

# Great Falls CONNECTION

Jackie Plunkett with Michael Broyles, president of the Rotary Club of Great Falls, Brian Plunkett, and Steve Flannery, Rotarian and event organizer, holding the trophies that will be awarded to the winning bocce teams.

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## COMMUNITY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GARY PAN

From left, Gary Pan, Kirsten McCrann, Eamon Kirsten, incoming vice president of the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation, Bev Lane, board president of the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation, and John Lane.

## Mingle at the Mill

### Funds raised benefit Friends of Colvin Run Mill.

CONTRIBUTED BY GARY PAN

**O**n an early fall evening, Saturday, Sept. 17, Celebrate Great Falls Foundation held its festive gathering, Mingle at the Mill, in the ambiance of the historic Colvin Run Mill. The operational water-powered mill, circa 1811, provided a beautiful setting where guests relaxed with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails that featured ingredients produced and sold at the mill.

Over 100 people attended the event, highlighted by special mill tours, a distillery demonstration, and the opportunity to connect with friends. A local band, The

Fairlington Raccoons, led by Shelley Burns, played Americana tunes that filled the grounds of Colvin Run Mill with nostalgic music.

The event also featured a silent auction with donations from Brightview Great Falls Assisted Living, Celebrate Great Falls Foundation, Classic Wines, Costa Dentistry, Friends of Great Falls Library, Great Falls Farmers Market, John Nugent & Sons, LAuberge Chez François, The Old Brogue, Irish Pub, and Stone Tower Winery.

Proceeds from the event benefited Friends of Colvin Run Mill. To learn more, go to <https://friendsofcolvinrunmill.org/> and <https://celebrategreatfalls.org/>.

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Dan Dyke, a member of the nonprofit organization, Friends of Colvin Run Mill works the vintage moonshine still as Matt Matay and Kathy Matay, board member of the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation, look down from the mill's window.



# NEWS



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

Bottom row, Jackie Plunkett, (top row from left), Michael Broyles, president of the Rotary Club of Great Falls, Brian Plunkett, and Steve Flannery, Rotarian and event organizer, hold the trophies that will be awarded to the winning bocce ball teams.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

The scoreboard tells all in bocce.



ROTARY CLUB OF GREAT FALLS

Great Falls Rotarian Dan Lundeen throws his bocce ball underhand toward the pallino.

## Rotary's Bocce Tournament: Mission and Remembrance

### Benefits Dixon Center for Military and Veteran Services.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Support and donations come in all shapes and sizes. For the Rotary Club of Great Falls, the emphasis is on service, making a difference, and having fun. On Sept. 17, ten teams of Great Falls Rotarians and friends competed on the Village Green in the Sean Plunkett Memorial Bocce Tournament 2022 to benefit the Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services. The club held the tournament in remembrance of former Great Falls Rotary Club president and treasurer Sean Plunkett (1959-2022), who served the club for over a decade and organized countless charitable events.

Jackie Plunkett, Sean's wife, said he would have been so happy to see that the Rotary Club has continued with the bocce tournament to help the community while having fun. "As a family, we are very happy and thankful to the Rotary Club for continuing this event."

Steve Flannery, Great Falls Rotarian and the tournament organizer, said the event



PHOTO COURTESY  
PLUNKETT FAMILY

**Sean Plunkett (1959-2022), known for coordinating charitable and entertaining events, like the bocce tournament.**

was a success by every measure. It was "an inspirational day, and they raised thousands of dollars for the Dixon Center."

According to Colonel Duncan S. Milne, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), president of Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services, the Center "works with organizations across the country to ensure that veterans, their families, and the families of the fallen can thrive in the communities in which they live."

Bocce is among the oldest lawn games. The goal is to get as many bocce balls as possible close to the pallino or smaller target ball.

Michael Broyles, the president of the Rotary Club of Great Falls, said it was a great day of remembrance, fellowship, and fun. "Today, we honored Sean by continuing the bocce ball tournament he started eight years ago. I can't think of a better tribute to Sean's legacy than raising money for a veteran's service organization in his name."

For more information on the Rotary Club of Great Falls or to make a tax-deductible contribution, visit <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/8198/>.



ROTARY CLUB OF GREAT FALLS

Colonel Duncan S. Milne, U.S. Marine Corps (RET), president of the Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services, (bottom row, third from the left) joins the top three teams of the tournament.



ROTARY CLUB OF GREAT FALLS

The First Place winners of the Sean Plunkett Memorial Bocce Tournament Championship 2022, (from left) Jack Lundeen, Holly Lundeen, Ted Lundeen, and Dan Lundeen (not pictured Nejvi Lundeen).



ROTARY CLUB OF GREAT FALLS

Second Place winners (from left) Daniel Signorini, Joanna Cotter, Giles Cotter, and Nick Cotter.



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## NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPS

First row left to right, Ethan Zhou, Tejini Holavanahali, Kristina Knauss, Emma Yang; (second row left to right) David Vergano, Zaylie Tamashiro, Olivia Zhang, Genavive Lotfi, Everly Johnston, Anna Raymond, Sianna Khandhar, Nandita Boddu, Noah Chin, Jeffrey Cheng; (third row left to right) Shubham Dey, Michael Wang, Emanuel Rouvelas, Ethan Ye, Benjamin Woods, Jack Apigian, Donghwa Shin; and (not pictured): Yeonsu Ju and Joseph Barboriak.

## McLean HS Counts 23 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

**Prestigious achievement for PSAT takers.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**his school year, McLean High School has 23 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists, which is the highest number in the school's history. The number of semi-finalists varies from year to year, but McLean HS usu-

ally has about 13 students named, according to Ellen Reilly, principal of McLean HS.

Reilly said that the only explanation she can think of for this year's high number is that the students' dedication to their studies is the reason. "We are quite proud of each one of these students and grateful to all the FCPS educators who supported them along the way," Reilly said.

### 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.

### SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA ADVENTURES IN LEARNING FALL 2022 CLASSES

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia (SCNOVA) continues its Adventures In Learning (AIL) line up of classes with their Fall 2022 semester schedule that includes a wide range of subjects - from a Health and Wellness series to National and World Affairs. T'ai Chi is offered twice weekly. Please note that all classes are now scheduled in the morning time slots.

The following classes are but a few of the classes to choose from:

- September 29 "My Adventures Working in New Guinea for the Peace Corps" - Chris Davenport
  - October 13 "Our Visit to Iceland" - Paul Wormeli
  - October 27 - "How Companies Acquire, Use and Protect Your Information" - Bob Reinsel
- Students may attend one or all of the AIL fall classes for a \$55 fee and are encouraged to

create their own schedule - attend classes all morning or attend only one class. Visit [www.scnova.org](http://www.scnova.org) or contact Carolyn Pennington, Executive Director at 703-281-0588, [carolyn-pennington@scov.org](mailto:carolyn-pennington@scov.org).

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

**Car Free Day 2022.** Car Free Day is a free event recognized internationally every year on September 22. Residents and commuters across the region are encouraged to take the free pledge to get around without driving alone in cars, and instead use transit, rideshare, bike, walk, scooter, or telework. Participants who take the pledge are automatically entered for a chance to win raffle prizes. Car Free Day is open to all residents in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. To participate, fill out the free pledge form at <https://www.carfreemetrodcc.org>, and go car free or car-lite (carpool, vanpool) on Thursday, September 22, 2022. Take the pledge, even if you're already car free!

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## NEWS

# 8th Annual Paint Great Falls: Plein Air Competition

Local winners among the best.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Arts of Great Falls hosted its 8th Annual Paint Great Falls September 7-11. Artists painted on location throughout the community and at the two-hour Quick Paint competition held Friday on the Village Green. Works had to be completed outdoors and without the assistance of photography.

The awards reception was held at The Gallery on Sunday, with Celebrate Great Falls sponsoring the cash prizes. First Place went to Rajendra KC of Falls Church. Pattee Hipschen, of Arlington, won First Place in the Quick Paint competition.

The exhibit and sale can be viewed at The Arts of Great Falls Gallery, 756 Walker Road, through October 1, Wednesdays, 12-4 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREAT FALLS ART STUDIO  
Falls Church artist Rajendra KC wins First Place for his 12x16 watercolor "Great Falls Art Village Center."



Plein air painter Vicky Zhou adds the final brush strokes to her watercolor just before sunset, the Golden Hour, when objects glow and shadows are more interesting. Zhou of Oakton later won 2nd Place & People's Choice for her painting, "Shady Spot."

PHOTO BY  
MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREAT FALLS ART STUDIO

The 2022 Winners of the Paint Falls Plein Air Competition: (from left) Bob Gilbert of Great Falls, Honorary Mention - "Laura's Grandson;" Armand Cabrera of Palmyra, Va., who served as the Plein Air judge; Rajendra KC of Falls Church, 1st Place - "Great Falls Art Village Centre;" Vicky Zhou of Oakton, 2nd Place & People's Choice - "Shady Spot;" Anne Stine of Purcellville 3rd Place - "Summer Falls;" and (not pictured) Nancy Fine of Hampstead, MD, and Honorary Mention - "Rainy Day and Tuesday Always...."

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### In-Person Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY2024 Budget

(July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)

McLean Community Center Governing Board  
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.

Small District 1A-Dranesville residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers list. The draft budget proposal is available on the Center's website. Copies will be available at the Public Hearing.

Written comments may be delivered to the McLean Community Center (see address below) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to [holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov). Written comments may be provided after the Public Hearing up through Monday, Oct. 24.



McLean Community Center  
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101  
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[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

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# CALENDAR

## UNTIL SEPT. 30

Summerfest. 7 – 9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. The Summerfest continues through September with Earl's Happy Hour, Kids Concert Series, Tysons Fit Club, Outdoor Family Movie Nights, Summer Concert Series, and live music on the plaza.

## SEPT. 15-OCT. 2

Mlima's Tale by Lynn Nottage. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road Tysons. Tickets: Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

## 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).

## SEPT. 24-OCT. 30

Fall Festival. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. The festival will run Friday, Saturday and Sundays September 24 to October 30 with five 90 minute online ticketed sessions. Fall Festival hours are Friday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. \$28 per child and \$7 per parent, children 2 and under free. For times and tickets visit <https://www.restonfarm.com/fall-fest>.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Harvest Happenings. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Celebrate autumn with your family! Harvest Happenings is an indoor-outdoor festival with live entertainment, a petting zoo, crafts and games. Visit the pumpkin patch and purchase a pumpkin to decorate at the crafts station. Visit [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org)

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

DOGFEST. 11-3 p.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. For DogFest Washington DC 2022 benefiting

## Great Falls CONNECTION

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**The Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival will take place Sept. 24-Oct. 30 in Reston.**

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#### SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Reston Association (RA) presents Dog Paddle. Register in advance at RA Dog Paddle events. Then bring your dog to swim at the Ridge Heights Pool that has closed for the season at your registered time. Located at 11400 Ridge Heights Rd, Reston.

#### 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, 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)

#### SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Featuring Mars Rodeo – original, classic and modern rock. Come relax at the Village Centre Green and enjoy laid-back evenings of good music and good times with your neighbors.

#### SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

NatureFest. 1-5 p.m. At Runnymede Park, 195 Herndon Parkway, Herndon. NatureFest is a hands-on nature event, which spotlights the animals, plants, and insects that live in Runnymede Park. Event participants can visit eighteen different nature stations, which include butterflies, fish censusing, life in the meadow, birds, and Nature Olympics. Visit [herndon-va.gov](http://herndon-va.gov) for more information.

#### SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

Food For Others 5K & Fun Run. 8 a.m.- Kids race, 8:30 a.m.-5K race. At Tysons Corner Center (parking lot), McLean. Food For Others nonprofit organization serviced in Northern Virginia focuses on the distribution of food to communities in need. In support of the 5K race is to help those struggling with food insecurity. The \$35 registration fee for the race will contribute to helping 21 families with a gallon of milk, 7 students with weekend meal packs, or 1 family with 3.5 days' worth of meals. Same-day registration for the race starts from 7am to 8am for \$40. Visit <https://foodforothers.org/tysons-5k-and-fun-run/>

#### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

The Caboose Comes to Town. 7 p.m. At the Herndon Historical Society Depot Museum, 717 Lynn Street, Herndon. Email [HerndonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:HerndonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com) for Zoom information.

#### 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/OCT. 1

Reston Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. 12018 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston.

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Reston 75-family Yard Sale. Halley Rise Complex, 12010 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Register at RA's Community Yard Sale. Bargains on children's clothes, toys, furniture, and more. Sign up for a booth covering two parking spaces.

#### THURSDAYS/OCT. 4-25

Big & Messy Art classes for kids, a four-session class. Brown's Chapel Recreation Area, 1598 Browns Chapel Road, Reston. Click this link to register or for further details: Big & Messy Art class details. Kidcreate Studio partners with Reston Association.

#### 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/>

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

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

Please, help save these historical papers.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now 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 has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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## Having My Cake, and Eating It Too



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After way too many months to remember; my eagle, so to speak, has finally landed. The Entenmann's "Marshmallow Iced Devil's Food Cake" is once again in the house. The only problem is its size, it's too small. A sheet cake type-size would be ideal. Nevertheless. Cake one will likely be consumed in a day, two maximum. Followed by cake number two which will suffer a similar fate. In my house anyway, if the Entenmann's cake referenced above was an animal, it would sit atop the endangered species list. Moreover, I had written in a previous column moaning about my difficulties finding this item locally; even going so far as calling the parent company, "Bimbo Bakers USA" at their headquarters in Horsham Township, Pa. My thinking was, perhaps if I could speak with a distribution or public relation's person, maybe they could determine where, specifically, this item is being delivered. Unfortunately, the call was in vain, as the cake couldn't be located. In fact, the woman with whom I spoke wasn't even familiar with this item. Amateur. This escalation is some context for what action has followed.

This unsuccessful attempt followed my initial pursuit which was to visit my local Giant supermarket (after perusing the Entenmann's website which also proved unsatisfying) to speak with the store manager about possibly adding this cake to their rather pedestrian weekly inventory of cookies, other cakes, donuts, and such. I was told that the Entenmann's order is handled by a middleman-type vendor who isn't even a Giant employee. As a result, Giant has no control/ability to submit any amended weekly list to accommodate my needs. Very disappointing. Therefore, I am stuck between a chocolate fudge cake, a cheese Danish/pastry, and an array of miscellaneous donuts/popems. None of which compares to the "sinfully good cake with heavenly Marshmallow frosting" as it's described on the Entenmann's website under "Delicious Products."

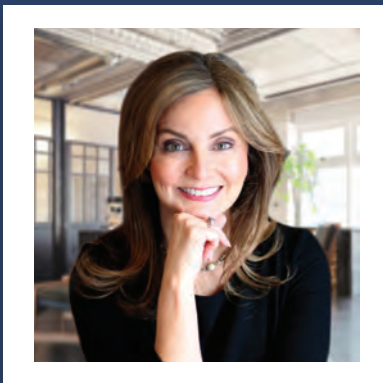
The reason I was forced to take this action is because the Entenmann's website provided no relief. There is a "store locator" feature on the site which enables the user to specify the item and then find it, if available/delivered within a 20-mile radius (maximum distance, from the zip code provided). After multiple visits to their site, I came away unrequited. I was out of any alternative ideas to reach this promised land. Then it hit me, perhaps the cake is located/distributed in other less local – to me, supermarkets, and so on a few occasions when I was further than 20 miles from my home, I would stop in a local supermarket or two (it didn't have to be a Giant; I've bought the cake at Safeway before, twice) and cross my fingers and hope to buy. That too, on the occasions which presented themselves, likewise proved unsuccessful.

And there the pursuit has remained, stalled almost, until Sept. 10, a day that will live in Lourie lore. That's the day when the eagle that had been flying around with no place to land indeed found its landing spot. It all happened so unexpectedly, so innocently, when I wasn't necessarily even thinking about the cake (it's rare, but it does happen) that it makes the reward all the more sweeter. As former vice president Hubert Horatio Humphrey, Jr. (1965 to 1969) might have said: "I am pleased as punch" to have found and already eaten in their entirety, both cakes. They never stood a chance, really. (And yes, they were as delectable as ever.) Not that it had been years since I was last lucky enough to find/eat this cake, it only seemed like it. Nevertheless, it was still long enough by half for yours truly to be deprived of something so essential to my existence; especially considering that as a cancer patient who was initially diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, you want what you want because you may never be able to want it again. A "13 month to two-year" prognosis will do that to you.

Next week the details of this most fortuitous circumstance which led to this auspicious and memorable occasion. The working/likely title: "As I Was Saying Last Week."

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





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