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Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

Blue Firefight
NEWS, PAGE 3

Sink or Float at
the Cardboard
Boat Regatta
SUMMER FUN, PAGE 9

Fifth in the Nation

SPORTS, PAGE 7

The SYC Girls High School Rugby Team placed fifth in the country this past weekend in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The team captains are Kayla Estes and Matalasi Morrisette.



Del. Filler-Corn, Governor Ralph Northam and the Farbstain family at the signing ceremony for Filler-Corn's bill.



Del. Filler-Corn (right) watching as Governor Northam signs her bill. State Sen. Jennifer McClellan is on the left.

Governor Signs Del. Filler-Corn's Privacy, Boundaries Bill

On Wednesday, May 16, Governor Ralph Northam signed Del. Eileen Filler-Corn's (D-41) bill, HB 45 in the Cabinet Conference Room of the Patrick Henry Building in Richmond.

This legislation will require any family life education curriculum offered in any elementary school, middle school, or high school to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals and tools for a student to use to respect the personal

privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals.

This legislation builds upon Del. Filler-Corn's legislation signed into law from previous years including HB 2257 (2017), which provides that schools can teach about the law and meaning of consent, HB 1709 (2017), which requires principals to notify parents if their child is a part of a bullying investigation, as well as HB 659 (2016), which requires any high school family life education curriculum offered by a local school division to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of dat-

ing violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual violence.

"HB 45 tackles two major priorities of mine, combating sexual assault and bullying," said Filler-Corn. "This bill is all about prevention," she added, remarking that if the first time students learn about these issues is a college orientation, then it is too late.

Filler-Corn was joined in Richmond by Brandon Farbstain, a young activist whose harrowing tale of being bullied was a partial impetus for this bill. Representatives from the Sexual Assault Resource Agency, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence

Action Alliance, YWCA Richmond and Hanover Safe Place were also on hand for the signing.

This is not the first time Filler-Corn has introduced this bill. She introduced a similar measure in 2017 (HB 2406), which made it to the floor of the House of Delegates before being re-referred to the House Education Committee where it was left for the duration of the Session. However, this year was different. HB 45 passed out of the House of Delegates and the Senate floors unanimously during the 2018 General Assembly Session. The law will take effect on July 1, 2018.

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Movers for Moms Supports Families in Shelters

Annual campaign coordinated by Two Men and a Truck franchises.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE CONNECTION

Despite the surge in parenting advice and information resources, some of the most spirit-breaking defeats happen when plans go astray, leaving parents suddenly without the means to meet even the most basic needs of their children. Parents in these situations count on community support.

And for a considerable number of moms, this kind of support comes from the national moving company Two Men and a Truck. Every spring, in the weeks leading up to Mother's Day, Two Men and a Truck locations all over the country — including the three Northern Virginia franchises — hold their Movers for Moms campaigns. Through this charity drive, they collect donations for mothers in shelters.

"During this year's Moving for Moms campaign, we collected around 1,200 donations," said Gabby Bonilla, marketing coordinator for Two Men and a Truck. "It was an overall really successful charity drive that ended May 4, so we were able to drop off all the donated items to the shelters we partnered with, all in time for Mother's Day. They were thrilled because this isn't the time of year when they get a lot of donations. We were happy to provide things so that moms could have a decent Mother's Day."

BONILLA organized Movers for Moms this year on behalf of all three Northern Virginia locations of Two Men and a Truck — in Arlington, Herndon and Springfield. A national franchise, the business has had a local presence since the Springfield location opened in 2013. The local team held its first Movers for Moms campaign in 2014, so it didn't take the local franchise long to start conducting nonprofit work alongside the growing business.

"One of my favorite quotes is Ronald Reagan's line, 'We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone,'" Bonilla said. "This is my second year hosting the drive in this area and what I love about it, besides making a difference in the community and helping those in need, is getting to meet more people and businesses in the Northern Virginia area with my team. Last year, our team collected a little over 1,000 donations. Our goal this year was to surpass that, and next year, even more so."

As part of this movement to honor mothers, Two Men and a Truck partners with businesses that then become designated donation drop-off locations. This year, there were 19 of these spots around the area.



The nonprofit Bridges to Independence in Arlington received donations from the Movers for Moms campaign.



The nonprofit FACETS received donation from the Movers for Moms campaign.



Local franchises of Two Men and a Truck conducted its Movers for Moms campaign to collect donations for mothers living in shelters.

On the other side of the equation, Two Men and a Truck also partners with local homeless shelters, where the donations will ultimately go. For the campaign, they ask for everyday items — the things so many people take for granted.

"With Northern Virginia being such a high income metropolitan area, our community is able to help by donating items that we use every day," she said. "Something as little as canned food, or toiletries, can make a huge difference in someone else's world. This year we got a lot of baby wipes. We knew the shelters we partnered with needed a lot of baby care items and perishable food, so we specified this need to the community."

The shelters they worked with this year are run by FACETS and Bridges to Independence, both non-profit organizations devoted combating poverty and assisting those in the throes of it.

"Sullivan House provides individuals and families with a safe, supportive place to stay," said Jeanette Norton, director of de-

velopment for Bridges to Independence, said. "Sullivan House is Arlington County's largest emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness. The shelter, with 10 one- and two-bedroom apartments, can accommodate up to approximately 14 families at a time. The median length of stay is three months. While at Sullivan House, families not only receive the support they need during a time of crisis, but the tools and resources that will propel them toward a better future."

According to Bridges to Independence, homelessness is often an "episodic" plight. The staff and volunteers work hard to address the root of the problem so that when the people they directly help move away from homelessness, it will remain in the rearview mirror. The whole process starts with meeting people's basic needs, so the many donations from Two Men and a Truck they welcomed this month were significant.

"The path from homelessness to independence is not easy, and requires ongoing sup-

port and assistance," Norton said. "This is Bridges' third year as a beneficiary of the Movers for Moms campaign. We're very grateful to Two Men and a Truck for their continued support of our mission and our community's most vulnerable families. Last year, Sullivan House provided a safe haven for 40 families, and we've already surpassed that number this year. Donations like those given through the Movers for Moms campaign are critical to supporting our mission."

THIS WAS THE FIRST YEAR that Two Men and a Truck contributed to FACETS. While this added partnership was indeed a success, Bonilla sights are set on an even more impactful drive next year.

"This year went great, and I know it'll continue to get better every year we do this," Bonilla said. "Now that we've wrapped this year's Movers for Moms, I'm hoping to affect more mothers in shelters, and I'm hoping to establish more donation locations. We'd also like to host more events next year, similar to one we did this year with the Boys Scouts of the Capital Area. I'd like to plan more of these events because it's a good way to get a lot of the community behind the cause."

It was one mother's idea that launched Two Men and a Truck as a business more than 10 years ago, so it's only fitting that the company would pour so much heart into a nationwide initiative for moms.

"Two Men and a Truck was started by a mom, Mary Ellen Sheets, whose sons would assist the local neighbors with their moving needs in a pickup truck," Bonilla said. "The first profit she made, she donated to a local women's shelter. Even though it's called Two Men and a Truck, it's mainly run by women, who hold management and ownership titles within the company. It's symbolic, really, because none of us would be here without our moms."



And they're off! Two and four-legged race contestants start the 5k Pups and Pints race to benefit HART – the Homeless Animal Rescue Team – and continue caring for and re-homing dogs and cats.



Rosie wore her own bib for the 5k race. After all, HART is her 'alma mater,' though these days she shares a home with Karen Orozco, formerly of Centreville, who drove over from Leesburg for the event.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Pups and Pints 5k and After Party

All-day event benefits Fairfax Station-based Homeless Animal Rescue Team.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

“Things went so well last year, so we're back! Bigger and better than ever!” said Meg Hart, office manager for Homeless Animals Rescue Team (HART), and one of the organizers of the Pups and Pints 5k and the Dogfish Head Alehouse After Party held on Sunday, May 20, to benefit the Fairfax Station-based nonprofit.

Event co-chairs Carolyn and Thom Jones started this HART fundraiser to honor their beloved dog Marigold, a HART “alum,” who succumbed to lymphoma in 2011. “It’s a way to remember a great friend and help other animals find their forever homes,” said Carolyn.

THINGS GOT STARTED back in 2012, when Dogfish Head Alehouse at 13041 Lee Jackson Highway in the Greenbriar Town Center generously agreed to partner up with HART in Marigold’s memory. Thom Jones, who works at the casual dining restaurant, said that the first time out, three hours were devoted to raising funds for the charity.

“Dogfish Head has been a real supporter,” said Thom. For the 2018 edition of the event, the Alehouse turned over 10 percent of their day’s proceeds, from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

In addition to the dollars from sales, Dogfish Head turned the parking lot in front of their establishment into a street fair scene. Tents to cover bars, live music, a raffle for multiple prizes, games, and plenty of food and drink on offer to make supporting a



And the winner – by a longshot – of the 2018 HART Pups and Pints 5k was Steven Voltz of Richmond, who said visiting his nearby family “was nice, but I’m really here for the race and the good cause!”

worthy cause all the more enjoyable.

Co-chair Carolyn, who works at Praxis Engineering Technologies in Chantilly, was proud to give kudos to her company. Like Dogfish Head Alehouse, Praxis has been supporting this HART event for years. With donations from Praxis, HART is able to offer customized t-shirts for sale with the pictures of shelter animals who have been waiting the longest to find an adoptive family. This year’s t-shirt features a sun-glass-wearing, 14 year-old “over-looked friend” named Tiger Lilly.

Of course, before the “after party” – which was open to the public – could begin, the main event of the day had to take place: the Pups and Pints 5K.

Again, encouraged by how well their inaugural attempt at running a race had gone last year, the HART group opened registration beyond the 2017 cap of 200. According to the staff at Race Wire who handled the timing duties, about 250 runners hit the

starting line. Also new to this year’s event was the addition of four-legged runners and “cheerleaders.”

The race took off and ended behind the Total Wine and More store, and the 5k course was supervised by Fairfax County Police officers for the safety of the runners of both species.

Some of the furry participants had been in training for today’s race, like 3 year-old Rosie, another adoptee from HART, who wore her own race bib as she ran the course with her human partner, Karen Orozco, formerly of Centreville.

Some of the canine contestants looked like they were born for the competition, despite the heat and humidity of race day. Others had to be encouraged. “Ok. She was awful,” laughed Sean Smyth, about running companion Lily, causing his family to contradict him vociferously. “Really. I’m sure I could have finished first if I didn’t have to drag her along,” he joked.



Co-chairs of the event, Meg Hart from HART, and Carolyn Jones cheer the runners to the finish line. Jones started this fundraiser with her husband Thom, to honor their dog Marigold, a HART adoptee, who passed away in 2011.

STILL OTHERS got to enjoy the outing without lifting a paw as they were wheeled along the course in strollers and carts, like Bella, the bulldog.

However they crossed the finish line – running, walking, or wheeled – there was a bottle or bowl of water and a commemorative button awaiting the finishers.

HART is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. They are a no-kill animal rescue/support group, working with local veterinarians, foster homes, kennels and trainers to provide temporary housing and care while they seek out “loving, carefully screened forever homes.”

“With volunteers, donations, and generous support at events like these, we can use almost all of our funds directly on the animals,” says Meg Hart, noting that in the last fiscal reporting period, 98.1 percent of those funds went directly to benefit the dogs and cats.



Biking to Work on a Rainy Friday

On Walker Lane in the Springfield-Kingstowne area, the die hard cyclists stopped by the morning of Friday, May 18, aka Bike To Work Day 2018. Despite the rains, there were a number of cyclists getting their tee shirts and some fresh air on the way to work.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Springfield Human Trafficking

Talk. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, 7011 Backlick Road, Springfield. Two speakers will present to the community the signs of human trafficking in its many forms and steps to take if someone suspects trafficking is underway. Free. Visit www.nvhttf.com.

MONDAY/MAY 28

Joint American Legion/VFW Commemoration. 10 a.m. in the Post 176 Main Hall, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. American Legion Post 176 Springfield – Virginia's largest post – and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 will conduct a ceremony to honor all those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in our country's Armed Forces. A light meal will be provided for all attendees. Members of the public will be warmly welcomed and are invited to participate. Email GeneralManager@Post176.org or call 703-440-0335 for more.

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Keep Teens Safe for Summer

BY JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



COMMENTARY

Prom and graduation seasons are upon us, and these are the biggest landmarks in our teens' lives so far. While it is certainly a time for celebration, it is also a time for parents to ensure the safety of these young adults. I want to ask all parents to keep our community safe by not hosting parties teen parties with alcohol and speaking to your children about the dangers of drunk driving.

The way parents raise their own kids in the privacy of their homes is their business. However, when other children are involved and given alcohol, it becomes a community concern and threat to public safety. Through a motion I presented, the Board of Supervisors unanimously directed our Police Department

to arrest parents who host parties for minors where alcohol is served. If you are caught hosting one of these parties then you will be arrested and sent to jail.

There is no responsible way to host a teen party with alcohol. Not only are teens underage, but teen brains are more negatively impacted by alcohol than an adult's. The developing mind already has a tendency to take risks and not perceive consequences for their actions. When one introduces alcohol to this situation, the risky behavior goes into overdrive and puts our young people in a dangerous position. Teens are also more likely to binge drink, which creates an even greater risk to their health in the short and long term. At its worst, teen drinking can result in drunk driv-

ing, assault, drug use, teen pregnancy, injury, or even death. When parents provide youth with alcohol, they are jeopardizing these children's lives.

Every year we hear stories about devastating accidents caused by teens driving under the influence after prom or graduation. It is not something that just happens in other neighborhoods. These accidents happen in our own backyards. Nationally, 10,497 people died in 2016 from drunk driving accidents. Fifteen percent of those accidents were caused by drivers under 21. A single accident like this is one too many.

That is why it is up to us as parents to set good examples to our children. We have to set clear rules and expectations for them to follow in this season of celebrations. Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking. Make it clear that if they drink and drive or go to these underage drinking parties they are risking their future.

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



COMMENTARY

As the General Assembly heads back into Special Session on May 23 to continue work on the biennium budget impasse, I looked back at how long we've been fighting to expand Medicaid — the major sticking point in our current budget standoff. Here's what I wrote in September 2014 — nearly four years ago!

"Recently the New York Times editorial board wrote about the 'health care showdown in Virginia.' Their comments were not favorable. 'In Virginia, there are 400,000 low-income people who can't afford health care coverage but don't qualify for federal subsidies,' they wrote. 'If they lived across the state line in Maryland, West Virginia or Kentucky, which have expanded their Medicaid programs, they could get the coverage they need.' The reason they cannot; 'a group of recalcitrant Republicans in the House of Delegates' have blocked Medicaid expansion at every opportunity."

Highly regarded retired editorial writer for the Virginian Pilot, Margaret Edds, wrote about the current impasse in Virginia two weeks ago. Drawing on her extensive command of Virginia's history, Edds points out that Virginia was the last state to join Social Security in the 1930s. She argues that there is a moral imperative that "we cannot afford to take this risk" of not expanding Medicaid. She writes that "designing a health care system that embraces everyone is the right thing to do." Reston resident, Elliot Wicks, in a recent letter to the editor makes the same argument that closing the coverage gap morally is the right thing to do.

In an unprecedented move, the Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Retired People (AARP) called a press conference to announce that letters sent by the Speaker of the House and other Republican lawmakers to their constituents over age 60 contained "inaccurate information about changes in Medicare."

These letters from Speaker Howell and other lawmakers implied that expanding Medicaid in Virginia would hurt Medicare beneficiaries. "Expanding Medicaid to uninsured Virginians won't harm the Medicare program or its beneficiaries," the AARP spokesperson said.

Revenues for the Commonwealth are expected to fall short of projection for this year by as much as \$300 million. Ironically, Virginia is losing \$5 million a day amounting now to three-fourths of a billion dollars paid by Virginians that could be returned to the state through Medicaid expansion. The money could

not be used to balance the budget in the current year, but in future years more than \$200 million that Virginia pays for indigent care from its general tax revenue could be paid by Medicaid.

State and local chambers of commerce, medical and health care associations, and editorial boards of the major newspapers in the state have endorsed Medicaid expansion. A major compromise in the form of Marketplace Virginia, proposed by three Republican senators and endorsed by all Democratic legislators, has been introduced. The compromise proposed in Marketplace Virginia addresses the Republicans' stated concerns by including a provision to discontinue the program if the federal government reneges on its commitments. It is time for Republicans in the House of Delegates to agree to the compromise. Their insistence on separating Medicaid from the state budget is a costly stalling tactic that is hurting a large number of Virginians and threatens to hurt even more if the budget stalemate continues.

While the players have changed—it's now Senate Republicans resisting Medicaid expansion—the song remains the same.

Send Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, and once again this newspaper will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, we put out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 12.

You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

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SPORTS

The **SYC Girls High School Rugby Team** placed fifth in the country this past weekend in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The team captains are Kayla Estes and Matalasi Morrisette.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

SYC Girls Rugby are Fifth in the Nation

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

The SYC Girls High School Rugby Team ended the seasons ranked No. 5 in the country last weekend at the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Last year they finished second in the nationals.

"It was a good season for us. This weekend was very interesting, a lot of fun," said coach Matt Estes. The girls come from West Springfield High School.

In the first game, they played a Select Side from Pennsylvania called PA United, and won 19-14, on the last play of the game. "It was really a good win for us because they had beaten us two weeks earlier," said Estes.

In the next game, they played the No. 1 seed, South Bay, out of California.

"We lost that game, 57-0; we were a little spent from our morning game and came out flat against them, but they are the No. 1 team in the country for a reason," said Estes.

In the last game of the tournament against KC United, the Missouri State Champion, "We played a very good game, and won 70-12," said Estes.

He added: "This season was very interesting and bittersweet for me because my daughter graduated from the team after playing with us for 12 years. She started when she was 6 and she's graduating at 18. It was very interesting, too, because we lost a lot of players from last year and the younger players



The SYC Girls High School Rugby Team placed fifth in the country this past weekend in Murfreesboro, Tenn. This year, the team will have 12 graduating seniors and every single girl will be playing rugby in college next year.

had to step up. Throughout the course of the season, there were times we played very well and times where we seemed to be a little flat. We pulled it all together to win our fifth consecutive state championship. We carried that momentum into nationals to play a very good tournament. I'm very proud of the girls for playing as well as they did this year and working as hard as they did."

With more than 40 girls on the team, the team took 23 players to nationals this past weekend. This year's senior class will have 12 graduating seniors and every single girl will be playing rugby in college next year, said Estes.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Free Fitness Classes. May is National Fitness and Sports Month. To celebrate, Fairfax Jazzercise is offering seven days of fitness at no charge through May 31. Participants pick their start date. The seven days do not have to be consecutive. This offer is good at all three locations: Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road; Geshur Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court; and the JCC, 8900 Little River Turnpike. This offer also includes Fairfax Zumba at the Mott Community Center. For more info call 703-909-6449, email ffjazzercise@gmail.com, or visit www.jazzercise.com.

Art Exhibit: House, Sky and Abyss. Through June 24, gallery hours at Workhouse Arts Center's Vulcan Muse Gallery, 1st Floor, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. House, Sky and Abyss is a solo exhibition featuring Gerardo Camargo chronicling the relationship between natural environment and social constructs. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Art Exhibit: Candy for the Eye, Food for the Soul. Through July 8, gallery hours at Workhouse Arts Center's Warrior Way Gallery, 1st Floor, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Gene Moty, a retired Air Force officer, creates contemplative, whimsical paintings using traditional materials. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

The Sunday Farmers' Market. Through Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at



Providence Players Present 'California Suite'

PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOG.
PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

Liz Mykietyn as Millie Michaels and Dave Wright as Marvin Michaels in the Providence Players production of the Neil Simon comedy "California Suite" on stage at the James Lee Community Center Theater June 1 thru June 16, 2018.

10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit www.fairfaxsundaymarket.com.

Saturday Community Farmers' Market. Through Oct. 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit www.fairfaxsaturdaymarket.com.

Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/.

Second Saturdays. 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The

Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet nearly 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Experience performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Enjoy art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

Senior Line Dancing. Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5

per 8-week session. Email barbriba@hotmail.com or call 703-524-3739.

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at www.fpow.org/volunteer. www.fpow.org, 703-324-5424 or dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

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

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

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

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

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

Funday Monday 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

FRIDAY/MAY 25

Rock the Block: Reagan Years. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. This family-friendly, free concert series, takes place fourth Fridays, May-October, and features live bands,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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submit your Letter to the Editor to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

SUMMER FUN

It's Time to Sink or Float at the Cardboard Boat Regatta

Crazy watercrafts will again be put to the test as Lake Accotink Park hosts the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta on Sunday June 3, 2018.

Who will sink and who will float? Come to the park to find out which of the wacky creations will sail to victory.

Boats assembled for the cardboard flotilla will be judged between 9 and 10:30 a.m. on their creativity, design and crew members. The judging categories will be: Most Likely to Float, Titanic (most likely to sink), Best Costume (most creative attire and boat), Team Spirit (most spirited team), and Pride of the Regatta (most spectacular cardboard boat entry).

Awards will be presented between 10:45 and 11 a.m., and the races will immediately follow from 11 a.m. to about 2 p.m.

To register a cardboard boat, visit the Park Authority website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/> and download the registration form. Fill out the form and fax or mail it to Lake Accotink Park along with your registration fee. The form can also be found on the Springfield Days website.

Due to anticipated crowds, a one-day parking fee of \$5 applies to all vehicles entering Lake Accotink Park the day of the regatta. Due to the scale of the event, no vehicles will be permitted in the parking lot at the marina.

Lake Accotink Park is located at 7500 Accotink Park



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The anaconda-themed "Snakeinator," made it back to the beach, and the sailors kept dry in Cardboard Boat Regatta 2017.

Road in Springfield. For more information call 703-569-0285.

Web: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa130>

JOB ZONE

STAFFORD-QUANTICO HIRING EVENT

Tuesday, June 5, 3 PM-7 PM

Cyber, TS/SCI, CI/full poly, welcome!

HOSTED BY DAWSON AT HAMPTON INN

2925 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Stafford, VA 22554 (Min. from Quantico)

Interested in exciting work with a Native Hawaiian Organization that brings the spirit of Aloha to our employees and puts the DAWSON "Ohana" first? DAWSON & JOBZONE will be hosting an Open House/Job Fair for meeting and greeting prospective candidates for interviewing. Dawson will be seeking candidates to fill several contracts. **Highlights of positions** include: security and defense counterintelligence (CI) support, Cyber Threat Analysts, CI Cyber Threat Technical Analysts, CI Digital Forensics Examiner, TSCM/TEMPEST experience, PLUS. **All candidates must have at a minimum TS/SCI.** REGISTER AND POST/LINK RESUME - <https://www.jobzoneonline.com/job-seekers.aspx> For advanced consideration for an interview, submit resume by email to janet.giles@jobzoneonline.com and lphillips@dawson8a.com

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- Springfield 5K & Fun Run
- Craft & Fun Fair
- Car Show
- Taste of Springfield
- Book Sale
- Cardboard Boat Regatta

For a full list of 2018 events visit
SpringfieldDays.com



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NEWS

Celebrate National Trails Day at New Children's Trail June 2

Fully-accessible park designed for people of all ages and abilities to play together.

National Trails Day this year will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Chessie's Trail at the Lee District Family Recreation Area. This event will also mark the completion of the fully-accessible, award-winning park facility that is designed to assure that people of all ages and abilities can play together.

Members of the public are invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 2 p.m. It will include brief remarks by park officials and light refreshments.

Chessie's Trail is an interactive and fully accessible park trail designed specifically for children but can be enjoyed by all. It includes stepping blocks, a music garden, rock steps, a nest seating area, spinning rocks, a stone abacus, a log stone secret path, and a boardwalk. You can stop along the trail and discover animals native to the Chesapeake Bay area and animal tracks as you enjoy a quiet walk through the woods.

The Lee District Family Recreation Area also offers Our Special Harbor sprayground, an accessible treehouse, Chessie's Big Backyard playground, a carousel with a Chesapeake Bay theme that allows children in wheelchairs to move up and down, as well as 'round and 'round, and several picnic shelters.

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act as well as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Join the celebration by simply getting out on the trail.

Partial funding for Chessie's Trail was made avail-

able from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund which annually funds parkland acquisitions and development throughout the United States and is administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

The Lee District Family Recreation Area is testimony to the power of Park Authority partnerships with the community. More than 80,000 people enjoy Our Special Harbor every summer thanks to the help of the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund, which has been supporting county parks for 20 years through contributions to the Park Foundation. This year, the organization is adding four new attractions to the water playground to help celebrate its 20th anniversary.

"We are an immensely proud partner of Paola and Bob Pizzano, founders of the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund (JPMF) in loving memory of their son, Joey," said Park Foundation Executive Director Bobbi Longworth. "Hundreds of individuals combined modest donations totaling \$10,000 to dedicate 'Soar,' the Chessie's Carousel eagle as an expression of appreciation for JPMF's outreach through our parks."

The Lee District Family Recreation Area is located at 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. For more information about the park, please visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/lee-district/family-recreation-area>. For more information about the ribbon-cutting, please contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662 or via Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Suspicious Death in Clifton Area Investigated

Homicide detectives Tuesday evening, May 22, were investigating a suspicious death after a body was found in a wooded area of Clifton. An autopsy was conducted Tuesday afternoon on 26-year-old James McDonald of Chantilly, who was discovered Monday night with trauma to the upper body. Detectives are trying to determine the cause and man-

ner of death. He was last seen by a family member on Tuesday, May 15. He was reported missing Saturday, May 19. The investigation began immediately and led detectives to track the man's phone. With the help of a search and rescue K9, the body was discovered Monday night in the 6100 block of Union Village Drive - according to FCPD. Detectives urge anyone who may have any information about this case, to please call them at 703-691-2131.

For ongoing updates in this case and other news, follow @FairfaxCountyPD on Twitter.



STAFFORD-QUANTICO HIRING EVENT

Tuesday, June 5, 3 PM-7 PM

Cyber, TS/SCI, CI/full poly, welcome!

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

beer garden, and city restaurant vendor booths. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Children can wear swim suits and bring towels and enjoy the spray pad. No Pets allowed except service animals. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock.
B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.
Friday Night Campfires. 7:30-9 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center is located at 8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield. Each campfire event will feature a new topic and a different area of the park will be explored. Learn about animals, insects, plants and more. End the evening with s'mores by the campfire. \$8 per person. Call 703-451-9588 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 10 a.m.-noon at Franconia Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield. Learn about growing nightshade plants (tomatoes, etc.). Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556

SUNDAY/MAY 27

Ride of the Patriots. Meets at Patriot Harley-Davidson on Lee Highway in Fairfax. Some 4,000 motorcyclists will gather to pay tribute to America's servicemen, women, and veterans to raise awareness of American POW and MIA soldiers of all wars. The parade of bikers will follow a route to the Pentagon where it will join with thousands of other bikers from around the country and the world for the 31st annual "Rolling Thunder." The Ride of the Patriots is organized by the Fairfax Harley Owners' Group and Patriot Harley-Davidson. Visit www.rideofthepatriots.com.

Reading Circle and Activities. 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Reading circle for "That Dadblamed Union Cow," the children's story based on a real-life case of a cow that adopted Union soldiers during the Civil War. The museum will be open from 1-4 p.m. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2, ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR. Call 703-425-9225.

BHS General Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Jon Vrana will present "Accotink — Mill, Village, Creek, and Camp." Learn about this creek as well as the mill and village that developed alongside. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 29

Storytime in the Park. 10:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. In association with Fairfax County Public Library. Weather permitting. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.
"Genealogy In-Depth." 7 p.m. in the large meeting room of Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Beach Carré will finish up his "Genealogy In-Depth" series. In keeping with the centennial exploration of World War I, he'll cover military records, pension records, and some odds and ends. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 31-SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Summer Book Sale. Thursday, 1-3 p.m. (Friends' members only – join at the door), 3 - 9 p.m. open to all; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Get books for summer reading at bargain prices. Thousands of like new books. Funds raised support adult and children's programming at the Richard Byrd Library. Admission is free. Call 703-451-8055 or mail rbfriends@gmail.com

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Oh Happy Daze



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sat on the couch Saturday morning with my wife, Dina, and pretended not to watch or listen – too attentively, anyway, to the “fairy tale” wedding of the former Meghan Markle and the current Prince Harry, in Windsor Castle on May 19, I was reminded of my own wedding, proposal, courtship and introduction to Dina, dating back to November 1976 when we first met. (I’ll try not to self-indulge too much; it’s boring I know.)

After graduating undergraduate school in May 1976, I moved back home to Boston, and began looking for work. Upon receiving an offer from the now-defunct Prince Georges Post to write a weekly column, I returned back to Maryland in late summer and moved in with my brother, Richard. Unfortunately, after meeting with the Editor-in-Chief, I was informed that due to a revenue shortfall, the tabloid was shrinking its page count to 32 from 40, and with it my column and budget for it was shrunk as well. At that moment, my Art Buchwald-type dream was over.

Though living with Richard in his one bedroom apartment and sleeping on his living room couch was not costing me much money, it was hardly the ideal transition to post-college life I had anticipated. I needed to find a job and my own place to live. Soon after speaking with my college buddy, “Mot,” my housing and job status would change. I moved in with him into a group house in Potomac, where one of his roommates, Rick, was a lunch manager at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurant in upper Georgetown.

Always looking for daytime staff, I was immediately hired and within days began my new job. On my first day, I drove in with Rick. After parking behind the restaurant, we walked in the back door, through the kitchen and into the dining room. Rick looked around at the various employees doing their pre-lunch set-up, saw Dina to his right and said: “Dina, train the new man.” After spending the morning together, she thought I was weird; I thought she was stuck-up. Amazing how little has changed. Six months later we were dating.

I remember the exact circumstance when I told Dina that I loved her. We were driving north on Connecticut Avenue past the Avalon Theatre heading into Chevy Chase Circle. While rounding the Circle, it just hit me so I said it: “Dina, I think I love you.” I don’t recall how Dina responded but my ill-timed delivery didn’t seem to be a problem.

A few months after that, another awkward progression toward our getting married. We were sitting in a sub/pizza place called C.J.’s located in the Cabin John Shopping Center having a casual lunch. While we were talking and eating, it struck me that I wanted to ask Dina to be my wife. Without too much thought or preparation – and with no ring – I grabbed my paper placemat and wrote a proposal on it – in the margins, if I recall, and then slid it around toward Dina for her to read. Again, I don’t remember too much about her reaction other than her answer was “Yes.”

A year or so later, we were married – twice. Due to our differences in religion, we agreed to be married by a judge, for whom Dina’s maternal grandmother had once worked. Five weeks after the invitations had been mailed and five days before the wedding, we went to visit the judge to discuss the service. After we made our in-person introductions and exchanged pleasantries, the judge says to us with as serious a look as he could muster: “I can’t marry you on Sunday.”

A moment of silence/horror passed between us. “What!?” we murmured politely. Then he smiles reassuringly and says: “I’m a Pennsylvania judge. I can’t legally marry you in Delaware on Sunday. (Another collective gasp as we’re trying to process what we’re hearing.) He goes on: “Just come by my chambers on Friday and we’ll do it legally. Then on Sunday, I’ll do it for show.” The result: two wedding-anniversaries, Oct. 20 and 22, one year though: 1978.

Harry and Meghan may have their “fairy tale,” but we have our funny tale; still being told almost 40 years later.

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

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