

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

Official ribbon cutters included Sara Baldwin, Acting Exec. Dir. Fairfax County Park Authority; Supervisor Dan Storck, Mt Vernon District; Linwood Gorham, Park Authority Board; and retiring Area 4 Park Maintenance Operations Manager, Edwin Richardson, and others (not pictured).



Central Green Park Officially Open

NEWS, PAGE 4

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Seen in TJ's Freshman Class

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SENIOR LIVING

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'Nothing More Rewarding Than Working with Kids'

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CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 11

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

South County Football Senior Awarded a \$5,000 Scholarship

At the South County High School Football Awards Banquet, senior player Keshawn Toran was awarded a \$5,000 post-secondary scholarship by South County Football Alumni Association (SCFAA) and State Farm agent Casey Whitmarsh.

Providing this scholarship helps highlight one of SCFAA's main objectives, which is grooming young men for life after football. "We want to help players reach their full potential both on and off the field," says SCFAA President, Marlon Dubuisson. "There will be a time when players play their last snap of football. We want to make sure they are set up to be educated, employable, and come back with the drive to give back to the South County community and join the next class of successful South County football alumni."

For this scholarship, SCFAA teamed up again with local State Farm Agent Casey Whitmarsh on this year's scholarship. "I am proud to support the South County Foot-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

South County football senior Keshawn Toran receives a \$5,000 post-secondary scholarship.

ball Alumni Association scholarship," says Whitmarsh. "As a business owner and fellow parent, I am happy to help the curators of our future world. These students are our future and our legacy."

SCFAA Chairman, Jeremy Haynes, stated: "South County

football is a community that continues to support players even when their high school career is done. This is bigger than football, it's about setting up a culture that will continue around the Lorton community area."

Keshawn Toran will be attending

Shenandoah University in the fall where he plans on studying Sports Management and will continue his football career. In response to receiving this scholarship Keshawn said: "This scholarship means a lot to me, it is a good step in the right direction in getting set up for success."

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Seen in TJ's Freshman Class

In 2021, the U.S. News Best High Schools report ranked TJ the number one school nationwide for the second year running.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology



Students in their lab coats set to learn at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.



Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools, describes the revised admission process for TJ.

— Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools

In 2021, the U.S. News Best High Schools report ranked TJ the number one school nationwide for the second year running. TJ offers a challenging, comprehensive college preparatory program, with research-based learning emphasizing STEM-related courses and activities. In addition, TJ offers a complete high school curriculum, fine arts and performing arts, and world languages. There are over 180 clubs and activities, according to FCPS. Previously, attending one

of the top three middle schools in Fairfax County, Carson, Longfellow, and Rocky Run Middle Schools, seemed to give students a better chance of attending TJ. Operating under the newly revised 2020-21 Eligibility Requirements for the In TJ's merit-based admissions application process, students were allocated a number to be identified, making it race, ethnicity, and gender blind. For the first time in ten years, every middle school in the Fairfax County Public School division is represented at TJ as seats in the Class of 2025 were allocated for the top 1.5 percent of applicants from every middle school's eighth-grade student population. Students from historically underrepresented schools increased to 30.73 percent versus 5.56 percent (2020-21).

According to TJ Admissions Data, students in the Class of 2025 are "high performers and are well prepared for TJ's academic rigor." The average GPA [Grade Point Average] for applicants was at 3.9 on the scale between 1.0 and 4.0, slightly higher this year than in the past five years. The average reported GPA, 3.9539, remained high for those offered admissions, in line with previous years.

The new TJ admissions process also resulted in "a significant increase in access to teaching for groups who have faced barriers to entry, including special education students, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and English Learners," said Brabrand.

FCPS staff increased outreach efforts to encourage students to apply, resulting in a 17 percent increase in enrollment applications, 3,034 applications versus 2,539 applications for SY2020-21.

THE CLASS OF 2025 represents greater diversity and inclusivity. According to FCPS: Black students increased from 1.23 percent (2020-21) to 7.09 percent. Hispanic students increased from 3.29 percent (2020-21) to 11.27 percent. Female students increased from 41.80 percent (2020-21) to 46.00 percent. White students increased from 17.70 percent (2020-21) to 22.36 percent.

The most significant increases occurred in the number of economically disadvantaged students [those eligible to receive reduced-price or free meals at school] from slightly greater than 0.5 percent (0.62 in 2020-21) to 25.09 percent. In addition, 2.36 percent of accepted students are special education students, and 7.09 percent of accepted students are English Language Learners. Asian students continue to constitute a majority of the class at 54.36 percent.

"As usual, all newly admitted students will have access to comprehensive support from school staff to ensure a smooth transition and a successful experience for every student enrolling," said Brabrand. "We want to be sure we are providing them the support so that they can maximize their talents."

"As usual, all newly admitted students will have access to comprehensive support from school staff to ensure a smooth transition and a successful experience for every student enrolling."

Senior – Research Laboratories

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astronomy & Astrophysics • Automation & Robotics • Biotechnology & Life Sciences • Chemical Analysis & Nanochemistry • Computer Systems • Energy Systems • Engineering Design • JUMP Lab | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microelectronics • Mobile and Web Application Development • Neuroscience • Oceanography & Geographical Systems • Prototyping & Engineering Materials • Quantum Physics & Optics |
|---|--|

Mentorship: include but not limited to Children's National Medical Center, NIH, MITRE Corp, Naval Research Lab, GMU, GWU, Smithsonian, Northrop Grumman, Georgetown University Medical Center

Possible course offerings senior year at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

THE SITUATION was not new. Nearly a decade ago, "across all four grades TJ in 2009-2010 school year, approximately 1.78 percent of students were black, 2.84 percent of students were Hispanic, and 1.74 percent were poor," the Connection reported on June 26, 2012. "Fully 25 percent of students in Fairfax County are poor enough to qualify for free-or-reduced price meals. Do we believe poor students are less talented than students from wealthier families?"

According to Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand in a June 23 news release, "Last year, Fairfax County Public Schools moved to ensure increased access and opportunity to TJ for students with an aptitude and passion for STEM. The data around TJ's prospective freshmen class speaks volumes to the fact that when we truly center our work on equity, all of our students have an opportunity to shine."

According to Regulation 3355.14 from the Superintendent's Office on TJ Admissions, TJ is annually designated by the Virginia Department of Education as an academic-year regional governor's school for science and technology. It is under the sole direction and control of the Fairfax County School Board. Existing in the very diverse County of Fairfax, it serves select students who meet the eligibility requirements not only from Fairfax, including the City of Fairfax but four other Northern Virginia school divisions-Arlington County, Falls Church City, Loudoun County, and Prince William County.

Official Ribbon Cutting Held for Central Green Park

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Central Green Park, part of Laurel Hill Park in Lorton, officially opened with a commemorating ribbon cutting ceremony on June 25; the area was previously opened for public use in September 2020 (see “Springfield Connection”, October 14, 2020, page 2)

Fairfax County Supervisor, Dan Storck, told those gathered, “This whole park area was a ‘figment of imagination’.... a conception plan approved 20 years ago.” In referring to the large picnic pavilions, he described them as “unique among Fairfax County parks, with their ability to accommodate both families and large corporate gatherings”. The four new reservable shelters offer seating capacities of up to 213 people. On many recent weekend afternoons, park goers have found all shelters in use for a variety of party gatherings from birthdays and retirements, to baby gender reveals and school graduations. They are expected to provide an important revenue stream to support park operations.

The \$3 million project, funded by voter-approved park bonds, includes addition of the four picnic pavilions, an accessible asphalt loop road, parking, trails and supporting infrastructure, including stormwater management facilities and related site work. A planned rest room facility is currently at the stage of the Architectural Review Board; children’s playground equipment, soccer fields, and a community garden area are among future amenities to be added on or in proximity to the Green.

The Barrett House Historic Property, Giles Run Meadow Disc Golf course, and volunteer-team maintained native plants and pollinators’ gardens are within walking distance of the shelters. The “Central Green” is a large lawn area suitable for activities such as races, kite flying, and special events. The area offers easy access to the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail, an equestrian ring, fishing pond, and with several biking and hiking trails making up the remainder of Laurel Hill Park.

Storck envisions Lorton as the future “recreational hub of Northern Virginia, — with a few more things to do and a few more things to talk about,” consistent with the community involvement that brought the current elements of the park’s offerings together.

The ceremony also offered an impromptu opportunity to say a collective farewell to retiring Park Maintenance Operations Manager, Edwin Richardson,



Park volunteer Lauren Struble shows off a Yellow bear caterpillar attracted to pollinators’ garden in the now ‘officially’ opened Central Green at Laurel Hill Park.



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck, predicts Lorton will be seen as ‘the recreation hub of Northern VA.’

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Contractors install signage identifying the new park with its distinctive logo recalling the area’s prior use as part of the Occoquan prison grounds.

after a career of more than 32 years of park service. Richardson, a proponent and mentor of park volunteerism, in remarks,

called the Park’s team members “who care so much that they give of their own time... a great example of America.”

“This whole park area was a ‘figment of imagination’.... a conception plan approved 20 years ago.”

— Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mt Vernon)



John Burke, Park Authority Manager, Natural Resources, describes restoration projects planned within Laurel Hill Park.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Visit the "Revolutionary Rights" exhibit at Gunston Hall while visiting the home of this Founding Father.

Celebrate July 4 at Local Historical Sites

BY HOLLY DOUGHERTY, PRESIDENT
MOUNT VERNON LEE CHAMBER

July 4th is a celebration of America's founding. Local historic sites of national significance provide places to celebrate Independence Day and enjoy the outdoors while learning more about the nation's founding.

See what historic sites are open locally on July 4th and July 5th and then check the Chamber's business directory at MountVernonLeeChamber.org to know what stores and restaurants are ready to provide what you need for your celebration.

George Washington's Mount Vernon

Celebrate "America's independence at Mount Vernon" with made-for-daytime fireworks. At 11 a.m., observe a moving ceremony in which people from across the world become U.S. citizens. Throughout the day, meet General Washington, watch and learn about flying hot air balloons in the 18th century, and hear 18th-century music from the Sons of Liberty. See activities for the entire weekend at www.mountvernon.org/

Gunston Hall

Explore George Mason's ideas, weigh his choices, and discover his actions in this new exhibition on "Revolutionary Rights." Investigate the legacy of this essential founder of our country, through activities and ideas for the whole family. Start your visit at www.gunston-hall.org/visit

National Museum of the United States Army

On July 2, noon- 1 p.m., join a Virtual Gallery Talk with The Chief Curator, "Founding The Nation." In this virtual event, Chief Curator Paul Morando shares artifacts from the "Founding the Nation Gallery." The Gallery showcases the Army's history from the colonial period

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

to the War of 1812. Learn more at www.thenmusa.org/events The museum is open July 4 and July 5 and tickets may be reserved online.

Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House

At this historic site, The National Trust for Historic Preservation is dedicated to preserving the site's cultural heritage, especially the stories of the enslaved, freed Black communities and their descendants. The mansion, built in 1805, was gifted to Nelly Custis and Lawrence Lewis by George Washington. Also on the site is the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Pope-Leighey. Woodlawn is open July 4 and July 5. See www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org

Military Women's Memorial

Avoid the crowds this July 4th by viewing D.C.'s spectacular fireworks display at a comfortable, exclusive event at the Military Women's Memorial. Enjoy a delicious catered buffet, beer and wine, live music, and family-friendly activities for all ages. Your all-inclusive ticket includes free and convenient street parking, air-conditioned building and restrooms, food, beverages, and entertainment. Skip the crowds and enjoy the 4th with ease and comfort at the Military Women's Memorial. Buy tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/military-womens-memorial-fourth-of-july-celebration-tickets-160832529425>

Workhouse Arts Center

It wouldn't be July 4th without fireworks. Enjoy local fireworks on Friday, July 2, 5-10 p.m., with all time favorite U.S. Navy Band and DJ Nose. Arrive early for other surprises between 5 and 6 p.m. The Drive-in Tail Gate includes a visit from Uncle Sam, Julia the Balloon Twister, art demos and a performance by the Great Zucchini. More details for this family-friendly event are at <https://www.workhousearts.org/workhouse-events/workhouse-fireworks-2021/>

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‘Nothing More Rewarding than Working with Kids’

TPG Pediatrics opens new office in Fairfax City.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Point 50 is one of Fairfax City’s newest commercial centers, and now making its home there is TPG Pediatrics (The Pediatric Group). Located at 10334 Fairfax Blvd., it recently held its ribbon-cutting, and then attendees received a tour of the office.

“Businesses that provide professional services make up a significant component of the City’s economy, and we’re proud to welcome TPG Pediatrics to the City’s business community,” said Danette Nguyen, Fairfax City’s Assistant Director of Economic Development, “Our residents and City are committed to a healthy lifestyle and emotional wellbeing, and that’s why we’re so excited to have a pediatric office here.”

She explained that TPG, a division of Trusted Doctors, is a neighborhood-focused practice that provides quality care while using the latest technology to serve its patients. It’s been in Northern Virginia since the 1950s and also has offices in Chantilly, Lake Ridge and Alexandria. Staff members at each site work in teams to provide more personalized and continuous care.

“With a core group of board-certified pediatricians, pediatric nurse practitioners and physician assistants, each location prides itself on being big enough to be innovative, yet small enough to know its patients personally,” said Nguyen. “On behalf of Fairfax City, the Office of Economic Development and the Economic Development Authority, I’d like to thank you for making Fairfax City the home of TPG Pediatrics. Having TPG here to take care of our youngest residents means so much to us. You’re in a wonderful, new shopping center at Point 50, and we welcome you with open arms.”

ATTENDEES at the ceremony included Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer; City Council members Janice Miller, Tom Ross and Sang Yi; as well as Jennifer Rose and Doug



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Dr. Candace Fugate prepares to cut the ribbon on TPG Pediatrics’ new office.



(From left) are Dr. Candace Fugate and LPN Alisca Hooper.

Church with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. Meyer also spoke to the TPG representatives there.

“We’re committed to revitalizing the City’s economic life; and to get a pediatric group like TPG here was the icing on the cake,” he said. “This is a great location, and we hope it’ll help you and your patients. To have high-quality, board-certified physicians and physician assistants is a real boost to our community. There are a lot of stresses facing our children today, so it can be challenging for the doctors taking care of them. So we commend you for choosing pediatrics as a career.”

Speaking next was Dr. Candace Fugate,

the president of TPG. “We are so very excited that our City of Fairfax office is now open,” she said. “And we thank the City, Department of Economic Development and the Fairfax City business community for this warm welcome.”

She said TPG is recognized as a National Committee for Quality Assurance, patient-centered, medical home. “This standard puts patients at the forefront of care and builds better relationships between patients and their clinical-care teams,” she explained. “We know how important our role is in supporting the community every single day – even more so during this stressful time.

“During the pandemic, our doors never closed. We adapted to our patients’ needs by adding increased access for mental-health services, expanding telemedicine, implementing COVID testing and putting in place strict safety protocols in our offices to reduce the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.” In addition, TPG administered thousands of vaccines.

“Our practice has had the privilege of providing care for children in Northern Virginia for over 70 years,” continued Fugate. “We’re continuing to take new patients and are looking forward to another 70 years of service to the community we love.”

AFTER THE RIBBON CUTTING, TPG gave attendees a tour of its new office at Point 50. “We moved here from our previous office in Patriot Square, near GMU, after we outgrew that space,” said Fugate.

LPN and office manager Alisca Hooper said the Fairfax City location has four doctors – two physicians and two nurse practitioners – plus two medical assistants, two front-desk personnel, two triage nurses and a dietician. Services include well-child visits, counseling, lactation and nutrition consulting, as well as free, newborn baby-care classes.

In addition, this office is a business owned by women: Doctors Aarti Kapoor, Elizabeth Palumbo, Samantha Cutler, Candace Fugate and Evie Cavros. “We’re excited about this location and delighted to see more kids from the community to help them grow, be healthy and get vaccinated,” said Kapoor.

Agreeing, Palumbo said, “We’re happy to help children and families through well-checks, acute visits, vaccinations, nutrition and mental-health services.”

“There’s no physician that makes a better, longer and stronger impact upon a person’s life than a pediatrician,” added Fugate. “And there’s nothing more rewarding than working with kids.”

Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., plus extended hours, one or two evenings/week. For more information, go to www.tpg-pc.com. After-hours care is also available via an on-call doctor. Same-day, sick-child appointments are offered, as well. Phone: 703-425-3300.

Enjoy Cool Fun in Fairfax City’s Splash Pad

Just in time for the hot weather of summer, Fairfax City’s splash pad in Old Town Square is open. Children can cool off while having fun in downtown Fairfax at University Drive and North Street. The splash pad is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. However, it’ll close occasionally for routine maintenance. For more information, go to <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/parks-and-trails/old-town-square/splash-pad>.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

History Tells How Burke VA Almost Disappeared

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Burke Virginia, now an 11.5 square mile unincorporated section of Fairfax County with a population of roughly 41,000, was fated to disappear in 1951. In that year, the federal Civil Aeronautic Administration announced plans to “condemn” 4,520 acres for a needed second airport in the growing metropolitan region. “Condemning land,” an action we now refer to as “land seizure” or “eminent domain” is the power to take private land for public use. As attendees of the Burke Historical Society’s June 24 evening virtual program learned, if not for the efforts of a small group of citizens, Burke would have been the site of the area’s second regional airport, instead of Chantilly, home to what is now named the Washington Dulles International Airport. Dulles Airport now encompasses 20.3 square miles.

The story of the citizens’ fight against the location of the airport was one of several family stories about old Burke told by presenter Paula Brown Kelley, a descendant of the area’s prominent Brown family. Her grandfather, Paul E Brown, a circuit court judge, and her grandmother, Elma, a real estate developer, acquired the country “farm” property from Elma’s father, Jeremiah Donovan. Donovan was a butcher who owned land at the four corners of the intersection at Burke Lake Road and Route 123 early in the 20th century. The couple met on one of Elma’s many excursions to the “farm” from DC to enjoy country life. Kelley shared the family story of her grandfather riding his mule from Clifton to Burke to court Elma.

Before Paul and Elma moved there, the house came to be called “Brimstone Hill,” likely during the Civil War. In the mid-1800s the property belonged to tavern owner, Charles Arundell, and was called “Arundell’s Ordinary.” The tavern had a whiskey license and was frequented by union troops who



June 1951, “Washington Post” reports “Site of New Washington Airport.”

were often garrisoned in the area near the railroad line during the war. Kelley and her family speculate that the name Brimstone Hill was likely dubbed by those union soldiers who imbibed the fiery alcohol.

Jumping forward in time, from its predominantly rural character, the Burke area began growing after World War I, as government workers sought to reside within an easy commute to the District of Columbia. Further growth, region wide after World War II, made the need apparent for a second airport in addition to the then titled Washington National Airport. It took seven years after the Burke site was announced, but the “Washington Post” later reported “Burke

ARCHIVE PHOTO

THE WASHINGTON POST and TIMES HERALD
Tuesday, July 16, 1957
A 19

Fiery Foe of a Burke Airport



TIMES HERALD

Judge Paul E. Brown, photographed at Brimstone Hill, was credited with leading the Burke citizen’s fight to keep the airport “out of their backyard.”



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Present day site of Lee Chapel, built in 1871, a later victim to airport site consideration

residents credited Fairfax County’s Circuit Court Judge Paul E. Brown and Senator Pressor Holland (D-Fla.) with keeping the airport out of their backyard.”

The community of Burke was saved, but didn’t go untouched. Many families moved from the area as the Federal Government began purchasing land for the proposed airport in 1951. An area church, Lee Chapel, lost membership, was closed, and later control-burned in the mid-’50s to prevent further vandalism. The 1951 government land purchase is now the home of the popular, 888 acre Burke Lake Park, with its 4.7 mile lake trail. Brimstone Hill, no longer held by the Brown family, is a private residence.

Fairfax Station Teen Arrested for 2020 Sexual Assaults

A 19-year-old man from Fairfax Station has been arrested for two sexual assaults that occurred in 2020. Detectives were notified of the first sexual assault in February of 2020. The victim had attended a gathering that involved the underage consumption of alcohol. When the victim became impaired, she was sexually assaulted by two men. At that time, the victim did not wish for the case to go forward.



FCPD PHOTO

Frederik “Ben” Wolsak Jr.

The following October, a second victim reported being sexually assaulted in September of 2020 by one of the same suspects from the first incident, Frederik “Ben” Wolsak Jr.

In June of 2021, the victim of the first assault decided she was ready to pur-

sue charges. As detectives re-opened the investigative files from the first reported incident, they identified the commonalities in the actions of the suspect who assaulted two intoxicated women.

This past Tuesday, June 22, detectives arrested Wolsak Jr. and charged him with two counts forcible sodomy and two counts intercourse with victim through mental incapacity or helplessness. He is currently being held at the County’s Adult Detention Center without bond. A juvenile teen was also charged with rape in relation to the first reported sexual assault. The teen was taken into custody and processed at the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center.

“The trauma that comes with being sexually assaulted transforms victims and sur-

vivors. It’s important for us as a society to remember that there is no one response to sexual assault to include when a victim of sexual assault is ready to report to law enforcement. A victim of a sexual assault’s decision to report their attack is theirs to decide and we want them to know if they are not ready to report is not only okay but it is a normal response. We want victims and survivors of sexual assault to know when you are ready to tell your story, there is help out there in the form of victim advocacy, information, referrals and most importantly support. If you are a victim of sexual assault, please know our sex crimes detectives and victim specialists want to hear from you and we want to support you no matter how many days, weeks, months or years have gone by,” says Saly J. Fayeze, Director, Victim Services Division.

Detectives are seeking anyone with information about these cases or may have had

inappropriate contact with Wolsak Jr. to call our Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3.

Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text – Type “FCCS” plus tip to 847411, and by web – Click HERE. Download our Mobile tip411 App “Fairfax Co Crime Solvers”. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest. If you would like to be contacted by a detective, please provide your contact information.

Victim specialists from our Major Crimes Bureau’s Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure that the victims are receiving appropriate resources and assistance.

For ongoing updates, please read our blog and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram at @FairfaxCountyPD.

— FCPD PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU

VRE Parking at Rolling Road Will Be Expanded

Plans to add parking does not include a multi-level lot.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Some area Springfield commuters look at the Virginia Railway Express line to downtown Washington, D.C. as an important transit link in the way a Metro line would be, and they flock to the Rolling Road station on weekday mornings to find the lot filled, so the parking spills out into anywhere available, including the shoulders of Burke Road. There are lot expansion options that wouldn't call for a multi-level parking garage, or a drastic paving venture, and these options were part of the June 10 virtual Public Information Meeting.

The VRE has plans to expand their trains, so the platforms will be extended, and at Rolling Road, the lot will add parking spaces within the current footprint. "The neighborhood supports it," said Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield). "The lot serves primarily government workers," he added.

The project is a short-term improvement to the parking lot to increase capacity, meeting materials said. Existing sidewalk will be replaced to ensure the parking lot complies with ADA Guidelines. Officials will extend the curb and gutter along Burke Road to the north to prevent vehicles from parking on the grass area to the north.

Engineers began designing this solution in March 2019 and are finalizing the plans over the summer. Construction is scheduled to begin next summer. The cost of this expansion is \$1,925,000. There are two utility poles that will need to be relocated.

At the meeting, there were concerns over transit and the construction impacts on Burke Road. Since the lot expansion is being done in the existing footprint of the lot and surrounding land, the only work being done along Burke Road is the addition of curb and gutter as most of the construction will be on site. Herry's office will get a rough estimate and put it on the project website. Regardless, the work on Burke Road will only be during non-peak hours from approximately 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. During construction, the equipment and work may impact some of the existing parking spaces, but the Herry's office will let everyone know in advance, they said.

"We're making some pedestrian and bus improve-



This map from the meeting slideshow has the new spaces marked in gray.



This area on the side of Burke Road is where some of the overflow parking goes.



The platform may be extended sometime in the future.

ments as well," Herry said. Tom Biesiadny, the Director of Fairfax DOT, said that "there are no plans for increased bus service in this area -- 17C runs here and we are not increasing buses on Burke Road or at this station."

Initially there was talk of putting a multi-level parking garage at the location, but Herry noted that the garage at Burke Centre, one stop away, does not fill up and that type of parking expansion is not needed at the Rolling Road stop.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/JULY 2

Fireworks at Workhouse. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. 5-10 p.m. (VIP) and 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. (Tail Gate Drive Through). The much beloved community event will be re-imagined and redesigned to better serve the community. The fireworks will illuminate the surrounding landscape in an expertly choreographed display of dazzling pyrotechnic light and thunder.

SATURDAY/JULY 10

Konjur in Concert. 6-9 p.m. At Moe's Peyton Place. Benefit Show at 6516 Backlick Road, Springfield.

NEW WEBSITE FOR FAIRFAX STATION RAILROAD MUSEUM

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum announces the official launch of its new website this month. Volunteer members of the Museum worked long hours over a period of seven months with local business, Intelligent Solutions of Springfield. That partnership has resulted in a new website that brings the Station, "On a level with other organizations our size in being able to reach our local and worldwide communities of interest in railroading history and the US Civil War period," said Jack Migliaccio, President.

Visit the website, www.fairfax-station.org. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call 703-425-9225. Visit www.Facebook.com/FFXSRR.

FAIRFAX STATION RAILROAD MUSEUM REOPENS

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is reopening on Sunday, July 11, 2021, with a "Welcome Back" event from noon - 3 p.m. with free admission, tours and refreshments. Docents will provide tours featuring new exhibits. Young visitors can enjoy puzzles and other attractions.

Company owners Javier and Anne Marie Arze.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

There's More than Meats the Eye at Huntsman's

Wild game is the specialty at this local supplier.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In today's world of diversity, the diverse palates are driving the needs for all kinds of foods with an international flair, so a local company like "Huntsman Specialty Game and More," found the market for their venison, caviar, rabbit and other exotic foods to meet the needs of many.

This past Father's Day, they had a Wagyu Beef package that was flying out the door of their Newington location.

"It's for the high end palate," said Javier Arze, who opened the business with his wife Anne Marie. "We specialize in a lot of game," Arze said.

What is wagyu beef? According to the American Wagyu Association, based in Post Falls, Idaho, wagyu is a Japanese beef cattle breed - derives from native Asian cattle. 'WAGYU' refers to all Japanese beef cattle, where 'Wa' means Japanese and 'gyu' means cow. The gourmet chefs like it because of "the unique taste and tenderness of highly marbled Wagyu beef makes for an unrivalled eating experience," the AWA states, so Wagyu beef is finding its way into the gourmet scene. That includes Huntsman, who operate out of a warehouse in Newington but truck their foods all over the metropolitan area.

There aren't hunters with buckshot and duck calls on the payroll though. All their meat is raised on local farms with-



The caviar dish.

in about 100 miles of Fairfax County. "We try to focus on the local farms," Arze said, but admitted they do have lamb that was raised in Australia and New Zealand, and olive oil from 1,000-year-old trees in Greece.

Huntsman opened during the pandemic, and with all the restaurants closed, they branched out and opened a branch called the "Furloughed Chef," for home deliveries. On the website, a person can put together a box of items such as chops, steaks and chickens for delivery. There is a \$145 minimum for an order, and \$195 minimum for free delivery inside the Capital Beltway.

In addition to meats, they have olive oils, caviar, truffles and escargot.

The Furloughed Chef is ready for all sorts of religious cuisines too. Accommodations can be made upon request, in accordance with kosher, halal, or Buddhist practices.

SENIOR LIVING



When designing a separate living space inside the existing home of one's adult children, splurging on table lamps, wall sconces and pendants adds a chic element of comfort and safety.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Living with Adult Children

Creating livable spaces that balance the security of family with the need for independence.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When June Joyce's husband died two years ago, she was lonely living alone in the sprawling Alexandria family home where the couple raised their four children. Joyce wanted to sell her home and downsize to a smaller dwelling space, but wasn't interested in a retirement community.

One of her daughters had an unfinished lower level in her home and convinced Joyce to move in with her and her family. Together, the mother-daughter duo are transforming that bottom level space into an apartment with a separate entrance.

"I felt like I wanted to be closer to my daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren, but I didn't want to disrupt her family dynamic and I also wanted my privacy," said Joyce. "My daughter and I are designing it ourselves. We're having fun choosing paint colors, a few appliances and furniture."

Creating a separate living space within a pre-existing home is an option that allows seniors to live near adult children while maintaining a comfortable level of independence. Local designers share

projects that combine functionality and safety features in a way that is stylish and subtle.

"I'm currently working with a client to turn a pool house into a living space for her mother-in-law," said Sallie Lord of Grey Hunt Interiors. "It's connected

to the main house and we want to tie in the feel and style, but we wanted this guest house to feel like a retreat."

Forgo large appliances like French door refrigerators and double oven ranges, says Anne M. Walker of Anne Walker Design in Potomac, Maryland who is in the midst of a design project that will accommodate her client's parents.

"You...won't need to cook full family meals, so what you need in this type of situation is smaller, smarter appliances," she said. "In the entertainment and kitchenette space I'm designing currently, we've chosen a single dishwasher drawer rather than a full dishwasher."

Whether selecting wall scones or table lamps, lighting is one feature that Walker says is worth a splurge.

"Proper lighting will make the space feel joyful and ... as safe as possible for [those] whose eyesight may not be as good as it used to be," she said. "But no harsh, fluorescent or LED lightbulbs, please."

Style need not be sacrificed for safety, advises Lord. "With my current client, we're making the space more ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] compliant to plan for long term needs while doing it in a discreet way that just feels like a stylish, modern convenience.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIN MOLEK



Fairfax High's Gymnastics Team won this year's State Championship. Here, the members are proudly displaying their championship rings for the school faculty.

Fairfax High Celebrates End of School Year

When Fairfax High held its end-of-year celebration luncheon, both students and teachers shared in the fun.



(From left) are Christopher Johnston, Fairfax Academy music and computer technology teacher, and Gordie Ruohoniemi, Fairfax Academy and Fairfax High social media marketing teacher and DECA advisor.



Fairfax Academy professional photography teacher, Kevin Smith, receives his 10 years of service certificate from FCPS, as Fairfax High marketing teacher Kay Walters looks on

CALENDAR

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

In Virginia, there are lots of great places to view fireworks, at the National Mall in Washington, hosted by the National Park Service: George Washington Memorial Parkway, including U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Netherlands Carillon grounds, Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove, Gravelly Point Park, and along the Mount Vernon Trail from the 14th Street Bridge to Theodore Roosevelt Island. Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only.

City of Fairfax – Saturday, July 3 - Independence Day celebrations will start with a parade at 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax at 10 a.m. The parade loops around downtown Fairfax, along Chain Bridge Road, Main Street, University Drive and Armstrong Street.

On July 4, an evening show will kick off at 6:30 p.m. with on-stage entertainment followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Fairfax High School, 3501 Lion Run.

Herndon - July 4 at 9:30 pm. Fireworks launched from the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Viewing opportunities at Bready Park, 814 Ferndale Ave. with access for parking and field seating opening no earlier than 8 pm. There will be no food concessions or entertainment this year.

Lorton - July 2nd, Workhouse Arts Center Fireworks - 5-10 p.m. (VIP Access) 6-10 p.m. (Drive In Tail Gate Access). Workhouse Arts Center Campus, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Phone: (703) 584-2986.

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And the "Scancer" Is ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... stable, with a side of shrinkage, however modest. No jeopardy here, final or otherwise. Simply more of the same here, but hardly ho hum. A status quo with which I am fond of writing: I can live. Promises and guarantees left the building on that fateful day in late February, 2009 when an oncologist who I had previously never met summarized my condition and identified it as stage IV, non small cell lung cancer. A "terminal" disease if there ever was one, and of course there are many. And along with that bombshell came the excruciatingly unpopular prognosis: "13 months to two years." I was 54 and a half with no history of cancer in my immediate family.

Much has happened and many medications prescribed since I infused my initial chemotherapy back in early March, 2009. Most of which you regular readers know. If you recall anything from my 12 years of weekly cancer columns, it is that regular diagnostic scans: CT scans, bone scans, P.E.T. scans and MRIs have been recurring nightmares. Every three months, I am scheduled for some type of scan, sometimes more than one ("BOGO, I call it) which based on its findings will determine my subsequent course of treatment. If the results are encouraging, a change in my treatment is unlikely. If however, tumors are growing, newly appearing or spreading then it's "Katy bar the door," as we say in New England. Which means, hang onto your hat, among other things, as a new health situation presents, and one without an automatic solution. After years of conversations with my oncologist, I've learned: The best one can hope for is a definite maybe. It's this unpredictability which fills my day - and night.

Nevertheless, my life has gone on way longer than my oncologist anticipated. It may be because I was misdiagnosed (as a Georgetown Cancer Center oncologist suggested) and had a slow moving form of papillary thyroid cancer rather than an aggressive form of lung cancer which kills more often than it cures. Or, I may simply be my oncologist's "third miracle," as he's fond of saying. Presumably my positive attitude and good humor about my circumstances in conjunction with the many supplements I ingest with alkaline water exclusively have contributed to my unexpected survival. Regardless, as Frankenstein might have said: "I'm alive."

As scary as Frankenstein, Dracula or Lon Chaney ever was, a cancer diagnosis tops them all. Being told by a doctor you have never met that you have two years to live, at best, is as you might imagine, nearly impossible to process. It's not exactly what you had planned on or expected hearing when you sat in the doctor's office. Yet, as Ralph Edwards used to say; "This is your life." And as many others have said: "You're stuck with it." And as grim as you feel about your future, this is no fairy tale. As always, reality beats make-believe any day, and in this instance, not in a good way.

But I am in a good way. I am still typing, among other activities. And after having just received a "looks good" comment from my oncologist concerning this week's CT and bone scan, my warranty has been extended for another 90 days, when the results of my next quarterly scan will be emailed. Until then, I am in high cotton. To say I'm not worried is of course naive, but in the interim, between scans, I am in "the rocking chair, good buddy," to invoke a familiar CB-ism. This is how many cancer patients live: from one scan to the next. It's not ideal, but it is a living, and one for which I'm extremely grateful and fortunate to still have. It may not have been the life I expected, but I'm glad to live it nonetheless.

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

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