

Fairfax Station CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

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Willie Forrester puts on his best face for a Christmas photo with the Forresters, of Fairfax Station, who adopted him from Kyra's Rescue, which saves homeless dogs from Turkey and brings them to homes in the United States.

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New Board Chair Leads Public Schools

Corbett Sanders reviews current educational issues.

BY GERALD A. FILL

Mount Vernon School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders was elected chairwoman of Fairfax County School Board July 12 for the 2018-2019 school year.

Q: How do you feel about being elected by your peers as chair for the upcoming school year?

A: I am honored and humbled.

Q&A It is a great school system that prides itself on fairness and professionalism, and delivering a quality education to all our students. I intend to help make sure we continue the tradition of being one of the best public school systems in the country.

Q: What are your goals as chair?

A: One of my top goals is to get the School Board to coalesce around a Strategic Plan that we are now working on. Also, to make sure the Strategic Plan coincides with the budget and One Fairfax [policy].

Q: What is the School Board doing about improving school safety?

A: As you can imagine when looking at security we need to look at it in the context of what can we do to prevent an incident from occurring: from planning, type of personnel, and facilities. Following the Parkland, Fla., school shooting in February, the School Board requested that our Superintendent Scott Brabrand conduct an internal review of FCPS' security programs, policies, and practices. This was in addition to the Virginia General Assembly Committee formed to study and recommend school safety at the state-wide level by the House of Delegates and most recently by the Governor. Delegates Krizek, Sickles and Watts are on the House Committee and solicit ideas from school board members and FCPS staff. Delegate Krizek has put together an advisory round table to gather insights from local community members. Recent reports by the Secret Service and the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee identify the school climate, threat assessments and early warning systems as the most important factors in preventing incidents of school violence. FCPS' security re-

Bio

Karen Corbett Sanders was raised in Fairfax County. She is a retired international business executive, a community advocate for health care and education and a past PTA president. She has served on international boards of directors and operating companies as well as the quality board of Inova Children's Hospital and the Dean's Advisory Board of Boston University's Wheelock School of Education. She was elected to the School Board in 2016 to represent the Mount Vernon Magisterial District. She served as vice chair during the 2017-2018 school year.



view had similar findings.

The review examined current security processes, opportunities for improvements to existing programs and structures, and consideration of new initiatives to further reduce risk in the short- and long-term. Along these lines, the security review focused on three key areas:

- ❖ **School climate and Mental Health Studies** have shown that a key component of preventing tragedies such as Parkland is creating a positive school climate. Mental health supports are essential in providing support to students that may be in crisis. The superintendent has recommended hiring 18 additional school-based mental health support staff members such as psychologists or social workers. All high schools currently have full-time psychologists and social workers. Additional staff would enable all middle schools and targeted elementary schools to have full-time mental health support.

- ❖ **Planning, and Personnel Training:** Hire additional staff members to improve training in all schools, such as enhanced lockdown drills, threat assessments (a structured process for identifying and assessing threats), visitor management procedures, including visitor management systems and protocols, and increase the frequency of school-based security exercises. In addition, table top exercises would be conducted annually. A tabletop exercise provides participants emergency scenarios to evaluate each school, such as a crisis management plan and response; at least one lockdown drill each year would be conducted during a lunch period and/or between classes; and grade level appropriate training scripts and videos would be provided to staff for use in the lockdown drills.

- ❖ **Physical Security:** Require all classroom doors to be locked at all times and to re-

TJHSST Admissions Statistics for Class of 2022

	Applicants	Percent	Admitted	Percent
GENDER				
Male	1,683	53.3%	278	57.3%
Female	1,477	46.7%	207	42.7%
Total	3,160		485	
ETHNIC				
White	870	27.5%	111	22.9%
Black	220	7.0%	10	2.1%
Hispanic	276	8.7%	23	4.7%
Asian	1,633	51.7%	316	65.2%
Multiracial/Other*	161	5.0%	25	5.2%
Total	3,160		485	
SCHOOL TYPE				
Public	2,996	94.8%	460	94.8%
Private/Home	164	5.2%	25	5.2%
Total	3,160		485	
Reduced Fee or Waived Fee Paid	336	10.6%	7	1.4%

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

place outdated dual-keyed door locks initially and possibly additional cameras in middle and elementary schools in the future. All schools currently have locked doors with cameras at the entrance.

The recommended enhancements were presented to the School Board at its June 18 work session and consensus was reached to present the recommendations as part of the FY 18 year-end budget review scheduled for July 26, 2018. Public hearings on the budget review recommendations were held on July 12 and July 17.

In addition to the actions that should be implemented as part of the year end budget review process, the School Board requested additional information on a number of areas which include additional interior cameras for middle schools and elementary schools and where they would be located, the effectiveness of an options based approach to risk assessment in some instances, and a review of procedures for administrative buildings. Once the superintendent has completed the review and assessment of the items requested by school board members in the June work session, the School Board will have a second work session on the second report.

Q: The Opioid Task Force Report reflected an increase in abuse of prescription drugs in the county. What is the school system doing to tackle this problem?

A: I personally visit the schools and urge awareness by the teachers, parents and students about the long-term adverse consequences of prescription drug abuse as well as abuse of illegal drugs.

Also, the FCPS is working with our county partners to implement several recommendations of the County Opioid Task Force. The Board of Supervisors funded six substance abuse specialists for FCPS. In 2018-2019, the specialists will begin working in the Langley, South Lakes, Herndon, West Potomac, and Robinson Pyramids. These pyramids were selected based on 3 years of Youth Survey and discipline data. The specialists will tailor prevention activities to fit the needs of the school communities. Their

responsibilities will include assisting with substance abuse assessments, short-term early intervention counseling support and referrals to outside services. Additionally, the school system includes opioids and other substance abuse education issues in our health curriculum beginning in the early grades. We encourage parents to keep lines of communication open with their children, and engage them in conversations about substance abuse.

Q: Due to pending litigation affecting TJ admissions policy, you can't comment on the lawsuit. However, what can you say with respect to ongoing admissions policy?

A: The admission's policy has been debated and modified numerous times to address community concerns regarding the makeup of the school. This School Board recognizes the importance of having a diverse student body and staff and have emphasized equity of opportunity as a priority in our policy making and have asked the superintendent to set this issue as a priority in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Included in my response is, at your request, the admissions statistics for the incoming TJ freshman class this fall. [See chart.]

Q: What would you like to say as you prepare for your role as chairwoman of the School Board?

A: As the School Board chair, I am enthusiastically looking forward to working with my colleagues in continuing the important work of supporting our students and teachers as we implement the FCPS Strategic Plan and the One Fairfax Policy.

Making One Fairfax a reality means every FCPS student has equity and excellence in their educational experience. The goals of the Strategic Plan provide a framework for ensuring that we inspire and empower students to achieve academically, make healthy choices, and are capable of making responsible and ethical decisions in our rapidly changing world. I want every child to love learning and experience joy in their classrooms.

Fairfax County School Board Budget

Overall, FY 2019 Budget is \$2.9 billion that includes an additional \$53.1 million as part of a multi-year plan to enhance teacher salaries, and \$43.9 million for a step increase for all eligible school employees. The district's cost per pupil is projected to be \$15,318 for FY 2019, fifth out of the 10 area school districts. Eighty-six percent of the budget is allocated to instructional programs.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provided ESOL services to English learners in Grades K-12, Level 1 to Level 5 in all FCPS schools and centers during FY 2018 at a cost of \$77.1 million (approximately 2.5 percent of the operating budget) to provide ESOL services to 27,572 students. An additional \$15.8 million is provided by state and federal grants.

Special Education: 26,730 students are projected to receive special education services in FY 2019. Special education is approximately \$537 million, or about 18.7 percent of the operating budget.

Projected FCPS enrollment this fall is 190,168 students.

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.

Citizens Associations are Valuable Community Resources

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK
(D-MT. VERNON)



In the Mount Vernon District we are lucky to have two great citizens associations to represent us, the South County Federation and the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations. Federations of citizens associations comprise many local neighborhood organizations that work collectively for the betterment of their community and our area. Whether influencing land use decisions, lobbying for transportation improvements or monitoring zoning changes, these organizations are a collective voice for the communities they serve, and act to protect and preserve the interests of those engaged.

Here in the southern part of the District, I have been fortunate to work with the South County Federation and the Lorton community for more than 15 years. I have witnessed firsthand the Federation's unique ability to successfully influence legislators, mobilize residents

on important issues and get things done. My partnership with the Federation allows me to be a more effective representative of the community and to achieve community goals.

For the past 27 years, the Federation has proven its ability to work collaboratively and speak as a strong voice. It is an invaluable resource to me and is the first organization I look to for guidance when Lorton issues arise. Our collaborative efforts result in community driven decisions. A perfect example of this is the Federation's participation in the extraordinary multi-year effort that the Federation coordinated to close the privately held Lorton landfill. The Federation took a lead role in organizing and educating the community about the opportunities, challenges and long-term impacts to the residents and the County. These efforts make a positive difference for all of us, and are resulting in the closure of the landfill at the end of this year.

The Federation also provides an opportunity to build new relationships with other commu-

nity members and associations. Learning about one another's needs leads to a better understanding of each other's issues and provides an even stronger voice when working with legislators. Working collectively often results in bringing positive change to the quality of life not only in one community, but to the whole of the Mount Vernon District.

If your civic association is already a member of the Federation, I congratulate you and urge you and your members to actively participate in the issues that are facing Fairfax County. If your association is not yet a member of the Federation, I encourage you to join today and get involved. It is your involvement that will continue to bring about positive change for all of us who live, work, educate and recreate in Fairfax County.

I take this opportunity to thank the South County Federation for their collective leadership in advocating for issues on behalf of the community, for their endless volunteer hours, and for continuing to foster collaboration, communication and a better community.





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PET CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY TAYLOR J. GOUTERMAN/THE CONNECTION

Willie, who's roughly two-and-a-half years old, relaxes peacefully with the Forresters in Fairfax Station.

Treated to Luxury after The Streets of Turkey

His only friends on the streets of Turkey were the children who would play with him. His face down to his paws composed more of dirt than of fur. Had the children not taken him to a shelter, his best shots of survival were fending for himself or traveling with packs to compete for food and water.

Lisa and Casey Forrester, from Fairfax Station, found Kyra's Rescue, an adoption agency in D.C., which has a similar application process to here but for homeless dogs from Turkey. After getting his passport and making his way from Istanbul to multiple stops down the East Coast, Willie, a 2-and-a-half-year-old golden retriever, now

joins the Forresters as one of the family.

They said that as a retriever, he's a family-oriented dog who had no trouble adjusting to the home life. Lisa said he's also a popular pup at all of the local wineries and restaurants, too!

Casey says his favorite memory with Willie came from the dog's affection for tennis balls. When the Forresters were playing at the tennis courts, they planned to throw some balls at him so he could catch them. They noticed, however, how fascinated he was by the launching tennis balls machine, so the man who used it hit balls over the fence for Willie to chase!

— TAYLOR J. GOUTERMAN



Willie, a dog who lived homeless in the streets of Turkey, is now a socialite with Casey (behind) and Lisa Forrester. They take him to wineries and restaurants, and he'll follow suit as long as he gets to love and enjoy life.

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PET CONNECTION



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENISE AND DJ McCANN

LilBit especially loved being on the water with Dad (DJ McCann) in his personal flotation device.

Remembering LilBit: A Story of Unconditional Love

Denise and DJ McCann of Lorton, Founders-Designer Tributes, sent photos for the Pet Connection: "This is LilBit McCann and we selected LilBit as a poodle puppy from a litter of three because he had so much personality-attitude. The first time we took him to a Fairfax veterinarian for his puppy vaccination shots, another pet owner remarked how he looked like a "little monkey" as a silver poodle, with only his facial hair groomed and weighing only 1.2 pounds. Bit loved being part of everything, was very courageous and cute! He especially loved being on the water with Dad (DJ McCann) in his personal flotation device or Aloha shirt, beads and sunglasses. He was 11 years old passing away with Cushing's disease complications and we decided to include his story with our family remembrance tributes because pets are truly a part of the family with special bonds and times always giving unconditional love."



LilBit wearing his favorite Aloha shirt and sunglasses.



Meet Cocoa

Cocoa of Lorton says, "I don't like posing for pictures so hurry up and take it so I can go back to relaxing."

HOT SUMMER FEATURES

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

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.

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 for weekly themes and registration.

ONGOING

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.

Second Saturdays. 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet nearly 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Experience performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Enjoy art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

FRIDAY/JULY 27

Rock the Block: My Hero Zero. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Family-friendly free concert series, which features live bands, beer garden, and city restaurant vendor booths. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock.

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

SpiritMind. 7-9 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Cost is \$20. SpiritMind is a quarterly mind-body-heart-spirit experience involving chanting, singing, meditating, drumming, and mindful movement. Contact Rebecca Whitecotton at comms@unityoffairfax.org. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/spiritmind-sa

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 27-29

"Good Dogs." 7:30 p.m. at the Lorton Workhouse, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Class Act Players Theatre Company is staging a new play, "Good Dogs," written by Morgan Smalley and directed by Maxwell Snyder (both of whom are students at George Mason University). The show is rated PG-13 for language and subject matter. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$10 for



'Good Dogs'

Class Act Players Theatre Company is staging a new play, "Good Dogs," written by Morgan Smalley and directed by Maxwell Snyder (both of whom are students at George Mason University). Friday-Sunday, July 27-29, 7:30 p.m. at the Lorton Workhouse, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The show is rated PG-13 for language and subject matter. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$10 for students with ID. Visit www.workhousearts.org/ for more.

students with ID. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

SATURDAY/JULY 28

Artist's Talk: Illuminated 'Scapes. 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Arches Gallery, Bldg. W-9, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Featuring new work by Kathleen Best Gillmann. The first artist presentation will be at 11:30 a.m. with a repeat of the talk at 6 p.m. This is an opportunity to meet the artist and learn about Ms. Gillmann's materials, techniques and inspiration. Visit online at VeryBestFineArt.com and on FB at "Kathleen Best Gillmann - Very Best Fine Art."

Mount Vernon Nights. 7 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

SUNDAY/JULY 29

WVMGRS G-Scale Trains. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS) members will have a G-Scale train display running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Everything Fairfax. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Susan Gray of the Fairfax Museum recounts the history of other places named Fairfax, along with a look at collectibles and ephemera from some of these places. Free. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

Peter Kater Concert. 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Cost is \$20. See Grammy-winning pianist/composer, Peter Kater, in a rare and intimate live concert performance. Peter will play a 75-90 minute set with no intermission. Contact Rebecca Whitecotton at comms@unityoffairfax.org. Visit the website at www.unityoffairfax.org/peter-kater-concert-s

TUESDAY/JULY 31

Farm to Fairfax Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market will be producers-only - meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

Erin's Epic Stories. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square at the pergola, Tuesdays June-August. Weather permitting. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 1

Springfield Nights. 7 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring: Ruthie & the Wranglers (American Roots). 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.

Kings Park Concert Band. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Kings Park Concert Band; program of marches, band classics, Broadway and movie show tunes. Seating provided in the amphitheater or bring your lawn chair. Free. Call 703-569-3090 or visit kingsparkband.org.

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

Bocce Picnic and Play. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Featuring a free Bocce Picnic and Play event. Green Acres is the host site for the 2018 NVSO bocce competition scheduled on Thursday, Sept. 20. Medalists from past NVSO bocce

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ENTERTAINMENT

competitions are expected to be on hand at the picnic Aug. 2 to help introduce bocce to those who might be new to the sport. Participants may also register for the NVSO at the picnic. All registration for the senior games ends Aug. 24. You must be at least 50-years-old by Dec. 31, 2018, to compete in the NVSO. To register for the free RSVP picnic or to become a NVSO volunteer, call volunteer specialist Carly Hubicki at 703-403-5360 or visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Evenings on the Ellipse with The Gibson Brothers. 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/performance.

THROUGH AUG. 3

Art Exhibit: Illuminated 'Scapes. Gallery hours at Arches Gallery, Bldg. W-9, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Featuring 12 original pastels and paintings by Kathleen Best Gillmann. Illuminated 'scapes are waterscapes, skyscapes, and landscapes where the effects of light and color are key to the composition. Visit VeryBestFineArt.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 4

Workhouse Brewfest. 1-8 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. More than 30 Virginia craft breweries, artisan distilleries, and Virginia wineries will be on tap at the third annual Workhouse Brewfest, which will also feature live performances by 12 bands, food trucks, access to 12 air-conditioned art galleries and 65 artist studios. Visit workhousebrewfest.org for tickets.

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/performance/mt-vernon-nights.

AUG. 4-SEPT. 2

Art Exhibit: Free Beer (and other lies). At Arches Gallery at Workhouse Arts Center, Building 9, 9518 Workhouse Way., Lorton. Featuring works by John Hartt, who is known for his quirky oil paintings which have been described as strangely comforting. His latest kooky collection, "Free Beer (and other lies)," explores some of the concepts and stories surrounding beer, drunkenness and lies as only Hartt can interpret them. Visit www.workhousearts.org. For more information about John Hartt, visit www.jortt.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 5

History Challenge Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Choose from a selection of quizzes on a variety of topics for a chance to win a prize. Different versions will be available for all ages and groups and interests. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.



Peter Kater in Concert

See Grammy-winning pianist/composer, Peter Kater, in a rare and intimate live concert performance. Peter will play a 75-90 minute set with no intermission. Sunday, July 29, 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$20. Contact Rebecca Whitecotton at comms@unityoffairfax.org or visit www.unityoffairfax.org/peter-kater-concert-s.

www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Ballet "Precedence." 2 p.m. at Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Virginia Ballet Company and School will present a program that includes modern dance, ballet, and flamenco. All seats are reserved, and tickets are priced by location, with orchestra center \$30, orchestra sides \$20, and Balcony \$15 (all plus a \$3 processing fee). Tickets may be purchased at vaballet.org or at the door. Call 703 249-8227.

TUESDAY/AUG. 7

Dwelling Detectives. 7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oak Road, Burke. Local Architectural Historian, Susan Hellman, will provide tips on researching historic buildings, including resources to use in this area and steps to uncover the truth about one's house. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY JENNETH DYCK/THE CONNECTION

The Lorton Library, established in 1980, boasts of a collection of 50,000 items available for the general public.

Lorton Library Challenge 'Takes You Everywhere'

BY JENNETH DYCK
THE CONNECTION

The Lorton Library is halfway through their Summer Reading Adventure, which runs from June 15 to Sept. 1. Children and teens participate in the library's summer reading program every year to read outside of school and win a coupon book for their efforts.

"I really enjoy working here and working with the kids and the community. It's great especially in the summertime to connect them with books and activities while they're out of school," said Melissa Kariger, youth services manager.

The reading adventure at Lorton is one way the library encourages children to extend their education even during the summer. Any time during the program, children and teens can pick up a reading log at the library or register online and read a specified number of books based on the participant's age.

Those that complete the program will receive a coupon book. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Lorton Library and other Friend branches, the coupon book includes free and discounted items from McDonald's, Domino's Pizza, Mt. Vernon, Splash Down Waterpark, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Shadowland Laser Adventures and Six Flags among others.

Children are also encouraged to visit the library for special activities that coincide with the reading program's theme: "Reading Takes You Everywhere." Children can get involved with STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) activities that teach them about the world, other cultures and other time periods.

"We do different kinds of science experiments and challenges and that sort of thing so they can work on those skills over the summer while having fun and keeping busy," said Kariger.

Children have the chance to construct Medieval catapults, jellybean pyramids, covered wagons, launch rockets, erect towers and learn through other educational experiments offered within the library.

Kimberly Rivas, whom Kariger deemed one of the most active teen volunteers, says she loves watching the children come through the library every week.



Lorton library youth services manager Melissa Kariger teaches a visitor an Israeli game similar to Corn Hole during one of the library's summer activities.



Every summer, children and teens from Lorton participate in the Summer Reading Adventure. After completing a certain number of books, summer reading participants put their name on the columns in the center of the library.

Because of this, deciding to volunteer at the library was not a hard choice.

"This is the first place I thought of," she said, before describing the time she spends in the library every week as a "warm feeling."

Yet the Summer Reading Adventure isn't just for children and teenagers. According to Gloria Cramer, who works at the information desk, adults can participate too.

They need only to read five books to participate in an adult Bingo! challenge and get a coupon for the library's ongoing book sale. In addition, every adult who finishes the program has a chance to win an Amazon gift card.

BULLETIN

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

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Merrifield Center offers a new stand-up information kiosk. Part of a pilot project, the new feature aims to improve the customer service experience and decrease wait times for individuals who are seeking mental (behavioral) health services. To check in, individuals respond to five simple questions, then the CSB's Patient Track software alerts staff. Based on clinicians' schedules and availability, as well as the needs of the client, individuals are triaged and seen by the next available staff member. For more information on available services, call the CSB at 703-383-8500 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). In an emergency 24/7, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679 or the Fairfax Detox Center at 703-502-7000 (TTY 703-322-9080).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Haven of Northern Virginia is committed to offering, support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. Volunteers provide individual and group support to those suffering from a loss. Volunteers must participate in a 30 hour training. Training will be offered in October 2018. To volunteer, call Haven at 703-941-7000.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/JULY 28

Journey Through Grief. 2-4 p.m. at Haven, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Registration requested for Journey Through Grief workshop. Free. Call 703-941-7000, email Haven at havenofnova@verizon.net, or visit www.havenofnova.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 7

Lions Dinner Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Lions Club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Guests are welcome to lean about the mission of the Lions Clubs "We Serve," meet club members and learn to help serve the community. Free to first time guests. Email fairfaxlions@cox.net or visit www.fairfaxlions.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. 13-SEPT. 9

Pool Closure: South Run 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.

TUESDAY/AUG. 21

Lions Dinner Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Lions Club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Guests are welcome to lean about the mission of the Lions Clubs "We Serve," meet club members and learn to help serve the community. Free to first time guests. Email fairfaxlions@cox.net or visit www.fairfaxlions.org 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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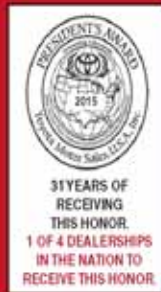
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\$15.00 OFF when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99

\$30.00 OFF when you spend \$200.00 - \$299.99

\$45.00 OFF when you spend \$300.00 - \$399.99

\$50.00 OFF when you spend \$400.00 or more

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FREE

BATTERY CHECK-UP

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

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TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

SPECIAL OFFER

\$99⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement, 24 month free roadside assistance. Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$64⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **2/18, 3/18, or 4/18?** If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION

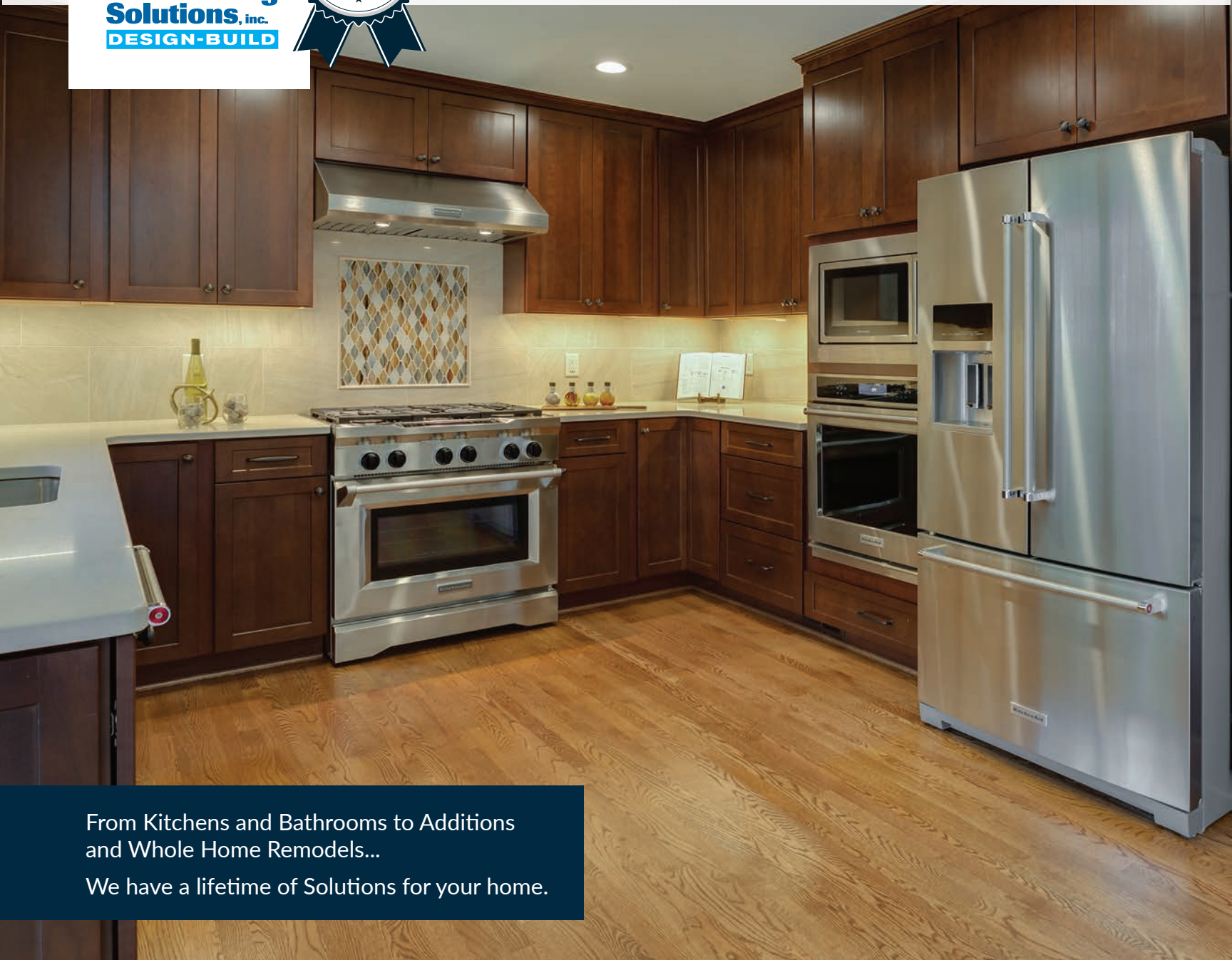
FREE

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**



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