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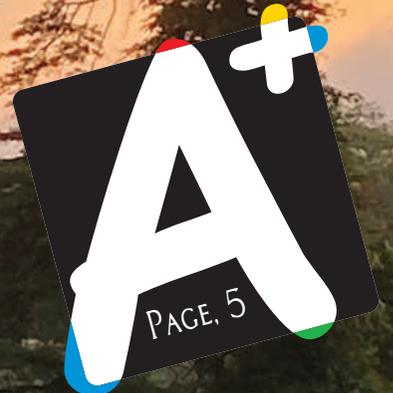


PHOTO BY JESS KIRBY/THE CONNECTION CALENDAR, PAGE 11 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10



The Randy Thompson Band plays as the sun sets on Burke Lake Park. The band kicked off the Springfield Nights series on July 14. Although it rained heavily leading up to the start time of the concert, about 350 people attended, according to Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herry.

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FCPS Superintendent to Depart at End of Next School Year

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Dr. Scott Brabrand, Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, announced on a YouTube video released Thursday, July 15, 2021, that he is leaving FCPS at the end of the next year, consistent with his FCSB contract. Brabrand gave no reason why he was stepping down after almost 30 years intermittently with the division. He said that through “caring connections, we make a lasting impact on our students, our community, and each other.”

During its Thursday, July 15 Meeting, the School Board considered authorizing the Request for Proposal for the Superintendent Search Firm to be released no later than 5 p.m. on July 19, 2021. Vice-Chair Rachna Sizemore Heizer thanked Dr. Brabrand for his service. “I thank you for your big heart and your hard work and your love for our system. And for your grace. We are going to miss you,” Sizemore Heizer said.

School Board representative Karen Corbett-Sanders (Mount Vernon) provided insight into the process. She said that it takes quite a long time to hire a superintendent, and the Board would obtain the services of an executive search firm. She added that the Board was “casting a wider net” in its search, expanding it to professionals in K-12 and college environments. In addition, the Board would be asking for specific skills, including being able to engage in multiple languages with the community. There would be a “robust community engagement process” as the Board developed the Profile of a Superintendent. The Board would engage the community in how best to vet potential candidates.

“So, this is really the beginning of the process,” Corbett-Sanders said.

The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

The Fairfax County School Board appointed Brabrand as Superintendent of Schools on June 8, 2017. Brabrand changed careers to become a teacher after being inspired by volunteer work in the schools. He began his career in FCPS as a social studies teacher in 1994. He served as an assistant principal at Herndon High and an associate principal at Lake Braddock Secondary School before being named principal at Fairfax High School in 2005. In 2009, Brabrand was promoted to Cluster Assistant Superintendent. Brabrand spent five years as Superintendent of Lynchburg City Schools before returning to head FCPS.

School Board Elects New Chair and Vice-Chair

Fairfax County School Board unanimously elected Stella Pekarsky (Sully) as Board Chair. Before the vote, Megan McLaughlin (Braddock) said Pekarsky would be “stellar” in the role because of her willingness to “always presume positive intentions, to always think broadly ... [and] to make [the Board] a safe place ... to share points of view.” Following the vote, Chair Pekarsky said she hoped the Board would collectively center



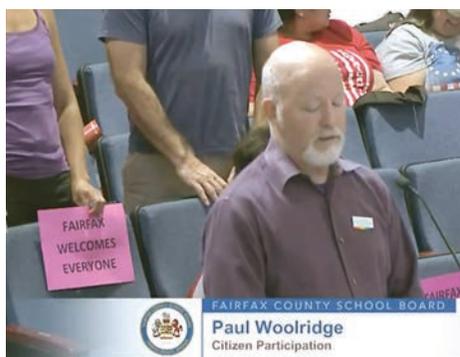
Fairfax County School Board Meeting in session 07-15-2021.



Fairfax County School Board Superintendent Dr. Scott Brabrand announces he is leaving at the end of the next year.



Fairfax County School Board Vice-Chair Rachna Sizemore Heizer (Member-at-Large).



Speaker Paul Woodbridge, proud of the FCSB’s progress in promoting affirmative support and the rights of LGBTQ individuals.

its efforts on “building community over chaos on the board.”

The Board unanimously elected Rachna Sizemore Heizer (at-Large) as Vice-Chair. Elaine Tholen (Dranesville) said Sizemore Heizer’s expertise in special education would be helpful as the Board continued its audit of special education services.



Fairfax County School Board Chair, Stella Pekarsky (Sully District).



Fairfax County School Board Member Karl Frisch (Providence District)



Speaker Olivia Johnson, parent of a gender-diverse child.

School Board Adopts 2021-22 Student Rights and Responsibilities, Redefined

With the board poised to take recommended action to adopt Regulation 2601.34P Student Rights and Responsibilities, Paul Woodbridge provided comment. Woodbridge said he is the parent of two FCPS graduates, gay and trans, and proud of the school board’s progress in promoting affirmative support and the rights of LGBTQ individuals. He especially commended the progress the board

made on updating non-discrimination policies and adopting the state-mandated guidelines for supporting transgender and non-binary students. Woodbridge said his son was denied bathroom access and was asked inappropriate questions about his anatomy. His son took it upon himself to educate school administrators on how to support him and his needs. “No kid should have to play that role,” said Woodbridge.

Speaker Olivia Johnson, a parent of a gender-diverse child, said, “I have watched in horror as hate groups gather around Virginia to attack their gender-diverse kids and families.” She said transgender children are in danger of self-harm and suicide. “The best way to support them and ... prevent suicide in these kids is to affirm them. ... The only thing we are doing is affirming our children’s pronouns, their names and allowing them to dress and express in a way that feels authentic.”

School Board Member Karl Frisch, the Board’s Providence District representative and first openly LGBTQ member, sponsored the motion. He said like the school division, the changes to Student Rights and Responsibilities were a work in progress when it came to increasing equity and achieving the strategic objective “of seeing every child by name and by need.”

“In the face of alarming discipline disparities experienced by students of color and with special needs,” work had been done to make Student Rights and Responsibilities “less biased and punitive and more focused on restorative justice.”

“That spirit of progress continues in this revised document,” Frisch said.

The document identifies several rights for gender-expansive and transgender students. “Tonight’s vote will not sweep away the pain and hurt you have experienced at the hands of careless peers or adults who should know better, but the changes we approve in this new Student Rights and Responsibilities document demonstrates our commitment to your success and safety in Fairfax County Public Schools,” Frisch said. “They are long overdue.”

The Fairfax County School Board unanimously adopted the 68-page updated School Rights and Responsibilities, Regulation 2601.35P [https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/C4XRBV6CB97B/\\$-file/R2601.34P%20CLEAN_WS_CHANGES_MADE%20_JULY%2015%20%202021.3.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/C4XRBV6CB97B/$-file/R2601.34P%20CLEAN_WS_CHANGES_MADE%20_JULY%2015%20%202021.3.pdf) The regulation explains expectations for student behavior, parent engagement, and adult responses.

Highlighting some changes as stated in the regulation: “[It] expanded language regarding School Resource Officers (SROs) and included specific examples of behaviors of concern... added language regarding School Resource Officers that further defined safety concern and harm [and] replaced “should” with “shall” regarding FCPS administrators questioning students for the purpose of student discipline.”

Arlington and Alexandria public schools, as well as Montgomery County, Md., have removed police from schools and defunded the School Resource Officer programs.

How Safe Are Older Buildings in Fairfax County?

Supervisors address construction and maintenance concerns in the wake of the Surfside Condominium collapse in Florida.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

A recertification program for older buildings does not currently exist under the Virginia Uniform State-wide Building Code, said Chairman Jeff McKay. And the June 24 tragedy in Surfside, Fla. involving a collapsing condominium building has heightened concern.

"This hit incredibly close to home for me. Many of you may remember about five and a half years ago, River Towers potentially was another Surfside," said Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck at the Board of Supervisors meeting last Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

Storck described pillars of the Mount Vernon condominium moving two to three inches, possibly due to rusting of supports of the building close to the Potomac River.

"When the column slipped about two or three inches, if it had kept going, you clearly would have had something similar," said Storck. "Fortunately, it held or we would have had, I would say potentially 40 to 50 deaths, because there were people in those rooms at the time and clearly were impacted by what had occurred."

Fairfax County firefighters evacuated 400 residents from one of three River Towers condo buildings that shook on a Sunday afternoon in October 2016. Approximately 180 condos were damaged and 32 had "se-

vere damage" that Fire and Rescue Services called "uninhabitable."

"You can imagine what the fallout was from that and the meetings that occurred in the community and the HOA," said Storck. "They were very difficult meetings."

"It was a very expensive process," he said.

THE BOARD requested county staff "investigate what current resources and capabilities exist for voluntary inspections of aging buildings to enhance safety, and what is possible for the county to do should more resources in the future be identified."

The Board unanimously approved the motion, raised by McKay and Sully Supervisor Kathy Smith.

In Virginia, "during construction and prior to occupancy, the inspections process is thorough and conducted with the utmost caution. After occupancy, in accordance with the Virginia Maintenance Code, buildings must be proactively maintained by the property own-

"We have an opportunity to highlight the importance of routine building maintenance and verification of the structural integrity of our aging buildings."

— Chairman Jeff McKay

ers to ensure their continued safety for our residents," according to Smith and McKay.

"This is not something theoretical, it's not something that we should think about, this is something we absolutely need to address and move forward," said Storck.

"With a nationwide turn to the importance of well-maintained infrastructure, we have an opportunity to highlight the importance of routine building maintenance and verification of the structural integrity of our aging buildings," said McKay.

MCKAY DIRECTED county staff to what options exist locally and at the state level under the existing Virginia Maintenance Code to ensure buildings are maintained.

"I request that County staff report back to a Land Use Policy Committee meeting in the last quarter of 2021," said McKay.

"If we have folks who are concerned in the county about things that they see or things that they have been neglected in their own buildings, we want them to be able to come forward, and to provide them some technical assistance and support," he said.

"I know the state is going to be looking at this as well."

Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn said even though Surfside is the most extreme example, "deteriorating infrastructure of

these older condominiums is real and it is something that is a private matter for residents, [condo] associations and members."

"I would just note that when something is a private matter and it happens enough, somehow often it becomes a public matter," said Alcorn. Alcorn asked that staff also report back on related legislative priorities.

"The vast, vast majority of these situations that do involve deteriorating infrastructure are not any threat to the safety of the residents," Alcorn said.

Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw asked for the work to be incorporated into the county's climate change resilience work. "These findings are relevant to that work as well: stronger storms, extreme heat, aging buildings, flooding in some instances."

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross recalled March 1973, when a 26-story Skyline Plaza condominium building under construction in Bailey's Crossroads collapsed, killing 14 construction workers and injuring 35. "That was an entirely different situation, it was a matter of the construction not allowing enough time for the concrete to set on each floor," she said.

"But there were changes to the Building code, not just here in the county but overall. This may be another opportunity to enhance and change some of these building codes," said Gross.

Combating Online Exploitation

U.S. Attorney's Office, law enforcement, and community partners establish educational outreach and prevention program.

Raj Parekh, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia (EDVA), launched "UnMasked," a community-based educational outreach and prevention program in Virginia dedicated to raising awareness about the prevalence of online sexual exploitation involving children and young adults.

"Online predators target some of the most vulnerable members of our society and can cause a devastating impact on our communities and loved ones," said Acting U.S. Attorney Raj Parekh. "The first step to fighting back is awareness — educating our youth and parents with information on how to prevent these crimes from happening."

UnMasked is a multi-disciplinary partnership of local, state, federal, and non-profit stakeholders committed to raising awareness of threats and resources through education. The initiative provides a platform to educate middle school, high school, and college students, along with parents, teachers, and the broader communi-

ty, about the potential dangers of the internet. UnMasked presentations will use real-life case examples of online sexual exploitation, as illustrated by law enforcement agents, prosecutors, and survivors of these crimes.

The UnMasked initiative will involve educational presentations at schools, colleges, and universities throughout the Eastern District of Virginia. The core curriculum is provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) NetSmartz program. Participants and others in the audience will hear personal stories by real survivors, along with presentations from experts in the investigative, forensic, and mental health fields. These events are set to begin during the 2021-2022 school year.

According to NCMEC, online exploitation exploded in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic as social isolation and online activity increased. NCMEC's "CyberTipline" received more than 21.4 million reports of child sexual exploita-

tion from electronic service providers in 2020, as well as over 303,000 reports of online sexual exploitation. This represents a 27% annual increase in reporting from electronic service providers, as well as a more than doubling in reports from the public.

According to NCMEC, online exploitation encompasses a broad range of offenses, including: online enticement of children for sexual acts, child sexual molestation, child sexual abuse material, child sex tourism, child sex trafficking, unsolicited obscene materials sent to a child, misleading domain names, and misleading words or digital images on the internet. Cyber exploitation often begins with perpetrators contacting potential victims through social media applications, video games, and websites, typically using false online profiles, and such conduct can involve both online sexual exploitation and in-person sexual abuse.

To report an incident involving online sexual exploitation, call 1-800-843-5678 or submit a report at report.cybertip.org. The CyberTipline is operated by NCMEC in partnership with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies. To request an UnMasked event at your school or organization, please contact EDVA's Community Outreach Coordinator at USAVAE-UnMasked@usdoj.gov

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Summer Camp in Age of Climate Change

Increased safety protocols result from climate change-induced, extreme temperatures.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Some of the area's youngest aspiring thespians are spending part of their summer honing their craft at Arlington's Encore Stage & Studio's camps. Noticeably different this year than in past are new safety precautions that include mask mandates and protection from the heat.

"We've spent more time outdoors this summer because that is what parents requested," said Sara Duke, Executive Director, Encore Stage & Studio. "We've provided special training for our staff on heat safety and recognizing heat-related illnesses."

Heat safety protocols at Encore and other local camps have been revised to address not only a gradual reopening as the pandemic abates, but also the gradual increase in average temperatures partly the result of climate change.

"For sure it's causing huge extremes in weather," said Susan H.B. Agolini, Ph.D., Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor of Biology at Marymount University. Agolini just completed a heat mapping study as part of a team created by the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges. "Camps have to remember hydration and be aware that extreme heat can exacerbate health issues like asthma."

Employees of camps run by the Fairfax County Park Authority are given daily reminders and video training. "We send out poster reminders for signs of heat-related illnesses and the need for frequent rest/shade breaks," said Judy Pedersen, Fairfax County Park Authority. "We send out YouTube clips for supervisors to use with staff as toolbox safety talks. We also send out reminders for camps to schedule air conditioning breaks indoors throughout the day whenever possible."

A traditional summer camp experience, which includes long days spent outdoors while slathered in sunscreen and armed with insect repellent, has been curtailed for some as a result of a hike in safety warnings for children. "As extreme heat is increasing in many regions throughout the United States, it's important to know how to prevent heat illness, and to identify and treat children who are affected," said Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, M.D. Director of Epidemiology and Population Health with the Fairfax County Health Department.

Training such as that given to camp workers at Encore and Fairfax County camps include information on how to recognize the signs of heat illnesses.

"Symptoms of heat exhaustion that campers and staff should recognize include an elevated body temperature, goose bumps, dizziness or weakness, headache, increased thirst, irritability, muscle cramps, or nausea and vomiting," said Schwartz. "If any of these symptoms occur, it's important to move to a cool place, loosen clothing, put cool, wet cloth on the skin and sip water. Call 911 right away if symptoms get worse, last longer than 1 hour or if the individual



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As temperatures rise, so does camp counselor heat safety training and a focus on sun protection supplies like hats and sunscreen.



CINDY KANE PHOTOGRAPHY

New summer camp safety precautions are combining heat safety with COVID-19 safety.



PHOTO: SAM REGARDIE

Safety measures, such as those put in place at Encore Stage & Studio in Arlington, are a response to rising temperatures and COVID-19.

"We've provided special training for our staff on heat safety and recognizing heat-related illnesses."

— Sara Duke, Executive Director, Encore Stage & Studio

begins vomiting. Always follow up with your child's pediatrician or health care provider following an instance of heat illness."

As the reality of increased temperatures and subsequent danger, safety protocols become more critical.

"Due to the pandemic, most camps are spending extra time outside this year," said Kurt Larrick, Assistant Director, Arlington County Department of Human Services. "Parents and guardians can talk to camp operators about what sort of mitigation measures they have in place for hot days, and let them know if your camper has any health issues that might be triggered by the heat."

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Ripe Red Tomatoes, Juicy Peaches Highlight Area's Farmers Markets

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

It might be the fresh produce, the camaradery or satisfaction of eating straight from the vine; Fairfax County has plenty to highlight for National Farmers Market Week at the 10 farmer's markets across the county.

"Peaches are in," said Pamela H. Smith, the Community Horticulture Supervisor at Green Spring Gardens where the markets are based. In late July, she also pointed out that the bulk of the tomato, squash, cucumber, corn and peppers are being harvested now so "visit the markets when produce is plentiful and always fresh from our local farms," she added.

Fresh fish is also available at the two Saturday markets, Burke and Reston, and McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon market at Sherwood Hall Library on Wednesdays. Fish and shellfish are direct from the Chesapeake and surrounding waters.

The Saturday markets are the most popular, at Reston in the Lake Anne parking lot and Burke VRE station. There are no county farmer's markets open on Monday or Tuesday, and this is due to the attendance in the past, and farmer participation. Farmers need time on the farm for planting, harvesting, taking care of crops, and preparing for upcoming markets.

This year, the county is experimenting with table scrap recycling (composting) at three of the markets, Herndon, McCutcheon

PHOTOS FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY



Strawberries come in from all over, such as Medina and Sons farm in Montross, Va.

and Burke. "Composting your food waste has just become easier. If you want to compost but can't do it at home, you can now bring your scraps to several different county farmers markets. A win-win for you and the environment," the county said.

National Farmer's Market Week is Coming

The Farmers Market Coalition is a non-profit whose mission is strengthening farmers markets across the country so they can serve the community while providing in-



Tomatoes are available about mid summer.

come opportunities for farmers. The coalition is organizing the 22nd annual National Farmers Market Week Aug. 1 - 7. It's a weeklong celebration declared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that highlights the role farmers markets play in the nation's food system. The coalition represents markets in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, said Ben Feldman of the Coalition.

In addition to providing a source of fresh produce for consumers, the farmers get something out of it too. "It's typically their top source of income," Feldman said. He said the research shows that the farmers that

participate in the farmers market program have done better business-wise and it helps overcome challenges in the growing season.

This year, Farmers Market Coalition's National Farmers Market campaign will focus on three key messages that illustrate the vital role farmers markets play in communities, specifically in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and renewed calls for social justice reform across the country. Market operators are encouraged to share how their market has 1) provided essential services during the pandemic, 2) served as a community hub for unity and stability during challenging times, and 3) what efforts have been taken to improve social equity at farmers markets across the

country to make markets more safe, inviting, and accessible spaces for all.

"It has been a challenging year for farmers markets, but market operators have truly risen to the occasion to ensure communities could continue to access fresh food produced by local farmers," said Feldman. "Nothing has emphasized the intrinsic role farmers markets play in our food system quite like the Covid-19 pandemic, but market operators quickly adapted to implement innovative safety practices, keeping their communities both healthy and fed, and their market thriving."

2021 MARKET SCHEDULE

There are no markets on Mondays or Tuesdays

WEDNESDAY

McCutcheon/Mount Vernon
April 21 - Dec. 22
8 a.m. - Noon
Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane

Oak Marr
May 5 - Nov. 10
8 a.m. - Noon
Oak Marr Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road

Wakefield
May 5 - Oct. 27
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road



PHOTO FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY

The Master Gardeners are at markets, sharing tips on growing plants and setting up the home garden.

THURSDAY

Annandale
May 6 - Nov. 4
8 a.m. - Noon
Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike

Herndon
April 22 - Nov. 4
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., By the Red Caboose

FRIDAY

McLean
May 7 - Nov. 12
8 a.m. - Noon
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road

Kingstowne
May 7 - Oct. 29
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center

SATURDAY

Burke
April 10 - Dec. 18
8 a.m. - Noon
VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway

Reston
2021 Schedule
May 1 - Dec. 4
8 a.m. - Noon
Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza

SUNDAY

Lorton
2021 Schedule
May 2 - Nov. 21
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd.

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Legals

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (DIA) HEADQUARTERS (HQ) ANNEX FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the proposed construction of the DIA HQ Annex within the vicinity of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) complex on Fort Belvoir's North Area, Fairfax County, Virginia. The purpose of this project is to build and operate an approximately 77,000 net square foot/116,080 gross square foot administrative building with an associated parking structure on Fort Belvoir to consolidate administrative facilities for approximately 650 personnel from DIA HQ to address safety, security, and operational concerns specific to the administrative functions of the agency. The proposed HQ Annex building would include a multi-story administrative building with offices, cubicles/workstations, publications rooms, conference rooms, break rooms, server rooms, a multi-purpose auditorium, a café/cafeteria, a gym/fitness center, a utility plant, visitor control center, visitor parking, a secured employee parking structure, and a perimeter security fence.

The EA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and the Army's Implementing Regulations (32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions). The EA is available to view in printed form at the Lorton Branch, Kingstowne Branch, and Sherwood Regional Branch of the Fairfax County Public Library system, or to view/download electronically at <https://home.army.mil/belvoir/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental-division>. Click the "Programs and Documents" tab, then "National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Program." Information about the EA and links to download the various documents are provided under the "Open for Public/Agency Review & Comment" heading.

Comments or questions on the EA and Draft FNSI may be directed in writing to: Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, or by email to: usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA.

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Springfield Supervisor Pat Herry stands with his dog Rex and holds a bag of Tootsie Pops.

PHOTOS BY JESS KIRBY/
THE CONNECTION



Beer and ice cream were provided by 2 Silos Brewing Company and Peterson's Ice Cream Depot.

Summer Entertainment Series Returns to Burke Lake

After the Entertainment Series was cancelled last summer, many were happy to be back enjoying the events.

BY JESS KIRBY
THE CONNECTION

This summer, Fairfax County Park Authority is bringing back the in-person Summer Entertainment Series of free events and performances at venues in the area. One of the series is Springfield Nights, where local musicians play every Wednesday night at Burke Lake Park.

The Randy Thompson Band kicked off the Springfield Nights series on July 14. Although it rained heavily leading up to the start time of the concert, about 350 people attended, according to Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herry.

"We got 350 people here on a rainy night that a lot of other people would have called a rainout," he said. "350 people, 14 dogs and one parrot."

The Randy Thompson Band has been performing at Springfield Nights since the concert series started in 2018. For some attendees, it was not their first time seeing the band.

"We came two years ago and saw all the lineup so we've seen [the Randy Thompson Band] before," said Carol Gibson of West Springfield, a communications specialist for Fairfax County Schools. "Thankfully the rain cleared just in time."

For Carol Currey and her family, it was their first time seeing the band.

"We live close by and it's just nice to come over and sit and enjoy," said Carol, a physician and Fairfax Station resident.

According to Gordon Currey, they are excited for "getting out of the house" this summer at the Entertainment Series.



From left: Isabella, Agnes, Carol and Gordon Currey of Fairfax Station



The Randy Thompson Band plays as the sun sets on Burke Lake Park. The band kicked off the Springfield Nights series on July 14.

"We got 350 people here on a rainy night that a lot of other people would have called a rainout -- 350 people, 14 dogs and one parrot."

— Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herry

"I take those to all the parades and community events that I go to because not only kids like them but adults like them, too, and it brings back that kid in you to have a tootsie pop," he said.

In addition to Springfield Nights, Burke Lake will be hosting six of the Arts in the Parks events on Saturday mornings. These free children's events are also part of the Summer Entertainment Series.

After the Entertainment Series was cancelled last summer, many were happy to be back enjoying the events.

"We missed last year because of COVID, but we're very excited to be back," said Gibson. "They're great family events and it's great to get outside and enjoy the parks."

Herry thanked the Park Authority and Entertainment Series sponsors for helping to make Springfield Nights happen.

"We work with the Park Authority and do a lot of fundraising, and without our sponsors this wouldn't be possible," he said. "To be able to do this and see everybody's smiling faces and be enjoying live music again, there's just no words to describe it. Absolutely no words. Everybody mentioned that on the way in, and they're just happy to be here."



Lyle Dillon and Carol Gibson

Summer Concerts in the Area

CONCERTS AT BURKE LAKE

SCHEDULE

July 28 The Road Ducks (Southern Rock)
Aug. 4 The Johnny Artis Band (Blues, Rock & Roll)
Aug. 11 Practically Einstein (Vintage Rock)
Aug. 18 The Colin Thompson Band (Blues Rock)
Aug. 25 Rescheduled show / TBD

WEDNESDAYS

Lee District Nights, 7:30 p.m. At Lee District Park, Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, Franconia.
July 21 - The Nighthawks (Blues)
July 28 - Pablo Antonio y La Firma (Meren-gue/Cumbia/Salsa)
Aug. 4 - Junkyard Band (Go-Go, Funk)

Aug. 11 - The U.S. Navy - Cruisers (Pop/Rock)
Aug. 18 - Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattler Verein (Alpine Dance/Music)
Aug. 25 - Sharon Clark Quartet (Jazz)

SATURDAYS

Mount Vernon Nights, 8 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton.

Schedule

July 24 - Los Texmaniacs (Conjunto band)
July 31 - Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)
August 7 - The Pietasters (Ska)
August 14 - Crys Matthews (Jazz, Blues, Funk)
August 21 - Dom Flemons (Acoustic Blues)
August 28 - The U.S. Army Field Band, Six String Soldiers (Americana, Folk, Bluegrass, Irish)

Many of the performers for the Springfield Nights series are local, including the Randy Thompson Band. The band is also one of Herry's favorites.

"[Randy Thompson's] one of my favorites," he said. "We also have Skip Castro, which I have seen for many years, which is

a favorite. The Johnny Artis Band actually played at my wedding, so... I've got lots of favorites here. A lot of this is very local music, which is great because it gives artists a chance to come out and perform."

Herry passed around Tootsie Pops at the event, which he called a Herry tradition.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Contractors removed three dead Oak trees which fronted the historic Barrett House on Lorton Road. The property is being readied to enter Fairfax County's Resident-Curator Program.



Volunteers and friends, Amanda Miller and Katherine Nicodemus, confer while spreading mulch made from the Barrett House repurposed oaks, in Laurel Hill Park's pollinators' garden.

Tree Work at Barrett House

Three stately Oak trees graced the front of the historic Barrett House on Lorton Road for about 60 years. Sadly, the trees joined a surge of oak tree deaths in Virginia, coming to notice since 2019. Generally trees die slowly, but several oaks across the Commonwealth were noted to have sudden browning of leaves. The reasons could be

many: an unusually wet season followed by a very dry one; soil compacting; or secondary factors including root rot, canker, beetles, for insect borers. For more information on inspection and care of oaks and other tree species, see the Virginia Department of Forestry guides at www.dof.virginia.gov.

— SUSAN LAUME

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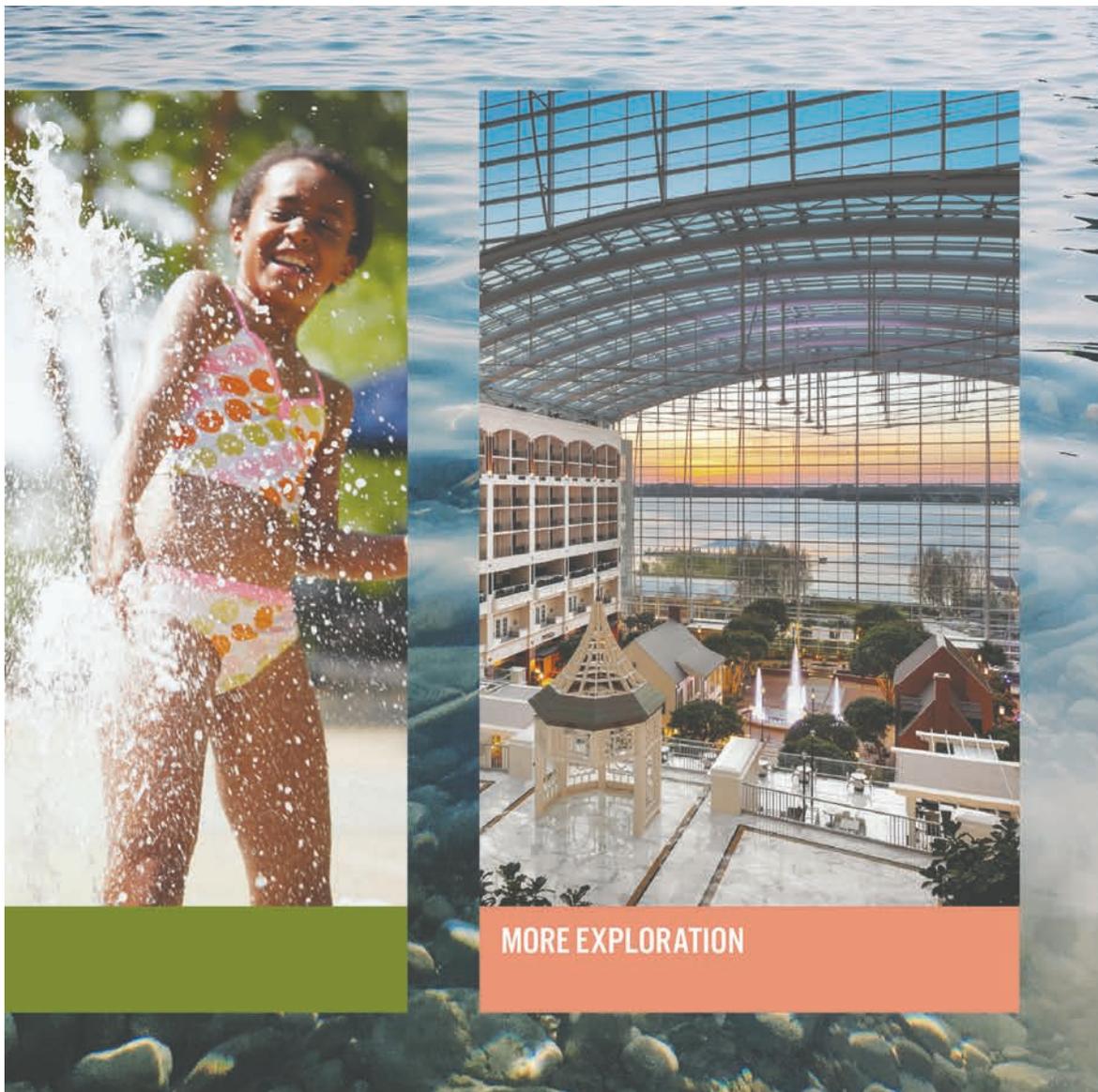
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Employment

Youth Minister Pohick Church, Lorton - 20hrs/week. Experience working with youth, ideally in the Episcopal Church. Recruit/train youth advisors to assist & oversee 3 age groups, 5th & 6th, Jr & Sr High, with year round programs and summer mission trip. Plan Lenten Series and summer retreat activities for youth and family. Involve youth in church activities & fundraising activities. 5% pension & 2 weeks vacation. Submit resume/references to: The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ronaldi at info@pohick.org by Aug 13

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Fairfax Little League 9-11-Year-Old Team Wins State Championship

The Fairfax Little League 9-11-year-old “National League” team just won the state championship. Although this age group is not one that advances to the Little League World Series, it is an amazing accomplishment and such a great win for these kids and Fairfax Little League—especially considering the challenges that everyone has faced with “return to play.” The teams that would have competed in Williamsport (that’s the Little League World Series) were the 10-12-year-old teams, and both of them had outstanding All-Star seasons as well.

CALENDAR

JULY 8 TO AUG. 29

Summer Table. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Building W-8, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Ceramic Artists Pam Eisenmann and Joan Ulrich offer two takes on convivial dining. Celebrating summer gatherings with lively handmade tableware: serving pieces, vases, sippers and more. Meet the artists on August 14th, 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

SATURDAY/JULY 24

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Summer Saturdays is back! Join them virtually or in-person for hands-on history activities. Cost is \$0 to \$10. This program occurs at the same time every Saturday until August 28th. Visit the website: www.gunstonhall.org/event

SATURDAY/JULY 24

Cultural Heritage Nights are coming to Ossian Hall Park for free performances from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturdays in July and August. These performances are part of the Spotlight by Starlight Summer Entertainment Series at Ossian Hall Park that promotes awareness and appreciation of Fairfax County’s cultural diversity. On July 24, attend Vietnam Cultural Heritage Night featuring the Prelude Chamber Ensemble, a nonprofit group of passionate musicians who are dedicated to promoting classical music and cultural exchange. Ossian Hall Park is located at 7900 Heritage Drive in Annandale. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) before leaving home for inclement weather updates.

SUNDAY/JULY 25

Garden Gauge model trains. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia and Maryland

Garden Railway Society will be running G (Garden) Gauge model trains on the Station’s grounds. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5 (\$6 for special events); Seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/JULY 25

Asian Festival. 12-9 p.m. The Old Town Fairfax Business Association will host its first Asian Festival on Main. The family-friendly, full day event will take place on Main Street in Old Town Fairfax, between University Drive and Chain Bridge Road. In the heart of Old Town Fairfax, one block of Main Street will play host to culinary delights, Curbside Kitchen food trucks, teas, special brews and sours, performing artists, games, and a live muralist, Henley Bounkhong. Added by the Fairfax City Commission on the Arts will be an Notable Americans of Asian Descent installation, curated by Literary Artist Sharon Chang.

GOLF CAMPS

Join the nationwide resurgence of the life-long game of golf. Laurel Hill Golf Club and Twin Lakes Golf Course are offering weeklong summer camps taught by professionals from The Eisman Golf Academy. Junior golfers ages 8-14 will learn and improve on golf fundamentals in a fun environment. Class sizes are limited for personalized instruction and camp includes on-course play. Also included are swag bags, hat, games and prizes. Camp will take place at Twin Lakes on Aug. 9-13, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, visit the Junior Golf Fairfax website. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road in Clifton.

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Definitely on My List



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As the month of May was swept away with the last of the network-season’s original programming, those of us still in lockdown and quarantining had our own reality to embrace: there was nothing new on network television. Cable became the obvious choice. In particular, “Netflix” and “Prime.” Whether it was “Victoria,” “The Crown,” “Bridgerton,” “The Kominsky Method” or “The Queen’s Gambit” many of us left the networks behind and found a new home. However, even that didn’t last forever. Soon we were back perusing the all-too-familiar weekly television viewing guide.

And in returning, I discovered a program that has been on for eight years, and never once had I seen any snippet other than a brief - and bland reference about something or other: The program is called “The Blacklist.” I knew that James Spader was the star, but I knew nothing about the storyline or any other actors involved. James Spader I knew from “Boston Legal,” a legal drama from the early 2000s which featured among other story lines, a lawyer, Alan Shore (James Spader) offering up impassioned closing arguments for whatever wrong the firm was trying to right. I can’t remember much substance but I can sure remember the feeling and conviction expressed by Spader’s character. He was mesmerizing.

And so, having exhausted “Prime and “Netflix” and a few other cable channels, we reverted back to the networks. This time though to search for a show that we had overlooked during its initial previous network programming life. We discovered or rather took a chance and selected “The Blacklist” to see what we could see. Not so much my wife, Dina, but ever since I began watching episode one, I have been entranced. To say I’ve been binge-watching makes light of all those who have previously binge-watched. I have watched approximately 80 episodes, not at one sitting (to be fair, I have watched multiple episodes multiple times) and am presently halfway through season five. They have been renewed for a ninth season starting in the fall of ‘21 so if I were planning on being current by then, I would need to have watched 22 episodes per year times seven years plus half of season eight: that’s about 175 shows, each one running 42 minutes give or take without commercials. That adds up to over 122+ hours of television. That would test any committed viewer’s patience and schedule. Presuming I have a life other than my couch and television, the prospect seems a bit daunting and to be honest, perhaps a bit foolish. I mean, life goes on doesn’t it? James Spader gets paid whether I watch him or not, doesn’t he? As for the networks, I’m pretty sure they’re getting paid as well whether I’m in front of the television or not. Now if I were getting paid for my viewership, I would definitely hop on the couch. However, that’s not happening - not in my wildest dreams so I’m afraid I’ll have to fend for myself. Still, in spite of calculating the hours necessary to get current with the show and considering the life I would need to live to reach this nirvana, I am not put off by the arithmetic or the challenge. I don’t intend to commit every waking hour to fulfilling this goal, especially if one were to consider how the return of the fall shows in September would adversely impact my viewing flexibility. More shows to watch would create less opportunity to focus on any one show.

Nevertheless, there are approximately three months-ish until original programming returns to the networks in the fall. I don’t have to have completed my pursuit by then. It’s not as if I’m fulfilling some kind of contract. Hardly. All I’m fulfilling is a cockeyed plan to binge-watch more than eight seasons of a show that up until now, I barely knew existed. Now, not only does it exist, it’s sort of the focus of my life (cancer notwithstanding). Granted, it’s not very exciting, but it sure is predictable. And for a cancer patient recently re-diagnosed, predictable is good. I just hope the show ends before I do.

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



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3 BR, 2 Full +2 Half BAs NEW to the Market, Shows well, full of nice surprises! NEW Gas Furnace, New Gas Range, Freshly painted throughout, Freshly revealed Hardwood Floors, 5 levels, Across the street from Lake Braddock HS, Metrobus 17K 1/2 block from TH, VRE < 3 miles, pool, tennis, lakes, walking trails in Community. Move in before beginning of new school year (Hooray!)
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