

Oliver Lee Rodriguez, 4, with his toy fire dog, inside Fire Station 3's foam truck during the Kids Safety Day, held Saturday, June 23, outside Fairfax City Hall.

Fairfax CONNECTION

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FAILURE to allow residents to easily view the results of the nursing home's most recent survey. [Cited on 02/25/2016]

FAILURE to reasonably accommodate the needs and preferences of each resident. [Cited on 02/25/2016]

FAILURE to make sure that residents are safe from serious medication errors. [Cited on 02/25/2016]

*To view the full inspection results, the scope and severity of these deficiencies, additional surveys and the facility's plans of correction, visit the Nursing Home Compare tool at <http://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html#>.

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Newly installed City Council members (from left) So Lim, Sang Yi, Jennifer Passey, Jon Stehle, Janice Miller and Michael DeMarco.



Holding their plaques after being sworn in are School Board members (from left) Carolyn Pitches, Bob Reinsel, Jon Buttram, Toby Sorensen and Mitch Sutterfield.

‘Our Best Is Yet to Come’ Fairfax City Council, School Board members are sworn in.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

With music, flags and blessings, Fairfax City Council and School Board members were sworn into office last Friday evening, June 29, 2018. The outdoor ceremony was held at Veterans Amphitheater.

Besides local residents, dignitaries attending included U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), former Fairfax mayors John Mason and Rob Lederer, City Schools Superintendent Phyllis Pajardo and Fairfax County School Board members Karen Keys-Gamarra and Ilryong Moon.

Former City Councilman Jeff Greenfield was the emcee. And in his invocation, the Rev. David Bonney of Fairfax United Methodist Church prayed that Fairfax would continue to be a place where people care about their neighbors. Members of Girl Scout Troop 470 of Daniels Run Elementary led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and Fairfax High student Charlie Bicknell sang the National Anthem.



City Clerk Melanie Crowder administers the oath of office to Fairfax Mayor David Meyer.

“What a beautiful night to celebrate one of the oldest things in America – local government, where the accountability is absolute,” said Connolly. “Local government shapes our lives; it’s where we work and live, where our kids get educated and where

our public-safety personnel respond to us when needed. And Fairfax City is a wonderful model of how local government should and can work; thank you to all those who serve here.”

Then, after City Clerk Melanie Crowder administered the oath of office to him, City Mayor David Meyer addressed the crowd. He said it’s an exciting time for the new Council and School Board, but also bittersweet, as the City says farewell and thank you to former Council members Greenfield and Ellie Schmidt, plus retiring City Manager Bob Sisson.

WELCOMING THE TWO new Council members, Sang Yi and So Lim, Meyer said, “Today, in 2018, nearly 27 percent of all persons residing in our City were born in another country. This is more than twice the national average; and now, on our City Council, it’s 33 percent. I congratulate both of you; I, along with your colleagues on City Council, look forward to working with you.

“This evening, we begin with renewed commitment the task of community-building,” continued Meyer. “The City of Fairfax is a distinctive example of what’s best in

self-governance in our democratic system. I say this with excitement and enthusiasm about the possibilities before us.”

He said the City’s financial position is the strongest it’s ever been since Fairfax’s founding as a city, 57 years ago. He stressed its tax base of \$6 billion in just 6 square miles, AAA bond rating, diverse revenue sources, low debt ratio to overall expenditures, and the “lowest overall tax burden in the Northern Virginia region.”

Meyer said Fairfax’s public infrastructure, schools, police and fire stations, City Hall and Sherwood Center serve the community well and a new Fire Station 33 will start construction in 2019. However, he noted that the parks, trails and historic properties will soon need attention.

“Our greatest asset is our human capital,” he said. “We’re fortunate to have a dedicated, professional and forward-focused group of City employees imbued with an excellent service ethic. We need to continue to invest in our employees, providing them with competitive compensation, training and career-development opportunities, plus equipment that keeps them safe and healthy

SEE CITY, PAGE 6

City Honors Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt

The City of Fairfax honored outgoing City Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt, last Tuesday, June 26, with a reception in the City Hall annex.

Then, during the Council

meeting that followed, she received further accolades and recognition from Mayor David Meyer, her Council colleagues and the Fairfax Fire and Police departments.

Flanked by City of Fairfax Police Chief Carl Pardiny and Fire Chief John O’Neal, Ellie Schmidt is honored by the Fire and Police departments for her many years of service to the City.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
DAVID WELCH/CITY OF FAIRFAX



Local Newspapers Under Siege

Need to address restraining orders and gun violence.

One member of Connection News papers staff is Kemal Kurspahic, who shares with us his first-hand experience of running a newspaper from a war zone when information was desperately needed by the besieged residents of Sarajevo. Kemal Kurspahic is managing editor for The Connection Newspapers. He was the editor-in-chief of the Bosnian daily Oslobođenje in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina, 1988-94. Under his leadership the paper published every day from an atomic bomb shelter during the siege of Sarajevo, maintaining high professional standards and Bosnian culture and tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance in the midst of terror. The paper published the names of those killed each day in Sarajevo.

He experienced first hand the horror of having staff members killed while out on assignment. He was critically injured himself when a vehicle taking him to his newsroom crashed as it traveled at high speed down "sniper alley." The International Press Institute named Kurspahic one of its first 50 World Press Freedom Heroes in 2000.

Journalism is a dangerous occupation in many other countries, usually not here in the U.S.

I tell this story now because of the newly minted fear that many journalists feel after the murders of five in the newsroom of the Capital Gazette in Annapolis. Police and survivors say the shooter had long held a grudge against the newspaper, and had sued for defamation. The targeted attack came very close to home.

The dead were Gerald Fischman, 61, editorial page editor; Rob Hiaasen, 59, editor and features columnist; John McNamara, 56, sports reporter and editor for the local weekly papers; Wendi Winters, 65, a local news reporter and community columnist; and Rebecca Smith, a sales assistant.

The shooter had restraining orders against him because of violent threats made in a different situation, but restraining orders apparently do not result in restricting gun purchases. He was still able to buy the gun he used in the attack. This is a loophole that desperately needs to be closed. A person subject to a restraining order of any type or duration for making threats should certainly not be able to buy a gun.

Every newspaper editor knows the experience of talking to a subject, source or reader who is irate over something the paper published. If we aren't making anyone angry, it's probably because we aren't writing about anything important. But my conversations with people who object to something we've reported have always had a subtext of respect. Many complaints have resulted in greater understanding on all sides that can create more lasting connections. Other times have resulted in agreeing to disagree.

Now, we lock the doors at least for now, knowing that there could likely be copy cat attacks, as school shootings began with one high profile attack. But we are not afraid.

We will continue to publish our 15 weekly papers.

The threat to survival for most local papers is the decline in advertising, compounded now by a tariff on newsprint. Don't forget that if you have an advertising or marketing budget, you should spend some of those dollars with local newspapers.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

About This Week's Papers

Our papers go to press a day early due to the July 4th holiday. That means that this week's papers will not contain coverage of July 4th events. Watch for coverage next week.

Submit Your Photos for the Pet Connection Now

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, July 20.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and their humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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The Welcoming Inclusion Network

Making Fairfax County accessible to all abilities.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



One of Fairfax County's great strengths is in being a home to over a million people from all walks of life. While we have made great strides in bringing the community together, adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities can find it very challenging to participate fully in community life. After they leave school or home, many rely on employment or day services to integrate them into society and allow them to contribute by working or through other activities. This population is growing and deserves a seat at the table. Current services are helpful, but there remains a great deal of work if we want a truly inclusive society.

COMMENTARY

The Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board established the Welcoming Inclusion Network (WIN) collaborative to address these pressing issues and devise long-term solutions to create an environment where everyone is valued.

I have the honor of chairing WIN, but the real work is done by my operations co-chair Lori Stillman, who is a former CSB official and parent. Joining us on the steering committee are a number of experts who have a great range of experiences with developmental and intellectual disability services. WIN stakeholders include county staff, parents of those with disabilities, special needs services providers, self-advocates, and employers. Together we work to achieve WIN's four key goals:

- ❖ NETWORK: Build opportunities for increased information and resource sharing
- ❖ DESIGN: Ensure service equity and efficiency through community-designed services

ciency through community-designed services

❖ EMPLOYMENT: Boost employment opportunities through existing and new service models

❖ INCLUSION: Identify and address other challenges to full community inclusion

WIN stakeholders meet regularly at the Fairfax County Government Center for presentations and working sessions. Each meeting has a new topic of discussion and breakout sessions to delve deeper into the obstacles for inclusivity and to find effective solutions. The next WIN meeting is on July 9 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. and will be in the Fairfax County Government Center. Anyone interested in learning more about day and employment services for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities is welcome to attend.

It is up to all of us in the end to make the world a more accessible place for those of us with different abilities. I hope you will join me in supporting this important cause and the hardworking stakeholders seeking to make our county a better place for all.

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Lenart Is Named New Fairfax High Principal

Erin Lenart, Lanier Middle School's principal for the past three years, is the new principal of Fairfax High, replacing former Principal Dave Goldfarb, who stepped down after the just-ended school year. She announced the news Monday afternoon in a letter to the Lanier community.

She said how grateful she was to have been at Lanier and how much she's enjoyed "being a part of this formative time in the lives of our students and also working with Lanier's dedicated staff and parents." "Thank you for your confidence and support of me."

"These years are very unique," wrote Lenart. "And it takes a community as special as ours to rally our resources and talents to ensure that our students are given the very best, most inclusive and most understanding environment."

She then announced, "with much excitement and gratitude," that, effective July 2, she'd been appointed Fairfax High's new principal. "There are once-in-a-career opportunities that arise," wrote Lenart. "And knowing that I will be able to continue to serve our students in and for this community is such a tremendous honor. I am look-



Erin Lenart

ing forward to our continued partnership and support in our work ahead."

The search now begins for someone to replace her at Lanier.

— BONNIE HOBBS



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City Holds Swearing-in Ceremony

FROM PAGE 3
on the job.”

Also praising the community and its leaders, he recognized all the citizens volunteering on City boards and commissions, civic associations, HOAs, Scouting, youth-recreation programs, fraternal organizations and church congregations. “This commitment forms the fundamental building blocks of our community,” he said.

But, said Meyer, significant challenges are ahead, especially in economic development, as more people shop online and not in stores. “The reality is that, with few exceptions, private capital will only invest in redevelopment if it includes a residential component,” he explained. “[So] what do we want to look like in 2040, 2050 and beyond? How many people should live here?”

“This new reality calls us to create clarity of vision to attract the private investment that will strengthen our tax base and generate new sources of revenue,” he continued. “This is critical if we are to maintain the quality of living we all enjoy and are so thankful for. Today, I set a goal that we increase our tax base over the next 5 years by \$500 million, based on new investment, and by \$1 billion in the next decade.”

Meyer said good schools, safe neighborhoods, accessible parks and trails, and a healthy environment foster deep connections among Fairfax residents. And, he added, “We have the opportunity to bequeath to the next generation a city that’s diverse, economically vibrant and close-knit, while first-in-class regionally, with a national, if not global, impact.”

While there’ll be differing views on the best path

forward, he’s confident that Fairfax’s “quality of civic understanding and unity of purpose will provide a sure foundation” for the future. He said the residents can thrive if they’re intentional.

Then, inviting them to be part of this new future, Meyer said, “Let’s roll up our sleeves together and do the hard, but always rewarding, work of self-governance. Let’s set the standard for the region, for our commonwealth and nation. And remember, our best is yet to come.”

ALSO SPEAKING was past School Board Chairman Jon Buttram. “Our schools are wonderful centers of first-class education and exceptional venues for the community to use and enjoy,” he said. “Our students, parents, school staff and school leadership continue to excel in academics, athletics, the arts, the environment and leadership. Our School Board is thankful for your trust and remains your champion for well-balanced, academic programs that set high standards in excellent, safe, modern, well-managed facilities.”

He then presented a long list of the most recent accomplishments of the City’s schools, students, teachers and administrators. And he shared the credit with the School Board staff and superintendent, plus their ability to work well together.

Relaying a quote he’d read saying, “There’s no limit to what you can accomplish if you don’t care who gets the credit,” Buttram said that attitude “has been a key to success for the School Board, and its modus operandi. And with your support and trust, it will be our continued commitment to our community, schools and children.”



Girl Scout Troop 470, of Daniels Run Elementary, leads the Pledge of Allegiance.



From left, School Board members Carolyn Pitches, Jon Buttram, Toby Sorensen, Mitch Sutterfield and Bob Reinsel on the dais. Behind Sutterfield are (from left) U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34).

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A lack of swimming skills is one of the top factors increasing the risk of drowning.

PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL



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Summer Water Safety

Supervision and learning to swim are top ways to prevent drowning.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Blazing heat and sky rocketing temperatures often mean cooling off with a dip in the pool. As the summer is in full swing, safety officials are reminding the public of drowning risks and prevention methods.

"Learning to swim at any early age is all about being safe in and around the water," said Gina Bewersdorf, owner of Goldfish Swim School in Reston, Falls Church and Alexandria. "Undeniably we all will have an opportunity to visit a pool, lake or ocean at some point, and our goal is to equip our swimmers with water safety skills early on."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cites a lack of swimming ability, failure to wear life jackets, alcohol use and a lack of close supervision while swimming as some of the top factors that affect drowning risk. According to the CDC, from 2005 to 2014 there was an average of 3,536 unintentional drownings. One in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger.

"A person can drown in a matter of seconds," said Aaron Schultz, a lifeguard in Arlington. "When I'm

at the pool, I notice that parents are often texting while trying to watch their children, but even if children look like they're playing they could easily go under and be in danger a less than a minute. This is especially important to remember at the beach."

Taking part in formal swimming lessons reduces the risk of drowning among children between one and four years old, but many people lack basic swimming skills, according to the CDC. "Beginning formalized lessons as early as 4 months old has shown benefit in children developing a love for water and foundation upon which to build water safety skills," said Bewersdorf.

American Red Cross swimming safety tips such as always swimming in a designated area attended by lifeguards, avoiding swimming alone, wearing life jackets, securing a pool with barriers and making sure everyone in your family is a strong swimmer, are among those that Mary Anderson of the Montgomery County Office of Health and Human Services says the county is reinforcing.

"There's a website that we put together called 'Summer of Safety', and it's got everything from A to Z with summer safety and swimming pool safety."

Other suggestions include enrolling in courses to learn CPR, having appropriate equipment such as a first aid kit and cell phone to make emergency calls.

"If someone is around water and discovers that their child is missing, it's a good idea to check

the water first because even seconds can make a big difference in stopping a drowning," said Schultz.

"Learning to swim at any early age is all about being safe in and around the water."

— **Gina Bewersdorf, Goldfish Swim School**

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

CAMP

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

Summer Bible Camp. Monday-Friday, July 16-20, 9 a.m.-noon at Harvester Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Road, Springfield. Sail away to Summer Bible Camp for rising 1st graders through 6th graders. Free. Register at www.harvesterpca.org or call 703-455-7800.

ONGOING

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.

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.MarisolaRumberg.com.

Fiber National. Through July 29, gallery hours at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Fiber National is a juried exhibition showcasing the best in contemporary fiber art from around the country. The 2nd biennial of the exhibition will highlight work using both traditional and non-traditional techniques.

THURSDAY/JULY 5

Studio Ghibli: Porco Rosso. 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.

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



“Bird’s Paradise,” watercolor, by Yelena Svecharnik

‘My Way - A Retrospective’ by Yelena Svecharnik

Yelena Svecharnik is a featured artist in the ongoing show, “My Way - A Perspective,” at the Old Town Hall gallery at 3999 University Dr, 2nd Floor, Fairfax, through August, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday.

“Many years ago I started to paint in watercolor, still my favorite medium. I don’t have one signature style. I am too curious for that. I prefer to challenge myself to paint different subjects using

varied techniques and styles: realistic, representative, ‘mosaic,’ semi-abstract, pouring and other approaches,” said Svecharnik in her artist’s statement. “In my small exhibit I would like to show you some examples of more than 20 years of creativity, experiments, and interaction with color and paper. Included are my old watercolors, acrylics and mixed media paintings, linoleum cuttings, printmaking, collages and more,” said Svecharnik.

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.

DAY/JULY 6-20

The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs). At The Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. The Hub Theatre and Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia join forces for the World Premiere of “The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs),” playwright Marc Acito’s story of Albert Einstein and Marian Anderson in director Helen R. Murray’s final show as a DC-area resident. Visit www.jccnvarts.org.

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 ges 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 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 www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

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. Visit ekojiobonfestival.weebly.com or call 703-239-0500.

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 and learn about the constellations. An astronomical naturalist will identify the stars, and there will telescopes for use. The evening ends with a campfire and s’mores. For participants age 3-adult. \$6 per person; children must be with a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

SUNDAY/JULY 15

Virginia’s Indian Heritage. 3-4 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road. Dr. Karenne Wood of the Virginia Indian Program (Virginia Foundation for the Humanities) will present her research on the history and culture of Virginia’s Native American people and communities. Free. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

Hooray For Hollywood. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Enjoy an evening of popular movie themes presented by the Reunion Music Society, Inc. and the NVCC-Annandale Campus, under the direction of Christopher Johnston. Adults, \$15; students w/ID, \$10; NOVA students w/ID free; children 12 and under, free. Free parking. Call 703-569-0973 or visit www.eventbrite.com and search “Hooray for Hollywood.”

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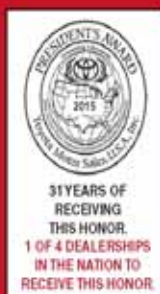
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News



The Doyle Feingold sisters (from left) Eden, 8, and Sierra, 6, prepare to tackle the bicycle obstacle course during Kids Safety Day.



Animal Control Officer Terry Carroll serves up Rita's Ice.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Bicycles, Scooters, Firetrucks and Safety

Kids Safety Day was held Saturday, June 23, outside Fairfax City Hall. Children learned about bike safety and exiting their homes safely in the event of

a fire. Parents were reminded not to leave animals in hot cars and to watch their children in the water, even when lifeguards are present.



Enjoying blue-raspberry ice by a firetruck is Addie Spainhour, 5.



From left, Patrol Officer Eli Nunley and Officer Matthew Kenyon, Fairfax High's SRO, put air into a child's bike tire.



Sam Primrose, 5, on his scooter, maintains control while traveling slowly.



Wearing Frisbees and eating frozen treats are (from left) Eric Nakamura, 7, and brothers Joshua Kessler, 5, and Sam Kessler, 2.

News

Hodgkins Is Named Acting City Manager

David Hodgkins, the City of Fairfax's assistant city manager, has just been appointed as the acting city manager, effective Sunday, July 1. He takes the reins following the retirement of the former city manager, Bob Sisson, who served some 27 years in this position.



David Hodgkins

Hodgkins also serves as the City's finance director and has been the assistant city manager since 2005. Fairfax Mayor David Meyer and members of the City Council hope to name a new city manager, sometime this fall. Meanwhile, they have engaged the services of Novak Consulting Group to help with the search.

— BONNIE HOBBS

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.

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.

TUESDAY/JULY 10

Story Time: Focus and Self-Control. 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support focus and self-control in young children. Focus and self-control is an evidence-based executive functioning skill that involves paying attention, following the rules, thinking flexibly, and exercising self control. Registration is limited and required for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more.

By BONNIE HOBBS

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Well Blow Me Down



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Ah. The whirr of chain saws finally cutting their way through the nearly two dozen trees in my front half acre knocked down during the March 2 wind storm. Given what this cut down and clean up will cost, it is not an expense to be paid out of petty cash. In fact, we needed a little help.

And considering the time allowed by Rigo (the man for the job), to come back and do the work; it's been approximately two months since we shook on the deal, it's enabled us to arrange for payment on a mutually beneficial schedule.

He'll the do the work when he can (not a fixed time and date) and we'll pay him what and when we can; sort of a trade and sort of because he's doing some other regular work in our neighborhood (the adjacent property in fact).

Typically in the past, when I've received knocks on my door by other tradesman saying they're doing similar work in the neighborhood to what I've needed – or appeared to need: yard clean up, tree maintenance, driveway repair/repaving, etc., offering me discounts because they're "working on the street," I've always resisted because I've never had the money (cash) or trust to pay them.

Well, I don't exactly have the money now, but neither did Rigo knock on my door. I had been given his name and number months ago by an extremely reliable former neighbor so I had the trust and the time seemed right. When I spoke to Rigo and told him who I was, he said he had been expecting the call, as my neighbor apparently assured him I would.

And so, almost four months since the trees "thudded" to the ground, Rigo and his men have hit the ground sawing. As Dennis Eckersley, a Major League Baseball Hall of Fame inductee and current member of the NESN/Boston Red Sox television broadcast so often says: "It's a beautiful thing."

And what makes this "treatment" a "beautiful thing" is not just the sense of accomplishment for work which most definitely needed to be started – and finished, but specifically work yours truly is incapable of doing.

As the homeowner of a registered historic property built in 1742 ("Belly Acres" I call it) sitting on two acres, constantly in need of something or other both inside and out, to say that I am – and have been overwhelmed since we took ownership in May of 1992, is an understatement.

The overstatement would be: I am in so over my head that to invoke a childhood expression that still doesn't make any sense: "I need to look up to look down."

Hearing multiple chain saws, even starting at 8:30 a.m., as I had been forewarned two days prior would occur, is music to my ears. Any progress I can make – or others can on my behalf – in stemming the tide of my maintenance malfeasance is huge. It's not exactly a sense of pride, it's more a sense of passing homeowner 101, the entry level course I've mostly failed going on 26+ years.

Needing the kind of help I do – in terms of time, money, tools, skillset and inclination – is an unrelenting burden of incompetence which I readily accept. Unfortunately, time does not lessen the responsibility. Nevertheless, I'm lucky to own such a unique and historic property.

If some maintenance suffers, it's not for lack of concern, it's for lack of ability and knowledge. Moreover, I just can't summon up the necessary fortitude. Throw in a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis and the prospects in the future for home-owning improvement are not great.

It's been my nine+ years experience that a cancer diagnosis (especially a "terminal" one) tends to rearrange your priorities/rewire your brain, so to speak. And even though I'm very happy seeing and hearing the trees being tended to, I'm more concerned about the forest.

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



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