

Fairfax CONNECTION

Fiery Tango on Mason Stage

NEWS, PAGE 12

Couple dancing in "Tango Buenos Aires:
They are performing at the
George Mason University,
Center for the Arts,
on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m.

Former Addict Shares His Story

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It's Fairfax Fall Festival Time

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Inside
SENIOR LIVING
HomeLifeStyle

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

NEWS



Addressing a crowd of parents, Herren hopes that more will take initiative in looking out for their children

PHOTO BY
BASMA HUMADI/
THE CONNECTION

Former Addict Shares His Story

Chris Herren, former NBA player and addict, speaks to parents and children in county schools.

BY BASMA HUMADI
THE CONNECTION

“The beauty of living in sobriety is that you find the silver lining in your saddest stories,” said former NBA player Chris Herren. “You make peace with the past. You forgive – and you allow yourself to be forgiven.”

Herren spoke and shared his story Monday, Oct. 2 to parents at Fairfax High School. Students at the high school also gathered earlier that day to listen to Herren’s speech during school hours. The focus of his speech encompassed Herren’s personal journey through recovery and addiction, and the need for communities to focus on wellness.

Herren had it all, lost it all, then struggled to build it all back. He started drinking and smoking pot infrequently as a teen then tried a line of cocaine for the first time in college. It led to a 14-year long addiction on numerous different substances, which would go on to cost Herren \$25,000 a month to support. Landing a stint with the Boston Celtics, getting kicked out of college or seeing his newborn son couldn’t help end it.

“It’s hard in any profession – hiding,” Herren said. “It’s hard no matter what you do in life to balance work and an illness.

Often times, they don’t go together. To try to manage that and sustain that, it was exhausting and unmanageable.”

Herren will continue to share his story around high schools in Fairfax County throughout the week as well. By speaking to high schoolers, faculty and parents, Herren hopes to change the attitude of those willing to listen.

“I think when it comes to addiction, as communities, we’ve put so much emphasis on how bad it gets instead of how it begins,” Herren said. “We want to show our kids how ugly and painful addiction becomes instead of understanding at 13, 14, 15, 16 years old why we would even take a chance on letting it begin.”

Challenging educators and children to change the structure of the typical systems they live in is one major factor Herren wants to influence. He is now nine years sober.

“I think wellness should be a core class from the beginning,” Herren said. “I think you should empower kids to be able to communicate their struggle and to build their self-esteem and self worth. Not every kid has a uniform to hide behind and build their confidence. Not every kid is involved in sports or theater or band. There’s a lot of kids out there that need some affirmation.”

One parent in the crowd, Alina Lockridge, admitted that Herren’s speech to high school students earlier that day helped her daughter grow interested in understanding their family’s past with addiction.

“At first, I did not want to come down,” Lockridge said. “[My daughter] started talking about what she experienced and the things I thought I had hid from her about my family’s addiction. You put it in such a way that made her think and frame it as, ‘What did they experience? How can we help them?’”

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Aerial View of the Paul VI High School site in the City of Fairfax.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

'I Think It's Way Over-Developed'

City still has concerns over Paul VI site's proposed density.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Paul VI High School will leave the City of Fairfax in 2020, so a hot topic of discussion is how best to redevelop its 18.5-acre site along Fairfax Boulevard. Last Tuesday, Oct. 3, developer IDI Group Cos. addressed a joint work session of the Fairfax City Council and Planning Commission to explain its plans.

The site is within the block bounded by Fairfax Boulevard, Oak Street and Cedar and McLean avenues. Some 66 percent of it is zoned commercial, and 34 percent residential. There, IDI hopes to create a mixed-use development featuring high-quality design and attractive streetscapes, plus market-rate, affordable and senior housing.

Its latest plan proposes a total of 555 residential units – 225 apartments (25 designated senior rentals), 220 condos and 110 townhouses – plus 10,000 square feet of retail, and 24,000 square feet for community and other uses inside a preserved portion of the original school building. The retail would comprise the bottom floor of the apartment building.

TO BUILD IT ALL, IDI is requesting both a rezoning and a Comprehensive Plan amendment to allow mixed uses on the site, plus a special-use permit allowing disturbance in the flood plain to create a culvert to reduce flooding. And since the Paul VI building was the original home of Fairfax High, IDI also intends to preserve the property's history. Its latest application is primarily based on a design scheme that retains the original portion of the school where it is.

IDI would add a shared-use path along McLean Avenue and a 10-foot-wide walkway along the Fairfax Boulevard frontage. Vehicle trips per day are projected to increase by 2,246, but would be distributed throughout the day.

Drivers would access the site via an existing access from Oak Street and several points along Fairfax Boulevard. No vehicular connections are proposed between the site and McLean, Cedar or Keith avenues. A service road would run the length of the

Fairfax Boulevard frontage, and Fairfax Boulevard would have slow-lane parking.

However, City officials are still concerned about the project's high density and minimal amount of open space. And Mayor David Meyer reminded them that, "After the developer is gone, what remains is something we'll have to live with, for the next generation."

"Part of the open space is in two courtyard spaces for the residents, but they're not accessible to community residents," said Councilwoman Janice Miller. "How much open space remains [if that's] removed? And with more than 500 residential units proposed – plus visitors, workmen and delivery people – how would there be enough parking? Adequate parking should be provided."

Planning Commission Chairman Paul Cunningham said the intent of mixed-use was to give more intensity, but provide as much accessibility to the public as possible, and "Accessibility is one of the problems with this development." He also said any commercial space along McLean would have to be screened, "So we need to look at these uses in more detail."

"We've got a very dense residential development [proposed] and a small amount of retail," he continued. "I don't know if this is the right, economic use for the City. It doesn't meet a community need, in addition to the needs of that development's residents. The overall project I'm not sure hits the target, yet."

"This project still has a lot of challenges to work through," added Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt.

But IDI executive Enrico Cecchi said his firm has a

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Originally constructed in 1934, Paul VI's building first housed Fairfax High School.

Fall Festival Activities & Attractions

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MAP COURTESY OF JO ORMESHER

Map of the Fall Festival activities and attractions.

It's Fairfax Fall Festival Time

41st annual celebration is this Saturday.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When it comes to festivals and celebrations, the City of Fairfax knows how to party. So this coming Saturday's 41st annual Fairfax Fall Festival should be an event to remember. It's set for Oct. 14, from 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., and includes children's rides and activities, live entertainment, crafts, food and beer gardens.

Admission is free, and the festival promises something for everyone to enjoy. Vendors will end at 5 p.m., but the carnival continues until 8 p.m. And a concert featuring acoustic pop/indie punk band, My Hero Zero, will run from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Old Town Square, at University Drive and North Street.

Crafts booths and displays will line both sides of University Drive, Main Street and Sager Avenue, and a wide variety of food will be offered at two food courts – one at Uni-

versity Drive and Sager Avenue, and the other at University Drive next to the SunTrust Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive. Three beer gardens will be at the Main Stage at University Drive and South Street, in Old Town Square, and at University Drive and Sager Avenue.

THE FESTIVAL FUN also includes a community market, business expo and Touch-a-Truck. Presented by Fairfax City Parks & Recreation and Department of Public Works, Touch-a-Truck will be on University Drive near Armstrong Street and will enable children to see and explore City of Fairfax work vehicles and equipment. Also planned is a Harley Davidson show-and-tell, plus a baby rest stop at Sager Avenue.

The Children's Stage in the SunTrust Bank parking lot will feature performers Bach2Rock, eMotion Dance, Rocknoceros, Mad Science, Groovy Nate (puppet skits) and Turley the Magician. Carnival rides and face painting will be in that area, too.

The Main Stage at South Street and University Drive, will host The Reflex, a 1980s trib

SEE FALL FESTIVAL, PAGE 5

NEWS

Council Discusses Paul VI Site

FROM PAGE 3

“The residential density is of paramount concern.”

— David Meyer, Fairfax City Mayor

proven track record of providing communities that last. “We’re developing the Enclave [residential project],” he said. “It has strong market demand and we’ve developed an excellent working relationship with City staff. We’re over 75-percent sold, with homeowners moving in in December. We study the market to know what product will work well and where.”

He said there’s a big demand for condos in the City, and “We have a reputation for quality. Our product is attractive to seniors, move-down buyers and younger first-time homeowners. At the Enclave, we’ve had 65 percent senior buyers and 35 percent first-time buyers.”

Regarding the Paul VI plan, said Cecchi, “It offers a mix of housing options, provides preserved open space, an improved streetscape, ballfield parking and road improvements. There’s a need for attractive, senior housing, and our townhomes will allow elevators in about 30 percent of them.”

He said there’d be four pocket parks on site, plus linear parks along McLean, Cedar and the site’s western edge. “And the preserved village green in front could be used for farmers markets and music events,” said Cecchi. “We’d improve both the water quality and quantity on the property and reduce the stormwater and pollutant runoff. We’d provide a major upgrade to the City’s sewer system. [Overall], the average, net, fiscal benefit to the City would be between \$1 million and \$1.4 million/year.”

By right, he said, “There could be a mix of office/retail uses with large parking lots and building heights of 60 feet and five stories. ... We’ve had three, public meetings, and the community wanted an attractive streetscape along McLean, with height and density tapered toward their neighborhood. Along McLean, Cedar and Pat Rodio Park, we’re proposing three stories.”

Furthermore, said Cecchi, “By right, there’s no requirement to preserve existing structures, approve the Fairfax Boulevard streetscape or provide additional parking for Pat Rodio Park and major improvements to the storm-sewer facilities. We’ve had to balance the opinions of different stakeholders in the community, and we’d like your feedback.”

“The stormwater improvements are a strong pro for this project,” said Schmidt. “But I’d like to see more commercial [use] along Fairfax Boulevard.”

Councilwoman Jennifer Passey wanted more information about how the preserved building portion would be used, and Cecchi said a daycare would be an “ideal use. Also, a full-service or neighborhood

restaurant would be good in that area, or a brewery or health-and-fitness uses. A nonprofit associated with the City could also go there, or a community use looking for space.”

Councilman Michael DeMarco asked which housing mixes are in demand here, and Cecchi said apartments, condos and townhouses are all hot. “Over the past year, the Enclave has been the fastest-selling condo development in Northern Virginia,” said Cecchi. “And for-sale is more popular than rental.”

Councilman Jon Stehle asked how City residents can continue having input on Paul VI, and Cecchi said IDI is still meeting with various stakeholders and community associations.

Schmidt asked how many different commercial uses are planned and the cost of the condos and townhouses. Cecchi said it’s too soon to estimate the costs, but “Today, it would be the high \$600,000s to low \$700,000s for townhouses. Condos would be \$200,000 for one bedroom and the high \$500,000s to \$600,000s for three bedrooms.”

RE COMMERCIAL USES, he said probably two or three, such as fitness, restaurant and daycare. And, he added, “With commercial uses across the street, additional commercial might not be viable.”

Cunningham wondered about the surge parking for the space in front for vendors, customers or concert attendees. “Are you accommodating the parking needed for this type of use in the plan?” he asked.

And Planning Commissioner Janet Jaworski asked why there’s no connection to McLean Avenue. “We’re not opposed to connections there,” replied Cecchi. “But we heard strongly from the residents that they wanted that street improved, while retaining its residential character.”

Planning Commissioner Tom Burrell was not at all pleased. “You called things either pocket or linear parks only because that’s the grass you had left over after all the other space was used for other things,” he told Cecchi. “I think it’s way over-developed.”

Agreeing, Meyer said Burrell “summarized the community’s concerns with regard to this project’s density. You still have a lot of work to do and will have to focus on the balance and density of uses, open space and transportation. I don’t think the public is ready to embrace this in a positive way, and the residential density is of paramount concern.”



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NEWS

Fall Festival Returns Saturday

FROM PAGE 3

ute band, and Three Sheets to the Wind, doing yacht rock and music from the 1970s and '80s.

Old Town Square performers will be country singer Glen Shelton, rock/pop band Darcy Dawn & Co., and hypnotist Matt Davis. Also here will be a petting zoo, mechanical bull and baseball pitch game.

Old Town Hall, at 3999 University Drive, will host Fall for the Book, highlighting children's authors and featuring storytellers, an interactive event and an illustrators' workshop. Upstairs, the Fairfax Art League will offer hands-on painting workshops; and on the porch, Paint Your Own Pottery will offer painting fun for children.

There's an open house at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, 10-5 p.m., including Sparky's Harvest Bash, educating children on fire prevention and safety. Fire trucks will be on display, including the new foam engine. Also



Rocknoceros is always a big hit with children.

planned are live rescue demonstrations, a firefighter challenge course for children, free cider and popcorn, and a special appearance by Sparky the fire dog.

Open houses will be at the City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., and the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, 10386 Main St. Historic Blenheim and Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Hwy., will offer an interpretive walking trail, and tours of the home's first floor.

Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Courthouse and Records, at 4000 Chain Bridge Road, will also be open for tours from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Visitors will see pages from George and Martha Washington's original wills.

Festival parking is at The Judicial Center parking garage B on Page Avenue and the Old Town Village parking garage (Chain Bridge Road between Whitehead and North Street). In addition, handicap-accessible shuttle buses will travel to the festival from Fairfax High, 3501 Rebel Run, and GMU's Rappahannock Parking Deck, 4400 University Drive, and back again, from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Handicapped parking is at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. (accessed via Chain Bridge Road) and Old Town Village parking garage on Chain Bridge Road. Pets are discouraged at the festival. For more information, call 703-385-7858 or see www.FairfaxFallFestival.com.

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People Support Firearm Limits

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BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



COMMENTARY

Stephen Paddock's Las Vegas assault rifle killing spree has again highlighted the dangers of Virginia's and America's much-too-lax firearms environment. Virginians know the dangers of high-powered weapons having experienced snipers Malvo and Muhammad and the Virginia Tech massacre. Some of us have been steadily, but unsuccessfully, trying to pass reasonable firearms violence prevention laws in Virginia for years.

For example, after Jared Loughner's 2011 attack on U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, I cosponsored legislation to prohibit the sale of firearm ammunition magazines that hold more than 20 bullets. The legislature has rejected the bill every year since.

In 2015, a Fairfax attorney told me about a

client he defended in a mental commitment proceeding in which his client was found to be a danger to himself or others. Virginia law prohibits these people from obtaining a concealed weapon permit or possessing a firearm, but the law does not prohibit the possession of ammunition. I tried to prohibit mentally-incapacitated people from purchasing or possessing ammunition, but the legislature struck it down.

In 2015, I fought to prohibit Virginia from recognizing concealed weapon permits from other states unless their permits contained the same restrictions required by Virginia law — like those adjudged insane subject to protective order, convicted of two misdemeanors in five years, convicted of assault or sexual battery, addicted to drugs, convicted of driving

while intoxicated in the last three years or dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces.

Attorney General Mark Herring cancelled numerous reciprocity agreements with other states for these reasons, but months later in 2015, the legislature passed legislation requiring reciprocity. Today, a non-felon, Virginia resident who cannot obtain a concealed carry permit in Virginia can obtain one in Florida and use it here.

Last year, I introduced legislation requiring background checks for all gun purchases. This would close the gun show loophole and ensure that a felon could not evade purchase restrictions by simply buying guns on eBay or other gun-sale websites. My bill was killed 12-3 in the Senate Courts of Justice Committee. While it seems likely that bump stocks will be banned now that 58 innocent people were mowed down, I am not optimistic we will see additional safety improvements in the short term.

I will continue to work for reasonable laws to prohibit firearm violence in Virginia and I welcome any ideas from my constituents. You can reach me at scott@scottsuovell.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Claims Up Against Facts

To the Editor:

In response to Kevin R. Rose's *Opinion: Letter to the Editor: Deer Hunting Effect Misrepresented* (*Connection*, Sept. 6-12, 2017).

How convenient for you to not mention that you work with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). VDGIF, your employer, profits from the sales of hunting licenses, so it is no surprise that the VDOT data that clearly shows hunting is increasing deer-vehicle collisions in our county bothers you so much.

As a resident in Fairfax County and one who is adjacent to a park where bowhunting is taking place, I also received the postcard you speak of and I requested data from VDOT to see for myself if the content in the postcard is correct and it is. Though it was time consuming to map out all of the deer vehicle collisions (DVCs) in our county over the last three years, which is all VDOT could provide for me, I did see a very obvious trend that did show how approximately 93 percent of all DVCs over the span of these three years is, in fact, within 1 to 1.5 miles of a bow hunted park or in a bow hunted park. Your claims are up against the facts — in this case the VDOT data which fortunately is not biased like you are.

Kudos to whoever mailed out these postcards. There are people in our county who are sick and

tired of "higher officials" making uneducated decisions and putting the public's safety at risk. Whoever sent out these flyers seems to have noticed deer carcasses beside these bow hunted parks and decided to look into this. Everyone has a right to VDOT data and I'm glad the author of this postcard reminded us of this, since we clearly can't rely on people who are running this so-called deer management program or people who work with pro-hunting VDGIF.

You go on to argue that 92 percent of Fairfax County is within 1.5 miles of a bow hunted park. Please show us how 92 percent of Fairfax County is within 1.5 miles of a park. I grew up in Fairfax County and know well enough you are making this up. All we have to do is look at a map and see that.

As a VDGIF employee you also have access to data from 2005 to 2016. You are comparing 11 years of data that only you seem to have access to to three years of data (2014-2017) explained in the postcards. The postcard clearly states that the author could only obtain three years of data from VDOT. The data in the postcard is based on data collected between May 6, 2014 and April 25, 2017. I had a look at the VDOT data during this time frame and the postcard is accurate in terms of DVCs and locations. If you did your homework and looked at the same dates, you would have the same numbers as the postcard. This also goes for the dates of the deer ster-

ilizations in Fairfax City. The postcard also gave accurate data for those three years.

Not a surprise that you, VDGIF, have several years worth of VDOT data, yet, we the residents of Fairfax County only have access to three years of VDOT data.

As for the research articles you clearly did not read, hunting does increase the overall deer population since hunted herds did have an increased incidence of multiple deliveries. In this case a significant increase of twins and triplets in deer herds that were hunted. Why do you call this insignificant?

Rob Brooks
Fairfax Station

Column as an Inspiration

To the Editor:

As a regular reader of Kenneth Lourie's "Cancer Column," I'd like to request the Editor to please consider giving the column a much-deserved face-lift. The *Connection* needs to shed more light on Lourie's illuminating accounts of dealing with the deadly disease, and overcoming the odds, instead of burying it in the shadow of the Business Directory with an Obituary-like black border! Also, a color profile picture would breathe new life into these weekly gems. I understand, Lourie is an Ad/Sales Representative, but more importantly, he is a Survivor and an inspiration to us all.

Considering the other cancers plaguing our society — fake news, mass shootings, and reality shows that are anything but real to most of us — it is all the more urgent to highlight real-life, first-hand accounts from people like Lourie who are fighting the real fight. If, perhaps, we read such stories of courage and positive determination, it could inspire a sorely-needed dose of consideration, empathy, and kindness in our community, or at the very least, give us a much-needed reality-check.

To Mr. Lourie, thank you for sharing your story every week, and wishing you continued strength...

Shaila Muralidhar
Great Falls

Fairfax County Steps to Limit Unsustainable Pension Liabilities

To the Editor:

Fairfax County can limit its unsustainable pension liabilities if it seeks serious policy options. But it has not.

Unfunded pension liabilities of its five main pension systems in June 2016 were an unsustainable \$5.6 billion, up \$0.8 billion in that year alone. Moreover, that unfunded

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

level would be far larger were its liabilities based on realistic 5.5 percent discount rates rather than 7.25 percent discount rates.

One of five systems is the Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System (ERFC) for public school employees. Its unfunded liabilities surged 27 percent last year. Worse, this supplemental system entices good employees to retire as early as 52.

In short, four of five systems — not the Virginia Retirement system

— are unduly generous. If the County were prudent with liabilities for which it ultimately is responsible, it would seek — and consider — serious pension options. But it has not. To be prudent, the County should seek impacts on its unfunded liabilities of:

1. Changing full pension ages to the first of the Social Security age or one satisfying the Rule of 90 (age plus service years),

2. Eliminating employee contributions to, and eligibility for, pensions for new and unvested employees,

3. Using realistic pension discount rates of 5.5 percent rate,

4. Capping cost-of-living adjustments at 2 percent,

5. Increasing contribution rates by both employers and participating employees by 0.5 percent over each of the next five years and

6. Enhancing returns by shifting funds to diversified low-cost index funds.

Dr. David V. Pritchett
McLean

FAITH NOTES

Arabic New Life Baptist Church is located at 6428 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. Worship services are on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and prayer services are on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Bible Study is on Fridays at 7 p.m. Pastor: Wissam Jamil. Call 703-273-5599.

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.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter

Mill Road in Oakton, offers services Sundays at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. www.uucf.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.fcxc.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.

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SENIOR LIVING

Keeping Young

Finding the right volunteer opportunity.

BY ROB PAINE
RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

RSVP Northern Virginia volunteer Ken Kozloff moves through the pool at Providence Recreation Center encouraging the child with special needs he is teaching to swim, to “stroke, breathe, and kick.”

Kozloff high-fives his students at the end of each lap and asks, “Are you having a good time?” All the while he is keeping an eye on two other volunteers he is mentoring during a Fairfax County Park Authority Adapted Aquatics class.

Kozloff will continue to do this for about 90 minutes on a Sunday morning without much of a break. Sometimes he lifts students half his weight into the air so they can experience the joy of splashing into the pool. One would never guess that the former INOVA Alexandria Hospital CEO turned 70 years old in August. “I don’t feel 70, I feel



PHOTO BY ROB PAINE/RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Ken Kozloff, center, instructs volunteer timers at the NVSO swim meet.



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SENIOR LIVING

SILAS BURKE HOUSE



Ken Kozloff works with Sami Zachaira during an Adapted Aquatic class at Providence Rec Center.

PHOTO BY ROB PAINE/
RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

like 25," he said.

Kozloff donates more than 40 hours of his time each month as an RSVP Northern Virginia volunteer, helping autistic children learn how to swim, mentoring economically disadvantaged citizens to manage their finances, and directing other volunteers at large events for RSVP, including the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in September.

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older and provides individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

When he is not volunteering for other organizations, he is a volunteer engagement leader for RSVP, acting as a nonprofit evangelist of sorts, spreading the word on why RSVP is such a great program. "What's unique about RSVP is the approach it takes to new volunteers, helping them to find what they're looking to do, not where we are looking to place them," he said.

RSVP asks each prospective volunteer, "How can we help you find that volunteer opportunity that is going to mean something to you?" Kozloff said. He has been with RSVP for over a year and a half.

Five years ago, he began volunteering with the Fairfax County Park Authority's Adaptive Aquatics program, teaching children on the autism spectrum to swim. He later added another afternoon of classes at Spring Hill Recreation Center in McLean, teaching special needs adults to swim, including those with neurological issues or physical impairments. The park authority honored Kozloff in 2015 as the Adaptive Aquatics Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

He then started working with Our Daily Bread (now called BritePaths) where he has volunteered for four years as a financial mentor. He is also a volunteer classroom instructor with Junior Achievement in Fairfax. He teaches business principles to elementary, middle, and high school students. He also teaches students with special needs in this program.

In an eight-day span in September, the RSVP volunteer managed volunteers at several community projects including the NVSO's indoor track meet in Arlington and its swimming championships in Sterling and a gardening project at River Farm in Alexandria.

"I love to help others," Kozloff said. "I enjoy volunteering with RSVP, not only for what I do as a volunteer, but also for the social aspect of working with other people." During the senior Olympics he managed anywhere from 10 to 30 volunteers at the different events.

WHAT SEPARATES RSVP from other volunteer organizations is its leadership and the approach it takes, treating each volunteer as an individual, according to Kozloff. As an engagement leader, Kozloff tells prospective volunteers: "We are going to show you things and talk to you about specific opportunities that you can relate to."

RSVP offers an array of opportunities for volunteers including providing rides, support and meals to older neighbors, assisting local veterans in need and helping prepare communities for disasters. RSVP also recruits volunteers for various community events.

RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings.

"The big thing that I get out of volunteering is the satisfaction of helping others," he said. "I love to help others, find out what their goals are and help them achieve them, whether it is teaching an autistic child to swim from one side of the pool to the other, or teaching a stroke patient who would like to learn to swim again."

He also enjoys working with other volunteers and letting them know how important it is to make other people feel good. He tells them that they will feel twice as good because they are helping people.

"Ken is one of our most active volunteers and a great example of what it means to stay active after retirement," said Nadia Hoonan, program manager for RSVP Northern Virginia.

"He truly exemplifies the diversity of opportunities that our program offers, from leading a variety of service projects for our volunteers to cleaning up garden grounds at American Horticultural Society. No task is too small for Ken. We want more volunteers like Ken to be willing to be on the front lines of volunteering in Northern Virginia and share their lifetime experience to make a great impact in our community," Hoonan said.

RSVP has several upcoming opportunities during which those interested can learn more about the program including orientations at the Fairfax Regional Library, Oct. 10 and at the Beatley Central Library in Alexandria, Oct. 25. RSVP will hold a special meet and greet event for current and prospective volunteers at Huntley Meadows Park, Oct. 13.

Those interested in learning more about RSVP or in signing up for any of these events should contact RSVP Northern Virginia Volunteer Specialist Carly Hubicki at 703-403-5360, email Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or visit the RSVP website at rsvpnova.org.

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Home LifeStyle

Inside D.C. Design House

In its 10th year, showcase raises money for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

DC Design House

Location: 9004 Congressional Court, Potomac, Md.
Tickets: \$35 at www.dcdesignhouse.com/copy-of-events
Open through Oct. 29: Saturday-Sunday 12-5 p.m.; Closed Mondays; Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 29: DC Design House, last day, 12-5 p.m.

For the 10th anniversary of the D.C. Design House, 23 designers transformed the Potomac, Md. home which includes nine bedrooms, nine full bathrooms, four half bathrooms, a cinema, two-story library, a pool and a pool house. Visitors will have the opportunity to walk through the 27,256 square-foot estate to view the latest in home design trends. Proceeds from the event benefit the Children's National Health System.

It was actress Grace Kelly and the movie "To Catch a Thief" that inspired

Designer Marika Meyer's creation of the lady's retreat. "I thought of her elegance and her scarf blowing in the wind," said Meyer.

A collection of framed Hermes scarves line the of the room's walls.

Much of the room's furniture, including two vintage, velvet chairs and a neutral sofa, surround a Lucite cocktail table, creating a balance between modern and traditional styles.

"When designing the room I thought, 'who would live in that room and what would she be like?'" said Meyer.

Meyer used custom-designed, hand-painted fabric from her own collection for

the room's drapes, pillows, stools and other accessories. One of her biggest obstacles was making the large room feel intimate. "I designed it to make it beautiful and functional, she said. "I created different destinations so it doesn't feel so overwhelming."

Among those destinations are a large secretary, a game table and a bar cart.

Dubbed A Study in Blue, the library by designer Kelley Proxmire draws inspiration from the library of New York socialite Brooke Astor. "I knew it was a classic and I had seen a recent picture and I knew it was a classic," said Proxmire. "Her books were probably antique, leather-bound and I knew that I something wanted something neat and tidy like that."

The room's dark wood paneling is brightened with natural lighting and accessorized with blue and white porcelain and painted books in varying shades of blue.

The designer's goal was to create a technology-free zone that allowed for uninhibited conversation. "Families need a place to sit and talk to each other without being on the telephone and watching television," said Proxmire. "I want all my rooms to say, 'Come and sit.' I don't want them to be too standoffish."

Marrying modern and traditional design elements, Alexandria-based design duo Todd Martz and Susan Nelson created a family room that is both energizing and relaxing, and is meant to be an electronics-free zone.

"The scale of the house is formal, but we wanted to created a room that is family friendly," said Martz. "We wanted to incorporate children's art, but display it in a way that's elegant."

The walls are covered with bright yellow wallpaper that provides an energetic backdrop for blue and white porcelain accessories. To accommodate the lives of a modern family, the white sofa is covered in Crypton fabric, which is stain-resistant and

easy to clean. Other furniture in the room, which includes two faux leather chairs are centered around a handmade, wooden coffee table.

Children's artwork hangs inside the bookcases among blue and white ginger jars. "It makes the book cases a little less serious," said Nelson.

The poolside oasis created by Kim Asner of Country Casual Teak allows visitors to be transported to a luxury spa. Lush greenery and teak lounge chairs surround the pool. An abundance of seating, a cabana and a pool house make the space ideal for entertaining a

"When designing the room I thought, 'Who would live in that room and what would she be like?'"

— Marika Meyer

crowd or enjoying the space's serenity.

"The area is large so we needed substantial furniture," said Asner. "The cabana looks grand and impressive, but it's also comfortable."

Located at 9004 Congressional Court, Potomac, Md., the home is listed at \$10.28 million by Long and Foster Real Estate. Open through Oct. 29, tickets are \$35. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.

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BEFORE



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Bright yellow wallpaper energizes the family room by Todd Martz and Susan Nelson.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Designer Marika Meyer used fabric from her own collection to make accessories, including this dog bed and bone, for the lady's retreat.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Todd Martz and Susan Nelson use felt flowers made by women in Nepal to accessorize the family room.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

ONGOING

Photo Exhibition. Through Oct. 28, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Binding 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.

THROUGH OCTOBER

Pumpkin Patch. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. Buy fall pumpkins and decorative gourds grown by Native American farmers to support jobs in a high unemployment area in Arizona. Email office@stgumc.org or call 703-385-4550.



Roses

The Rose Display is Sunday, Oct. 15 from 2-4 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center- Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Arlington Rose Foundation hosts seminar. Free. Call 703-371-9351 or email arfinformation@aol.com.

OCT. 11-14

Photography Exhibit. Various times in the Center for the Arts lobby on George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. "Slavery in Northern Virginia" photo exhibit by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's Photography Club. Visit www2.gmu.edu/.

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

Art and Lunch. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Fairfax Art League event, bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

Digital Storytelling Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at George Mason University, Innovation Hall Room 215-G, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Award-winning storyteller Laura Packer will help storytellers identify audiences and their needs, hone the voice, and tell a story in a way that will reach out and change the world. Call 703-993-1170 or visit english.gmu.edu/.

Making America Green Lecture. noon at George Mason University HUB Ballroom, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Mark Jacobson, a renowned climate scientist, Stanford professor, and science director of Mark Ruffalo's Solutions Project, will detail his vision and plan for 100 percent renewable energy in the U.S. by 2050. Free. Email dkeubric@gmu.edu.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

Poetry Night. 6-9 p.m. at the Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Hwy, Fairfax. An evening of poetry by Shara McCallum author of Madwoman, Jenny Johnson, author of In Full Velvet, and Debra Nystrom, author of Night Sky Frequencies and Selected Poems. Visit www.fallforthebook.org.

OCT. 13-14

Fairfax City Ghost Tours. 7-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Stories of the spirited individuals who may still roam Old Town Fairfax. Comfortable walking shoes advised. Cider and treats provided. \$15. Ages 12 and up. Call 703-385-7858 or email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Fall Walk Fundraiser. 8:30 a.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 5660 Heming Ave., Springfield. The Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area (HACA), a nonprofit organization based in Springfield, is raising funds to support the programs and services of HACA, which include summer camp for kids with bleeding disorder; patient assistance to help with the cost of healthcare bills and emergency expenses; chapter scholarship programs Visit www.hacacares.org.

Fairfax Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Fairfax, Route 123 and Route 236, Fairfax. Over 400 arts, crafts, information, food vendors, children's activities and three stages of music and entertainment for all ages. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov.

Bunny Man Lecture. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street. County Archivist and Bunny Man expert, Brian Conley, will talk about the legend of the Bunny Man which has captivated Northern Virginia fear-seekers for over four decades. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/ or 703-293-6227.

OCT. 14-15

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 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. Also takes place Oct. 21-22. Visit www.whitehall.farm.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

We didn't inherit the earth from our parents. We're borrowing it from our children.

—Chief Seattle (1788-1866)
Suquamish/
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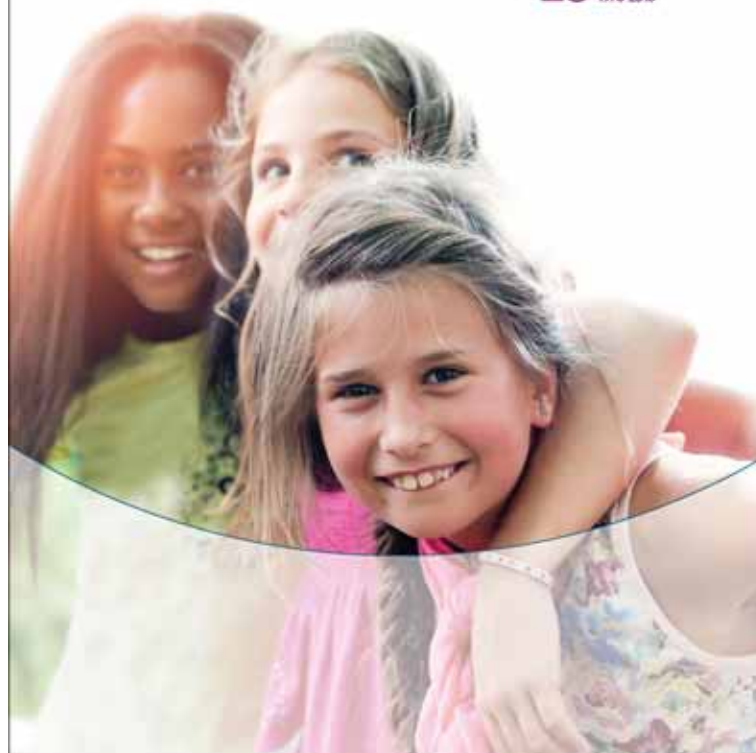
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Epic Story About Combating Racism

Co-produced by Hub Theatre and Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Building robust community partnerships for the Fairfax County performing arts scene, Fairfax's Helen Hayes Award recipient Hub Theatre and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV) are developing a staged reading of a new play. The play is "The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)" based on little-known actions to combat racism from two towering figures of American society, Marian Anderson and Albert Einstein.

The play, with songs by Helen Hayes Award recipient Marc Acito, is "about the union of hearts, minds, and souls in a quest to unlock the secrets of the universe," said Helen Murray, artistic director, Hub Theatre. "Einstein and Anderson are two incredible

Where & When

Hub Theatre and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV) present "The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)," at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Performance, Sunday, Oct. 14, 2017 at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$16 (general admission), \$14 (JCCNV members), \$12 for groups of 15 or more. Call 703-323-0880 or visit www.jccnv.org.

figures, both able to reach beyond themselves to a higher understanding of the world, meeting and forming a friendship."

Presenting this original drama will "enrich our collective audiences," said Jeff Dannick, executive director, JCCNV. "Here is a unique opportunity to observe and enjoy a unique relationship between two historic giants. Eighty years after their extraordinary meeting, the themes and issues



PHOTO COURTESY OF HUB THEATRE
Helen Murray,
Artistic Director,
Hub Theatre



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
Jeff Dannick,
Executive Director,
Jewish Community
Center of North-
ern Virginia

brought forward in the play continue to resonate."

Asked about the reading and the artistic process Murray said, "this is a workshopped staged reading of a play in progress. So no costumes or props, just music stands and actors with scripts. The cast will include professional actors from the area."

The reading also provides an opportunity for the audience to provide their in-

formed feedback.

Playwright Acito is expected at the performance to take in what he sees and hears from the actors and audience alike, to further develop the script on its next step to full production.

Murray went on to say, "it is exciting to have a partner in bringing this show to our community. With the help of JCCNV we will be able to reach a broader audience with the messages found in this play – ones of tolerance, friendship and diversity."

"Our institutions are very different in purpose and structure, but whenever our missions align, this partnership delivers amazing experiences for our audiences. It demonstrates the best in what makes Northern Virginia such a special place to live," said Dannick.

"The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)" is a message of tolerance, friendship and diversity. It aims to depict personal and public struggles to overcome racial prejudice where and when it can occur. For this show, it started with being denied a hotel room.

Fiery Tango Music and Dance

'Tango Buenos Aires: The Spirit of Argentina' at the Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Journey to Argentina right here in your own Northern Virginia backyard. Take in the passion-filled dance and music called the tango. Considered one of Argentina's great cultural arts, "Tango Buenos Aires: The Spirit of Argentina" will be displaying authentic, alluring dance movements fired-up with classic tango music performed live.

"Tango Buenos Aires: The Spirit of Argentina" will focus on the power of the tango to engage performers and audiences alike with its addictive nature. The tango program will trace the evolution of the tango as a dance and cultural style. Patrons will find themselves gazing at "very beautiful dances and a story being told. There are high energy dances, sensual dances, and dances with high kicks and lifts," said Rosario Bauza, artistic director, "Tango Buenos Aires."

On stage will be 10 dancers and a singer, plus musicians performing live music. The music compositions will include works by Carlos Gardel, a central figure in tango history and Astor Piazzolla as well as original music by Fernando Marzan and other composers. Enjoying a live performance, rather



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT INC.

"Tango Buenos Aires: The Spirit of Argentina" comes to George Mason University, Center for the Arts, on Saturday, Oct. 14.

than seeing on a screen either big or small, Bauza hopes the audience will become "happy and joyful as they see our performance."

"We would like the audience to depart our Center for the Arts performance with a desire to visit Argentina and experience tango

there also. They will have also learned a little about the life of Carlos Gardel, who is known as the voice of the Tango," said Bauza. "Above all else we hope everyone enjoys 'The Spirit of Argentina.'"

There will be a specially developed feature for the tango dance event at the Cen-

Where & When

"Tango Buenos Aires: the Spirit of Argentina" performing at the George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Ave., Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$50, \$43 and \$30. Call 703-993-2787 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu Note: Pre-performance discussion with member of the company. Also free beginners' Tango Class led by instructors from Tango Mercurio starting at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14. Space is limited and advance registration required. Open to ticket holders for the "Tango Buenos Aires" performance. Registration at cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/2496/.

ter for the Arts that will add audience participation. There will be a free beginners' tango class to those with tickets to "Tango Buenos Aires." The free dance lesson is to start before the Saturday evening performance. There will be instructors from Tango Mercurio, a Northern Virginia dance company and studio. The basics of tango will be taught to those who pre-register. In addition, there will be a pre-performance discussion with members of the performance troupe.

So, come to "Tango Buenos Aires: The Spirit of Argentina" to celebrate Argentina's enduring tango; its ardent music and dramatic moments. Even take the opportunity to learn new dance skills or brush-up on old skills with the free tango lessons being made available.

11

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Announcements

Legals

According to the Lease by and between unit #1098 America Abreu and TKG-Storage-Mart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found: tubs, chairs, home decor, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 20, 2017 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851, 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030, 703.352.8840 Ext 2.

Legals

According to the Lease by and between unit #1133 Gustavo Reyes and TKG-Storage-Mart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found: art, boxes, clothes, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 20, 2017 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851, 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030, 703.352.8840 Ext 2.

Legals

According to the Lease by and between unit #2073 Erica Whitehurst and TKG-Storage-Mart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found: luggage, bags, tubs, household items, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 20, 2017 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851, 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030, 703.352.8840 Ext 2.

Legals

According to the Lease by and between unit #3113 Gustavo Reyes and TKG-Storage-Mart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found: furniture, rug, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 20, 2017 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851, 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030, 703.352.8840 Ext 2.

Legals

According to the Lease by and between unit #4157 Tony Stefano and TKG-Storage-Mart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found: chairs, tubs, boxes, luggage, household items, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday October 20, 2017 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851, 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030, 703.352.8840 Ext 2.

NEWS

Judy Ryan Announces Retirement

Shifting economic trends and demographics have taken their toll on this local family run business. Judy Ryan of Fairfax was an outgrowth of the Image and Color Consulting business Ryan owned beginning with Color Me Beautiful in a studio in Fairfax City. Developing into a retail location for apparel and accessories, the operation moved to Twinbrooke Centre on Braddock Road in 1988. Home décor and gifts were added to respond to customer requests.

"The world was a very different place in 1988. No online shopping, free shipping, free returns, no Amazon and my customers and I were a lot younger," said Ryan. "Our customers are retiring, down-sizing, leaving the area and generally shopping less. Our wonderful, loyal customers have supported us with great atten-

dance at our monthly events, but day to day traffic has diminished."

The decision to retire was a very difficult one. Judy Ryan said, "If the store could stay in business while I worked 30 hours instead of 50 or more [a] week, I'd probably work until I'm one hundred."

A letter was mailed and an email went out announcing that a Retirement Sale will begin on Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. "The store will most likely remain open until December as the inventory is sold down and new merchandise will arrive. And, we haven't even begun to put out our wonderful Christmas collection," she said.

Judy Ryan and her team look forward to thanking their customers in person and to helping them find some good presents and some nice things to remember the store.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

Rose Display. 2-4 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center- Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Arlington Rose Foundation hosts seminar on new and interesting roses for next year's garden. Free. Call 703-371-9351 or email arfinformation@aol.com.

OCT. 16-19

Halloween Costume Exchange. Drop off various times at Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Pick up new costume on Friday, Oct. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Drop off gently used and clean Halloween costumes Monday through Thursday, and come pick up a great second hand costume for this year on Friday. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-385-7858.

THURSDAY/OCT. 19

Cabaret Performance. 7 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Live musical entertainment by featured actors and singers from the City of Fairfax Theatre Company. Visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 20

Pathway to Wellness Conference. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Keynote Speaker will be Jennifer Marshall, founder of "This is My Brave," and other presenters will talk about how creativity, poetry, music and dance can be part of recovery. \$30. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb or email wwwcsb@fairfaxcounty.gov.

OCT. 20-21

Fairfax City Ghost Tours. 7-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415

North St., Fairfax. Stories of the spirited individuals who may still roam Old Town Fairfax. Comfortable walking shoes advised. Cider and treats provided. \$15. Ages 12 and up. Call 703-385-7858 or email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

2nd Annual Shelane's 5K Run/Walk. 7:30 a.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free kids activities: rock wall, moon bounce, face painting, arts and crafts and more. Come run/walk to help raise awareness and resources for postpartum mood disorders in memory of Shelane Dawn Gaydos. \$30 for 5K, kids fun run, \$10. Visit shelanesrun.org/ or call 571-332-9026.

Help The Homeless 5K Walk 2017. 8:30 a.m. at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. A 5K through the neighborhoods of Fairfax City or the 1.5 mile short course. \$32. Visit www.PathwayHomes.org or call 703-876-0390.

2017 Library Jubilee Gala Fundraiser. 5:30-8 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "The Library Goes Hollywood" with food, ice cream, auction and photo booth with VIP Hollywood guest, Marilyn Monroe. \$75. Call 703-324-8300 or email Jubilee@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org.

Trunk or Treat. 6-8 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church (FUMC) 6037 Franconia Road. Games, snacks, hot cider in the church parking lot. Visit www.franconiaumc.org/ or call 703-971-5151.

Campfire Stargazing. 8-10 p.m. at Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Astronomical naturalist identifies the stars, constellations and other night-sky features, and make S'mores. \$10. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/.

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BULLETIN

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

DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

Short-Term Rental Community Meeting. 7 p.m. in Conference Rooms 9 and 10 the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Drive, Fairfax. The county scheduled another meeting to discuss proposed zoning rules for short-term rentals with the community. The public will be able to provide feedback, ask questions and learn about the results from the community survey. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold forums about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates. The public and press are encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.org. In-person forums:

* **Thursday, Oct. 12** at 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, Lecture Hall: 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

* **Wednesday, Oct. 25** at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Town Hall Meeting. 9 a.m. at Junior Achievement Finance Park, 4099 Pickett Road, Fairfax. Supervisor John Cook presents a town hall on Raising Teens in the 21st Century. Call 703-425-9300 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/event/parent-resources-town-hall-meeting-raising-teens-in-the-21st-century/.

Office Hours. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.
 ♦ 9-11:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.
 ♦ 12:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon District office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

SUNDY/OCT. 15

Women's Health and Wellness. 3-5 p.m. at the Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. The Democratic Women of Clifton and No. VA invite members and the general public to an important meeting on women's health and wellness. A local ob/gyn and a cardiologist will speak and take questions. Email cliftonwomens@aol.com or visit www.democraticwomenofclifton.org.

BRADDOCK ROAD STUDY

Community Meetings. Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a series of community meetings focused on specific sections of Braddock Road this fall.
 ♦ **Wednesday, Oct. 18:** Beltway area – Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke
 ♦ **Wednesday, Oct. 25:** Burke Lake intersection – Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke
 ♦ **Thursday, Nov. 16:** Ravensworth Road intersection – Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale
 ♦ **Monday, Dec. 11:** Burke Lake intersection, second meeting – Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke
 The goal of the Braddock Road Multimodal Study is to develop commuting improvements for the corridor from Guinea Road to I-495 to Ravensworth Road. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/braddockroadmmstudy/.

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What To "Ware?"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently I received a very generous offer in the mail: a \$10 gift certificate from my local hardware store acknowledging my upcoming/now passed birthday. From what I could read, there was no minimum purchase, no exclusions and no small-type print, just a reasonable expiration date: Oct. 31, approximately six weeks out from the day I received this unexpected gift. More than enough time, one would imagine.

The only problem: what am I going to get at the hardware store, other than the employees' pity about how little I know about so much? Most of the time when I'm in a hardware store (typically I'm not browsing, unlike the cookie aisle at the supermarket), I'm attempting to solve a problem I have at home for which I have very little experience and extremely poor instincts at rectifying. Not only do I rarely know what I'm talking about, I don't even know the proper questions to ask to enable/assist the employee in figuring what the heck my problem actually is – other than me, that is.

I'm very much out of my element in a hardware store. A fish out of water doesn't begin to describe my situation. Tevye, from "Fiddler on the Roof" in speaking to his daughter, Chava, about marrying outside the faith came close: "a bird may love a fish, but where would they build a home together?" Build a home? I have enough difficulty maintaining one that's already built.

When I'm asked, or when I offer it, usually I say: "I know two things: sports and chocolate." I guess I could also add being a cancer patient/survivor, but I don't want to redirect a perfectly innocent conversation into a totally different direction: me and my druthers. Although, my situation has been publicly consumed in the Connection Newspapers going on eight and half years; in person, I try to not let it be the first or even second thing that comes out of my mouth. And I never initiate, though I'm happy to respond if asked. Generally speaking, I'd rather it not be about me and my cancer. As my mother used to say "It's enough already."

But none of this comes up in a hardware store. In fact, the only thing that comes up is my Adam's Apple as I sheepishly swallow and admit how incapable I am as a homeowner/do-it-yourselfer and how much help I need to do almost anything. At least the parking is free so it's not a total loss.

As you might imagine, this situation doesn't exactly lead to an easy conversation or a satisfying outcome. Quite the contrary. I know one thing for sure however, if left to my own devices, either I will cause additional and costly damage in my crude attempt to self-repair, or I will hurt myself in the process. And waste money as well, as the end of the day will likely find me and the problem no closer to a resolution than we were at the beginning of the day.

As William Shakespeare might have written: it will be much ado about nothing as nothing much will have been done. In these recurring circumstances, all I can hope for is a safe landing, so to speak, one in which, as pilots often joke: I can walk away uninjured.

Given that I'm a tool twit and have failed miserably at homeowner 101, what then could I possibly buy at the hardware store with my gift certificate? I just got an idea: lightbulbs. I couldn't possibly screw that up, could I? I mean, they're supposed to be screwed up – into the socket, right? What could be more natural for me?

One last question though: when I place the bulb into the socket, do I screw them to the right or to the left?

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



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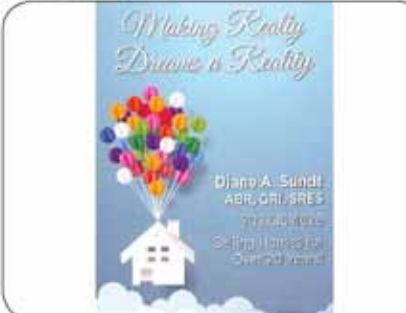
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