

CONNECTION

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NEWS

Mosaic ES Named 2022 National Blue Ribbon School

One of only seven schools in Virginia recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Sept. 16, Miguel Cardona, the United States Secretary of Education, named Mosaic Elementary School as one of seven Virginia schools named National Blue Ribbon Schools in 2022. It is a prestigious award that recognizes the efforts of educators, families, and communities in establishing safe, welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

Mosaic Elementary, at 9819 Five Oaks Road in Fairfax, is part of the Fairfax County Public School district.

According to a release from the United States Department of Education, the recognition is based on the schools' overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

"I applaud all the honorees for the 2022 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award for creating vibrant, welcoming, and affirming school communities where students can learn, grow, reach their potential, and achieve their dreams," said Cardona. "As our country continues to recover from the pandemic, we know that our future will only be as strong as the education we provide to all of our children. Blue Ribbon Schools have gone above and beyond to keep students healthy and safe while meeting their academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. These schools show what is possible to make an enduring, positive difference in students' lives."

The Department will present awards to 273 public and 24 private schools in a Wash-



NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL PROGRAM WINNERS 2022 WEBSITE
National Blue Ribbon School badge for Mosaic Elementary

Student Demographics

- Black/African American: 8%
- White: 38%
- Hispanic: 16%
- Asian: 30%
- Two or more races: 8%

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL PROGRAM WINNERS 2022 WEBSITE
Mosaic Elementary School demographics

ington, DC ceremony on Nov. 3 and 4, 2022.

According to its application, Mosaic Elementary School provides a safe, nurturing, student-centered learning environment for all students. The school's credo reflects its 2021 name change. On Feb. 18, 2021, the Fairfax County School Board voted to change the name of Mosby Woods Elementary School to Mosaic Elementary School. The process began in June 2020, and The name



NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL PROGRAM WINNERS 2022 WEBSITE
Mosaic Elementary: celebrating every student and every strength through literacy.

change went into effect on July 1, 2021.

It encapsulates the diverse nature and context of the school. Requoting the final sentences in the application, "Our credo is most eloquently stated by a sixth-grade student: 'We are all different cultures, and then when we are put together, we are a beautiful picture where all belong. In a mosaic, every tile is different, but we celebrate unity.'"

Several critical strategies are implemented at Mosaic to encourage and challenge all students to reach their full potential. According to the application, "Small group instruction, even in our largest classes, makes it possible to meet individual needs and provide necessary enrichment or scaffolding. ...

Students are challenged to extend beyond the required curriculum through Project Based Learning and enrichment activities."

The National Blue Ribbon School flag will grace the school entryway or fly on the flagpole. It is widely recognized as a symbol of exemplary teaching and learning. According to its application, the school's high academic standards are evident in its rigorous and differentiated instructional practices. Mosaic's Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) program empowers students as they problem solve and utilize their mathematical thinking while tackling real-world inspired engineering design challenges.

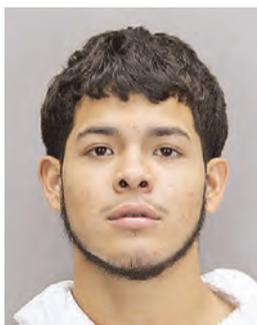
Arrest Made in Woodlawn Homicide

On Tuesday, September 20, detectives from Fairfax County Fugitive Track and Apprehension Unit arrested Kevin Alexander Lemus, 18, of Alexandria. Detectives determined Lemus got into an argument with Darlin Ariel Diaz Flores on Saturday night, according to police. The argument escalated to a physical confrontation. Lemus fatally shot Darlin then ran from the area. Preliminarily, detectives do not believe the two men were known to each other.

Detectives combed through surveillance footage throughout the neighborhood and conducted several interviews which led to identifying Lemus as the shooter. Detectives obtained warrants for second degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. During the arrest of Lemus, no firearm was found. Lemus was taken to the Adult Detention Center and held without bond.

At a news conference on Wednesday morning, Major Edward O'Carroll, Commander of the Major Crimes and Cyber and Forensics Bureaus, said that Lemus had confessed to the murder during an interview at FCPD headquarters, and that Lemus had more than 80 previous contacts with the police. The two teens did not know each other, preliminarily, and the tragic death resulted as the argument between passersby escalated and Lemus was carrying a gun. The weapon has not yet been found.

Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau are investigating a homicide after a 19-year-old was shot outside in an apartment complex in the Woodlawn section of Alexandria. Officers were called at 9:34 p.m. on Sept. 17 to the 8400 block of Graves Street after a community member heard a gunshot and



Kevin Alexander Lemus

saw an individual laying on the sidewalk.

Officers arrived and found Darlin Ariel Diaz Flores of Anandale with gunshot wounds to the upper body. Daiz Flores was transported to Fairfax Hospital with injuries that were considered life threatening. Flores was pronounced deceased at 10:22 p.m.

Preliminarily, detectives believe Diaz Flores was with a group of friends outside of a nearby apartment when a confrontation took place with a passerby. This argument led to the shooting.

Detectives are asking anyone with information regarding this incident to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Arrest for Robberies

In unrelated police news, a 19-year-old Lorton man has been arrested for a series of commercial robberies. According to police reports, at 11:48 a.m. on Aug. 27, a 19-year-old entered the Tobacco Hut, 6844 Franconia Road, Springfield. The suspect assaulted the clerk and took money. Surveillance footage was disseminated, and a detective immediately identified the robber. Detectives obtained a warrant for robbery, and he was arrested on Aug. 31. Through the detective's investigation, the suspect was connected to two other commercial robberies. He was charged with robbery and destruction of property for an Aug. 14 robbery at the Sunoco, 9308 Gunston Cover Road, Lorton, and was also charged with robbery, preventing a 911 call and destruction of property for an Aug. 25 robbery at the 7-Eleven at 9402 Richmond Hwy in Lorton. He remains held without bond at the Adult Detention Center.



Besides Slice of Matchbox executives and staff, also helping cut the ribbon are Fairfax City Council members Sang Yi, Jon Stehle, Janice Miller and Tom Ross; Mayor David Meyer; and Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce members, including Executive Director Jennifer Rose.



From left are Warren Thompson, his wife Danielle and their daughter, Skylar, 19 months, plus Kebba Gaye.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

‘Amazing Food, Phenomenal Atmosphere’

Slice of Matchbox opens in Fairfax City’s Point 50 shopping center.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Slice of Matchbox in Fairfax City is way more than a pizza place. After all, with a menu featuring everything from poke bowls to specialty salads, pasta, pan-seared salmon, burgers and even homemade beignets, diners have a large variety of dishes from which to choose.

It recently opened at 10408 Fairfax Blvd. in the new Point 50 shopping center and is already a hit with area residents. Open Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., and Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., it includes table service and features a social hour, weekdays from 3-7 p.m., where customers may enjoy a special menu plus beer, wine and cocktails.

It’s part of the Matchbox chain of 14 locations in the Washington Metropolitan area and Florida. “This new concept, Slice of Matchbox, specializes in wood-fired pizzas and elevated, American bistro fare with chef-inspired entrees,” said Dnette Nguyen, the City’s assistant economic development director. “It’s a high-energy restaurant with delicious food in a quick, easy setting.”

Speaking at the ribbon cutting, Fairfax Mayor David Meyer told attendees, “You’re about to experience some amazing food in an atmosphere that’s phenomenal. We envision students, friends and families coming here to celebrate victories after high-school football games. It’s a totally cool restaurant that’s fast casual with a twist and will be a place for all generations.”

Stressing that it’s the first Slice of Matchbox anywhere, owner Warren Thompson, president and CEO of Thompson Hospitality,



Roxanne Garcia-Castro with her cheese pizza.

called it “truly a pleasure to be here with my wife, daughter and all of you to share in this special occasion. It’s close to my home, and Fairfax is such a jewel.”

He’s also pleased that his new venture is on a Regency Centers-owned property since he and a Regency CEO attended UVA together. “We wanted to be part of this community,” said Thompson. “And we’re going to be involved with Fairfax High, GMU and the City.”

“We’re looking forward to working with everyone and having a great time,” added Matchbox Operations Director Kebba Gaye.

But day to day, General Manager Odhie Fields is the one making sure things are running smoothly at Slice of Matchbox. “Everyone here works as a team,” he told attendees. “And we want you to have a won-



Sarah A. and Will S. finishing up their sandwiches and fries.

derful time and amazing food. We’re about relationships and community, and we want to be good corporate citizens. Thank you for your support.”

Pleased that his new restaurant is “in the heart of a growing city, next to an Amazon Go store,” Thompson said it’s “a great place to launch a new format of Matchbox. It gives us the ability, where there’s a tight labor market, to offer a quality product in an efficient manner. You don’t need a server waiting on you.”

He said Matchbox is famous for its wood-fired, char-edged, Neapolitan pizza – especially the pepperoni and margherita – and its build-your-own burgers. And what sets it apart, he explained, is that “You can get a great pizza here, but also a delicious poke bowl and brunch all day – including chicken and waffles. And we offer frozen alcoholic drinks, a wide array of beer on tap, wine and liquor.”

SEE SLICE OF MATCHBOX, PAGE 5
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Slice of Matchbox Opens in Fairfax City

FROM PAGE 4

“This is a restaurant developed for all occasions – date night, family outings, lunch and weekend brunch,” continued Thompson. “We wanted this menu to be more expansive to accommodate the whole family on multiple occasions, throughout the month, so we needed to offer more than pizza. And we also have a nice, heated patio, so it’s good for watching football games in the fall, and the bar is accessible from the patio.”

The menu features salads such as apple pear, cobb and barbecue salmon. And besides traditional pizzas, there are also gourmet varieties like chicken pesto, plus fig prosciutto made with fig jam, ricotta truffle sauce, garlic puree, bleu cheese, mozzarella, oregano and prosciutto salt.

There’s a grilled veggie sandwich, as well as a mambo chicken sandwich with a spicy sauce, fried onion rings and honey mustard. And the entrees include chicken fettuccine alfredo, plus fish and chips.

Featured brunch items are the All-American Breakfast with eggs, bacon or sausage, potatoes, a biscuit and strawberries; French toast made from challah bread and topped with strawberries, icing, maple syrup and powdered sugar; a hangover burrito filled with chicken, cilantro rice, black beans and



Odhie Fields holds a margherita pizza.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Beignets with raspberry and chocolate sauces.

ranchero sauce; and chicken and waffles with powdered sugar and maple syrup.

Desserts include the beignets (called do-

nuts on the menu), raspberry white chocolate cheesecake, and a brownie sundae. The children’s menu offers scrambled eggs and fruit, French toast, pancakes, mini burgers, chicken tenders, fries and cheese pizza.

After the ribbon cutting, Fairfax City resident Abby Tam enjoyed the restaurant’s cheese pizza. “It was really good,” she said. “The crust was super crisp – and I love thin crust – and the sauce had a good kick. I also like the atmosphere, and we’ll definitely come back and try other things.”

Having dinner there together were Sarah A. and Will S. Will ate the grilled veggie sandwich with fries. “It had arugula, mushrooms, eggplant, peppers, onions and mozzarella, and I liked the spicy mayo on it,” he said. “I’d recommend this restaurant to other people because it has good food.”

Sarah chose the crispy chicken sandwich and fries. “The food was good, and I liked all the windows and light here,” she said. “The fried chicken was super crunchy, and the fries stayed hot.”

Fairfax’s Roxanne Garcia-Castro was also a fan of the cheese pizza. “It tasted good; I liked the flavor of the sauce, and it was baked really nice – perfectly crisp,” she said. “I’ll return and try one of their breakfast items. I’d recommend this place to others and tell them to come here if they want a delicious meal with great service.”

BULLETIN BOARD

GREENDROP OPENS NEW DONATION CENTER IN FRANCONIA

GreenDrop is opening a new donation center in the Festival at Manchester Lakes shopping center parking lot on Friday, September 9. The donation site will provide Fairfax County residents with a safe and convenient location to donate their gently used items to GreenDrop’s nonprofit partners, the American Red Cross, Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation and the National Federation of the Blind. The Festival at Manchester Lakes donation center is located 7015 Manchester Blvd, Franconia, VA 22310, in the shopping center’s parking lot by the Boardwalk Fries. The donation center will be open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. EST to accept drop offs of lightly used clothing, shoes, blankets, kitchenware, and household goods. These items, in turn, will provide critical funding for GreenDrop’s nonprofit partners. GreenDrop makes it easy to donate clothing and household items at its Festival at Manchester Lakes location. Donors conveniently drive up to the donation center where they are greeted by a GreenDrop attendant who collects the items and asks the donor to indicate the nonprofit they would like their donation to benefit. Donors in return receive a tax deductible receipt. For more information about Green-

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

Drop or to find a donation center near you, visit our website at www.GoGreenDrop.com.

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 for details and to complete an interest form. Or email info@grandinvolve.org.

SEPT. 13 TO NOV. 17

ESL Class. 7-9 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced level English classes. Classes will be in-person or online. Classes will meet twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Books are included in class cost. Email: Heather@andberg.org.

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.fairfax-county.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html. 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 or 703-821-6838.

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

ONGOING

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Fairfax City Celebrates National Dance Day

Young dancers entertained in Fairfax City's Old Town Square, Saturday, Sept. 17, during National Dance Day.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Next Reflex Dance Collective performs "Fly Away," a dance about birds.



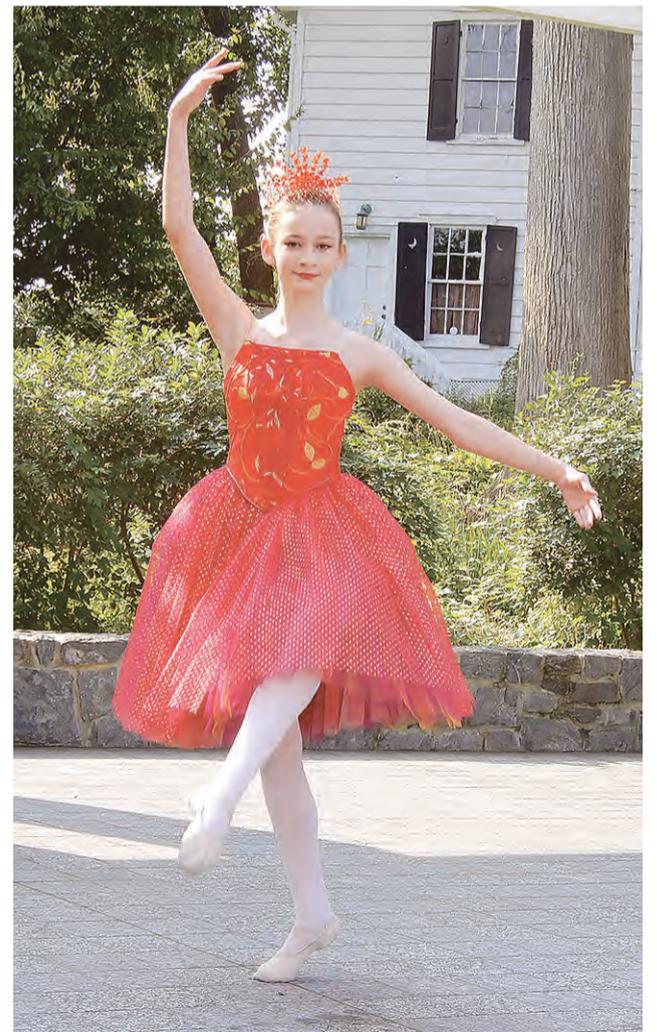
Janeen Hair and daughter Senna, 10, sell commemorative T-shirts to benefit Fairfax City's Commission on the Arts.



Eva Black, Virginia Ballet Co., dances "Seguidilla" from "Don Quixote."



Sophia Ale, Virginia Ballet Co., performs "Bluebird" from "Sleeping Beauty."



Shayla Marciniak, Virginia Ballet Co., doing the "Precious Stones" number from "Sleeping Beauty."

NATIONAL DANCE DAY

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

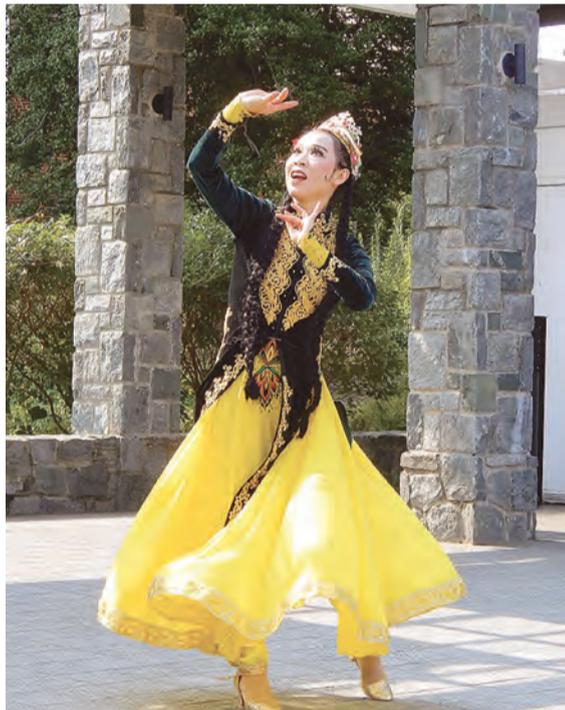


(In no particular order) Virginia Ballet Co.'s Etta Back, Rose Edmiston, Mila Shin, Kahlan Kornes and Anna Sauer perform "Jota," from Spain's Aragon region.

Nora Li, Xuejuan Dance Ensemble, performs "Rain in the Bamboo Forest."



Emily Tucker, Virginia Ballet Co., does the "Spanish Dance" from "Swan Lake."



Fei Qiong, Xuejuan Dance Ensemble, doing "Rose in the Morning."



Susanna Lee, Xuejuan Dance Ensemble, performs "Zanha," about mountains and rivers.



Sarina Li, Xuejuan Dance Ensemble, dances "A Rain of Pear Blossoms."

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22-23 season

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Early stage instars show a different banding pattern and less developed black tentacles in the fore and hind sections than the fifth stage, mature caterpillars



Fifth stage instars in line here may compete aggressively for food



Caterpillars final act secures a silk pad and forms a brilliant green chrysalis with gold and black band



One to two days before the adult butterfly emerges, the chrysalis becomes transparent and the pattern of the butterfly is visible



For several hours after emergence the new butterfly rests, stretching and drying its wings.

Local Gardeners Can Assist Monarchs

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Likely the most recognized species of butterfly in our area, and in 90 countries around the world, is the familiar bright orange, black and white pattern of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The monarch is drawing new attention these days, beyond its bright flight in our gardens. After two decades of hearing of impacts to this migrating species, due to loss of habitat and climate change, in July of this year, the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) added the monarch to their “Red List” of endangered species. However, the monarch is not now protected under U.S. law. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) explained, “In December 2020, after an extensive status assessment ..., we determined that listing the monarch under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded at this time by higher priority listing actions. With this finding, the monarch butterfly becomes a candidate for listing; we will review its status each year until we are able to begin developing a proposal to list the monarch.” Fish and Wildlife further notes, “While monarch viability is declining and is projected to continue declining over the next 60 years, monarchs on the east coast are faring better than those that migrate on the west coast.” In their most recent annual assessment, FWS made no change to the monarch’s status.

The plight of the beloved butterfly has touched area gardeners. Hoping that increased availability of the host plant, on which the monarch depends to lay its eggs and provide ready nourishment for its caterpillars, will make a difference, many local gardeners now plant milkweed. This month the egg deposits of monarchs on those plants are producing an abundance of caterpillars to the delight of all who spot their familiar striped pattern.

Area citizen scientist Jim Waggener’s group has surveyed local flora and fauna for years, watching for monarchs as well as other Mid-Atlantic butterflies and dragonflies. (See Connection, Springfield edition, July 14, 2022: “Citizen Scientists Monitor Ecosystem;” <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2022/jul/13/citizen-scientists-monitor-lortonmason-neck-ecosys/>)

Waggener’s records indicate, “observations of monarchs may become common as early as mid-July, increasing through August, reaching a peak, normally, in September; the likely period of peak occurrence is in the first two weeks of September. Sightings usually remain common through October, with rare records past mid-November. We generally see most monarch caterpillars from mid-August through late September, with isolated reports of caterpillars at least into early October.”

Monarch Life Stages

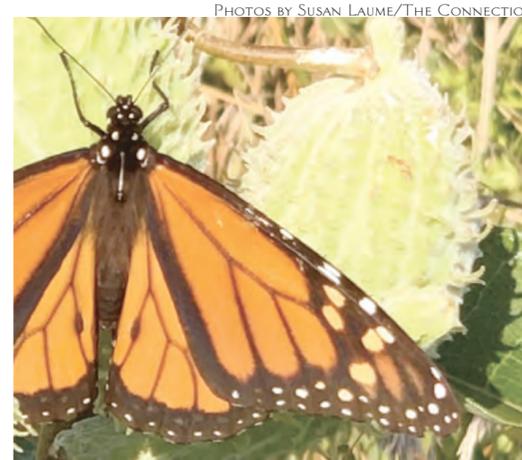
Caterpillar and adult butterfly are the two easiest to spot of the remarkable insects’ four life phases: egg, caterpillar or larva, pupa or



A newly emerged healthy butterfly appears fresh with all microscopic scales intact.

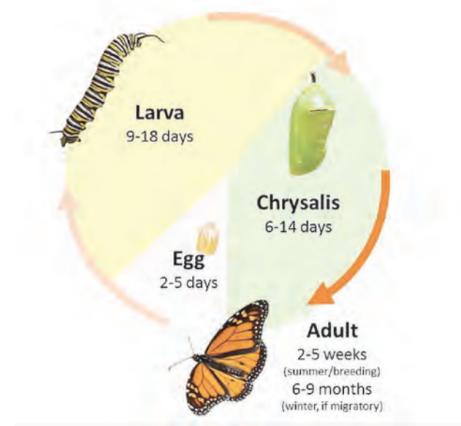
chrysalis, and adult. A mature female monarch secretes a small amount of glue to attach a tiny egg to the underside of a Milkweed leaf. She may mate several times with different males and lay 300-500 eggs in a two to five-week period. Eggs hatch in three to eight days, producing a tiny caterpillar. The caterpillar goes through five molt stages, called

instars, from the Latin word meaning form or likeness; growing larger in each. Each instar also sees changes in coloring and banding pattern, with small front legs forming close to the head, and development of increasingly longer front and back tentacles. Voracious eaters, caterpillars stop feeding and may travel from their food source to a higher point to pupate at the end of the fifth instar.



Adult monarchs, like this male identified by the two spots on his lower wings, can be found in our area between July and November.

During the pupa or chrysalis stage, the caterpillar spins a silk pad, latches onto it and forms a hanging “J” shape. It then sheds its skin a final time to reveal a pale green chrysalis with a slim gold and black band. Inside another seemingly miraculous transformation is taking place. In eight to 15 days, the butterfly is fully formed and ready to emerge. The chrysalis becomes translucent



U.S. DEPT. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Monarch butterfly four stage life cycle

with the orange and black butterfly patterns visible in the last two days before emergence. The new butterfly will stretch and dry its wings for several hours before flying off. The adults become sexually mature in four to five days to begin the next generation and die in about two weeks, after mating. However, Fall Eastern monarchs live about six months and do not reproduce right away, but instead migrate south to Florida or Mexico. Monarchs which emerge in the Fall migrate the thousands of miles south in that single generation. They overwinter there, and then are the first generation of the next year to fly north. It will take four, or even five, generations for the monarchs to complete their

are not deterred. The toxicity level of milkweed can change with temperature and other climate changes. Some gardeners protect their caterpillars by moving them to protected areas. Experts advise caution since removing them from diurnal cycles and temperature fluctuations is thought to impact their migration ability. Use of mesh enclosures kept outside in a protected area, but open to light, wind, and natural temperatures gives a better chance of producing healthy adults than use of plastic or glass habitats inside the house. Mesh butterfly enclosures are readily available for purchase. Experts also warn against purchasing caterpillars from factory farmed butterfly operations since mass production increases the likelihood of introducing parasites. Further “farmed” monarchs mating with native wild insects are believed to produce specimens which are unable to migrate successfully. Providing improved and abundant monarch habitat, by planting native milkweed, remains the best thing one can do to help. Studies by Michigan State University and others have found that monarch caterpillars prefer milkweed plants which are “soft and fresh;” a characteristic of younger plants. Gardeners may attract more egg-laying females by cutting back Milkweed stalks early in the season, in June, to stimulate regrowth of plants in the best condition to attract monarchs when they appear later in the summer. Along with growing Common or Swamp Milkweed host plants, eliminating the use of pesticides and increasing plantings of nectar sources such as purple coneflowers, goldenrod and Joe Pye weed enjoyed by monarchs, also is helpful.

For more information on the FWS’s documentation of monarch monitoring, see <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/monarch-Butterfly-SSA-Report-September-2020.pdf>

COMMENTARY

Uncovered History of Liberty and Justice

BY PAUL GILBERT,
NOVA PARKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Northern Virginia is rich in history, and many of us have visited the best-known sites and feel like we know something about the main stories of the American Revolution and Civil War, but there is so much more just beneath the surface.

Recently an amazing story was discovered at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville. More than seventy years before the Emancipation Proclamation, over five hundred enslaved people were set free and allowed to own land. Robert Carter III was one of the richest people in America when he had a religious awakening that led him to emancipate his enslaved workers in the 1790s. While the direct descendants of those he freed continued to remember this, few others knew these stories. New evidence of this remarkable time has been found at Bull Run Regional Park. And on Juneteenth 2022, these stories were shared, celebrated, and memorialized at the park.

Starting in the 1770s, Robert Carter III adopted the Baptist faith and began building churches. The first was the Bull Run Meeting House, which was open to both black and white people. While predominantly used by the enslaved residents of the area, Carter buried his son in an unmarked grave next to the Bull Run Church.

In the same time period, Carter publicly acknowledged that his enslaved business agent, Billy, was his half-brother. A combination of his relationship with his half-brother Billy, who he viewed as his most trusted advisor, and his religious convictions made it increasingly difficult for him to justify slavery. Carter said, "Whereas I have for some time past been convinced that to retain them in Slavery is contrary to the true principals of Religion and Justice and that therefore it is my duty to emancipate them." Carter then emancipated all of his enslaved workers over a period of a few years, starting with the oldest.

This act of kindness created ripples through time. Ninety years after the Bull Run emancipation, a



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOVA PARKS

New evidence of this remarkable time has been found at Bull Run Regional Park, and on Juneteenth 2022, these stories were shared, celebrated, and memorialized at the park.

What was just an open grassy area in the woods a year ago now tells a compelling story of liberty, justice, education and progress that helps us understand our region and our history.

descendant of those emancipated, Alfred Harris, was also in a position to change history for the better. Harris had grown up at what is today Bull Run Regional Park in the 'freeman community' that had thrived after Carter's action. After the Civil War, Alfred Harris earned a law degree from Howard University, served on the Alexandria City Council, and was then elected to the Virginia House of Delegates representing the Petersburg area. Delegate Harris championed the bill that created the first Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in Virginia. This became Virginia State University. Harris wanted the University open to all people, regardless of race, just as Carter had done with the church. But due to segregation laws, it was initially only open to non-white students.

The positive ripples through time continued when Dr. Gladys West, who graduated from Virginia State University with degrees

in mathematics, went on to play a critical role in the invention of GPS navigation. Would West have had her opportunities without Harris, and would Harris have had his opportunities without Carter?

NOVA Parks historian Paul McCray discovered these and other related stories when he started researching a site in the woods that was known as the Harris family cemetery. Little was known about this site. Old maps confirmed that this was the site of the old Bull Run Church, although no structure remains. Ground penetrating radar found over 90 graves, most of them unmarked. The size of this cemetery sheds light on the size of the community that used this church during the roughly fifty years it was active.

The Juneteenth event on June 18, 2022, where these stories were unveiled, was a partnership

SEE UNCOVERED HISTORY,
PAGE 11

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COMMENTARY



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOVA PARKS

Robert Carter III was one of the richest people in America when he had a religious awakening that led him to emancipate his enslaved workers in Fairfax County in the 1790s.

Uncovered History of Liberty and Justice

FROM PAGE 10

between the Fairfax Branch of the NAACP and NOVA Parks. The NAACP's Youth Council played a central role in leading the program. Karen Champblin, President of the Fairfax Branch of the NAACP, remarked, "It is historical narratives such as this, and many more untold stories, that must be shared to highlight the contributions from the black community, and all communities, that helped shape Virginia today. The Fairfax County NAACP values our partnership with NOVA Parks and appreciates their research into this important and unknown local history."

In the process of these discoveries from over 200 years ago, NOVA

Parks re-discovered that the Harris family donated the land that is now the site of Atlantis Waterpark in 1963. It is next to the waterpark, which is enjoyed by over 50,000 people a year, on the land generously donated by the Harris family, where you will now find interpretive signs that tell some of these stories. And from this point, you can follow the trail to the historic cemetery that stands as a monument to a free community from over 200 years ago.

What was just an open grassy area in the woods a year ago is now this area that tells a compelling story of liberty, justice, education, and progress that helps us understand our region and our history.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

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.

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, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

Docents Needed. Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Rail-

road Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

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 or 703-324-4547.

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Docent Patricia Wirth greets three bus loads of General Federation of Women's Clubs members for a guided tour of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial on Aug. 19.



International federation president Debra Strahanoski, of Illinois (right) and Nancy Ames, of Maine, reenact the suffragist's 1917 position before the White House fence.

Federation of Women's Clubs Visits Suffragist Memorial

Group's donations helped build the site.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

A week ahead of Women's Equality Day, members who serve on the boards of their respective states' General Federation of Women's Clubs and their national board of directors, visited the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial at Occoquan Regional Park (9751 Ox Road, Lorton). This year marks the 102nd anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote, celebrated on Aug. 26.

The 160 club leaders from across the country came to experience the memorial that their donation of \$60,000 helped to build, and to contribute again this year to the site's on-going maintenance costs. Their visit was a highlight of the national board of directors conference held in the District of Columbia over several days.

The outdoor memorial, dedicated in May 2021, is open for free, self-guided tours during the park's normal hours of operation. The park recently added docent-led tours for groups of 10 or more people, which can be scheduled for a modest fee. Docents Patricia Wirth and Kathleen Pablo, both heavily involved with creating the memorial, are likely to lead groups dressed in period attire and sashes employed by suffragists in colors of purple, gold, and white. (See <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/turning-point-suffragist-memorial>)

The memorial evokes the 1917 setting at the White House gate where women were



Linda O'Toole, Mary Powell, Jolie Frankfurth, Candy Aubin, all of Florida, "feel good about their financial contribution" to the memorial.

the first to protest outside the White House. A 24-foot artifact section of the iron fence, in service during their demonstrations, is embedded there. The memorial includes the names of all of the suffragists who were jailed in 1917 for that protest. Those women were kept in harsh conditions at the nearby Occoquan Prison where many were beaten and brutalized. Their poor treatment became the "turning point" of national sentiment for the women's movement, from which the memorial takes its name. More than five million American women, from coast to coast, participated in the suffrage movement for more than seven decades. Their stories are reported on 19 information stations, with dozens of pictures and graphics, within the grounds.

Then Federation of Women's Clubs international president Mary Ellen Brock de-



The outdoor Turning Point Suffragist Memorial incorporates quiet gardening educational elements for learning of women's struggle for the right to vote in the United States.

"It's emotional for me, and quite humbling. I brought my daughter who had no idea how women got the vote."

— Jolie Frankfurth of Florida

livered a speech during the 2019 groundbreaking ceremony. Current international president, Debra Strahanoski lead the group visiting this year announcing the group's pledge of an up-keep donation, saying "My organization made this happen. We are so very grateful." Donations from individuals and groups around the country, as well as from Virginia State and Fairfax County,



Beth Smith former Federation of Women's Clubs state club president for Tennessee kisses her club's donation acknowledgement on the donor wall.

funded the memorial completed in 2021. A Donor Wall lists the memorial's major donors, including the substantial donations from many GFWC state clubs. A list of past donors can be seen at <https://suffragistmemorial.org/donors/>.

Federation members watched the building of the memorial through photographs from afar. Actually touring the site, the women praised the completed memorial.

Linda Kreussling of New York called it "very impressive."

Jolie Frankfurth of Florida explained, "It's emotional for me, and quite humbling. I brought my daughter who had no idea how women got the vote. It made me feel good about my financial contribution."



The smooth and glossy white porcelain tile striated with subtle shades of grey mimics the look of marble.



Durable fabrics in neutral colors add a modern and airy appeal to the living room.

PHOTOS BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Inside a Modernized Townhouse

Designer transforms an outdated home into a modern and elegant space for entertaining and family.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When a retired couple with adult children and young grandchildren took a look around their home, they were slightly embarrassed by what they saw. It was an outdated structure that was stuck in the 1980s and needed to be transplanted to 2022. They tasked Chantilly based inte-

rior designer Sallie Lord of Grey Hunt Interiors with the undertaking.

“Our clients wanted to update every aspect of their home from opening up walls to a new more functional kitchen and primary first floor bathroom,” said Lord. “They wanted to have a space to entertain family and friends often, but still feel cozy enough for the two of them.”

The effort to modernize the

home included not only adding updated furnishings and accessories, but also incorporating some of the client’s existing treasures into the design.

“We refinished the dining table, and repainted the kitchen table and chairs, along with the china cabinet,” said Lord. “We kept the tree root table that already belonged to the client, but gave it a completely different life and look.”

The overstuffed furniture in the living room and family room were replaced with sleek seating upholstered with fabric that would accommodate the grandchildren.

Part of the overhaul included a subtle altering of the home’s floor plan. Lord worked with Velasquez

Group Construction & Design, Inc of Manassas and Cornerstone Kitchen and Bath to create a plan that included removing walls to create a light, airy and free flowing space. The cabinet-front appliances that are in the home’s new kitchen are consistent with the sleek and modern look that homeowners desired.

“We were able to maximize the storage space, open it up and make it have real visual purpose and function,” said Lord. “The kitchen looks larger and more connected to the rest of the home.”

The once out-of-date master bathroom is now elegant and serene. Lord was able to incorporate accessories that would add an el-

ement of safety for the couple, who are now in their 70s, without compromising style. On the walls of the new bathroom is a smooth and glossy white porcelain tile. It’s striated with subtle shades of grey that mimics the look of marble.

“[Porcelain] is better because it isn’t as porous as marble and it won’t stain as much, but still gives it that luxe look,” said Lord. “It became a gorgeous functional bathroom that is connected to the master bedroom to create a romantic retreat.”

The end result of the overhaul is a space that is both comforting and welcoming, says Lord. “Now they are proud to entertain friends.”

In honor of Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month, PRS and Volunteer Fairfax volunteers joined together to make care packages for PRS’ crisis workers. PRS is a nonprofit that operates the regional crisis call center and its trained crisis workers are the heroes who help save lives by fielding the calls, texts, and emails from the crisis hotline. PRS’ Sami Smyth, Fairfax County Supervisor Dalia Palchik, and Volunteer Fairfax Board President VJ Bala participate in the care package volunteer event.



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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 108.5', 111.5', 111.9', and 114.9') on the building at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA (20221021). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties

Announcements

Mount Zoar Baptist Church at Centreville, VA is seeking a General Contractor to complete the Construction of their new Sanctuary. Interested Contractors should email their company information including name, email address and phone number to rspruill@nmzoar.org, or call phone number 240-804-7388 with your information. We will send the construction documents and the invitation for the Pre-bid meeting and walk through that is coming up soon.

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition. At Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach. At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria,

THROUGH-NOV. 15

Fruit Sale Signup. 7-11 p.m. Signup now for Fairfax Lions notices and discounts for Lions Club Fruit Sales in November and December. They sell fresh Florida oranges, mandarins, grapefruit, maple syrup, peanuts to raise funds for charity. Website: <https://www.fairfaxlions.org/citrus-sale-notification/>

SEPT. 13 TO NOV. 17

ESL Class. 7-9 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced level English classes. Classes will be in-person or online. Classes will meet twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Books are included in class cost.

FAIRFAX ALLIANCE FOR BETTER BICYCLING (FABB)

Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a volunteer-led organization working to make bicycling fun, safe, and accessible for people of all ages in Fairfax County. Since 2005 FABB volunteers have been an effective voice among local and state transportation professionals, elected officials, and community advocates and leaders. FABB works tirelessly towards the goal of making bicycling transportation safe, accessible, and commonplace in Fairfax County for all ages, abilities, and skill levels. For more information: <https://fabb-bikes.org>.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

Horror Film Screening. 7-10 p.m. At Cinema Arts Theater, 9650 Main Street, Fairfax. Two spellbinding films from 1973 shown on the big screen, 'Fantastic Planet' and 'The Wicker Man.' Tickets must be purchased in advance. Each ticket includes a custom screen-print poster.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

Cocktails by Candlelight. 6-9 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Sip on period cocktails and sample historic foods. Situated in the heart of the historic property, this event offers the perfect opportunity to relax with friends and loved ones. Plus, you'll experience the serenity of Mason Neck during an exclusive candlelight tour. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/>

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

Commemoration of Founding of the Fairfax Independent Company of Volunteers. 2-3 p.m. Outside Historic Fairfax Courthouse, 4110 Chain Bridge Road Fairfax. The Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will hold its inaugural commemoration of the Founding of the Fairfax Independent Company of Volunteers. The Company was an independent militia established by George Mason on September 21, 1774 and commanded by George Washington. No admission.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

NoBS! Brass. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16 Rizer Pavilion, Lorton. Each NoBS! Brass performance is a perfect balance of raw exuberance, and highly refined polish. A typical NoBS! Brass set consists primarily of original songs, as well as one or two familiar



Kristin Chenoweth will appear at GMU Center for the Arts on Saturday, Sept. 24 in Fairfax.

Kristin Chenoweth

5 p.m. At George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, GMU Campus, Fairfax. Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress and singer Kristin Chenoweth makes her Center for the Arts debut in a one-night-only performance, as part of ARTS by George! Tickets are \$125, \$85, \$65

cover songs. Visit workhousearts.org/onstage.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

2022 ARTS by George. 5 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. This annual benefit event supports student scholarships at George Mason University's College of Visual and Performing Arts, Mason Community Arts Academy, Green Machine Ensembles, and the Great Performances at Mason season at the Center for the Arts. ARTS by George! has raised more than \$2 million since it began in 2006. The evening begins by showcasing the remarkable talents of Mason students amid an array of spectacular food and beverages and culminates with a performance by Kristin Chenoweth in the Center for the Arts. Visit cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Peruvian Coffee Showcase. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Chloez Cafe, 5622 Ox Road, Unit F, Fairfax Station. Allpa Foods will be providing the coffee beans for Chloez Cafe to serve during their awesome brunch. They will be showcasing Peruvian coffee for this day only so come on by and support two locally owned businesses!

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

SEPT. 24-25

Professional Bull Riders. At EagleBank Arena in Fairfax. For two nights only, some of the best bull riders in the world will battle the sport's rankest bovine athletes in the ultimate showdown of man vs. beast in a new series showcasing one of the most exciting live sporting events to witness.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

Burke Historical Society. 3 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Sue Kovach Shuman will discuss the history of the Mantua community, from the Northern Neck Proprietary to the present day, as documented in her recently published book for the Images of America series.

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

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

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

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

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

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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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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