

Great Falls CONNECTION

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Vicki Condo of Great Falls with her dog
Chloe outside Great Dogs of Great Falls
pet store. Vicki's daughter Elizabeth
saved Chloe from a kill shelter.

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PET CONNECTION

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Fighting For The Underdogs

BY MAIA SPOTO
THE CONNECTION

The Grayer family has saved 17 lives.

A Great Falls foster family, the Grayers take care of dogs until they are adopted. Without the Grayers, these dogs could have been euthanized. So far, 17 dogs have lived in their home.

Currently, the Grayers are fostering Bilbo. Bilbo, a small dog affectionately named for his hobbit-like appearance, has heartworm.

"We gave him a second chance," Samantha Grayer said.

Mother and daughter Vicki and Elizabeth Condo are also lifesavers. While at college, Elizabeth saved her dog Chloe from a kill shelter.

"This dog was going to football games and parties," Vicki said.

Now, Chloe is a happy and beloved Great Falls resident, feasting on puppy-friendly ice cream that Vicki purchases from the pet store.

"She has brought us so much joy," Vicki said.



Vicki Condo of Great Falls with her dog Chloe outside Great Dogs of Great Falls pet store. Vicki's daughter Elizabeth saved Chloe from a kill shelter while Elizabeth was at college.



Up close and personal with Chloe Condo. "She has brought us so much joy," Vicki Condo, of Great Falls, said about her dog.



Kay Lippman of Great Falls with her dog Ollie. Ollie is Lippman's first small dog. "He's just a whole new thing," Lippman said. "He's very smart. Smarter than we are!"



From left: Rebecca Maybry of Reston Maybry's dog Roscoe, and Elena Mazzei of Herndon at Riverbend Park in Great Falls. An active dog, Roscoe frequents Virginia Beach with Maybry. "Running on the beach is his thing," Maybry said.



Samantha Grayer, of Great Falls, with foster dog Bilbo. The Grayers have taken care of Bilbo for a month. "We gave him a second chance," Grayer said.



Meet Rio and Zeno

Tory Cheshire with her horse, Rio and the golden retriever puppy, Zeno who she is raising to be a service dog for Canine Companions for Independence. Tori grew up in Great Falls, and her horse lives in Great Falls.

OPINION

Do Not Separate Children and Families

What we have learned.

BY SEN. DAVE MARSDEN
STATE SENATOR (D-37)

The cruelty enacted by the Trump Administration in separating minor children from their parents is egregious on its face. What concerns me even more is that the science around the detention of young people is available and widely understood.

The science is clear, unless a child poses an imminent public safety risk or an imminent risk to themselves, alternatives to detention and separation from family should be pursued.

I spent part of my career as a probation officer making decisions around whether to remove young people from their families for their criminal behavior. Fortunately, in 1974, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act prohibited the detention of status offenders — runaways, truants, incorrigibles — in secure, locked facilities. The rest of my career was spent as superintendent of Fairfax County's Juvenile Detention Center and a 2-and-half-year stint in Richmond as chief deputy and acting director of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) — which operated probation, parole, and confinement for 1,200 incarcerated delinquents convicted of criminal offenses. In the Fairfax Detention Center, I had as many as 137 children and 55 beds. We had to sleep kids on mattresses on the floor. Today we average 30-40 kids in the Fairfax Detention Center and have fewer than 300 in the DJJ. Why has the dramatic drop in populations occurred?

One factor for the dramatic drop in juvenile incarceration is that we now know better and

only detain or incarcerate those who are an imminent public safety risk. We now know that detained kids who are not public safety risks are only made worse by the experience. Children who are unnecessarily detained fall victim to the principle of “the self-fulfilling prophecy.” What this means is that children we thought we were teaching a lesson to were not learning how to behave but were rather having their worst feelings about themselves confirmed by the juvenile justice system — ultimately making them more likely to live a delinquent lifestyle.

In 2001, as acting director of the Department of Juvenile Justice, we initiated a best practice of creating structured decision-making or risk instruments to determine, on a more scientific basis, whether youngsters should be detained in local juvenile detention centers or could be released to their families on outreach detention or electronic monitoring pending their court dates.

COMMENTARY

We are making better decisions today because in the past we did not know the impact of our actions on these children and their families. We thought we were helping by teaching them a lesson but we were actually making things worse.

All of this is background for what is happening at the border and the damage that can be done to children in this thoughtless and ill-informed policy of separating these children and their families.

In 1997, the Adverse Child Experience Study (ACE) was completed by Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). What this study demonstrated for us is how critical a decision it is to separate a child from their family and the damage that is perpetrated on that child. All of us have the capacity to overcome a temporary negative experience.

What children often do not have the capacity to overcome is prolonged trauma that this separation inflicts on them. Detention itself can have traumatic impact even if families are together. Younger children who witness or experience abuse, violence, emotional mistreatment, and privation can fundamentally be psychologically rewired in ways that hinder their ability to handle normal life situations. The best example of this is a parable told by a psychiatrist from San Francisco I heard at a conference. She said, “Imagine yourself a child walking alone in the woods and coming across a bear. The child runs from the bear and is terrified but in the normal course of events, with comfort from the family, the frightening episode can be overcome and life can move on without permanent adverse impact. Now, imagine that you live with the bear.” Clearly, it is not only the separation from family itself but the duration of the separation that has dramatic impact on children.

This is the science and what we know about thoughtless interventions that may appear to solve our problems but rather damage others irrevocably. While some children are dangerous and do require confinement and treatment, almost no child taken from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border fits this category.

Whether they are our children or children seeking asylum from another country, our obligations as people who know better, are clear. These children may end up staying in the United States under our asylum laws. Do we want them healthy and capable of contributing to society or traumatized and unable to function appropriately? This is an easy choice no matter how you feel about immigration. The science and our experience tells us not to separate children from their families. The unintended consequences can be serious.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Champion for Women and Parents

To the Editor:

All too often parents, many of them mothers like myself, have to choose

whether or not they can be with their child immediately after birth and use limited vacation days just to make sure they are there. These are not choices parents should make when they need to be focused on caring

for their little one right after birth. Barbara Comstock understands these choices — she was a working mother to three children as a young mom and had to make those tough choices.

That's why Barbara Comstock is taking the lead in Congress by introducing legislation to provide 12 weeks of paid leave to federal employees so parents don't have to make that choice. The Federal

Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2018 will give federal workforce parents the opportunity to spend more time caring for their children without worrying about how much time off they have from work and allows for essential bonding time that reduces the mortality rate of infants — a metric that is way too high in America! — and has been shown to keep women in the workforce after they have a child. Childbirth can be expensive and legislation like this one gives parents flexibility to focus on their home-life and not their work-life when they need it most.

Barbara is a champion for women and parents and she already offers 12

weeks of paid parental leave to her staff. Her legislation applies to those who adopt too; she knows that a stable family leads to a happy family and happy families mean better communities for our kids to grow up in. I'm glad that my Congresswoman has championed this issue so that my friends

and neighbors who are federal employees can focus their attention on their children at a critical time in childhood.

Diep Nguyen
Great Falls

Keeping Concerts Commercial-free

To the Editor:

In our polarized political climate it is rare to have a community gathering that celebrates simple things like being together with family and friends in this beautiful enclave that is Great Falls.

Why then did we have to see a wave of Barbara Comstock “fans” (the literal ones) at an otherwise commercial and campaign free venue?

I'd like to ask the business owners and sponsors of “Celebrate Great Falls” to keep these wonder-

ful concerts commercial free. Let's celebrate our community and put aside everything else.

Andrew Howard
Great Falls

A Voice Beyond the Region

To the Editor:

Representative Barbara Comstock is often applauded for being a strong voice throughout our region. What should not go overlooked though is Rep. Comstock's strong voice beyond our region as a vocal advocate for human rights around the world.

She is a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, previously chaired by Representative Frank Wolf. Through this commission, Comstock is a strong advocate for internationally-recognized human rights norms.

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Great Falls CONNECTION

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PET CONNECTION

Admiral and Clint were greeted with a new employee welcome party featuring a pop-up dog park in the lobby of PenFed's Tysons Corner Headquarters. From left: Clint, Emma Phillips, Lisa Jennings, Admiral, Debra Dougherty (Canine Companions for Independence).



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

PenFed Welcomes Assistance Dogs

Credit Union launches Assistance Dogs in Training Program.

PenFed Credit Union, the nation's second-largest federal credit union, launched a new program in partnership with Canine Companions for Independence welcoming two puppies, Admiral III and Clint III, as assistance dogs in training. The new partnership kicked off at the company's Tysons Corner headquarters with a welcome party and tour for the new canine members of the PenFed team and was followed by the dogs visiting the company's Alexandria Service Center location. Admiral will be based in Tysons Corner and Clint in Alexandria.

"PenFed is proud to work with Canine Companions and provide support to children, adults and veterans with disabilities. We are especially proud to support the men and women who have served our country and protected our freedoms," said James Schenck, PenFed Credit Union president and CEO. "Admiral and Clint are part of a mission to help open doors for people with disabilities to become more independent. They also provide unconditional love, companionship, and loyalty. We are committed to this program and making it work for our employees who are donating their time to raise these dogs for a very noble cause and plan to expand the program to our Omaha and Eugene locations."

PenFed has provided \$60,000 in funding to Canine Companions in the last year and is covering all costs associated with the puppies for the two employee volunteer dog raisers.

THE PUPPIES will learn basic commands and socialization skills by accompanying PenFed's first volunteer assistance dog raisers Lisa Jennings, senior executive vice president, and Emma Phillips, university relations and campus recruitment lead, to work every day and by joining all of their personal activities.

"With every gift given there is a responsibility to give to others," said Jennings, who is also a volunteer member of "Pets on Wheels," an organization of the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging where pets visit and support people living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. "I'm excited to raise Admiral as one of PenFed's first volunteer dog raisers as it's an opportunity to improve a life not just for a few moments, but for years to come."

The PenFed volunteer dog raisers will spend the next 18 months raising Admiral and Clint as part of the PenFed family to prepare them for the next



Admiral and Clint receive their official employee ID badges.



Admiral (front) and Clint (back) enter through the front doors at the PenFed Headquarters in Tysons Corner, and are welcomed by their new colleagues.

step in the program, where they will spend an additional six months with Canine Companions professional instructors learning over 40 advanced commands that are useful to a person with disabilities.

"We're excited to form this new partnership with the employees of PenFed Credit Union, and we congratulate them for their ongoing compassion and commitment to helping people with disabilities," said Debra Dougherty, Canine Companions northeast region executive director.

FOR THE LAST 43 YEARS, Canine Companions has been committed to providing four different types of highly trained assistance dogs to those in need at no cost. Assistance dogs assist adults with physical disabilities by performing daily tasks. Hearing dogs alert their partners, who have a hearing disability, to important sounds. Facility dogs work with clients with special needs in a visitation, education, criminal justice or health care setting. Skilled companions enhance independence for children and adults with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities.

To learn more about PenFed Credit Union, visit PenFed.org

For more information about Canine Companions for Independence visit www.cci.org or call 1-800-572-BARK.

COMMENTARY

New Policy for Police In Fairfax Schools

BY MATTHEW DUNNE
FAIRFAX COUNTY COUNCIL PTA

The policy governing roles and responsibilities of armed police officers who patrol the hallways of every public middle and high school in Fairfax County is about to be improved, after a community panel submitted more than 50 pages of comments in a wide-ranging review.

Although universal agreement was not reached, the policy review, the first in several years, led to significant improvements, including establishing a bright line between school discipline and law enforcement.

The revised policy is set to be voted on by the Fairfax County School Board this coming Thursday, and will take effect with the start of the school year on Aug. 28.

The policy review grew out of concern that the existing agreement between the Fairfax Police Department and the school board had led to disparate treatment of minority children. In response, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova appointed an ad hoc committee of community representatives to provide input on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the school system and the police.

Some parents and community members view armed police in schools, known as school resource officers (SROs), as a necessary safeguard against the many dangers in our world. While violent crime remains at historic lows, gun violence, sex trafficking and gang activity continue to threaten the safety and security of our children in school. From this perspective, SROs serve as the first line of defense.

Other parents and community members view SROs as the problem, not the solution. Dash cam, body cam, and cell phone videos have revealed a disturbing pattern of discrimination and violence against minority children across the country.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, there are conflicting reports on SRO interactions with students. However, data compiled by ACLU People Power show that approximately two-thirds of those arrested by SROs are African-American or Hispanic, even though these groups together constitute only one-quarter of the county population.

Similarly, two-thirds of students receiving suspensions are African-American or Hispanic, even though these groups together constitute only one-third of the student population.

Led by Communities of Trust Committee Chair Shirley Ginwright, the SRO review committee engaged in a thorough review of the MOU, starting with its first meeting on July 2. The process was at times conten-

tious because the stakes were high and the time was limited. The parties had to bridge serious differences of opinion and understanding on SRO activities within three weeks. The committee members submitted dozens of comments, which were compiled into a matrix exceeding 50 pages in length.

The draft reviewed at the final meeting on July 19 committed Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to "handle discipline within the school disciplinary process without involving SROs" and affirmed "that school administrators and teachers are responsible for school discipline and that law enforcement is not to be involved with disciplinary action."

In addition, Fairfax County Police Department reaffirmed its commitment to resolve student offenses through the school disciplinary process or restorative justice programs. These measures will help to deconstruct the so-called "school to prison pipeline."

FCPD also committed to a significant expansion in the training provided to SROs, to include mental health training, crisis intervention training, disability awareness training, implicit bias/racial bias training, restorative justice techniques, and cultural competency training. With this training, SROs will have the knowledge and understanding to interact with an increasingly diverse student population.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS proposed a continuation of the review process in the coming months.

In addition, committee members advocated for certain improvements to further strengthen the MOU, to include increased protections for immigrant students.

Among the organizations represented on the committee were the Fairfax County NAACP, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium, the ADAMS Center, the Fairfax County Police Civilian Review Panel, the Fairfax Education Association, the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, ACLU People Power, the Fairfax County Council PTA, the Special Education PTA, and the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations.

Both FCPS Superintendent Dr. Scott Braband and FCPD Chief Edwin Roessler attended each of the three meetings held on July 2, July 9, and July 19, demonstrating their strong commitment to soliciting community input on SRO activities.

Matthew Dunne is vice president of advocacy, Fairfax County Council PTA, and parent of three children in Fairfax County Public Schools. He is a member of the Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee. He can be reached at vp.advocacy@fccpta.org. This column first appeared in The Blue View, blueviewfairfax.com



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

ONGOING

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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



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 ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

Butterfly Hotel by Dick Neff, 8x10 oil.



are provided. \$16 per person, and each participant must register. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Tysons 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.

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.

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 fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

SUNDAY/JULY 29

Meet the Artists. 4-6 p.m. at 243 Church St. Vienna Arts Society members will be able to exhibit and

sell works in two new places – in the society’s new space and the new Vienna Community Center. Membership application forms are available at the Art Center and at www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Alden Summer Concerts: The English Channel. 5 p.m. in McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Free parking at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. The Alden’s 2018 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park expand this year to include a “welcome, summer” concert on Sunday, June 3, and then seven concerts from July 1 through Aug. 12. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green: Diamond Alley. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of free, live music. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 31

Heaven on Earth. 8:30-9:30 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Take a guided tour of the heavens at “Family Fun Night at the Telescope” at Observatory Park at Turner Farm. Peer through the observatory’s telescopes to see the color of stars, open and globular clusters, nebulae and galaxies. Designed for stargazers age 6-adult. \$8 per person, and children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the program. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 1

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

Alden Summer Concerts

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. 5 p.m. in McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Free parking at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

The English Channel performs in McLean Central Park on Sunday, July 29, 5 p.m. Come hear the sounds of the ’60s and ’70s by The Beatles, The Stones, The Who, The Kinks and others.

water sprinklers at 1 p.m. Wednesdays, through Aug. 8. Free and appropriate for all ages. Visit www.viennava.gov.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/AUG. 1-2

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 2

Games at Riverbend Park. 4:30-6 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Looking for new ways to keep children entertained this summer? Play traditional Eastern Woodland Indian games of skill and luck that were popular at the time the first Europeans reached this area. Enjoy the tradition of oral storytelling and make a game to take home. For ages 4-adult. \$12 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the program. Call 703-759-9018 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

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

FRIDAY/AUG. 3

Festival of Shakespeare and Mythology. 4:30 p.m. at The

Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. After weeks of learning classical theatre, practicing movement and vocalizing, and roasting s’mores over the fire, Traveling Players’ youth ensembles will present a festival of three plays. The schedule: 4:30-6:15 Ariadne’s Thread & The Monkey King; 6:15-7 break for dinner (picnicking is welcome); 7-9:30 Merry Wives of Windsor. \$10 tickets available at the door. Visit www.madeira.org/about-madeira/contact-us/ for directions.

Summer on the Green: Nowhere Men. 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.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 3-4

Beauty and the Beast. 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Vienna Youth Players’ premieres Walt Disney’s Beauty and the Beast. The cast and crew features more than 30 aspiring student-artists, ages 8-18. This production will be a swan song as it is director Barbara ‘Babs’ Dyer’s final show with the company after helming the director’s chair 26 years. Tickets are \$15 each general admission, at viennava.gov/webtrac or at the community center.

SATURDAY/AUG. 4

W&OD 10K. 6 p.m. starting and finishing at Centennial Park, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. In memory of Sally Hamilton (1962-2009), director of Friends of the W&OD Trail, Fairfax 4 Horses, and Hunters Valley Riding Club. The out-and-back course runs through one of the area’s first environmentally-protected zones, an undeveloped meadowland where the deer and the antelope play. Visit www.active.com and search “Friends of W&OD” to register.

SUNDAY/AUG. 5

Alden Summer Concerts: Kara and Matty D (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.

Concerts on the Green: Dr. Guy Van Syckle. 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.

MONDAY/AUG. 6

Submission Deadline. Vienna Arts Society’s annual Photography Show is calling for photography from around the Capitol Region. The theme is “Visual Stories.” Show will be open Aug. 14-Sept. 15. \$10 per piece for VAS members, \$15 per piece for non-members. Enter no more than two photographs. Prospectus available at www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 8

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

PET CONNECTION



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Pippin the climber



Waiting for the 'perfect family': Pippin.

Our 'Almost' Office Pet

BY SHARON BULOVA, CHAIRMAN
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR

An adorable gray and white cat showed up at my doorstep recently. My husband and I brought him inside. He gobbled down two big bowls of cat food and made himself at home.

We fell in love, bought him a collar and named him Pippin. Unfortunately our other two cats, Sam and Frodo, were not amused (an understatement).

For Pippin's safety, I brought him to my office at

the Fairfax County Government Center. For a day, he enjoyed exploring the office furniture (he is definitely a climber) and bonded with my staff. We wanted to keep Pippin at the office, but figured he would get lonely on the weekends and might surprise our custodial staff. Plus my Chief of Staff is allergic.

Pippin is now in the capable hands of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, where I know he will soon meet the perfect family. If you are interested in adopting this sweet, playful and affectionate kitty who spent a day in the Chairman's Office, he is currently at 4500 West Ox Road, but hopefully not for long!

Cat in the Box

Mr. Giant can find a box, sack, bag or about anything else he can sit in as soon as it enters the house. In this case, the box barely hit the floor when he jumped in. He can spend the entire day — or for that matter days — jumping in and out of whatever is his latest favorite. Since he is spoiled, boxes can remain on the floor and in the way for weeks on end.

He is a 13 year-old tabby adopted from the animal shelter when he was 18 months old and is big as his name implies. Mr. Giant loves to spend time in the garden smelling the various herbs, vegetable plants and watching the birdhouses. He is a joy to have in the household.



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SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB

Newcomers & Community Guide

August 22, 2018

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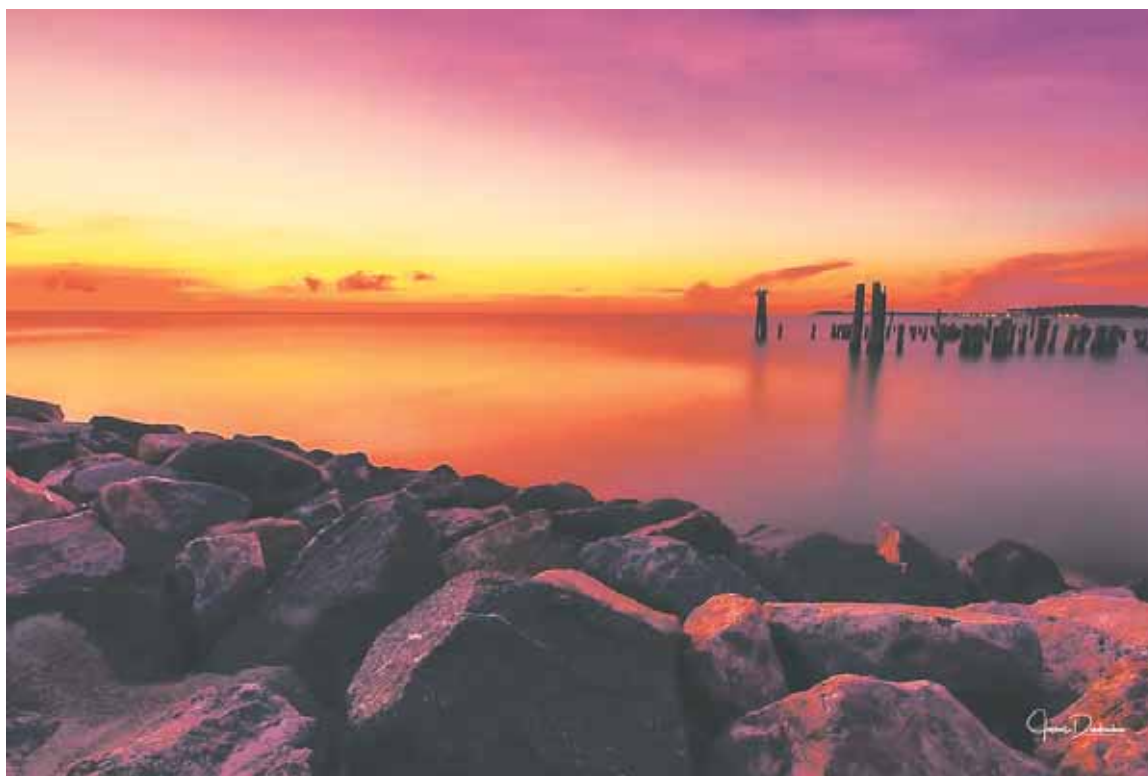
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News



Beaches on Exhibit at the Katie's Coffee House

'Beach Sunset' by James Diedrich. During the month of August Katie's Coffee House will feature Great Falls photographer James Diedrich. The exhibit is perfect for this time of the year as it features sunrise and sunset pictures of beaches. Many of the pictures capture Virginia beaches but the range of beaches is from Massachusetts to Florida. Stop by at the Brogue and see if you can identify the location of the beaches featured.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

Her legislative record is also strong on this issue. She's voted for legislation to provide emergency relief to genocide victims in

the Middle East, supported grant programs to protect faith-based community centers across the country, and backed legislation to support religious freedom and Human Rights around the world.

Comstock's voice abroad is one that we can be proud of here at home.

Abbas Alaghebandian
McLean

Tax Cut Good for Families Like Mine

To the Editor:

State Senator Jennifer Wexton (D-33) says she wants to roll back the tax cuts passed by Congress last year. What she's really saying is she wants to take money back out of my family's pocket.

The tax cut law has been good for my family. The lower rates,

combined with higher standard deduction and child tax credits, all mean more money in our pocket – both as higher take home pay and a lower overall tax bill.

The results have been widespread. Most Virginia families are going to save over \$1,500 due to the tax bill. Businesses across the

region and the country have been handing out bonuses, increasing wages, and hiring more workers.

Overall, the tax cut has been good for my family. I'm not going to let Wexton ... take it away.

Mark Decker, Sr.
Great Falls

Taking Exception on Leadership

To the Editor:

In regards to a letter of July 18-24 issue, 'A Great Friend and Leader':

In a letter recently printed in this space, Mr. Vogelzang lauds Congresswoman Barbara Comstock as a "caretaker of the budget" (in spite of her vote for a fiscally irresponsible tax bill) and praises her attention to local issues. This may be sufficient to earn Mr. Vogelzang's vote, but voters should also consider what is best for our country. In this, Barbara Comstock falls short.

This is a parlous time for our nation. Our democracy is under attack from enemies both internal and external. Our president ha-

bitually lies, promotes racism, and most frightening of all, exhibits every indication of being compromised by a foreign power. The framers of our Constitution foresaw that a situation like this might arise, and allocated powers to Congress that can rein in the president. However, the Republican-controlled Congress has shown no willingness to restrain our president's reckless and dangerous behavior or confront his conflicts of interest. Although Barbara Comstock may occasionally make public statements critical of our president, she is complicit in this abdication of authority. For example, she has refused to support

legislation that would compel the president to make his tax returns public or legislation to protect the Mueller investigation. And if a constitutional crisis should arise, we can hardly expect courageous action from someone who doesn't even have the guts to face her constituents in a town hall event.

Safeguarding the democracy that we all cherish requires that the Congress assert its authority to check the president, and for that reason I will be voting for the Democratic candidate for Congress, Jennifer Wexton, this November.

Richard Markeloff
Herndon

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).

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 dtrcomments@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.

FRIDAY/AUG. 3

Networking Breakfast. 7:30-9 a.m. at Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1700, Vienna. DemBiz welcomes former Virginia Governor and former DNC Chair Terry McAuliffe as part of their Signature Breakfast Series. Join for a discussion of Virginia business and what he's hearing on the ground as he speaks all over the country. Visit www.dembiz.org for more.

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.

AUG. 26-SEPT. 9

Pool Closure: Providence RECenter. Four Fairfax County Park Authority RECenter pools will be closing for regular, periodic cleaning and maintenance next month. Consider trying out another county pool during the temporary shutdown. RECenter passes are valid at all nine Park Authority RECenters. Dates are subject to change. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter for more.

AUG. 27-SEPT. 23

Pool Closure: Spring Hill RECenter. Four Fairfax County Park Authority RECenter pools will be closing for regular, periodic cleaning and maintenance next month. Consider trying out another county pool during the temporary shutdown. RECenter passes are valid at all nine Park Authority RECenters. Dates are subject to change. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter for more.

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Phoning It In



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For my next post-scan, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist, we won't in fact be seeing him face to face. Instead, we will be speaking with him phone to phone. This bothers or concerns me not in the least. "I only mention this in passing," ("The Exorcist," 1973) and as a topic for this week's column since I'm being CT-Scanned on Wednesday, July 25.

Typically, we would meet my oncologist in person a week or so after my scan to allow for proper reporting/interpreting of the scan. This appointment would have been made — or attempted to have been made, during the previous face-to-face appointment, three months prior. However, sometimes the computer program managing such scheduling doesn't provide the doctor's schedule so far in advance.

When this happens, the doctor/staff makes a note in the computer's margins, so to speak, to schedule me automatically when the appointments become available. Well, for some reason, that didn't happen this cycle. That became clear to me when, a few weeks before my presumptive appointment, I went online to see when my it had been "computerized." I noticed it hadn't. I immediately called oncology to make inquiries and to schedule this kind-of-important, post-scan appointment.

I spoke with one of the nurses — with whom I'm familiar, and explained my circumstances. She went on the computer, entered my member number and, if I understand the process correctly, typed in something like "next available appointment."

"Aug. 31," she said.

I said "What?? I usually see the doctor the week after my scan."

"That's the next available appointment," she repeated. (I'd mutter "incredible" to myself but I have some prior experience with such blips.)

Stammering as I gathered my thoughts, the nurse casually offered up the chance of a phone appointment. "Sure!," I said, (having received a similar offer once before).

The nurse said "How about Aug. 6?" 12 days post scan and much sooner than Aug. 31. (Normally we try to schedule the follow-up in-office appointment for the following Friday, 10 days after the Wednesday scan which ideally would have been Aug. 3).

"Perfect," I said, since I'm home on Mondays and my wife, Dina, coincidentally had already scheduled that day off from work. (The phone-appointment process involves putting the phone on speaker — so that all parties can participate, and exercising some patience. It's a little awkward but given the appointment unavailability, it's what we have to do.) Not stressing too much about this unexpected set of circumstances, I am now prepared to move forward and hope for the best — results.

The only semi concern I do have is what if the conversation, different than the previous phone-appointment conversation, involves some significant decision-making/discussing about Kenny's life treating forward. If the conversation is potentially life-altering, I'd rather look my oncologist in the eyes rather than hear his voice over the phone.

And, of course, being that there are very few guarantees in the cancer business, there is absolutely no assumption to be presumed that since I'm having a phone appointment that somehow that means all is well with yours truly. Hardly. I haven't even had my scan yet. It simply means that the doctor is already double-booked for the time frame in consideration.

However, on the totally-plus side: There's no 45 minute drive to and from. Once on site, there's no 15- to 20-minute wait in the reception area. Then there's no 10- to 20-minute wait/getting vitals in the examining room until my oncologist comes in. And finally, there's no 30- to 45-minute appointment with my oncologist since there's no physical examination and no ability as well to computer-review the actual scan. It's simply questions and answers. This all works perfectly well when the scan shows "stable."

But, what if?

I don't do "what-ifs." I do what I do until I'm told otherwise (that's why I'm a good husband). Moreover, I don't worry about things I can't control. My scan is in 10 days and it will show what it shows.

In the interim, I will hope for the best and await further instructions.

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

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