Katie Platt, of Old Town, Alexandria, with her horse Lexie at the stables along Gunston Road, in the Mason Neck area of Lorton.
Information Sessions on Developmental Disabilities

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board’s Support Coordination staff will hold information sessions that will help prepare individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to transition out of Fairfax County Public Schools.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 7, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

Toward Inclusiveness

As the Congregation Adat Reyim in Springfield danced and sang to “Tsena Tsena,” the together-ness and friendship of a religious community was perfectly clear. Although they were celebrating the new sanctuary of the congregation, they already had the togetherness they sought, and were creating a new sanctuary as a look in the future of inclusiveness.

It all started with the need for a wheelchair ramp, and ended in something so much more.

“We started dreaming,” said Andrea Cate, the chairperson of the rejuvenation committee. “Like our parents did for us, we do for our children,” Cate said.

Rabbi Bruce Aft reiterated that feeling, as he said a few words before the ribbon was cut and the festivities ensued, the community was perfectly clear. Although the ribbon was cut and the festivities ensued, the project is only 85 percent complete. The project will be completely finished by Rosh Hashanah, which is Sept. 20.

When there was a break in the music and dancing, there was a reading that stated: “May each of us be inspired to create a community of friends.”

Three factors that the congregates want for a new worship space to:
❖ be inclusive and welcoming
❖ foster connections among family and community
❖ connect the congregation to nature

The nearly $800,000 project included a relocated wall, new furniture, flooring and a window to the exterior. Although the ribbon was cut and the festivities ensued, the project is only 85 percent complete. The project will be completely finished by Rosh Hashanah, which is Sept. 20.

When there was a break in the music and dancing, there was a reading that stated: “May each of us be inspired to create a community of friends.”

Synagogue Redesign Looks Toward Inclusiveness

By Mike Salmon

The Evening started out with a barbecue out front and then the clapping and dance began, as the “chuppah,” a Jewish canopy, was erected and scrolls of the Torah beneath the chuppah were brought into the new space, which featured a new wheelchair ramp to make the altar accessible to all.

“This keeps with our theme of being inclusive,” said David Berkowitz, a member of the congregation.

Rabbi Aft said the torah, which is an altar, is a tree of life. “It will make it more inclusive, building on what was here,” he said. “Create energy and still attract younger folks,” he said.

The building committee came up with three factors that the congregates want for a new worship space to:
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❖ foster connections among family and community
❖ connect the congregation to nature

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When there was a break in the music and dancing, there was a reading that stated: “May each of us be inspired to create a community of friends.”

Andrea Cate hangs two new mezuzah’s on the synagogue door. One was lower for the children or wheelchair access, keeping in theme with the inclusiveness.

**News**
The Puller VCC is a single-level facility with a “half story” above to let lots of light into the facility and create a bright, open atmosphere. The exterior “skin” of the building will complement the architecture of the area, and the low height of the building will ensure it blends in with the Vint Hill neighborhood.

Veterans Care Facility to Open in 2019

Puller Veterans Care Center in Vint Hill, Va., will serve war veterans in Northern Virginia.

By Steve Hibbard
The Connection

A groundbreaking for a new $50 million veterans care facility to serve all of Northern Virginia will be held on Oct. 26, 2017, in Vint Hill, near the Fauquier County line. The news that the Puller Veterans Care Center will then open in late 2019 was presented Tuesday, Sept. 12, at a meeting held at the American Legion Post 176 in Springfield with several local politicians in attendance. The 128-bed facility is named for the three Pullers: Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller; his son Lewis B. Puller Jr.; and Sen. Linda T. “Toddy” Puller.

With a population of 8 million people, Virginia only has two existing veterans care centers for the entire state: Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond (200 beds); and Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke (240 beds). Besides the Puller center in Vint Hill, another one is planned — Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center in Virginia Beach.

State Sen. George Barker (D-39) said the new Vint Hill center will be a tremendous benefit to veterans in Northern Virginia, adding that the veterans’ population is actually increasing. “Virginia, for years, has had only two veterans care centers; one in Richmond and one in the Roanoke area, and nothing in Northern Virginia. And we’re getting both this one built and also one in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia Beach.”

BARKER said the project got its momentum from the leadership of Gov. Terry McAuliffe and John C. Harvey Jr., Virginia state veterans secretary. He continued, “[The facilities] will provide services for a lot of veterans who in their later years of life have some depletions and need some care on an ongoing basis.”

Steven Combs, Deputy Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, said the state is funding the $50 million cost through state bond dollars, not federal funds, which covers costs for design, construction, and all of the building materials.

Del. Mark Keam (D-35) said, “We waited for year after year for some funding from the federal government and it wasn’t coming. So we came up with the funding on our own...We’re certainly hoping that the federal government sees the light of what we’re trying to do and will pitch in at some point. This is an opportunity for us to provide services to our military men and women as soon as possible. We’re really excited about this.”

Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) said, “Having a moderate, well-designed care center here in Northern Virginia where families are located is a critical human element of what some of us have wanted for a long time.”

Designed specifically for war veterans, the center will be an in-patient, residential care facility with a home-like environment, not a primary care clinic. It will feature skilled nursing, Alzheimer’s/memory care and short-term rehabilitation; not an assisted living facility. It will be state-operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services with roughly 150-200 employees working in a 24/7 rotation.

ALL 128 ROOMS will be completely private; 16 rooms will compose one “household” with a shared living room and dining room. Four households will compose one “neighborhood,” and two neighborhoods will compose one “community.” There will be back-of-the-house spaces and a community room for larger events, and plenty of outdoor spaces and interior courtyard spaces outside.

“The idea is there’s a lot of space for the veterans; it’s bright and opened,” said Combs. “The building is one story, it’s a very inviting space inside the building. It’s got a household feel for the residents.”

Henri Comeau, 85, of Springfield is excited about the new Vint Hill facility. He is a war veteran who served in the 24th Infantry Division of the Army in Japan and during the Korean War. “I’m heading to need one of these centers in a couple of years,” he said. “I had my lung operation earlier this year and I expect that that’s the place where I’ll need to go.”

Combs said Virginia has the eighth largest veterans population in the U.S. where one in 11 Virginian is a veteran. Some 14 percent of veterans are women — the highest among all states. The state also has the fourth largest military retiree population in the U.S. Combs added that many of our military retirees take a second job and contribute a great deal to the local economy.

The Puller VCC will have 128 all-private rooms, which will be organized into eight 16-room “households.” Each household has a living/dining room where the residents will take their meals together. The 16 all-private rooms open up from the central living/dining space.

Between the households are interior courtyards that provide an inviting outdoor space for the residents and their families. There will also be outdoor walking trails exterior to the building for the enjoyment of residents and families.

As with the birdseye view, this shows the human scale of the building. The front entrance opens into the “community center” and onto “Main Street” — which runs the length of the building, linking the households.

The front entrance opens into the “community center” and onto “Main Street” — which runs the length of the building, linking the households.
Woodlawn Stables Relocation Update

Some horses find home at the stables along Gunston Road, in the Mason Neck area of Lorton.

BY MIKE SALMON
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

For years, the stretch of Richmond Highway by Fort Belvoir was occupied by Woodlawn Stables, a fixture on the Mount Vernon scene until the highway was widened over the last few years and the stables relocated to Jeffersonton, Virginia, a historic town in the country near Warrenton, a 90-minute drive from their original location. The new stables are called Claddagh Farm, but are still owned and operated by Cindy Mitchell, who owned the Woodlawn Stables with her mother, Joan.

“Claddagh Farm is located in historic Jeffersonton, Virginia. Formerly known as Woodlawn Stables in Alexandria, we have relocated and changed our name to Claddagh Farm. Welcome!” the website reads.

The Woodlawn Stable was on a 65-acre farm with 60 stables that Mitchell operated for more than 40 years. “They were around for a very long time,” she said, “it was an important community feature, and a tremendous loss.” She saw three generations of families come through her stables, taking lessons and boarding their own horses.

Mitchell relocated to Claddagh Farm in 2014, and kept all of her lesson horses, as well as some of her clients, but downsized to an operation with 12 stables on a 35-acre farm. “It’s an entirely different operation,” she said. “I have a handful of people that followed me here,” she said.

A drastic change like that takes some getting used to but as with the business world, and life in general, time moves on. Her new place “has its high points and low points,” she said.

When the Richmond Highway widening project came through a few years ago, it added a lane from the Pohick Church past Fort Belvoir.

This was before Dan Storck, the current Mount Vernon District Supervisor, was in office. The road project was administered by the Federal Highway Administration Eastern Lands Division, and part of the Base Realignment and Closure act, commonly known as BRAC. In a Federal Highways document, DHR# 029-0056, dated July 2006, the stables and land parcel was not designated as NHL, a National Historic Landmark.

A public meeting was held about the road design at Hayfield Secondary School and it was full of stable supporters including pre-teen girls decked out in their rider clothes, with signs lightly protesting the move.

“The road designers felt they needed that much space,” Storck said. Since then, he’s had a few questions brought to his office on possible horse riding alternatives, and he pointed out the area on Mason Neck or further out. Although the stables added a country feel to the Woodlawn area, there are still sections of the Mount Vernon District like that.

“The Mount Vernon Parkway, the Woodlawn Plantation, land around the many creeks in Mount Vernon or Mason Neck out Gunston Road, to name a few.

“There’s always going to be some part that’s rural,” Storck said. Claddagh Farm is in an area where there are other horse riding facilities, and being the “new kid on the block,” isn’t easy, they are adapting, said Mitchell. This year, they’re opening an indoor riding arena so they can go all year round.
Local nonprofits Britepaths in Fairfax (formerly Our Daily Bread) and Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) invite community members to their seventh annual Complete the Circle FOODRaiser. It’s set for Sunday, Oct. 29, from 1-2:30 p.m. at Fairfax High, 3501 Rebel Run in Fairfax. Advance registration by Sept. 28 is encouraged to reserve an event T-shirt.

This is a community-service project to feed local families in need and an Art for the Sky project by internationally renowned artist Daniel Dancer.

More than 1,000 participants are expected to gather to enjoy a family-fun festival, live music by Cancer Can Rock and be part of the “living” Art for the Sky photo that will be surrounded by the food donations participants bring that day. Community organizations and businesses are encouraged to bring a team to the event; individuals and families are also welcome.

Registration will be available through the day of the event, but T-shirts will not be guaranteed. Admission is $10 ($12 for XXL event T-shirt). Attendees are encouraged to bring at least three food-pantry items or a grocery-store gift card that will be distributed to community members in need after the event. Details and registration are available at www.CompletetheCircleFx.org. Call 703-273-8829 or email info@britepaths.org.
A letter to the editor was also published in the September 14-20, 2017 issue of the Connection Newspapers.

**Letters to the Editor**

**Putting United Back in ‘United’ States**

To the Editor:  
Re: Mr. Trump’s initial response (“Fomenting Divinity and Hate” Sept. 6:12) to the letter by a group of Democrat politicians (“American Values Aug. 30.”)

You reference “Mr. Trump’s initial response” to the tragic events at Charlottesville.

You are correct in defending this well-scripted statement of the President, delivered on Aug. 14. In fact, most “fair-minded persons,” as you say, wish he had left it at that.

Instead, the “American Values” letter refers to the President’s follow-up comments to the press the following day (Aug. 15), in which he talked about “the very fine people” in the group of protesters. While the fine print of the law may not agree, there is no denying that anyone marching alongside people brandishing torches and waving Nazi swastika flags, shouting “Jews will not replace us” and “Blood and Soil,” is implicitly supporting the very neo-Nazis and white supremacists the President initially condemned. They are guilty by association.

Hence, it is legitimate for the Jewish members of the Virginia General Assembly to question the Republican gubernatorial candidate for not openly denouncing the very symbols of genocides that so many brave Americans went overseas to Europe to stamp out during World War II. How did this sea of swastikas and Nazi flags ever wash up on our shining shores? Who are these people who loudly and proudly resurrect Nazi slogans?

We can parse words and choose to only see/hear what we want to see/hear, but there is no denying our great country is deeply divided.

And a house divided never stands. As the mother of a child who was the target of racism on the school bus, I take solace in the fact that the boys worked out their differences and, now years later, the instigator is one of my son’s closest friends! Maybe we should take a page out of our kids’ playbook and see beyond our skin-deep differences. Perhaps, far be it from us adults being an example to our children, it behooves us to acknowledge, in the words of one of the world’s greatest wordsmiths, William Wordsworth: The child is the father of the man. Let’s put our house in order and put the united back in the “United” States.

**Shalla Muralidhar**  
Great Falls

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**Nov. 7 to Highlight Importance of Local Elections**

To the Editor:

Local elections are boring. It is hard for us to get excited about new sidewalks or changes to school funding formulas when the stories that dominate the news involve life-or-death fights over healthcare, a rapidly changing economy, and turbulent international relations.

But we should care about our local elections because the future of life in Northern Virginia will be decided on Nov. 7 of this year.

When we go to the polls to vote for the House of Delegates, we will be deciding whether Northern Virginia will remain a political stronghold with the power to swing the entire Commonwealth, like it did in 2016. When the Virginia General Assembly redraws our congressional districts in 2020 after the census, one of the top priorities for Virginia Republicans will be to strip Northern Virginia of this power.

They know that a neutered NoVa would mean that Richmond would be the deciding factor to the future of the Commonwealth.

The single best way to ensure that we aren’t stripped of our voice on significant national issues like healthcare or taxes is for you to look up your current Delegate and who might be challenging them in this year’s election.

There are experienced representatives, like Kathleen Murphy in the 34th District, who have fought not only on important broader issues like curbing gun violence, but also on everyday issues like working to reduce traffic congestion during your commute.

There are challengers like Cheryl Burofd that haven’t even put out a platform of issues and are just banking on getting large numbers of votes and huge donations simply because of their party affiliation.

There are times when it can seem like candidates are basically the same, or that neither is preferable. This is not one of those times.

National elections can make you feel like a neehead in a haystack. We can parse words and choose to only see/hear what we want to see/hear, but there is no denying, our great country is deeply divided.

And a house divided never stands. As the mother of a child who was the target of racism on the school bus, I take solace in the fact that the boys worked out their differences and, now years later, the instigator is one of my son’s closest friends! Maybe we should take a page out of our kids’ playbook and see beyond our skin-deep differences. Perhaps, far be it from us adults being an example to our children, it behooves us to acknowledge, in the words of one of the world’s greatest wordsmiths, William Wordsworth: The child is the father of the man. Let’s put our house in order and put the united back in the “United” States.

**Doug Klinai**  
Fairfax
News

Fundraising for Disaster Relief, Helping in Irma Aftermath

Local firefighters raise $131,278.65 in disaster relief, then rush to hurricane path of destruction on search and rescue mission.

By Marti Moore
The Connection

Fairfax County Fire and Res-cue Capt. Matthew C. Burns stuffs another bill into his boot around 4 p.m. Sept. 4 while Master Technician Johnathan Macquilliam flashes a smile at motorists stopped by a red light in Fairfax on Waples Mill Road and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway.

They worked on Labor Day with nearly a dozen firefighters from Station 21 in Fair Oaks to collect $3,157.84 in one afternoon for a local chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Motorists in Springfield, however, were most generous Sept. 2 to Franconia firefighters — who raised more money in a single day than any of the county’s 38 stations, points out Joel Kobersteen, Fairfax County coordinator of the annual MDA “Fill the Boot” campaign. He is a master technician at Station 40 in Fairfax Center and drives a fire truck called Engine 440.

FRANCONIA FUNDRAISERS received a good soaking that Saturday from the remnants of Hurricane Harvey as it blew through the Commonwealth. Nonetheless, other passers-by rained dollar bills on Station 5 first responders and filled their boots with $28,251.99.

In four consecutive days, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue raised $500,000 for MDA Greater Washington, D.C., plus $131,278.65 for the International Association of Firefighters disaster relief fund. It distributes aid to union members, who lose their homes and personal belongings while they work around the clock to save lives whenever disaster strikes.

Kobersteen said Burns was deployed last week with the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team in Chantilly — known worldwide as Virginia Task Force 1. At least half of the 14 crew members who returned last week from Texas barely had enough time to hug their kids, kiss their spouses, regroup and personal belongings while they work around the clock to save lives whenever disaster strikes.

This logistics center in the heart of Georgia has been coordinating military operations evacuated in three days 1,904 American tourists stranded in the Caribbean during Hurricane Irma — a staging area for relief workers across the country waiting for a catastrophic storm to pass Puerto Rico so they can start search and recovery efforts in Hurricane Irma’s path of destruction.

A canine specialist from the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team in Chantilly walks her dog Friday, Sept. 8 as a semi hauls in equipment from New York to Robins Air Force Base in Central Georgia — a staging area for relief workers to respond to the island of St. Thomas and the other U.S. territories on the island of St. Thomas and the other U.S. Virgin Islands as needed and as directed by our federal partners,” Ryan said Sunday.

BY TUESDAY, the task force counted eight team members in Key West, Fla., 38 relief workers in Puerto Rico and a crew of 36 on St. Thomas. A U.S. Department of Defense news release Monday stated coordinated military operations evacuated in three days 1,904 American tourists stranded in the Caribbean during Hurricane Irma — which started raking their tropical paradise Wednesday, Sept. 6 with strong Category 5 winds up to 185 miles per hour, according to National Hurricane Center bulletins.

Follow the rescue efforts of VA-TF1 online through the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr and the team’s other social media platforms.
JOIN THE FIGHT FOR ALZHEIMER’S FIRST SURVIVOR.

At the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s®, people carry flowers representing their connection to Alzheimer’s — a disease that currently has no cure. But what if one day there was a flower for Alzheimer’s first survivor? What if there were millions of them? Help make that beautiful day happen by joining us for the world’s largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at alz.org/walk.

Walk to End Alzheimer’s in Northern Virginia
Reston Town Center
September 24 | 2:00 pm

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September 14-20, 2017 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Fairfax County Brewfest Is Sept. 16
Takes place at Mustang Sally Brewing Company in Chantilly.

By Steve Hibbard

The second annual Fairfax County Brewfest will take place on Saturday, Sept. 16, from noon to 6 p.m., at Mustang Sally Brewing Company in Chantilly. All seven of Fairfax County’s breweries will be participating in the event, which is sponsored by the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and Mustang Sally’s. Those include: Aslin Beer Company, Caboose Brewing Co., Fair Winds Brewing, Forge Brew Works, Lake Anne Brewhouse, Mustang Sally Brewing Co., and Ono Brewing Co.

“We wanted to make this a great party. We’re going to have bands and food trucks. We wanted to do it at a working production brewery so this will be an indoor/outdoor fest, and we’re going to close the parking lot and set up a stage and have two different bands that play all day long. The focus will be to make it fun,” said Sean Hunt, founder/owner of Mustang Sally in Chantilly.

Hunt spent his last two years of high school in Germany where brewfests are extremely popular. “That’s what this is intended to be,” he said. “It’s when people can hang out in a casual, fun environment and really celebrate what the county has available in terms of breweries and just a celebration in their community... It’s just an event that the community comes together for. It’s absolutely what we’re trying to accomplish here.”

He continued: “We’ll have two production breweries — Mustang Sally Brewing Company and Fair Winds Brewing Company. We’ll have smaller breweries, where they’re brewing a few kegs at a time — Lake Anne Brewhouse and Aslin Brewing. And there are breweries in the middle. We’ll have a new brewery called Ono Brewing Company; it’s a Hawaiian-based theme. We also have Forge Brew Works; it’s kind of a smaller brewery that caters to more of a tasting-room atmosphere; they have a focus in Belgian beers, and also Caboose Brewing Company. It’s kind of a neat mix. Within the last two years we’ve been able to get these breweries opened.” He said the first brewery opened four years ago and the other breweries opened in the last two years in Fairfax County.

The BREWFEST will feature live music from Scott Kurt and Memphis 59 and The Blues Buckets as well as brewery tours and food vendors. Wild Mustang Club cars will also be on display. Children 12 and under are admitted for free. A portion of the proceeds will benefit K-9 for Warriors, which will be bringing several service dogs to the event, and VAVets. John P. Boylan, president and CEO of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber’s goals are always focused on three areas: Commerce, Community, and Communication.

“Brewfest will enable us to do all three starting with the community as we help two great organizations — K-9 for Warriors and VAVets. They will be in attendance and we hope folks will come by to support them and say thank you,” said Boylan.

He continued: “We will showcase the brews from all of the Fairfax County breweries, some of the best on the East Coast. Not only that, we have several food trucks and bands to keep the energy up.”

“We’re not expecting thousands. We’re hoping to fill the place up,” said Hunt. “The county, the Chamber of Commerce, and all of the breweries are all coming together to support this. From that perspective, we’ll see a lot of coordinated activity that wants to make this a centerpiece event... We get a lot of people from Chantilly, Reston and Centreville.”

The indoor/outdoor event will take place at Mustang Sally Brewing Company, 14140 Parke Long Ct., A-C, Chantilly, near the intersection of Routes 28 and 50. The cost is $10 pre-sale; $15 at the door, which includes admission and logo tasting glass. Cost of the beers is additional. For registration, visit the website at www.msbrewing.com (under FFX Brewfest).

Launched in 2016, Mustang Sally Brewing Co. is an independent production of craft brewery distributed in draft and package throughout the Northern Virginia area. Find out more at: www.msbrewing.com and www.facebook.com/pg/mustangsallybrewing
Fairfax Kitchen Gets Makeover

When a Fairfax family of five decided that their 1970s-era kitchen needed to be brought into the 21st century they enlisted the help of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. The homeowners also wanted more space for entertaining and to accommodate their large family.

“This was a particularly interesting project,” said designer Cathy Goss of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. “It involved incorporating four different functions into one uniquely-sized space.”

Two adjacent rooms were combined to allow space for an island, pantry, command center and a station for cooking and the subsequent clean-up. The design team removed a wall between the kitchen and dining room to create a larger kitchen area. They also incorporated two different backsplashes into the design: a marble subway tile with a marble accent under the range hood and a cut stone surface at the glass cabinets. LED under-cabinet lighting accents the quartz countertops.

“The cabinetry is a beautiful example of reverse raised panel doors,” said Goss. “The project resulted in a beautiful and ultra-functional kitchen.”

— Marilyn Campbell

Design House Designers Revealed

The designers who will transform the 10th Annual DC Design House were announced recently. Among the 23 men and women who will give the Potomac, Md. home a makeover are Alexandria-based designers Susan Nelson and Todd Marzz; Lisa Tureson of Herndon; Margery Wedderburn of Great Falls; Mary Amons of McLean; Josh Hildreth of Reston; Keira St. Claire-Bowery of Cabin John, Md.; and Bethesda, Md.-based designers Kelley Proxmire, Lorna Gross, Marcia Meyer, Eriee Burns, Karen Snyder and Camille Saum.

The selection process is competitive and being chosen to design one of the home’s rooms is considered one of the most prestigious honors in the industry.

The Washington, DC Design House, a nonprofit entity, began in 2008 as a design show house event for the Washington, D.C. area. Each year, local designers donate their time and talent to makeover a grand home that opens to the public for tours. Proceeds raised from tour ticket sales benefit Children’s National Health System.

This year, the home is located at 9004 Congressional Court in Potomac, Md., and will be open from Sept. 30 through Oct. 29. Tickets are $35. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.

— Marilyn Campbell
**ENTERTAINMENT**

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/submit. Deadline: the 10th of the month before publication. 

**ONGOING**

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Through Sept. 20, various locations, locations, more than 50 different events. Take place each year. Call 703-403-5360 or visit www.nvseniorolympics.org.

**The Trawick Prize Art Exhibit.** Through Sept. 30, various times at the Trawick Art, 5616 Wisconsin Ave., Suite B, Bethesda. Burke artist Michele Montalban named one of the finalists for the Trawick Prize. Call 301-215-7990.

**Artist Reception.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Acoutic Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Free. Visit acoutikum.org.

**THURSDAY/SEPT. 14**

**“Dyeing 9 a.m.-noon at Bikes for the World. Call 703-385-7858.**

**MONDAY/SEPT. 18**

**Arts by George.** 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. This event features wine and food and benefits the fundraiser. Call 703-385-7858. 

**OCTOBERFEST WALKS, BIKE RIDE**

**Acoutic Unitarian Universalist Church (AUUC), 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke, will host its Oktoberfest walks and bike rides through Oct. 16. Call 703-324-8745.**

**SEPTEMBER 20–OCT. 21**

**Photo Exhibitions.** Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 36 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. “Bundling Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African Americans in Civil War Medicine” looks at the men and women who served as surgeons and nurses during the Civil War and how their service challenged the prescribed notions of race and gender. Free. Call 703-591-0560.

**SEPTEMBER 20**

**Global Warming Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. at the Fairview Elementary School cafeteria, 3835 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax Station. James Carlson will talk about global warming and the scientific facts behind it. Hosted by the Republican Women of Clifton. Free and open to the public. Call 703-455-4924.

**SEPTEMBER 21**

**Lunch ‘n Life.** noon-2 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4655 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Music by Special Guest, Larry Egger, guitarist. $10. Call 703-273-5730.

**SEPTEMBER 21-24**

**Golf Tournament.** All day at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Laurel. Middle Atlantic Amateur Championship. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/golf/lgc or call 703-459-8499.

**SEPTEMBER 23**

**Ishik Finland Festival.** 10 a.m.–7 p.m. at Sherwood Center at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, or The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub, 3971 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Free. Call 703-591-0560.

**SEPTEMBER 24**

**Building a Train Set.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairview Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairview Station Road in Fairview Station. Activities include making a sample train layout as well as involvement in demonstrations of railroad artifacts. Museum members and ages 4 and under, for free; ages 5–15, $2; ages 16 and older, $4. Craft supplies included in admission. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org, or call 703-425-9225.

**SEPTEMBER 25**

**Tai Chi Easy.** 2-3 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4205 Kingstown Road, Fairfax. Pauline Reid, teaches Tai Chi, a form of the Chinese self-care practices known as Qigong. This class is suitable for beginners through advanced practitioners. $90 for five weeks; $30 per class. Call 703-593-3872, or visit arcytergyge.com.au.

**SEPTEMBER 28**


**FRIDAY/SEP. 29**

**Dine on Ice.** Various times at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. “Dare To Dream,” show featuring an expedition across seas and mountains with characters from Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast.” “Frozen,” “Tangled” and “Cinderella.” $20 and $30 per ticket; www.tickemaster.com, or visit DisneyOnIce.com.

**SEPT. 29–OCT. 8**

**Disney on Ice.** Various times at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. “Dare To Dream,” show featuring an expedition across seas and mountains with characters from Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast.” “Frozen,” “Tangled” and “Cinderella.” $20 and $30 per ticket; www.tickemaster.com, or visit DisneyOnIce.com.

**SEPTEMBER 29–OCT. 1**

**Fall Festival.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6810 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. $12, active duty military and their families receive $2 off per ticket. Call 703-358-6913.

**SEPTEMBER 30**

**Oktoberfest Walks, Bike Ride**

**The Kings Park German Band performs during the 2015 Oktoberfest Volksmarch.**

Acoutic Unitarian Universalist Church (AUUC), 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke, will host its Oktoberfest walks and bike rides through Oct. 16. Call 703-324-8745.

**SEPTEMBER 30–OCT. 1**

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By David Siegel  The Connection

This year’s “ARTS by George!” continues a long standing tradition as a major go-to arts and entertainment event this year presenting the world class talent of Broadway star Kelli O’Hara while also showcasing and supporting the gifted and students and faculty of the George Mason University/College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA).

“Truly a night not to be missed, ‘ARTS by George!’ is unique to Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. Patrons have the ability to see so many forms of art in one location including a spectacular concert performance by Tony Award winner Kelli O’Hara,” said Donn Smith and Jay Speer, 2017 “ARTS by George!” event co-chairs. Guests also have the opportunity to tour nearly a dozen open studios and rehearsal halls, “where they can enjoy live presentations of student work and behind-the-scenes insights.”

“I almost never call something unique because the word is overused and hardly ever accurate but this collection of brilliant student work in all genres of the arts is unique. The student showcases never fail to amaze,” said Rick Davis, Dean of Mason’s College of Visual and Performing Arts.

“Proceeds from the ‘ARTS by George!’ gala evening are absolutely essential to our work with our students and the community,” added Davis. “Proceeds help support scholarships for deserving CVPA students” in a wide range of studies such music, dance, art and theater, computer game design, arts management, and film and video studies.

Faith Ellen Lam, a School of Music sophomore from Centreville, is a recipient of one of the scholarships. “To receive a scholarship has been an immense blessing in my life, allowing me to focus on building a career instead of worrying about finances. Because of the generosity of those who donate to Mason’s art programs, I have both the time and peace of mind to study hard, practice harder, and take every opportunity, paid or not, to gain experience as a musician.”

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!”

Where & When

One of the numerous local Fairfax County businesses that supports “ARTS by George” is Broadway Galleries. For owner Barry Broadway, “the opportunity to support the talented George Mason University students for the past decade has been a passion.” “‘ARTS by George’ reminds us of the passion, energy, and joy that George Mason University’s arts programs tries to bring to our community,” added Davis. The event aims to be a magical, one-of-a-kind experience “that benefits deserving students all while guests are richly entertained.”
Springfield Rotarians Honor State Sen. Marsden

Virginia state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) receiving a certificate that the Garfield Elementary School Library has received a book in his name. Daniel ‘Kaz’ Kasmierski, President of the Rotary Club of Springfield, presented the award to Marsden.

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Marks 30th Anniversary

Virginia Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) will preside over the rededication ceremony of the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum which is celebrating 30 years at the current location. The open house to celebrate the station’s history will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, from 1-6 p.m. Refreshments will be served and volunteers in period costume will be on hand to greet visitors. There will be historical, railroad and Civil War exhibits for viewing. The open house is free and the public is invited to attend.

The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, find more at www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Volunteers Needed

Those interested in local history may consider volunteering at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, find more at www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Stallions Fall to Wildcats

South County QB Michael Tull hands the ball off to RB Joseph Sheffield. Centreville won 31-27 over South County on Friday, Sept. 8.

South County’s Dillon Spalding #9 runs in for one of his two touchdowns against Centreville.

South County WR Seth Dunn #81 runs for positive yardage after a reception.
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vc09 2017
Northern Virginia Senior Olympics Celebrates 35th Year

The 2017 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NOVA) was off and running on Sept. 9 with morning field and track events followed by afternoon diving. This year 752 competitors signed up to participate in 70 events including swimming, baseball and football toss, track and field, pickleball, horseshoes and a variety of games such as dominos and scrabble. The games will be held for 12 days at 28 parks, schools, community and senior centers around Northern Virginia.

Diving events were held at Yorktown Aquatic Center with six competitors, one having dropped out due to a car accident two days before the event, and the coach Bobbie Meeks didn’t compete this year due to recent surgery. But Meeks was in attendance. “I wouldn’t miss this event for anything,” he said.

— Shirley Ruhe

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg
By KENNETH H. LOURIE

Ordinarily I wouldn’t have given the Lyrica television commercial too much attention. But there sat a spokesperson named Kenny, his name clearly printed on top of a white oval located above his right breast pocket on his custom-work shirt, a middle-aged white man like me, holding his left foot across his right knee, talking about a medical problem that we both feel: the “shooting, burning, pins and needles of diabetic nerve pain.” It was odd seeing someone named Kenny on television referring to a problem that both of us have. Although my symptoms are not from diabetes, they’re from eight and half years of chemotherapy. Nevertheless, as Babe Ruth said about the sound of his torch-flame-dragged voice on “Babe Ruth Day” at Yankee Stadium on April 27, 1947: “It sells.”

Kenny’s Story

During the campaign, date to according to iSpot.tv, within the last 30 days, “Kenny’s Story,” as it’s identified, had “74 commercial airings.” And though I don’t think for a moment that this Kenny could be confused with that Kenny, considering that he’s an auto mechanic who “grew into a tree-wheeling kid” and “enjoyed every stop of table hockey, and I’m not tree-wheeling, but a father and know zero about cars, I do feel his pain—literally.

Now the fact that the words of advice are coming from someone named Kenny does give me pause however. Not that all Kennys have identical personalities or life’s experiences but knowing how little familiarity I have with this product makes me distrust him somehow. My name is Kenny and I’m not prepared to make those statements. How can he?

I remember one of a long-ago M*A*S*H episode when Major Frank Burns was feeling paranoid as he said: “I’m only paranoid because every one’s out to get me.” Because he thought “someone else is using my face.” None of which makes the reference to a spokesperson/sufferer causes a reaction.

But there’s no accounting for viewer reaction, probably. That’s likely why there were a total 1,271 airings of lyrica diabetic nerve pain commercials nationally over the last 30 days. “Kenny’s Story,” at 74 airings, was a small percentage of at least a dozen variations on this theme as well as a parallel campaign to address diabetes, a similar condition also treated by Lyrica.

Moreover, given that “Big Pharma” probably doesn’t want to limit its reach by excluding a segment of the market because of name recognition, possibly lends some credence to the presumption that using a name to identify the individual in one of these spots does in fact personalize the experience for viewers in a way that the pharmaceutical companies think is counter productive. Maybe naming the spokesperson/sufferer causes a reaction among Kims and Michaels that your truly is feeling/writing about.

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Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Peninsula Alliance & The Connection Newspapers.

www.alfredosconstructioncompany.com

“ELECTRICAL TILE / MARBLE GUTTER”

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

RSVP. A volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Reston Town Center and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional out-of-pocket reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, contact Holly Tubbs at chubucks@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-323-5400 for more information. RSVP www.rsvpnova.org.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Schools are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on Chantilly. Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Alexandria. Secondary School, Lecture Hall: 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. For more information about the candidates’ priorities and positions, with individual candidates. The public and press are encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates’ priorities and positions, visit www.vone411.org.

In-person forums:

❖ Thursday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax.
❖ Thursday, October 19 at 7 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 10100 Hogback Road, Fairfax.
❖ Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube “Inside Scoop Livestream.” The public can submit questions by email to theinescooper@gmail.com or call 571-749-1142 between 7:30 p.m. Tune in on Monday, Sept. 11 at 8 p.m.; Monday, Sept. 18 at 8 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.

SEPT. 29-30

Fall Children’s Consignment Sale. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Some items are half price on Saturday. To become a seller, email: CUMC.CCS@gmail.com, or visit www.cameron-ccs.com.

ONGOING

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-943-7000 or email to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). More training is scheduled for fall 2017.

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. The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Schools are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on Chantilly. Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Alexandria.