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Fairfax CONNECTION



Karin Rindal, who designed the Pozer Garden, stands beside some newly bloomed tiger lilies.

City Celebrates Kitty Pozer Day

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'The Secrets of the Universe' Premier in Fairfax
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In Kitty Pozer's garden are Fairfax Ferns Garden Club members (from left) Hildie Carney, Ginny Warren, Mary Ellen Alden, Mary Villa McLaughlin, Karin Rindal, Mariann Kowalski, President Eileen Tumelty and Justine Harris.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Standing on the porch of the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House are Mayor David Meyer (center) with (from left) City Council members Janice Miller, Michael DeMarco, Ellie Schmidt, Jennifer Passey, Jon Stehle and Jeff Greenfield.

City Celebrates Kitty Pozer Day

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

People have to be pretty special to have a day named after them – and in the City of Fairfax, Kitty Pozer was definitely held in high regard. So June 9 was officially Kitty Pozer Day in the City, complete with a dedication of her garden, tours of her historic home and activities for children.

“To have a garden like this in a historical site is a gift,” said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer to those gathered in front of Pozer’s former home, now called the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House. Tucked between Old Town Hall and Old Town Square, it’s 206 years old and was the first house in the City.

“That it’s still preserved is remarkable, and it’s a brick building because of Kitty Pozer,” said Meyer. “She bequeathed it to the City of Fairfax, which spurred historic preservation in the City. And once the City decided to build Old Town Square, keeping this building was the top priority in our planning.”

Born in Kentucky, Pozer and her husband Charles, a Canadian civil engineer, married in the early 1900s. While he served overseas with the Canadian Army during World War I, she drove an ambulance in England and France for the Canadian Ambulance Corps.

They moved to Virginia in the early 1920s and purchased what was originally called Earl’s Ordinary – and, later, the Ratcliffe-Allison House – a restored inn and stagecoach stop in the City of Fairfax. In 1938, Kitty was a founding member of the Garden Club of Fairfax and its first vice president.

She was also instrumental in restoring Old Town Hall. Her husband died in 1947, but she continued living in their home until



Hildie Carney holds painted, Fairfax rocks in Kitty Pozer’s garden.

1979, two years before her death at age 93. She donated the house and its historic contents to the City to be used as a museum.

DURING HER YEARS IN FAIRFAX, Pozer was an avid gardener and wrote a gardening column for the Washington Post for nearly 25 years. In 1968, her close friend, GMU professor Ted McCord, took color slides of her garden – and these slides later helped others restore it. Both Historic Fairfax City Inc. and the Fairfax Ferns Garden Club – the oldest garden club in the City – made sure the garden was preserved. Club Chairman Hildie Carney managed

Former home is a museum;
garden is dedicated.



Kitty and Charles Pozer during WWI.

its preservation, along with Co-Chair Karin Rindal, a horticulturalist who was primarily responsible for the garden’s design. At the recent, garden-dedication ceremony, Carney told the gathering, “What you see here today is three years of work – research, design, planting and lots and lots of weeding.”

When the Pozers moved into their Fairfax home in 1927, said Carney, “The property extended from Main Street to North Street. And, at one time, it was all Kitty’s garden. She planted flower beds which were the envy of everyone. So when the idea surfaced to create a garden in her honor, the object was to create a living memorial honoring her gardening passion, plant tastes and horticultural expertise.”

The plan was to plant the flowers, trees and shrubs that Pozer might have had in her original garden. They included peonies,

daylilies, cannas and irises. “Kitty liked the colors, pink, red, white and yellow, and we’ve tried copying that in our garden, as a true memorial to her,” said Carney. “We dug up as many of her original plants as we could, and then saved and nurtured them.”

She said Rindal “worked hard to find nurseries that sold heirloom flowers. Most varieties [in this garden] are from the 1930s and ’40s.” The garden club also focused on selecting plants that flowered at different time periods to stay as true as possible to Pozer’s proud catchphrase, “I can always show you a flower in

bloom.”

“When she could no longer care for the garden herself, Kitty instructed two City residents how to do it, and she’d documented which plants were where,” said Carney. “She willed the house to the City and lived in it until she was 91.” Carney then thanked Fairfax Parks and Rec Director Cathy Salgado, “who loaned her crew to us when we needed help planting things in the garden.” Carney also invited people to come visit the garden often.

“It’s meant to be a peaceful, contemplative, educational resource for people,” said Rindal. “It’s also a pollinator habitat, so we have birdbaths and plants encouraging butterflies to visit the garden.”

THE HISTORIC HOME is open for tours, May through October, on Saturdays, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The garden is next to Old Town Square; visitors are asked to walk on the path and leave the flowers for others to enjoy.

'Plan Is Too Dense, Condos Too High'

Neighbors closest to site decry proposal for PVI property.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It was a public hearing, after all – and residents gave the Fairfax City Council an earful, last Tuesday, June 12, about the latest proposal for the Paul VI High School (PVI) site. More than 30 people spoke and, although several were in favor, the majority – especially those who live nearby – were against it.

"This is about protecting City neighborhoods," said Cedar Avenue resident Ellen Brouwer. "This is infill development, and it needs to be compatible with existing neighborhoods. If we build what IDI proposes, we'll overwhelm this little neighborhood, and the additional traffic wouldn't benefit anyone."

"The plan is too dense and the condos are too high," said Keith Avenue's Sue Cavalleri. "Vote no."

The initial speakers, however, viewed it more favorably. "Henry

Waters, a board member of American Legion Post 177, adjacent to the site, thanked IDI for working with them. "Ultimately, we believe it's an appropriate use and a step forward for the City."

Chris Dominic, who lives a block away, said, "I initially had a lot of concerns, but am now tremendously excited about this project. We've had ample opportunity for input, and I think it shows. We really don't want by-right development on this property. This is a win, and you should take it."

Dwight Lee Hubbard said IDI executive Enrico Cecchi worked with him and fellow alumni to preserve part of what was originally Fairfax High and is now Paul VI's home. And Russell Clones, who lives in one of IDI's Enclave condos, said he's happy and satisfied with his condo and his dealings with IDI.

Ray Gerard, president of the Cobbdale Civic Assn., said his organization supports the proposal for



IDI wants to build 131 townhouses, 164 condos and 20,000 square feet of retail, plus have 24,000 square feet of commercial/community uses on the Paul VI property.

PVI. "The IDI group has worked cooperatively with the City and residents," he said. "The plan has been scaled back and density reduced

along Cedar and McLean avenues. And it's projected to have a positive fiscal impact [on the City]."

Speaking as president of the

Fairfax Heights Civic Assn., John Norce said, "I support this project because the IDI team listened to our concerns and responded to them. This project will enhance and bring more value to our neighborhood." And another man noted that people are needed to make a community and to shop at its businesses. So, he said, "This fish is ready to fry."

Also pleased was Fairfax Little League President Scott Peirce. "Our biggest concern was the loss of parking at PVI, which we use for our games at Pat Rodio Park and Chilcott Stadium," he said. "But IDI increased the parking spaces from 18 to 60."

Douglas Stewart, with Fairfax City Citizens for Smarter Growth, said the project has a seamless trail network and is pedestrian-friendly, but the local streets should be extended. He also liked the parks IDI will add, but decried the loss of tree cover along Cedar and McLean. And while glad that some affordable, for-sale units are included, he said Fairfax needs affordable rental units, too.

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 10

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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left — Emma Valentine, founder and president of SWAP; Donna Ivey, administrator of I-CARE Home Care Services; Yvonne Payne with AARP of Virginia; and Ashley Ivey Askew, clinical manager at I-CARE.

Recipes for Healthier Lives

Seniors with a Purpose (SWAP) a non-profit organization that teaches seniors, vets and others how to live more healthy lives held its quarterly event in Vienna, this one on how to eat smart at home. The event was held at a 150-year-old church, First Baptist Church of Vienna, the oldest black church in that

region. First Baptist Church was founded in 1867 and built by African Americans working on a Vienna farm. A Major Hine, who had served in the Union Army, gave them the plot of land. They succeeded in acquiring lumber through the Freedman's Bureau from a Civil War barracks which was being demolished.

Ashley Ivey Askew, clinical manager at I-CARE Home Care Services, left, and Donna Ivey, founder and administrator of I-CARE, prepare a vegan Mexican lunch as part of a recent Seniors with a Purpose (SWAP) event in Vienna. Ashley conducts healthy living workshops and seminars throughout the region to demonstrate how to have a more healthy life as part of I-CARE's many home services for seniors.



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When the Dangerous Unknown Is Preferable

We must recommit ourselves to being steadfast in our compassion for and dedication to assisting those fleeing violence, terror, and oppression.

BY KATHY TRAN
STATE DELEGATE (D-42)



COMMENTARY

Many reports in the last several weeks have brought to light instances of inhumane treatment of immigrants and asylum seekers in our country. National outcry about families being torn apart and children kept in jails, tents, and cages at our southern border led to the end of Trump's "Zero Tolerance" policy. A report from the Associated Press highlighted allegations of abuse at a facility in Staunton, Va.

In 1979, my parents and I were refugees, escaping from Vietnam on a rickety boat for several days. My mother remembers that on the night we left our homeland, there were no stars in the sky; it was so dark that she could not tell where the ocean ended and the sky began. As we left the shores into this watery abyss, she wondered how we would survive.

My parents' decision to leave their family and country was heart wrenching for them. Yet, the unknown of the dangerous, open sea was a

preferable alternative to the oppressive regime at home. My family's journey in search of hope, opportunity, and freedom is similar to ones taken by others before and after us.

Today, there are 65 million displaced people worldwide. Whether on the Mediterranean Sea or at our southern border, people, desperate for a better life for themselves and their children, are risking their lives.

I am outraged by the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy. This inhumane approach is tearing apart families seeking refuge at our southern border, leaving parents frantically searching for their children and children alone and terrified. We must not separate families, and we must not rest until separated families are reunited.

We must not indefinitely detain people seeking refuge in jails, tents, or cages. In 1998, I taught ESL to adult asylum seekers at Elizabeth Detention Center in N.J. These jails are

no place for adults fleeing terror or persecution let alone children or families.

This week, Virginia demonstrated its commitment to compassion and justice. Governor Northam's decisive decision to recall Virginia National Guard members who had been deployed to the southwest border sent a clear message: Virginia will not participate in activities that enable family separation.

I also applaud the Governor's swift leadership to investigate reports of abuse of immigrant children held by the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement at a juvenile detention facility in Staunton, Va. We need to ensure the safety of every person — adult or child, native-born or immigrant — held in custody in Virginia.

Poignantly, on World Refugee Day, the rising tide of public demand for the humane treatment of families seeking refuge from persecution brought an end to the "Zero Tolerance" policy. We must recommit ourselves to being steadfast in our compassion for and dedication to assisting those fleeing violence, terror, and oppression. For generations, the United States has been a beacon of hope for many, and immigrants and refugees have strengthened the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our country since its founding. Now more than ever, we must continue to demand moral clarity and leadership from our political leaders.

Kathy KL Tran represents the 42nd District in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Police: Don't Change Retirement

For months, members of the Fairfax Fraternal Order of Police Executive Board have attended meetings with the Fairfax County Personnel Committee, researching and negotiating proposed changes to the retirement systems, to which the following letter was recently sent to the Supervisor Pat Herrity. This letter does not reflect just one agency, retirement changes are being discussed for all Fairfax County departments and employees.

Dear Supervisor Herrity,

The Fairfax Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 77, represents Police Officers and Deputy Sheriffs in Fairfax County. Our membership takes great exception with your misguided initiative to reform the Fairfax County Police Officers Retirement System (PORS) and the Uniform Retirement System (URS). The topic of pension reform comes up every few years and each time, the Retirement Agency and County staff report that our systems are healthy, growing and sustainable. This was reinforced by the 2012 study by an outside consultant and recent comments by the Retirement Agency and County CFO.

You have stated several times that you believe that new employees want more pay now and less pension later. This would create two classes of employees, it will be detrimental to morale, and it will hurt our recruiting efforts. Paying new officers a higher salary than current employees who have had their pay frozen for many years will kill morale. At the same time, those new officers' higher pay will be absorbed by the increased contribution rate that they will have to pay. At the end of their

careers, after paying more, they will be receiving significantly less.

In your newsletters, you have used broad strokes to paint the employee pension systems by misstating several facts and failing to acknowledge that the cost savings for your proposals are negligible while the potential costs are extremely high. Recruiting a diverse workforce of police officers and deputy sheriffs has become extremely challenging over the last few years, especially with the negative sentiments towards law enforcement pushed by the media. Additionally, all law enforcement agencies are aggressively recruiting for diversity and our pension system is one of the few benefits that make Fairfax County stand out. Taking away retirement benefits for new employees will hurt our ability to recruit minorities.

The current pay philosophy that the Board of Supervisors has in place calls for our salaries to be within 5 percent of the market average. As you know, the pay for our police officer ranks are only average for the region at midpoint and at top pay, they drop well below average. Our first line supervisors are not only 8-12 percent below average at mid-point, but it only gets worse when they reach the top of the pay scale. It is the final pay when the employee is at the top of the pay scale that gets factored in to their retirement. Not only is their pay the lowest in the region after dedicating 20-30 years of service to Fairfax County, but

their pensions end up being lower because of it. Additionally, the rising cost of healthcare already diminishes current retiree income by as much as 40 percent.

Working in public safety in general and law enforcement in particular, the job takes a toll on the health of the employee's body. Police Officers are continually exposed to the portion of the population which, because of their lifestyle choices and/or circumstances, are often carrying infectious diseases and choose to assault officers. The constant exposure to this environment is compounded by the equipment that every police officer has to wear on their body to include a ballistic weight bearing vest, duty belt and an assortment of equipment. Scientific studies show that law enforcement officers have a significantly higher rate of suicide, divorce, health and mental health problems as well as an increased risk of some cancers. It is insulting to change our pension for new employees who will ultimately have to pay more and receive less.

The cost savings from the proposed changes to all of the retirement systems is minimal and it won't even cover the cost of the high cost body worn cameras that are being forced onto the police department. Do we really need to drastically change the retirement benefit to pay for body worn cameras that are not needed as an additional layer of oversight?

SEE RETIREMENT, PAGE 11



THEATRE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HUB THEATRE



Sasha Olinick is featured as Albert Einstein in The Hub's premiere of "The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)."



Lolita Marie is featured as Marian Anderson in The Hub's premiere of "The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)."



Helen Murray, director, Hub's "The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)."

'The Secrets of the Universe' Premier in Fairfax

World premiere of "The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)" based upon true story of Albert Einstein and Marian Anderson.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax's Hub Theatre is presenting the fully-staged, world premiere of "The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)." The production is based upon little-known measures combating racism by two icons of 20th Century America; African-American singer Marian Anderson and Jewish-American scientist Albert Einstein. The play was conceived by Helen Hayes Award recipient playwright Marc Acito.

Helen Murray, director, "Secrets of the Universe," described the play as based upon "two incredible figures, both able to reach beyond themselves to a higher understanding of the world, meeting and forming a friendship."

"Albert Einstein's discoveries gave us the ability to make an atom bomb, but he never wanted one built let alone used. Marian Anderson made music that she wanted everyone to hear, but she never wanted to use it in a political fashion. Both of them sought to do good, to share their genius and to lift our human nature away from the hatred and violence of old," said playwright Acito. "It is a good time to look back at those historic figures who contributed to the growth of our nation,"

Acito also called the production "funny." He noted that "like the very best comedies - this one is rooted in humanity and big ideas. When we can all laugh together, we can also explore harder issues in a bigger way."

Sasha Olinick portrays Einstein. "There are so many reasons I wanted to be a part of Secrets of the Universe (and other

Where and When

Hub Theatre, in a co-production with the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, presents "The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)," at the Hub Theatre, 9432 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Performances, July 6 to 29, 2018. Tickets: \$32 (general admission), \$22 (seniors and students). Call 703-674-3177 or visit www.thehubtheatre.org

songs). The opportunity to try and step into Einstein's mind and soul, even for just the two hours of the play, is an enormous gift. What I love most about the script though is its use of humor and playfulness.

"Although the story has at its center two historical giants, it doesn't get bogged down," added Olinick. "It is fearless about showing two icons as entirely human, with weaknesses and vulnerabilities."

Lolita Marie portrays Marian Anderson. "Though the world is well acquainted with the career achievements of Marian Anderson and Albert Einstein, their friendship is not widely known. It is a treat to be a part of a production that explores the possibilities of the friendship between these two iconic figures with tenderness, humor, and respect."

"The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)" has a message of acceptance and friendship to overcome racial enmity. Local audiences have the opportunity to take in the premiere of a powerful production.



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Youth Arts Summer Camps. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Multiple sessions available for ages 3-17. Themes include Doodle Tots (ages 3-5), Visual Arts Explorers (ages 6-10), Fine Arts Innovators (ages 11-13), Summer Arts Intensive for Young Adults (ages 14-17), Short Film, and Game Design. New Music and Theatre Camps include Let's Play Guitar Camp, Vocal Arts Camp, Performing Arts Summer Camp Challenge, and Experimental Theatre Project Camp. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Art Camp 2018 in Burke for 5-8 year olds, 8 years and up. One-week sessions take place Monday-Friday, July 16-20, and July 23-27. Camp is held through Burke Centre Conservancy at the Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Second location is Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Call instructor at 703-250-6930 or visit www.czartlessons.com. Camps include:

- ❖ Fine Arts & Crafts Camp (8 and older) – \$142 plus \$25 supply fee.
- ❖ Drawing Camp (8 and older) – \$142 plus \$25 supply fee
- ❖ Drawing Plus Color & Craft Fun Camp (5-8 years) – \$120 plus \$20 supply fee

ONGOING

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 workhousearts.org.

Art Exhibit: Nature's Fingerprints I. Through July 8, gallery hours at Workhouse Arts Center, Building 6 Gallery and Studio 605, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Using only natural dyes, each art quilt, silk scarf and framed work is an alchemy of color and texture as unique as a human fingerprint. Visit www.MariselaRumberg.com.

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 29

Old Town Village Performances: Fairfax/McLean Sextet. 7-8 p.m.



FILE PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD

The campus green of the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton was packed with families setting up their blankets and lawn chairs before the fireworks began on Saturday, July 1 for the 2017 Independence Day Celebration.

Celebrate Independence Day

SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Workhouse Fireworks 2018. 5-9:30 p.m. at Workhouse Art Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Launched from the Workhouse Art Center's historic, 55-acre campus the region's largest pre-Independence Day fireworks show celebrates the history of this nation and honors the courage and sacrifice that have made America a beacon of hope and freedom around the world. Admission free; parking \$20 per car. Visit workhousearts.org/fireworks for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 1

Crafts for the 4th of July. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Enjoy making railroad inspired, 4th of July crafts. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

"Red, White and Blue Tournament." 8 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Golf Course, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Teams of two will compete in an 18-hole scramble format in three divisions: Father/Jr. 7-12; Father/Jr. 13-17; Father/Adult partner. Teams will alternate tees depending on how well they do. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in all divisions. Registration begins two weeks prior to the event. \$70 per team, includes lunch and prizes. Call 703-323-1641 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake to register.

City of Fairfax Evening Show and Fireworks. 5:30-10:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Keep an eye out for surprises during the event. Children's activities (inflatables, face painting, balloon artists), 5:30-9 p.m. Live music: The Rockets, 6 p.m., 8:20, 9:40; and City of Fairfax Band, 7 p.m., 9:20 (1812 Overture). Presentation of awards, 8 p.m. Fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Rain date, July 5 (fireworks only). Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration/evening-show-fireworks for more.

at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The weekend starts here – Friday night on the Old Town Village Plaza – music and dance to relax by. Fridays, June-September, weather permitting. Performances are free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.oldtownplazafairfax.com.

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 fairfaxvfd.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Kidz Korner: Children's Science Center. 10:30 a.m. in Old Town

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Square at the pergola, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square, Saturdays June-September. Free show. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square.

Hidden Treasure at Burke Lake Park. 1-3 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Become a modern-day pirate and search for hidden treasures. Instead of following a map, participants age 8 to adult will learn to use hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) units to locate hidden treasure caches within the park. \$22 per person. Bring a GPS if you can. A limited number will be available to borrow from the instructor at class. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

TUESDAY/JULY 3

Farm to Fairfax Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market, will be producers-only – meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

Erin's Epic Stories. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square at the pergola, Tuesdays June-August. Weather permitting. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY/JULY 3 & 5

Studio Ghibli: Porco Rosso. Tuesday, 7 p.m. (Japanese with English subtitles); Thursday, 11 a.m. (English dubbed) at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. The Angelika Mosaic will feature animated films from the celebrated Studio Ghibli praised for their originality, stunning animation, and ambitious storytelling. All tickets are regular admission. Visit www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 5

Evenings on the Ellipse with JunkFood. 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Evenings on the Ellipse summer concert series is a family-friendly event featuring a wide range of musical genres. Paradise Springs Winery and The Winery at Bull Run will be providing complimentary tastings; glasses of wine and full bottles available for purchase. A Farmers Market (2:30-6:30 p.m.) will also be on site selling fresh fruit and savory snacks. Rain or shine. Free. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

FRIDAY/JULY 6

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.

SATURDAY/JULY 7

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. at Uncle Julio's at Fairfax Corner, 4251 Fairfax Corner Ave., Fairfax. Fixed price dinner, followed by choice of movie at Rave Fairfax

Corner 14. \$35 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. RSVP required. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with lessons: 6:30-7:30 p.m. and open dancing, 7:30-10 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members, \$10; non-members, \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

SUNDAY/JULY 8

Hands On Activities. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Activities may include railroad inspired crafts, demonstrations of railroad artifacts with visitor participation as well as possible history challenges for the whole family. All craft supplies included with admission fees. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 9-AUG. 3

"The Wizard of Oz" Performing Arts Camp. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Truro Anglican Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. City of Fairfax Theater Company offers a four week camp will present a The Wizard of Oz - Young Performers' Edition at the conclusion of a four-week summer camp for ages 7-13. Tuition: \$800. Aftercare available. Visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org.

Summer Drama Camp. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. City of Fairfax Theater Company offers its Traditional Summer Drama Camp with week long sessions in July and August. The Summer Drama Camp teaches children to create a staged performance at the end of each week. \$170 per camper for any one-week session, \$600 per camper for all four sessions. Visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org for weekly themes and registration.

TUESDAY/JULY 10

Farm to Fairfax Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market, will be producers-only – meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

Erin's Epic Stories. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square at the pergola, Tuesdays June-August. Weather permitting. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/JULY 11-12

Studio Ghibli: Kiki's Delivery Service. Wednesday, 7 p.m. (Japanese with English subtitles); Thursday, 11 a.m. (English dubbed) at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. The Angelika Mosaic will feature animated films from the celebrated Studio Ghibli praised for their originality, stunning animation, and ambitious storytelling. All tickets are regular admission. Visit www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 12

Evenings on the Ellipse with The Beat Hotel. 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Evenings on the Ellipse summer concert series is a family-friendly event featuring a wide range of musical genres. Paradise Springs Winery and The Winery at Bull Run will be providing complimentary tastings; glasses of wine and full bottles available for purchase. A Farmers Market (2:30-6:30 p.m.) will also be on site selling fresh fruit and savory snacks. Rain or shine. Free. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

FRIDAY/JULY 13

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 fairfaxvfd.com or.

Movies Under the Moon: ET – the Extra Terrestrial. 8 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a night under the stars in Van Dyck Park with family and friends with a movie for all ages to enjoy. Free admission, bring chairs and blankets.

SATURDAY/JULY 14

Japanese Obon Festival. 3-9 p.m. at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Celebrate with Japanese drumming, a Hawaiian band, participate in traditional Japanese dancing all while enjoying traditional Japanese food and desserts such as chirashi, yakisoba, huli huli, daifuku. There will also be children's games, a challenge course, and vendors selling authentic Japanese items. End the evening by lighting a candle in the Japanese garden to remember a loved one who has passed away. Free admission. Call 703-239-0500 or visit ekojiobonfestival.weebly.com.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

Stories of the Stars. 8:30-9:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Stroll with a naturalist along the lakeshore at Burke Lake Park and learn about the constellations. An astronomical naturalist will identify the stars, and there will telescopes for use. The evening concludes with a campfire and s'mores. For participants age 3-adult. \$6 per person; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.



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NEWS



City Mayors Gather to Honor Sisson

Fairfax City's present and past living mayors celebrated City Manager Bob Sisson's retirement, last Monday, June 25, at Curry Mantra restaurant in Fairfax. From left are David Meyer, Steve Stombres, Scott Silverthorne, Sisson, Rob Lederer and John Mason. "All of us who had the honor of serving with him appreciate his 27 years of dedicated service, great stewardship and big heart," said Silverthorne. "We will miss you, Bob."

Neighbors React to PVI Proposal

FROM PAGE 4

Certified arborist Adam Wingo said all 353 trees there currently will all be removed and mentioned three in particular that he'd like retained. "Big trees give us a good feeling and a sense of wellbeing, plus shade," he said.

Agreeing, Liz Welborn said, "Clearcutting all the trees is ridiculous. The ones Adam mentioned are healthy and well-worth keeping."

Representing his Cedar Avenue neighbor, Dirk Brouwer objected to the large, tall townhomes along Cedar and McLean. "They'll transform the neighborhood in a negative way," he said. "We want these areas to be single-family homes. Deny permission for this development to proceed."

Also against the high density, Cedar Avenue's David Gesser said, "This is my front yard. This area should be developed, but correctly; vote no."

Similarly, Joyce Cusack of Keith Avenue said, "We're not opposed to respectful growth, but this plan takes away our neighborhood character and green buffer. Our neighborhood will suffer from increased traffic."

Cedar Avenue's Brian Cute, president of the Historic Fairfax Neighborhood Assn. (HFNA), said his organization believes the PVI development should be compatible with the existing neighborhood and have a "real transition" between them. He, too, urged the Council to vote against the proposal. And neighbor Michael Caldwell said there's nowhere else for the project's new residents to park, once their spots fill up, so he worried they might spill over onto his street.

Cynthia Cute said the City's being "threatened by a greedy developer looking to line his pockets at our expense. He'll leave, and we'll be left with it. The two lots at the end of Cedar are part of our residential neighborhood. They should remain single-family to protect our neighborhood and create a transi-

tion. Cedar Avenue is a funnel in this community, and this development would increase traffic and destroy our historic community."

However, Sager Avenue's Jim Engelhardt said, "This could be a forward-looking project and a win for the City. IDI did 19 revisions, and development in Fairfax needs to happen. This looks visually pleasing and could be a nice development for this community; I hope you vote yes."

But Farook Fahati and Darryl McDaniel both had traffic concerns and asked the Council to put the project on hold for further revisions, as did Julie Knight, who objected to its density. Laurie Malinowski said the plan "ruins the hometown feel," and Veronica Simpkins had the same worry.

Joe Belson said the tree removal would lead to flooding, and Douglas Simpkins said the concrete box culvert would cause the water to rush onto Center Street, where he lives. Saying there's not enough parking, Malcolm Mercer urged the Council to "keep it a City that's small, nice and has lots of trees."

Meanwhile, Serena Mercer said IDI's planned workforce housing "isn't serving the people with lower incomes who need housing that's affordable to them. We have a moral responsibility to stand up for these people." Yet Rick Dickson supported the overall application, saying, "Nobody's going to like everything."

Afterward, Cecchi said IDI "engaged in good faith with every member of the community." Then Councilman Jeff Greenfield made a motion to keep open the public hearing and defer decision to July 24. "We're closer together than we are further apart," he said. "This will allow us more time to compromise and try to figure this out."

But Councilwoman Jennifer Passey said July wasn't enough time for the two, new Council members who'll be sworn in on June 29 to "get up to speed on this proposal." Greenfield then suggested Sept. 11, instead, and the Council agreed.

BULLETIN

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

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Merrifield Center offers a new stand-up information kiosk. Part of a pilot project, the new feature aims to improve the customer service experience and decrease wait times for individuals who are seeking mental (behavioral) health services. To check in, individuals respond to five simple questions, then the CSB's Patient Track software alerts staff. Based on clinicians' schedules and availability, as well as the needs of the client, individuals are triaged and seen by the next available staff member. For more information on available services, call the CSB at 703-383-8500 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). In an emergency 24/7, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679 or the Fairfax Detox Center at 703-502-7000 (TTY 703-322-9080).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Haven of Northern Virginia is committed to offering, support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. Volunteers provide individual and group support to those suffering from a loss. Volunteers must participate in a 30 hour training. Training will be offered in October 2018. To volunteer, call Haven at 703-941-7000.

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.

Retirement

FROM PAGE 6

The Police Department pension is strong and stable. We implore you and the board to make no changes to our system. Recruiting and retaining new officers is already difficult given the lack of competitive pay, increasing and redundant oversight as well as a challenging political environment. The Fairfax FOP Lodge 77 cares about recruiting and retaining the best talent to help keep Fairfax County a safe community. We know that you care about keeping Fairfax County safe from crime, we ask that you consider the impact his initiative will have on future Fairfax County Police Officers.

We thank you for your continued support of the men and women of the Fairfax County Police Department.

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Find us on Facebook and become a fan! www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community www.connectionnewspapers.com		An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg	

What Are Friends For (Not a Question)



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Other than my wife, Dina, and my brother, Richard, there are few people with whom I regularly discuss – in more excruciating detail than weekly I do so with you, the world in which yours truly, a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV “diagnossee” inhabits.

It just so happens that in this past week, I interacted with three of the other most main confidants, a rarity: my oldest, best friend from high school, Cary, with whom I spoke on the phone for nearly an hour (he lives in Massachusetts), a bi-weekly occurrence generally; my oldest, best friend from college, Rita, who I finally met for lunch (even though she lives in Alexandria and has been local ever since college), a much rarer occurrence (though we email regularly), a lunch that lasted four hours; and Veronica, my hair stylist, who I see every eight to 12 weeks – as I have for almost 20 years, whether I need to or not. (That's a joke. I have a full head of hair so needing a haircut is never the question, needing it is the answer.)

Over these many years, these three have heard everything I have to say; good, bad or indifferent, and yet despite having heard it all, still remain interested in hearing more and judging less. Together, we share stories and confidences, laughter and sorrow. Their support and encouragement has been above and beyond the call of duty.

Interacting with all three in the course of one night and two days reminded me of the actor George Peppard because this is my “A” Team.” When I want to, they're who I go to, whenever the need arises or when the opportunity presents itself. And though they may not solve every problem, listening to as many of them as they have certainly has provided the kind of comfort and joy that has helped sustain me through thick and thin (not talking about my weight) and most importantly, during the past nine-plus years as a cancer survivor. There's not a “B.A.” (bad attitude) among them, though they all wear jewelry.

I hope I'm not speaking out of turn here but, there are some subjects which are best left for friends – and the professionals, more so than family. Some topics which might betray a confidence or touch a nerve that when spoken of aloud might exacerbate a familial situation rarely discussed.

Sometimes, sorting through these pros and cons with friends, who likely suffer no consequences in the outcome, might present options that otherwise might not be heard. From the mouths of babes, so to speak. A fresh, unbiased perspective can be a welcome addition to any discussion of facts, especially when feelings are involved; and as often concerns family-oriented subjects, feelings are most definitely involved.

Not that there aren't feelings involved with friends; of course there are, it's more that old friends knew you when and know you now, and the passage of that much time, separate and apart from family, can often enlighten and inspire. Who wouldn't benefit from friends who've been there and seen you do that?

It's particularly important to have independent forces in your corner because like so many cancer patients, myself included, occasionally you exhibit signs of “chemotherapy-related cognitive impairment,” otherwise known as “chemo brain,” a side effect/condition of treatment which can blur a memory or two – or more. You may not even realize it when it disappears, and you may need someone to remind you of it. Hopefully it's not a memory gone forever, but just one gone until a friend helps retrieve it for you. And who better to retrieve these foggy memories than friends you've known for 49, 45 and 20 years, respectively?

And I do respect them, and appreciate them, and cherish them, as they are three of my pillars. Without them, the foundation of who I am and what I know, would likely crumble.

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

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CHECK ENGINE LIGHT DIAGNOSIS

NO CHARGE

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

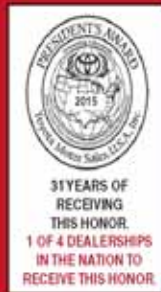
WE WILL RETRIEVE VEHICLE CODES & GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE OF REPAIR COSTS.



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NON-SYNTHETIC

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SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

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BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only. MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL.

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