

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 25, 2022

Back to School with FCPS

A snapshot of
Aug. 22, 2022

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The first day of school for Fairfax County Public Schools was breathtakingly early — Monday, Aug. 22. Here are a few photos from the scene around the county.

Dr. Michelle Reid, Fairfax County Public Schools superintendent, chats with a student at Kilmer Center in Vienna.

PHOTOS BY FCPS PHOTOGRAPHERS
KAREN BOLT AND DONNIE BIGGS
AND VIA SOCIAL MEDIA



Dr. Michelle Reid, Fairfax County Public Schools superintendent, visits Forestdale Elementary School in Springfield.



Students outside Forestdale Elementary School, in Springfield.



It is going to be the best day at Saratoga ES in Springfield.



The Bruin Cheerleaders at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke.



From a Bush ES student long ago to a Thomas A. Edison High School senior.

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Loose Pig is Under Control at Nalls Produce

Wild chase in Franconia conjures images of earlier days when livestock was the norm.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Pigs just don't run around like loose pets so when residents along Beulah Street in eastern Fairfax County, they took to the phones and social media to get to the bottom of it. There is a well-known pig in those parts named "Penny," the resident pig at Nalls Produce so naturally all thoughts went there, and the phone lines at Nalls were busy.

"Our phone was ringing off the hook, they thought it was Penny," said Valerie Nalls.

The chase was on, and the folks at Animal Control know about Penny so they kind of counted on Cary Nalls and the staff to look

into it. There were reports coming in for a few days on the whereabouts of this pig, and finally it was spotted at a property right next to Nalls. "This pig got some mileage over those few days," Valerie Nalls said.

With the pig in a semi-confined area, Cary and Valerie Nalls enlisted the help of a few others, and got an old coat, and went for the pig. He's a young pig that looks kind of like a wild boar, but no one knows for sure. "He didn't want to be caught," she said.

They finally cornered him, wrapped him up in a coat and brought him into Nalls. They were careful to cover his eyes at first which is known to subdue a wild animal, and now the pig has its own cage, not near Penny though.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

The pig is in his pen at Nalls for at least 10 days.

"I keep it separate, I want to make sure it's healthy," Cary Nalls said. Penny is a miniature pig too, and the newcomer is not that type of pig, but they aren't exactly sure what kind it is.

The officials at Fairfax County Animal Control got involved, but once they saw that Nalls had a pen, and have pig experience from taking care of Penny for all these years, they were glad to keep him in the pen at Nalls. The rule on a loose animal like this is to keep it for 10 days, and then announce it so the owner can step up and claim it.

At Nalls, they think it's unlikely that someone will claim it because in this area, the owner of a pig needs two acres of land, which they have at Nalls. If no one claims it, Nalls has some connections. "We know so many farmers," Valerie Nalls said.

For now, it's eating and drinking like there's no tomorrow. "The whole thing was pretty weird," she said.

Roll Call for FCPS Educators

Staffing update from the superintendent; who was in class with your student?

MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

On Wednesday evening, August 17, with five days until the start of the school year 2022-2023, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offered a 35-minute webinar open to the public to address educator staffing. FCPS presented a repeat webinar at noon on August 18.

"We are planning to have a certified adult in every classroom on the first day of school. We are over 99 percent fully staffed," said Dr. Michelle Reid, superintendent of FCPS, Wednesday evening. She added that the division employs a number of educators who work in the Central Office and at the school base or division level. They will help until permanent replacements can be hired.

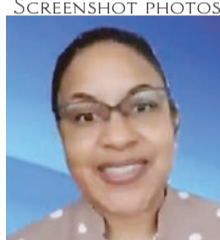
The following day, the online FCPS Vacancy Instructional List reported the following open positions: Teacher 240; Instructional Assistant 90; Counselor 13; and Public Health Training Assistant 35.

Dr. Sherry Wilson, assistant superintendent, Department of Human Resources, joined Reid during the classroom and school staffing webinar update. Wilson, a member of the superintendent's leadership team, said they had worked extremely hard to get where they are now. She noted that it was a district-wide collaborative effort with multiple programs. The Connection Newspapers reported on Aug. 18 about the new teacher residency program, which allows qualified candidates to start work early as they complete the licensure requirements.

According to Reid, with a little over 15,000 educators in the division, fewer than 200 are in the residency program. "We are talking (about) a very small percentage," Reid said. She added that teachers in the



Dr. Michelle Reid, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools



Dr. Sherry Wilson, assistant superintendent, Department of Human Resources

program would be mentored. Reid said it is important for FCPS to have a teacher in every classroom because the classroom experience of each student is the district's top priority. "So, the news was much better today than it was two weeks ago, and it is getting better," she said.

Reid described the team's staffing strategy. The first day is the short-term plan to ensure that the best educators are present in each classroom. The second component is "mid-term," as the division continues hiring permanent candidates to replace those who provided temporary assistance at the beginning of the year. The third component is long-term and tactical. It permits the division to consider hiring differently than in the past. "We want to try to proactively approach the coming year and out years with plans and partnerships that support a smooth start to the coming years," said Reid.

Questions and answers may be edited lightly for space and clarity.

Q-Rae Burke- Why is it so difficult for recent retirees to apply to be substitutes? To require a TB test, fingerprints, and background check when you just worked



SCREENSHOT PHOTO VIA FCPS

As of Thursday, August 17, FCPS plans to have a certified adult in every classroom on the first day of school.

for FCPS in June is ridiculous, time-consuming, and demeaning.

A: We have indeed recently streamlined the process for hiring subs. If you are interested, please take a look at our website and reach out to our HR specialists: <https://www.fcps.edu/.../substitute-teaching-opportunities>

Q: Will the AP classes be fully staffed with teachers with the Virginia state endorsement for gifted education or the Fairfax County endorsement for advanced academics?

A: Reid-Every effort has been made to accommodate that.

Wilson- Some classrooms will be staffed with teachers who do not currently have the Gifted Endorsement. Those individuals will work toward that endorsement, and we will continue seeking candidates.

Q: (Concerned about) the many new teachers and some still getting credentials.

A: Reid- There is the CAP or colleague assistance program ... which supports some of our newer teachers or some of our administrator functions teachers currently engage in."

Q: What about people with degrees from other countries?

A: Reid- We would encourage you to email Dr. Wilson because we'd love to work with you and get you certified as an educator here.

Q: Did we make any changes in the class size?

A: Reid-To the degree possible, we decided not to adjust class size unless it was an emergent circumstance ... We made a strong commitment to try to hold those except where it was not possible. There are rare circumstances where we may have added a student here or there to stay in a particular program.

Q: What documents do you need to be a substitute teacher?

A: Wilson- Current references, proof of citizenship (and), sixty college credits are required to substitute, or an individual may be enrolled in a teacher preparation program. We would gladly accept applications from individuals who graduated from a Fairfax County Public high school and were enrolled in the Teachers for Tomorrow program. You will find information about the application process online.

FCPS Teachers Need Help with Supplies

Facebook group supports getting help where its needed.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Fairfax County Public Schools provide classroom supplies, but teachers need other items to enhance student learning that are unavailable through the Central Office. Support FCPS Teachers and Staff is a Facebook group created by Joanne Walton and Sherry Noud to help purchase “wish list” items requested as additional supplies.

“We began the group on July 14,” Walton said. “Although school is beginning, we intend to continue the group, so there is no deadline.” Over 550 FCPS educators and

staff members submitted lists with posts about themselves and their needs. The website lists 3,400 members.

According to the 2021 AdoptAClassroom.org survey of public, private, and charter schools from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories, teachers spend an average of \$750 of their own money each year for supplies so their students can succeed. Thirty percent of teachers spent \$1,000 or more on supplies for the classroom. Eighty percent of teachers who responded to the survey said their schools were high-needs because half or more of their students received free or reduced lunch. According to FCPS, on Oct. 31, 2021, 31 percent of its students were eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Supporters may purchase any item on the lists provided by the teachers and staff. FCPS faculty and staff can share wish lists with those, not on Facebook and assist with promotion by pyramid at <https://forms.gle/Pt3BRSSCETQDLmRWA>.



Supporters sent several items from first-grade teacher Crystal Wynne's wish list.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CRYSTAL WYNNE

BULLETIN BOARD

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

TUESDAYS/AUG. 30

Simpson Park Demonstration Garden: Tuesday, 10 – 11 a.m., Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, 420 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria. When Mother Nature can't do it all... Simpson gardeners step in to offer a helping hand. Our Lagerstroemia indica were hit with bark scale so we hand-picked, brushed the trunks and squashed them. The Silphium perfoliatum in the Berm was infested with red aphids which we knocked off with a jet spray from the hose. In the Pollinator bed the Witch Hazel Hammamelis virginiana was hit with Phyllosticta hamamelidis a fungus which causes brown lesions on leaves and dieback. We removed the infected leaves

on and below the plant. Thanks to EMG Gerry Smolka the pool of stagnant water which accumulates in the well of a Crapemyrtle in the Shade Garden has been emptied through her ingenious use of a turkey baster! And Denise Dieter added a mosquito dunk as an additional deterrent when we are not available to empty the ever wet well. Free. Contact mgnv.org for more information.

PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR MOUNT VERNON WOODS PARK CONCEPT DESIGN

The Fairfax County Park Authority is currently in the design process for redevelopment of Mount Vernon Woods Park located at 4014 Fielding St. in Alexandria, Virginia. A public comment meeting to present proposals and seek community comments is slated for Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022, at 6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Elementary School in the cafeteria. The school is located at 4015 Fielding St. in Alexandria, Virginia. The Park Authority has hired engineer-

ing consultant Kimley-Horn in D.C. to assist with development of a concept plan for the park.

The existing features and layout generally follow the approved 2015 Master Plan. New amenities contained in the draft proposal include a playground, picnic shelter, fitness area, multisport court, onsite parking, a large playing field and a skate park.

A brief presentation will be made by Park Authority staff members, followed by public comments and questions. If you wish to speak, you may sign up at the meeting. Individuals may speak for 3 minutes; representatives of organizations may speak for 5 minutes.

For more information about the meeting, visit the Mount Vernon Woods Redevelopment Project website. Or, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

A 30-day comment period will follow the meeting. Comments can be sent via email to Parkmail@Fairfaxcounty.gov. Comments will be accepted until Oct. 10, 2022.

For more information about the project, please contact Project Manager Ed Deleon at eduardo.deleon@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-9569.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are

assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact donaldrea@aol.com.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety of service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

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SENIOR LIVING



PHOTO COURTESY OF ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS

Since its founding, the chorales of Encore Creativity for Older Adults have performed at Strathmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and locations throughout Europe.

New Season of Singers

Registration is open for Encore Creativity for Older Adults for any adult 55 or older.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Singing in his church choir as a child and taking a mandatory class in middle school was the extent of Don Greenwood's musical training. Growing up in Arlington, the 74 year old father of two adult sons and one grandchild has always been passionate about music but never took lessons. The extent of this connection to music was singing along with the radio. He pursued a career as an architect with Fairfax County's Building Design and Construction Division and after he retired he began to search for hobbies that were both enjoyable and challenging.

"I didn't want to sit around watching Netflix," he said.

His wife suggested that he consider music and suggested that try Encore Creativity for Older Adults, a choral organization for Adults over 55.

Those, like Greenwood, who find pleasure in music will have a chance to warm-up their vocal chords and start crooning. Encore's new season begins next month with groups in Arlington, Fairfax and Montgomery counties.

Registration is now open and students can join either Encore Chorales, a group whose vocalists learn music that spans a wide range of styles and eras or Encore ROCKS with a repertoire that includes true rock & roll music from the 50s through the 80s. Auditions are not required.

Though Encore is open to all singers regardless of their skills or abilities, founder Jeanne Kelly envisioned an organization in which the chorales are filled with serious singers. Since its beginning, her chorales have performed at Strathmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and locations throughout Europe.

"Encore has expectations of our singers," said Kelly, who is now retired. "When you age people stop having expectations of you, but I always was quite demanding of the singers and they really appreciated that. It made them feel important."

Chorales are led by professional conductors and rehearsals and concerts are structured to cultivate musical excellence. "My first rehearsal was an eye opener. I felt like a deer in the headlights," said Greenwood.

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"When you age people stop having expectations of you, but I always was quite demanding of the singers and they really appreciated that. It made them feel important."

— Jeanne Kelly, Encore founder

"I didn't have experience with multi-part arrangements. I didn't understand sheet music, but during the rehearsals we deconstructed each song, the conductor gives us feedback so I learned pretty quickly in an environment where you're encouraged."

In addition to music Kelly hopes that Encore singers will find that music protects and strengthens their cognitive abilities and helps them make social connections which are often difficult to build and maintain as one ages.

"When you retire, you gradually drift away from the friends you had at work and you eventually lose those connections," said Kathleen Lyman, a retired Navy captain who lives in Springfield. "I've met new friends through Encore and we often go out to lunch after rehearsals."

Kelly expanded her vision of removing some of the barriers that make music inaccessible to some when she created a choral group called the Sentimental Journey Singers that is free and open to those with dementia, Alzheimer's and other similar conditions and their caretakers. "My mother passed away from Alzheimer's and she always found joy in music," said Kelly. "There was always music in our house and I majored in music."

Greenwood said that his Encore experience motivated him to delve into writing song parodies and satires. "Some people have to get over the hump of thinking that they can't sing," he said. "In retrospect, I wish I'd joined earlier."

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OBITUARY

Charles 'Terry' Lindsay

Business and community leader dies at 87.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Charles "Terry" Lindsay, chairman of the Alexandria-based Lindsay Automotive Group, died unexpectedly July 18 in Rehoboth Beach, Del. He was 87.

A leader in the business and philanthropic communities of Alexandria and Arlington, Lindsay served as Chairman of the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

"Terry was an exemplar of decency in corporate leadership and of true devotion to family," said friend David Hirsch on social media. "He carried himself with dignity, he acted with integrity and he always strove to treat everyone well."

Charles Taliaferro Lindsay Jr. was born Feb. 14, 1935, in Washington, DC, to Charles Taliaferro Lindsay Sr. and Margaret Cox Lindsay. He attended Woodrow Wilson High School before heading to Duke University, where he graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Lindsay served in Huntsville, Ala., where he worked at the Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency, a forerunner of the U.S. Space Program. He completed his Army career with the rank of First Lieutenant.

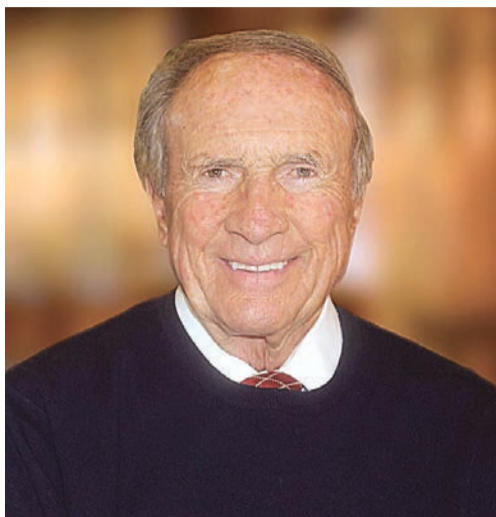
After completing his military service, Lindsay went to work for the Civil engineering firm Ammann & Whitney. In this capacity he supervised the construction of the runways and access road to Dulles International Airport.

It was during this time that he met Regina "Jeannie" Curry on a blind date. After a brief courtship they were married and recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary.

In 1963, Lindsay went to work for his father at Lindsay Oldsmobile Cadillac in Alexandria. Lindsay's brother Jack joined the company in 1966 and the business grew to become one of the leading Cadillac dealerships in the country.

In 1988, Lindsay collaborated with local businessman Jack Taylor and together were selected to be one of the first Lexus dealers in the United States. Their relationship created one of the top Lexus dealerships nationwide.

"Terry Lindsay was one of the most positive men I have ever met," said Jack Taylor of Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota. "I always said that if I am going to get some bad news I want Terry



Charles "Terry" Lindsay



Charles "Terry" Lindsay credited his wife of 61 years, Jeannie Lindsay, for all of his successes.



The grand opening of Akers Oldsmobile-Cadillac in Alexandria in 1949.



Charles "Terry" Lindsay, right, partnered with Jack Taylor in 1988 to form one of the first Lexus dealerships in the country.



Charles "Terry" Lindsay served on the board of the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club.

Lindsay to give it to me. He was just a good guy with so many admirable qualities."

Lindsay's sons have continued to grow the family business, with the Lindsay Automotive Group now encompassing 15 different franchises.

In addition to his business successes, Lindsay was an esteemed community leader earning numerous awards and accolades including Man of the Year honors from the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club and Alexandria District Boy Scouts of America.

A devout Catholic, Lindsay was a Knight of Malta. Additionally, he was Chairman of the St. Luke Institute; President of the Board of Regents at Marymount University; American Red Cross, Arlington Chapter; and the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges.

In 2015, he was awarded the John Carroll Society Archdiocese of Washington DC medal. He served on the boards of the Alexandria Boys Club, Alexandria District Boy Scouts of America, Arlington Community Foundation, and First American Bank.

Lindsay is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jeannie Lindsay, and three children and their spouses: Chip Lindsay (Kate), Michael Lindsay (Debra), Chris Lindsay (Maura), along with 12 grandchildren: Molly, Terry, Gavin, Finn, Michael, John, Leigh, Nick, Tim, Seamus, Alexandra, and Abigail Lindsay.

He is also survived by his brother, Jack Lindsay (Cookie), his niece Jennifer Duffie, and his

nephew Paul Lindsay (Autria).

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Autism Speaks, 1990 K Street, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC, 20006, or Catholic Charities of Northern Virginia, 200 North Glebe Road, Suite 250, Arlington, VA 22203.

Said colleague Mark Coleman, "Terry had an enthusiastic smile and handshake that always made you feel welcome in his presence. He was curious about who you were, how you were, where you were from, and where you were headed. He simply had a way of making your day better when your paths crossed."

Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper





The Ahmaei family, Sophia, age 2; Mya, age 8; Adrian, age 5; and parents Allison and Ismail, arrived at Newington Elementary School on the Friday morning before school start, as did many of the school's families, for a short and well attended "meet your teacher" and drop off class room supplies event.



Laurel Hill Elementary School's lawn, sidewalks, and parking areas were jammed with parents and children making their way to school.



At Laurel Hill Elementary School's announced opening time, teachers greeted students at the door for the start to the new school year.

Return to School 2022

BY SUSAN LAUME
GAZETTE PACKET

This week, if you noticed bright yellow school buses, crowded morning sidewalks, scrubbed bright faces and children with backpacks, then you might know that Fairfax County observed the start of the 2022 school year on Monday, Aug. 22. Some glad and eager to start, some bemoaning summer's end, parents, teachers, and students will have only a short two weeks in session before observing a long weekend for Labor Day.

But for the needed breaks all will look forward to, this year's school calendar includes traditional holidays, such as Labor Day and other special days, and student breaks for Spring and Winter. The school system also is recognizing religious and cultural observances, as it did in 2021, but not by closing schools for these days. They include All Saints Day, Dia de los Muertos, Bodhi Day, Three Kings Day/Epiphany, Orthodox Epiphany, and First Full Day of Ramadan. While these days are not holidays for all students, those observing the holidays and taking excused absences need not worry about missing tests or other assessments, field trips, guest speakers, or assemblies, sporting events or special activities, auditions or try-outs, safety drills, or conferences, which are not scheduled on those days.

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Addie Brown's face, and shirt, say it all; happiness is your first day in first grade at age 6.



PHOTO COURTESY SARA HELFER

Brother and sister, Levi & Cora Newman, age 13 and 12, ready to leave for Washington Irving Middle School.



Students await door opening at South County Middle School.



High school parking lots are full again, like this one at South County High School as students and teachers drive to school.



**SEALED BID SALE
SALE OF REAL ESTATE
8846 Ox Road
Lorton, VIRGINIA
PMI 6798**

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the office of the Northern Virginia District Right of Way and Utilities Division located at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, until, but no later than, September 27, 2022 for the following property:

Wooded lot, located at 8846 Ox Road (Tax Map #1062-02-0001C) in the Springfield Magisterial District of Fairfax County, on the corner of Route 123 and Rommel Drive. The lot consists of 0.4484 acre, more or less, land, is relatively level at an elevated grade with a slight slope towards the rear of the property. Percs for a conventional three bedroom septic system.

The value placed on this parcel is \$298,000.00.

Employees of VDOT, their immediate families or any person employed with the valuation and/or acquisition of this property are ineligible to bid. The property is being sold "as is" with conveyance by deed without warranty. For further information and proposals, contact VDOT at the above address or call Jordan Cheresnowsky at (703) 259-2971.

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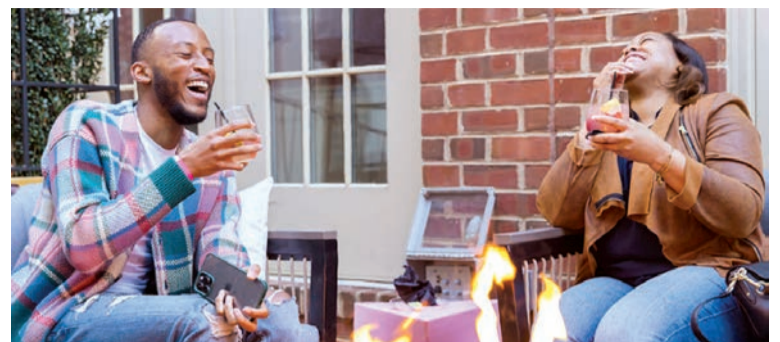


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CALENDAR



Alexandria Restaurant Week will take place Aug. 19-28 in Old Town Alexandria.

REGISTRATION OPEN

2022 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept. 10-24. Register online by Aug. 31 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.

PHOTO CONTEST

Green Spring Gardens Photo Contest, sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS). Photographs will be on public display from Aug. 23 through Oct. 15, 2022. A reception and awards ceremony will be held Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022. Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, visit Green Spring Gardens or call 703-642-5173.

NOW THRU AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Sign up for the programs that inspire you and make your own "stay-cation" art experience. Visit the website: <https://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/>

NOW THRU OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition. At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach.

NOW THRU SEPT. 10

Yoga Sessions. 12-2:15 p.m. Yoga at the National Museum of the United States Army hosted by Honest Soul Yoga, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. Honest Soul Yoga and The Army Historical Foundation invites you to take a moment to de-stress by enjoying an afternoon of yoga at the Museum. Join trained instructors for an afternoon of flow and sound meditation. After class, grab a coffee and some healthy snacks in the Museum Café or take some time to explore the exhibits.

AUG. 19-28

Alexandria Restaurant Week. Through-

out neighborhoods in Alexandria including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End. For 10 days and two weekends, dozens of restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$25, \$35 or \$45 in-person dinner for one during Alexandria Restaurant Week. This new pricing structure reflects a spectrum of Alexandria's offerings from fast casual to fine dining. Alexandria Restaurant Week showcases the inventiveness of local chefs in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End. From neighborhood favorites to restaurants specializing in international cuisine, Alexandria's distinctive collection of eateries offers a variety of flavors for guests to savor. Visit AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 27

Watercolor Workshop – Mosaics. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Artist Marni Maree helps you create a paper "palette" using watercolor paints on various papers. Then, experiment with textures and patterns that you will cut, tear, weave and redesign into a creative work of art! A supply list will be emailed before the program. Bring a lunch. \$105 per person. Code 30VV762.

SATURDAY/AUG. 27

Around the World Cultural Festival. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St., Alexandria. The Around the World Cultural Festival takes attendees on a day trip around the world and present you the cuisine, culture and traditions of over 40 countries participating at the event held in the expansive Oronoco Bay Park. Visit facebook.com/events/AroundTheWorldCulturalFestival.

SEPT. 2 TO OCT. 1

"The Big 3-0" Members Showcase. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features artwork in a variety of media and celebrates Del Ray Artisans 30th Anniversary. Join us for the exhibit reception and anniversary party on Saturday, September 3, 3-6 p.m. The event will be inside and outside (rain date is Sept 10). Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed October 2). Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Watercolor Workshop - Landscapes. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Artist Dawn Flores helps you translate the beauty of nature into a watercolor painting by showing how to paint skies, trees, water, mountains and rocks. Learn strategies for building depth and focus in your work using color and value. Get techniques for building texture and masking to preserve the white of the page. A supply list will be emailed before the program. Bring a lunch. \$102 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 68EJJE4

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Forest Bathing Walk in the Gardens. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Experience Green Spring Gardens with all of your senses. Join Ana Ka'ahanui, co-founder of local nonprofit Capital Nature for a slow, meditative walk around the gardens. Contemplative, but more active than meditation, this forest bathing walk will help reduce blood pressure, boost immunity, and enhance mood and creativity. Decompress and feel a deeper connection with the natural world. Bring something to sit on the ground, which may be damp, and a water bottle. \$35 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code Z0Y.ZVJ0

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Garden Talk: Fall Veggie Gardening. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Planting a fall vegetable garden will extend the gardening season so you can continue to harvest fresh produce. Many cool-season vegetables such as carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts produce their best flavor and quality when they mature during cool weather. Extension Master Gardeners share tips and recommendations. \$12 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 3A3.XWES

THURSDAY/SEPT. 15

Old Town Art Walk. At various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Enjoy a self-guided tour of Old Town Alexandria and explore the fine art and studio crafts found in art galleries and boutique shops on the third Thursday of each month, May to October. The stroll is a great activity after an early dinner, or before enjoying a meal at one of Old Town Alexandria's restaurants. The Old Town Art Walk is presented by the Old Town Business Association.

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Four Weeks and Counting



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

To invoke one of my late mother's favorite expressions, which most definitely applies to this patient's current tenure in the hospital: "It's enough already." But it's not, unfortunately. It is about slow incremental progress which enables the doctors to contemplate a more substantive plan going forward. The next two steps (not literally) involve the patient being able to breathe on his own, and in so doing, disconnect him from the ventilator. Then, and in what order I haven't a clue, eliminate the need for kidney dialysis. Once the patient can breathe normally and exhibit stable kidney function, he will have succeeded where none of the doctors initially treating him in SICU thought he would. I remember one critical care doctor's assessment of this patient very clearly: "He's the sickest patient in the hospital." (At last check, there are over 900 beds in this hospital.) And yet, here we are, relative calm with the patient getting better every day or so it seems (comparatively speaking). As his recovery continues to improve, a different physician from his treatment past and present: critical care, internal medicine, pulmonology, cardiology, nephrology, general surgery, and burn surgery to the physical, occupational, and respiratory therapists, and of the course all the nurses who have seen him at his worst; and to a man/woman, they are all amazed at how far he's come. Apparently, septic shock is all it's cracked up to be.

We are so proud of his will to survive and we're constantly reminding him of how amazing his progress has been. Nevertheless, it's not having the desired effect. Oddly enough, the better and more back to normal he gets, the more aware he is of situation/hospital confinement. Though he's hooked up to a lot less stuff (at one time, he had eight different I.V.s connected to his body, plus a feeding tube, a 24-7 dialysis machine, a heart monitor with a 24-7 heart rate, pulse, and oxygen measures, along with a full time blood pressure cup, a ventilator and a wound vac for the leg where the infection that precipitated this near disaster in the first place and what am I forgetting? Something, I'm sure. In addition, his arms are still restrained (because he's pulling at – and out, some of his tubes) and so he can hardly move and certainly hasn't had any food or water down his throat because of the trach tube inserted just below his Adam's apple. And what's worse, as he improves every day and becomes more aware of his current condition, he is becoming increasingly frustrated by his limitations. And what's even worse, we can't do anything about any of it except talk and try to reassure and encourage him. But as they say: "Talk don't feed the bulldog."

Moreover, I know he's sick of us talking, trying to keep his spirits up. We try to keep him current on news, weather, and sports, to the minimal extent to which he's interested. But mostly, he wants his car keys so he can go home. (To say that's not possible is the understatement of the year.) The dilemma is that what's likely to lead most to a speedy recovery and return home, is exactly what he or the doctors absolutely can't rush: time. Until his body/bodily functions become more normal, he can't do anything but lay in waiting, so to speak. There is a television in the room but his interest in watching anything is negligible. We can tell however that his mind is beginning to process information as he's asking more questions, especially the existential kind: "What am I doing here?" But it's only over time that we'll be able to put his thoughts, plans, hopes and dreams into practice. And on his best day, before any of this happened, he's kind of impatient. On his worst days: now, well, let's just say it's becoming increasingly more difficult to placate him (understandably so). He's come so far, but I worry that these next few steps (some literally, actually), might be his toughest yet. However, from what I've witnessed over this last month, I have no doubts that he'll be up and at'em eventually. It just won't be soon enough for him. Still, he's lucky to be alive, really, and you can be sure that we'll tell him, repeatedly.

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

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all our 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. 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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NEWS

'Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution'

Documentary Looks at People with Disabilities, Achievements and Passage of the ADA.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Everybody knows about the Woodstock concert back in 1969 where peace and love were there for everyone to enjoy, except maybe if you were someone with disabilities and weren't able to walk for miles in the traffic jam or navigate a field full of hippies and mud.

What many don't know about is the gathering two years later at Camp Jened in Hunter, NY where people with disabilities went for another version of the Woodstock utopia while protesting the way the things work for disabled people.

"There I was, I was at Woodstock," one of the camp participants said. "Freedom," by Richie Havens played in the background, giving it that Woodstock feel.

It has all been put in a grainy documentary called "Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution," that was recently shown by Fairfax County and followed by a discussion by disability advocate Judy Heumann about their Oscar-nominated documentary. Heumann is a lifelong advocate for the rights of people with disabilities and has been instrumental in the development and implementation of legislation such as Section 504, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, said on the county invitation.

Peoples Video Theater shot the film in the summer of 1971 and the film was edited in 2016 by Nicole Newnham and Jim LeBrecht as a catalyst for change, LeBrecht said. "It was Nicole's and my hope that our film would start conversations, reframe for many what having a disability means, both inside and outside the disabled community, and create positive changes to policies and push back against the biggest barrier most face: the negative stigma of disability," LeBrecht said in an email.

Following their initial edit with the film, President Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, "Higher Ground," took on the film and now they are among the Executive Producers of the final version.

Crip Camp is full of powerful scenes of activity in Camp Jened including an emotional softball game, dances, bus arrivals and lots of smiles and hugging. The soundtrack was "Sugar Mountain," by Neil Young.



Scenes from the Crip Camp documentary

LeBrecht was born with spina bifida so he was in his wheelchair the whole time, but he raced around the camp with joy. Awareness like this led to the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990, which they mention in the film. Many of the people featured in the film were also in the government protests years later that led up to the passage.

In an interview, LeBrecht was asked about the name of the documentary, because "crip" short for crippled, is not a term that's used anymore, but it was there in the title as an eye-opener. "We wanted everyone to know this wasn't your average film about disability," he said. The film was a 2020 Sundance winner in the "Audience Award, U.S. Documentary" category.

As with all film projects, there is a part called "the cutting room floor," for parts that didn't make the final cut and "Crip Camp" is no different. It was a time issue, they said. Newnham and LeBrecht talk about those scenes in a separate online part.

One was LeBrecht getting his first car, which was a "great equalizer," for someone in a wheelchair, and another about a woman named Denise Jacobson that lived in New York in a second-floor apartment with no elevator. She was stuck in the apartment with limited human contact until going to the camp, where she met her first friend. "I felt like I was a human being," Jacobson said.

Crip Camp is now available for anyone to watch on YouTube.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HONIGSBAUM

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