

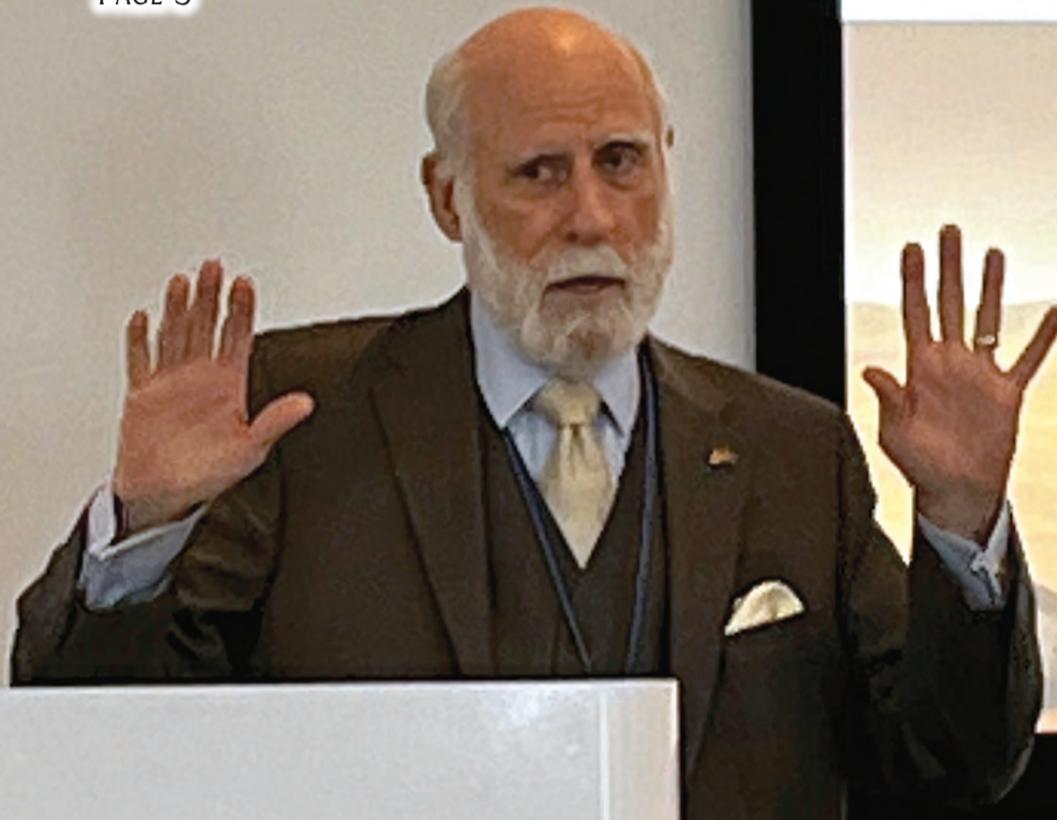
# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Herndon ♦ <sup>Oak Hill</sup> Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

## New Space Center in Reston

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## Deer Archery Begins

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Google Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist Vinton G. Cerf at the Interstellar NASA Watch Party for the launch of #Artemis I, hosted by Google on Monday, Aug. 29. The NASA launch was scrubbed.

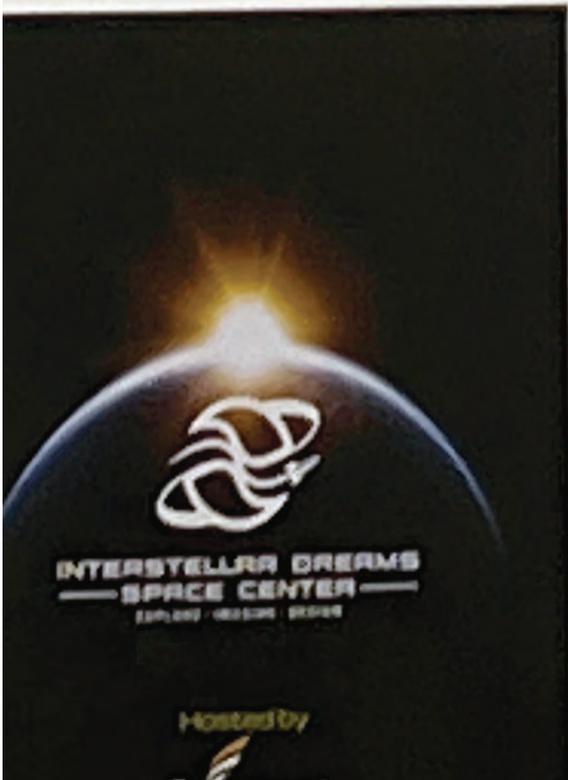
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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



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# Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tourney, Sept. 22

Just 18 years old, Westfield High grad Erin Peterson was among the 32 victims of the 2007 mass shooting at Virginia Tech. And after her death, her parents began the nonprofit Erin Peterson Fund (EPF) which benefits local students.

Each year, a golf tournament in Erin's honor raises money for the fund. This year's event



Erin Peterson

is the 15th annual and will be held Thursday, Sept. 22, at 7 a.m., at the Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave. in Clifton. To register, go to [www.erinpetersonfund.org](http://www.erinpetersonfund.org). Besides the registration fee, a special, \$15 donation is requested in honor of the organization's 15th year.

Over the years, donations and participation in this tour-

namment have enabled EPF to give away 144 scholarships and be the sole sponsor of the Westfield High School Young Men's Leadership Group, Stone Middle and Westfield High Girls Reaching for Academic & Culture Excellence groups, and EPF Koats for Kids program providing new coats to students at Centreville Elementary School. EPF also supports the EPF Fuel Station food pantry at Westfield High and provides quick-fuel bags for the residents of Forest Glen Senior Living Community in Centreville's Sully Station

community.

"So many years, so many memories – and yet, it seems like yesterday that the tragedy of Virginia Tech occurred," said Erin's mom, Celeste Peterson of Centreville. "It is my daily reality and source of sorrow and strength. Erin wanted to help people, and EPF is driven by this sweet legacy. Through the community's help over the last 15 years, we've been able to realize this legacy, over and over."

– BONNIE HOBBS

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GrandInvolve Seeks Volunteers. Would you like a unique and interesting volunteer experience to make a difference in a school, classroom, or in one child's life? GrandInvolve.org facilitates rewarding, flexible adult volunteer opportunities at Fairfax County Title I elementary schools, providing classroom assistance with math, reading, and other simple educational tasks. Visit [www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us](http://www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us) for details and to complete an interest form. Or email [info@grandinvolve.org](mailto:info@grandinvolve.org).

### GIANT FOOD ANNOUNCES LOCAL PRODUCE BOXES

Giant Food announces the relaunch of its Local Produce Boxes featuring locally sourced, in-season produce sold exclusively through Giant Delivers. Available throughout the summer without a subscription or commitment, the boxes retail for \$20.00 and contain six or more items from local farms in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware. For more information and to purchase a local produce box, visit <https://giantfood.com/pages/giants-local-best>.

### METRO TRANSIT POLICE TO USE BODY WORN CAMERAS

The Metro Transit Police Department will equip officers with body worn cameras (BWC), adding a new tool to MTPD's crime fighting initiatives. The program is designed to create an additional layer of transparency for sworn officers who protect Metro customers and employees. MTPD is in the initial stages of developing the program, supported by a grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) of approximately \$905,000.

### VIRGINIA ABC EXTENDS CLOSING HOURS IN 31 STORES

To provide greater customer convenience, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) has extended Monday through Saturday closing hours from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in 31 stores. Customers are encouraged to visit Virginia ABC's website at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) to search for stores and view operating hours, as well as order spirits online for in-store or curbside pickup, or home delivery in select areas.

### WALKING/RUNNING PROGRAM

Calling women – need a fun program to start or restart your walking and/or running program? Check out the Women's Training Program with Reston Runners <https://restonrunners.redpodium.com/2022-womens-training-program>. It is an 8-week program meeting each Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School to complete a 3 mile course by walking, walk/ run or running. All coached by a great group of women.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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## 2022-2023 NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Publishes: Sep 14, 2022 | Advertising Due: Sep 8, 2022

Our annual Newcomer's and Community Guides, for each of our 8 communities, provides inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, their real power players, how to get involved and more. Inside you'll find information about local history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made, and other vital community information.

This year's guide will also include a SENIOR LIVING section. We'll cover topics like local senior services, senior villages, cultural and social activities like Senior Olympics, education, jobs and volunteering.

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# Space Center Planned for Reston

## G.M.U. holds Space Day on Sept. 10.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**I**nterstellar Dreams plans to open a space center in 2023 in Reston, announced Robin McDougal, founder and chairman of the nonprofit organization, The Pearl Project Institute for Innovation in S.T.E.M. Literacy. She shared the plans at the Interstellar official NASA Watch Party for the launch of #Artemis I, hosted by Google on Monday, Aug. 29. Although the NASA launch was scrubbed, McDougal assured guests at the private launch party that “there are jobs for all of our students” in space.

McDougal is the C.E.O. of Interstellar Dreams and a former Fairfax County Public Schools advanced academic educator. McDougal stood at a podium on the 16th floor of Google’s Reston Station office and spoke to a group of business and community leaders and partners. Flanked by Google vice president and Chief Internet Evangelist Vinton G. Cerf, and Che Bolden, president and C.E.O. of The Charles Bolden Group, McDougal addressed executives from Google, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Comstock, George Mason University, SoSi, U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation, Maden Technologies, Fairfax County Public Schools and others.

McDougal said that the new facility in Reston will be built with L.E.D. digital screen wall displays. They would be similar to the SiliconCore L.E.D. digital screen at Reston Metro Plaza in front of Google’s headquarters.

The Interstellar Dreams facility underscores the need for a wide range of talent positions in the space exploration industry. Its purpose will be to train aspiring and current professionals, particularly women and girls, to meet the high demand for jobs, some with degrees and some without them.

According to McDougal, “in terms of inspiring the next generation of space explorers, it is all about understanding that everybody gets to be part of the space exploration community. ... It’s not just all white men but young women; young people of color also get to participate in creating the space industry of the future.”

McDougal said that on Sept. 10, 2022, a smaller prototype facility

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**Che' Bolden, president and C.E.O. of The Charles Bolden Group.**

**Robin McDougal, founder and chairman of the nonprofit organization, The Pearl Project Institute for Innovation in S.T.E.M. Literacy**



## Scrubbed

NASA scrubbed the second launch attempt of Artemis 1. As of Saturday, September 3, 6:26 p.m., the NASA blog reported, “After standing down on today’s Artemis I launch attempt when engineers could not overcome a hydrogen leak in a quick disconnect, an interface between the liquid hydrogen fuel feed line and the Space Launch System (S.L.S.) rocket, mission managers met and decided they will forego additional launch attempts in early September... Because of the complex orbital mechanics involved in launching to the Moon, NASA would have had to launch Artemis I by Tuesday, Sept. 6, as part of the current launch period. View a list of launch windows <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/artemis-i-mission-availability>

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION



**Executives from Google, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Comstock, George Mason University, SoSi, U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation, Maden Technologies, Fairfax County Public Schools, and others gather at the private launch party hosted by Google during which McDougal announces the new Space Center in Reston.**



**Google executive Vinton (“Vint”) G. Cerf, known as one of the “Fathers of the Internet”**

would open for a tour to the public. Located at George Mason University, the new space center is opening in partnership with Interstellar Dreams and is located at the College of Science and Research Hall. Register online for Space Day, Saturday, Sept. 10. <https://science.gmu.edu/academics/departments-units/physics-and-astronomy-department/space-day-september-10th-2022> Tickets are free.

At approximately 8:35, on Aug. 29, NASA scrubbed the flight test launch of the Space Launch System rocket and an uncrewed Orion spacecraft around the Moon. According to NASA.gov, getting one of the four R.S.-25 engines on the bottom of the Rockets core stage to the proper temperature range for liftoff was an issue. As NASA’s official launch partner, Interstellar Dreams had invited the public to watch the launch at Google’s Reston office and on the big screen at Reston Stations Plaza.

During the Aug. 29 watch party, Vint Cerf discussed extending the internet for interplanetary connectivity. It would enable workers at mission control space stations and planetary habitats to communicate and would be critical to the success of future space missions.

Bolden said that more people need to get involved in space sooner rather than later so we can do more faster. “Education is necessary, but the reality is that there is a significant amount of education involved in not going to college. Trade is important, and trade just doesn’t happen... So, when we need a space plumber or space electrician, they are not just going to materialize. You have to start educating them (now).”

According to McDougal, she did not grow up wanting to be an astronaut or an engineer. She did not grow up looking at the stars. She grew up living in Brooklyn, New York public housing, in an urban,

light-polluted area. “I’m standing here before you with two master’s degrees, and that shouldn’t have happened for kids from where I came from,” McDougal said.

What occurred, McDougal told the executive-level audience, is that she went to a community center after school and during the summers. She spent much time there “with people like you, volunteers and counselors.” “And they taught us things. I had the opportunity for someone to say, ‘You know, you’re kind of good at math and science. Why don’t you go to college?’”

“It was not my idea to go to college,” McDougal said. “I had a different plan. I was going to be a receptionist.”

McDougal said she went to college in New England, in a very rural area, and it was dark there. Someone suggested she “go hang out behind the auditorium, lie in the grass, and look at the stars.”

“I looked at them and said, ‘No

way I am going behind a building, in the dark.”

McDougal went there anyway, and it changed her life.

“It was something I could never see, the Milky Way. I didn’t even know there were that many stars... I felt smaller. The sky was so big it was actually frightening, and I was uncomfortable,” she said.

McDougal said she has been on a quest to share with people to be part of the new commercial space economy. “It doesn’t matter if the students are involved in the arts, music, or dancing. It doesn’t matter. We need you. That’s the message of Interstellar Dreams.”

“We need people to think beyond and outside the box. There is no box. And so, it’s called “interstellar dreams” because whether we go to another galaxy or not, it doesn’t matter what issues you have in your community. You can fix them if you’re able to travel and get off the planet,” McDougal said.



Valter L. Alcorn  
Board Matters

Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) presents the Joint Board Matter he and Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) brought forward.



Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia)



Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D- At-large)



Bryan J. Hill  
Fairfax County Executive

Bryan J. Hill, Fairfax County Executive

# Can't Get a Foot in the Door

## Housing discrimination found in Fairfax County.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Recently released findings by the Equal Rights Center, contracted by Fairfax County, observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of White and Black testers in eight of 25 rental tests. The Equal Rights Center observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of White and Black testers in eight of 15 Mortgage Lending tests. And ERC observed discernable differences between real estate agents' treatment of White and Black testers in six of 14 sales tests.

The testing showed housing providers were more likely to give white testers more detailed information, respond more frequently to their messages, and offer more favorable terms than their matched-pair counterparts, said Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) on June 7, at a regular meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Testers reported certain housing providers lacked the training to provide the same level of treatment to deaf individuals as they do to hearing individuals.

"The numbers reported for the lending and sales markets were more troubling," Alcorn said. "They clearly show that historical practices of segregating neighborhoods through steering or offering no or worse loans to Black individuals are still very much an issue today."

At the June 7 meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the Joint Board Matter, Review of Enforcement Program for Fair Housing, which was proposed by Alcorn and Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia). The vote was unanimous.

"This should not be happening. This is horrible," said Lusk during the discussion at the board meeting. "It's making my stomach

turn to even talk about it."

Lusk said the Board must educate the community, adding he never thought he would be treated differently when going through the housing process. "It is unfortunate this sort of activity is still occurring," he said.

Lusk said they needed to identify what they were doing and how to partner with others. "There might be a role that Fairfax County takes, even separately, to make sure we are protecting our residents," Lusk said.

**"The numbers reported for the lending and sales markets were more troubling. They clearly show that historical practices of segregating neighborhoods through steering or offering no or worse loans to Black individuals are still very much an issue today."**

— Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill Supervisor

The board directed the Fairfax Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs to review its enforcement program for fair housing and provide the Board with a plan to enhance its education and training activities that includes an ongoing review of the effectiveness of these activities.

Fairfax County's policy is to provide housing throughout the County without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin; marital or familial status; disability; sexual orientation and gender identity; elderliness; military status; or source of funds, said Alcorn.

In 2019, Fairfax County contracted with the Equal Rights Center (ERC) to provide

email, phone, and in-person testing services in the rental, lending, and sales housing markets.

During the contract term, June 2019 to March 2021, the Equal Rights Center conducted and analyzed 122 tests in the county based on race, national origin, and disability. The Fairfax County Human Rights Commission recently provided a summary of the results of these tests in the Fair Housing Rental, Sales, Lending Testing Report (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/humanrights/sites/humanrights/files/assets/documents/pdf/fair%20housing%20testing%20report.pdf>).

According to the report, the Equal Rights Center's core strategy for identifying unlawful and unfair discrimination is through civil rights testing, an investigative tool used to gather evidence, usually to compare conduct to legal requirements or a policy. In the fair housing testing, individuals posed as home-seekers and inquired about housing units. The information provided to the tester was recorded on a report form.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF SAMPLE DIFFERENCES

Source: Fair Housing Rental, Sales, Lending Testing Report, Fairfax County Human Rights Commission, Fair Housing Program

### RENTAL TESTS

Equal Rights Center analyzed 25 rental tests based on race, which compared treatment between a Black tester and a White tester. The ERC observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of White and Black testers in eight tests. The Leasing Agent:

- ❖ Quoted the Black tester a higher rent amount than the White tester
- ❖ Told the White tester the apartment they were viewing was available now, but told the Black tester it was not available until later
- ❖ Told the Black tester about more fees

### LENDING TESTS

Equal Rights Center analyzed 15 lending tests based on race, which compared treatment between a Black tester and a White tester. The ERC observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of White and Black testers in eight tests. The Loan Officer:

- ❖ Only offered the Black tester first-time homebuyer loan products
- ❖ Gave the White tester a loan quote without asking their income
- ❖ Only generated a quote for the White tester

### RENTAL TESTS

Equal Rights Center analyzed 13 rentals based on disability, all of which compared treatment between a Deaf tester using either an IP relay service or a video relay service and a hearing tester using a traditional phone service. The ERC observed discernable differences between housing providers' treatment of Deaf and hearing testers in six tests. The Leasing Agent only:

- ❖ Questioned the Deaf tester on how they found out about the complex
- ❖ Asked the hearing tester for their contact information
- ❖ Offered the hearing tester a live tour
- ❖ Told the Deaf tester about more stringent application requirements than the hearing tester

# NEWS



Jasbinder Singh



Sean M. Regan



Sheila A. Olem

## Town of Herndon Mayor Debate

MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon's election for mayor and councilmembers will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. Polling places for local elections correspond to polling places for national elections.

On Sept. 8, from 7 to 8 p.m., the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce will host the Herndon May-

oral Debate in the Herndon Council Chambers at 775 Lynn Street in Herndon. The event is open to the public. Three candidates are running for mayor. They are Sheila Olem, Sean Regan, and Jasbinder Singh.

Brian Tumulty, a retired finance reporter for USA Today, Gannett, The Bond Buyer, will serve as moderator. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. HCTV will broadcast the debate live.

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### I-66 East Exit to Route 28

#### North Is Changed

The exit from I-66 East to Route 28 North was permanently changed last week and affects how motorists traveling on I-66 East access Route 28 North and the Braddock Road/Walney Road exit. The new traffic-pattern change is as follows:

- ❖ Drivers from I-66 East to Route 28 North will use the current flyover ramp to cross over I-66, then stay to the left at a new split. They'll use the new roadway to travel under the Braddock Road/Walney Road overpass, then merge with Route 28 North.

- ❖ Drivers from I-66 East to Braddock Road/Walney Road will use the current flyover ramp to cross over I-66, then stay to the right at the new split. They'll then join the ramp from Route 28 North to Braddock Road/Walney Road.

- ❖ Drivers from Route 28 North to Braddock Road/Walney Road will continue to stay to the left over I-66 and use the current left exit to Braddock Road/Walney Road.

- ❖ Drivers traveling through the area on Route 28 North should be alert for vehicles merging from the left, north of the Braddock Road/Walney Road overpass.

These changes are part of the reconstruction of the I-66/Route 28 Interchange for the Transform 66 Outside of the Beltway Project.

#### Route 50 Service Road Bridge Is Closed

The eastbound Route 50, service-road bridge over Flatlick Branch in Chantilly will be closed to vehicles until Monday, Sept. 26. VDOT is taking this action so the bridge may be cleaned and painted. This bridge is between Chantilly Road and Galesbury Lane in the Brookfield community. Drivers will be detoured via the following routes:

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 11

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20th Annual

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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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## PET CONNECTION



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Bright eyed, newly rescued beagle Vermont, with new “parents” Donna Ann Winterling and Andy Crook, was the first of the Envigo dogs adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter



PHOTO COURTESY DONNA ANN WINTERLING

Vermont, 4 months, quickly makes the transition from sterile kennel life to plush comfort with new brother, Utah, 10 years, setting an example



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Ryder, a purebred Hovawart, enjoys exploring his new home, especially the water features, as owner Ann Kissing thwarts his fun



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

From a working group breed, Ryder tries the Journalism profession, quickly taking up the reporter’s notebook during his photo shoot



PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTIE LAVIN

Bitsy, another Envigo beagle, rescued thru Homeward Trails by long-time beagle fancier Matt Lavin and his family, shown here with Christie Lavin

# Beagles Find Their Way Home

## Stories of the path to dog ownership.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

For many northern Virginians, having a family dog is an absolute must.

This, even though dogs have been relieved of their traditional jobs for watch, livestock guarding/herding, and hunting, performed in earlier decades and more rural settings. In today’s suburbia, the only “job” most family dogs have is companion. Just as varied as the number of dog breeds, are the reasons why people still elect to have a dog, and so too, the reasons why they select a particular pooch to be part of their lives.

Some might seek a dog like one from their childhood, to remind them of a past favorite or carefree times, or one that has an attribute they find particularly appealing, such as long ears or a clown-like behavior. A breed may be popular through association with a movie; such as Dalmations and Cocker Spaniels in Disney movies, or Pugs in “Men in Black”. Or a breed may be known through connection with a famous person, such as Queen Elizabeth’s Corgis, or President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Beagles.

Sadly, there are more dogs available than can fill the homes of dog lovers. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) estimates that 390,000 dogs are euthanized every year. Recognizing that high number of unwanted healthy dogs, it’s become a source of pride and “badge of honor” to rescue a pet from a community shelter or rescue organization. Adopting families often are quick to share that they have helped by adopting one of the approximately two million dogs that find a home each year after entering a shelter. A common response one hears when asking about a dog

is: “He’s a rescue,” or “We’re not sure of her age/breed/background; she’s a rescue.” These owners don’t need to know the details. They are committed to giving the dog a home.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, other owners are keen to own a “pure-bred” dog; to contribute toward preservation of the variety of 199 dog breeds recognized in the United States by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and 360 breeds officially recognized world-wide by the World Canine Organization. From the tiny as a teacup Chihuahua to the giant Great Dane, full breed dogs are bred to exacting standards and requirements of the breed’s intended use or job. National organizations and breed clubs seek to maintain the purity of breeds by maintaining registries and lineage records.

These days, few owners will admit to buying a dog from a puppy store, a “backyard breeder,” online seller, or along a roadside, as these sources have become notorious for high prices, unhealthy stock, sourcing from factory puppy mills with horrid conditions, and even making buyers into victims of selling scams where there is no actual dog provided. Unfortunately, too many potential dog owners are unaware of the options for finding a puppy, the buying hazards of the loosely regulated pet industry, and comparative purchase prices when looking for a new family member.

Meet two dogs; one a rescue with a nationally publicized back story, and one a pure breed not commonly found in the United States. Arguably, they are at the extremes of what a dog goes through to end up in the same place — a loving family home.

**VERMONT IS A BEAGLE.** He was recently adopted by Andy Crook and Donna Ann Winterling of Chantilly. At just four months old, he is already a celebrity wherever he goes. He is one of more than 4,000 beagles who



PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTIE LAVIN

Bitsy, after two years used as a breeder at the Envigo facility, is calmed by the presence of her new family and “brother” Moose, a Lab

started life at a medical research breeding facility in Cumberland Virginia. After federal citations for cruelty under the Animal Welfare Act, he was one of the 4,000 Beagles surrendered in a settlement overseen by the United States District Court. The story drew national media coverage as the facility closed. The Beagles were transported in small groups by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to shelters and rescues throughout Virginia and around the country. Vermont is one of the first group of 16 beagles to come to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. The shelter is working with HSUS to find family homes for several, facilitating final placements and much better lives for the rescued dogs.

Beagles, a small breed, are described as merry, amiable, even tempered, intelligent, gentle, determined and happy-go-lucky. Part of the Hound group, the Beagle breed was developed in Great Britain primarily for hunting rabbits in the 1830s. They became very popular in the United States, holding a position in the top ten most popular breeds

in the AKC’s registry for many years. Beagles, Uno and Miss P, won the large and prestigious Westminster Dog Show in 2008, and 2015, respectively.

Beagle fanciers, the Winterling-Crooks had heard the Envigo Beagles’ story in national news coverage and on social media. They were determined to give one of the rescued beagles a home with them and their ten year old Beagle, Utah, and began watching for availability at local shelters. When Crook saw six would be available the next day at Fairfax County Animal Shelter while drinking his 6 a.m. morning coffee, he and his wife quickly hatched a plan. Winterling would camp at the Shelter door on Friday morning at 8 a.m. in preparation for the opening at noon. Neither the rain nor the wait deterred her, and she was first in line. She passed the time waiting by volunteering her help with shelter tasks: loading pet food into a van and making up kitty litter boxes. Other potential adopters started showing up after 9 a.m.

and an adoption queue formed behind Winterling. Near opening time, Crook arrived with their beagle Utah, for the recommended existing family dog meet and greet. Their well executed plan worked. Winterling said, “We were done with the whole adoption process in under an hour. So we did officially adopt the very first Envigo beagle from FCAS.”

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Thisistle, another adoption from FCAS with new “mom” Jenny Elrod, of Laurel, Md.

with his new family, he learned to climb stairs in two days, to jump up on furniture in three days, to “escape” his designed level and explore the whole house during the day, and cuddle between his human parents in the evening. He is adapting to crating at night and house training, with only a few “accidents.” He enjoys bothering his older “brother” Utah for play bouts, and likes to watch dogs on television. It’s unclear if he’s glimpsed himself on TV in his celebrity persona. He does enjoy that bit of celebrity status when out and about as people ask “Is he one of those beagles?” given away by the tattoo on his ear that will be a lasting reminder of

limited number of dogs and breedings over the years, and showed strong participation in dog competitions where her dogs, champions, were judged. Beyond the championship titles there was evidence of testing for hereditary disorders prior to breeding for both her dams and the sires. All positive signs since puppy mills typically have multiple breeds, a large number of dogs, frequent litters, and no evidence of peer review, genetic information or testing.

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Thisistle, who struggled having confidence in his new situation and with climbing stairs, finds comfort wrapped in warm snuggles.

used for watch, guarding, tracking, and rescue; their name is derived from German words for “watch-yard”.

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how close he came to a far different life than the one he is now enjoying to the fullest. It’s clear that the rescued medical research beagles are winning hearts in the Commonwealth and beyond. The Crook-Winterling’s, and even Utah, are heartily in that number.

**NEXT MEET** Ryder. He is a Hovawart. His breed, originating in Germany, is considered “rare” in the United States. So rare that Ryder’s people, Ann Kissing, of Occoquan, and her husband Rick, brought Ryder to Virginia all the way from Slovenia. The Slovenia breeder’s was the closest litter they could find after a prolonged internet search. In fact, the breeder found them after their previously unsuccessful inquires to the U.S. national Hovawart breed club.

As a former competitive cat fancier, Kissing knew more about the hazards of internet dog buying than the average person. After the contact, Kissing carefully researched the breeder and her site for evidence of responsible breeding. The breeder’s site highlighted her adult dogs and their accomplishments and information on breeding, rather than including testimonials from puppy buyers, and selling and shipping information. The site showed the breeder concentrated on the single Hovawart breed with a

But for now he is enjoying the puppy life and enrichment activities of exploring new territories, making new friends, and learning basic commands given by hand signals. He loves water and walks on park trails, already walking close by Kissing’s side. He too is winning hearts and being a good ambassador for his less common breed.

Surely the debate will continue on solutions for the problem of overpopulation of dogs. Some owners will continue to favor rescue and others will favor strict adherence to limited responsible breeding. Those seeking a dog are urged to be wary consumers. To think carefully about the commitment they are making to a life-time of care for the dog so they don’t add to the numbers filling shelters. Responsible ownership demands careful investigation of the source, or relying on area shelters and rescues to help make a connection with the right dog for the family situation that will last. As American writer Carolina Knapp put it, “Before you get a dog, you can’t quite imagine what living with one might be like; afterward, you can’t imagine living any other way.”

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ELISE FORRESTER

Michael Forrester and dog Maxx enjoying the Trex bench in Chantilly Highlands.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELISE FORRESTER

Elise Forrester holds a big bag of plastic to be recycled into a bench.

# Plastic Recycling Earns Bench for Neighborhood

## Elise Forrester rises to the NexTrex Challenge.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Thanks to the massive recycling efforts of Elise Forrester, her Chantilly Highlands neighbors and a DAR chapter, her community has a new bench. And by participating in the NexTrex Challenge, they kept nearly 2 tons of plastic from entering the waste stream.

"I heard about it from a Daughters of the American Revolution chapter and learned that Trex had been doing this for 15 years," said Forrester. "You can't do it as an individual; you have to do it as an organization, school or community."

Since 1992, Trex Co. has used recycled plastic film and reclaimed wood to create composite decks. And its NexTrex program gives participants recycling bins, instructional videos, promotional materials and a list of plastic materials they may recycle. Then when Trex receives 500 pounds of this plastic, it turns it into a sturdy bench for the participants.

Forrester and her DAR chapter began their first, 6-month challenge last December and did so well, they completed it in just three months. "You have to collect an average of 86 pounds of plastic/month," she said. "We got plastic from home and from retail stores,

such as grocery and department stores. Part of it is educating people not to place plastic in the trash, but to recycle it instead."

In February, Forrester started the NexTrex Challenge with her Chantilly Highlands Community Assn. "I advertised it in our newsletter, on Nextdoor and on our Facebook page," she said. "And I put a recycling bin at our community center and emptied it once a week. The neighborhood brought in about 60 pounds/month; and from the retail store where I work in Fair Oaks Mall, I was able to gather plastic bags from the stock room. They'd been unwrapped from incoming, store products that would normally be thrown away."

She said the residents were thrilled to participate. "Many people were already recycling plastic at the grocery store, but didn't know bubble wrap, film wrap from dry cleaning, case wrap around toilet paper, etc., can also be recycled," explained Forrester. "Then I'd collect it from the bin, weigh it and drop it off at Safeway, Food Lion, Harris Teeter and Giant grocery stores to be formed into 100-pound bales at the stores' distribution sites. Then Trex came and bought it from them."

Participating in the challenge is easy," she said. "You register your challenge with Trex and give them a start date. Then they send you one to three bins with a poster to place on them and to publicize on social media. And whenever I meet people in my neighborhood, I tell them about it."

During the Chantilly Highlands challenge, Forrester told Trex online how many pounds were collected each month. "When we got to 500 pounds, they told us to order our bench – which we did from a Web link," she said. "They delivered it to us, and we put it together with just nine screws; it was easy. It's a gray, 57-pound bench with a 15-year warranty."

"The people at Trex are fabulous to work with and can be flexible," continued Forrester. "If you're close to your goal at six months, they'll give you more time, if needed, so you'll succeed."

Chantilly Highlands finished its initial challenge early and, on Memorial Day weekend, it placed its first bench in front of its community center, to advertise the recycling accomplishment. It bears a plaque saying, "Conservation Initiative 2022 – Chantilly Highlands residents' NexTrex Challenge bench – plastic bag recycling."

The bench's permanent home will be at the neighborhood's tennis/pickleball court. And, added Forrester, "We've had a request in our horseshoe-shaped community to place a bench along the sidewalks where people walk, so they can rest along the way."

Meanwhile, Forrester's DAR chapter, which includes members from Centreville and Chantilly, has completed two challenges

so far – enough for two benches. And since DAR Community Service Day is Oct. 11, the group will place those benches on that date outside a veterans' home or hospital in Virginia.

Forrester finished her third challenge in mid-August, meaning that she and her cohorts have now recycled 1,500 pounds of plastic. "I love that Trex is proactively involved in educating children and adults about recycling," she said. "I'm also happy about keeping all these items out of the landfills and waterways. And the public benefits, as well, by earning benches for places that need it – and I'm excited about that."

Besides, she said, it's an easy-to-do project. "And I've found that, when people know they're getting something in return, they're eager to do it," said Forrester. "I'm also working with two other nonprofits to earn more benches. I'm not going to stop; I'll do this as long as I can. I'm so proud of what Trex is doing; they continue to grow the program, and these challenges give people an incentive to recycle. I call myself the Bag-to-Bench Wench, and I hope to involve more organizations and schools in the program."

For more information about the NexTrex Challenge, go to <https://www.facebook.com/NexTrex-Bags-to-Bench-Challenge-111321954949352/>

## A Threat to Our Democracy

BY DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

**O**n a fourth grade field trip to the historic triangle of Virginia—Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg—I purchased in the gift shop a copy of the Declaration of Independence printed on parchment paper. For my young eyes it looked like a real historic document even though it was just a copy. What intrigued me most about it from my classroom studies was the notion that all people are created equal. That was important to me. As a country boy growing up with very modest means I wanted to believe that I could be a leader in my community or state just as those men who signed the Declaration were.

I framed my copy of the Declaration in a much-too-small frame that I had painted with the silver

paint from my making plastic models. It hung on the wall in my bedroom for the almost decade I was still living at home. It and the ideas it inspired were part of my dedicating nearly a half century of my life to public service.

I believe all persons are created equal with inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I believe "we the people" in our constitution has a very real meaning. I believe in democracy. Those are the reasons I have become increasingly concerned over the last few years about real threats to our democracy and why the speech President Biden made to the Nation last week resonated with me so much.

If you did not hear the President's speech, I recommend you take the time to listen to it at



Ken Plum

<https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/video/watch-president-bidens-full-speech-at-independence-hall/>.

The President said that "equality and democracy are under assault. We do ourselves no favor to pretend otherwise." He went on to say that "we must be honest with each other and with ourselves. Too much of what's happening in our country is not normal. Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the very foundation of our Republic." He made it clear that he is not talking about all or even a majority of Republicans but rather those who are election deniers and insurrectionists.

Once we acknowledge the threats we face, I believe and the President said that we can over-

come them:

"But while the threat to American democracy is real, I want to say as clearly as we can, we are not powerless in the face of these threats. We are not bystanders in this ongoing attack on democracy. There are far more Americans... who reject the extreme MAGA ideology than those that accept it. And folks, it's within our power, it's in our hands, yours and mine, to stop the assault on American democracy."

The words of the Declaration set a course for our future. Our history has been one of expanding opportunities and inclusion. We cannot let anyone at the state or national levels close the door of democracy. Together, we can overcome the threats to our democracy. Election day is coming up soon. Vote in your congressional district and consider helping candidates outside your district who are needed to end the threat to our democracy.

## League of Women Voters Registers More Than 2,300 New Citizens in Northern Virginia

**A** cooperative effort by multiple local Leagues in the Northern Virginia area is underway to register new citizens at naturalization ceremonies.

Following a two-year break due to COVID-19, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) once again welcomed League of Women Voters (LWV) in-person participation at Northern Virginia's naturalization ceremonies. Since April, more than 160 local League volunteers have spent close to 600 hours registering over 2,300 new citizens.

Many of the new citizens have prepared for years to meet the stringent requirements to take the oath of citizenship, in which they commit to supporting and defending the Constitution and, when required by law, bearing arms, doing noncombatant service, and performing work of national importance under civilian direction. Before being allowed to take the oath, applicants for naturalization must have demonstrated an ability to read, write and speak basic English, good moral character and a knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government, among other requirements.

In the words of one newly minted citizen, "I have worked and waited for this day for so long. And now I can vote as an American.



Many new citizens have prepared for years to meet the stringent requirements to take the oath of citizenship.

What an honor." Another said, "In my old country, we could not vote – we had no voice. Now I have a voice and I want to use it. This is a great country – the best country."

Members from the Leagues of Fairfax Area, Arlington-Alexandria City, Falls Church City, Prince William-Fauquier Area, and Loudoun County all participated in the voter registration effort.

As the nation's largest and longest-standing grassroots voter registration organization, LWV volunteers across the country register hundreds of thousands of voters each year. For the second year, LWV of the Fairfax Area will be hosting voter registration events at each of Fairfax County's 21 public libraries on Sept. 20 in honor of National Voter Registration Day.

LWV volunteers will also provide

information about voter registration and the Nov. 8 national election at the

- ❖ Sept. 10 Burke Center Festival,
- ❖ Sept. 17 Reston Multicultural Festival,
- ❖ Sept. 24-25 Merrifield-Mosaic District Fall Festival, and the
- ❖ Oct. 1 Vienna Oktoberfest.

For additional information about the LWV of the Fairfax Area, go to: [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).

In order to register to vote in Virginia, go to: [www.elections.virginia.gov](http://www.elections.virginia.gov)

*The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.*

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By mail to: Letters to the Editor The Connection  
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FROM PAGE 2

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Parent Support Partners**, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-minds/fairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-minds/fairfax) or [www.nami-north-ernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-north-ernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

**ONGOING**

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net) or 703-821-6838.

**STEM Professionals Needed.** Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, during the 2019-20 school year. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.alnv.org).

**Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed.** Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at [Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-4547.

**RSVP**, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

**Sunrise at Reston Town Center** offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email [Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com](mailto:Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com) to RSVP.

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# CALENDAR

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 8

Blood Drives Return This Fall. Noon to 5 p.m. McLean Community Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations! It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need. Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. All donors will receive a \$10 Amazon Gift Card via email. For an appointment, click here or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor word: HEARTOFGOLD, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Eligibility Questions: Call 1-866-236-3276.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

NVMR Train Station Open House. 1-5 p.m. At Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Stop by the Historic Vienna Train Station where you can see and hear HO scale model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young-at-heart. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. See [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

DOGFEST Reston Town Center on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, 11-3, for DogFest Washington DC 2022 benefiting Canine Companions. Furry friends and their families are invited to join us for a day of fun, festivities, contests, graduate speakers, dog demonstrations, and more! Register for free at [www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC](http://www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC) to receive a FREE DogFest bandana for your dog. Canine Companions provides expertly trained service dogs to adults, children, and veterans with disabilities FREE of charge. Celebrate the community of people and dogs that make it possible for Canine Companions to show that the most advanced technology capable of transforming the lives of people with disabilities has a cold nose and a warm heart. [www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC](http://www.canine.org/DogFestWashingtonDC)

## SATURDAY, SUNDAY SEPT. 24, 25

The Annual Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show will be held at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22031, on Saturday and Sunday Sept. 24 and 25, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days. Admission is \$5 per person. Vendors are welcome. For information, call Bud Mayo, 703-389-1505 or [mayo5304@cox.net](mailto:mayo5304@cox.net)

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

Wheel of Fortune Live! At Capital One Hall, Tysons Corner. Guests can audition to go on stage and feel like they stepped into the game show itself. They will have the chance to spin a replica of the Wheel and solve the puzzles on the tour's puzzle-board to win fantastic prizes including \$10,000, a trip to Paris,

Hawaii and more. Tickets start at \$51. For tickets, visit [www.WheelofFortuneLive.com](http://www.WheelofFortuneLive.com). Call (800) 514-ETIX (3849).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Oktoberfest Vienna. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Church Street in Vienna. 3 Stages of Entertainment, Two Beer and Wine Gardens, Great International Food, Free Kids Activities and Games, Car Show, Business Expo, Vendor Market, Handcrafters. Visit the website: [ViennaOktoberfest.org](http://ViennaOktoberfest.org).

## 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](http://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 Nov. 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/>

## NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 5

- ❖ Service-road access point west of the bridge, eastbound Route 50 and service-road access point east of the bridge, back to the service road.
- ❖ Service-road access point east of the bridge, westbound Route 50 and Chantilly Road, back to the service road.

The sidewalk along the bridge will remain open to pedestrians at all times. However, pedestrians are reminded to use caution when traveling in active work zones and to limit their distractions.

## New Sully District

### Community Center Will Open

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Sully Community Center will be held Saturday, Sept. 17, at noon, at 13800 Wall Road in Chantilly. It'll be followed by a grand-opening celebration from 1-4 p.m., featuring fun activities for the whole family, plus food and performances. People may also tour the facility, and everyone is welcome to attend.

The Sully Community Center includes a healthcare component and will serve as the new home of the Sully Senior Center, as well. It'll also provide a broad array of services and programs for people of all ages and abilities. Off Route 28 north, the site is adjacent to Air and Space Museum Parkway.

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Potomac ALMANAC CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped 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. 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 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 ominous 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 news for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers.

Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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## And Now We Wait



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When my sister-in-law Vanessa and I were first requested to attend a "family meeting" with the chief attending physician in SICU, the surgeon originally scheduled to perform the Colo-rectal surgery on Richard, the consulting oncologist, and the head of Palliative Care at the hospital, Richard's recovery was far from certain. Still, the hospital felt it timely and prudent to get feedback from the patient's immediate family.

Basically, they wanted to know what kind of person Richard was/what mattered to him. They were trying to gain an understanding from us - since Richard was unable then to express/indicate even his wishes concerning what he was willing to endure, risk and possibly live with should he recover from the surgery, a surgery which was fraught with danger and whose success, given the size and location of the tumor was hardly guaranteed. The surgeon offered up some percentages for success, which were still an estimate given the unknown/unpredictability of what and where they'd find the mass and, if there were other organs impacted. The scans can only show so much, unfortunately. Moreover, the surgeon said she won't know definitively my brother's prospects until she has him on the operating table. Given that "chemotherapy failed," according to his longtime primary care physician, the surgery may be his only option, as risky as it is.

Now, Richard is awake and talking and very much aware of his condition and his 'failure,' and that surgery, however frightening is the next and only remaining option. And barring any unexpected setbacks from his previous septic shock, and presuming he continues to "get stronger," per his surgeon's assessment, Richard will indeed have his surgery on Tuesday, Sept. 6, two days from when I'm writing this column. When that date was first mentioned at the family meeting, it seemed like an eternity before we'd ever get there, Richard's tenuous recovery notwithstanding. Now the surgery is very nearly here. It all seemed so unrealistic six weeks ago. Then, all we were thinking about was day to day. Now, almost seven weeks have passed. We were all afraid to hope for this day thinking it was too great a leap. Nevertheless, our faith in Richard and the staff has been rewarded and here we are two days before the date. As George Allen famously said in 1971 when he became coach of The Washington Redskins: "The future is now!"

I can't imagine the excruciating time (Vanessa and I) will endure as we sit idly by at the hospital waiting for the surgeon to come out of the operating room and update the family. (Covid rules mandate only two people can be present per day and as of a recent inquiry, those two people can't be visiting the patient/hospital at the same time. We've been so preoccupied even getting to this point that we haven't yet asked if we'll both be allowed in the hospital.) Somehow, we'll get through it. It will give us time to talk about Richard's next phase. We don't know exactly what his schedule will be or his whereabouts, either. I guess he'll return to SICU after surgery and whether he returns to a regular room on a hospital floor or is immediately transferred to a Rehabilitation Hospital, we also don't know. Whatever happens, we'll be ready to accommodate the patient. For what he's accomplished these past few weeks, surviving against difficult odds, it's the least we all can do to assist him in whatever help he needs to adjust to his new normal. He's made us all extremely proud to be a part of his extraordinary recovery. We'll do whatever we can now during his rehabilitation/recuperation to support him during this next challenge. He's certainly earned it.

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

# Deer Archery Program Begins Sept. 10

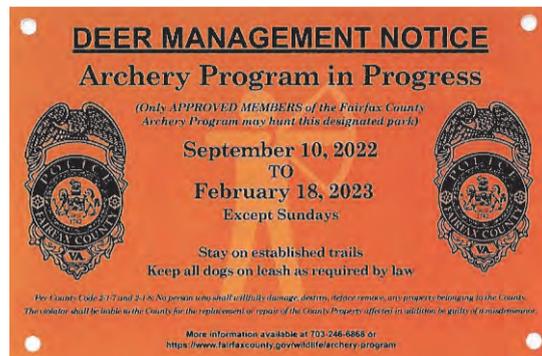
The Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program begins Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, and runs through Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023.

Under the oversight of the Fairfax County Police Department, in collaboration with the Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks, and other public landholders, the archery program is conducted in parks and other locations throughout Fairfax County.

The archery program began in FY 2010 and is part of an integrated Deer Management Program to reduce and stabilize the white-tailed deer population in Fairfax County in efforts to minimize safety and health hazards and other impacts related to an overabundance of deer. These impacts include deer-vehicle collisions, potential spread of diseases, and environmental damage attributed to deer that can impact the ecosystem. The program was approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2000 and is recognized as a safe and efficient method of deer population control by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Because of its track record of safety, archery is a preferred deer management method in Fairfax County. Archery is a compatible use with residential areas and community parks, allowing for deer population management in urban and suburban areas. Since Virginia began tracking hunting injuries in 1959, no bystanders have been injured by an archer hunting deer anywhere in the Commonwealth. The Fairfax County Deer Management Program is conducted on approximately 100 properties countywide. Last year, 726 deer were harvested through the use of archery by hunters in the county program. The archery program accounted for 94% of the total deer harvests in the Fairfax County Deer Management Program.

Fairfax County's Archery Program standards require that all archers meet state hunter licensing, education and safety requirements and must pass qualifications to demonstrate skill and marksmanship, in addition to carrying program identification.



Signs are posted in archery program areas, at park entrances and trailheads.



Archers are also required to have completed additional training through the International Bowhunter Education Program to participate in the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. All archers must also pass a criminal background check to be eligible for the program. Only hunters that have gone through this screening and selection process

rules.

Parks remain open to the public during the archery program. Fluorescent orange signs are posted in parks where hunting is authorized. Hunters can only take shots at deer from elevated tree stands; hunting from the ground level is prohibited in county parks. Tree stands must not be located closer than



Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program begins Sept. 10, 2022, and runs through Feb. 18, 2023.

with the Fairfax County Police Department may hunt within the designated parks. All archers must comply with state and federal game laws and regulations, local ordinances, and program

100 feet from property lines or closer than 50 feet from established park trails. Archers are not allowed on private property without permission by the owner or tenant. Archers are approved to hunt at assigned sites Monday through Saturday during legal hunting hours, 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

No hunting is allowed on Sundays in county parks.

More information about the Fairfax County Deer Management Program can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/deer-management-program>.

## Here Come the Senior Olympians

The opening ceremonies of the 40th Northern Virginia Senior Olympics will take place Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St. Arlington. NVSO Chair Herb Levitan of Arlington, said, "The public is invited to attend the opening starting at 9:30 a.m. and stay for seven track events that will follow."

The annual competition is made possible by the sponsorship of eight Northern Virginia jurisdictions, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun,

**The oldest participant is Vera Punke of Arlington, age 107, who is registered to play duplicate bridge.**

Fauquier and Prince William. Participants in NVSO must reside in one of the jurisdictions.

Competition will take place at 25 different venues throughout Northern Virginia and continue through Saturday, Sept. 14. Levitan reported that 831 senior adults have set a new record for participation. They will be competing in 70-plus events.

Pickleball, track, field and table tennis have garnered the most registrants. The oldest participant is Vera Punke of Arlington,

age 107 who is registered to play duplicate bridge, said Levitan. The complete schedule of events is on the NVSO website, [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us). Results of each event will be posted on the website as the competition continues. All events are open to the public.

"We are also fortunate to have 15 Gold Patrons this year who have contributed \$1,000 each," said Levitan.

The Patrons are Aarondale Assisted Living, Advanced Hearing Services, Anthem Health-

Keepers Plus, Ashleigh of Lansdowne, Chesterbrook Residences, Goodwin Living, Greenspring Retirement Community, Facial Plastic Surgery Center, Heatherwood Retirement Community, The Jefferson, Koons Toyota Arlington, Paul Spring Independent and Assisted Living, The Wellington by Lake Manassas and Westminster at Lake Ridge.

NVSO is a non-profit-C-3 organization and 100% of money donated is used entirely for NVSO activities.

For more information, check the website [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us) or email [nvso1982@gmail.com](mailto:nvso1982@gmail.com).