



# Fairfax CONNECTION

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Peter Moses and Jamie  
Goodson play the leads  
in City of Fairfax The-  
atre Co.’s production of  
“Footloose.”

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# Fairfax Honors Retired City Manager Sisson

City Hall Annex  
atrium will be  
named after him.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

For more than a quarter century, Bob Sisson has done Fairfax proud as its city manager. And last Wednesday, July 11, friends, residents and dignitaries gathered in Old Town Hall for a special reception in his honor.

Sisson, 67, retired June 30, and Assistant City Manager David Hodgkins became acting city manager, the next day. He was among those feting Sisson and singing his praises. But first came U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who also presented Sisson with a certificate of recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Then Fairfax Mayor David Meyer and some members of the City Council took the podium, where Meyer announced that the atrium inside the City Hall Annex will be named in Sisson's honor. Former and cur-



Two mayors and a city manager: From left, John Mason and David Meyer present Bob Sisson (center) with the prestigious Fairfax Award.

rent Council members Jeff Greenfield and Janice Miller, respectively, organized the event along with City Clerk Melanie Crowder.

"Bob's served with 25 people on the City Council and those who were mayors," said Miller. "The 17 of us still living gathered recently [at a local restaurant] to celebrate

his years of service. And it's nice to see so many people come out tonight and express their appreciation for a man who's done such a good job for us."

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), who also previously served on City Council, thanked Sisson for "making Fairfax City such a great place to live." Then Fairfax Police Chief Carl Pardiny, Capt. Craig Buckley and Sgt. Ronnie Lewis of the City of Fairfax Police Assn. gave Sisson an engraved award made of crystal, on behalf of the Police Department.

"Bob's overseen five police chiefs in the City, and we're here today to celebrate his remarkable, long career," said Pardiny. Noting that Sisson is "never satisfied with the status quo," Pardiny said Sisson always asked him "really good questions" about police policy, and most began with the word, "Why." And, he added, "We thank him for his service and commitment to the Police Department and public safety."

**NEXT TO SPEAK** was former Fairfax Mayor John Mason, who headed the team that selected Sisson as city manager. "Most  
SEE CITY, PAGE 10

## Backpacks, Calculators Needed for Students

Help Britepaths  
provide them  
to local schools.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Many parents in Fairfax County struggle daily to pay the bills, feed their families and, maintain a roof over their heads. So it's no wonder that the financial obligations each new school year brings can fill them with dread.

But that's where Fairfax-based, non-profit Britepaths and Fairfax County come in. Together, they provide backpacks filled with school supplies to some 2,500 students at 16 elementary, middle and high schools – six of them in City of Fairfax.

However, with so many students in need, it's a daunting task – which they can only accomplish with the community's help. And with classes starting next month, Britepaths' annual backpack/calculators drive is already underway.

So, said Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel, "We're seeking volunteers from the community to donate funds, backpacks and calculators to assist students in need as part of the county's annual Collect for Kids Back to School Program."

Locally, Britepaths' efforts will help stu-



IT Manager James Yglesias of STEM excel in Fairfax is ready to receive donated backpacks and calculators for Britepaths to distribute to local schools for students in need.

dents attending the following schools in Fairfax: Daniel's Run Elementary, Lanier Middle School, Fairfax High School, Bonnie Brae Elementary, Fairfax Villa Elementary and Oak View Elementary. In 2017, Britepaths furnished backpacks and school supplies to 2,540 students.

Area residents, businesses and organizations interested in helping may contribute through Britepaths' secure, online-donation page at: <https://britepaths.org/>

### Drop-off Sites

The donation drop-off sites in Fairfax include:  
24 Hour Fitness, 12300 Price Club Plaza;  
Fairfax Towing & Quality Auto Body, 3176  
Draper Drive;  
Freedom Bank, 10555 Main St., 1st Floor;  
Gathering Grounds coffee shop, 10637 Braddock  
Road;  
JCC Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turn-  
pike;  
STEM exCEL, 4010 University Drive, No. 104;  
Sun & Moon Yoga, 9998 Main St.  
Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee  
Hwy.;  
Sugar Mama's Ice Cream, 11208 Lee Hwy.;  
Woody's Ice Cream, 10435 North St.

or mail a check to Britepaths, 4080 Chain  
Bridge Road, 2nd Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030.  
Write "BTS" in the memo line.

Donations of new backpacks and scientific calculators are also welcome. They may be brought to Britepaths' offices, now through Aug. 3, Mondays through Fridays, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Additional local drop-off sites are listed in a box and on Britepaths' website. Backpacks may also be ordered and shipped directly to Britepaths via "wish lists" on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [DollarDays.com](https://www.dollardays.com). For more information on donating or sponsoring the program, contact Joanne Walton at 703-273-8829 or [jwalton@britepaths.org](mailto:jwalton@britepaths.org), or visit <https://britepaths.org/>.

"It is incredible to think that 54,000 students in the Fairfax County Public Schools system are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals," said Whetzel. "Their parents are struggling to put food on the table, and the prospect of finding funds to put toward school supplies is stressful for

them. We hope the community will respond generously to ensure that children whose families are in crisis are able to return to school this fall with all the tools they need to succeed in the new, school year."

Britepaths is collaborating in this effort with Fairfax County's Collect for Kids partnership, which includes FCPS, the Fairfax County Office of Public-Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and various, local, nonprofit organizations and businesses, to serve as many students in need as possible by purchasing high-quality, school supplies at discounted prices.

The partnership, along with an agreement with Herndon-based Campus Survival Kits, allows Britepaths to provide all the supplies a student needs for approximately \$15 per student (and often \$10 or less for elementary students). Otherwise, it can often cost \$40 or more per child to purchase all the necessary supplies from retail stores.

Britepaths provides assistance and a way forward for struggling individuals and families throughout the county. It relies on funding and volunteer support from businesses, individuals, community organizations and faith communities to provide services that stabilize families via supplemental food and financial assistance; build resilience through Financial Education, Project BRIDGE and the Naomi Project; and offer seasonal support through Back-to-School and Holiday Assistance programs. More information is on Britepaths' Website.



# OPINION

## Girls Learn about Fire and Rescue at Camp

To give girls confidence in their abilities, push them beyond their comfort zone.

BY TRACEY REED  
CAPTAIN II, STATION 15,  
CHANTILLY, C-SHIFT  
GIRLS FIRE AND RESCUE ACADEMY  
COORDINATOR

**E**ighteen girls are attending camp Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. for the second session of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Girls Fire and Rescue Academy. The purpose of the academy is to build the girls' confidence in their unique abilities, push them beyond their comfort zone, and to learn the value of supporting others rather than putting them down.

Monday began with team building exercises that continued all week to emphasize the importance of communication and working together. Then the girls learned how to put on firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE). They learned about the Fire Prevention Division and talked to a few of the Fire Marshals about what their job is like. In the afternoon they learned about medical skills including patient assessment, how to measure vital signs, intubation, splinting, patient moving devices, epi pens, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and 12 lead EKGs.

Tuesday began with physical fitness training which was a combination of body weight exercises and activities firefighters perform such as raising ladders and climbing stairs. Then they changed into their PPE and learned about ladder truck operations: searching, forcible entry, and riding in the



PHOTO BY KENDALL WARNER, FCF&RD PIO INTERN

**Participants in the the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Girls Fire and Rescue Academy used their newly acquired skills to respond to simulated emergencies.**

tower bucket 100 feet in the air. During lunch they were treated to a visit by Belle, one of the department's therapy dogs.

In the afternoon they learned about trauma; spinal immobilization, chest decompression, and how to stop bleeding using wound packing and tourniquets. Then they used their newly acquired skills to respond to simulated emergencies including an auto accident with a pedestrian struck. The scenarios were similar to the basic emergency medical technician (EMT-B) certification test and the girls did great.

Wednesday's physical fitness training involved partner exercises — "you go, I go." One person completes repetition of a specific exercise and then they tag their partner who does the same amount of the same exercise while the first

person rests. Working together to accomplish missions in many different ways is an important part of public safety. Afterwards they learned about the use of canines in arson investigations.

Then they were back into their now familiar PPE for engine company operations; getting water from a hydrant, pulling hose lines and re-racking them for deployment, and flowing water.

They put these skills together and worked in small groups to extinguish car fires using a propane car fire simulator. After learning about master streams, which of course involved getting wet on a hot afternoon day, the girls came inside to learn how to tie knots with rope and webbing, mechanical advantages with pulley systems, and extrication tools.

Thursday the girls went to the

department's Wellness and Fitness Center to learn the importance of fitness and proper body mechanics. The girls watched Technician Black complete the work performance evaluation that is required for all Fairfax County firefighters on an annual basis. Then they participated in the Candidate Physical Abilities Test which is one step in the process to become a firefighter.

Later, they worked with Virginia Task Force One, one of only two internationally certified Urban Search and Rescue Departments in the United States. They learned about various search techniques using cameras, listening devices and canines.

Friday they visited the police helicopter unit to learn how they assist on medical calls as well as their police function. They also heard from the Explorers (the county volunteer fire and rescue program for high schoolers), the high school cadet program, and representatives from the Volunteer fire stations.

The afternoon involved hazardous materials training including working in hazmat suits and using meters. Graduation was in the evening with the families and station personnel to celebrate their accomplishments.

We appreciate all the support and donations we have received from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department members and leadership, Centreville Volunteer Fire Department, Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Franconia Volunteer Fire Department, Greater Springfield Fire Department, McLean Volunteer Fire Department, Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Battalion 7, B & B Associates, FireVMS.com, Chic-fil-A, and Mission BBQ.

money for Everytown for Gun Safety. The event took place at Jammin' Java, a Vienna coffee shop.

The afternoon consisted of music and spoken word performances by students from several local high schools. Many songs and poems were written by the students themselves. Not only was the audience impressed by the students' talent and level of maturity, but the message they were sending became very clear: something needs to change. Many adults in the audience were moved to tears, as they realized that they let their children down, lacking in protecting them



**Helen Ehrlich and Leana Travis, the co-organizers of the fundraiser.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Area Students Stand Up, Speak Out

To the Editor:

In the aftermath of the recent school shootings, high school students across the nation have found themselves paralyzed with fear, hoping for a break in the cycle of violence. Following the March for Our Lives rally in the nation's capital, Vienna students were inspired to raise awareness for the issue in their local community. They organized a benefit concert called "Stand Up, Speak Out" to raise

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## Butler Appointed Chief of Fire and Rescue Department

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed John S. Butler as the county's next Fire and Rescue Department chief. He succeeds Chief Richard Bowers, who retired in April. Butler's appointment is effective Sept. 1.



Butler has been with the Howard County, Md. Department of Fire and Rescue Services since 1993 and was appointed chief in 2014. He began as a firefighter-paramedic in Howard County, rising through the ranks to serve in a variety of roles with that department, including as battalion chief, emergency medical services chief and administrative chief. In addition to his firefighting experience, Butler served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 21 years, including two combat tours.

"After an extensive search including a community engagement process, Fairfax County is pleased to appoint Chief Butler to the position of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Chief," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"He will have the opportunity to lead an elite world-renowned department and I look forward to working with him."

During his tenure in Howard County, Butler ex-

panded services, hired the most diverse firefighter/paramedic trainee class in the department's history, helped establish the first and only local affiliate of the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services (iWomen), established numerous community outreach programs, led the construction of several fire stations and improved service delivery and response times.

"We had a number of strong candidates, however, Chief Butler demonstrated the leadership, vision and communications skills that will move our excellent Fire and Rescue Department forward," said County Executive Bryan Hill. "His proven experience and successful leadership at the helm of a large department will continue to strengthen our culture and contribute to a positive future for the department."

Butler holds a Master of Science in management from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Baltimore.

He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and holds a certificate from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Leadership in Crisis Program. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Human Relations Committee and Maryland's Emergency Medical Services Board and is a 2014 recipient of Johns Hopkins University's Global Achievement Award for his humanitarian work in Africa.

He will receive an annual salary of \$201,878.77.



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# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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](http://www.workhousearts.org) for more.

**Summer Drama Camp.** Through Aug. 3, 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](http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org) for weekly themes and registration.

## ONGOING

**The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs).** Through July 20, 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](http://www.jccnvarts.org) for more.

**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.

**Senior Line Dancing.** Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer’s disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8-week session. Email [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) or call 703-524-3739.

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

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

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

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

**Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).** Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na’ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).



Art Camp with Carol Zeitlin campers explore watercolor painting.

## Art Camp 2018 in Burke

Registration is Open for “Art Camp 2018 in Burke” for 5-8 year olds, 8 years and up. One-week sessions take place Monday-Friday, 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](http://www.czartlessons.com) for more. 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

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

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

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 18 THRU AUG. 1

**Free Singing Lessons.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. Free Singing Lessons with the Fairfax Jubil-Aires! Wednesday nights on the following dates: July 18, 25 and Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Open to men of all ages who have love to sing — totally completely free and fun. Contact Aaron Watts at [adwatts78@gmail.com](mailto:adwatts78@gmail.com). Visit the website at [www.fairfaxjubilaires.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilaires.org)

## THURSDAY/JULY 19

**Evenings on the Ellipse with Memphis Gold.** 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](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances) for more.

**Burke Historical Society.** 7 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Burke Historical Society member Mary Lipsey will speak about the story of Mount Vernon and how it was saved by the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association. Lipsey has a new book. Visit [www.mlhbooks.com](http://www.mlhbooks.com).

**Encore Choral Registration Open.** Rehearsals at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield, on Tuesdays from 2–3:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 4, 2018. Registration is open for the Fall session of the newest Encore Chorale and singers of all vocal experience, age 55+. Encore is the nation’s largest choral singing program for

adults age 55+, with 17 Chorales in the DC/MD/VA/NYC area. The Chorale will be under the direction of Evanne Browne. Singers can register online at [www.encorecreativity.org](http://www.encorecreativity.org). Call 301-261-5747.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 19-22

**“Suessical the Musical.”** Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2:30 (child/sensory friendly) and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m. at Church of the Nativity, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. “Oh, the thinks you can think” when Dr. Seuss’ best-loved characters collide and cavort in a musical caper. Friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant in this colorful story full of teachable moments. Adults, \$10; \$8 seniors and students, \$8. Visit [www.nativityburke.org/nativityparish/summer-theater-ministry/](http://www.nativityburke.org/nativityparish/summer-theater-ministry/).

## FRIDAY/JULY 20

**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](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

## SATURDAY/JULY 21

**Pet Adoption Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet).

**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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

**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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake) for more.

## SUNDAY/JULY 22

**Animals in the Shallows.** 8-9 a.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Explorers age 8-adult will search for animals that call the littoral zone home. Snakes, fish, turtles and insects all rely on these lake shallows to survive. Catch and release animals found in this program. \$6 per person; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Wear shoes that can get muddy and wet. Call 703-569-3464 visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink) for more.

**Discover a World of Animals.** 1-1:45 p.m. and 2:15-3 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. In the “Animals Underground” program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, children age 2-5 will investigate who lives in the dark, damp world under the forest floor. Learn about moles, earthworms, termites and other creatures of the soil. \$6 per child; children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-941-1065 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks) for more.

**Reading Circle.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host two 45-minute Reading Circle sessions of the Caldecott Medal winning book, “Locomotive.” One session will begin at 1:15, the second at 2:30. All craft supplies included with admission fees. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

**Vegetable Plant Clinics.** 4-6 p.m. at Franconia Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield. Focus will be on planning a fall vegetable garden. Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

## TUESDAY/JULY 24

**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](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

**Springfield Nights.** 7 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring: The Johnny Artis Band (R&B). Bring a picnic dinner, blankets, your dog, and lawn chairs and relax with friends and family. Beer and food will be available for purchase. Call 703-451-8873 for more.

## WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/JULY 25-26

**Studio Ghibli: Castle in the Sky.** 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](http://www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/JULY 26

**Evenings on the Ellipse with Tartan Terrors.** 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](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances) for more.



## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Let's Hear It for the Boy'

Featuring a cast and crew of 32, City of Fairfax Theatre Co. (CFTC) and Truro Anglican Church present the musical, "Footloose." Performances are at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, on Friday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, July 21, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, July 22, at 3 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, July 26-27, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, July 28, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. A sensory-friendly show is set for Tuesday, July 24, at 6:30 p.m. Advance tickets are available at [www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org](http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org) and cost \$20,

adults; \$15, children and students. Groups of 15 or more may purchase discounted tickets. And, subject to availability, tickets at the door will be \$25, adults; \$20/children and students. Show-goers may also use their tickets to take advantage of a special, 20-percent discount on their food bill at P.J. Skidoos restaurant. This promotion is good for each performance date. People just have to show their ticket at Skidoos before or after attending "Footloose." (Offer does not include happy hour, specials or alcoholic beverages).

**Jamie Goodson and Peter Moses are the love interests in CFTC's upcoming musical, "Footloose."**



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Using specially choreographed classical and modern dance numbers, the dancers performed to such hits as 'Sea Cruise', 'Surfin' USA' and 'The Octopus' Garden'.

## Tiny Dancers Present 'The Little Mermaid'

Tiny Dancers' production of "The Little Mermaid" brought waves of applause from enthusiastic friends and family at W.T. Woodson High School. The spring recital, held on June 17, was the culmination of months of preparation for nearly 500 students from the Fairfax and Mosaic studios. Inspired by the Hans Christian Andersen book of the same name, the show is built around the story about a young mermaid who is willing to give up her life in the sea to find true love. Using specially choreographed classical and

modern dance numbers, the dancers performed to such hits as 'Sea Cruise', 'Surfin' USA' and 'The Octopus' Garden'.

Tiny Dancers, located Fairfax City, Mosaic District and Old Town Alexandria, offers a specialized program of ballet, tap, hip-hop and musical theater for children ages 2-12.

In addition to the regular school-year program, the studio offers a full schedule of summer classes and camps. For more information, visit [www.tinydancers.com](http://www.tinydancers.com) or call the studio at 703-385-5580.



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## WEEK IN FAIRFAX

## Rita's Collecting New Toys

Rita's Italian Ice in Fairfax is partnering with Toys for Teachers, which collects new toys and gives them to special-education teachers for their students with disabilities in Fairfax County Public Schools. People bringing in one of the following, new items will receive a coupon for a free, regular ice for their next visit: Kinetic Sand, any Melissa and Doug toy, V-Tech, K'nex, LEGOs, Duplo, Bristle Blocks, Hot Wheels, Little People or Play-Doh. Bring toy donations to Rita's Italian Ice, 10726 Fairfax Blvd. For students with disabilities, toys are a teaching tool. Special-education teachers use them to improve students' adaptive behavior, social skills and functional communication.

Toys for Teachers was founded with the hope that, one day, special-education teachers will no longer have to choose between paying for toys or going without.

Toys for Teachers has no monetary funding and is run entirely on the kindness and generosity of others.

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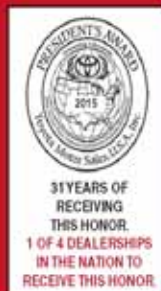
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# Best for Family Road Trips

Top audiobook picks for long drives with children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**W**ith summer comes roadtrips. In fact, a study by New York University's School of Professional studies showed that 63 percent of American families will take a vacation by car this summer. Long stretches of interstate and backseat time call for loading up on audio books before hitting the road.

"Audio books are great for long car rides and they're much better than video games," said Barbara Marshall, department chair for Education and Social Sciences at Montgomery College. "They don't take the place of actually reading a book, but there is a time and place for them.

One of those times, says Marshall, is long drives without scenic views. She and others who are familiar with children's literature suggest some of the best books for family vacations by car.

"Ghost" by Jason Reynolds and narrated by Guy Lockard is a recommendation by Jennifer Rothschild, Youth Services Collection Development Librarian for Arlington Public Libraries. This 3.5 hour audio books is about a gifted runner named Ghost who has a chance to run for a prestigious middle school track team, but is challenged to stay on track both literally and figuratively in order to reach his full potential.

Fantasy buffs might appreciate "Dealing with Dragons" by Patricia C. Wrede, while fans of dystopian novels might enjoy "Leviathan," written by Scott Westerfeld and narrated by Alan Cumming, suggests Rothschild.

Set in an alternate version of WWI, Leviathan is the first in a trilogy. Primary characters include Prince Aleksander, the would-be heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and Deryn, a girl who disguises herself as a boy to serve in the British Air Service. The story takes off when the two cross paths.

History lovers might appreciate another Rothschild pick: "Notorious Benedict Arnold" which was written by Steve Sheinkin and narrated by Mark Bramhall. Running at 6.5 hours, this is a true story about an American war hero who loses his career and freedom for greater recognition.

Music lovers might enjoy "Solo" by Kwame Alexander, says Yunna Iqbal of Scrawl Books in Reston. The audio version of the New York Times best selling book by the same name, tells the tale of Blade, the son of a former rock star with a drug addiction. Intertwined with songs, the story follows Blade as he tries to escape his family's fame and fortune.

"Each chapter has a specific song and story follows and that makes it good for both young kids and older kids," said Iqbal.

"Artemis Fowl" by Eoin Colfer, narrated by



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Audio books are helpful in passing time during a family vacation by car.**

**"Audiobooks are great for long car rides and much better than video games."**

**— Barbara Marshall, Montgomery College**

Nathaniel Parker could appeal to thrill-seekers. The main character, a 12-year-old named Artemis Fowl is the heir to a crime family who appears to be unusually skilled at masterminding crimes until greed threatens to ruin his most brilliant plan. This Rothschild suggestion runs 6.5 hours.

Timeless classics like "Charles and the Chocolate Factory" and "James and the Giant Peach," both by Roald Dahl, are also fail-safe choices for family road trips, says Iqbal.

"Ghost Boys" by Jewell Parker Rhodes is a recommendation from Lelia Nebeker, Book Buyer at One More Page Books in Arlington. "It's a very short book, so if you're only driving for three hours, you can probably finish it," she said. "It's from the perspective of a seventh-grade black boy who is shot and killed by the police, and his ghost is telling the story of seeing the world after his death, where he meets the ghost of Emmett Till. It's a heartbreaking book, but beautifully written, well performed on the audiobook."

Despite the mature sounding premise, Nebeker says that it's intended for readers ages 9 and up.


"Avalon High by Meg Cabot' is a fun contemporary take on the King Arthur myth by the prolific Meg Cabot," advised Nebeker. "This one does take place in a high school setting, but it's appropriate for ages 10 and up for sure. So cute and funny."

"Two of my coworkers read 'Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble' by Anna Meriano ... and raved about it," said Nebeker.

"Amal Unbound' by Aisha Saeed is about a 14-year-old girl in Pakistan who becomes a servant to pay off her family's debts," said Nebeker. "[This is] another book for young readers that has some mature content, but is good for ages 10 and up and will start good discussion between parents and young readers."

"Howl's Moving Castle" by Diana Wynne Jones and "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle are two additional suggestions from Nebeker.

For a wider selection of choices, Marshall suggests the American Library Association's website which offers reviews of audio books: [www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncr](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncr).

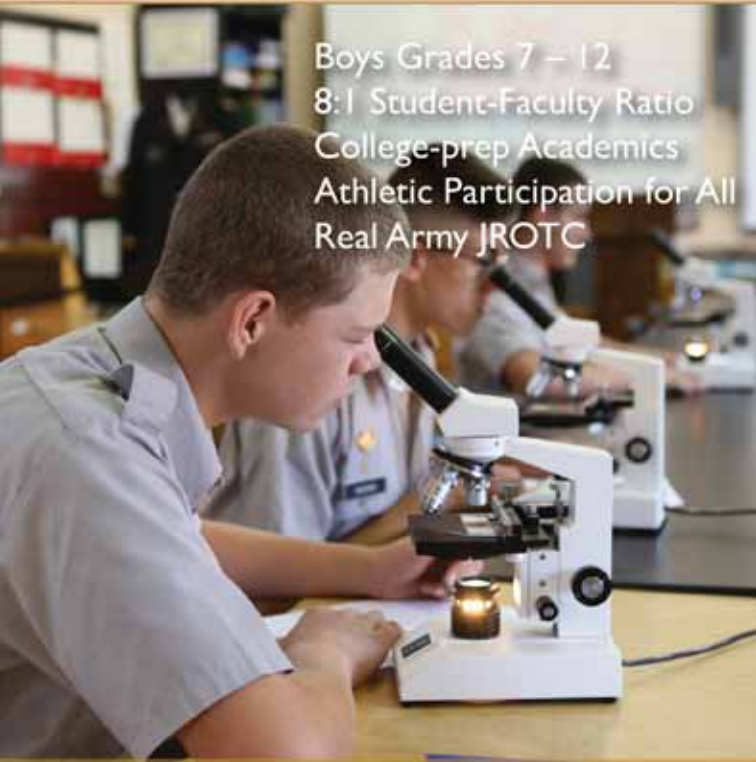


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**Obituary**



**Eleanor Violet Myers**, lovingly known as Granny or GG, was granted her angel wings on 11 July 2018. Her final days were spent surrounded by family and friends at Miller Farm Place, a loving community in Centerville, Ohio. She leaves us rich in memories.

She was predeceased by her husband LCDR Willie Myers, USN, Ret. She is survived by her daughters, Debra Jones, Brenda Metcalf & MSgt Lawrence Metcalf, USAF, Ret., Sandra & Eddie Hawley, and Angela Myers; grandchildren, SGT Brandon Jones, USA, Ret. & Leslie Jones, Maj. Shelley Metcalf, USAF, SPC Eric Jones, SSG Nicholas Jones, USA & Amy Jones, Julie Berry, and Rachel & Tyler Kelly; great-grandchildren, Nicholas Jones, Jr., Madison Jones, Hailey Berry, Emiley Jones, Jewel Jones, Aaron Jones, Collin Jones, and Ashley Jones; and dear friend, Georgia Camidge.

Eleanor was born in Plainsville, Pennsylvania on 7 February 1925 to Katherine and Thomas Kajkowski. She married Willie "Randy" Myers on 18 April 1952 in Norfolk, Virginia. She was exceptionally proud to be a Navy wife and mother. She and Randy retired to Fairfax, Virginia after living in Key West, Florida, Charleston, South Carolina, Waukegan, Illinois, New London, Connecticut and Honolulu, Hawaii.

If you wish, donations may be made to The Parkinson's Foundation, or the charity of your choice.

Please visit [NewcomerDayton.com](http://NewcomerDayton.com) to share a memory of Eleanor with the family.

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**News**



**Police Sgt. Ronnie Lewis (on left) gives Sisson an award from the City Police Department.**



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**From left, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) presents Bob Sisson with a resolution from the U.S. House of Representatives.**

# City Honors Sisson

FROM PAGE 3

people think the mayor is the boss," said Mason. "But the one who makes things happen is the city manager, and we thank Bob for his 27 years of service."

Then Meyer returned to the podium to further honor Sisson. "The Fairfax Award is the most prestigious award that a citizen of our City can receive," said Meyer. "From when it was first awarded, 25 years ago in 1993, only 11 persons have been recognized with it. The Fairfax Award is given to an individual whose contributions to our community have been rare and exceptional."

He said he believed, by everyone's presence at last Wednesday's ceremony, that they, too, agreed that Sisson's contributions to the city have been "rare and exceptional." He also said Fairfax, as a community, has come a long way since Sisson came here from Olathe, Kan., in 1991.

Meyer explained how the City's physical landscape has changed, with restored historic buildings and properties; undergrounded utilities in the downtown; new, restored and expanded public buildings; new and refurbished parks and trails, plus open space purchased and saved for future generations. "Streambeds were restored and many, new, residential neighborhoods [were built]," he said. "Our financial position is now the gold standard against which many jurisdictions measure their progress, with a tax base that has quadrupled and a AAA bond rating achieved during Bob's tenure."

"Bobs characteristic modesty will lead him to give credit to the many, elected Councils under which he served and the many, volunteer citizens who helped in

so many ways, over these last 27 years," continued Meyer. "And while there's an element of truth to all this, having a seasoned, professional, public administrator with a keen mind, unquestionable commitment to our City, high ethical standards, a keen sense of aesthetics and a quick and often subtle humor has made all the difference."

More importantly, he told Sisson, "We remember and say thanks for your kindness and generosity of spirit. What is most remarkable is the impact you've made in the lives of so many people – many of whom may not know you or even realize the difference you've made. You are the best example of servant leadership in your profession and in our community; your work and your life is legacy work and legacy living. From a grateful community, please accept this Fairfax Award with our deepest, collective appreciation."

Next, Hodgkins noted that Sisson worked nearly 24 hours/day, seven days/week, and related a powerful, personal story that wasn't common knowledge.

"I've worked for Bob for 16 years," said Hodgkins. "He's been a mentor to me and taught me to love city government. He not only motivated us to follow through on things, he was a doer."

Hodgkins explained how, about five years ago, Sisson helped save his life when he was having a heart attack. Hodgkins walked into Sisson's office one day and said something was wrong with him and he thought it could be his heart.

So Sisson told him to take an aspirin and meet him at the front door of City Hall so he could drive Hodgkins to the hospital.

But in the couple minutes that

took, Hodgkins's condition deteriorated dramatically. Seeing that, Sisson instead drove him to nearby Fire Station 3 where paramedics stabilized Hodgkins and then rushed him by ambulance to the hospital.

"I did, indeed, have a heart attack, and Bob visited me in the hospital," said Hodgkins. "And whenever employees are hospitalized, he visits them. He's a person who truly does care about the people who work for him."

SISSON addressed the crowd last and expressed appreciation for the Council that hired him and Mason who mentored him and taught him "how to get the best out of a community. Everybody treated me so well, over the years. Not all cities have the respect Fairfax does. We have an excellent leadership team and excellent people who do the 'real work' of the City – those, for example, working at the property yard or on street projects."

He said the two things he's proudest of is Fairfax's AAA accreditation and the fact that the City's "reputation as a responsible and ethical City government" was the same when he left it as when he first came here. Furthermore, said Sisson, "I leave with a heart overflowing with appreciation for the opportunity I was given in the summer of '91, the relationships I've built over the years and the kindnesses that have been extended to me by all of you."

After the event, he said how much that night's ceremony meant to him.

"I was delighted," said Sisson. "I'm so humbled and grateful for the outpouring we had here. It's just a nice exclamation point on my time here in Fairfax."



# BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://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](mailto:gronbiz@aol.com) or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at [lynnieb517@verizon.net](mailto:lynnieb517@verizon.net).

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

from the all too familiar dangers of gun violence. While the general public has become desensitized by news reports from the adult's point of view, hearing words of immense fear and frustration come from the mouths of young students as they expressed themselves truly hit home. Along with 71 others, Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) attended the event, and she spoke briefly about what she believes needs to be done to prevent the repetitive, tragic headlines. She commended the younger generation for their dedication to the cause and recognized how instrumental they are in creating a better future for our nation.

The powerful words of the students made an impact on the audience, and the students are proud to say they raised \$750 for Everytown for Gun Safety. The students believe, more importantly than the money they raised, the biggest concept they hope the audience and other observers will take away is that all one needs to make a difference is ambition and dedication. While most nights the news may leave viewers feeling helpless, it is necessary to remember that every single person has the power to change the world, if only they believe they can.

**Leana Travis**  
Vienna

Along with Helen Ehrlich, Leana Travis organized a benefit concert 'Stand Up, Speak Out.'

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## Comparatively Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After writing such an emotional column last week ("A Relative Unknown"), I'm having a little trouble finding footing for my pen for this week's column.

It reminds me of thoughts I had about continuing to write my "Everything in general about nothing in particular"-themed columns - which I had published in The Connection from December 1997 through May 2009, after I received my terminal cancer diagnosis in late February, 2009. How could I continue to write such lightweight nonsense after being given a "13 month to two-year" prognosis?

Not that my intention writing forward was ever to immerse you regular readers in self-indulgent Kenny at his self-important worst. Hardly. It was more that I had a need and apparently, an ability, to write about my cancer experiences with a similarly light touch as I had previously done so discussing everyday topics dating back 12 years or so.

Those columns, as you incredibly regular readers may recall, ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous, including everything in between. However, they never mentioned politics, current events, personalities in the news or anything of substance, quite frankly.

To give you a few examples: "Armed and Dangerous," a column about drivers who drive with their left arms hanging out the driver's side window (one of my mother's favorites); "Sole Man," a column about seeing so many single shoes lying by the side of the road; "Registering a Complaint," a column about the new (at the time) self-checkout registers at supermarkets; and "Victim of 'Soycumstance,'" a column about why there are always so many packets of soy sauce in Chinese carry-out, and so many more, hundreds in fact, about "everything in general ...".

For me, they were - and continue to be, an amusing diversion/avocation which enabled me to pursue my passion and dream about writing a syndicated climate from a warm climate, preferably one with an ocean view, while maintaining my day job. A day job which I still maintain. And though the challenge for maintaining both may be greater now than ever, us true believers in the newspaper business will continue to read and write as best we can, in print and online.

Now, throw in a cancer diagnosis, which at the outset was extremely discouraging, and you might wonder how any of this makes sense. Well, perhaps it didn't. But perhaps having tasks and responsibilities was exactly the kind of regularity that a cancer patient given a rather grim prognosis needed, consciously, and maybe more importantly, subconsciously.

Somewhere in my head (or wherever one's subconscious exists) going on about life as if nothing was particularly life threatening (heck, more like life ending, at age 54 and a half, no less) perhaps was the kind of antidote my body needed. Though told then - and now, that there's no cure for what ails me: non-small lung cancer, stage IV, nevertheless, I am still alive nine-plus years later, "advocating" and "vocating."

However, maintaining my status quo; reading, writing and "rithmeticking" doesn't generally make me cry as writing last week's column did. And in living long enough to experience what I wrote about last week, I am always grateful to whomever/whatever power is responsible for yours truly being here, there and everywhere (also a reference to the name of the first song, by The Beatles, that Dina and I danced to as husband and wife).

Amazingly, life goes on, as does this column. But fortunately, for you irregular readers, not for much longer.

Have written this far, I think I've transitioned now from an extremely emotional experience: meeting my cousin from Argentina to an un-emotional/normal one: life in the mundane and boring Kenny lane. A lane I hope to continue to travel. At least I hope so, anyway.

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



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