

County Pivots Back to  
Virtual Learning

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# Great Falls CONNECTION

Jackie, Dale  
and Lucy Stout  
of Great Falls.  
Lucy is a golden  
retriever.

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PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

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(File Photo) Fairfax County School Board.

## County Pivots Back to Virtual Learning

Superintendent sought Board consensus.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Fairfax County School Board reached a consensus during its July 21 Work Session and accepted Superintendent Scott Brabrand's recommendation to begin the 2020-21 school year 100 percent virtually. The surprise item on the Board's agenda came six days after the deadline passed for students, teachers and school-based technology specialists (SBTS) to respond to two Instruction Options for the 2020-21 school year, in-person or online for the academic school year.

Brabrand said, "The bottom line is this. We must place the health and safety of our teachers, our students and our families first. The COVID-19 pandemic looks much different than it did even three weeks ago. Then, the science told us we could offer in-person instruction safely if we took the right precautions."

BRABRAND shared the situational analysis that led him to the recommendation starting with



Scott Brabrand,  
Superintendent,  
Fairfax County Public  
Schools



Karl Frisch,  
Providence District  
Representative



Megan McLaughlin,  
Braddock District  
Representative



Rachna Sizemore  
Heizer, Member-at-  
Large

PHOTOS COURTESY FCPS

health conditions, the impact of those conditions on operations, technology readiness, and more. "There is a record number of new (COVID-19) cases in the country and the mortality rate is rising. Governor Northam stated last week that he would be prepared to go back to Phase Two if needed. Last night, multiple health officials and Maryland's most populous jurisdictions asked the state to reconsider its in-person activities. We have also seen today that the U.S. Surgeon General has said that transmission rates must be lowered before schools can reopen. Just hours ago, the CDC reported

data that the actual number of coronavirus infections is probably 10 times higher than the reported cases in Fairfax County. We have seen some declines... But more recently, the decrease has stopped. Our numbers have remained steady or sometimes have increased each day." Brabrand said several regional school divisions recently announced virtual starts to their school year due to those concerns, including Arlington and Manassas schools. Brabrand added that one-third of FCPS employees live outside Fairfax County, with the number for teachers at 37 percent and principals, assistant

principals and directors of activities at 40 percent. "We know that the coronavirus does not recognize boundaries, and we have thousands of employees who live in other jurisdictions but come in daily to Fairfax." Another reason Brabrand said he sought the Board's consensus to open 100 percent virtually was that health conditions impacted operations. Data received the week before from the Enrollment Form Choice revealed 60 percent of students preferred in-person learning, yet only 48 percent of teachers signed that choice as their preference. Brabrand said substitute applications

were down by a third compared to last year, and ADA accommodation requests for teachers with medical needs soared to 1522 in June. "Ten percent of the teaching workforces may not return in person... This number remains fluid and it's expected to increase throughout the year." Brabrand said there were not enough teachers to meet in-person student needs.

**AS FOR TECHNOLOGY READINESS,** Brabrand assured the Board that when the students return in September, there will be "robust virtual instruction that will be the pride of this country." He underscored a new help desk for children, a project team, and directions in eight languages to use the new computers. "We have ways to make the links easier in Google and Blackboard Collaborate ... We can share with the Board later about how we're going to teach teachers best instructional practices in virtual instruction." He said the division now had the latest updates for load capacity, noting that Blackboard Collaborate was now in the cloud, and there would not be security issues either as they fixed that.

## Highlights of School Board Member Questions

**Q:** We've got a significant portion of our school staff population that has not yet been surveyed for their views on returning to work and are obviously impacted in a virtual environment. What considerations are being made for them, and when can we expect to plan for them? (Karl Frisch, Providence District Representative)

**A:** We're looking at ways that we can ensure that our employees can come to work safely and engage in social distancing... typically, because the current phase three that we're in. And so, we would certainly want those employees to

come into work and work on the site. Those employees who could continue to telework can certainly continue to take advantage of our telework regulation. And then looking at ways that we could utilize that for different functions of the school system. We also know that with our lack of distribution. We've held back a portion of approximately 3000 laptops for our school-based support employees who can also engage in and support things and activities in the classroom. (Sean McDonald, interim assistant superintendent, Department of Human Resources)

**Q:** I need to know more about what we're going to do to make sure that we can have

a robust education for our students, not the ones who are going to log on all the time, but the ones who are disconnected. (Rachna Sizemore Heizer, Member-at-Large)

**A:** I will work to provide that; I appreciate it and we are going to find ways to connect with those that have not been connected from the spring and to reconnect with them, and I'll be glad to bring updates to the Board on how that will be. (Superintendent Scott Brabrand)

**Q:** What are we going to do in partnership with the county to help our working families, so that they have a way to have their

children be safe for those who have to return to their jobs, and do it in light of this decision? (Megan McLaughlin, Braddock District Representative)

**A:** We (will) continue to have conversations with SACC and our early childhood.

I recognize that virtual may make the needs for childcare even greater... We're working on childcare with in-person, and when we pivot to in-person, we still want to offer our teachers and all of our school-based staff...the opportunity for the four-day in-person instruction. (Superintendent Scott Brabrand)



# Virginia Is for Dog Lovers, Too

December designated Puppy Mill Awareness Month.

SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**R**ecognizing Virginia's proud agricultural heritage, its citizens' proud tradition of animal stewardship, and the value and service of dogs as companion animals, in law enforcement, the military, and in therapeutic situations, the Commonwealth will recognize December as "Puppy Mill Awareness" Month for the first time this December, and in each succeeding year.

The Senate's Joint Resolution (SJ68), introduced by Senator Linwood Lewis Jr (D- 6), of Accomack, which passed the 2020 General Assembly by unanimous vote in both the House and Senate, notes the jeopardy to these traditions brought by out-of-state, large-scale commercial dog breeding operations, commonly known as puppy mills, which produce more than two million dogs each year into the pet trade. Many of these dogs come into the Commonwealth from Ohio and mid-western states and many are often underdeveloped, sick, or suffer from genetic deformities or behavioral defects, including poor socialization.

In designating Puppy Mill Awareness Month, legislators resolve that Virginians are encour-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Puppy mills produce about 2 million dogs annually in the United States**

aged to observe the month "by supporting efforts to raise awareness of puppy mills, support rescue organizations, and promote responsible dog breeding and responsible pet adoption."

During December, public shelters and animal

advocacy groups will promote public education and better understanding of such questions as, "What is a puppy mill?"; "Where do puppy mill puppies end up?"; "What to expect when adopting a puppy?"; and "What can you do to help?"

# Puppy Stores Face Higher Scrutiny

New law mandates regular inspections.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**D**uring its January 2020 session, the Virginia General Assembly passed several animal protection bills, including one to establish inspection criteria and regular inspection of retail stores which sell dogs and cats for profit. Animal advocates and consumers had long sought better protections for animals after incidents of poor treatment and on-going buyer reports of poor health in animals purchased in stores. A bill sponsored by Senator Dave Marsden, D-37, found favor in this year's Assembly; passed by the Senate 38-2, by the House 64-35, and signed by Governor Northam. Most provisions go into effect on July 1, 2022, after the criteria development process.

The State Veterinarian's office is charged with adopting a set of comprehensive regulations governing the keeping of dogs and cats by any pet shop. The regulations are to be aligned with existing provisions for keeping companion animals in the Commonwealth; agricultural animals are excluded. Standards of adequate care will address exercise, feed, water, shelter, space, treatment, and proper cleaning and lighting, and provide guidance on how to comply.

The standard criteria developed through the Commonwealth's regulatory process will include an opportunity for interested members of



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Pups seized from Manassas pet shop found adopted homes.**

the public to comment prior to final adoption.

Of the hundreds of retail pet stores located in Virginia, only 17 across the Commonwealth now sell puppies and kittens. Instead, many stores selling pet merchandise and services, but not dogs and cats, have agreements with their local pet rescue organizations to display animals in need of adoption.

Under the new regulations, State Animal Welfare Inspectors will conduct at least one unannounced inspection of each pet shop selling dogs and cats annually. Pet shops are subject to losing or limiting their required registration, or probation, for violations. Local animal police and animal control officers continue to have authority to prosecute for violation of animal care and treatment laws.

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Kerri Schepers hosts a session for PAL readers.

## Virtual Reading Sessions Prove Pup-ular

Local reading program gains national media attention.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

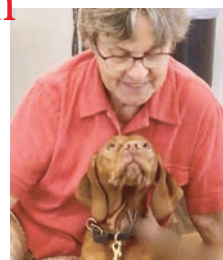
Library reading programs were a casualty of coronavirus cancellations and library closures, including those featuring canine reading partners. But as the saying goes, “you can’t keep a good dog down.” So the people at People, Animals, Love, (PAL), a nonprofit therapy dog group, came up with a way to continue the stories — with virtual reading sessions.

PALs Coordinator, James Haworth started organizing his normally on-site therapy dog teams for the new Zoom meeting approach. Sign ups for child readers began in April with PAL hosting about 40 reader signups for those weekly offerings. Then the program became the subject of national media attention. With that exposure, signups jumped to 200 readers per week. Interest remains strong with slots filling quickly as they are posted.

The program was forced to ramp up quickly as emails poured in. The virtual program generated interest, not just from readers and dog teams, but from other therapy dog groups seeking to offer similar programs. Haworth hopes that this “virtual experience can be global.”

Reading sessions with dogs, and the occasional cat and cockatoo, have long been known to provide readers with a pressure free, nonjudgmental opportunity to practice reading aloud. It helps to build confidence of new readers, and offers practice for those who struggle or those who just love to read.

Therapy dogs have offered reading sessions at local libraries regularly for a doz-



PAL Therapy dog team Evelyn Novins and Haley.



Reader Wren Martens reads virtually to therapy dog Durango (Rona Walters, Handler).

en years (see Burke Connection, March 1, 2019). Evelyn Novins, a former librarian and reading specialist, is a PAL member team, with her dog Haley. They have worked with children in both the physical and on-line sessions. When asked about differences in the two forms of delivery, Novins found equal benefit. Although readers don’t get to touch the dog, they do get an introduction before the reading session begins. Reading is slowed a bit by turning the book to share pictures with the dog. Novins is impressed with the level of technical ability that the children typically display, regardless of age. “They are calm, cool, and collected through any need for computer or volume adjustments. They’ll be good future tech users,” said Novins.

All readers and dogs start with a PAL host, like enthusiastic and engaging Kerri Schepers, in a group session. Then each child is assigned to a break out room and an individual dog for the actual reading session. The therapy dogs respond to the voices. During quarantine, it seems all family members, including dogs, have found the need to adapt quickly to use of Zoom meetings.

PAL is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1982. Readers and potential program donors can learn more at PALs web site [www.peopleanimalslove.org](http://www.peopleanimalslove.org)

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## PET CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY JOHN ASADOORIAN

Ginger & Gilligan (Gilly) Asadoorian are ten and eight, respectively. Currently residing in Great Falls, this Hound/Shepherd mix and English Springer Spaniel have had a pretty eventful lock-down. Poor Ginger managed to tear the ACLs in both of her hind legs and Gilly has become more attached during the stay-at-home order and a little sneak-ster at that. He likes to sneak up the backstairs and curl up behind his mom and dad's bed, only to be discovered when his loud snoring begins. If they could talk, Gilly and Ginger would ask what the deal is with the humans always talking to their computers.

## Our Pets and the Pandemic

Pets are spending a lot more time with owners as a result of the pandemic.

— JOAN BRADY



PHOTO BY JACKIE STOUT (LUCY IN STROLLER)

Lucy Stout is a golden retriever living in Great Falls. If Lucy could talk, she would probably say that at thirteen and a half, owners Jackie and Dale were a little slow to get her a set of wheels for all of those long, lock-down walks.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Jackie, Dale and Lucy Stout of Great Falls.

Mortimer (Morty) Pearlman is a four month old English Bulldog and is the pride of the Clarendon neighborhood in Arlington. Morty is a k-19, having become a Pearlman during the pandemic. He's a puppy, so pretty much everything he does is adorable, even when he is destroying everything in the house. If he could talk, he would probably ask why his mom, Heather, is always singing the Baby Shark song. I think we all know why.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY



## Meet Bun Bun

J. Scheid of Great Falls writes: Please meet Bun Bun, a 7 month old Holland Lop. Bun Bun likes sleeping, climbing, and running. He also loves to eat oats!



## Honoring Great Falls Firefighters

Reagan and Spalding McNamara love their Great Falls firefighters, writes Kirstyn McNamara, Personal Chef, [www.OneChicChef.com](http://www.OneChicChef.com)





## Rose Red Helps Family Stay Home

The Deyo family of Great Falls submitted the following entry: "This is Rose Red, she's been quarantining at home for her whole life so when her family started staying home she was ready to help. She decided to assist with the puzzle that her family was working on."

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## PET CONNECTION

Some bespoke doghouses are donated to charity auctions.



PHOTO BY  
LA PETITE MAISON

# Doghouses Built for Luxury and Charity

From marble floors to glass roof tops, when it comes to the options for dream doghouses, the sky's the limit.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Marble floors and winding staircases might come to mind when imagining a dream home. These features also characterize luxury doghouses, says former Bethesda architect and interior designer Alex Dooley, who has designed and built 12 high-end canine abodes during the past year. "I've just started selling most of what I've built to family and friends," she said. "I've given 10% of my profit from the sale of my doghouses to animal shelters."

What was once considered an outdoor dwelling place for the family dog is now often considered a second home for pets as they are considered members of the family and spend most of their time indoors.

"People usually use the houses when they're entertaining outside and want a comfortable place for their dogs," Michelle Pollak, interior designer and owner of La Petite Maison, where she creates custom doghouses.

Options for design and furnishings are nearly limitless, says Pollak who creates bespoke doghouses that have included hand painted wallpaper and marble floors. "I've even made wrought iron chandeliers," said Pollak. "We've had doghouses that were large enough to have 12 people standing inside."

Such indulgence draws criticism, Dooley acknowledges. "I believe that there is a way to enjoy things that you love and also contribute to the greater good," she said. "I donated two homes for charity auctions."

One such charitable event was an exhibit at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens called Barkitecture, where visitors walked through a maze of dog-sized mansions. Most were designed by architects and donated to raise money for the botanical gardens and other nonprofit organizations.

"One of the most memorable was a two story dog house with stairs," said Kelly Welsh of Norfolk Botanical Gardens. "You could tell the ones that were made by architects because they were striking and had clean lines and nice elements."

Not all high-end doghouses are built for family pets, says Pollak. Some are created and purchased out of a sense of benevolence. "We once built a house for a woman who'd rescued several dogs," she said. "The doghouse had to accommodate all of the dogs, including one that was disabled. He couldn't stand up very well so everything was built around his needs."

Pollak also recalls building a house for someone who lived in an apartment complex that didn't allow pets. "The woman had been taking care of a stray alley cat and wanted a three room cat house that she could leave outside," she said. "The cat would sleep in one room, eat in one room and use the litter box in another room."

There are even design options for non-traditional pets. "One man wanted a potbellied pig house that was a replica of his house," said Pollak. "He kept it in the grand entrance of his home so that the pig could hang out inside."

Not all luxury doghouses are limited to the affluent. "Our clients range from those

who are wealthy to those who save their money because they want a really pretty doghouse," said Pollak.

While her houses generally range in price from \$9,000 to \$35,000, Pollak equates purchases of a luxury doghouse to buying designer clothes, shoes and other items with a high price tag.

"It's like buying a painting or a piece of jewelry," she said. "These doghouses are beautiful works of art and with all the stressful events going on in the world, beauty can be soothing. People underestimate the incredible power of beauty."

**"We once built a house for a woman who'd rescued several dogs. The doghouse had to accommodate all of the dogs, including one that was disabled."**

— Michelle Pollak, La Petite Maison



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Hugging Dixie, Lola Ortiz-Neidhart of Great Falls bonds with her dog after a long day of school. Dixie and the rest of her family often play and walk with her.

## 'Unbreakable Bond'

Lab Pointer Dixie Rolls Over for Treats

Four-year-old Lab Pointer Dixie lives with her owner Lola Ortiz-Neidhart and the rest of her family in Great Falls. According to Ortiz-Neidhart, they adopted Dixie three years ago from PetSmart.

"We rescued her from a shelter that works with PetSmart so we went there and when we were looking at all the dogs, Dixie

started nibbling on us and it was super cute so we picked her."

Dixie leads a very active life; frequently going on hikes with her family and learning tricks. Among her abilities, Ortiz-Neidhart singles out rolling over as one of Dixie's best.

"Dixie is very good at tricks and one of her best ones is rolling over. She is constantly rolling over for treats."

— JESSICA FENG



Shortly after arriving in Virginia from New Jersey, Taylor and owner Cherith Harrison pause for a picture.

Cherith Harrison of McLean adopted Taylor

"It had been two and a half years since I'd lost my last dog, Rocky at age 15. I desperately wanted to adopt a dog and I had been approved by the NOVA lab rescue group - but I was on a waiting list because I lived in a high rise apartment building."

At a barbeque, Harrison re-

ceived an email from NOVA Lab Rescue saying they were still finding her a dog. She mentioned it to a friend and he happened to know someone giving a chocolate lab away.

"Three days later, I picked Taylor up and she was mine! She is the sweetest girl - I am so lucky!"

— JESSICA FENG



# PET CONNECTION

## PEOPLE AND PETS OF GREAT FALLS

### Remy and Kendall Smith

Remy, a 4-month-old red fox Labrador, is a service dog in training. Kendall Smith, Remy's owner, is a Great Falls native who just graduated from Villanova University and is staying in the Great Falls area for graduate school.

"I knew I always wanted a lab or golden retriever," said Smith. "Remy's the sweetest boy and he loves to work because both his parents won national hunting and dock diving titles."

Although Remy is just a pup and recently started training to become a service dog, he's passed phase one of five for his two-year training program. Now that Remy's completed manners and obedience, he's moving on to advanced obedience and retrieval – such as picking up dropped or needed items.

"[Training] definitely feels like a full-time job sometimes, but it's the most rewarding job in the world," said Smith.

During quarantine, the two have been busy going on walks in Great Falls Park, wading by the river, and having playdates with other quarantined dogs.

### Merlin and the Keough family

Merlin, a 2-year-old Irish wolfhound, lives with the Keough family in Great Falls. The Keough's are an army family who have moved around a lot in the past, but settled down in the Great Falls area. Two years ago, the family made a 13-hour drive up to Vermont to pick up then 6-month-old Merlin.

Since then, Merlin's been busy exploring the dog parks in the area, walking around Reston Town Center, and going on Home Depot runs. St. Patrick's Day was a particularly exciting day for Merlin: he got the opportunity to walk in the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day parade with other Irish wolfhounds and interact with the crowds, as well as fellow wolfhounds.

"Merlin is a very sweet dog who will get along with any dog who is willing to get along with him," said Si-annan Keough, a rising junior at Langley High School. "He loves ice cubes and cuddles and often forgets that he is a 160-pound dog."

### Lucy, Mango and Kylie, Austen Head

Lucy, an English bulldog, American bulldog, and boxer mix, and Mango, a Staffordshire bull terrier, are two rescues adopted by Kylie and Austen Head of Great Falls.

In 2015, the couple adopted Lucy, in her third home that year. Last year Jellybean passed away, and as the two searched for another dog to adopt, they came across Mango.

Mango was rescued from a junkyard that had caught fire, and Kylie Head says that Mango lived a rough life. As soon as the two read Mango's story, they set up a meet and greet. Then, they had a two week in home trial period before ultimately making the decision to adopt her.

"Adoption is so important because more than 1 million dogs are euthanized in shelters in the U.S. annually, with the majority of them being pit bulls or bull breed dogs," said Kylie Head. "We hope to be advocates for the breed and show people how they are: Mango is an example of this, from junkyard to couch snuggles."

— MALLORY CULHANE



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Kendall Smith of Great Falls runs an Instagram account for her red fox Labrador Remy, @its-remy\_theredlab, to share their adventures and training progress, and currently has more than 800 followers.



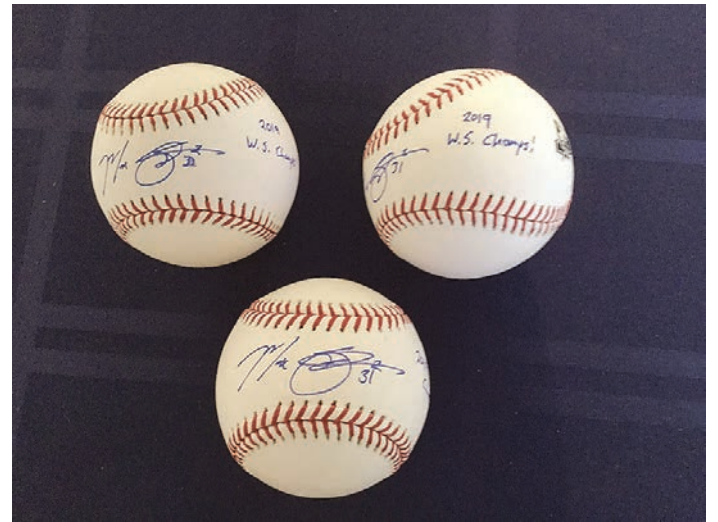
Merlin, an Irish wolfhound, walked the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day parade this year with his owners, the Keough family: interacting with other Irish wolfhounds and the parade crowds.



Kylie Head of Great Falls, says that "bull breed dogs are overlooked due to negative stereotypes and inaccurate preconceived notions; we hope to be advocates for the breed and show people how they are."



Kylie and Austen Head of Great Falls run their dogs' Instagram account, @lucy\_and\_mango, filled with pictures of the two having fun at the beach, playing in the backyard, and cuddling on the couch.



Donors will get on base with a contribution of \$20 or more and also have the opportunity to own the baseball signed by Max Scherzer.

### Max Scherzer Signs Baseball for Women's Education Fundraiser

There is an opportunity to own a baseball signed by Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer with "2019 World Series Champs!" and at the same time support women's and girls' education. With the cancellation of McLean Branch AAUW's Used Book Sale, its annual charitable fundraiser, a substitute fundraiser will feature the Scherzer baseball opportunity along with a request for contributions to support education and local scholarships for women. In 2019 the proceeds of the book sale enabled the branch to fund scholarships for women returning to college at George Mason, Marymount, and Trinity universities and also support women's education through AAUW Funds, a 501(c)(3) entity.

Donors will get on base with a contribution of \$20 or more and also have the opportunity to hit a home run and own the baseball signed by Max Scherzer.

In fact, three donors will have the opportunity because Max gave the branch three signed balls. For each \$20 contribution, the person's name will be listed. Multiples of \$20 will enhance the opportunity, and the owners will be selected randomly.

Contributions can be made until Aug. 31 through GoFundMe at <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/aauw-mclean-areas-home-run-fundraiser-for-women-and-education>. Donations may also be sent with full name, address, and phone number to McLean Branch AAUW (American Association of University Women) at P.O. Box 1002, McLean, VA 22101. A receipt will be sent for each contribution. The \$40,000 goal will enable the branch to fund the scholarships and AAUW fellowships and grants as in the past. Last year's book sale netted \$47,000.

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Identity Released in Potomac River Death Investigation

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Department – Major Crimes Division continue to investigate the undetermined death of an adult male who was located deceased on Tuesday, July 21 in the Wet Bottom area of the Potomac River.

The deceased has been identified as Ankit Kumar, age 30, of McLean.. On Tuesday, July 21, at approximately 7:06 p.m., a resident who was kayaking on the Potomac River called the Emergency Communication Center (9-1-1) to report a possible deceased individual in the Wet Bottom area of the river (located south of Great Falls). First responders, which included 2nd District officers, officers from the police department's Managed Search and Operations Team (MSOT), and Fire and Rescue personnel responded to the Wet Bottom area of the Potomac River and located Kumar deceased in the river.

Detectives continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding Kumar's death. Kumar's body was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in Baltimore for an autopsy. The results of the autopsy are pending.

Anyone with information regarding this death is urged to contact the Major Crimes Division at 240-773-5070.

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ♦ JULY 29 - AUGUST 4, 2020 ♦ 9



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

### Announcements



## Orange County Public Schools

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Candidates must apply at [www.ocss-va.org](http://www.ocss-va.org)

### Announcements

### Obituary

### Obituary

#### Alfred (Fred) Mathias Erling

went to be with the Lord Sunday morning, July 19, 2020. He was 90 years young.

Fred was born on February 26, 1930 in Cumberland, MD. He joined the US Naval Reserves in 1947 and moved to Washington DC. He attended Strayer Business College. He took a job at Loews Theaters as an usher, and before long became an Assistant Manager. His career was interrupted in 1952, when he was called up for active duty during the Korean War. He served his country well and was honorably discharged. When he returned in 1957, he became the Eastern Seaboard Division Manager for Loews Theaters. MGM was a subsidiary of Loews, giving Fred the opportunity to meet an array of Hollywood stars. He helped launch countless world premieres. Fred's contacts extended throughout the government and many sports leagues. He was a lifelong Washington Redskins fan. Fred served on many government committees including the Presidents Inaugural and Beautification Committee. He also served as a liaison between Loews Hotels in the White House. In 1978, Loews sold the Washington, DC theaters and Fred was transferred to Fort Lauderdale where he spent the remainder of his career. He was thrilled about that because he was an excellent golfer. Some called him "Fairway Freddie". He and Mary moved to Great Falls, VA, in 1995 to spend more time with family. He made many friends there. Fred loved people. Wherever he went, he would say, "what a beautiful smile". He was quite the dresser. It was not unusual to see him in shirt, tie and cufflinks no matter the occasion; including his workouts. He will forever be remembered for his signature Jovan Musk. He loved his Cadillacs, but most of all, he loved "His Mary." Fred was a peacemaker. His famous line, "Hey Gang, Just Enjoy". Fred will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery. Date unknown at this time. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Erling, daughters Camille Williams, Lauren Mencia, Barbara Dilday, and his son, Gregory Erling. He has 9 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

### COUNTY OFFERS 14 SATELLITE ABSENTEE VOTING LOCATIONS

In anticipation of a high voter turnout, Fairfax County will offer 14 satellite locations for in-person absentee voting for the Nov. 3, general election. The Board of Supervisors established these locations during their July 14, meeting. For the 2020 presidential election, the county is increasing its absentee voting locations compared to the nine that were available in 2016. Election officials called for added locations because they are anticipating a high turnout —especially with the new state law that allows "no-excuse" absentee voting. Until now, voters were required to have a reason to vote absentee.

These 14 satellite locations will be open for in-person absentee voting starting on Oct. 14:

Centreville Regional Library, 14200 Saint Germain Drive, Centreville  
Franconia Governmental Center 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria  
Great Falls Library 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls  
Herndon Fortnightly Library 768 Center Street, Herndon  
Laurel Hill Golf Club 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton  
Mason Governmental Center 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
McLean Governmental Center 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean  
Mount Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria  
North County Governmental Center 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston  
Providence Community Center 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax  
Sully Governmental Center 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly  
Thomas Jefferson Library 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church  
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church  
West Springfield Governmental Center 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield  
These locations are currently proposed to be open weekdays from 1 to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, the Fairfax County Electoral Board may decide to adjust these hours later this summer based on the interest in absentee voting by mail.

### VIENNA BUSINESS EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

Vienna Town Council adopted a temporary emergency ordinance that allows Town of Vienna businesses to take advantage of outdoor commercial activities that currently are permitted under Phase One of the Forward Virginia business reopening plan. Under the 60-day ordinance approved by Council, restaurants may open outdoor spaces for customers at a capacity up to 50% of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy. The ordinance may be amended, rescinded, or readopted by Council for a period up to six months.

Restaurants and other businesses interested in conducting outdoor commercial activity must submit a permit application through <https://vienna.idtplans.com/secure/> along with a diagram of the proposed outdoor dining area or other commercial activity. There are no fees associated with the permit.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

**-Werner Heisenberg**



# Vienna Man Pleads Guilty to Swatting Conspiracy

A Vienna man pleaded guilty July 21 to charges related to his role in a conspiracy that conducted multiple swatting events targeting journalists, a Virginia university, a historic Virginia church, and a former cabinet official.

According to court documents, John William Kirby Kelley, 19, conspired with John Cameron Denton, a former leader of the Atomwaffen Division in Texas, and others to conduct “swatting” calls. Swatting is a harassment tactic that involves deceiving dispatchers into believing that a person or persons are in imminent danger of death or bodily harm and causing the dispatchers to send police and emergency services to an unwitting third party’s address.

Kelley managed the online chatroom where conspirators chose targets and orchestrated the swatting calls. Many of the conspirators held white supremacist views and targeted individuals because they were motivated by racial animus. Kelley communicated with these white supremacists and used racial epithets.

Kelley is a former student at Old Dominion University. In early November 2018, he asked conspirators to swat Old Dominion University, which conspirators did ultimately swat on Nov. 29 and Dec. 4, 2018. In response to the bomb threat on Nov. 29, 2018, university officials issued a shelter in place order and law enforcement were forced to search and clear every building on campus.

During the course of the conspiracy, members placed at least 134 swatting calls to jurisdictions across the country. In addition to the swatting calls against Old Dominion University, conspirators conducted two additional swatting calls in the Eastern District of Virginia, including a call to a former Cabinet official living in Northern Virginia in January 2019 and the Alfred Street Baptist Church in November 2018.

Kelley pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States, interstate threats to injure. He faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison when sentenced on November 24. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after taking into account the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

G. Zachary Terwilliger, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and James A. Dawson, Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Division, FBI Washington Field Office, made the announcement after Senior U.S. District Judge Liam O'Grady accepted the plea. Assistant U.S. Attorney Carina A. Cuellar is prosecuting the case.

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## Wait. What?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

“Thyroid cancer.” Again? I thought the point of last week’s surgical biopsy was to genetically-sequence a lung cancer tumor. Now you tell me the radiologist/pathologist found more thyroid cancer. As it already has happened, my oncologist - in coordination with my endocrinologist, said that my most recent CT scan showed “excellent results” (from my previous thyroid cancer treatment - which ended with radioiodine therapy), and furthermore noted that the thyroid cancer was confined to my neck. Yet a few weeks later, the thyroid cancer is back in my lungs. What happened? Or more importantly perhaps, what didn’t happen?

Well, if I understand what my oncologist said to us over the phone on Wednesday, disappointing as it initially sounded, it might not be at all bad. Apparently, the dose of radioiodine (nuclear medicine) I received had been modified (reduced) due to my pre-existing kidney function issue. Since this modification was not a “normal” dose, it didn’t locate all the thyroid cancer tumors; the smaller ones, that is, so the presumption was that all the thyroid cancer had been found, identified and eliminated. Until last week’s biopsy found otherwise. What does it all mean? I’ll try to explain, although I’m sure I’ll get lost in the science somewhere.

I still have two types of cancer: non small cell lung cancer and papillary thyroid cancer. However, I may have thyroid cancer in the lungs which actually may be better than having lung cancer in the lungs. The reason being: papillary thyroid cancer is curable whereas non small cell lung cancer is not (it is treatable though). Moreover, thyroid cancer is slow-growing and at present, so small that there may not be any treatment to follow. To learn more definitively what is happening in my body, I'm scheduled for a PET scan this week and then another surgical biopsy the following week. This time the biopsy will be a lung biopsy. This will get tissue from within the lung (a bit of a lung-collapsing risk), not from the periphery (the lymph nodes). Presumably, this biopsy will provide some clarity.

According to my oncologist, I have a dozen or so tumors in my lungs, some of which may be thyroid cancer. Unfortunately, it's not practical or prudent to biopsy all of them so a complete assessment will not be possible. Therefore, an educated guess will have to be made: continue to treat the lung cancer with immunotherapy or not, and/or only treat the thyroid cancer which given its small size and slow-growing nature wouldn't require any treatment - for now. And might not for years.

But if there are more tumors that are lung cancer - which the doctors can't confirm, and I'm not receiving any treatment for them (because of the thyroid cancer diagnosis), won't my lung cancer tumors grow? And since one medicine doesn't work against two types of cancer, I may not be receiving treatment for the cancer that's really active and receiving treatment for the cancer that is not active. And the only way to find out what types of cancer exist is to biopsy each and every tumor - which is not going to happen. As my oncologist said in response to our characterization of this damned if I don't and damned if I do scenario as being very complicated: "Mr. Lourie has always been a complicated patient."

As I review this column and reconsider what my oncologist has advised going forward, it's not only complicated, it's confusing and a bit disorienting. What exactly do I have and what are the risks, and more importantly: what is my life expectancy? Nevertheless, as my oncologist said: "I'm glad we did this biopsy." Me, too.

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





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