

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW



Splish, Splash, Most Took a Bath!

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The finish line is in sight for these competitors in the 2022 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta in Reston, a project of the Reston Historic Trust.

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PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE GEARY

\$7.9M for Compton Road Path

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Policing in Reston

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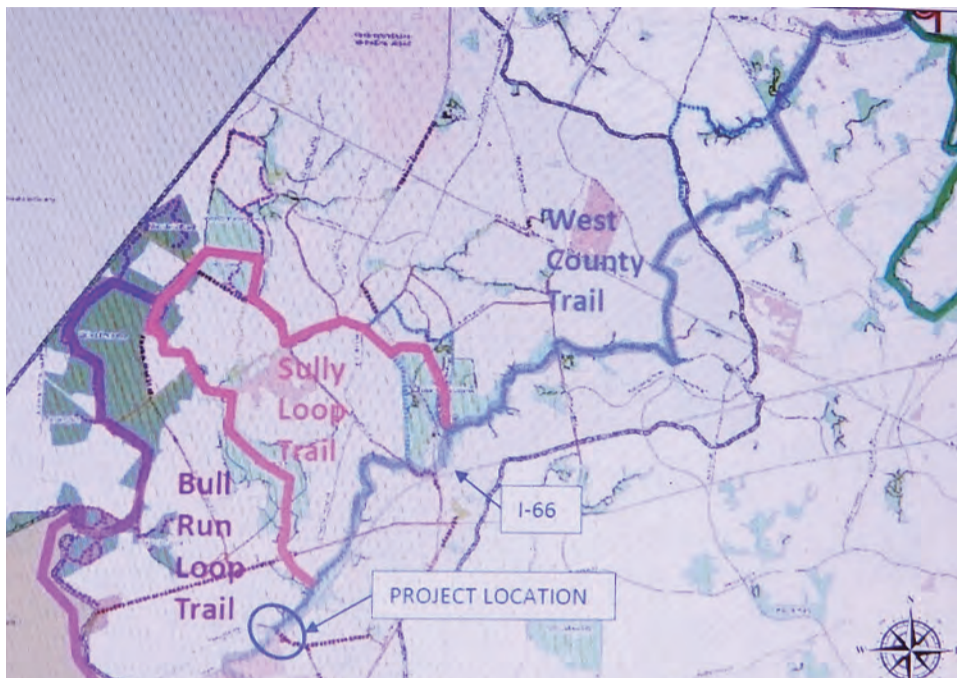
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The project's location and proximity to other area trails.



This map shows how the Compton Road Path would connect to other trails.

Compton Road Shared-use Path Update

'This project is on the county's priority plan.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Working together, Fairfax County and VDOT plan to construct the Compton Road Shared-Use Path in Centreville. But it's not just any path – this 10-foot-wide trail will become part of the I-66 Trail Network, while also benefiting local residents.

VDOT presented details during its recent, virtual, design public hearing. "This path will provide connectivity between the Bull Run Special Events Center and the Cub Run Trail System, as well as other trails in the area," said VDOT Consultant Project Manager Kevin Hurt.

"The intent of this project is to improve mobility and travel choices for pedestrians and bicyclists in the area," he continued. "It will include a bridge over Cub Run to safely facilitate the shared-use path over the stream and will also provide connection to future trails."

Noting how extensive the I-66 Trail Network is, Hurt said the new path will also yield a connection to it. And he stressed that it'll connect, as well, to the existing Bull Run Loop Trail, Sully Loop Trail and West County Trail. (See photo with yellow boxes). It'll cross Compton Road itself at Bull Run Special Events Center Drive. Hurt then explained the three sections the Compton Road path will have.

"The first portion will be constructed north of the I-66 bridges over Compton Road," he said. "The second portion is currently under construction and is located under the I-66 bridges as a part of the Transform 66 project. And the third portion will be constructed south of the I-66 bridges and will be about 430 feet long." However, he then showed slides breaking up the project into

four sections, for construction purposes.

* South of the I-66 bridges, it'll have a minimum 2-foot, graded shoulder with ditches on each side to prevent stormwater runoff from crossing the path. Compton Road's shoulders will also be improved in this area.

* Already under construction under the I-66 bridges, this part of the path has a 3-foot buffer between the required handrail and retaining wall. It's a constrained area where the path must fit between the newly built retaining walls and bridge piers. This section is planned for completion, either sometime this year or in early 2023.

* North of the I-66 bridges, the path will be about 380-feet long. This portion includes items that will add to the construction time – Compton Road bridge widening, plus relocation of a waterline for the project fill slopes. This section is also the transition between the part already being built and the bridge required to cross Cub Run.

"This area has steep terrain and a large fill section that'll be required for the path leading up to the bridge," said Hurt. "A handrail on the right will be provided for safety, due to the elevation difference between the proposed path and the existing ground. There'll also be a guardrail on the left to protect pedestrians and bicyclists from vehicles on Compton Road."

Planned, as well, is a guardrail opening for access to the existing West County Trail. And there'll be a 3-foot buffer between the path and handrail.

* The final section involves the part of the path that goes over the Cub Run Bridge. For safety, a barrier on the bridge will separate the path from vehicles traveling on Compton Road. And there'll be a 2-foot buffer between the edge of the path and the bridge barrier.

"To build this section, it's likely that traffic will be reduced to one lane during portions of the construction, with a temporary sig-

nal," said Hurt. "To improve constructability and reduce impacts to traffic, the VDOT design team is evaluating a separate bridge structure for the path that'll be constructed adjacent to the existing bridge, with a planned, 5-foot separation.

"New abutments will be added to support the bridge carrying the path and will be designed to accommodate Cub Run flooding. The path in this area will connect to the existing Cub Run Trail. Due to elevation differences between the proposed and existing path, reconstruction work along the Cub Run Trail will be required for their connection."

For the same reason, said Hurt, handrails will probably be needed on that trail, as they will be along the new Compton Road path north of the Cub Run Bridge.

Schedule and Costs

VDOT Project Manager Jenny Ha discussed the path's estimated schedule and preliminary cost estimates. The project is financed with a combination of federal, state and local funds; however, costs are subject to change as the project design develops.

As for the schedule, design approval is expected this fall, with right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation anticipated to begin in spring 2023. Start of construction is currently planned for summer 2024 and expected to take approximately 20 months.

Total project cost is estimated at \$7.9 million. Of that amount, preliminary engineering is earmarked at \$1.5 million; right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation, \$1.1 million; and construction, \$5.3 million. Some \$4.5 million has already been allocated, with another \$3.4 million pending.

Questions and Answers

Next, residents – who only gave their first names – offered comments and asked questions. Paul had concerns that the funding isn't yet complete. FCDOT Director Tom Biesiadny told him, "There's funding right

now to continue the design and do the land acquisition. And in the meantime, the county is looking for multiple opportunities to fund the balance of the project. We're applying for a number of grants and will continue to do that."

Paul also wondered if there was a possibility this project might not be funded. But Biesiadny was adamant that the county would keep searching for money until it's found. "This project is on the county's priority plan," he said. "So, no, there's not a chance it won't be funded."

Bill asked, "For the West County Trail crossing of Compton Road, north of I-66, will there be signage alerting motorists of the trail crossing?" Hurt replied that there'll be an opening for the guardrail on each side and the project team is evaluating any additional measures needed there.

Thomas asked if additional bridge supports would be required, regardless of whether the Compton Road path across the bridge is connected or separate. And Hurt said additional, bridge abutments would be needed in either case.

Thomas also asked, "At the Bull Run Regional Park access-road crossing, has a traffic study been done on the visibility of northbound traffic for those crossing Compton Road? It's a fairly blind curve."

"We looked at several different options for the crossing there – and I agree, it's definitely a constrained area," replied Hurt. "A sight-distance analysis was done at the current crossing, and we feel that location is the best." He also said VDOT didn't want to have that crossing too far away from the Bull Run Special Events Center.

Lastly, Mary said she was eagerly anticipating completion of construction and a safe, walking path for her family. Then VDOT Preliminary Engineering Manager Andy Beacher thanked everyone for their participation and feedback, adding, "We look forward to continuing to work with the community as this project moves toward implementation."

NEWS



Brenda Martinez, a resident specialist at Hunters Woods Fellowship House



Captain Rex D. Pagerie, commander, Reston District Station, Fairfax County Police Department



The Max Tsvetovat Jazz Trio, (from left) Chris Stiles of Arlington, Alec Petkoff of Silver Springs, MD, and Max Tsvetovat of Falls Church perform.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

National Night Out 2022 Hunters Woods-Style

Intelligence-led policing directs law enforcement resources to where they do the most good.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fellowship Square hosted its first National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 2, at its Hunters Woods Fellowship House. The barbecue drew residents, their families, friends, and neighbors to the newly renovated property. Brenda Martinez, the resident specialist at Hunters Woods Fellowship House, greeted and introduced Capt. Rex D. Pagerie, commander of Reston District Police Station, to an audience of approximately 75 people.

“We have fifteen events to cover [this evening], and this is my first one,” Pagerie said. “It’s nice to see the showing here. There are a lot of smiling faces.”

According to Pagerie, it was crucial for Reston District Station staff to show their support for the community and come out that evening. One reason was that policing is a hard job and is becoming more challenging. “We can’t do the job without the support of the community, and that’s what this is all about tonight. I want to thank you on behalf of the Fairfax County Police Department

and on behalf of the men and women of the Reston District Station. Thank you for your support,” Pagerie.

Nearby, Fairfax County Auxiliary Police Officer D. Staten mingled with residents, facilitating and encouraging conversation. He listened attentively to the concerns of a Hunters Woods resident. Afterward, Staten said he was there to be the face of the police community at a fun event instead of one involving a crisis or difficult issues. “That way, we can build the bridges,” Staten said.

According to a news update from Fellowship Square, Hunters Woods residents had been upset by a June murder on a Reston trail less than half a mile from their apartment building. The release added that older adults are particularly vulnerable to certain crimes because they are commonly socially isolated, tend to live in urban areas, depend on public transportation, and follow predictable behavioral patterns. “While research shows that people aged 65+ experience the same crimes as the rest of the population, fear of crime is higher in older adults than in younger populations and can lead to social isolation.”

Captain Pagerie wrote in an email that National Night Out was a wonderful opportunity for the Fairfax County Police Department to strengthen its relationships with the community. “Although National Night Out occurs once a year, maintaining community trust and building lasting bonds with our residents is an ongoing process. The FCPD is experiencing a staffing crisis, and it has never been more important for our residents to be vigilant, acting as the eyes and ears for the police department,” he said.

Pagerie asked that if someone sees something suspicious or a crime in progress, they call the police without delay. “This summer, our officers have been focusing on the crime hotspots identified in the Reston District. Through intelligence-led policing, I can deploy patrol officers and other resources based on identified needs throughout the district. With diminishing staffing levels, this is an academic approach to best combat the crime fight,” Pagerie said.

According to Pagerie, Reston’s more serious crimes, Group A Crimes, have increased by 20 percent year to date, and reported assaults have increased by nearly 38 percent. He added that on June 9, Reston District Station held a Town Hall Meeting to address community concerns related to the recent murder on

the pathways near Grey Wing Square.

“The FCPD is changing our shift configuration to best staff our patrol squads, and this allows for the reinstatement of our Bicycle Team,” he said. “Residents will soon see our bike officers on the trails patrolling again. Additionally, residents may see our officers in a golf cart style police vehicle patrolling the pathways and interacting with the public.”

Pagerie added that the department encourages its residents to take advantage of their crime prevention education opportunities, including home security surveys, crime prevention through environmental design surveys and senior safety talks.

“Our residents are encouraged to get involved by attending our Community Advisory Committee meetings that occur every third Wednesday at the Reston Police Station. This is a great opportunity to share community concerns and to voice your concerns to the police station commander,” Pagerie said.

When asked about the Reston District Station Community Partnership, RESET, Pagerie said, “We have been focused on filling our patrol slots to meet our needs for calls for service. We are operating on a lean staffing model, and RESET will be reinvigorated when staffing permits.”

Fair Oaks Fire Causes \$175,000 Damage

An early morning fire last week displaced two residents and did an estimated \$175,000 damage to their Fair Oaks townhouse. According to fire investigators, the blaze was caused by improperly discarded smoking materials.

The incident occurred last Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 6:37 a.m. Units from both the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) and the City of Fairfax Fire Department were dispatched to the 12000 block of Dorforth Drive.

Two people were home when the fire began. An FCFRD firefighter was driving by, after going off duty, when he saw the fire. He immediately stopped, called 9-1-1 and knocked on the door of the townhouse to

alert the occupants to the fire. Thanks to his quick action, they were able to safely evacuate before the fire departments arrived.

The first-arriving units saw smoke showing from the roof of their three-story, middle-row townhouse. Crews quickly located the fire on the rear deck and discovered that the flames were rapidly extending to the roof and attic. A second alarm was then requested.

Firefighters were able to swiftly bring the blaze under control, which prevented fire spread to adjacent townhomes. No one was injured, and investigators determined that the fire was accidental and started on the rear deck.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCFRD

— BONNIE HOBBS Firefighters used a cherry picker to reach the window of the unit on fire.

COMMUNITY



The finish line is in sight for these competitors in the 2022 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta in Reston, a project of the Reston Historic Trust.



It's all about the fun at the 2022 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatt.



A splashing event.



Seaworthy or not, the fun is in trying for the crew of Soggy Bottom.



The support of family and friends fosters Reston pride.

Photos by Charlotte Geary

Making a Splash at the 2022 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta

Event by Reston Historic Trust draws thousands.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday, Aug. 13, the Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta returned to the waters off Lake Anne Plaza in Reston after a two-year pandemic hiatus. The Regatta is a Reston Historic Trust event that the nonprofit organization describes as “a community event designed to foster a sense of Reston pride, celebrate the family-friendly atmosphere of historic Lake Anne Plaza, and support the Reston Historic Trust & Museum.”

Participants construct and decorate life-size, people-powered cardboard boats. These boats, at times somewhat flimsy, like this year’s “Soggy Bottom,” launch in timed heats, with team members rowing from the Lake Anne Plaza docks to a buoy and back.

Watching the high-energy event was free. According to Alex Campbell, the executive director of the Reston Museum, this year’s event was very well attended. “Likely a few thousand throughout the day,” noting 43 teams competed. The races began at 2 p.m., and the Turtle Recall Performance took place at 6 p.m.

According to the posted regulations, there was no limit on the number of rowers, but all rowers were required to fit inside or on top of the boat. The whole boat had to be made from cardboard and could be bonded with duct tape, masking tape, strapping paper tape, wood glue, or contact cement. It couldn’t be taller than 6 feet or wider than 12 feet.

Terrasat Elementary School received the Titanic Award for the best sink at the awards ceremony. The First Place winners in three categories were: the Cadet Category-Hunters Woods Elementary School; the Navigator Category, YMCA; and the Skipper, Cinder. The People’s Choice award went to Mr. Matt and the WildFlowers.

Campbell said the event “had a lot of sponsors,”

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8

4 ♦ OAK HILL/HERNDON / RESTON / CHANTILLY CONNECTION / CENTRE VIEW ♦ AUGUST 17-23, 2022



Paddling is harder coming back to the dock.

including 123JUNK as the event’s presenting sponsor. They had a boat in the race and helped get rid of all the cardboard. The RoSige Community Foundation was the school sponsor, giving every elementary school in Reston the chance to form a team to build a boat and enter it in the competition.

A list of all sponsors can be found online at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard>. Donations to help support Reston Historic Trust’s sharing and preservation of Reston’s history can be made at [restonmuseum.org/donate](https://www.restonmuseum.org/donate).

Preregistration for next year’s event, Aug. 12, 2023, can be completed at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard-preregister>.



The support of family and friends fosters a sense of Reston pride.



Paddling is harder coming back to the dock.



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Cabell's Mill Parking Lot Closed 'til Oct. 7

Both the parking lot and entrance to Cabell's Mill are now closed through Oct. 7 for construction work related to the new Stewardship Education Center being built there. This lot is across from Walney Pond in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in Centreville, and the changes being done to it will result in long-term benefits to the environment.

Plans include a larger parking lot with features and a design that'll better control and filter water from rain and runoff from the adjacent neighborhood. These improvements are not only best practices for the facility's green design, but will ensure a healthier Walney Pond, since it's surface-fed.

Slated are porous pavers for the parking spaces, trees planted within the lot to reduce heating, and low vegetation to enhance the new, water-channeling swales. The education center is set for completion in early 2023.

Route 28 at New Braddock Partially Closing

From this Monday, Aug. 15, through Friday, Aug. 26, the right-turn lane from Route 28 north in Centreville to New Braddock Road eastbound will be partially closed. This action is required so Colonial Pipeline may conduct upgraded maintenance on its existing pipe-line that crosses Route 28 just south of New Braddock Road. The closure will affect approximately 300 feet of the 400-foot-long turn lane and will be in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the maintenance.

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CALENDAR



The Swamp Romp will play at Frying Pan Park in Herndon on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022.

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 in Reston 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 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 18: Rainbow Rock - plays original children's music for the top rock set
To learn more about the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, visit herndon-va.gov/recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

THURSDAY/AUG. 18

The Swamp Romp. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Improvisation, audience interaction, humor, joy and audacity all combine to create a musical gumbo unique to each occasion. Concerts are held outdoors and may be canceled due to inclement weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

FRIDAY/AUG. 19

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

FRIDAY/AUG. 19

"Honey I Shrank the Kids" Movie. 7 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Part of the Outdoor Family Movie Night on the last Friday of the month. Make sure to bring your chairs and blankets for a movie under the stars! Complimentary popcorn and soft drinks will be provided (while supplies last).

SATURDAY/AUG. 20

Bill Kirchen's Rockabilly. 7:30-9 p.m. At Arrowbrook Centre Park, 2351 Field Point Road, Herndon. Grammy-nominated guitarist, singer and songwriter Bill Kirchen is one of the fortunate few who can step on any stage, play those trademark licks that drove the seminal Commander Cody classic Hot Rod Lincoln into the Top Ten nationwide, and elicit instant recognition. You can also enjoy wine tastings and sales by the Winery at Bull Run and Paradise Springs Winery. Concerts are held outdoors and may be canceled due to inclement weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

SUNDAY/AUG. 21

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Featuring Something's Brewing. Hosted by John Nugent & Sons - HVAC, Plumbing and Electrical. Come relax at the Village Centre Green and enjoy laid-back evenings of good music and good times with your neighbors.

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Publishing Since 1784

And affiliated newspapers:
THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac Almanac
Centre View

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.



Paddling is harder coming back to the dock.



Thousands reportedly attended the 2022 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta.

Making a Splash at the 2022 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta



The crowd packs eight and nine deep to watch the 2022 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta. It is a project of the Reston Historic Trust.



A slam dunk



An arms up welcome



The welcoming dance of joy by the S.T.D.s (Swim Team Dads)



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