

# Great Falls CONNECTION

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# PET CONNECTION

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC  
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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Galileo watching over his home.

## Getting to Love Galileo

### Meet Galileo Alexander Cool.

Galileo was born on Nov. 10, 2009 and selected at birth for training as a service dog for the blind. He spent his first few months with foster parents before being sent to school. Training to become an effective guide dog and companion for the blind is a rigorous challenge. While possessing almost all the special qualities and traits required in guide dogs, our kindhearted, gentle, bright student had a small issue with his attention span. As it turns out dogs can have attention deficit issues as well. Not

being a quality sought in seeing eye dogs, Galileo became available for adoption.

We had been looking for a German Shepherd rescue dog for more than a year before learning about Galileo. When he was described to us, we were immediately elated and wanted to meet him. We made the overnight trip to his school, arriving in the evening and looking forward to meeting him the next morning. When we arrived, we were asked to wait in an exam room where he would be brought. Until now, per the policy of the school, he was “sight un-



Galileo at Erika and Jonathan's wedding reception.

seen.” We had no idea what we were in for. After several minutes the door cracked open, pushed by a big black nose. He energetically entered the room and came right over to us. After a sniff or two, he sat down on our feet and turned his head up to look at us with his deep soulful eyes. As is said, he had us at “hello.” We instantly fell in love with him. So completely irresistible from the very first instant, he remains the same today. The most lovable, loving, intelligent, gentle, beautiful soul we could ever imagine a dog might possess.

Since the day we brought him into our home, now his too, he has been a blessing, a true joy, and a very important part of our family. He will always be a gentle, loving, caring companion, friend and guide to all our family. We have learned as much, if not more, from him as he from us. He has taught us patience, true and complete forgiveness, unconditional love, the nurture of touch and the value of just being together. We are deeply blessed to have him in our lives.

—JONATHAN AND ERIKA COOL,  
GREAT FALLS



Galileo asking how we're doing



Erika and Galileo at home



Jonathan and Galileo at play.

## Back-to-School Rituals Cause Stress

BY JOE FAY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FACETS

**A**s summer nears the end, we are getting ready to say goodbye to 21 teens that are headed off to college. These young people have been involved in our summer youth programs for many years. They have experienced — like the other children in our programs and all kids — the excitement and anxiety around back to school preparation. These rituals include buying clothes and school supplies, getting a haircut, and finding out what teachers you have.

For the nearly 23,000 kids that live in poverty in Fairfax County, back to school rituals can cause stress. In a region of so much wealth, it's hard to remember that many children do not share the same levels of preparation. They want to but simply cannot.

FACETS serves many impoverished youth through our Education and Community Development Program. The program operates year-round in four low-income, subsidized communities offering a continuum of supportive services to break the cycle of poverty. People living in these affordable housing communities have limited financial resources, with the average annual income for a family of four less than \$24,000.

At Robinson Square, Ragan Oaks, Barros Circle and Wedgewood, staff and volunteers offer an array of educational, preventative and enrichment programs to help youth, including mentoring and tutoring, and a variety of classes such as literacy, art, and computers. Participation provides many benefits, including ensuring a safe after-school and weekend environment, interaction with caring adults, award winning programs, and access to resources and case management.

We also work with these youth to help them get ready to go back to school. Like many nonprofits, we conduct supply drives that help make sure they have backpacks, pencils, and a myriad of other supplies that come on the lengthy lists provided by the schools. In many of the 400 backpacks, we also supply kids with a voucher for a haircut from the Hair Cuttery.

These school supply drives really do make a difference, and we hope you will consider contributing to ours or other organizations. If your means permit, perhaps consider donating a gift card to a clothing store or a hair salon. Helping a child feel confident and fit in during those first weeks of school goes a long way in making the school year productive. And if the youth we are helping prepare for college are an indicator, then we know it works.

Learn more about how you can help at [www.FACETSCares.org](http://www.FACETSCares.org).

## Diversity and Inclusion As a Strength

BY HUBERT C. GRAVES

**I**n light of the division which continues to deepen in our country and our society, the Board of Directors of the Centreville Immigration Forum wants to reaffirm the mission and values central to our organization. The current political and social climate appears to become more divisive with each passing day. The Centreville Immigration Forum calls upon our local community to be a model for the nation by respecting people who offer differing solutions to the problems we face, rather than falling into political arguments which are detrimental to all of us.

Part of the mission of the Centreville Immi-

gration Forum is to “build community recognition of our strength in diversity.” We embrace this principle and will continue to champion diversity and inclusion as a strength for our local community and the nation as a whole. This community and nation have demonstrated so much progress in the last half-century. We have come too far to turn back the clock, especially when there is more to accomplish. Freedom of Speech is what defines our democracy. Where would we be without courageous leaders such as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and Cesar Chavez — among thousands of others — who demonstrated such courage in speaking out for what is right and just, challenging our

country to live up to the ideals upon which it was founded?

We steadfastly believe that the diversity of our community and nation will be one of the defining characteristics which will continue to make us the envy of the world. The voices of immigrants belong in public discourse, whether they are the voices of day laborers, business entrepreneurs, or members of Congress. We hope that the local community shares our vision, dreams, and aspirations, where diversity and inclusion are valued and where we work together for the benefit of us all.

*The author is President of the Board of Directors of Centreville Immigration Forum.*

## Beginning of Representative Government in America

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

**F**our hundred years ago yesterday, July 30, 1619, a group of 22 colonists met in the wooden and mud church on Jamestown Island as instructed by the investors of the colony “to establish one equal and uniform government over all Virginia” and to provide “just laws for the happy guiding and governing of the people there inhabiting.” They adjourned on Aug. 4. That event is variously described as the beginning of representative government in America and as the beginning of the oldest continuous law-making body in the western hemisphere. It merits the commemoration it is receiving.

In order to fully understand the importance of a signature event as this one, I believe it is important to put it into perspective as our knowledge of what happened afterwards allows us to do. While termed the beginning of representative government, the first legislative meeting was anything but representative. Only white males could vote or serve in the Assem-

bly. The indigenous people — called Indians because one of the purposes of sailing to this new world was to find a shorter route to India — were not able to participate even though they had inhabited the land for at least 15,000 years. Not only were they kept out of the Assembly, they were forced off their lands where they had their homes, governance, religion, and farms. In less than a half century the immigrants had taken over the land and displaced the indigenous people.

Nor could women take part in that first Assembly because they did not arrive in Virginia until 1619 and did not secure the vote until three centuries later!

Enslaved people from Africa did not arrive in the colony until 1619 and not only were they not in the First Assembly but they were the subject of laws in subsequent sessions of oppressive slave codes that denied them basic human rights. It was necessary in the beginnings of the Assembly to belong to and pay taxes to the established church.

The history of Virginia and of America has been to move from this humble beginning and

through decades and centuries of events to evolve into what is more closely a representative government. The planners of the events surrounding 1619 have correctly I believe termed it “evolution.” Contrary to what some may have us believe, our state and our country did not start out meeting the ideals and vision that we have. We have built on a humble beginning to evolve into the country we are today.

I trust that this important celebration will not be allowed to be taken over by an ignorance of what happened at Jamestowne and turned into a biased partisan view to justify the terrible actions of government today against people of color, people from other lands, and people in the LGBTQ communities. We do not need to try to return to a past that was much more imperfect than we sometimes care to admit. I am attending the Commemorative Session of the General Assembly to learn more about the past and how we can learn from our experiences and evolve further into a more perfect union. I will not be attending the session with POTUS.



# NEWS

## Friends of Riverbend to Celebrate 20 Years of Park Love

The Friends of Riverbend Park (FORB) have been bending backwards to support their favorite park for two decades, and they will celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the park on Aug. 4, 2019.

FORB has supported Riverbend with more than a quarter-million dollars in contributions, services and equipment over the years. Its members have made possible summer camps and the park's annual Native American and Bluebell Festivals. FORB also has funded field trip scholarships for school children, the park's bass fishing boat, telescopes, water quality measuring equipment and canoes.

"It is amazing to look back and see how much has been accomplished over those years," said Timothy Hackman, the Dranesville District representative on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. "In addition to its strong general support of

Riverbend, one of the prime foci of FORB has been on summer camps and scholarships for school field trips," he added. "These initiatives give our children new experiences, expose them to the outdoors, and instill in them a love of nature. Riverbend and our community have greatly benefited from FORB's generous support, and we look forward to a continued wonderful relationship."

**"It is amazing to look back and see how much has been accomplished over those years."**

— Timothy Hackman,  
Dranesville District representative,  
Fairfax County Park Authority Board

The celebration of FORB and those who have supported the organization and Riverbend Park over the past two decades will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 4. The celebration is open to the public and there is no charge.

Riverbend Park is at 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. More information is available by calling the park at 703-759-9018. Information about park Friends Groups is online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/friends](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/friends).

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## PET CONNECTION



### Celebrating Holidays with Callie

Stephanie Gaibler of Great Falls and her dog Callie, celebrating the 4th of July.

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Hank Brady - enjoying his new home on the road



Hank Brady - Muskegon Michigan

### Hank on a Cross Country Adventure

Hank, recently of Great Falls, is on a cross country adventure with his family Joan and Jim Brady. Despite his advanced age, he is walking more than two miles each day. He revels in the attention from the kids he is meeting along the way. And, the nearly daily ice cream to help beat the heat is a big hit too!



Hank Brady - Cincinnati

# SWIMMING

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



The boys in the record-setting relay (from left) are Sasha Minsky, Leo Song, Adam Manley and Simon Bermudez.



Simon diving: Next year he will challenge the Northern Virginia Swimming League (NVSL) records for the 13-14 year old age group.

## 'Representing Great Falls' with Collection of Records

The Great Falls Rapids swim team was formed in 1973 and has produced great swimmers during the past 45 years, including several Olympians. The team's record board is replete with names from the past five decades.

It's not very often, if ever, that a new swimmer joins the team and completely rewrites the record board for his or her age group. That's what happened this summer.

The Bermudez family have been members of the Great Falls Swim & Tennis Club since 2009, but had been living outside the United States for the past six years.

Upon moving back to Great Falls, Alejandro Bermudez contacted the team to see whether his 11 and 13-year old sons, Lucas and Simon, could join the team.

Alejandro said that his boys were "eager to represent Great Falls," which is a unique way to express interest but makes sense when you consider that he was a 3-time Olympian (Atlanta, Barcelona & Sydney) who represented his home country of Colombia. His wife, Carolina Santa

Maria, was Colombia's national water ski champion in Slalom, Jump & Tricks.

It's no wonder that their boys would be talented as well, with both Lucas and Simon contributing substantially to the team's success this summer. Both boys participated in breaking the 200 M Freestyle mixed age relay, which stood since 2010.

Simon took the balance of the 13-14 records to task breaking the Club's 50 M Breaststroke record which stood since 1977, as well as the Club's 50 M Butterfly record which stood since 2001.

Simon participated in the Carnival Relays with Adam Manley, Leo Song and Sasha Minsky, who smashed the Club's 13-14 boys 200 M Freestyle relay record by nearly 8 seconds, and the 200 M Medley relay record by more than 13 seconds; both records stood since 2012.

Simon has another year to challenge the Northern Virginia Swimming League (NVSL) records for the 13-14 year old age group, which are within striking range.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### DONATIONS NEEDED

**School Supply and Backpack Drive.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Parent Resource Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Room 105, Dunn Loring. For the nearly 56,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools living at the poverty line, obtaining school supplies can be difficult. FCPS is partnering with roughly 20 nonprofits and businesses to ensure that students will have the supplies they need this fall for its "Collect for Kids" campaign. A \$25 donation will fill a backpack with FCPS approved supplies for a student. Organize a collection drive of new backpacks in your community and bring to one of the Collect for Kids drop off locations. Visit [www.collectforkids.org/get-involved](http://www.collectforkids.org/get-involved) or call 703-204-3941.

#### CAMPS

**Summer Choir Camp.** Monday-Friday, Aug. 12-16 and Sunday, Aug. 18 at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road NE. \$125 fee includes lunches, recreational activities, music education and camp t-shirt. All children in rising 2nd-7th grade are welcome. No prior music experience or training required; solid reading skills are highly recommended. Scholarships are available. Download registration forms at [www.holycomforter.com](http://www.holycomforter.com).

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 1

**Caregivers Support Group.** 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

## JOIN THE FIGHT FOR ALZHEIMER'S FIRST SURVIVOR.

At the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, people carry flowers representing their connection to Alzheimer's — a disease that currently has no cure. But what if one day there was a flower for Alzheimer's first survivor? What if there were millions of them? Help make that beautiful day happen by joining us for the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk).

**Walk to End Alzheimer's**  
**Sept. 29 • Reston Town Center**  
**Oct. 12 • National Mall**

Additional Walks available.  
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# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Self Portraits.** Business hours through mid August at Starbucks, Great Falls Center, 9863 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. See self portraits by Forestville Elementary School, third grade artists in the meeting room at Starbucks. The show curated by FES Art Teacher, Renee Riddell, is presented by Great Falls Studios in cooperation with Great Falls Starbucks. Visit [www.greatfallsstudios.com](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com) for more.

**Registration Open: The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics** features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The games run Sept. 14-28. There will be no on-site registration. Paper registrations, available at most local recreation and senior centers, must be postmarked by Aug. 24. Online registrations must be completed by Aug. 31 at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

**Junior Golf Fairfax Camps, Clinics and Competition.** Burke Lake Golf Center is located at 6915 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Pinecrest Golf Course is located at 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Oak Marr Golf Complex is located at 3136 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior).

❖ In one-session introductory Junior Golf clinics, kids and teens learn basic golf rules, etiquette of the game, get familiarized with different types of clubs and acquire skills for putting and chipping in a social and relaxed environment. Clubs and practice balls provided. Clinics are offered at Burke Lake, Oak Marr and Pinecrest golf courses for \$15 each in August.

❖ Golf camp week-long sessions are still open – campers learn putting, chipping, iron and woods play from certified instructors in a friendly, group atmosphere. Course etiquette and best safety practices will teach kids and teens fundamentals while they socialize and have fun. Clubs are not required but suggested. All campers will receive a certificate and golf fun pack upon camp completion. Burke Lake Golf Center and Twin Lakes Golf Course offer half day summer camp, Pinecrest Golf Course offers both half and full day summer camp options. Oak Marr Golf Complex offers half day spring and summer camp through Everybody Golf School.

❖ Course-ready juniors will enjoy the Junior Club Championship, Aug. 16, 8 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Golf Center. Golfers participate in an 18-hole individual stroke competition. Competitors will be separated into three divisions with first, second, and third place prizes available in all divisions. Lunch provided. Call 703-323-1641 to register.

**Oak Marr Farmers' Market.** 8 a.m.-noon at Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Every Wednesday through Nov. 13, rain or shine. Vendors include produce, meats, eggs, cheeses, pies, cured and smoked meats, popsicles, sorbet, bread, croissants, falafel sandwiches, humus, and pesto. Call 703-281-6501 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr) for more.

**McLean Farmers Market.** Fridays, through Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Sixteen local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, coffee, and more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean).

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email [kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](mailto:kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org) for more.

**Oakton Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit [community-foodworks.org](http://community-foodworks.org).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 1

**Nottoway Nights: Radio King Orchestra.** 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug.



PHOTO BY MATT BAERD/COURTESY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

**“Volta” Hoops diving artists with Bradly Henderson (in red)**

## Cirque du Soleil at Tysons II

Cirque du Soleil presents “Volta” at Tysons II under The Big Top, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons. Performances July 25, 2019, to Sept. 29, 2019. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., (Friday, August 30 at 4:30 & 8 p.m.), Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. No performances on Mondays. Tickets start at \$49. Special tickets packages such as VIP Experience, Behind The Scenes, Producer Seats and Family Pack are available. For groups of 12 or more there are also special offers. For detailed information visit [www.cirquedusoleil.com/volta](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/volta) or call 1-877-924-7783. **Note:** The show contains flashing lights which may cause difficulties for people with photosensitive epilepsy.

22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 2

**Summer on the Green: The Rockits (rock and Motown).** 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. Friday nights through Aug. 23. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at [www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997](http://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 2-3

**The Wedding Singer.** Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St SE, Vienna. The Vienna Youth Players' presents their production of The Wedding Singer. The 2006 musical based on the 1998 Adam Sandler film of the same name is brimming with fun, jokes, music, and a cast of 35 youthful and energetic performers. Tickets are \$15 at [viennava.gov/webtrac](http://viennava.gov/webtrac) or in person at the community center.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 3

**Town Clean-Up Day.** 9 a.m.-noon. The Town of Vienna is ready to roll up its collective sleeves and spend a morning cleaning around the community. Volunteers are needed to help Town staff pick up trash, remove invasive plants, and give Vienna a general polish. The Town recommends that volunteers wear pants and long sleeves, no matter how warm the day, and bring along trash pickers if they have them. The Town will supply gloves, trash bags, and other equipment. Volunteers will meet at the Town Green, rain or shine. Those interested in volunteering should email [bwyatt@viennavagov](mailto:bwyatt@viennavagov) or call 703-255-5721.

**Used Book Collection.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will be collecting used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records, and recent textbooks. No encyclopedias, VHS or audiotapes, please. Books for children are especially needed. Books must be bagged or boxed and the bags and boxes must be left with the books. Contact [aauwbookfair@gmail.com](mailto:aauwbookfair@gmail.com), or 703-527-4206. The Book Sale will be held on Sept. 13-15 at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The book sale proceeds benefit scholarships for women.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 8

**Parent and Child Fishing.** 4:30-6 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. This introductory course is designed for parents and children age 6-17. Start with such fishing basics as how to rig and use a fishing rod and how to stay safe around the water. The class will cover environmental awareness, as well as how to catch fish. A rod and bait are provided. \$12 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

**Nottoway Nights: The Johnny Artis Band.** 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 9

**ESL Playdate Cafe.** 1-2 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Meet other caregivers of young children. Adults practice English while children enjoy play time in the same room. Birth-5 years with adult. Free. Call 703-242-4020 or visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5260042](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5260042).

**Summer on the Green: Shenandoah Run (folk).** 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. Friday nights through Aug. 23. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at [www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997](http://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997).

## SATURDAY/AUG. 10

**Vienna Arts Society Reception.** 3-5 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, Windover Building, 243 Church St. NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society invites the public to a reception celebrating two exhibitions. The “Healing Wall” is created by troops on the mend at Fort Belvoir Hospital. “The Open Door” features a judged photography exhibition. Enjoy light refreshments and meet the artists as Juror Sandi Croan presents awards. The exhibition continues through Aug. 31. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) or call 703-319-3971.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 9-11

**The Wedding Singer.** Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St SE, Vienna. The Vienna Youth Players' presents their production of The Wedding Singer. The 2006 musical based on the 1998 Adam Sandler film of the same name is brimming with fun, jokes, music, and a cast of 35 youthful and energetic performers. Tickets are \$15 at [viennava.gov/webtrac](http://viennava.gov/webtrac) or in person at the community center.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 11

**Concerts on the Green: Vinyl Invention.** 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Bring picnic baskets, chairs and blankets for an evening of live music. Free. Visit [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

## MONDAY/AUG. 12

**Meteor Astronomy Class.** 8-9:25 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Whether one calls them fireballs or shooting stars, meteors are exciting to see in the nighttime sky. This class covers meteor basics, such as what meteors are, their origins, the best time to view them and fireball reporting. An optional observing session will be held outdoors after class, weather permitting. Designed for participants age 10-adult. \$8 per person. Advance registration is required; no walk-in registration is available. Call 703-324-8618 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm).

## TUESDAY/AUG. 13

**Kids on the Green: Wildlife Ambassadors (live animals).** 10 a.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The Kids on the Green series is a weekly collection of interactive animal shows, magicians, puppet performances, and more, running through Aug. 20. Free. Visit [viennava.gov](http://viennava.gov) for more.



## Celebrating Debutantes

The Old Dominion Cotillion marked its 28th Anniversary on July 13 by celebrating the debut of five young women in the community. Since its inception, the Old Dominion Cotillion has focused on preparing young ladies for adulthood with grace, poise and a sense of social responsibility. The program culminates with a ball held at Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, which gives young ladies the opportunity to replace blue jeans with an elegant gown and truly celebrates a young woman's transition to a member of society.

The Board of Governors has announced the debut of the following young ladies: Miss Jacquelyn Nancy Olivera, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Olivera of Ashburn; Miss Zoe Elena Patton, daughter of Ms. Lindene Patton of Great Falls; Miss Mariana Pava, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vicente Pava of Leesburg; Miss Abigail Nicole Silvasy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Scott Silvasy of Ashburn; and Miss Anna Florence Toloczko, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Toloczko of Great Falls.

The Debutantes, dressed in white Cinderella-like ball gowns were presented by their fathers. After the formal presentation, the Debutantes, their escorts and



PHOTO BY STONE PHOTOGRAPHY

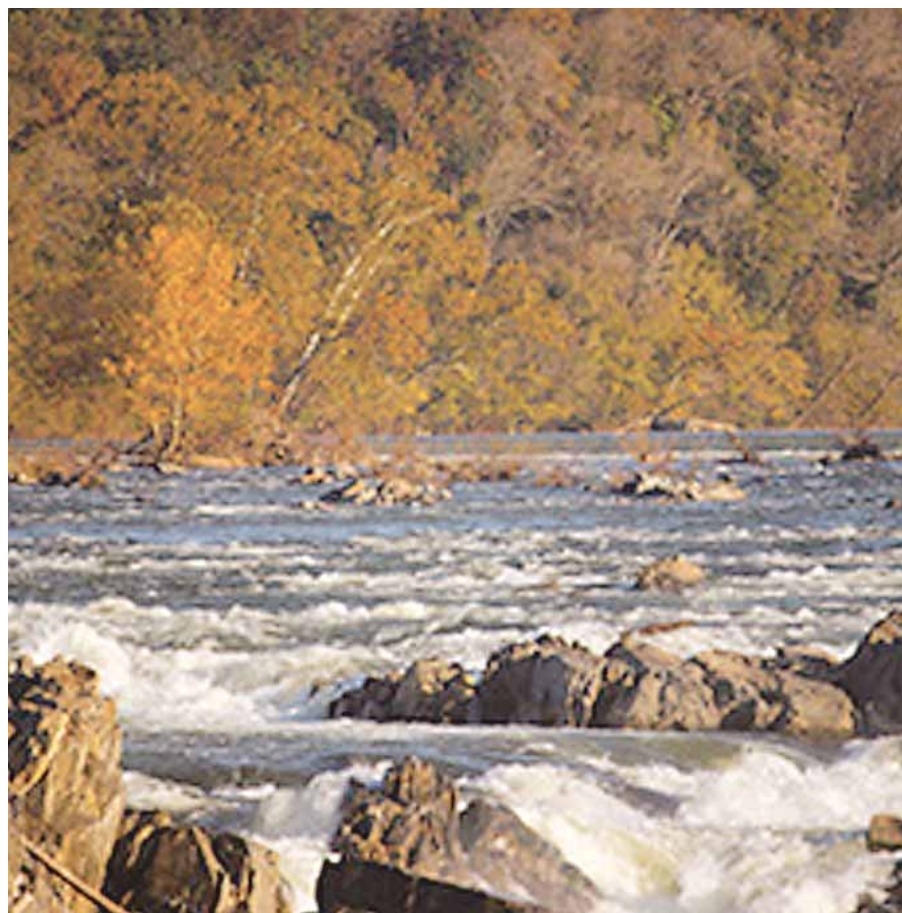
**Participants, from left: – Miss Anna Florence Toloczko; Miss Jacquelyn Nancy Olivera; Miss Zoe Elena Patton; Miss Abigail Nicole Silvasy; and Miss Mariana Pava.**

guests danced the night away to music by Rendezvous.

This year's Assembly included two Pages, five Future Debutantes, two Post Debutante and three Post-Post Debutantes, along with active alumnae from classes dating back to 1992. In addition to learning social graces, the girls also participate in many philanthropic activities throughout the Social Season. The Old Dominion Cotillion's philanthropic mission is to provide experiences that encourage social awareness and compassion for the needs of the community. This year the membership collected coats and blankets for Mobile Hope, a regional organization supporting homeless teens and young adults, and expanded philanthropic reach by affiliating with The Crossings, a senior independent, assisted living and memory care facility in Herndon.

The Old Dominion Cotillion is a women's organization that was established in 1991. If interested in learning more about ODC or to be placed on the invitation list for the Invitational Tea, contact Lynn Williams, ODC Director, at [williamslynn@gmail.com](mailto:williamslynn@gmail.com).

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.olddominioncotillion.org> or the Old Dominion Cotillion Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/OldDominionCotillion](http://www.facebook.com/OldDominionCotillion).



**Fall in Great Falls, by Cindy Dibbs**

## Cindy Dibbs' Photography On Exhibit at Katie's Coffee

Cindy Dibbs' nature photography is on exhibit at Katie's Coffee for the month of August. Her collection showcases many creative ways to display her artwork. Her desire is that her photos will inspire viewers to protect and treasure the valuable gift of nature.

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**NEWS**

**Kofi Annan Resigns As County NAACP President**

**Statement from Fairfax NAACP:**



**Kofi Annan**

President Kofi Annan tendered his resignation as President of the Fairfax County NAACP and it is with profound regret that the Executive Committee has accepted the resignation of Kofi Annan as of Sunday, July 28. Annan resigned for personal reasons, but his resignation did follow a story in the Washington Post about a dispute with former branch president Shirley Ginwright. Despite the private nature of the dispute in the context of a personal text message conversation with Ms. Ginwright, the Executive Committee denounces Mr. Annan's use of derogatory language towards Ms. Ginwright, as well as his negative comments about Fairfax County officials - NAACP said in a statement.

Our primary focus as an organization is to address the myriad of issues Fairfax County residents face on a daily basis, from education and affordable housing, to community policing. The Fairfax NAACP chapter just completed a community service project benefiting the Capital Area Food Bank earlier this month. In partnership with the Fairfax County Police, we're preparing for the Cops and Kids Basketball game next month. It's unfortunate that in the midst of a busy summer, we have to be distracted by what amounts to an interpersonal matter between two individuals who have known each other for years.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we apologize to Ms. Ginwright for the disrespectful comments made by our former president. They do not reflect the attitude or values of this Board. Ms. Ginwright is always welcome to attend our events and share her perspective.

The Executive committee apologizes to Chairman Sharon Bulova. Though we've had our share of disagreements, Chairman Bulova has been a friend and an ally of the NAACP. She was especially critical in establishing more civilian oversight of the Fairfax County Police Department through the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Committee and the Police Civilian Review Panel. As Chairman Bulova is stepping down after this term, we plan to continue this excellent relationship with the Board of Supervisors, and the new Chairman.

The Executive Committee would also like to apologize to FCPD Chief Edwin Roessler. We appreciate Chief Roessler and the FCPD's commitment to serving all the residents of Fairfax County, and intend to continue working with them to strengthen our community.

Though the Fairfax Branch is one of the oldest chapters of the NAACP, the branch has truly flourished in recent years under Mr. Annan's leadership. His tireless advocacy and tenacious pursuit of justice drove everyone in this branch to the next level, culminating in winning the NAACP's prestigious Thalheimer Award in 2018.

We invite the community to join us at our next General Membership Meeting on Aug. 10 at the A.M.E. Baptist Church in Alexandria. Membership in the Fairfax County NAACP is open to all Fairfax County residents, regardless of gender, race, creed, religion, or national origin.

Statement from Sean Perryman, on assuming presidency of Fairfax County NAACP

"As many of you may have heard by now, I'm assuming the Presidency of the Fairfax County NAACP. I'm both excited and humbled by the opportunity to represent an organization with a legacy as rich and important as the NAACP.

In an organization founded by legendary intellectuals and titans of civil and human rights like Ida B. Wells and W.E.B. Du Bois, it's daunting to compare yourself to leaders of past. The work remains though, and must continue. I realize, however, that every branch is only as good as the people who volunteer. Thankfully, in Fairfax, we have some of the most talented and passionate individuals in any branch in the country. I hope to lead in a way that honors their service and dedication. I also hope to lead in a way that does justice to the work already started by Kofi Annan.

**"I will not try to recreate myself but continue to lead with honesty, humor, occasional snark, and a lot of passion. The branch will shift somewhat but our resolve and mission will remain the same."**

— Sean Perryman

I remember when I attended my first meeting not sure what to expect. Kofi brought me into the fold. He gave me real responsibility. He let me ascend to leadership quickly and listened to the advice I gave. I'm incredibly proud of the work I accomplished with him and I'll never forget the opportunity he gave me.

The outpouring of love for Kofi Annan following the announcement of his resignation is a testament to the impact of his work and the lives he's touched. I'm wise enough to understand that you don't re-

place someone like Kofi but can only try to further the work with the amazing team they left you. I hope he continues to stay involved and we can partner in whatever he does next.

I cannot and will not seek to be like previous leaders for I fear I could only be a bad imitation. I will instead try to carve out my own brand of leadership focused on equity, policy, and elevating the status of this branch. I will not try to recreate myself but continue to lead with honesty, humor, occasional snark, and a lot of passion. The branch will shift somewhat but our resolve and mission will remain the same.

My motivation—my daughter Ava and every child like her—remain the same. Because as a nation, we must realize that no one is coming to save us. We must create the communities we seek until eventually the world becomes something we are proud to hand our children and children's children.

As I look forward to the future, I am eager to continue my work with leaders throughout Fairfax County and hope to meet with leaders from the Virginia state delegation, county board, and school board soon.

I appreciate all of you as I prepare for this task of leading this amazing organization."

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

**Nomination Deadline.** The nomination process for the 2019 annual Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards are underway. The Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards program honors youth, coaches and parents for extraordinary service in pursuing victory with honor in various athletics programs throughout Fairfax County. Anyone can nominate a player, coach or parent for consideration of a Champions of Character Award. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/athletics/champions-of-character](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/athletics/champions-of-character) for more.

### FRIDAY-MONDAY/AUG. 2-5

**Road Closure: Route 50.** Eastbound and westbound Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) at the Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) interchange and eastbound Wilson Boulevard (Route 613) between the eastbound Route 50 service road and the westbound Route 50 service road will be closed from 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2 to 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 5 to demolish the Wilson Boulevard bridge deck over Route 50 and install the new bridge deck. Drivers can expect major delays and are advised to use alternate routes. After the weekend closure, drivers can expect single-lane closures on Route 50 and the eastbound Wilson Boulevard bridge until late fall. The project is scheduled for completion this winter. Visit [www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/wilson\\_over\\_50.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/wilson_over_50.asp) for more.

### SUNDAY/AUG. 4

**Life Notes Workshop.** 1:30-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Join singer/songwriter and presenter Daniel Nahmod for an experience of music, readings, journaling, and discussion. Through the Life Notes process developed and refined by Daniel, participants will learn to see themselves with clarity and resolve. \$25-\$45. Visit [uof-nahmod-workshop.eventbrite.com](http://uof-nahmod-workshop.eventbrite.com) or call 703-281-1767.

### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 7

**Setting the Stage for School Success: Preparing for a New School Year.** 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Transitioning to a new school year can be overwhelming. Join us to learn important strategies to help kick-start a child's school year in elementary, middle, or high school. Call 703-204-3941 or visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) for more or to register.

### SATURDAY/AUG. 10

**Shamanic Journeying.** 5-8 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Learn about Shamanic Journeying is, and how it is different than meditation in this three-hour long intensive. In the first two hours, there will be a presentation on the history of shamanic journeying, the different types, and an in-depth explanation describing many different paths that use shamanic journeying as a tool. The third hour will be an application of the skills learned. Donations accepted. Call 703-281-1767 or RSVP at [journeyingaugust10.eventbrite.com/](http://journeyingaugust10.eventbrite.com/).

### TUESDAY/AUG. 13

**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.

### THURSDAY/AUG. 15

**Caregivers Support Group.** 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

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## Money For What, Exactly?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Presumably, most of you readers are aware that many supermarkets have a rack located somewhere near the rear of the store that is stocked with off-price merchandise: discontinued items, items with damaged packaging, out of season products, etc.

Over the years, I have been a regular checker of this rack looking for such bargains. I have purchased breakfast cereal, soup, cookies, candy, and miscellaneous other non-perishables. I've even purchased two bags of Kingsford charcoal.

In addition, I've seen household products, health and beauty, school supplies; and everything else you can imagine, running the gamut from "A" to "Z," for sale. Recently however, on this rack I saw a product I'm not sure I even thought was available to the general public, and if it was, would not have thought buying it from the discontinued merchandise rack at the supermarket would not have been the way to go. But what do I know? As has been proven many times: not much.

The item? A DNA Paternity Test Kit. I guess, I thought, if this test was necessary, it would involve a physician or at least be administered by a health care professional and/or involve witnesses/legal representation (at least a notary). Going to the supermarket or even the drug store? And then testing yourself without necessarily knowing the precautions and proper procedures appropriate for the task at hand?

There seems as if there's a bit more at stake here than an at-home pregnancy test, a test with which many of us are familiar. But DNA testing at home?

What is this, the Maury Povich Show?

Having not traveled down this particular road myself, perhaps I'm unaware of the realities. All I know is what I've seen on television or read about in the papers.

I guess I just assumed (generally a bad thing), that the steps one takes to verify/confirm/resolve paternity-type issues were a bit more involved than a visit to the supermarket.

Apparently, this subject is just another where I know very little about, like tools and how to use them, automobile repair, home maintenance, lawn and garden, cooking, and on and on and on. But enough about me.

What about those wanting answers to extraordinarily important questions: Who's the father? And is that my child? Looks can be deceiving so a professional, or so I thought, incorrectly, is brought in to oversee the process.

Nope. No professional need apply. Just go to your local "chemist," as they say in England. No need to visit "the surgery," as they also say over there.

Just find a box with the right letters on it and go back to your home/work and swab, stick, pin-prick or whatever and the results will be known soon enough if you or someone else is whomever they claim to be or not to be. That is the question which begs an answer, Shakespeare notwithstanding.

It seems only fair that one's birthright should be gotten wrong. And not that home-testing can't be trusted. Just the opposite. Nevertheless, some things, like circumcisions, though they can be performed at home (see "Shaky the mohel" from a long ago Seinfeld episode).

I would have thought, a DNA Paternity test, given the need/want of a resolution/clarification which could possibly impact multiple individuals/families over generations, be similarly performed in the most careful of conditions. This kind of test has no margin for error - or humor.

"Bought the kit in the discount rack at my local supermarket." Is that the answer you want to give when all eyes are on you? And saying how much you saved over regular price is unlikely to endear you to any and all of the interested parties on hand.

After all, money really isn't the issue.

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



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