

The Arlington Connection

Neighborhood children wave a sign advertising "Lemonade ... Money Goes to Charity," to call attention to their Friday afternoon lemonade stand. From left: Graham Langdon, Vincent Karmin, Adam Kirkpatrick, Ellen Kirkpatrick, Dominic Karmin, Owen Langdon.

One Remains Critical After Fiery Crash

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Get Ready for County Fair

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Lemonade Is Good Business

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Rideshare Crashes into Ireland's 4 Courts

3 remain hospitalized and one person is in critical condition as of Tuesday.

The Arlington County Police Department continues to investigate the cause of Friday's crash. According to police reports, a rideshare driver crashed into Ireland's Four Courts restaurant, and the vehicle caught fire.

Based on the preliminary investigation, detectives do not believe the crash was an intentional act and alcohol has been ruled out as a contributing factor. The driver of the vehicle is cooperating with the ongoing investigation.

Of the nine patients taken to the hospital, three patients remain hospitalized. One is in critical condition and two are in stable condition.

At approximately 6:45 p.m. on

Aug. 12, police and fire were dispatched to the 2000 block of Wilson Boulevard for the report of a vehicle into a restaurant. Upon arrival, officers immediately began evacuating patrons from the building, assessing their injuries and providing emergency medical care. Shortly after the crash, the vehicle caught fire causing a structure fire within the restaurant. Flames and smoke were visible from a considerable distance. The fire was extinguished by the Arlington County Fire Department.

Numerous injuries were reported on scene and medics from multiple agencies began evaluating and treating patients. Nine patients were transported to area hospitals. Two remained in critical

condition on Monday, one is in serious but stable condition and six were treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Additionally, six patients were treated and released on scene.

Building engineers evaluated the restaurant and determined it was structurally sound but was not safe to be reoccupied.

The preliminary investigation indicates the driver of the vehicle, who was operating as a rideshare driver and had a passenger at the time of the incident, was traveling north on N. Courthouse Road when he left the roadway and crashed into the restaurant. The driver and passenger were among those transported to area hospitals and both sustained

non-life-threatening injuries. The cause of the crash remains under active investigation and detectives continue to review evidence and speak with witnesses to determine the events that preceded the crash.

"Undoubtedly, the decisive actions of the arriving officers to run directly into the building and remove patrons saved lives," said Police Chief Andy Penn. "In addition to first responders, I commend the many witnesses and bystanders who sprang into action to assist those in need."

"I am extremely proud of the response by the men and women of the Arlington County Fire Department," said Fire Chief David Povlitz. "Our members are trained

to respond to the unthinkable, and that is exactly what they encountered while arriving on scene. ... The heroism of the first responders and bystanders who ran directly into danger to help is to be commended."

On scene assistance was provided by the Arlington County Sheriff's Office, Alexandria Fire Department, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall Fire Department.

Anyone with information that may assist the ongoing investigation is asked to contact Detective K. Stahl at kstahl@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-7145. Information may also be reported anonymously to Arlington County Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUH

Policing Arlington with K9 Support

By Ashley Simpson
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

For at least tens of thousands of years, dogs — direct descendants of the gray wolf — have been working alongside humans in a variety of capacities: as guard animals, for herding livestock, as hunting support, and so on.

According to the National Police Dog Foundation, it has been ever since the Middle Ages that dogs have played integral roles in different forms of policing. In the Foundation's words, "a police dog — also known as a K-9 or K9 — is a dog specifically trained to assist members of law enforcement."

Police departments across the United States leverage these dogs for their very specific skills — tracking, trailing, detection, and so on. The Arlington County Police Department has a K9 unit, which began in 1967 with two pups named Rommel and Lucky.

Over the last few decades, the ACPD has grown this force and now has ten full-fledged police dogs in the K9 unit.

"We have five patrol/narcotics dogs, one patrol/explosive detection dog, and four dogs expressly for explosive detection," ACPD Corporal Jonathan Stanley — a police dog handler himself — said.

"Additionally, the department has one dog assigned to our Community Engagement Division as a peer support animal."

These dogs are invaluable to the department with their skill sets and qualities that human cops — no matter how talented and devoted they are — simply do not have.

"Through their advanced senses, specifically their sense of smell, these dogs serve as valuable locating tools," Stanley said. "Depending on their training, they can be utilized to locate explosives, illegal

narcotics, violent subjects as well as conduct building and article searches."

Not any dog can become a police dog, either. Not only does the ACPD tend to use specific dog breeds each for different purposes, but they also use dogs that have been bred specifically for the service.

"For patrol dogs, we use German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd breeds," Stanley said. "For single purpose detection — [dogs who are solely used to detect certain substances] — we use Labrador Retrievers and Doberman Pinscher breeds. The majority of the dogs used in the law enforcement profession are bred in Europe and are bred for this specific purpose. Arlington County contracts with stateside vendors that specialize in law enforcement dogs."

Before K9 training even begins, when the dog is at least a year old, there must be a strong, established bond between the future police



Corporal Stanley and his partner, K9 Duke, laid a rose at this year's National Police K9 Memorial Service during National Police Week.



Corporal Jonathan Stanley is pictured with his K9, Duke, who is a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd. Duke is certified in obedience, tracking, handler protection, building search, area search, evidence search and narcotics detection.

dog and its human handler.

"When an opening becomes available in the K9 Unit, a new K9 Handler (a sworn officer) is selected through an internal application process," Stanley said. "Then members of the K9 Unit, including some of the trainers and senior handlers, will evaluate and select a new dog from a contracted vendor. With the team formed (handler and K9), they concentrate on building a rapport and we will also expose the dog to various factors they will encounter in their career until the start of a basic patrol and detection school."

Then, following a four-to-five-month basic training school, the dog and handler teams — who are always paired together — graduate to a more complex, rigorous training program.

"The teams will then attend weekly K9 Unit training to build off the base skills learned in their initial training," Stanley said. "During the weekly training, officers conduct scenario-based training to expose the team to situations they will face on operational deployments. Remedial training to correct any training deficiencies in a team are also focused on during weekly training. Realistically, handlers train their dog daily, both on and off duty, to ensure they are prepared to respond to any call for service they are dispatched to."

On average, a police canine's career will last between eight to ten years. Then, it is typical for them to live out their post-retirement golden years as beloved companions.

"In addition to being working dogs, our K9s become part of their handlers' families. After a dog retires, the handler has the option to retain them," Stanley said. "To my knowledge, we have never had a handler not adopt their dog after retirement."

To learn more about the dogs that help make Arlington's neighborhoods safer, the ACPD will be conducting demonstrations at the upcoming Public Safety Block Party on Aug. 27 at Kenmore Middle School. All community members are welcome.

See the Dogs in Action

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<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Police-Department/Public-Safety-Block-Party>

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

Do It All at the County Fair

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Now is your chance to see how fast you can eat a piece of pie with no hands. Or whether the judges like your famous decadent chocolate cake as much as everyone else. Are they really going to let you throw an axe (\$10 for 10 throws) in the super safe axe throwing mobile trailer?

Are the funnel cakes and deep fried Oreos and blue raspberry snowball really as good as you remember? Have you built up the courage to try the Tilt-A-Whirl again this year? You've always wondered, is yoga better with goats.

The Arlington County Fair is back with opening ceremonies Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 5 p.m. followed by four days of activities, rides, contests, food and fun at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 2nd Street S. On the evening of opening day the fair will offer a beer garden experience as well as the axe throwing and escape room and the big trucks hands on exploration of Arlington's infrastructure vehicles.

Whether you like apple strudel at Little Austria, Caribbean chicken on a stick from NK's. Nutri Health Juices, Cookie monster snowballs from Sneaux-la-Snoballs, chicken shawarma from International Grill Co. or Maryland crab fries from Phelps Concessions you can find it in the food extravaganza of tastes offered at the Fair.

On Thursday a new Night Market offers shopping under the stars along the tennis courts showcasing vendors from the DMV area with their handmade goods. The



Arlington County Fair.



indoor vendor court opens on Friday from 4-10 pm in the gymnasium with a wide variety of offerings from handmade paintings, jewelry to gourmet foods.

Special activities for kids include a Kid's Court featuring interactive games,



live performances, coloring and more. The favorite magician, Drew Blue Shoes, is back with eye popping illusions, side splitting humor and surprises. Rocknokers and the FOAM PARTY are also featured on the weekend.

Cole Shows Amusement Company will be back offering rides that spin, whiz, jolt and confuse the senses and at \$1.25 per ticket, \$25 for 24 tickets and \$60 for 72 tickets with each ride taking 3-6 tickets. The Hurricane sweeps over the heads of the passersby, the 67-foot tall Rainforest Expo Wheel gives a bird's eye view of the fairground from the top of the wheel, riders propel down 100 feet from a tower in the Super Shot. (Sorry, you have to be 42" tall for this one) and the timeless classic, Tilt-A-Whirl, for only the bravest.

Browse around the entertain-

ment tents for local music groups and solo performances.

If it's all too much, stop in to the sensory tent to take a rest from the sights and sounds. It is set up various hours during the fair with Saturday from 11am-6 pm.

Street parking will be restricted with limited public parking at the garage located on S. Old Glebe Road. Off site parking is also available at the Faith Lutheran Church at 3313 Arlington Blvd. and the Arlington Career Center parking lot at 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Public transit includes ART and Metrobus. New to the Fair this year is free valet parking for bikes on the tennis courts. Traffic will be closed on 2nd Street S. between S. Jackson Street and S. Irving Street from 8 am on Aug. 17 to 11 pm on Aug. 21.

<https://www.arlingtoncounty-fair.us/>

CALENDAR

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.

CHECK OUT

THESE PLANT CLINICS

The Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic is open from 6:00-7:45 p.m. every Wednesday through September 28 and is located in the East Lobby of the Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. The Arlington Farmers Market Plant Clinic, open Saturday mornings from 7:45-11:15

a.m., operating through September 24, is located at N. 14th St. and N. Courthouse Rd.

The Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 203 E. Oxford Ave, Alexandria is open on Saturdays from 8:30-11:15 a.m., and will operate through September 24.

The Alexandria Old Town Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 301 King St., Alexandria, operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m., through September 24.

The Small Space Garden Plant Clinic, located at the back of the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, is open on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., coinciding with the Fairlington

Farmers Market.

NOW THRU SEPTEMBER

Witness the Changing of the Guard. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington. From April-September, the ceremony occurs every 30 minutes, on the hour and half-hour. For more information, visit: <https://arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Changing-of-the-Guard>

FRIDAY/AUG. 19

LESSON ZERO. 9:30-12:30 p.m. The Celtic House presents the music of Oasis recording artist LESSON ZERO for a free show at 2500 Columbia Pike, Arlington. For additional information, see: www.youtube.com/lessonzero and www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero

[youtube.com/lessonzero](https://www.youtube.com/lessonzero) and www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero

2022 COLUMBIA PIKE MOVIE NIGHTS

All movies start at sunset (between 8 and 8:30 pm) and are shown in English with Spanish subtitles. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs/blankets, etc. Leashed pets are welcome. Alcohol is NOT permitted at Arlington Mill or Penrose Square.

Fridays at Arlington Mill. Arlington Mill Community Center is located at 909 S. Dinwiddie St., Arlington, VA.

Aug. 19 at 8 p.m. -- "The Princess & The Frog"

Aug. 25 at 8 p.m. -- "West Side Story"

Saturdays at Penrose Square. Penrose Square is located at 2501 9th Road South, Arlington, VA. Aug. 20 at 8 p.m. -- "Hercules" Aug. 27 at 8 p.m. -- "Cruella" Visit the website: columbia-pike.org/movienights-2022

VIRGINIA HOSPITAL CENTER CLASSES FOR SEPTEMBER

Health fitness classes begin new sessions throughout the week of Sept. 12. For those ready to return to in-person classes, VHC has classes at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 5

NEWS

Thirsty Commuters Bring Good Business To Lemonade Stand

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Business had been good at the lemonade stand on the corner along Williamsburg Boulevard Friday afternoon. "We've been here about 30 minutes," according to ten-year-old Owen Langdon who organized the lemonade stand with his six-year-old brother Graham.

"And they asked us if we wanted to join them," Ellen Kirkpatrick says, who lives across the street. They explain, "We only have plain lemonade because we only have one pitcher." But Ellen runs across the street to get a second pitcher so they can expand their menu to include pink lemonade.

"Business has been good," Owen explains. "We have made about \$60 so far." Dominic Karmin thinks it is closer to \$70. "Someone came down and gave us \$20."

Adam Kirkpatrick explains, "We're going to give the proceeds to 'chairity.'"



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/
THE CONNECTION

Neighborhood children wave a sign advertising "Ice Cold Lemonade for 'Charity'" to call attention to their Friday afternoon lemonade stand. From left: Graham Langdon, Vincent Karmin, Adam Kirkpatrick, Ellen Kirkpatrick, Dominic Karmin, Owen Langdon.

CALENDAR



The Arlington County Fair will be held Aug. 17-21 in Arlington.

Arlington County Fair.

At Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second Street South, Arlington. Featuring a Beer Garden, big trucks, axe throwing and Escape Room, Night Market, Movement Gym, Food Truck Alley, Bingo, Pie Eating Contest, Goat Yoga, and more. Visit arlingtoncountyfair.us

FROM PAGE 4

Faith Lutheran Church and at the main campus of VHC Health in Arlington.

In-person classes include Tai Chi, Body Sculpt, Fitness Fusion, Zumba, Beginner Yoga, Senior Strength and Stretch and more. Based on demand, VHC Health also continues to offer a wide variety of virtual classes on Zoom. Virtual

classes include Prenatal and Postpartum Yoga, Feldenkrais, Boost Your Balance, Gentle Pilates, Core Challenge, Cardio Strength Circuit, Seniorise and more. View the full schedule and register online: <http://www.vhchealth.org/healthy>. The Health Promotion Department can answer any questions about community fitness classes. Call 703-558-6740.

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

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Office of 55+ Programs

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers, unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate (starting at a \$20 annual fee). To join or register, go to registration.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

Registration open for 2022 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept. 10-24. Register online by Aug. 31 at www.nvso.us, \$20 for unlimited events. Go to website for events, rules, eligibility, photos, past results. For information, email nvso1982@gmail.com.

Afternoon movie showing of "Dune" (2021) (PG-13), Oscar winning sci-fi film, Thursday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-02.

Movies & Critics group to review "Free Guy" (2021) (PG-13), Thursday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-06.

Tasty tomato recipes demonstrated by a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteer, Thursday, Aug. 18, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 914501-07.

Credit scores and reports, discussion by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Financial Education Volunteers, Thursday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914400-25.

Acoustic Hour in the Park with musicians Ed Girovasi and Phil Rosen, Friday, Aug. 19, 1 p.m., Virginia Highlands Park, 1600 S. Hayes Street. Registration # 914301-05.

Social ballroom dance, including the tango, waltz, foxtrot and swing, spacious dance floor, Friday, Aug. 19, 1:45 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. No instruction provided. Drop-in.

Scale down, weight loss support group, Monday, Aug. 22, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown. Drop-in.

Dragonflies and Damselflies up close, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m., Gulf Branch Nature Center. Registration # 914106-18.

Summer sing-along with musician Carl Gold, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914304-04.

Fitness mapping apps, learn how to use technology to track workouts, walks, bike rides, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914403-06.

Arts & Crafts Showcase, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Paintings, drawings, yarn creations on display. Drop-in.

Youthful movement dance-exercise with fusion of ancient art, low impact, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center.

Drop-in.

Harper's Magazine articles discussion group, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 11 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Facilitated by librarian Vicky McCaffrey. Registration # 914402-19.

Overview of Uber and Lyft apps by tech expert Nick Englund, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914403-07.

The Rocking Chairs, a grown-up garage band, plays hits from the 50s through the 70s, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 10:30 a.m., Madison Community Center. Drop-in.

Bilingual Bingo, English and Spanish, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914600-03.

55+ Travel group to tour National Museum of the U.S. Army, Ft. Belvoir, Wednesday, Aug. 24. Cost \$10, Arlington resident, \$13, non-resident. Registration # 902208-06.

Ballroom Bootcamp, learn basic steps to a different dance each week, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Line dance instruction, easy for beginners, Thursday, Aug. 25, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, drop-in and Friday, Aug. 26, 11:05 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Movie showing of "The Power of the Dog" (2021) (R), Friday, Aug. 26, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-10.

Lubber Run 55+ Center's senior room art project, Saturday, Aug. 27, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., create a mural. All skill levels welcome. Supplies provided. Registration # 914899-05.

Aurora Hills 55+ Center's book club members to discuss "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides, Monday, Aug. 29, 11:30 a.m. Drop-in.

Chess players of all levels welcome, Monday, Aug. 29, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Madison Community Center. Meet Chess Master Macon Shibut. Drop-in.

Mexican train dominoes, easy to learn, Monday, Aug. 29, 10 a.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 31, 1:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Escape Room at Walter Reed 55+ Center, Tuesday, Aug. 30, 7:30 p.m., registration # 914601-06.

Karaoke event, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 5 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Song lyrics projected on large screen. Registration # 914890-04.

Brain health, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Healthy practices to keep the brain sharp. Presented by Kay Yong, Insight Memory Care Center. Registration # 914500-10.

Falls Prevention Month & In-Person Safety Expo

Friday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Lubber Run Community Center. Falls are the #1 reason older adults end up in the ER, but falls are not a normal part of aging and can be prevented. Learn from experts throughout the community about fall risks and fall prevention strategies. Informational booths, activities and screenings will be available and include fall risk assessments, balance and strength exercises, medication review with a pharmacist, home modification techniques, blood pressure and vision screening, along with general safety tips to protect yourself and your home. The Expo is co-hosted by Arlington County 55+ Program, VHC Health, and the Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance. For more information, please contact senior-health@vhchealth.org

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Publishing Since 1784

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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.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

Connection Newspapers... Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac
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Less Than Twenty-Four Hours Later



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Last week's patient has already had an unexpected bleeding event and has been transferred back to ICU. Now, the patient is in Medical ICU. Previously, he had been in Surgical ICU. (Incidentally, this hospital, I was told, has nine different ICUs.) And what's the difference between the two ICUs? So far as I can tell: one letter. MICU appears to be equally hands-on with 'round-the-clock super attentive care with an ever-present nurse and other related medical staff always within earshot and able as well to view the patient's status (heart rate, pulse, blood pressure, et cetera) on various monitors and computer screens. So, it's nice to be back (that's easy for me to say) in the loving and caring arms of the ICU. Although, I wish we were anywhere but here, if you know what I mean? But if I'm being selfish, I want this patient to receive the best care possible and in his present state, a 24-7 ICU offers his best chance of surviving.

Now we wait for the doctors to evaluate his condition and determine a course of action which addresses the bleeding that prompted his transfer back to an ICU in the first place. And in the second place, I can't help wondering if successive struggles like this and others that have occurred since his three-weeks ago emergency ambulance ride to the hospital, have had a cumulative effect and the more upsets/complications like this that the patient experiences, the greater the chance that this patient will succumb to the stresses placed on his body. But what do I know? No joke here. I'm a very interested party who's scared and extremely uncertain of the eventual outcome. It's a day-to-day existence for all of us. Unsettling doesn't begin to describe it.

The problem/reality is that the doctors don't know about tomorrow until they evaluate the information gathered today as well as assess the patient's overall progress/appearance. Monitoring the patient's behavior combined with having gathered a wide range of medical data will help determine, maybe overnight, after us interested parties have long since left the facility, what the plan is going forward, at least until the staff repeats today's orders and gathers even more data. As I've learned recently, medicine is not like arithmetic, there are no straight lines of treatment. There's an endless list of variables. As we've seen/been told, assessing the patient, and planning a course of action is dependent on any number of moving parts, so to speak, especially with this patient.

Twice now, medical emergencies have occurred which has postponed treatment of the underlying problem which was the reason this whole medical mess devolved. A little bit of chemo leading to a nearly non-existent white blood count caused this patient to be susceptible to infection with limited means to defend himself. He went into septic shock as a result and the hospital has spent the last three weeks trying to stabilize/regain control of the patient's major organs which had all shut down due to the sepsis.

Through all this tumult, the patient has been unable to talk due to tubes in his mouth from a ventilator initially, progressing to a trach tube in his throat (a tracheotomy needed to be performed) currently. Consequently, he has been unable to express his wishes, share his frustration or interact too much, even with his doctors. All he can do is mouth words and/or communicate with his eyes, facial gestures, and hand-arm movements. It's been challenging. More so, for him, than us. Since we don't know what the future holds, we'd really like to have greater communication in the present. Nevertheless, we must focus on how much better he is today than he was just last week. As The Three Stooges said: "Rome wasn't built in a day. Neither was Milwaukee."

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

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