

Springfield CONNECTION

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At the Old Keene Mill Shopping Center in Springfield (from left): Linda Sullivan, president and CEO of ARTSFAIRFAX, Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), and Sharon Bulova, Board of Supervisors Chairman, at the unveiling of the interactive public art project INOUT: Springfield.

The INOUT project engages the public by asking questions about the future of art in Springfield. This interactive photo booth, is collecting community responses and portraits at locations throughout Springfield.



INOUT: Springfield – Interactive Public Art

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More Fixes for I-95 Could Happen Soon

Virginia officials holding a series of meetings this month to hear ideas.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

When driving on I-95 anytime of the day, it could seem like rush hour. That's when ideas come to many drivers on what to do to fix this thoroughfare, and now the officials want to hear those ideas as part of a corridor improvement study that is being conducted with the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Whether it's a new turn lane, exit ramp or even a launch pad for the helicopter backpacks that someone is developing in their garage to get out of gridlock, officials want to hear about it.

"The study team is currently in the problem identification stage, which includes gathering data and starting public engagement to learn drivers' and residents' individual experiences," said Lindsay LeGrand, the Assistant Director of Communications at the VDOT Central Office in Richmond. "The team will gauge whether public experiences validate the initial data collected on crash frequency and severity, delays and incident-related delays," she said. The team is also interested in any potential solutions members of the public may want consid-



I-95 needs help and officials are listening.

ered, so this is the driver's chance to be heard.

The Springfield District has had its share of I-95 projects in the last 20 years, starting with the rebuild of the Springfield Interchange where I-395, I-495 and I-95 meet. The ribbon was cut for that project in the summer of 2007. The fourth lane project started shortly after that, adding another lane between "the mixing bowl," a name

that interchange adopted, and the Occoquan River. Then came the 95 Express lanes, a tolled lane plan where another lane was added to the HOV lanes and vehicles with one or two occupants paid a toll to use the lanes but carpools with three or more occupants could ride for free. Many ramps and access lanes were added as part of these projects but at certain times there is still gridlock.

I-95 Corridor Improvement Study Meetings

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019

6-8 p.m.
South County Middle School
8700 Laurel Crest Drive
Lorton

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019

James Monroe High School
2300 Washington Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
6-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019

Virginia State University Multipurpose Center
20809 2nd Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23803
5-7 p.m.

According to LeGrand a number of potential focus areas in and around Fairfax, including Occoquan and approaches to the Springfield Interchange are recognized in the study. The study team will evaluate and consider not only potential capital improvements, but also operational upgrades to the highway and parallel, major routes that connect to I-95. Multimodal options will be considered.

There are three meetings planned this month to look at the options available, where drivers, residents and other stakeholders can learn more and provide feedback in person, by email or by taking an online survey at va95corridor.metroquest.com. The first comment period will end Aug. 21. Additional comment opportunities will be available throughout the study period.

Community Voices Concerns About Shootings

Police meet with residents to seek leads.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

On her way to pick up her son from Lee District Park, Tabitha Beck knew something was up when the ambulance went by this normally quiet area near Rose Hill. A shooting had just occurred, and this brought her to the police meeting at Rose Hill Elementary School the following week to find out more. "A little too close to home," she said. "I have young kids, want to make sure we have a safe neighborhood."

These shootings were the topic of discussion at a few different community meetings last week. The cafeteria was packed with area residents looking for answers, some of which the police did not have. "We have very little information, no one is cooperating with us," said Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler.

THE FIRST SHOOTING occurred Monday, July 1 around 11 p.m. when two



Willfredo Torres the studio owner, cleared up a few misconceptions about what was originally reported.

juveniles were shot at the playground at 3026 Fordson Court off Richmond Highway, police said. The juveniles attended Mount Vernon High School and police said the shooting was gang related. That was fol-



The cafeteria was packed.

lowed by a shooting on Tuesday afternoon, July 2 in the parking lot of the Midieast Studio, located at 6404 Telegraph Road, and then another on Wednesday night again at the playground on Fordson Court. There

were three injuries resulting from this shooting which police said were non-life threatening. "There is a relationship run

SEE SHOOTINGS, PAGE 10

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.

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ber, just your town name).

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— MARY KIMM

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COMMENTARY

How To Make Parkway Safer?

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

On July 11, over 150 people attended a National Park Service (NPS) meeting to share comments on NPS's safety study and the future of the southern section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Del. Paul Krizek, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer and I have been asking for a safety study for four years and so far NPS has produced excellent information.

I have lived about two blocks from the Parkway most of my life and significant changes have occurred. The Defense Department moved 15,000 new employees to Fort Belvoir after 2005 and it has proven to be a real tipping point. More specifically, many people who live in Maryland and worked at Walter Reed Medical Center now come across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and take the Parkway south to the Walker Gate. In the evening rush hour, they race north and switch to Fort Hunt Road to access I-495 gridlocking Fort Hunt Road.

New traffic navigation applications such as Google Maps and Waze have highlighted to drivers what many of us have known for years – the Parkway is a quick (and scenic) substitute for U.S. 1. Just look at the cut-through traffic and backups on Sherwood Hall Lane through Gum Springs.

From my perspective, most of the Parkway's problems are caused by increased traffic volumes, excessive speeds and left turns that are especially dangerous. The Park Service's initial statistics support this view.

According to their studies, almost everyone speeds. A shocking 70-80% of drivers speed and NPS did not even measure speeds at the 35-mph stretch between Belle Haven Road and Bellevue Boulevard. Three of nine major intersections generate about 50% of crashes — Bellevue Boulevard, Morningside Lane and Belle Haven Road.

Limited traffic gaps contribute to collisions. Drivers need about an eight-second gap in traffic to safely execute a turn. The NPS data shows, for example, at Collingwood Road, there are gaps greater than eight seconds about 25% of the time in the morning and about 40% of the time in the afternoon. However, at Bellevue,

in the morning, an eight-second gap exists about 5% of the time and 25% of the time in afternoons. Traffic builds during the rushes and creates collisions.

NPS found maximum morning traffic queues of 21 cars at Belle Haven Road and nine cars at Collingwood Road while evening maximum queues were only about 13 and three cars.

The big question now is, what will we do? First, it is very important to understand that the Parkway, which opened in 1932, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was intended as a scenic drive that integrated natural areas and preserved scenic vistas. Congress created it explicitly as a memorial to George Washington, part of Washington, D.C.'s monumental core and a grand gateway to Mount Vernon Estate as a memorial to the nation's first president. It was never intended to be a commuter thoroughfare or to accommodate high speeds.

The National Historic Preservation Act imposes significant legal protections that restrict major structural changes to the road to preserve its historic integrity as directed by Congress. Many will recall that the Federal Highway Administration was forced to re-route U.S. 1 100 yards to the south because of Woodlawn Mansion's federally-protected, historic status. Given these legal constraints, changes like adding lanes, traffic circles, new bridges and guardrails are unlikely options.

However, NPS is considering "traffic diets" — restriping intersections to narrow the road to one lane in each direction to provide turn lanes. They are also examining speed cameras, turn restrictions, and maybe a stoplight or two.

People move to our area to enjoy the Potomac River, the Mount Vernon Trail and the Parkway. Many consider it a privilege to live near Mount Vernon. The Parkway is a road within a national park, an important natural and national resource. We must now all work together to come up with sensible solutions.

NPS will accept comments through Aug. 21. I have created a survey and a comment form to capture feedback. I will forward all comments that I receive on to NPS. Please complete it on my blog – The Dixie Pig – at scottsurovell.blogspot.com or at <http://bit.ly/GWPkwyStudy>.

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Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, punches in her data into the Cuboid.

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



The artist team Epigram (from left): Emanuel Pires, Hector Montalvo, Julieta Guillermet, and Natalia Brizuela. Not pictured: Edwin Coimbre and Jorge Fuertes.

INOUT: Springfield — An Interactive Public Art Project

Installation engages the public and gets participation, dialogue and thoughts about art.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Art is going interactive in Springfield. The Old Keene Mill Shopping Center in Springfield has installed a three-column Cuboid — a public art installation in the parking lot. As part of the “Imagine Art Here” initiative, the installation called INOUT:Springfield engages the public and gets their participation, dialogue and thoughts about art in the community, said Linda Sullivan, President and CEO of ARTSFAIRFAX, a nonprofit local arts agency for the county.

“INOUT:Springfield actually takes photos and takes opinions from the community and presents it back to the community,” said Sullivan. “So, if you participate in this, then you are the face of the community. We’re excited about the project. We’re expecting 1,000 engagements; were getting close even now and we’ve just started.” The public won’t see the comments; but they’ll see the photos.

THE INSTALLATION will ask six questions on residents’ roles in the community and their opinions on art. The information will be compiled and that feedback is going to help inform a Master Arts Plan for Fairfax County. The responses will be available in English, Spanish, Korean, and Arabic. Questions include: Where is home? And when would you like to encounter art? What makes you feel creative?

Sullivan added: “We received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to do this but it has to be matched by the community, so we really thank Federal Realty for providing the match for INOUT:Springfield here.” Federal Realty owns and operates the Old Keene Mill Shopping Center.



At the Old Keene Mill Shopping Center in Springfield (from left): Linda Sullivan, president and CEO of ARTSFAIRFAX, Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), and Sharon Bulova, Board of Supervisors Chairman, at the unveiling of the interactive public art project INOUT:Springfield.

Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said: “This is a great project and it’s important that art is something that people have the opportunity to enjoy. It shouldn’t be stuffy; it shouldn’t be expensive; it should be something that your average person can just enjoy and participate in and that’s what this project is all about. It’s pretty cool.”

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), who was co-chair of the Arts Caucus in the Virginia General Assembly, added: “I think public art speaks to all of us, and in such a tough time for our country and our community, art really brings us together. It transcends politics and unites us, so I was thrilled to hear this was coming here to the 41st District.”

Added Lisa Mariam, Director of Grants and Services with ARTSFAIRFAX: “What I

love the most about this project is that this project engages everyone in the community regardless of your age, regardless of whether you live here or work here or whether you’re just visiting. You can participate in this project; we even have the prompts translated into the most commonly spoken languages in Springfield.”

Shelly Hazel, Chairman of the Board of ARTSFAIRFAX, added: “It’s important that we engage the community in arts. And we all know how it takes our lives and it makes it better for all — especially for all ages, our aging or very young. Here, everyone can come and experience this and engage in it. It’s really wonderful.”

Added Pat Herrity, Springfield District Supervisor: “People in Springfield love art and this is a great interactive opportunity

“I think public art speaks to all of us, and in such a tough time for our country and our community, art really brings us together.”

— Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41)

to participate in both the survey and the art project. And thanks to Federal Realty for providing the space and for the lovely work they’re doing with the shopping center.”

THE FINAL PRODUCT created by the artist team Epigram will be displayed at Old Keene Mill Shopping Center through Aug. 9, and then move to Springfield Town Center from Aug. 10-23, 2019.

INOUT:Springfield is the third ARTSFAIRFAX’s Imagine Art Here initiative, a project first launched in 2015 that provides information for Fairfax County’s Master Arts Plan. In 2010, the Board of Supervisors tasked ARTSFAIRFAX with the collaborative leadership of the Master Arts Plan to expand community access to and the engagement in the arts and culture by planning cultural facilities and public art throughout Fairfax County reflecting its diversity and growth.

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

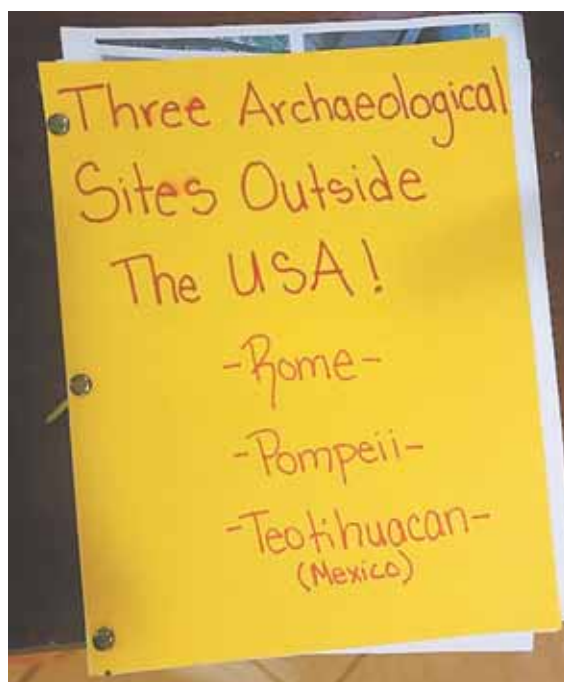


PHOTO COURTESY OF SONIA PRUNEDA-HERNANDEZ

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.

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.”

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

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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.hayfelddrama.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.oldtownplazafairfax.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.hayfelddrama.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.

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Obituary

Travis Earl Evans,
born Sept. 22, 1985, loving son of Calvin & Evelyn Evans & brother to Michelle Evans, passed away on Sunday, July 7, 2019. He graduated from Lee High School in 2004 & attended Virginia Tech. Travis owned his own landscaping business, Springfield's Finest, where his hard work & reliability earned the trust & respect of his many customers. Known by friends as "Slim" or "Tevans," Travis was always there with a warm embrace, infectious smile & his larger than life personality. Travis will be missed & lovingly remembered by all who knew him, remaining forever in our hearts.

A celebration of life service will be held at Demaine Funeral Home in Springfield, VA on Saturday, July 20th at 2:00pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the Travis Evans Memorial Fund, which will make annual grants to public charities in his memory (www.cfnova.org/travis-evans).

Announcements

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Announcements

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PEOPLE

Roy Englert, 96, of Springfield

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Springfield Resident Sets New World Record

At Ames, Iowa, at USATF Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships, in the 5000-meter, Roy Englert, 96, of Springfield set a world record for M95-99 in 42:30.23, breaking by more than seven

minutes the old world record of 50:10.6 set by American athlete Frank Levine, 95, in Oshkosh, Wis. on Sept. 7, 2009, one of the longest-standing world age-group records.

Shootings Alarm Neighborhood

FROM PAGE 3

ning through these cases," Chief Roessler said, but wouldn't elaborate.

The Midieast Studio shooting was the one the audience seemed to be most concerned about, and is on Telegraph Road, just bordering the Rose Hill community on the north. Since it is right on Telegraph Road, people drive by it frequently.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) was asked about the zoning of a sound studio so close to the neighborhoods, but he said it was legal. It's zoned C-8, and "by right zoning," McKay said. "In Virginia, property rights are pretty strict," he added. Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) was in attendance as well.

The studio owner, Willfredo Torres, spoke out. It wasn't exactly at the studio like was reported, he said, defending his business. "It happened in front of the Doggy Daycare," he said. Torres supplied the news stations the video footage that has been seen on television, even though the police didn't want it shared. Torres thought it would be handy in identifying the perpetrators. "I'm just like you, I'm scared," he said.

Torres arrived with Kofi Annan from the local NAACP chapter.

According to police, "the suspect's vehicle was described as a white SUV with dark tinted windows, possibly occupied by three young black males," read the police blog report. Annan had been to the other two police meetings earlier and didn't want any racial profiling. "What we don't want to do is knee jerk reactions," he said, "tough on crime policies don't work," he said.

COMMENTS from the attendees varied on topics, but each was restricted to a three-minute limit. While the first speaker wanted everyone to know he was registered to carry a firearm, other topics varied from a shooting in May, gangs, and the information they were getting at the meeting was not what they needed. "Tell us what we're looking for," said one



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The officers from the Franconia station listened to the concerns.

man, and 2nd Lt. Steve Wallace of the homicide unit reiterated what the Chief said earlier. "We haven't gotten descriptions from people around there," he said.

The Fairfax County Police will continue to proactively engage with area residents on this case. "This includes an increased presence in neighborhoods where the shootings took place. Additionally, our detectives are working around the clock to conduct interviews, examine evidence, and develop and pursue all investigative leads as we work to bring a resolution to these cases," the police blog said.

There were two other shootings in Springfield on July 3 that the police said were "worth noting," on their poster.

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 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

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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 "commemorial" (I make up words, like my father did; "surgerize" and "confliction" 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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