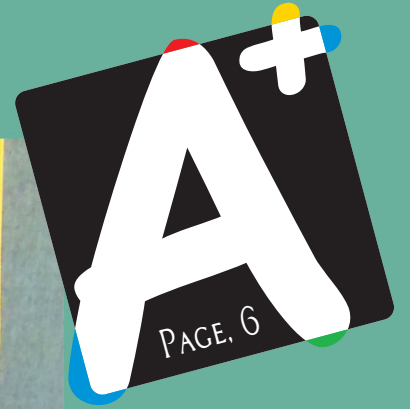


Burke CONNECTION



Joan Bishop of the Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association was named Braddock District Citizen of the Year at the Best of Braddock Awards ceremony held Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at the Braddock District Supervisor's office.



Best of Braddock Honored

NEWS, PAGE 3

Local Students Invited to Japan

NEWS, PAGE 9

Trash Collection Staffing is Tight, Resulting in Cutbacks of Service

NEWS, PAGE 9

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Winning Young Persons of the Year are James Kendall and Evyn VanBrunt with, from left, Alex Robbins representing U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's office; Megan McLaughlin, School Board member from the Braddock District; State Sen. Chap Peterson (D-34); Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Del. David Bulova (D-37); Del. Vivian Watts (D-39); and Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke was honored as the organization making a difference in the Braddock District.

Best of Braddock Honored

Awards recognize contributions of those making the community a better place to live and work.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

The Best of Braddock Awards (BOBs) and Braddock District Council Picnic were held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at Supervisor John C. Cook's office. Since 1992, the awards, sponsored by the Braddock District Council — the council of homeowners and civic associations — have recognized those in the Braddock District who contribute to making the community a better place to live and work.

According to Cook, Braddock District Supervisor: "This is our annual awards ceremony for everyday people in the community who have stepped up to do something extra special in their own neighborhood. It's always inspiring to hear the stories of what people have done and be able to recognize that and hope that that inspires others to step up and carry the torch."

Added Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors: "I think the BOB Awards are just fantastic. Good deeds are contagious and when people do something that benefits the community, not only do they do something that benefits the com-



Winning the Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification Award was John "Craig" Willet of the Burke Centre Conservancy.

munity, but others learn from them and imitate and duplicate their good efforts. So, the BOBs do that, and I love every year listening to and learning about people's contributions."

"One thing about this event is it brings the community together to appreciate the volunteerism, the civic engagement that people have been doing the last year. It recognizes people from young ages from 8 to older ages. It's to show that this community is tight," said

George Becerra, president of the Braddock District Council. "We see each other at the Giant; we see each other at Shoppers, at McDonalds, and at the high schools — so it all turns out just recognizing the good works that have been going on this past year."

Added Del. David Bulova (D-37): "Well, our volunteers are the lifeblood of our community. One of the things I feel very fortunate about is that Braddock District has a lot of wonderful volunteers. I know this isn't why they do it; they do it because they want



Michael O'Dell was honored for his work with the Braddock Road Youth Club and City of Fairfax Theater Company.

to keep the community strong. But I love having the opportunity to honor those people who volunteer and give so much to our community."

BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARD WINNERS

- ❖ **Braddock District Citizen of the Year** — Joan Bishop, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association;
- ❖ **Young Persons of the Year** — Students from the North Springfield Community. Because the students nominated by the North Springfield Civic Association were of different ages and had different interests, it was the decision of the committee that they should all be recognized for their accomplishments and activities. The following eight students were honored: **Elizabeth Porter, Anna Balbuena, Ella McGinty, Evyn VanBrunt, Megan Brown, Liam McGinty, Katie Pope, and James Kendall;**
- ❖ **Organization Making a Difference in the Braddock District** — The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke;
- ❖ **Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification** — Individual — John "Craig" Willet, Burke Centre Conservancy;
- ❖ **Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification** — Community Association — Melissa and Jarrett Stark, Hickory Farms Community Association;
- ❖ **Outstanding Individual** — Steven Shapiro, Burke Centre Conservancy;
- ❖ **Outstanding Individual** — John Firsching, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association;
- ❖ **Outstanding Individual** — Todd Skipper, Little Run Citizens Association;
- ❖ **Outstanding Individual** — Michael O'Dell



Winning the Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification – Community Association Award – were Melissa and Jarrett Stark, with children Kiera, Caiden, and Cian, of the Hickory Farms Community Association.



John Firsching of the Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association was honored for his work with Neighborhood Watch.

OPINION

Human Trafficking Supply and Demand

BY BILL WOOLF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JUST ASK TRAFFICKING
PREVENTION FOUNDATION.

The recent news about Jeffrey Epstein's arrest in New York on new sex-trafficking charges involving allegations that date to the early 2000s is alarming to many.

It wasn't for us. That's the bad news. The Just Ask Trafficking Prevention Foundation, a global leader in combating human trafficking, is all too familiar with cases like Epstein's.

The good news is we're doing something about it. Our real-world experience and global knowledge about combating human trafficking enable us to do much more than sympathize with Epstein's victims of these alleged new crimes. We know how to fight back, and we are.

To better understand what we do and why we first must understand what sex trafficking is. The federal government defines it as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age (22 USC § 7102).

There's a lot more to sex trafficking than just prostitution. The sex trafficking industry is a part of the world's second largest and most lucrative criminal enterprise grossing more than \$150 billion annually.

Defeating a billion-dollar industry isn't merely a battle. It's a world war with the good guys significantly outgunned financially. For example, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund, created in 2010 to provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of human trafficking to increase the number of those rescued and supported, and broaden the extent of assistance they receive, only received \$6.7 million as of May 2019. Jeffrey Epstein's proposed bail package is estimated to be as high as \$77 million alone.

Winning the battle is simply a matter of understanding and then eliminating the logistics behind the world's second largest criminal enterprise. Logistics? Yes, we need to reduce both

the supply of victims for human traffickers and the demand for them. Our best weapon? Human trafficking awareness and prevention is the most effective and least expensive method to reduce and ultimately eliminate the supply and demand for the sex trafficking industry.

First, we must stop the supply of human trafficking victims by educating at-risk populations about what human trafficking is, how they can be targeted, and what to do to become immune to their tactics. Most victims fall prey to the likes of predators like Epstein because they are unaware they are being lured in by lies or false



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bill Woolf receives the 2018 Presidential Medal for Human Trafficking efforts from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

promises for things like money, prestige, power, or safety until it is too late. Then, trapped, the victims become resolved to their fate, impoverished, or worse, suicidal because of their sense of hopelessness. On average, once a person becomes involved in human trafficking, their life expectancy plummets to just seven years because of the enormous stress and physical abuse, their bodies and minds endure.

Secondly, we need to acknowledge criminals

like Jeffrey Epstein exist. Our awareness of them is the first step toward defeating them. As awareness grows for potential victims, awareness grows for prospective clients of human traffickers. By educating potential sex trafficking clients about the realities of prostitution and sex trafficking as a crime, research has proven it lowers demand by swaying them not to purchase sex or tolerate or support the practice of buying sex within their peer groups. In addition to awareness programs, the enforcement of our human trafficking laws can help deter future criminals by making it clear to the public that if you participate in human trafficking, you're going to get caught and more importantly, you're going to be held accountable.

The Just Ask Trafficking Prevention Foundation is a global leader in education and awareness campaigns for people of all ages, demographics, occupations and nationalities. One of our most effective programs is our school-based curriculum, which has reached more than 160,000 students worldwide and continues to grow. In northern Virginia, two counties, Fairfax and Loudoun, employ our programming directly through the school system's Family Life Education (FLE), maximizing the opportunity to engage our children when they are most at risk. Programming in schools is critical because it's where most of the victims are. Statistically speaking, while anyone can be a potential victim of human trafficking, the primary target for predators are girls between the ages of 14-16 years-old.

Just Ask does more than educate children, though. We educate parents, teachers, school officials, police officers, businesses, politicians, local, state, federal government employees, and even world leaders about what human trafficking is and how to combat it. ...

The bottom line is we have to condition communities to not only resist becoming victims of human trafficking but remove the desire to participate in it as customers as well. Criminals who are always on the prowl for successful money-making opportunities will vacate human trafficking as a business model once they see the funding potential dry up. ...

If you want to help, us eradicate human trafficking, visit our website at www.justaskprevention.org.

Just Ask Trafficking Prevention Foundation is based in McLean.

Pet Connection, Send Photos

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, July 25.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone num-

ber, just your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

For advertising information, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

— MARY KIMM

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LETTERS

Change As an Opportunity

To the Editor:

I recently read the article on Robert E. Lee High School Graduation titled "Keynote Speaker Warns of Change." I liked how the speaker shared his high school experiences and challenges transitioning towards college. Explaining to the students and gradu-

ates how he brought his life together and became successful was inspirational.

I would like to see more newspapers that talk about change as an opportunity rather than negative impacts to people's lives.

Christian Garcia
Springfield

Garcia is a 14-year-old student at South County High School. Grade 9.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

CAMPS

Art Camp Registration. Summer Art Camp in Burke for 5-8 year olds, 8 years and up, and teens/adults. Camp is held through Burke Centre Conservancy at the Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Camp weeks run July 22-26; July 29-Aug. 2; and Aug. 5-9. Call 703-250-6930 or visit www.czartlessons.com.

* Fine Arts & Crafts Camp (8 years & up)

* Drawing Camp (8 years & up)

* Drawing Plus Color & Craft Fun Camp (5-8 year olds)

* Art Boot Camp for teens/adults

Call instructor at 703-250-6930 or visit www.czartlessons.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

Thrifty Thursday. 7-9 p.m. at the South County Government Building, 835 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Learn basic budgeting skills and tools to help manage money. Prepare a personal spending plan and learn to reduce debt. Free. Visit <https://>

soco.financialemPOWERmentcenters.org/ or call 703-704-6014.

TUESDAY/JULY 23

Car Seat Safety Check. 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule. In preparation for appointment, install the seat using the instructions that came with the car seat. Trained officers will review the car seat instructions and car owner's manual to be certain that they are being followed as they should.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. The Park Authority Board's 12 Car

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Creating Travel Journal With Children

Helping children capture vacation memories through journaling.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

A collection of rocks collected at Mt. Vesuvius in Naples, a souvenir from the leaning tower of Pisa, crayon-on-construction paper drawings of the beaches in Naples, Italy are all part of the travel journals that Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez preserved. These are keepsakes that her son began creating when he was in preschool. Recently she perused those journals, reliving the memories with her son who is now a 22 year-old college student.

“As a military spouse I had the opportunity to live in Naples, Italy,” said Pruneda-Hernandez, who now works as the Director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives at Montgomery College. “When we traveled in Europe, I provided my son travel journals. As a preschooler, he drew pictures of the places we visited and I would write parts of our conversations on the drawings. As he learned to write, his travel journals began to become more complex with him drawing and writing. I saved those journals and he is able to relive the memories of those experiences.”

Journals created during summer vacations allow families to maintain the experience of their trips long after they’ve returned home. Whether one’s plans include a safari in Kenya or a staycation among the monuments along the National Mall, keeping detailed records gives children who are living in the age of selfies and social media posts, a thoughtful option for holding onto memories.

“Travel journals are important because they [allow children], to have those memories of those experiences,” said Pruneda-Hernandez.

Advanced planning leads to creative journals that are a form of self-expression, suggests Wendy Rowe, a writing tutor and art teacher. “Before you leave for your trip, ask your child to think about what they’re most excited about and the type of journal they’d like to keep,” she said. “For example, my daughter likes to paint watercolor pictures of things that she sees. Other children might make a journal that’s a written narrative. What’s important is that parents allow children to choose the type of journal they want to make and then purchasing and packing the supplies that they might need, whether it’s colored pencils and craft paper or a simple notebook and a pen.”

Such diaries can spark family conversations and create opportunities to practice writing skills, advises Michelle Villano, a fourth grade teacher who encourages her students to write accounts of their summer adventures. “Children can enjoy a vacation and learn from the scenes around them,” Villano said. “A child’s travel journal shouldn’t just be a list of things that

“Travel journals allow young children to be actively involved in the experience of their journey.”

— Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives at Montgomery College

they did or saw. Parents should encourage them to engage all of their senses like sound, touch, taste and feel. For example, if you’re on a vacation in Paris, did you smell freshly baked baguettes when you walked into a restaurant for lunch? If you ate a croissant, could you taste the butter or feel the flakes on your tongue?”

The options for both the format of journals and the way that a child chooses to describe their experiences are abundant, says Rowe. “Children can include museum tickets, airplane boarding passes, leaves they collected from a park they visited,” she said. “Parents should encourage them to think long-term about things they might enjoy remembering later.”

“Travel journals allow young children to be actively involved in the experience of their journey,” added Pruneda-Hernandez. “They do not have to be written. Children that are not able to write yet, should be provided opportunities and materials such as a simple notebook, markers, crayons, or pencils to draw what they see and their experiences.”

Prompts can be used to encourage those who are resistant to keeping a record of their vacations, says Villano. “Start by asking them to write about something they saw by describing its color or shape,” she said. “They can describe the shape and color of a rock they saw while hiking in the Grand Canyon.”

“Parents can sit and ask open-ended questions at the end of the day,” said Pruneda-Hernandez. “This provides a [them] an opportunity to express themselves orally and provides opportunities for them to think about the experience.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONIA PRUNEDA-HERNANDEZ

Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez created this journal with her son when he was younger. Now that he’s 22, he enjoys looking at them and reliving childhood memories.

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THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online Special Edition

PET Connection

Publishes: July 31, 2019 • Ads close: July 25, 2019

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets.

The Pet Connection will publish on July 31, 2019, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family, along with any advertisements, should be submitted by July 25.

This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.

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- Potomac Almanac
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- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Dakota Connection

NEWS



Karen Corbett Sanders



Tamara Derenak Kaufax

Karen Corbett Sanders Elected School Board Chair

Tamara Derenak Kaufax elected Vice Chair.

The Fairfax County School Board has elected Karen Corbett Sanders (Mount Vernon District) as chair and Tamara Derenak Kaufax (Lee District) as vice chair for a one-year term. The chair and vice chair assumed office at the July 11 School Board meeting; they are elected by School Board members during the Board's annual organizational meeting.

Born and raised in Fairfax County, Corbett Sanders is a retired international business executive, a community advocate for healthcare and education issues, past PTA president, and Odyssey of the Mind coach. She has served on boards of directors and operating committees for international telecommunications companies and, locally, on the quality board of Inova Children's Hospital and the regional board for Odyssey of the Mind. Corbett Sanders earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree from Boston University. She serves on the Dean's Advisory Board of Boston University's Wheelock School of Education and previously served on the parent advisory board of Creighton University. Corbett Sanders has served on the School Board since 2016. During the 2017-18 school year, she served as vice chair of the Board, and during the 2018-19 school year, she served as Board chair.

Derenak Kaufax is a long-time advocate for children's causes and education issues with 20 years of experience as a marketing professional and small business owner. She is the owner of Altamat Mar-

keting Solutions and holds a bachelor of arts in political science and business from Pennsylvania State University. Kaufax has served with the Fairfax County Childcare Advisory Council (former chair); Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory Council; School Board's Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee; Parent Linkage Committee; Fairfax Citizens for Better Schools Committee; Lee District Budget Advisory Council; Springfield Estates Elementary School PTA (vice president); Springfield Estates and Bush Hill Elementary Schools PTA (cultural arts chair); AGC Pre-School (board member and chair); and Make-a-Wish Foundation (wish granter). Her Board service began in January 2012. She served as Board vice chairman in 2013 and Board chairman in 2014. Kaufax currently serves as the Budget chairman, previously serving in this role in 2016 immediately following a term as vice chairman. She has also served as chairman for the Governance Committee in 2017, and the Public Engagement Committee in 2012.

In addition to the chair and vice chair, members of the Fairfax County School Board, whose terms run from 2015 to 2019, are: Sandy Evans (Mason District), Karen Keys-Gamarra (at-large), Pat Hynes (Hunter Mill District), Ryan McElveen (at-large), Megan McLaughlin (Braddock District), Ilryong Moon (at-large), Dalia Palchik (Providence District), Jane Strauss (Dranesville District), Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield District), and Thomas Wilson (Sully District).

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: Somewhere Between You and Me. Through July 20, Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Olly Olly, 10417 Main St., 2nd Floor, Fairfax. In Somewhere Between You and Me, young nonbinary transgender artists intimately seek to understand and bring understanding to what it means to experience life as a nonbinary person. Call 703-789-6144 or visit ollyollyart.com for more.

Art Exhibition: Virginia Watercolor Society. Through Aug. 2, gallery hours in the McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Virginia Watercolor Society (VWS) is organizing its 40 th annual juried painting exhibition with about 85 paintings on display. Free and open to the public. Visit www.workhousearts.org/ or www.virginiawatercolorssociety.org for more.

Crafters Wanted for 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold its 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show and LEGO (TM) Train Show on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019 ,10 a.m.-4 p.m. For crafters interested in joining the event, booth space is enough room for a 10x10 canopy and cost is \$50 per space. Email dmueller@fairfax-station.org for an application and further information. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. Fridays, through Oct. 25, 4-7 p.m. in the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Farm fresh eggs, local honey, berries, fresh picked vegetables, fresh local fruits, baked breads and treats, chicken, tamales, salsa, hummus, gourmet sausage, fresh roasted coffee beans, and much, more. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne.

Wakefield Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m. through Oct. 30, at Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Eleven local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will be there each week, providing horticultural information to home gardeners in Fairfax County. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield.

Lorton Farmers Market. Sundays, 9 a.m.-noon, through Nov. 17, in the VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Eleven local farmers and producers sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will be there each week, providing horticultural information to home gardeners in Fairfax County. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton.

Springfield Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Vendors include Cascade Beverage, Celestial/Fossil Farms, Chilanga Tortilla, Conecopia, Greenwich Farms, Iganacio's Produce, Kingdom Gourmet, Lola's Kusina, Lund's Produce, Smiths Mecklenburg, Taste Old Country, Three Puppies, Tyson Farm, and Windmill Meadows. Visit www.community-foodworks.org or call 202-697-7768.

Burke Farmers Market. Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. A great selection of fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, and dairy. All vendors make their own food or grow it locally within 125 miles. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke for more.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 17-21

The Wizard of Oz. Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 2 p.m. at Nativity Catholic Church, Fr. Martin Performing Arts Center, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. Join Dorothy, Toto, Scarecrow, Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion as they journey together to the Emerald City, make new friends, and gain a



PHOTO BY KIMBERLY SIEPMANN

Leads rehearsing in The Wizard of Oz. From left: Guard #1 - Emma Gonzalez; Dorothy – Brianna St Clair; Toto – Ava Hurtado; Scarecrow – Kathryn Webb; Tin Man – Jared Diallo; Lion – Greg LaNave; and Guard #2 – Lillie Rusch.

The Wizard of Oz

Join Dorothy, Toto, Scarecrow, Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion as they journey together to the Emerald City, make new friends, and gain a deeper knowledge of themselves. Thursday-Saturday, July 17-20, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, July 20-21, 2 p.m. at Nativity Catholic Church, Fr. Martin Performing Arts Center, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. The July 20 matinee is also a children and sensory-friendly sing-along. \$12 Adults, \$12; children/seniors, \$8. Call 571-236-1429 or visit nativityburke.org/theater-tickets/.

deeper knowledge of themselves. The July 20 matinee is also a children and sensory-friendly sing-along. \$12 Adults, \$12; children/seniors, \$8. Call 571-236-1429 or visit nativityburke.org/theater-tickets/.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 18-20

Mamma Mia. Thursday-Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Based on a 2008 jukebox Musical Romantic Comedy, the story follows a young bride-to-be who invites three men to her upcoming wedding, each one with the possibility of being her father. \$10-\$12. Call 703-505-9955 or visit www.hayfielddrama.com for tickets.

FRIDAY/JULY 19

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 for more.

Old Town Village Performances: Main Street Clarinet Quartet. 7-8 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The weekend starts here – Friday night on the Old Town Village Plaza – music and dance to relax by. Fridays, June-September, weather permitting. Performances are free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.oldtownplazaafairfax.com for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 20

Electric Vehicle Show. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Daniels Run Peace Church, 3729 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn how Fairfax County can be a leader in electric car technology and test drive several EV models. Environment Virginia, Daniel's Run Peace Church, and The Climate Reality Project are hosting this event. The church has an electric vehicle charging station, solar panels, and a community garden. Free. Visit environmentvirginia.org for more.

Children's Entertainment Series. 10-10:45 a.m. at Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring Blue Sky Puppet Theater (puppets). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/springfield-nights.

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the

Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events.

Nine and Dine with Wine. 5 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Enjoy nine holes of golf followed by a relaxing dinner on the greens. The evening starts with a 5 p.m., shotgun start, nine-hole four-person scramble. Range balls and power cart included. \$45 for dinner only and \$75 for golf and dinner. Call 703-493-8849 or email laurelhillgolfclub@fairfaxcounty.gov; this event is available to the first 60 golfers. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/laurel-hill/nine-wine-dine/072019.

SUNDAY/JULY 21

NTRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge Train Display. 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.

Films in the Park: Incredibles 2 (2018). 7 p.m. at Strawberry Park in Mosaic, Fairfax. Mosaic's summer movie lineup has something for the whole family. Grab a blanket, friends and family and watch favorite films underneath the stars. Visit mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/films-in-the-park-2/.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

Springfield Nights: The Woodshedders (Roots Rock). 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Springfield Nights returns for a second summer season with free musical performances on Wednesday evenings at Burke Lake Park ranging from bluegrass and pop, to rock and R&B. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/springfield-nights.

Lee District Nights: The Annandale Brass Ensemble (American popular music). 7:30 p.m. at Lee District Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Enjoy an evening of al fresco music at Lee District Park. Head to the amphitheater on Wednesdays for this series concerts featuring a variety of musical acts from jazz to big band, classic to bluegrass, swing to folk and vintage rock 'n roll. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/lee-district-nights for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 25

Evenings on the Ellipse: Daryl Davis

(swing). 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Government Center's backyard will be alive with fun, music and good company this summer as the Evenings on the Ellipse concert series returns. Stop by and relax in style with generous tastings and sales from Fairfax County's two Wineries, Paradise Springs and Bull Run. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/evenings-on-the-ellipse for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 25-27

Mamma Mia. Thursday-Saturday, 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Based on a 2008 jukebox Musical Romantic Comedy, the story follows a young bride-to-be who invites three men to her upcoming wedding, each one with the possibility of being her father. \$10-\$12. Call 703-505-9955 or visit www.hayfielddrama.com for tickets.

FRIDAY/JULY 26

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 for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Children's Entertainment Series. 10-10:45 a.m. at Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring The grandsons, jr. (children's songs). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/springfield-nights.

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events.

Mountain Songs/Stories. 3-4:30 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Dulcimer legends Ralph Lee Smith and Madeline MacNeil present mountain songs and stories. Sing-alongs and display of old mountain dulcimers. All ages. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or call 703-293-6227, ext. 6.

SUNDAY/JULY 28

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. The sheer size of these trains is a wonder to behold as is their ability to run through the garden all year around. Speak with experienced people about this facet of the model railroading hobby. 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.

Burke Historical Society. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. William Connery speaks on the post-Civil-War career of John S. Mosby: supporting Ulysses S. Grant's presidency, serving as U.S. consul to Hong Kong, and mentoring George S. Patton. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org for more.

Films in the Park: The Jungle Book (2016). 7 p.m. at Strawberry Park in Mosaic, Fairfax. Mosaic's summer movie lineup has something for the whole family. Grab a blanket, friends and family and watch favorite films underneath the stars. Visit mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/films-in-the-park-2/.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 31

Springfield Nights: The English Channel (Rock&Roll). 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Springfield Nights returns for a second summer season with free musical performances on Wednesday evenings at Burke Lake Park ranging from bluegrass and pop, to rock and R&B. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/springfield-nights.

Local Students Invited to Japan

The Kakehashi Project invites students on visit to Japan based on Japan Bowl performance.

BY ABBY SACKS
THE CONNECTION

This week, high school students from Fairfax County will travel to Japan through the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs's Kakehashi Project.

Students from Lake Braddock Secondary School, Hayfield Secondary School, Langley High School and Thomas Jefferson High School were selected for the program based on their performance in this spring's National Japan Bowl.

The Japan Bowl is a language and culture quiz bowl-style competition for high school students in Japanese classes. More than 30 schools and 200 students from across the country gather once a year in Washington, D.C. to compete and showcase their Japanese skills.

The competition is open to anyone currently enrolled in a Level II, III or IV high school Japanese class. The Kakehashi Project selects the top performing Level IV teams to visit Japan for a week in the summer following the Bowl.



Helena Lu Jiarui at the 2018 Japan Bowl with teammate.



Emily Zhai

While in Japan, these students will participate in school visits, homestays with host families and courtesy calls to Princess Takamado and Akie Abe, the wife of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Two area students going on the trip are rising college freshmen Helena Lu Jiarui from Langley and Emily Zhai from Lake Braddock. When Lu Jiarui found out she

qualified to go to Japan, she "felt this immense sense of relief." All of her studying and preparing for the Japan Bowl had paid off, and "it wasn't for nothing," she said.

Zhai also put in many hours into preparations with her team for the competition. Between completing her regular school work and applying for colleges, she found time to study Japanese. She and her teammates met every Saturday to

prepare, and "whenever [she] had time [she] would look at a few flashcards."

Nancy Marsden, the director of the Japan Bowl, believes that preparing can be one of the most rewarding parts of the competition for students. "Many students also indicate to us that while preparing for the Japan Bowl can be stressful and challenging," she said, "they also learn a great deal

from it and view it as a defining experience of their high school years."

Their efforts have paid off, and now Lu Jiarui and Zhai are excited to visit Japan and continue learning about the language and culture they have dedicated so much time to. Lu Jiarui is especially enthusiastic because "going to Japan has been my dream ever since I started high school," she said. "I'm just really happy I got this opportunity."

Both students plan to continue studying Japanese in college, Zhai at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where she plans to study abroad in Japan for a year, and Lu Jiarui at the University of Southern California. The latter attributes her choice to continue the language to her time at the competition. "I think largely because of Japan Bowl I realized I have a future in this," she said. "I could study this."

Lu Jiarui said Japan Bowl is a "really, really good opportunity," and would recommend it to anyone even "vaguely interested in Japanese," she said. Similarly, Zhai called it a "priceless experience."

Trash Collection Staffing is Tight, Resulting in Cutbacks of Service

Occasionally cans go untouched on trash day.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Let's face it, it might not be a dream job, riding on the back of a truck, jumping off, throwing in more trash, with the smell plus possibility of flies, maggots, rodents, and other surprises. There are nicer jobs, and lately the labor force numbers have been showing a shortage of trash collection workers. It's having an impact on trash collection schedules.

Some are cutting back from two days a week to one, and the residents are feeling the crunch.

According to the National Waste & Recycling Association located in Arlington, the solid waste industry directly employs about 420,000 people as of early 2018 with a total payroll of more than \$21 billion. Brandon Wright, the communications representative for NWRA noted the staffing shortages for the industry. "The labor market is tight in our industry," he said. There is a driver and mechanic shortage "felt by a number of companies," he said.

In Fairfax County, private collection companies pick up trash and recycling for ninety



In Fairfax County, private collection companies pick up trash and recycling for ninety percent of residents and businesses while the county trash service is only responsible for 10 percent.

percent of residents and businesses while the county trash service is only responsible for 10 percent. Residents are billed by the

collection company or pay via their Home Owner Association fees.

"The (county) Solid Waste Management

Program is aware of the national driver shortage," said Matthew Kaiser, the information officer for the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. The county is running advertisements for heavy equipment operators, i.e. trash truck drivers, and they've even gone as far as making a video to attract applicants.

"Endless opportunities here with the county," said the person in the video. The message they are promoting includes great pay and benefits, a family friendly atmosphere and the room for advancement.

The driver shortage has not impacted the county collection schedules, but Kaiser is aware of private collection companies that have reduced their collection frequency. They are still meeting code requirements though, Kaiser said. Companies that fail to meet the requirements are handled through enforcement actions.

Some county supervisors' offices have heard from their constituents about missed trash pick-ups, possibly the result of staffing. In Mount Vernon, this occurred a few times in June but they haven't heard any complaints since then.

In Springfield, the issues were with houses that were under contract with Republic Trash Services. Republic has not returned any messages about this issue.

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ENTERTAINMENT

The crowd enjoys Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra during the Evenings on the Ellipse Summer Concert at the Fairfax County Government Center on Thursday, July 11, 2019.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Free Summer Concerts, Wine Tastings

Evenings on the Ellipse at the Fairfax County Government Center.

2019 Performances

July 18: Maybe April (Country)
July 25: Daryl Davis (Swing)
Aug. 1: Machaya (Klezmer)
Aug. 8: The David Kitchen Band (Pop/Rock)
Aug. 15: Mariachi Los Amigos with special guest group, Common Ground (Mariachi plus Jazz)
Aug. 22: The Capital Focus Jazz Band (Youth Jazz Band)
Aug. 29: The Gibson Brothers (Bluegrass)

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra helped kick off the Evenings on the Ellipse Summer Concerts and Wine Tastings at the Fairfax County Government Center on Thursday, July 11, 2019. Throughout the summer, the free series of concerts sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority are held Thursdays from 5:30-7 p.m., and will feature a wide variety of musical acts — from country to swing, bluegrass to Klezmer, and folk to vintage rock 'n roll. Fairfax County's two Wineries — Paradise Springs and Bull Run — will be providing tastings and sales of their premium reds and whites.

According to Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors: "Doc Scantlin puts on a fantastic show. We moved them inside the Government Center because of the rain and had an audience that filled the Forum. People were up on their feet and dancing. Doc Scantlin is my favorite group!"

She added: "Evenings on the Ellipse is a great way for nearby residents and county employees to relax and unwind after work in Wolf Trap-esque style. With

great music, a beautiful venue and complimentary wine tastings, I am proud to have the Fairfax County Government Center play host to such a special summer experience."

Sousan Frankeberger, Performing Director for the Fairfax County Park Authority, added: "The Park Authority started the Summer Concert Series about 25 years ago, and we started with one small venue and expanded it. Now we offer concert series weekly from Wednesday evenings through Sunday evenings at different park venues throughout the county."

She said there are 160 concerts throughout the county, which includes children's performances on Saturday mornings and evening concerts, plus one series that's international — music and dance from different parts of the world. The series is sponsored through contributions from donors; no taxpayer money goes towards paying performance fees and the series are held in all Supervisory districts.

Concerts are held Thursday evenings, now through Aug. 29, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. If it rains, the concert will be moved inside to the Fairfax County Government Center Forum. Visit the Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances>.



Doc Scantlin and His Imperial Palms Orchestra is a 21-member musical revue consisting of 15 musicians.

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 5

appointed members establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Open to the public. For agenda and more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

"Your Journey Through Grief." 2-4 p.m. at Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Haven of Northern Virginia offers this free summer workshop. Registration requested. For information and registration, call 703-941-7000 or email havenofnova@verizon.net.

SUNDAY/JULY 28

Movie Screening: Proof of Heaven. 2-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Best-selling author of Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife, Dr. Eben Alexander will describe his personal near death experience and the lessons he has learned. \$25. Register at proofofheavenunity.eventbrite.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group. 2-4 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group for greater Washington meets the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome. RSVP for available seating. Call 301-263-0616 or visit www.dcpnsupport.org for more.

TUESDAY/AUG. 6

Car Seat Safety Check. 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule. In preparation for appointment, install the seat using the instructions that came with the car seat. Trained officers will review the car seat instructions and car owner's manual to be certain that they are being followed as they should.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 7

New Volunteer Orientation. 7:30-9 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. People and their pets (dog, cat or bunny) are needed to join other Fairfax Pets on Wheels, Inc. volunteers who make a difference in the community by visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Visit www.fpow.org. Call 703-324-5424 or visit www.fpow.org for more.

TUESDAY/AUG. 13

Car Seat Safety Check. 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule. In preparation for appointment, install the seat using the instructions that came with the car seat. Trained officers will review the car seat instructions and car owner's manual to be certain that they are being followed as they should.

Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's focus is an open discussion on caregiver stress. Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

TUESDAY/AUG. 20

Volunteer Seminar: RSVP. 10:30 a.m. at Junior Achievement Finance Park, 4099 Pickett Road, Fairfax. RSVP-Northern Virginia (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) will hold a seminar on volunteering in retirement. The one-hour event is free and open to the public. To sign up for the Aug. 14 info session, email bmorris@volunteerfairfax.org, call RSV703-403-5360 or visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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Stamp of Disapproval



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you still going to the post office and buying/selecting stamps, this column is for you (and for others too with a memory of such tasks).

Since I am among a dwindling number of those who actually affix their own stamps and mail their own correspondence (bills, birthday cards and miscellaneous other such hard copies), rather than bill-pay online, greet electronically or text incessantly, I may be writing uphill here. (Remember readers, parking is almost always free at the post office). Nevertheless, I will continue trudging on.

Like many of my generation, I've been accustomed to having my hands wrapped around or placed in proximity to, that which I'm reading, writing or "rithmeticking" (tactile you might say). And in the course of such endeavors, doing so with a pen in hand rather than with opposing thumbs side-saddling a device.

In so doing, I am regularly buying stamps - myself - and selecting from a variety of seasonal, promotional and "commemorative" (I make up words, like my father did; "surgerize" and "conflation" being two of his favorites) offerings. However, I am not "philatelic" in the least. In the most, I am a buyer and a sticker. Not a collector at all.

To that end, I am merely at the post office to justify my means: mailing my correspondence/parcels in a timely and efficient manner. Other than Christmas stamps my wife, Dina, will request that I buy, I care very little about the particular stamp/book that I purchase.

In fact, you could call me a stamp-contrarian (among other descriptions, I'm sure).

What I typically say in response to the post office clerk's question about my stamp preference is: "Give me the stamps on top (as they flip through their stamp booklet)," or "Whatever you're tired of looking/wanting to get rid of." And generally speaking, they're happy to comply, as you might imagine, giggling a bit as they hand over the stamps.

When I'm given the stamps, often I'll make a casual comment about their look and then "Exit stage, left," (to quote Snagglepuss, the most famous cartoon cougar from the Yogi Bear Show of the 1960s). Never, ever, will I return/replace them. I will use them and not think once, let alone twice, about them. In fact, I prefer to use the stamps most out of favor, most inappropriate to the time (Christmas stamps in July, as an example; and I jokingly always ask for a discount) and most undesirable (apparently, to the stamp-buying public). It pleases me to be the user of these "undesirables" until yesterday, that is (or should that be, was).

I went to my local post office. Stood in line. Approached the counter when called and then made my usual/per-this-column request. I received my first class stamps and while barely taking notice of them, affixed them to my envelopes and "slotted" them in the outgoing mail. I then walked out to my car, opened the door and as I sat down, tossed the remaining stamps in my car's auxiliary tray.

That's when I actually took notice of them and "Heavens to Murgatroyd," realized what I had done/purchased. I had bought and then used "Love" stamps on two bill-payment envelopes. Can you imagine?

Hardly would I want to impart that message in a communication with VISA. I mean, it wasn't exactly a wedding invitation. Quite the opposite. It was more like a divorce, if anything, and love definitely wasn't in the air.

Unfortunately for me though, it was on the envelope.

"What do you say to that? What do you say to that?" (I learned while going online that, amazingly/coincidentally, Snagglepuss and I have the same birthday.)

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

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