

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

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NEWS



PHOTO BY CARLYN KRANKING/THE CONNECTION

Youth Services Manager Alicia Rocconi places books on a dog-themed display at Patrick Henry Library.

‘Going Everywhere’ in Local Libraries

Public libraries offer a variety of summer programs.

BY CARLYN KRANKING
THE CONNECTION

The room smells of popcorn, but it isn't a movie theater – it's a public library. Patrick Henry Library Youth Services Assistant Erin Guyer wears a tiara as she tidies the room after the summer's first family movie matinee.

"Today we had Beauty and the Beast," Guyer said. "The original – because I'm sorry, but Emma Watson is Hermione."

This summer, public libraries will put on a variety of programs for children, teens and adults that include movies, storytimes, music and animals in the library.

"It's to get the library seen as more of a community center," said Alicia Rocconi, Youth Services Manager at Patrick Henry Library. "It's another way to just get people in so they can become familiar with the library itself and not see it as so intimidating."

Though many events are directed at younger children, there is plenty of teen programming as well. The "Life Hacks Series" at Patrick Henry Library teaches teens skills that include meditation, interviewing, dating and personal safety. There will also be a Triassic World Escape Room at the end of the summer in which participants imagine they are in a "Jurassic Park"-like scenario and must find a sedative to calm the dinosaurs. There are different time slots for families and teens.

Guyer said these programs give teens the chance to experience the

library in an atypical way.

"You don't think, 'Okay, I'm going to go eat Laffy Taffy, play board games and read manga in the library,'" Guyer said. "You wouldn't think about having to figure out how to calm dinosaurs in the library."

THE LIBRARIES also have a program called the Summer Reading Adventure to encourage reading outside school. Between June 15 and Sept. 1, children and teens can participate in the program to earn a coupon booklet as a prize. Babies through third graders must read or have read to them 15 books, fourth and fifth graders must read 10, and sixth through twelfth graders must read five theoretically longer books to earn the prize.

According to Rocconi, summer reading helps prevent the "summer slide," which is when kids lose skills over the summer, since school is not in session.

"There's such a long time that schools are off," Rocconi said. "[Reading] just kind of helps [kids] to keep their skills up... so that when they go back to school they don't have to relearn a little bit of what they learned last year."

This summer's reading program theme is "reading takes you everywhere." At the Oakton branch, that theme is seen through library decorations.

"When the kids come in to get their reading logs, they'll see the check-in station as if they were going to an airport," Oakton

SEE LIBRARIES, PAGE 6

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PHOTOS BY JENNETH DYCK/THE CONNECTION

Karen Curtis, John Holley, and Karen Holley prepare to load nearly 100 donated baked potatoes from Outback into Curtis's minivan.

Serving Meals and Blessings to Homeless

BY JENNETH DYCK
THE CONNECTION

The minivan comes to a stop in one of the few remaining parking spaces outside the Lamb Center in Fairfax. Seatbelts pop and side doors roll open as a handful of members from Antioch Christian Church climb out of the gray-green vehicle to help unload the back.

Three crockpots full of homemade chili and nearly 100 baked potatoes are nestled in the back of the van, all prepared specifically for the homeless people who frequent the Lamb Center — a Christian-based ministry that serves people experiencing homelessness in Fairfax County.

"As soon as we come in with these [crockpots] they know [Antioch's here]," said Karen Holley, volunteer with the outreach program.

Dutifully helping alongside her fellow church members is Karen Curtis, a retired nurse from 34 years of service at Fairfax

Hospital who heads up the outreach ministry at Antioch. She has been helping with the ministry for a full year since Food Donation Connection contacted the church asking for help delivering food to the Center.

"It's definitely her calling," said Holley. "She's very good at caring for people. She's always been like that."

CURTIS has had the desire to help others her entire life, whether that be people or wounded animals she'd find when she was young. "I used to bring birds with broken wings home," she said. "From the time I knew what a nurse was, I wanted to be a nurse."

After retirement, Curtis spearheaded the beginning outreach program. While Antioch had previously been involved with the Lamb Center, Curtis wrote a proposal to the church board for a food donation budget.

Much of the donated food comes from the Maple Avenue Outback in Vienna. That Wednesday, Outback's nearly 100 baked potatoes and two gallons of clam chowder



Karen Curtis, Parish Nurse of Antioch Christian Church in Vienna, began cooking meals for the Lamb Center visitors one year ago, after creating an outreach ministry at her church.

Karen Curtis of Antioch Christian Church helps feed 100+ visitors of the Lamb Center, a Fairfax homeless ministry.

made up over half of Antioch's food donation.

Outback also provided the church with a freezer to store donations.

"We couldn't do what we're able to do if it wasn't for them," said Curtis.

Curtis also made three crockpots of chili to go with the Outback donations, and Karen Holley, her husband John, and Faith Dougherty prepared loaded baked potato toppings.

"We don't cheap on this food," said Curtis. "I fix this food the same way as if somebody was coming to my table and eating my food at home."

The Lamb Center averages 115 guests a day, according to executive director John MacPherson in a video posted on the Lamb Center's website.

THE CENTER provides basic needs such as showers, laundry, a clothing closet, medical help, and two hot meals a day to their guests.

In addition to aiding physical needs, the Center also provides for spiritual needs. Each meal begins with prayer over the food, and guests are invited to attend a Bible study held afterwards to read Scripture and understand key elements of Salvation and Christianity.

For Karen Curtis, helping with lunch for the Lamb Center visitors is a special sort of blessing. "I get just as much out of serving them as they do receiving the nourishment," she said. "When they come through the lines, they've got smiles on their faces. They greet you just as you greet them."

Her ministry at the Lamb Center is just one of many instances Curtis has shown her compassion for others. When asked why she loves helping those around her, Curtis points to her own faith and calls her passion her "spiritual gift."

"The Bible tells you that you're supposed to serve others, just as Christ served us and died for our sins. And God gave us grace. We're charged to do this."

Young Vienna Pianist Earns Paderewski Medal

Madison High School graduate Jonathan Schwartz wins prestigious piano award.

BY CARLYN KRANKING
THE CONNECTION

From when he was born, there has always been a piano in Jonathan Schwartz's house. Both of his parents and his brother played piano, and Jonathan began to play at a very young age.

This year, Jonathan earned the Paderewski Medal, the highest

award that the National Guild of Piano Teachers gives to students. To do this, he memorized and played 10 pieces a year in front of judges for 10 consecutive years and received a superior score each time. He also had to demonstrate skills like scales, arpeggios, cadences and sightreading.

When he learned he had gotten

Jonathan Schwartz practices piano during his senior year of high school.

SEE PIANIST, PAGE 6



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHARI SCHWARTZ



Marilynne Jost, Jonathan's piano teacher of ten years

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: “Exploring Colors & Textures.” Through July 31, gallery hours at IACC, Pars Place, 2236-C Gallows Road, Vienna. A solo painting exhibition by Ramin Abraham. Email info@iacommunitycenter.org or call 703-314-7240 gallery hours.

Art Exhibit: Country Places. Through Aug. 4, gallery hours at Village Green Shopping Center, 513 Maple Ave. NW, Vienna. Artist Libby Eckert’s exhibit Country Places is on display. Free and open to the public. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

5K, Parade and Hometown Celebration. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre. 5K Walk/Run begins promptly at 8 am. See the registration site for the route map details. INOVA Blood Drive at Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Little Patriot Parade at the Gazebo, 9 a.m. Babies and Toddlers up to age 5 are welcome to parade their finest patriotic display. Main Parade at the Great Falls Village Centre, 10 a.m. See the floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Festivities, Food & Fun at the Village Centre Green, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Enjoy burgers, dogs and snow-cones along with music, field games and festivities on the Village Centre Green with your Great Falls neighbors. Visit

www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade.

Journey to the Potomac River.

10:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. This 90-minute program includes a wagon ride through the woods and along the river. Learn about Riverbend Park’s wildlife and the American Indians who once lived there. \$7 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the program. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend to register.

Sprinklers and Sparklers.

2-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Children can enjoy a makeshift waterpark on the Vienna Community Center grounds that offers a variety of water-based and other amusements. Water slides, slip ‘n slides, snow cones, balloon twisting, and more are teed up for a good time. Be warned: participants will get wet. Visit viennava.gov.

Fireworks & Fun.

6 p.m. at Turner Farm Park, Great Falls. Pack up the family and come tailgate with neighbors at Turner Farm Park. Live music, games, contests and food trucks will entertain until the Big Show gets underway just after dusk. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade.

Fireworks Celebration.

6:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. The McLean Community Center (MCC) will present its 4th of July Fireworks and Independence Day Celebration. Fireworks show begins at sunset, approximately 9:15 p.m. There will be musical entertainment and food trucks. Parking is not available at Churchill Road Elementary or Cooper Middle School. Beginning at 6:25



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The picture is one of the HO gauge steam engines stopping at the Salisbury station. This is an award winning model of the real station in Salisbury, NC.

Open House

Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Saturday, July 14, 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

p.m., free shuttle buses will run to and from three satellite parking sites. Admission is free. Call 703-790-0123, TTY 711, or visit mcleancenter.org/special-events.

Fireworks and Festivities.

7:15 p.m. at Yeonas Park, 1319 Ross Drive SW, Vienna. Celebrate with live music by Mars Rodeo. The Vienna Little League concession stand will be open for business. Fireworks blast off at approximately 9:30 p.m. Bring chairs and blankets to enjoy the show, but no alcohol or pets please. Visit viennava.gov.

THURSDAY/JULY 5

Nottoway Nights. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Featuring Lyuti Chushki (Bulgarian music). Bring blankets and chairs and enjoy music from around the world every Thursday evening at Nottoway Park. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/nottoway-nights.

FRIDAY/JULY 6

Tyson’s Concert Series: O-Town. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons Corner Center’s 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests and has proven to be a popular event for families, couples and teenagers. The Plaza is located off of The Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018.

Summer on the Green: The Earls of Kent. 6:30 p.m. area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin’ on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, but please leave Fido and any other pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Visit www.viennava.gov.

Contest Entry Deadline. 11:59 p.m. Singers are invited to submit an acapella video singing The National Anthem to tysonsmallinfo@macerich.com. The top three submissions will be invited to perform in front of a panel of industry judges and live audience at the Ocean Park Standoff concert on Tysons Corner Center Plaza, Friday, July 20. The winner will perform the National Anthem at Nationals Stadium prior to the Sept. 3 game versus the St. Louis Cardinals. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events/NationalAnthemComp.

SUNDAY/JULY 8

Concert for Everytown. 1-3 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E,

Vienna. Join local high schoolers for a fun concert, while also supporting an important movement. Help break the cycle of gun violence. All proceeds will go to Everytown for Gun Safety. \$15. Email leanalily123@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY/JULY 10

Author Event: Michelle Fondin.

7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Learn from Vedic and Author Michelle Fondin how to improve energy and vitality with “Chakra Healing for Vibrant Energy” practices and meditations. Books for sale and signing. Free. Call 703-938-0405 or email librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4023585.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 11

Summer Stories, Songs, and Sprinklers. 1 p.m. on the lawn of the Freeman Store, 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. Young children and families are invited to listen to a story, tune into some favorite songs, then have a little casual fun with water sprinklers at 1 p.m. Wednesdays, through Aug. 8. Free and appropriate for all ages. Visit www.viennava.gov.

SATURDAY/JULY 12

Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children’s books, records, and recent books will be accepted. No encyclopedias, VHS or audiotapes. The Book Sale will be held on Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Spring Hill Recreation Center. The sale proceeds benefit scholarships for women. Questions: aauwbookfair@gmail.com or 703-527-4206.

Nottoway Nights. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Featuring The Hot Lanes Big Band (Big Band/Jazz). Bring blankets and chairs and enjoy music from around the world every Thursday evening at Nottoway Park. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/nottoway-nights.

JULY 12-22

Logan Festival of Solo Performance.

At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. The festival will gather solo performers from across the country for two-weeks of performances, workshops, discussions, and events. The main stage festival schedule features: “The Absolute Brightness of Leonard

Pelkey” written by James Lecesne; “Where Did We Sit On The Bus?” written and performed by Brian Quijada; and “Brahman/i” written by Aditi Brennan Kapil. General admission \$20; students \$10; festival passes, \$50. Purchase online at www.1ststagetysons.org or 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/JULY 13

Tyson’s Concert Series: Matt Nathanson. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons Corner Center’s 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests and has proven to be a popular event for families, couples and teenagers. The Plaza is located off of The Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018. **Summer on the Green: Mary Lou & the Drugstore Lovers.** 6:30 p.m. area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin’ on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, but please leave Fido and any other pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Visit www.viennava.gov.

SATURDAY/JULY 14

Teddy Bear Picnic. 10:30-noon at Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Bring a blanket and your favorite bear or other stuffed creature (dolls are welcome, too) and picnic on the Freeman Store grounds with a lunch just for Bear Lovers. Partake in Bear-Friendly activities. Aged 9 and under. \$5 per child; no charge for Bears. Parents are asked to stay to accompany their child. Call 703-938-5187 or email stuntzag@aol.com. Reservations and prepayment required by Wednesday, July 11. **Model Railroaders Open House.** 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Visit www.nvmr.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 15

Alden Summer Concerts: Oh He Dead. 5 p.m. in McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Free parking at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. The Alden’s 2018 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park expand this year to include a “welcome, summer” concert on Sunday, June 3, and then seven concerts from July 1 through Aug. 12. Visit www.aldentheatre.org. **Concerts on the Green: The Unfinished.** 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of free, live music. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 17

Harmony Heritage Singers. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) event features the Harmony Heritage Singers, a men’s chorus founded in 1996 by members of the Alexandria Harmonizers singing familiar songs sung from memory and without accompaniment in the rich harmonies that are the barbershop tradition. Lunch included for those who make reservations with Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net or call 703-759-4345. A contribution will be appreciated. Visit gfseniors.org.

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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 their 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.

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

— Gina Bewersdorf, Goldfish Swim School

"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.

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SPORTS



Christina Angelicchio



Liam Klopfenstein

PHOTOS BY ED MESSINA

Otter Divers Win First Meet of the Season

The Otter divers of Oakton prevailed in their first NVSL Division 3 meet of the summer season, beating Mantua with a final score of 37 to 33. Four Otter divers placed first in their respective categories: Jon Anthony Montel in Freshman Boys with a score of 60.95; Katie Vaughan in Junior Girls with a score of 114.60; Molly Estes in Intermediate Girls with a score of 108.70; and Liam Klopfenstein in Senior Boys with a score of 140.00.

The Otters swept the category of Freshman Boys (James Hayden in second and Leo Estes in third). The other Otters who placed were: Samantha Shuster (Freshman Girls, third); Christina Angelicchio (Junior Girls, third); Brendan Doe (Junior Boys, second); Riley McGatlin (Junior Boys, third); Kalina Montel (Intermediate Girls, third); Josh Shipley (Intermediate Boys, second); and Kyla Straker (Senior Girls, second).

Libraries

FROM PAGE 2

Branch Manager Lisa Kern said. "We have a play airport for the kids to also get them excited about the theme. We have pictures of different countries, postcards; we have our Oakton International Airport signs up."

OAKTON LIBRARY and Patrick Henry Library joined the Chantilly, City of Fairfax and Tysons-Pimmit regional libraries this summer in a library passport challenge – if children present their library

passport at any of these five branches, then they will receive a stamp as though it were international travel. If a child earns all five stamps, they will be entered into a lottery for a prize.

Kern said her favorite part of the summer reading program is seeing the kids' excitement as they complete their reading logs.

"They get excited to sign up, they get excited to tell us what book they've been reading – they're just so proud," Kern said. "We love making a big deal with every single kid, because they're so happy, and so we're so happy."

Pianist

FROM PAGE 3

the scores necessary to earn the medal, Jonathan said, he was simply relieved.

"Every year I was solid on 10 pieces, but it might be like a small [part] in one I was not sure about," Jonathan said. "For the final year, it wasn't a small [part]; it was two whole pieces that I was like, 'I don't even know if I can get to the end.'"

When Jonathan was very young, his piano teacher moved out of the country, leaving his parents searching for a new instructor. In 2008, Jonathan and his brother, Daniel, became students of Oakton teacher Marilynne Jost.

Jost began teaching in 1958 and takes great pride in her ability to build personal connections with her students.

"I try to look at them as human," Jost said. "So many teachers just look at them as dollar signs."

She understands when her stu-

dents have had a hard day at school, will listen to them vent and then will often suggest doing something fun and not so difficult on those days. Jost says that some students come into their lesson and ask her for a hug on hard days. She says she is like everybody's grandmother.

Jonathan's parents agree that Jost was more than just a teacher for the Schwartz family.

"We celebrated Jonathan's high school graduation by going out to brunch the next day, and the only non-family member that we invited to join us was Ms. Jost," Sid Schwartz, Jonathan's father, said.

Under Jost's tutelage, Jonathan went from being a beginner to playing much more advanced pieces. He had one lesson per week with Jost and would practice on his own between three and four hours each week.

"The kid, he just does not give up," Jonathan's mother Shari Schwartz said. "There was a point

in time that he actually crumpled up a piece of music, because he got so frustrated with it. He doesn't do that anymore... He still gets frustrated, but he just persists."

Though Shari and Sid agree that they were very proud of their son when he won the award, Shari adds that her proudest moments come not from Jonathan's musical talent, but from his character.

"He has a very good heart, and he's the kid who if he sees another kid being left out or picked on, he doesn't like that," Shari said. "So for example, there was another student in band who no one wanted to room with, no one wanted to be paired up with him at an amusement park, and so Jonathan did. And the mother actually came and thanked me for it. So my proudest thing about Jonathan, aside from all his many achievements, is that he has a really good soul."

BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

Free Sober Rides. Wednesday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Thursday, July 5, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on July 4 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

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).

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.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 11

Public Information Hearing. 5-8 p.m. at Spring Hill Elementary School Cafeteria, 8201 Lewinsville Road, McLean. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting a public hearing to inform and solicit comments from the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road. There will be informational exhibits related to the Dulles Toll Road and planned improvements that may be made, the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Silver Line Extension Project, the revenue projections associated with the proposed toll rate increases and how this additional revenue will be spent. Representatives from the Airports Authority will be present to discuss these items. Visit www.mwaa.com for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 12

Story Time: Perspective Taking. 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 perspective taking in young children. Perspective taking is an evidence-based executive functioning skill that forms the basis for children's understanding of their parents', teachers', and friends' intentions. 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.

TUESDAY/JULY 17

Story Time: Making Connections. 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. Making Connections is at the heart of learning. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support this evidence-based executive functioning skill in young children. 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.

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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.

Local Newspapers Under Siege

Need to address restraining orders and gun violence.

EDITORIAL 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.

For advertising information, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

The Welcoming Inclusion Network

Making Fairfax County accessible to all abilities.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



COMMENTARY 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.

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.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
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