catholic church on Nativity Lane in Burke. After rehearsing for two months, the 11-member ensemble performed a modern take on the 1970’s musical based on the parables of Jesus Christ.

In preparing for the production, Director Kimberly Siepman said she studied the 1970’s version of “Godspell,” composed by Stephen Schwartz and conceived by John-Michael Tebelak, and decided to modernize it using smartphones in an airport setting.

“One of the big things that I found is that the author originally had done it as a college thesis, that what if a historical figure were to come today, how would the message be different?” she said.

She continued: “I saw the joy in the show and I said if we keep the original setting,



Chance Remus plays the role of Jesus in “Godspell.”



Ana Purchiaroni performs in “Godspell.”

we’re going to lose one of the main themes that we really had from the very beginning that the author wanted to portray. So I said, well let’s now put it in modern day as [the playwright] had done 40 years ago. And let’s put this in a setting today that people will understand and that they can relate to so that they can then take the message and better apply it to their lives.”

She said Nativity Catholic Church had never done anything more than a one-act before, so the sound was a challenge. “But we surrounded ourselves with people who stepped up and wanted to help so we divided and conquered so we could get through those challenges. I feel like we did a pretty good job of overcoming that,” she said.

Playing the main role of Jesus was Chance Remus, who said it took a long time to get his lines down. “This is the first show I’ve ever been in with the lead. They emailed me and said, ‘Congratulations, you’re Jesus,’ and I said, ‘Oh my gosh.’ I was terrified, but then as time went by, I got everything together. Along with the cast, they helped me out a lot, especially Kimberly, our director,” he said.

— STEVE HIBBARD

Jessica Powers takes a selfie of the cast during the “Godspell” production.



“The Music Pit” performed as the all-volunteer musical orchestra. Members included: James Adelsberger, Mina Lee, Miguel Juan Pangelinan, and Massimo Zaru-Roque.

SCHOOLS



Winning in Nashville

Lake Braddock Secondary School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) joined more than 7,500 FCCLA student leaders, members, and advisers at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn, July 2-6 to participate in the annual FCCLA National Leadership Conference (NLC). Competing with over 4,200 STAR Event participants in Nashville, Lake Braddock students Maria Herbas (right) and James Brandow (left) won a 1st Place Gold Medal in the entrepreneurship category for their International Bakery business plan; Kaitlyn Sam (middle) achieved 2nd Place Silver Medal in the Nutrition and Wellness category for her "3 Peas in a Pod T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More).



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Newcomers & Community Guide

August 23, 2017

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made, a calendar of events and other vital community information.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

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.

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 or call 703-385-7855.

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

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/ 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.

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.

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/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 or call 703-425-9225.

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.

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 or call 703-385-7855.

TUESDAY/AUG. 1

Night Out at Random Hills. 6-8 p.m.

Cirque du Soleil's "OVO" – Main characters, from left: The Foreigner, Ladybug, and Master Flipo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



Soaring into Eagle Bank Arena

Cirque du Soleil's "OVO" brings colorful imagination to GMU stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Skillful daredevils with big, off-beat imaginations will be arriving in Northern Virginia. It is Cirque du Soleil's touring production of "OVO" with seven performances at the Eagle Bank Arena in Fairfax.

"OVO" starts when a larger than life "community of colorful curious insects is disrupted when a most colorful funky blue fly called The Foreigner unexpectedly arrives with a special package: a mysterious large egg," said Cirque du Soleil publicist, Nicolas Chabot in a recent interview. OVO is egg in Portuguese, said Chabot.

"What was once a quiet, thriving community of ants, spiders, crickets, dragon flies, even some not so frightening mosquitoes and fleas all have to deal with something new in their midst," added Chabot. The wise, eccentric Master Flipo, chief of the insect community, is startled. But a shy Ladybug senses that the community will be disrupted for the good.

"OVO" was created by Deborah Colker, the first

female director in Cirque du Soleil history. "Colker wanted to develop a family friendly experience bringing the secret life of the colorful insects often hidden away at our feet to view," said Chabot. "And the bugs are not creepy at all.

"The 'OVO' community is visually striking, full of quirky insects who perform astounding physical stunts," said Chabot. They rush about to eat, crawl, play, annoy each other, and even look for friendships. All with non-stop energy.

The cast of OVO comprises 50 athletic performing artists. They will perform in a center ring, on walls, on high wires and even perform hold-one's-breath feats in the heights of the Eagle Bank Arena. As they perform, they will jump, contort, tumble, juggle and twist to defy gravity and audience expectations. A lively seven-piece band will add energy to the show, playing original music composed by Berna Ceppas based upon the Bossa Nova, Funk, Electro and even Samba.

Bright, colorful costumes will display the acrobatic insects in lively groupings of energetic cute bugs. "OVO" will showcase the insects working together to form and celebrate their community," said Chabot.

"OVO" is a big, exciting picture book that will come alive through human imagination and the skills of performers out to please the audience; no matter what age. "OVO" aims to be wide-eyed fun, showing that colorful bugs of many kinds can live peacefully together.

at Random Hills Community Pool, 11567 Laurel Lakes Square, Fairfax. Part of the National Night Out community event, food, cold treats, games.

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.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 2

Tai Chi. 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive,

Fairfax. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Class will take place in Old Town Square at the pergola. Weather permitting. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/.

THURSDAY/AUG. 3

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Learn about fish in the pond. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588.

The Excellent Drivers concert.

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Musical, family-friendly event. Free.

Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/.

FRIDAY/AUG. 4

Main Street Clarinet Quartet concert. 7-8 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Musical, family-friendly event. Free. Visit fairfaxva.gov/.

Bingo. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Smoke free. \$1,000 jackpot. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/.

Topgolf and a DJ. 7-10 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Rush Hour DJ, food and drink. Visit topgolf.com/us/

alexandria/ or call 703-924-2600.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. at Uncle Julio's at Fairfax Corner, 4251 Fairfax Corner Ave. \$32 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.

Topgolf and a DJ. 7-10 p.m. at Topgolf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Golf, music from Tnyce DJ, food and drink. Visit topgolf.com/us/alexandria/ or call 703-924-2600.

SUNDAY/AUG. 6

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.

MONDAY/AUG. 7

Funday Monday. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Mr. Skip will perform for children. Free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 9

Tai Chi. 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Weather permitting. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Class will take place in Old Town Square at the pergola. Free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

THURSDAY/AUG. 10

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Learn about "dirt critters," in the area. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

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

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge T-TRAK model train show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Meet the Artist Reception. noon-3 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Art Quilts Exhibit by fiber artist Marisela Rumberg, exhibit runs Aug. 9-Sept. 3. Visit www.MariselaRumberg.com.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Reston: A Revolutionary Idea." Author and biographer Kristina Alcorn will discuss the history of Reston and sign and sell her book, "In His Own Words: Stories from the Extraordinary Life of Reston's Founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr." Free. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. 703-385-8414.

THURSDAY/AUG. 17

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Learn about insects in the area. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588.

Lucia Valentine Concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive. Grab dinner at one of the many restaurants in downtown, and listen to great music. Free. Call 703-385-7858.

FAITH

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church has Worship services Saturday in the chapel at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday in the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. traditional worship. Sunday School for youth and children is in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m., and Sunday School for adults is in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. Fellowship is in Hottle Hall on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. 8508 Hooes Road in Springfield. www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.

St. Anthony of Padua American National Catholic Church, 10383 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, holds mass for Contemporary Catholics every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. St. Anthony's is an independent Catholic parish, inclusive and accepting of all people. Experience true acceptance and true Catholicism. www.MySaintAnthonys.org.

Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, conducts Worship team practice for the Praise Band in the Sanctuary every Thursday at 7 p.m. All are welcome. 703-323-1347.

Jubilee Christian Center will have a Patriotic Service on Sunday, May 28, 8:45 and 11 a.m., featuring special music and message. Jubilee is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. There will be no 6 p.m. service on May 28. For information, call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org

The Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rugby Road in Fairfax, has facilitators available to help those who are experiencing a separation or divorce. 703-631-2100 or www.fxcc.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services during the summer on Sundays at 10 a.m. The regular schedule, Sundays at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., resumes Sept. 11. www.uucf.org.

Congregation Adat Reyim, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Maariv minyan at 7:30 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays from 9-11:15 for K-6th graders and Mondays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for 3rd-6th graders. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. 703-569-7577 or www.adatreyim.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 6 p.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, offers Early Morning Service at 8 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Bible Study at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

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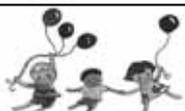
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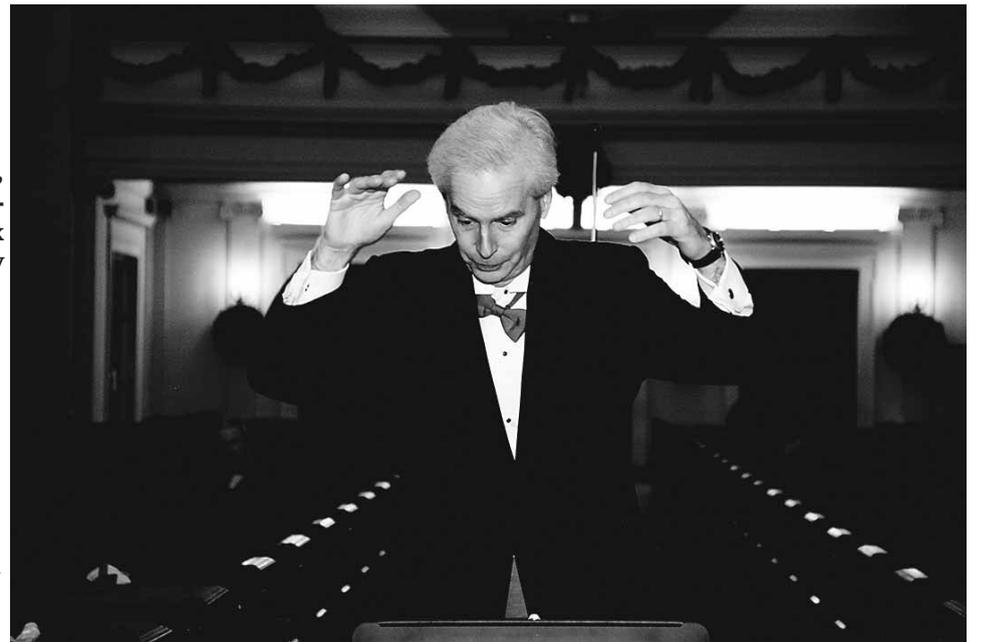
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**Doug Mears,
artistic direc-
tor, Fairfax
Choral Society**



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OF FAIRFAX CHORAL
SOCIETY

Bringing Masterworks to Fairfax

**Doug Mears,
Fairfax Choral
Society long time
artistic director
to retire.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

After nearly four decades shaping and inspiring the Fairfax Choral Society (FCS)

to be at the forefront of Washington area choruses; artistic director Doug Mears will be retiring this fall. One of the largest choral groups in the region, the FCS provides classes and opportunities to perform for more than 300 choral singers from preschool through adult.

"His talent, passion and creative programming have inspired and educated our singers," said long-time FCS member and Board Chair Barbara Tuset. "During his tenure he also provided the chorus with extraordinary experiences with guest composers and conductors. Each performance left us hungry for the next challenge. Doug will be missed by all of us at FCS."

When asked what kept him so committed to the FCS, Mears said, "The opportunity to collaborate with talented, hard-working, dedicated, and inspiring singers; and with great composers from throughout music history, to present masterworks of choral music for our community and the world."

Mears noted that "Choral singing continues to be the most popular form of participation in the performing arts." He cited national data that nearly 25 percent of American households have at least one choral singer; around 42.6 million choral singers, both adult and children.

"The FCS artistic staff can certainly attest to the value of choral singing for young people, as we have seen its impact on our own singers, ever since the FCS Youth Choruses began," added Mears.



Fairfax Choral Society Adult Chorus

Details

For additional information about the retirement of Fairfax Choral Society (FCS) artistic director Doug Mears and the upcoming FCS season, visit www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org or call 703-642-3277.

While Mears noted many memorable musical achievements, "perhaps most memorable have been the opportunities we have shared, offering our music for special and significant occasions in our members lives; weddings, funerals, retirements. And, of course, to see children who began their musical training in the FCS Youth Choruses develop into outstanding musicians and continue their musical aspirations professionally and as members of our volunteer adult Symphonic Chorus."

Mears went on to say, "Tragically, funding for the arts in our region has been on a downward spiral in recent years. We believe that music is not a luxury but a necessity."

Concert pianist, composer and conductor Paul Leavitt has been named Interim Director, Fairfax Choral Society. Leavitt begins his tenure after a celebratory concert for Doug Mears at National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C. on Nov. 12, 2017.

Under Leavitt's leadership, the Fairfax Choral Society's mission will continue as it has for the past 56 years; to enrich lives through the performance, education, and appreciation of choral art.

BULLETIN BOARD

Send community/civic notes to the Connection at 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.

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.

AUG. 2-30

Fit for Life Classes. 11 a.m.-noon at the Bruen Chapel United Methodist Church, 3035 Cedar Lane, Fairfax. Fairfax Fit for Life Classes are sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults. Call 703-281-0538 or email eileentarr1@verizon.net.

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 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

ONGOING

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.

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 Stryjewski at 703-658-9054.

LETTER

FROM PAGE 6

plus years and was vice president at one time of the railroad union so my mother was very workers rights oriented and my father's family were bankers. My paternal grandfather was vice president of National Boulevard Bank in Chicago. So I get an interesting perspective.

It does not make sense to me that they are going after this failsafe program for the most disadvantaged of our country. This is a safety net. There are so many other programs that need to be examined. But I cannot understand this assault on the human condition of our citizens. There are black ops programs that get unlimited funding. The waste is in these special interest programs. No one is investigating the \$100 toothpicks. Somehow the health and welfare programs are the target for cutting when in actuality government waste in these other pet projects should be addressed. We have projects that have no accountability.

**Valerie Benson
Burke**

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Taking Care Of Business



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The cats. The car. The dentist. The pancreatic enzymes. It was a week that typically isn't. As often as my credit card was swiped these past few days, I'm amazed its magnetic strip is still magnetized. To quote my deceased mother, Celia: "It's enough already."

Oh well, what's done is done, though it definitely needed doing. And aside from the fact that I didn't have the actual money, fortunately I had the available credit, which I was grateful to have had. I mean, how long can you put off necessary evils/expenditures before they rear their ugly consequences? And though money doesn't grow on trees (linen actually), credit seems to, and so the to-do list now has some cross-outs/"has-dones" finally.

Now the anxiety about neglecting the "to-dos" is replaced by the worry about the cost/need-to-pay the "having-dones." Nevertheless, the cats have had their vaccinations shot current.

The car now has a passenger window that goes down – and back up, a check-engine light that no longer illuminates, a blower that will now provide heat in the winter and a defogger when needed, and as it turns out a bit of unexpected air conditioning.

The dentist has referred me to an oral surgeon (since the teeth were both "unrestorable"/not root canal candidates) who will extract two teeth from my mouth and hundreds more from my bank account/probably credit card – again, but no doubt get me back on a course of dental correction.

The pancreatic enzymes, the most expensive bottle of pills I buy (I consume upwards of 55 pills per day) is an expense I incur every three months and does something to help my immune system keep the lung cancer in-check, a priority if there ever was one.

Paying to keep on playing (so to speak), by maintaining this kind of normalcy enhances the feeling that life is indeed still being played. And not that my attitude/philosophy in such responsibilities is totally affected by yours truly having been diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, to be specific, but as the old punchline says: "It doesn't hurt." And avoiding hurt is definitely part of the fighting-cancer strategy; along with avoiding stress, eating healthy, exercising and boosting one's immune system.

I guess what I'm realizing that I have two lives, sort of, the usual and customary life: work, play, day-to-day stuff and the cancer life: lab work, chemotherapy, scans, oncologist, pills, lifestyle changes, etc. On some days, they are parallel. On other days, they intersect. And though they may be separate, they are inter-related. What benefits one is likely to positively affect the other.

Additionally, a negative in one life will likewise have an adverse consequence in the other. However, the requirements to maintain their respective lives is different. Yet balance/co-existence must be maintained in order for one to remain "together."

Two separate halves will not make for a responsible whole, but rather lead to an emotional one. And if there's one attribute that a cancer patient/survivor must have, it is emotional wherewithal. Failure to do so in one's cancer life will likely spill over into the non-cancer life (and vice-versa) and cause a kind of an adult version of failure to thrive.

Cancer might win the battle in the end but you can't let it win the battle in the interim. Fulfilling your every-day responsibilities helps give that life the kind of accomplishment that aids and abets in your fight against your cancer life. Moreover, handling your cancer life gives you the confidence and optimism to live your non-cancer life.

Granted, the two lives might not exactly be the best of friends, but they must be partners of a sort. The sort that is independent, appreciative, respectful and considerate.

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

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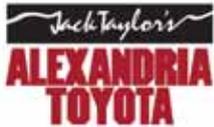
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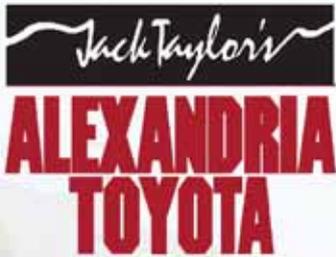
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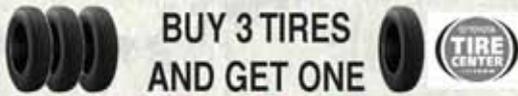
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