

Great Falls CONNECTION

Great Falls Swim and Tennis members refresh in the pool on a steamy July afternoon.

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Donations are still being accepted at www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org under Friends of the Fireworks.

PHOTOS BY MAIA SPOTO/THE CONNECTION



Great Falls Swim and Tennis features the Green Beach offers picnic tables, grills, sports equipment and sun.



NVSL Swim Team Great Falls Rapids suits up and swims laps on weekday mornings.

In the Splash Zone

BY MAIA SPOTO
THE CONNECTION

A pool is the best antidote for a Northern Virginia heat wave. Families know they can take refuge from a sweltering July in the waters of Great Falls Swim and Tennis.

Membership and marketing coordinator Marijke Hart said families flock to Great Falls Swim and Tennis. The club knits together generations; a lot of grandparents regularly bring their grandkids to the pool.

"They just live here," Hart said. "Everybody grew up here."

Another family within Great Falls Swim and Tennis is the Rapids Swim Team. Representative Jeff Minsky said swimmers will often grow up on the team. On a wall of team photos, he traced elementary schoolers rising into high school, six-year-olds maturing into coaches.

"There are so many stories," Minsky said. "The legacy just grows and grows."

Minsky said the Rapids have sent swimmers to the Olympic Trials. Most notably, two-time Olympic swimmer Kate Ziegler was part of the Rapids family from the ages of eight to ten.

Great Falls mother Lauren Jackson described Great Falls Swim and Tennis as "family-oriented" and "low-key." She said she brings her children to swim all the time, but what really sets Great Falls Swim and Tennis apart are "the great camps" that the club offers.

"If we could do the camps all summer, we would," Jackson said.

The club offers ten week-long sessions of tennis camp, with the option to register for half days or full days. As well, youth camps at the club run for three week-long sessions for children ages 5-10.



Great Falls grandmother, grandchildren and friends enjoying the pool. From left: Yvette Thorsen (12), Hannah Roden (12), Charlotte Sahagun (4), grandmother Betsy Sahagun, Madison Sahagun (5), Iris Tsai (9) and Clara Tyler (8).

General manager Jennifer Beets said the club also offers volleyball, tetherball, soccer nets, grills, and patios on the lawn next to the pool, an area known as "The Green Beach."

The club also aims to involve its members in taking full advantage of the amenities that it provides.

"We are getting our swimmers out on the

tennis court, and getting our tennis players into the pool," Beets said.

Beets said the club hosts three major celebrations on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day. While the celebrations are not open to the public, members can bring guests to the club to attend these events.

Great Falls Swim and Tennis will not shut down when the pool closes in the fall. Beets

said the club places bubbles on the tennis court so that members can play tennis year-round. Also, Great Falls Swim and Tennis offers paddle tennis courts, where a racquet sport similar to classic tennis can be played outdoors even through the winter.

For more information about Great Falls Swim and Tennis, visit their website at <https://www.gfsandt.com>.



Walter Jackson of Great Falls splashes in the pool.

"Everybody grew up here."

— Marijke Hart, membership and marketing coordinator

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

Eighteen 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.



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

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 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

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Great Falls CONNECTION

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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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Best for Family Road Trips

Top audiobook picks for long drives with children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

With 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 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

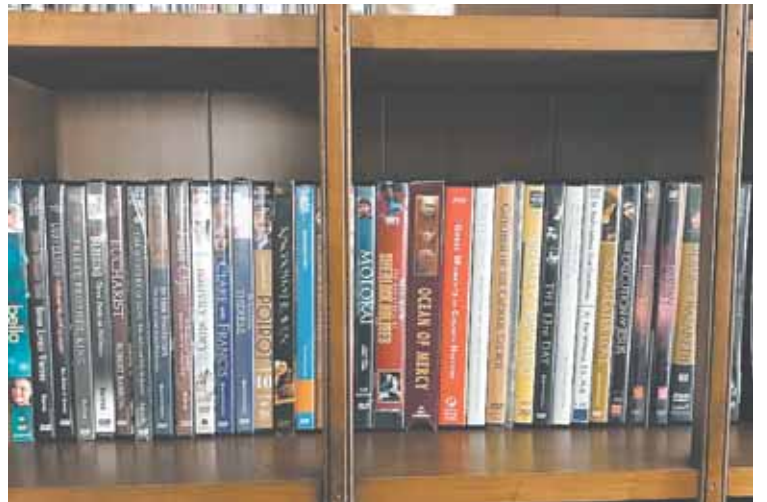


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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

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 per-

spective 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.

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

— **Barbara Marshall, Montgomery College**

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Eagle Project Completed at Riverbend Park

Great Falls Troop 673 Scout Cameron Williams (pictured second from left) carried out his Eagle project in Riverbend Park on July 6. With the help of fellow scouts and other volunteers, he built a boardwalk over a gully from the parking lot stairs to the picnic area; this boardwalk spans a wet zone and will preserve native plant life by directing foot traffic.



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Logan Festival of Solo

Performance. Through July 22 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.

Art Exhibit: "Too Much of Too Much."

Through Aug. 18, gallery hours in the Bullock | Hitt Gallery at MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. McLean Project for the Arts will open "Too Much of Too Much: Overstimulated, Overexposed, and Overextended," featuring works by mid-Atlantic artists whose works explore the ideas of overstimulation, excessiveness and bombardment, be it through too much information, activity, expectation, or by any other means. Visit mpaart.org for more.

Row by Row Junior. Through Oct. 31, local quilt shop proprietors like Jinny Beyer Studio (776 Walker Road, Great Falls) are welcoming children participating in Row by Row Junior to

their shops. It's the junior version of the summertime travel event for quilt making fans known as Row by Row Experience. Kids visit shops in person, collect a free sewing pattern, and find inspiration in colorful, creative world of sewing. At home, families can find free tutorial support and activities online by visiting www.rowbyrowexperience.com or jinnybeyer.com for local quilting.

Great Falls Farmers Market.

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org

for more.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

The Freeman Store & Museum

Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

Colvin Run Mill open 11-4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fishing Rod Rentals. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during Visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/.

THURSDAY/JULY 19

Nottoway Nights. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Featuring Wayne Henderson and Helen White (traditional Appalachian music). Bring blankets and chairs and enjoy music from around the world every Thursday evening at Nottoway Park. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/nottoway-nights for more.

Discover Visitors from Space. 8-9 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Examine meteorites in a program at Observatory Park called "Meteorites: Explore Visitors from Space." Learn about meteorites, and touch and examine meteorite specimens from the moon and Mars in the roll-top observatory classroom. Program is designed for participants age 6-adult. \$8 per person. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 20

Tysons Concert Series: Open Park Standoff. 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 for more.

Chillin' on Church with Mudlark. 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 for more.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



*The HEART Of The Great Falls
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**Easter Egg Hunt
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Concerts on the Green
Halloween Spooktacular
Celebration of Lights
Cars and Coffee
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Photos by Walt Lawrence

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTSFAIRFAX

Proposed Capital One Center

Area to Get New Arts and Cultural Venues

Conversation with ARTSFAIRFAX'S Linda Sullivan.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

The arts are a big business in Fairfax County. "We're seeing an increased recognition to the value the arts bring to our region. The arts attract and inspire a strong workforce, help educate our children, entertain us, and enhance our communities," said Linda Sullivan, CEO and President of ARTSFAIRFAX.

ARTSFAIRFAX is the organization that helps support the arts and provides a voice for the arts in Fairfax County.

There are about 250 arts organizations, big and small in Fairfax County according to ARTSFAIRFAX. A recent study developed by Americans for the Arts in collaboration with ARTSFAIRFAX indicated that more than \$270 million is generated annually in economic activity from the arts and culture industry in Fairfax. Additionally more than \$9.0 million of local government revenue is generated and more than 6,200 full-time equivalent jobs supported.

Yet more can be accomplished. "Fairfax County has always had many outstanding arts organizations but with a shortage of arts venues they have not been as visible as they might be in other communities." For smaller non-profits arts and cultural organization, what may have been an issue "is the lack of professional arts venues that can accommodate audience growth, and lower than regional average financial support that can help an organization enhance its programs and productions.

In terms of cultural facilities, Fairfax County is working to match other communities with more than 1 million populations which may have larger cultural



PHOTO BY NESHAN NALTCHAYAN/COURTESY OF ARTSFAIRFAX

Linda Sullivan, CEO and President ARTSFAIRFAX

facility infrastructures. "The county grew rapidly over a relatively short period of time, that the focus had to attend to roads, schools, and other infrastructure. Now, with a large, diverse and growing population, it's the cultural infrastructure that will help communities, and the entire county, to thrive," said Sullivan.

Sullivan indicated that in the Tysons area there is heightened interest in developing arts and cultural facilities. As examples, she mentioned the Capital One Center (McLean Metro) that will include several performance spaces for live productions and a rooftop green space for outdoor music and small performances. Additional arts facility development is anticipated in Tysons with a performing and visual arts venues in early planning for The View development near the Spring Hill Silver Line.

Herndon is developing a major arts facility and an arts education center called the Floris Arts Conservatory is to be built along Frying Pan Park.

"We are seeing an increased recognition to the value the arts bring to our region," said Sullivan.



COURTESY PHOTO

McLaren 720S, costing around \$300,000, was destroyed Saturday in Great Falls. The driver was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries

\$300K Car 'Purchased Friday, Totaled Saturday'

Driver medevac'd but OK, say Police.

Fairfax County Police said in a tweet on Saturday, July 14, at 5 p.m.:

"Purchased Friday. Totaled Saturday. This McLaren 720S, costing around \$300,000, was destroyed Saturday because of speed. The driver was taken to the hospital with thankfully only non-life threatening injuries. A reminder to slow down, or it could cost you."

Bud Morrisette said on Facebook: "[The driver} was heading to the Cars and Coffee event held every Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Katie's/Old Brogue in Great Falls. I was there. Was standing 20 feet away from the rescue squad and the helicopter that air vac'd him to the hospital. Then I drove by the car leaving the event on Walker Road. He is lucky to be alive. You could see he came around a right hand corner too fast and the car just slid right from under him to the left and into the tree... driver side. Trees always win the battle."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Merrifield Center offers a new stand-up information kiosk. Part of a pilot project, the new feature aims to improve the customer service experience and decrease wait times for individuals who are seeking mental (behavioral) health services. To check in, individuals respond to five simple questions, then the CSB's Patient Track software alerts staff. Based on clinicians' schedules and availability, as well as the needs of the client, individuals are triaged and seen by the next available staff member. For more information on available services, call the CSB at

703-383-8500 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). In an emergency 24/7, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679 or the Fairfax Detox Center at 703-502-7000 (TTY 703-322-9080).

THURSDAY/JULY 19

Story Time: Taking on Challenges. 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 taking on challenges in young children. Life is full of stresses and challenges. Children who are willing to take on

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Benefit Concert with Sweet Yonder. 1:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. A benefit performanc for SCOV's 20th Anniversary. \$20. Tickets at www.ticketfly.com/event/1691320-shepherd-s-center-oakton-vienna/ or at the door. Visit www.scov.org.

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 4-6 p.m. At Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road, Vienna. 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.

Alden Summer Concerts: Hip-Hop Meets the Music of India (Family Friendly). 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 for more.

Summer on the Green: Vienna Community Band. 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 for more.

Concerts on the Green: Tom Principato. 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 for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

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 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 for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 26

Nottoway Nights. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Featuring Maybe April (Country/Americana). 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 for more.

Live Music: Olivia Chaney. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Grammy-Nominated English singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist tours in support of new album, "Shelter." \$15. Visit www.jamminjava.com for more.



Hop-Hop Meets the Music of India in a family-friendly show in McLean Central Park on Sunday, July 22, 5 p.m. Indian Violinist Nistha Raj and Grammy-nominated progressive hip-hop artist Christylez Bacon present a collaboration that mixes genres of music native to each of their cultural upbringings, Hindustani Classical music and acoustic Hip-Hop and D.C.'s Go-Go.



Butterfly Hotel by Dick Neff, 8x10 oil.

Membership Drive

Vienna Arts Society members will be able to exhibit and sell works in two new places – in the society's new space at 243 Church St. and the new Vienna Community Center. Meet the artists Sunday, July 29, 4-6 p.m. at 243 Church St. Membership application forms are available at the Art Center and at www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

FRIDAY/JULY 27

River Fishing by Boat. 5:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Get an introduction to fishing and boating in the "River Fishing by Boat" program. Participants age 5-adult will fish for smallmouth bass and sunfish from a canoe or jon boat. The two-hour lesson starts with an introduction to boating and fishing basics. Previous experience rowing or paddling is not required. Boats, personal flotation devices (PFDs), fishing rods and bait are provided. \$16 per person, and each participant must register. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend for more.

Tyson's Concert Series: Sidewalk Prophets. 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](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018)
for more.

Summer on the Green: Sarah Bennett Swanner. 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 for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 28-29

Women Unplugged. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Kayak from Algonkian Park to Riverbend and enjoy an outdoor dinner with a bonfire. Spend a night under the stars (bring a tent) or in Riverbend's nature center. On Sunday, explore birds and edible plants, and learn to shoot a bow and arrow. The adventure begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday and ends at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Bring a bag lunch and water bottle for Saturday's trip. All other meals are provided. \$200 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend for more.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

challenges do better in school and in life. 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/AUG. 1

Application Deadline. Think and Act Green. The Town of Vienna's Community Enhancement Commission (CEC) is challenging local businesses and nonprofits to adopt green practices and self-certify as "sustainable" based on points earned. Find a list of suggested green strategies and the Sustainability Challenge checklist at viennava.gov/sustainabilitychallenge. Submit to Town Hall at 127 Center Street S., Vienna to the attention of the Community Enhancement Commission. Contact Desiree Di Mauro at desiree@d2t2.org.

THROUGH AUG. 3

Public Comment Period. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting three public hearings to inform and solicit comments from the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road. An "online open house" will be available at www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process throughout the comment period. It will contain an explanation of the informational exhibits and a comment form. Comments may also be submitted at the public hearings, via email to dtcomments@hntb.com or mailed during the comment period to: MWAA Public Comment Period, c/o HNTB, 2900 South Quincy St., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22206.

SUNDAY/AUG. 12

Spiritual Prosperity Workshop. 1:30-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Learn how to make changes in life using spiritual laws of abundance in this workshop with nationally-known author and speaker Edwene Gaines. Workshop is offered on a love offering (donation) basis. Call 703-281-1767 or visit www.unityoffairfax.org/four-spiritual-laws-prosperity-workshop-s for more.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

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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