

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

Sully Station II:
Excited about their
shiny, new fire hats
are brothers Dominic,
5, and Alexander, 7,
at National Night Out
festivities.

National Night Out

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UUCR Banner Slashed

PAGE 2

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CALENDAR

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

NEWS

Black Lives Matter Banner Slashed at Reston Church

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Black Lives Matter banner in front of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston (UUCR) has been defaced and destroyed. It and the Rainbow Flag are insignias of the church's inclusiveness.

Rev. Scott Alexander, interim minister of UUCR, sent an email dated Aug. 5 to members and friends saying, "We discovered yesterday that the banner was vandalized in a truly disturbing manner."

A photo depicts the banner slashed or torn at the top. According to Alexander, the event followed the theft and destruction of their 16-foot Rainbow Flag and flagpole in the spring of 2022.

Reston Connection reported several occurrences, including the Black Lives Matter Banner Stolen, Theft reported Juneteenth 2020.

"There is so much work to do in our community and nation to undo the scourge of institutional and personal racism," Alexander said. "We will not be intimidated, and we will not be defeated in our fight for social and racial justice... We will not be bullied into submission," he added.

UUCR's Social Action and Justice Committee is committed to



The Black Lives Matter banner appears slashed at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston.

replacing the flag and banner, and the congregation hopes to reinstall the new Rainbow Flag and Black Lives Matter banner within the next week, according to Alexander. "This congregation has a clear and firm commitment to racial equality and anti-racism work," Alexander said.

Reaction poured in from the congregation, including that of Holly Anderson, board president of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston. According to Anderson, she is in contact with other UUC presidents nationwide through a listserv. "They are having the same theft and destruction of banners and flags at their churches across the country. We are all praying this stops," Anderson said.

Arrest in Fatal Crash in Herndon

Detectives from Fairfax Police Crash Reconstruction Unit have charged a 33-year-old man after investigating a single-vehicle fatal crash that occurred Sunday night on Dranesville Road just north of Powells Tavern Place in Herndon. Officers responded to the crash just after 11:35 p.m. to discover the passenger of a 2011 Chevrolet Cruze, Alexis Andy Quispe Arotinco, 27, of Herndon, deceased in the vehicle. A witness saw a man running from the scene prior to police arrival. As additional officers arrived, they began an extensive search with the assistance of our K9 unit and helicopter, but the driver was not found.

Last night, the driver of the Cruze, turned himself in by reporting to the Herndon Police Station. Detectives were

notified the driver was at the station and was arrested. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with felony hit and run. He was held on no bond.

Preliminarily, detectives determined he was driving the 2011 Chevrolet Cruze and was traveling north on Dranesville Road. The vehicle entered the median striking a tree near the intersection of Powells Tavern Place. Detectives believe speed was a factor in the crash and continue to investigate to determine if alcohol was also a factor.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone -1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
PITTSYLVANIA	13538	612	WYATT FARM RD	SANDY RIVER	7/29/2022
NEW KENT	12711	600	HOLLY FORK RD	GODDINS MILL POND	7/27/2022
TAZEWELL	18482	67	ROUTE 67	SPRING BRANCH	7/26/2022
TAZEWELL	27977	643	ROUTE 643	MUD FORK	7/26/2022
TAZEWELL	18483	67	ROUTE 67	BIG CREEK	7/26/2022
TAZEWELL	18651	680	ROUTE 680	SPRING BRANCH	7/26/2022
BUCHANAN	3815	460	RIVERSIDE DR	LYNN CAMP CREEK	7/25/2022
TAZEWELL	18429	19	GOV G.C. PEERY HWY	BLUESTONE RIVER	7/25/2022
TAZEWELL	18479	67	ROUTE 67	BIG CREEK	7/25/2022
TAZEWELL	18444	19	ROUTE 19 NBL/460 WBL	SPRING BRANCH	7/25/2022
BUCHANAN	3812	460	ROUTE 460	SIX & TWENTY MILE BRANCH	7/22/2022
TAZEWELL	18389	16	ROUTE 16	JOHNSON BRANCH	7/22/2022
TAZEWELL	18390	16	ROUTE 16	JOHNSON BRANCH	7/22/2022
BUCHANAN	3777	80	HELEN HENDERSON HWY	RUSSELL FORK RIVER	7/21/2022
GRAYSON	8690	58	WILSON HWY	BIG WILSON CREEK	7/14/2022
CUMBERLAND	5736	615	GAME FARM RD	BIGGER CREEK	7/8/2022
WISE	23462	686	DERBY RD	PREACHER CREEK	7/7/2022
RUSSELL	16478	658	BIG CEDAR CREEK RD	MOUNTAIN BRANCH	7/6/2022
TAZEWELL	27010	660	LOOP RD	MUD FORK CREEK	7/5/2022
WYTHE	19715	653	GREASY CREEK RD	STUFFLE RUN	7/1/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.



The Elms: Back row, from left, are PFC Avery Brunk, MPO Sabrina Ruck and PFC Kory Pfeiffer; and in front, from left, are the Condon brothers, Wyatt, 8-1/2, and Nolan, 10.



The Elms: Handing out snacks are (from left) Donna Smith and Shamla Wardak.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Appreciated! Local neighborhoods celebrate National Night Out.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In neighborhoods throughout the U.S., friends and families are holding summertime cookouts, pool parties and ice cream socials. But when they did it last Tuesday, Aug. 2, they also invited their local police officers and firefighters so they could honor them on National Night Out. Here's what happened at just some of the celebrations in Centreville:

The Elms

At The Elms, children eagerly gathered near a police cruiser and chatted with officers from the Sully District Station. Resident Brian Condon brought sons Wyatt, 8-1/2, and Nolan, 10. "We wanted to get outside and thought it would be a good idea to meet some new people," said Condon. "And it's a great opportunity to ask a few questions of our police officers that we wouldn't get to otherwise."

Handing out snacks were Elms' service manager Donna Smith and leasing consultant Shamla Wardak. "There are 268 apartments here, and we love the sense of community and bringing our residents together," said Smith. "Anything for our law-enforcement officers and Fire Department – we support them 100 percent."

Nikki Greenberg has lived there since November and is delighted with her home. "Everyone's so friendly, and I like the location, my loft apartment and my wonderful neighbors," she said. "It's clean and efficient, and there's great commu-

nication between the residents and maintenance people."

Her friend, Regina Peterson, has lived at The Elms two years. "I like that they put on events and get the neighbors together," she said. "This one is good because it's nice to get to know your local law enforcement and put faces to the names."

And, added Greenberg, "The police officers fixed my baby seat for me tonight, on the spot."

Among the officers there was Sgt. Scott Reynolds with Sully's Bike Team. He called National Night Out "a great way to engage with the community and enhance our partnerships with the local residents. A lot of people bring their kids out, and they look up to us. And it's fun to hand out swag to them, like police-badge stickers, slap bracelets, sunglasses and even free Slurpee coupons from 7-Eleven. The kids love that."

Sully Station I

Sully Station I had a huge turn out for its cookout and pool party. Some people swam in the pool, children jumped in the moon-bounce, and friends and neighbors visited leisurely with each other and the police. One of the officers was PFC Valerie Richards, who's been at the Sully District Station for a year.

"I really enjoy National Night Out and being with the community," she said. "It allows police officers to come together with the community members as one. They get to see who we are and that we're all normal people like they

are. Sometimes, the uniform puts a barrier between us, but serving them is our job."

Also there was her station's assistant commander, Lt. Matt Dehler. "I've been coming to these events for 25 years, and I'll run into people later that I met at National Night Out and they'll remember me," he said. "It's a chance to have a good, positive interaction with both the adults and kids – and we need kids to be the police officers of the future."

Dehler said being a police officer is a tough job. "But everywhere I go in the county, people come up and offer to buy me a cup of coffee or say hello to me," he said. "We have really good relationships in this county."

Attendees at this celebration were treated to hamburgers, hot dogs and chips. Manning the grill were members of the Sully Station I Swim Grill Team, Jim Scheurer, Neil Kronimus, Joe O'Neil and Joe O'Bryan. The swim team has 128 members and, said Scheurer, "During the swim season, we cook specialty items like Philly cheesesteaks, pulled pork barbecue and quesadillas to raise money for the team."

Happy to participate in National Night Out, O'Bryan said, "It's great because it gets the community out here. And they get to see the police as someone other than the officer who gives them a ticket – they see them as community members."

He and his wife Laurie have lived here since 1992 and, she said, "There's a lot of community involvement. People are friendly

SEE LOCAL, PAGE 8



Sully Station I: Police PFC Valerie Richards talks with some young residents.



Sully Station I: From left are police officers Evan Kennedy and Elizabeth Long with PFC Dave Moore.

Profiteering on Gun Violence

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN"
PLUM

On our recent vacation to Scandinavia, Jane and I spent a couple of days on Ærø, one of the Danish Baltic Sea islands. The innkeeper where we were staying asked us about mass shootings in the U.S. He simply could not understand why Americans continued to allow such violence to happen. Gun purchasing in Denmark, he explained, was limited to single-shot hunting rifles and was possible only for persons over 21 years of age after a background check, required training on the use of guns, and proof that there was a safe, locked place where the gun would be stored. An honest answer to his inquiry I find to be appalling.

To suggest that our Founding Fathers had protections in min for mass murderers with assault weapons when they wrote the Second Amendment is an insult to the very idea of our form of gov-

ernment and ignores the fact that they were referring to a "well regulated Militia."

The answer to his inquiry might more properly be answered in a report issued within the last two weeks by the United States House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform. The Committee found that, "gun companies collected more than \$1 billion over the last decade from selling military-style assault weapons to civilians, even as gun violence increased across the United States. These companies used disturbing sales tactics — including marketing deadly weapons as a way for young men to prove their manliness and selling guns to mass shooters on credit — while failing to take even basic steps to monitor the violence and destruction their products have unleashed."

From its report:

During the Committee's June 8,



Plum

that, "so are rates of gun violence." According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other sources, 2020 and 2021 witnessed the highest gun-related death totals in the United States in decades. Studies by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center have found a strong correlation between an increase in gun availability and rates of homicides, suicides, and accidental gun deaths." (Footnotes are available in the report for those who want to verify the information.)

I feel certain that you will be as surprised and disgusted as I have been when reviewing the report details on the marketing practic-

es along with easy credit used by manufacturers to get assault weapons into the hands of as many people as possible to increase their profits. The report asserts that, "The firearm industry has been marketing directly and indirectly to white supremacist and extremist organizations for years, playing on fears of government repression against gun owners and fomenting racial tensions."

The report concludes, "Congress must act to rein in the irresponsible business practices of the gun industry, prohibit the sale of dangerous weapons of war to civilians, and reassess the liability protections that prevent the American people from accessing the courts to hold gun manufacturers accountable for the deadly effects of their business decisions."

The Danish innkeeper could not understand why we do not take action to end gun violence, and it is sickening to realize that gun manufacturer profits may be part of the reason.

Adventure on Metro Rail Independent Progressive

JOHN LOVAAS

Friday night we were looking forward to traveling into our nation's capital to see our 15-year-old granddaughter make her debut singing a solo in a summer theatre lab performance. Riding Metro seemed like a sensible, even enjoyable way, to go to the event near Mt. Vernon Square. We are fans of Metro. In fact, we rode it on opening day in Reston from this end all the way to the other and back, and have ridden it frequently since.

When we got to the Wiehle Station, the platform sign showed 24 minutes to next departure ... a little longer than we'd hope, but OK. Then an announcement on the PA system warned all passengers that there were delays coming and going on the green and yellow lines due to a "medical emergency" at Fort Totten. Our destination, Mt. Vernon Square, is on the green line, of course. As we waited for the train, the green/yellow line delay message kept being repeated. So, we looked at the Metro map and plotted a small change to our routing. Instead of changing from the silver line at Lenfant Plaza, we'd go to Gallery Place on the red line, but pretty close to Mt. Vernon Square, and walk from there. Be-

tween the waits at Wiehle, Metro Center for the change to red, and a 25-minute walk, we arrived at the Theatre 20 minutes late. Fortunately, we were still in time for our granddaughter's appearance and her superb solo rendition of a song from Caberet! A two-hour journey from our house to the Theatre!

After the show, we walked with our granddaughter and her parents (our son & daughter-in-law) to the Mt. Vernon Square Metro station on the green line. A pleasant 15-minute walk, except for one surprise. Half a block from the theatre there is a lot with 15-20 colorful tents for homeless folks, surrounded by a hedge as we approached. Just our side of the hedge, we noticed a lot of scurrying movement in the grass. Rats! I'd guess there were 40 or 50 within a few feet of the sidewalk, drawn no doubt by food on the ground among the tents. We moved on.

At the Metro station we said goodnight to the family members headed to Maryland and we went to the Virginia-bound train platform. Oh no! Problems in our direction again — orange line to Vienna just said DLY (delay), while the sign said silver line also DLY. No one seemed to know how much of a delay! So, we waited. After 10 or 15 minutes, DLY changed to

31 minutes. Yech! It was after 10 p.m., another half hour!? No, the sign switched back to DLY. Enough! We started to walk from the platform, thinking we'd order a LYFT ride-\$45! But, as we headed out, we took a last look at the sign. Lo and behold, silver 7 minutes. We hustled back and waited. While Vienna still said DLY, our train came and off we finally went. The trip back to Reston Station was uneventful, except we kept hearing announcements, ones that didn't bode well for other Metro passengers that evening. Delays on the blue line, line problems still on the orange line, elevators out someplace, and reminders about other delays for planned work on escalators and platform improvements.

While we noted that every car we had ridden in that evening was one of the new generation of cars, still clean and comfortable, overall it had been a disappointing evening on our subway system. While there had been no accidents or crashes in the system, one has to wonder what exactly were the problems causing all the DLYS? We spent about 3 and one-half hours in the Metro system to go from Reston to Mt. Vernon Square and back, and we may have been among the luckier ones last Friday night. We wish

the new WMATA management all the best in achieving its goals of improving overall system operations as well as its safety.

DON'T FORGET that this is National Farmers Market Week! We'll be celebrating with some special events this Saturday at the Reston Farmers Market at Lake Anne. The market will be followed this Saturday by one of biggest just-plain-fun events of the year in Reston: The Cardboard Boat Regatta on Lake Anne, with festivities starting about 1 p.m. Come and join the fun!

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ROUNDUPS

I-66 East Ramp to Route 50 West Closing

The ramp from I-66 East to Route 50 West will be closed this weekend, beginning Friday, Aug. 5, at 10 p.m., continuously through Monday, Aug. 8, at 5 a.m. Traffic will be detoured farther east to Route 123 (Chain Bridge Road). Stay to the left and turn left at the traffic signal onto Route 123 North, stay to the right to I-66 West, and then follow signs to Route 50 West.

This work is part of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project. Drivers should expect delays if traveling in this area and consider using alternate routes. All work is weather-dependent and will be rescheduled if inclement conditions occur.

Car Seat Inspections, Aug. 11

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, Aug. 11, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are asked to wear a mask and adhere to social-distancing and safety precautions.

They should also install the child safety seat themselves, so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly in the future. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for Aug. 25, at the same place and time.

Book Sale at Centreville Library

The Friends of Centreville Regional Library will hold a book sale at the Centreville Regional Library, this Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 13-14, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. All proceeds will help support the library and its programs.

Register for Hidden in Plain Sight

Fairfax County police are offering a hands-on, learning adventure for parents and guardians of teenagers. Called "Hidden in Plain Sight," it'll be held Wednesday, Aug. 17, from 6:30-8:45 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

Attendees will be guided through a presentation opening their eyes to what's right in front of them. This program begins with a setup of a teenager's bedroom which includes close to 100 "red flags" indicating risky behavior. Parents are encouraged to touch everything and identify these red flags.

Afterward is a PowerPoint presentation detailing the red-flag props the room contained and how they indicate or are used in risky behavior. Police include up-to-date statistics and local trends, and law-enforcement officers will share experiences they've had in the community identifying risky behavior and helping put teens on the right path to a healthy life.

Register at <https://bit.ly/hips2022>. Or register for other, upcoming presentations dates at <https://bit.ly/fcpdhps>. Registration is required, and seats are limited for this free event. For further information or to arrange a presentation for an organization, club or group, email PFC Meg Hawkins at FCPDHIPS@fairfaxcounty.gov.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GrandInvolve Seeks Volunteers. Would you like a unique and interesting volunteer experience to make a difference in a school, classroom, or in one child's life? GrandInvolve.org facilitates rewarding, flexible adult volunteer opportunities at Fairfax County Title I elementary schools, providing classroom assistance with math, reading, and other simple educational tasks. Visit www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us for de-

tails and to complete an interest form. Or email info@grandinvolve.org.

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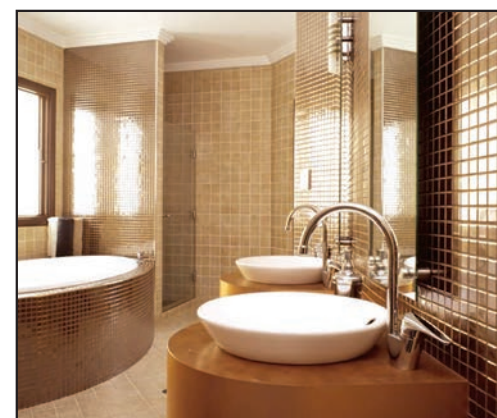
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Employment

VeriSign Inc. has an Engineer – Network Engineer (Req #V0116) opening in Reston, VA: Implement network security policies and standards and provide operational maintenance and patching of network devices and troubleshoots complex network issues involving various factors. Mail resume to Attn: Dave Carney, 12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, VA 20190. Must include Req # to be considered.

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

ENTERTAINMENT



The Lake Anne Cardboard Regatta will take place Saturday, Aug. 13 in Lake Anne, Reston.

Lake Anne Cardboard Regatta.

Over 50 life-size cardboard boats created from cardboard and duct tape will set sail and race on Lake Anne in Reston. Teams of all ages will race in timed heats by rowing out to a designated buoy and back to the docks. Creative boat designs and costumes are encouraged. Prizes are awarded to the fastest boats in each category and winners of the design contest. The consolation "Titanic" award is given to the vessel that sinks in the most epic fashion. Join the fun by becoming a sponsor or register a team online today at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard>.

REGISTRATION OPEN

2022 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept. 10-24. Register online at www.nvso.us, \$20 for unlimited events. Go to the website for events, rules, eligibility, photos, past results. For information, email nvso1982@gmail.com.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Summer Programming for Kids. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Reston Museum is launching new summer programming for kids! Visit the Reston Museum to participate in fun and creative activities inspired by Reston's history. Program is free and everyone will receive an Explore Reston packet.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com

SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at Lake Anne Village from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on May 6th, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through November 11. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; breads and pastries; prepared foods; meats; herbs; flowers; and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County. For more information, see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>

HERNDON FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays through Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 765 Lynn St., Herndon, VA, 20170 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

is open every Saturday, Spring and Summer, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

NOW THRU AUG. 26 (FRIDAYS)

Storytime for Little Historians. 11 a.m. The second annual Storytime for Little Historians program returns this summer. Reston Museum invites our youngest visitors to the Reston Museum every Friday at 11 a.m. to listen to a story about Reston or one of Reston's founding principles. Books for the program come from the Reston Museum and Reston's Used Book Shop. Program is offered free of charge and each child will receive a goodie bag. Program is recommended for children under 7. Visit www.restonmuseum.org.

NOW THRU AUG. 18 (THURSDAYS)

Farmers' Market Fun Days. At Town Green, 730 Elden Street, Herndon. Enjoy free kid-friendly entertainment on Thursdays running July 7-August 18 from 10:30-11:15 a.m. on the Town Green, 730 Elden Street. Before or after the performance, people are welcome to shop the locally grown and homemade goodies at the Farmers' Market from 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., on Lynn Street in historic downtown Herndon. If inclement weather occurs, call the Inclement Weather line at 703-435-6866 for the status of the performance.

Entertainment Schedule:

August 11: Groovy Nate - fun and educational shows using exotic musical instruments

August 18: Rainbow Rock - plays original children's music for the tot rock set

To learn more about the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, visit herndon-va.gov/recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

AUG. 13-14

Back to School Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Children's, teen's and adult's fiction and some nonfiction categories. Educators who show school ID will receive one book of their choice for free. All sales benefit the Centreville Regional Library. No electronic scanners or phone scanners will be permitted. Visit Facebook page: @centreville-friends

Dan Navarro. 8 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Tickets are \$22-\$25. Visit www.jamminjava.com.

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We Need Your Help Again
We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784

And affiliated newspapers

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers. The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022. The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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Out of the Woods ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... but still very much in the bushes, and I fear without the 'round-the-clock, extremely attentive ICU staff on his case, there may be some predictable out-of-sight/out-of-mind-type problems. Beginning with: the nurses are not responsible for only one patient. They may be responsible for upwards of four or five others. What that mean is the immediate response to whatever problem the patient is experiencing gets back-burnered/deferred to the more pressing demands of some other patient the nurse is responsible for. Unfortunately, unlike Superman (although there are many superwomen too), they can't split themselves in two, as Clark Kent did in one television episode. We understand and appreciate the never-ending demands placed on today's nurses. That being said, if the hospital powers-that-be deem a transfer from the ICU to a regular floor, it's unlikely us powers who can't be have any appeal-type powers to affect that. The previous three weeks have spoiled us, no doubt.

In addition, I'm afraid the reality is for visitors of non-ICU patients, the visiting hours posted on the walls are more restrictive and there will be less time for us to visit and encourage the patient through his excruciatingly long and difficult recovery. Granted, there's likely to be a phone in a regular room and a cell phone as well would similarly be available, but right now this patient doesn't have the strength or capacity to pick up a phone or manipulate its keys. Moreover, as long as he's a breathing through a trach tube (until he can't breathe consistently on his own, which so far efforts to wean him off the ventilator have been unsuccessful; septic shock causes multiple problems), he cannot physically even talk. For us then, the situation summarizes as follows: if he can't talk, and he can't pick up the phone/text (at present he doesn't have the dexterity to do either) and is likewise unable to grab/press the nurse's call button, and moreover, during this time, will likely be unattended and unable to express his needs/requirements (which are too numerous to mention) in any way available, and perhaps you can appreciate the challenging and stressful path forward for him, and to a lesser degree, us.

This transition from 24-hour, many hands-on 'round the clock care in ICU has, (which together with this patient's will to survive, has enabled him to progress to this point), seems not particularly patient friendly; not knowing admittedly, the rules and regulations, policy and procedures that a hospital must adhere to (or else chaos would ensue, I imagine) isn't totally lost on us. However, common sense must prevail occasionally, doesn't it? I mean, a relatively, helpless patient can't be left to fend for himself, or expect to improve if his medical quality-of-life is not being met because his nurse has four other patients with varying needs to tend to, none of which, selfishly speaking, contribute to the health and well-being of this recently transferred patient. But the hospital serves the community, not one patient and it's their responsibility to serve multiple patients. As Spock has said many times on Star Trek: "The good of the many outweigh the good of the few." I get it. But in this case, if logic plays any part in the decisions/process, well; let's just say I don't agree since they're "to do no harm." I understand, one single, solitary patient can't stand (lay, occasionally sit) in the way of progress, such as it is. However, it would be a damn shame if while trying to move forward, we end up going backwards. But what do I know? (As has been made clear many times before in this space: not much.)

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



Sully Station I: Grilling hot dogs and hamburgers are (from left) Jim Scheurer, Neil Kronimus, Joe O'Neil and Joe O'Bryan.



Sully Station II: Leslie Romero and her father, Ildonio Romero, enjoying pizza and cookies together.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Local Neighborhoods Celebrate National Night Out



Sully Station II: From left are Firefighters Mike Brown and Zach Moyes with Shift Capt. Karl Roche, all from West Centreville Station 38.

FROM PAGE 3

and willing to help out wherever needed."

Police PFC Dave Moore said he likes coming to National Night Out and "seeing the people we get to represent and the cooperation between police and citizens. They get to see that we're just people who happen to be police officers. We're trying to do the right things and helping people when we can."

"This is still a good job to have if you want to give back and serve the community," he continued. "People can even arrange for ride-alongs to get an idea of what we do, and our responsibilities, and can see our interactions with the public. And events like tonight let kids see police in a good light, not like on TV."

Sully Station II

Outside the Sully Station II com-

munity center, a deejay played pop music while children checked out the fire engines from their local station and families relaxed while chowing down on pizza, hot dogs, sub sandwiches, cookies, watermelon, Popsicles, ice cream and cotton candy.

Shift Capt. Karl Roche, of West Centreville Fire Station 38, said National Night Out "lets us get out and see the community. And it also lets people see us and what we offer – especially the children, so they're not afraid of us when we run emergency calls. Tonight, we're giving kids fire helmets and a show-and-tell experience with the fire engine and its equipment."

Brothers Dominic and Alexander N. were delighted with their new fire hats. "We thought it would be nice to come out and support law enforcement and firefighters and see some of our neighbors," said their mom, Emily. "We ate hot dogs,

chips and cotton candy, and the kids played games and got prizes."

Sitting peacefully on a grassy hill, Ildonio Romero and daughter Leslie, a rising freshman at Westfield High, ate pizza and chocolate-chip cookies together. "It's a really nice event," said Leslie. "The food was free, firetrucks are here and the music's good." Her dad said he likes living in Sully II and enjoys its pool and the area where he walks their dog.

This was one of four National Night Out celebrations that Capt. Rachel Levy, commander of the Sully District Police Station, visited that night. It was gratifying, she said, because "We're out here supporting the community that supports us."

Karen Hogan, president of the Sully Station II Board of Trustees, said 300-400 people attended. "We had a great turnout, with lots of help from our activities committee,



Sully Station II: Excited about their shiny, new fire hats are brothers Dominic, 5, and Alexander, 7.

which sponsored this event. And 7-Eleven gave us gift certificates and candies. This is a nice neighborhood to walk around in, with friendly people, and it's convenient to shopping."

Jo Lynne Vincent, of the activities committee, said, "It's important to show appreciation to our first responders. I don't think they get the recognition they deserve, and it's nice to meet some of them face-to-face. I've lived here 20 years and have always partici-

pated in this event and watched it evolve."

Also there was Fire Capt. Kim Hood, the area medical supervisor, who's been with Fairfax County 28 years. "These events are very important because they give kids a chance to come out and touch the firetruck so they're not so nervous when they see it," she said. "We work 24-hour shifts, so we're away from our families then. So to know we're appreciated is very rewarding."

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