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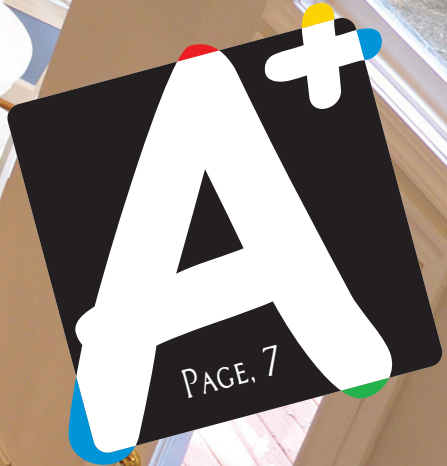
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Reston CONNECTION



It's easy to keep an eye on the action from the gallery area of this home on Bright Pond Lane, reinvented as an empty-nesters' paradise. The annual Reston Home Tour -- one of the most anticipated events on the local activities calendar -- was held on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Living in Reston — Reinvented

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Police Reform: Success, More to Be Done

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Reston Fire Station Holds Open House

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Fairfax County Fire Station 25-Reston drew crowds during its Open House held Saturday, Oct. 13 during Fire Prevention Week 2018. One of the best tips being promoted is "Close before you doze," said Christian Seaman Tech Paramedic Battalion 1, 25 who explained closing the bedroom door at night prevents smoke and fire from entering the room.

Reston Fire Station Holds Open House

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

All thirty-eight Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department stations hosted an Open House at their locations on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, to recognize Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7-13 and promote this year's campaign, LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.

In Reston, children and adults stopped at Fairfax County Fire Station 25-Reston to meet the firefighters, climb in the ambulance and engine truck and learn how to stay protected in case of a fire.

Kathleen Lattimer visited the station with her daughter, Tracey, 16 months. While there — her husband, Michael who happens to be a firefighter at the station, showed his daughter the engine truck. Asked what she'd do to get out in a fire, Kathleen said she had devised an escape plan if a fire broke out and her husband was not home.

"If the fire is upstairs, I'd bring the kids, shut the door, open the window and yell," explained Kathleen. Michael who stood nearby added, "As a firefighter, so many times neighbors can help before the fire trucks arrive. It is important though to isolate yourself from the fire if you can't get out." During the Open House, firefighters and paramedics at the station shared safety tips designed to educate the community and stressed this year's campaign, "LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere."

Look for places a fire could start, such as unattended cooking and heating equipment. Listen for the sound of a smoke alarm and if you hear it, get out. Learn two ways to get out of every room and make sure ahead of time that windows and doors open easily. Seconds can mean the difference between getting out and a tragedy.

Educational programs are crucial and needed to reach those at highest risk including young children, older adults, people in low-income communities, and people with disabilities. According to the National Fire Protection Association, "Only 13 percent of



Michael Lattimer, Firefighter at Fairfax County Fire Station 25-Reston shows his baby daughter, Tracey the fire engine during the station's Open House on Saturday, Oct. 13 recognizing Fire Prevention Week 2018.

the U.S. population is 65 or older, but 30 percent of the home fire fatalities were at least 65 years of age ...The risk of a nonfatal fire injury is highest for those between 20 and 49, showing that fire safety education is essential for everyone."

The best tip to survive a house fire being promoted is "Close the door before you doze," said Christian Seaman Tech Paramedic Battalion 1, Station 25 Reston. "It prevents smoke and fire from entering your sleeping space."

Seaman said another essential tip is there must be working smoke detectors in the home. "The recommendation is to have one or more smoke detectors in the common areas and one in your bedroom," said Seaman.

Working smoke detectors save lives. "Three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms...The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms," according to the National Fire Prevention Association.

Station 25-Reston is located at 820 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. For more information, about fire safety, free smoke detectors and other topics, call the station at 703-437-7575. In case of emergency call 911.

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Police Reform: More to Be Done

Five years after an officer shot and killed John Geer in Springfield, Implementation Group offers look at successful reforms, and recommends action in other areas.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Despite police departments not being “known for embracing change,” said Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, “we’ve seen Fairfax County and its Police Department achieve substantial and meaningful reform.”

Since the county’s Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission formed after a county officer shot and killed John Geer in 2013, the county has implemented 88 percent (179 of 202) of the actions recommended by the Commission.

“The report of the commission could have remained on the shelf since its release three years ago,” said Niedzielski-Eichner, chair.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova encouraged seven commission members to continue to assist and advise the county and police department as commission recommendations were assessed and implemented.

The informal implementation group issued a Final Report on Fairfax County Police Reform on Oct. 10. The report was undertaken by the group on its own initiative, believing that the community might benefit from an independent discussion of progress.

POLICE REFORMS will increase police accountability, divert those with mental illnesses into treatment instead of incarceration, reduce use of force injuries and death, open public access to incident information, and maintain public confidence in the police department, according to the Implementation Group.

Implemented highlights, according to the Final Report, issued last week, include:

- ❖ Diversion First, alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illnesses or developmental disabilities

- ❖ Revisions to the police department’s Use of Force General Order, with de-escalation as the strategy of first resort when confronted with a threat rather than the use of deadly force

- ❖ An Independent Police Auditor who reviews investigations of death or serious injury cases

- ❖ A Civilian Review Panel to review investigations of civilian complaints regarding “abuse of authority” or “serious misconduct” by an officer

- ❖ A Media Relations Bureau led by a civilian professional who reports directly to the Police Chief

- ❖ A predisposition to disclose information by making revisions to information-related general orders in order to increase



Police Chief Ed Roessler speaks last November in Mount Vernon about the new Civilian Review Panel and Independent Police Auditor. Also pictured, Shirley Ginwright, who served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and Implementation Group; Adrian Steel, inaugural chairman of the Civilian Review Panel; and Richard Schott, the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor.

New report credits police with “substantial and meaningful reform.”



Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner



“More is possible to further build and maintain community trust.”

— Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner

public visibility of the department’s daily activities and performance,

- ❖ Revisions to policies governing vehicle pursuit that constrains their use and strengthens supervisory oversight

- ❖ Recruitment of high-caliber personnel that reflects the county’s diverse population

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS have been approved, but are still in the process of being implemented, including a call for full deployment of body-worn cameras and each patrol officer being equipped with “tasers” as less-lethal alternatives to the use of a firearm.

“Still, we believe more is possible to further build and maintain community trust,” said Niedzielski-Eichner.

The Implementation Group recommends the Board of Supervisors direct the police department to formally respond to findings of an Independent Police Auditor and a Civilian Panel, and to give the public an opportunity to comment on the findings and recommendations. As the group understands, the Chief of Police has chosen not to respond because the Board of Supervisors did not specifically direct him to do so.

The Chief of Police and his command leadership should maintain a “neutral public posture pending an investigation of a police-involved use of force incident,” the report recommends.

THE INDEPENDENT POLICE Auditor’s responsibilities could expand in several areas. The implementation group advocates for: monitoring and reviewing investigations of Sheriff Deputies involved in shootings, in-custody deaths, and any use of force incident resulting in serious injury or death; auditing police use of body worn cameras, providing an annual report to the Board and the public with findings and recommendations; and participation on two internal police review committees, the Use of Force Technical Review Committee and the Vehicle Pursuit Review Committee.

“The Implementation Group urges Chief Roessler and his commanders to sustain FCPD’s reform efforts and, in particular, to unfailingly meet the ‘predisposition to release information’ standard with regard to openness and transparency, and to commit to respond to findings from the Independent Police Auditor and the Civilian Review Panel.”

The report also calls for a data-driven monitoring program that fully leverages data on police use-of-force and other data now being collected in response to the Commission’s recommendations.

Continued public involvement will be key to continuing to build trust with the community, the report says.

“Continued successes and improvements will depend on Chief Roessler, his commanders and continued meaningful collaboration with citizens engaged in implementation,” said group member Randy Sayles.

For more, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/

OPINION

Yes, America, Religious Freedom Began in Fairfax County

BY CHAP PETERSEN
STATE SENATOR (D-34)



The Vienna Metro station is the epicenter of suburban northern Virginia. Thousands of commuters come and go every morning, dropping off loved ones or catching the Orange Line into the urban core of the DMV. None of them are aware that just a few hundred yards away one of the most significant (and least known) Americans lived 250 years ago on a modest farm.

Jeremiah Moore was typical of English settlers who migrated to rural Fairfax County in the colonial era to clear fields and establish farms. Unlike most of his neighbors in Anglo-dominated Tidewater Virginia, he was a religious dissenter who found inspiration in the "Baptist" movement that spread through Great Britain in the mid-18th century.

The Baptists were not welcome in colonial Virginia. Its political and economic structure was based upon allegiance to the Church of England, which was the only permitted church. Indeed, a pastor could not open a church or preach without a license from the Church. Regardless, Moore in the early 1770s became an itinerant preacher fearlessly promoting the Gospel, without a license, to the farmers and

tradesmen in northern Virginia.

When the Fairfax County Sheriff found out about Moore, he confined him in the County jail, then located at the County seat of Alexandria. According to family lore, Moore continued to preach through the cell bars, thereby undoubtedly driving his captors to distraction.

This incident would have been forgotten but for one remarkable fact – colonial Virginia in 1773 was changing

rapidly and Moore's neighbors did not agree with his imprisonment. Indeed, when the case came to trial, a Fairfax County jury acquitted Moore and sent him back to farm and presumably his speaking engagements.

A movement was starting. Inspired by Moore's notorious case, another Fairfax County landowner and attorney, George Mason, added "freedom of religion" to his "Fairfax County Resolves" which was read to the Fairfax County militia when they mustered to join General Washington in May 1775. A member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, Mason added the same language to his Virginia Declaration of Rights, which later became part of the Virginia Constitution.

During the Revolutionary War, as the cause of liberty became national, Moore re-emerged as a spokesman for religious minorities. In

1779, he presented a petition signed by 10,000 Virginia freeholders – an impressive number in an era without mass media or big cities – to Gov. Thomas Jefferson asking Virginia to adopt Jefferson's Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom. In 1786, after years of Moore's lobbying, the Assembly finally did so.

Moore never backed off. In his senior years, he was still writing letters to now-President Jefferson decrying the "the most glaring violation of Rights that has ever disgraced a Free People," namely Virginia's requirement that eligible voters own at least 50 acres.

Moore died in 1814 at his farm. His grandson Thomas became a prominent attorney in the town of Fairfax and his great-grandson Walton Moore served in the U.S. Congress. Descendants continue to live in the area as attorneys, Virginia lawmakers and even as Anglican clergy.

Jeremiah Moore's real legacy, of course, has been the idea of religious freedom which has been enshrined in the U.S. Constitution since 1791, when Mason's "Fairfax County Resolves" found their home in the Federal Bill of Rights. Indeed, the "establishment of religion" prohibition in the First Amendment directly harkens back to Moore's imprisonment in 1773.

Today, the American ideal of freedom of religion is still a work in progress. Yet it also provides a beacon to billions around the globe who seek to practice their faith in peace. And it all begins in Fairfax County.

Nov. 6 — Pulling Our Country Back from the Brink

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

The Nov. 6 midterm elections for the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate are as important as any since I first voted 50-some years ago. The 2000 Bush-Gore contest decided on party lines by the Supreme Court may be the closest, having led to the longest war/s in U.S. history and the Great (Bush) Recession.

The upcoming midterms will decide if the kleptocracy of Donald Trump is to continue on its destructive path aided and abetted by majority Republican enablers in the House and Senate. Imagine, if it does, more immigrant families terrorized, millions stripped of their healthcare, accelerating climate change, and more tax cuts for the wealthy driving deficits to all-time highs, etc.

But there is hope. Change is in the air. Democrats are alive and well, energized for a return to governing in the public interest. To avert further division and decline, Democrats must flip a net of 24

seats (out of 435) in the House and/or a net of three in the Senate. The latter is a greater challenge because nearly three times as many Democratic seats are in play as ones held by Republicans.

With Democratic control of one or both chambers, the two parties may be forced to work out differences, even compromise, in order to govern more responsibly.

Virginia could be a crucial battleground for the House on Nov. 6. Virginia has eleven seats, only four of which are held by Democrats despite the fact that Hillary Clinton beat Trump in Virginia in 2016 and Democrat Ralph Northam was elected Governor over his Republican opponent by 9 percent in 2017.

Amazingly, Democrats are challenging for all seven congressional seats, and six of the seven challengers are women. Last year Democrats pulled off unprecedented upsets in the Virginia House of Delegates elections. Re-



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

publicans held 67 of the 100 seats, Democrats just 33 before the election. Democrats flipped 16 seats, and came within a whisker of taking 17, which would have created a 50-50 tie.

Thirteen of the new delegates are women — in Virginia. In all 13 districts captured, surges in voter participation seemed a major factor.

Let's take a closer look at the House of Representative races just three weeks out from Election Day. As it stands, four of the seven races for Republican seats are rated toss-ups.

In District 2, Ret. Navy Commander Elaine Luria is tied with incumbent Scott Taylor according to Real Clear Politics.

In District 5 Leslie Cockburn is within 4 points of Denver Riggleman (R); and, in District 7 Abigail Spanberger is in a dead heat with incumbent Dave Brat.

Closer to home, in District 10, Jennifer Wexton is ahead of incumbent Barbara Comstock by 6

points.

In the other races for seats held by Republicans, the Democrats are further behind according to the polls, but who knows? The four seats occupied by Democrats appear safe, including one where incumbent Bobby Scott is unopposed.

In sum, it is quite conceivable that Virginia's Democratic women could flip up to four of the 24 seats needed nationally to put the House of Representatives in the hands of Democrats and put Mr. Trump on pause.

Turnout will again be a major determinant. I am hoping that the dynamic new female candidates will replicate the miracle we saw in Virginia House of Delegates elections last year.

It is impossible to overstate how critical this election is for us in Reston, for our kids, and for the country. Not only will Fran and I be active in support of local Democrats with our time and voices, but we are also investing modest amounts of savings in critical seat flipping campaigns. Pull out all the stops Nov. 6!

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



COMMENTARY

A Warning Too Dire to Ignore

BY KENNETH R.
"KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



For those who like to plan where will you be and what you will be doing in twenty years a complicating factor that has for too long been ignored must be considered: climate

change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change brought together by the United Nations issued a report earlier this month, written and edited by 91 scientists from 40 countries and based on a review of more than 6,000 scientific reports, predicting much more dire consequences of climate

change much earlier than previously had been expected.

Conditions that have been visibly happening with much more regularity in recent years of intense rains and hurricanes, droughts, excessive heat, flooding, and wildfires will be getting worse.

Forget retirement to that beach house you have been fixing up; there is a high probability it may be under water as the beach dis-

appears. Rising costs of living may eat into our retirement savings yielding them inadequate.

What about life for our children and grandchildren? What will it be like? The evidence presented is too compelling to ignore. To sustain a future quality of life for our posterity we must take aggressive action now.

As reported in The New York Times, the authors found that if

greenhouse gas emissions continue at the current rate, the atmosphere will warm up by as much as 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit above preindustrial levels by 2040 inundating coastlines and intensifying droughts and poverty. The new report shows that many of the most serious changes will come much earlier than expected.

The report said to prevent 2.7 SEE PLUM, PAGE 6

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NEWS

Free Halloween Lyft Rides Offered in Area

Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half (44 percent) of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers, free Halloween Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout the Washington-metropolitan area beginning Saturday, Oct. 27.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2018 Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation beginning at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27 and continue until 4 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 28, as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this six-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no

cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27 on www.SoberRide.com.

Last year, a record 715 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's Halloween SoberRide program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, and winter holidays.

(Last year, WRAP announced a partnership with the ridesharing service Lyft to provide WRAP's SoberRide service in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 73,123 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

Plum

FROM PAGE 5
 degrees of warming, greenhouse pollution must be reduced by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050.

The use of coal as an electricity source would have to drop from nearly 40 percent today to less than 7 percent. Renewable energy such as wind and solar, which makes up about 20 percent of electricity generation, would have to increase to as much as 67 percent.

While the report talks about the science involved, the politics of the issue present the greatest challenge. With a federal administration filled with climate-change deniers and with a pledge to bring back coal for greater energy production, there seems to be a great likelihood that the United States

will indeed withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. (Under the terms of the agreement, the U.S. wouldn't actually be able to withdraw until November 2020.) The administration also may eliminate more regulations that were put in place to reduce climate change if those regulations stand in the way of greater business profits. Until sanity returns at the national level, it is important that actions — as small as they may seem — be taken at state, local, community and family levels to preserve our climate and our planet. We have a responsibility to our children and others to live our lives in a way that recognizes the clear and present dangers our planet faces. The warning is too dire to ignore.

ARTSFAIRFAX to Host Arts Accessibility Workshop

ARTSFAIRFAX will host a free workshop on accessibility on Nov. 1, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. The workshop is designed to be practical in terms of the barriers people with disabilities face in experiencing the arts, but also inspirational in how some arts organizations are re-framing their approach to these audiences with new programs and services.

ARTSFAIRFAX believes increasing accessibility for people with disabilities increases access to the arts for everyone. "Accessibility in the broadest terms is more than access to a building, it should include programmatic, architectural, communication, and other forms of access to arts experiences," said Linda

Sullivan, President and CEO of ARTSFAIRFAX.

Participants will hear from the following speakers:

- ❖ Niyati Dhokai, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor, George Mason University, College of Visual and Performing Arts
- ❖ Marit Majeske, Front of House and Community Inclusion Manager, Hylton Center for the Performing Arts
- ❖ Shanna Sorrells, 1st Stage Accessibility and Education Fellow
- ❖ Katrina Clark, Creative Captioning

ARTSFAIRFAX is requesting that interested participants RSVP to grants@artsfairfax.org.

Additional information may be found at ARTSFAIRFAX.org.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Carving Made Easy

A lesson in creating a front porch worthy Halloween pumpkin.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

“**I**ck, this is so gross,” said one 11-year-old girl with shoulder length blonde hair. “Those are the guts,” said her classmate, a 12-year-old, white apron-clad boy, as he pulled a handful of stringy, orange pulp out of a fat pumpkin.

“It’s part of the process. You have to clean out the messy insides before you can start carving a beautiful design,” said Lisa Searby, who was offering an in-home lesson in carving Halloween pumpkins to a group of middle school students and their parents.

A drive around most neighborhoods during this, the spookiest season of the year, will likely reveal the efforts of many to carve a sophisticated pumpkin. From frightening to fanciful, the art of pumpkin carving is a skill that eludes many. So on a chilly Sunday afternoon, Searby, who lives in Bethesda, Md. trekked to the Fairfax home of Katie and Luke Gunther to offer a class in pumpkin carving. With a few tricks and the right tools, Searby says that almost anyone can create a front-porch worthy gourd.

After the parent-child duos have donned aprons and the pumpkins are placed atop tables covered with plastic and topped with newspaper, the instruction begins. A set of



Investing in a set of carving tools helps create impressive Halloween pumpkins.

carving tools is something that Searby recommends to anyone who wants to create an impressive design.

“You don’t have to break the bank, but you need to get a set of tools that are sturdy enough to stand up the the heft of a thick-

skinned pumpkin,” she said. “You can usually find them online pretty easily. Choose a set that has a tool for each step of the process, like a little serrated saw to cut a hole in the top and a scooper to clean out the flesh. It makes carving so much easier.”

It appears that parents agree. “I didn’t realize that there was such a thing, but these little tools are awesome,” said Luke Gunther, the father of 12-year-old twins. “We usually use a kitchen knife and it’s hard to cut through and the edges of the designs are always jagged, but the tools make a much smoother cut.”

Once the tops of the pumpkins are removed and the pulp, flesh and seeds area cleared, the artistry begins. “Use a dry-erase marker to to sketch the design that you want to carve on the front of your pumpkin,” said Searby. “Does anyone know why we’re using a dry-erase marker instead of a Sharpie? Because if you make a mistake or don’t like your drawing, you can wipe off a dry-erase marker and start over. Sharpies are permanent.”

Three hearts are what Theresa Holt and her 12-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter choose for the front of their pumpkin. “This is such a fun thing to do, even if you don’t care about the outcome, it’s a great way to spend time together as a family,” she said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LISA SEARBY

Front-porch ready Halloween pumpkins.

Those who choose to use one of Searby’s pre-designed templates are instructed to attach the template to the pumpkin and use the spike tool to trace the design onto the gourd, leaving tiny pinholes in its thick flesh. Next, the class uses one of the carving tools to cut out the facial features or other designs and, voila, in less than 30 minutes the group produces six pumpkins that are ready for Halloween.

“If you’re going to use candles illuminate your pumpkins at night, make sure you put the candles in a glass candle holder first,” said Searby. “Now the clean-up begins. It’s a messy process after all.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

10th Annual Expressions Portrait Competition. Through Oct. 27, gallery hours at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This exhibit attempts to take the audience away from photography, the everyday accessible selfie to a time when painting, drawing and sculpting a person's likeness was done over time and with training and skill. Call 703-956-6590 or visit artspaceherndon.com for more.

Muscle Up Mondays. 6:30 p.m. Meets Mondays, May through October, at Pavilion at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Free fitness classes presented by CRUNCH Fitness-Reston group instructors. Call 571-267-5000 or visit crunchreston.com Facebook.com/ CrunchReston.

Mr. Knick Knack! 10:30-11:15 a.m. May through October. At Reston Town Square Park. Free performances of heart-centered music for children. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/events.

Art Exhibit: 3 Artistic Runners. Through Nov. 6, gallery hours at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Jerry Lewis, Bob Lambert and Mohsen Alashmoni are/each accomplished runners who are also artists who are exhibiting paintings and ceramics. Free admission, all sales donated to charities. Email jeelewis2003@yahoo.com or call 703-476-1619 for more.

Reston Farmers Market. Open Saturdays, through Dec. 1, 8 a.m.-noon at 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Fairfax County Park Authority markets are strictly producer-only meaning that vendors must grow or make from scratch everything they bring to market. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

All-comers' Group Fun Run. Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Potomac River Running, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. Call 703-689-0999 or visit www.potomacriverrunning.com/reston/

IMPROVING ENGLISH

One-To-One English Conversation. Mondays, 1 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Multiple one-on-one practice sessions with a volunteer are available each week. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Pre-Beginners. Wednesdays 10-11 a.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Beginners. Tuesdays 10-11 a.m. with Beth; Thursdays 10-11 a.m. with Genie; Fridays 10-11 a.m. with Ivan. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Intermediate. Mondays 10-11 a.m. with Rick; Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m. with Susan; Wednesdays 2-3 p.m. with Sharoni. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Advanced. Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. with Richard; Fridays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with Mary. At Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

St. Timothy's Celebrates 150 Years in the Herndon Community

On Nov. 1, 1868, Episcopalians from a small dairy-farm community in Herndon met to worship and give thanks on All Saints' Sunday. That service was led by a school teacher and licensed Episcopal lay reader and was the first recorded liturgy of Herndon's St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Members eventually erected their first church edifice in Herndon, now the Masonic Lodge at the corner of Elden and Grace Streets, and consecrated it in June 1881.

On Nov. 4, 2018, at 4 p.m. St. Timothy's will kick off its 150th year celebration with the rededication of their refurbished 150 year old Tracker pipe organ with a special concert by the renowned organist, Dr. Wayne L. Wold. The evening continues with All Saints' Day Evensong with a reception to follow. A traditional service in the Episcopal Church, Evensong is a contemplative service sung at the close of the day. The service will be sung in its entirety by the choir of St. Timothy's.

The community is warmly in-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The refurbished 150 year old John D. Moore pipe organ will be rededicated.

vited to participate in this service as St. Timothy's gives thanks on this very special anniversary. For 150 years, St. Timothy's has been an active participant in, and a pillar of, the Herndon community, providing a strong tradition of area involvement and outreach. For more information, call St.

Timothy's Episcopal Church Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., at 703-437-3790, or visit www.saint-timothys.org for details about all the services. Additional information about the church and pipe organ histories is also available on the website.

Vocabulary Building. Mondays 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Speak & Write. Mondays, 1:30-3 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Dialogs & Grammar. Tuesdays, 11:15-12:30 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

Pronunciation. Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Reston Library, Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Free. Call 703-689-2700 to reserve a spot.

NOW THRU OCT. 30

'artReston' Exhibit at Lake Anne Gallery. At 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. The League of Reston Artists presents its annual artReston Exhibit at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Lake Anne. Twenty-five artists will display original paintings and mixed media. The exhibit is free and open to the public 9 a.m.-8 p.m. throughout the week. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

NOW THRU OCT. 31

A Modern Design: Reston Homes Exhibit. At Reston Historic Trust & Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. The Reston Historic Trust &

Museum has installed a new temporary exhibit in the gift shop "A Modern Design." The exhibit explores how values of Restonians in the 1960s shaped how the interiors of their homes look. How do 1960s Reston home interiors compare to today's homes?

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

Dinner with a Cop. 6-7:30 p.m. at Dranesville United Methodist Church, 1089 Liberty Meeting Court, Great Falls. Enjoy visiting with our special guest, Officer Horita from Fairfax County Police who will host a "no-agenda" discussion about crime concerns in our area. All are welcome. Free. Dinner provided. Desserts to share are welcomed. RSVP to help plan food to wendy@dranesvilleumc.org. Walk-ins also welcome. Call 703-430-3137 or visit www.dranesvilleumc.org

THURSDAY/OCT. 18

Weekend Food for Kids. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, invites community members to help pack food for its Weekend Food for Kids Program, which provides nonperishable food for low income children at several Title I schools. Email philanthropy@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org.

Meet the Artists. 2:15-3:40 at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Enjoy a free concert with Fairfax Symphony's first cellist, Curtis Institute-trained Marion Baker, and piano collaborator Ruth Locker, who return to celebrate the beautiful music of cello and piano. Free. Call 703-503-3384 or visit olli.gmu.edu

Public Art Reston's Reception. 6:30-9 p.m. Both a friend- and fundraiser, the 2018 Annual PARTY! is also a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Public Art Master Plan for Reston. Since 2008, 12 permanent public artworks and 12 temporary public art installations have been commissioned in Reston. Single tickets are \$60, two for \$100, and \$55 for young professionals (25 and under). Contact info@publicartreston.org about sponsorships and visit www.publicartreston.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 19

Accidental Red Jazz. 6-9 p.m. at Cafe Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza Lake Anne, Reston. Live jazz from the '30s to today. Piano, sax, flute, bass, and drums. Introducing new vocalist Kathy Farmer. \$10 cover. Call 703-982-1215 or visit cafemontmartre.com/index.html

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Shatterproof Addiction 5K Walk/Run. 8 a.m.-noon. At Reston Town

Center 1825 Discovery Street, Reston. This event will bring together the community to support families and friends impacted by the disease of addiction. Walkers free; Runners \$30-\$50. Visit the website: www.Shatterproof.org/NCA

Community Media Day. 4:30-7 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Herndon Community Television is offering non-profits free personalized coaching session on using video to strengthen their community impact. Call 703-689-2323 or visit www.hctv.org/cmd

THURSDAY/OCT. 25

Meet the Artists. 2:15-3:40 at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Enjoy a free concert with Dr. Anna Balakerskaia and students from George Mason University perform pieces from the classical piano repertoire. Free. Call 703-503-3384 or visit olli.gmu.edu for more.

Distinguished Speaker Series. 7:30 p.m. at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Amir Tibon's talk will be: "An Israeli Reporter in Trump's Washington." Tibon is the Washington correspondent for Haaretz newspaper. Free and open to the public. Call 703-437-7733 or email RabbiWainer@nvhcreston.org

THURSDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 25-29

Washington West Film Festival. At Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. Independent films presented at Bow Tie Cinemas over five days. Visit wwfilmfest.com for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 26

South Lakes Homecoming. 5-6 p.m. parade from Hunters Woods Shopping Center, features student organizations, class councils, school clubs, sports teams, administrators, community groups, elementary schools, and the SLHS Marching Band, The Spirit of Reston. The grand marshal is SLHS teacher Chris Moorhead. A mini food court will be set up in the stadium-side parking lot featuring a variety of food trucks beginning at 4:30-6:30 p.m. The football game against Yorktown High School will begin at 7 p.m. Admission to the game is \$5. The Homecoming Spirit Court will be presented during halftime show

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

UCP Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. At United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Free. This juried fair will showcase a wide variety of quality and unique hand crafted items from area artists and craftspeople. Lunch and a bake sale will be available. Email Susan Maynard at suemayn@msn.com. unitedchristianparishartandcraftfair.com.

Trick or Treat Open House. At the Goddard School, 2400 Dulles Town Blvd., Herndon. Bring your child in their costume and enjoy a fun-filled Open House Trick-or-Treating throughout The Goddard School in Herndon. Call 703-653-0337.

Halloween Party for Kids. 12:30-3 p.m. At Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring Street, Herndon. Price of admission includes choice of Kid's Meal, crafts, TeGee's Monster Mashing, party favors, an indoor costume parade and a performance by Bingo the Clown. Cost is \$13.95 per child. Call 703-435-JIM. RSVP at www.facebook.com/jimmystavern/.

Halloween Party for Adults. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. At Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring Street, Herndon. Contests and prizes. \$150 Cash Prize for "Best Costume!" DJ and dancing! No cover. RSVP at www.facebook.com/jimmystavern/.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

The Vollman/Hobro home on Basset Lane takes full advantage of Reston's famous green spaces and natural beauty by adding this "coffee balcony" to the master suite addition.

Living in Reston — Reinvented

"Design Interventions" on display at 17th Annual Reston Home Tour.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The annual Reston Home Tour is one of the most anticipated events on the local activities calendar. The major fundraiser for the Reston Historic Trust and Museum, enabling the organization to continue its mission to "preserve the past, inform the present, and influence the future of Reston," the tour draws them in from Reston, around the county, and even well beyond.

Reston has always been on the cutting edge, from its historic beginnings as Bob Simon's dream "New Town," to today's additions of creative new high-density living alternatives clustered around the ever-expanding Reston Town Center and the new Silver Line Metro stations, and to the innovative approaches to that Restonians employ when implementing the "design interventions" of their own dwellings.

Reston is growing up, getting older, and so are its existing homes. Many residents are faced with deciding whether to move on or stay and make some

"design interventions" to reinvent their living spaces to keep pace with their changing lifestyles. In the case of the six private abodes on the tour on Saturday, Oct. 13, the homeowners who graciously allowed the curious crowds to see the fruits of their architectural and design and decorating labor, chose the latter — all to stunning effect.

Stephen and Tara Xeller took their "intervention" to the limit when remodeling their home on Round Pebble Lane.

With a fifth child on the way, the former renters decided they needed a place of their own to spread their familial wings. They put an offer on the house from the hospital as Tara went into labor.

THE LABOR PAINS continued over the next several years, as the couple, with the help of architect James McDonald and builder Mike Carr, began the transformation of their home to accommodate the large, busy family. So much work was done, that the family had to move into a short-term rental while the home experienced its own nine months of growth and change.

Additions to both sides of the traditional-style house gave the adults their own spacious downstairs master suite, with the two boys owning their own wing on one side of the upstairs, and the three girls in charge on the opposite site.

Tour attendees were especially taken by the kitchen with its enormous island/dining space, perfect for gathering the family and friends, with a wall of windows to bathe the room with natural light.

Just across Reston Parkway from the Xeller home, Chuck Levergood and Patty Rollin used "design intervention" for the opposite purpose — reimagining the house that had once served a family of four into the perfect surroundings for two well-travelled, active empty-nesters with an obvious taste for good wines. Homeowner Chuck and designer Kim Casson of Salmon-Casson, Ltd. collaborated to design and install a custom-made, temperature controlled

SEE RESTON HOMES. PAGE 10



Now that's a kitchen! A wall of windows adds spectacular natural light to the Xeller home, massively remodeled for this family of seven who can enjoy gatherings of family and friends at this amazing kitchen island. A new downstairs master suite gives the adults their own retreat, as well.

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News



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Reston Home Tour attendee Julia Sullivan really loved this “fun space” in the Brown/ Everett home on Ring Road. Volunteers Kristi Guidry and husband Ben enjoyed showing off the basement renovations.

Reston Homes on Display

FROM PAGE 9
wine display area – snugly fitted into a space carved out underneath the stairs leading to the basement entertainment area. Add a fabulous new bar and cozy seating area to the mix, and this “rec room” cocktail is a perfect blend.

Patty needed “her” space to also reflect her changing lifestyle, so Beth Goldsmith of Beth Goldsmith Creative Works, Inc. helped her create the kitchen and dining areas of her dreams, and a master suite for elegant relaxation.

SHOWCASING just what can be done with a veteran Reston abode, Kevin Brown and Emily Everett let their own creative spirits soar – sans architect - when renovating their circa 1969 home.

Success was probably always in the cards, since these two were also the authors of a Moorings Drive condo renovation that was a hit on the 2014 Home Tour. This time they took the compartmentalized mid-century-styled dwelling and turned it into an open floor layout, mixing high-end pieces and bargain buys. “Post-modern, mountain house/cabin/farmhouse chic” is how they describe the finished product. Whatever you call what they have achieved, tour goers were impressed. Many seemed inclined to stop and rest awhile in the basement “fun room” which is styled reminiscent to an old-fashioned candy store. The southern side of Reston was well represented on the Tour, as well.

The Vollman/Hobla home on Bassett Lane is another example of reinventing a space to reflect empty-nesters, rather than discarding the place where more than 25 years of family memories were made. Designer Amelia Vallone went to work on the kitchen, then the dining room. Then it was time to move upstairs.

Topping the list of improvements might well be the new master suite, an addition to the house built over the garage. The space now includes a spa shower, soaking tub, walk-in closet, and best of all – to Lee Hobla’s way of thinking – a “coffee balcony” that allows for some down time with peaceful views of Reston’s forests to help a coffee – or wine drinker – just chill. A lot of new landscaping and a beautiful shade garden created by Hidden Lane Landscaping



A touch of whimsy completes the renovations to this Ring Road mid-century home.

completes the picture.

Another older home got a facelift when the Blausteins bought their home on the waterways of The Wharf on Glade Drive in 2016, with updates to the second floor bathroom and installation of Smart Home technology throughout the property.

“In-town” living options were also on display.

Larry and Mary Wright’s penthouse at The Paramount condominiums offers breathtaking views in all directions from the 500-square-foot terrace, while inside the condo, pride of place is no doubt the “twinned kitchen” created by custom builder Ron Savino. With two of just about everything, the couple who love to cook together can do so in comfort and with ease.

The backsplash provides the area’s chief talking point, being made with nine 50 million-year-old fossilized fish from a dried lakebed in Wyoming.

There was one more stop on the tour, an offering for those who might be more interested in having someone else do all that work and giving them a move-in ready, complete in-town experience. That could be achieved at the latest addition to Reston Town Center, the Signature at 11850 Freedom Drive, with floor plans to suit most everyone, and amenities like multiple common areas, chat spaces, gathering rooms with fireplaces, barbecues, gardens, a pool, fitness and yoga studios, waterfalls, a dog park, amazing views and more.

AS THE ICING on the Signature cake, residents also have Balducci’s Food Lover’s Market on the ground floor.

The popular new “foodie” spot highlighted their catering abilities by serving up food and beverages for tour-goers in one of the common entertaining areas. Resident also benefit from only having to walk a few steps to enjoy all of the fun and action of the Town Center without ever turning a car key.

As they have done so generously in the past, the Wine Cabinet, located in the North Point shopping village, once again offered wine tastings to tour attendees, donating 10 percent of “tourist” wine purchases on the day to the Reston Trust and Museum.

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BULLETIN

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN

Free Sober Rides. Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 28, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on Oct. 27 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

THROUGH DECEMBER

White House Ornaments. Assistance League of Northern Virginia has begun its annual fundraising sale of White House Ornaments. The 2018 ornament honors Harry S. Truman, highlighting changes made to the White House during his administration. One side features the Truman Balcony and the reverse features the Blue Room. Assistance League is an all volunteer, non-profit organization. Proceeds benefit our community-based programs that support local low income children. \$22 (+ shipping if mail delivery required). Email burgessgl@verizon.net or visit www.alnv.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

Maximizing Social Security. 7-8:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Expert financial advisor Albert Wu will be on hand to answer questions and guide you through the Social Security maze in this free seminar. Free for adults. Visit the website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events>

THURSDAY/OCT. 18

Women's Club of Greater Reston. 10 a.m.-noon at Reston Community Center, Lake Anne. On October 18, 2018, the Women's Club of Greater Reston is presenting a demonstration of the Heimlich maneuver, a technique to help a choking person expel the object in their airway. Free. Email vakerics@yahoo.com or call 703-620-9163 for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

FACEing the Future Together. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. Family and community engagement (FACE) is at the center of everything that PTAs accomplish. Join the launch of a new effort to welcome and encourage all families throughout Fairfax County to become active participants in their school community. \$10 (includes continental breakfast, lunch and snacks). Scholarships are available for the conference and can be requested on the registration form. Interpreters will be available. Go to www.fccpta.org to register.

Fall Stream Cleanup (Call for Volunteers). 10 a.m.-noon in various Reston locations: Hunters Woods Village Center, Soapstone Drive and Southgate Community Center. Clearing out litter from area watersheds has significant impact in restoring Reston's streams. Register by completing a one-time volunteer application on Volgistics and confirm a shift on VicNet. Instructions can be found at www.reston.org. Email habrock@reston.org or call 703-435-7986

SUNDAY/OCT. 21

Membership Meeting. 3-5 p.m. at Reston Community Center-Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Reston-Dulles NCNW, Inc., is hosting a membership meeting. This meeting is open to the community. Visit www.ncnwrestondulles.org or email info@ncnwrestondulles.org for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 22

NARFE Dulles Chapter Meeting. 11:30 a.m. at Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. A summary of 2018 changes to Virginia laws, prepared by the staff of the Division of Legislative Services, will be available for Dulles Chapter 1241 members in attendance at the October 2018 Dulles Chapter luncheon meeting. The cost of the luncheon is \$18 which includes tax and a small gratuity. Call your reservation and choice of entree to Shirley at 571-442-8910 no later than Thursday, Oct. 18.

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"Movin' On Up"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not "to the east side" and not "to a deluxe apartment in the sky," but if fictional New York City cleaning business icon George Jefferson had been diagnosed with lung cancer as I was, I would bet he'd be happy making progress: the feeling of moving forward. And that's exactly what I feel now. With the "news" of last week's column, progress/movement is at hand. With two CT scans in the last three months and some tumors "progressing" - and then not, while a previously insignificant tumor burst (not literally) onto the scene, I am happy now to be onward and hopefully upward as I infuse every three weeks during the next quarter ahead of an early January 2019 scan. The future is now and I'm grateful to have choices as I navigate the road ahead.

Having a plan matters. Though I am still waiting and seeing, and evaluating after that next scan, I do feel as if I'm back on track. I know what my next three months will be about (about three months) and I'm clear what my schedule will be (subject to change due to lab results, an altogether normal/expected blip): urine, lab, infusion, post-chemo week of difficulty eating and physical and psychological challenges, followed by two weeks of relative normalcy, then infusion again and rinse and repeat every three weeks until early January 2019. Twelve weeks in total. Through Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. I won't say it will be pretty but it will be predictable and hopefully on a path to a positive result. (Remember, I'm life long member of Red Sox Nation so hope always springs eternal.)

This column is certainly not meant to minimize the possible discouraging results of my January scan but I see no advantage in anticipating and/or overreacting to unknown results and/or dire consequences months ahead of actual facts not yet in evidence. This is what being diagnosed with cancer is all about: a series of ups and downs and all-arounds; and the sooner the patient assimilates this unpredictable variability into their algorithm for living with the disease, the more manageable their lives will be. Moreover, "If you," to quote Rudyard Kipling, "can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs," it will likely contribute to the preferred calm that every cancer patient diagnosed as "terminal" needs to feel every second of every day (and night, too) as they struggle to deal with the internal demons brought about by this terrible affliction. As my friend Lynne, a cancer survivor herself, said to me when I was first diagnosed: "This will be the most difficult thing you'll ever have to do." Of course, she was right. It's been beyond my wildest nightmares.

Being stuck in a pattern with no clear direction does not help. For the past three months, I have been so entangled. Now I am not. Now I am on a path of less resistance and what resistance there is - to disappoint "The Borg," is not futile. It is all part of an agreed-upon pursuit of truth and hopefully justice - for me, anyhow. I haven't exactly abused the privilege of living (although while attending college in the seventies, occasionally there may have been the odd self-destructive-type behavior common to the times, none of which concerned my oncologist in the least by the way) and given my parents' long cancer-free lives, I would have expected better than a stage IV, non-small lung cancer diagnosis at age 54 and a half. But here I am, still, nearly 10 years post diagnosis. (There aren't that many of us, unfortunately.)

And though I am definitely not happy about my cancer circumstances, I can be positive about the negative. And what I am most positive about is that at least for the next quarter anyway, I know what I'm doing and why. I certainly can't say what I'll be feeling after my next scan; hopefully elation and relief, but in the interim, life will go on as per usual, and for a cancer patient/survivor, life going on is as good as it gets; almost as if I "finally got a piece of the pie."

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

Wolf Trap Park Camp Out

Fifth and sixth graders learn camping skills and experience the great outdoors.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The ninth edition of the First Time Campers Program at Wolf Trap Park is officially in the books. Held between Sunday, Oct. 7 and Monday, Oct. 8 at Wolf Trap Park — with a special permit in the otherwise no-camping, no-fires park — some 40 campers from schools around the region and a small army of adult and youth volunteer leaders, enjoyed pitching tents, setting up camp, cooking their own meals using dutch ovens, and activities like fishing, archery, hiking, bird watching, rock wall climbing and more.

Sponsored by the Friends of Wolf Trap and Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts and organized and supervised by Scout Leader Gary Pan and his experienced Troop 55 Scouts, the program was piloted in 2014 as a way to help local youngsters, some from Title I schools and lower income families, enjoy a fun-filled overnighter right in their own backyard.

The 30-plus hour outing is not strictly for camping “newbies” only, said Pan, Scoutmaster of Troop 55 of Great Falls. “Kids who came to the first Camp Out are here today and we love that they want to keep coming back.”

Pan is thrilled that quite a few return to the bi-annual adventure as volunteers, helping the first timers to make the most of the experience, like Herndon Middle Schooler Tommy Maxson, who started as a camper 3 years ago, and is now a patrol leader.

“I like this,” said Maxson. “Our job is to help out the Senior Leaders whenever we are needed, and to set a good example at all times, and help others learn how to do all the tasks properly and just make sure that everyone has a great time, safely.”

Pan may be the camp director, but it’s youngsters like Maxson, and Senior Youth Patrol Leaders and other young volunteers who are really in charge of the action.

Nick Hodge, of Great Falls and a Langley High School student, who’s been attending the event since the first outing, heads the male campers’ section. His fellow Langley school mate, MaryEllen Keating, does the honors as the female Senior Youth Leader.

“It’s really cool,” said Keating. “I especially love seeing the kids who are experiencing this for the first time, watching them as they find out what they can really do.”

Just as being a First Timer isn’t a requirement for participation, neither is being a Boy or Girl Scout. “Kids come here, they may or may not want to get involved with Scouting afterward, but all are welcome,”



Gathering of all the troops at the 9th First Time Campers adventure at Wolf Trap Park.



Taking on the Wall: Some of the youngsters at the First Time Campers overnighter challenge themselves on the rock climbing wall.

said Pan. “It’s still an opportunity to learn new things, gain confidence, make friends and just be outdoors for a bit.”

Campers like Maddie Musetti from Herndon Elementary School, and Peter Popenko from Forestville Elementary agree.

“It’s been a great experience,” was Maddie’s take on the camp out. Peter seemed most interested in the rock climbing wall. Watching his father, who was also on hand, shimmy up to the top of the wall leaves little doubt where the son gets his

climbing abilities.

“It’s also an opportunity to discover that there is amazing, and accessible natural resources and activities right here, without having to travel far away,” added Alan Day, chair of the Friends of Wolf Trap, and one of the original organizers of the Camp Out. With his knowledge of the park and its wonders, Day also leads the campers on hiking adventures on trails built by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club — another collaborator in the camping event and an organization of which Day is the



Camper Tommy Maxson of Herndon graduated to a Patrol Leader position this year and enjoys “helping and setting a good example for everyone.” Here he participates in a talk about camping preparation and how to “Leave No Trace” in the wilderness by Sara Holtz.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED
BY GARY PAN

district manager.

In addition to his Troop 55 and Venture Crew 364 of Great Falls, The Friends of Wolf Trap, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Wolf Trap Park and the Park Service, Pan, and Day say that the assistance and participation of The Great Falls Rotary Club, Orvis of Tysons, Paxton Companies, Ranger Surplus, Panacea Consulting, BOWA, Meadowlark Gardens Master Gardener, the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and Sara Holtz, of Scouting BSA with her Master Certification in “Leave No Trace” with many other unsung heroes, makes this adventure not only possible, “but a true learning experience all while having fun.”

Thinking about joining in on all the fun? The next outing is scheduled for April 5-6, 2019. Check out the website at www.fotw.info or send an inquiry to firsttimecampers@gmail.com.