

CONNECTION

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Lorton Lidl Opens

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farm
fresh



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Lorton Lidl store manager Ron Cole has been with Lidl for two years, and has more than 20 years experience in the grocery business. "We are happy to be here to serve the community."

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

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THEATER

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



The Addams Family is finally together. Fin McCahill is Gomez, Elena Wear is Morticia, Ky Davis is Wednesday, Evelyn Archer is Pugsly, Jonah Hilbert is Lurch and Jack St. Pierre is Uncle Fester.

Kooky and Spooky Addams Family at Metropolitan School of the Arts

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Addams Family goes into a panic when the secret gets out that Wednesday is marrying an outsider, spurring high gothic comedy with singing, dancing and truth potions in the “The Addams Family” at the Metropolitan Dance Studio in Kingstowne.

“Pugsly is really upset,” said Cady Denk, a member of the normal “Beinekes,” family that will soon be related to the Addams. She plays a girl named Alice who drinks a truth potion and finds out that “in a way, they’re weirdness is a good thing,” Cady said.

Justin Roach is Mal Beinekes, the father of the groom and he has issues. Mal takes charge at first but is quickly shut down by the others. “We’re seen as the normal family,” said Cady.

On the other side, the Addams, led by a dark set of parents, wacky siblings with hints of a 1960s sitcom stars Carolyn Jones and John Astin as television’s original Morticia and Gomez. On the series, they lived at 0001 Cemetery Lane and they had a Cousin Itt who was covered in floor length hair and a bowler hat. Although there was a later Addams Family movie and a cartoon, the production at Metropolitan follows the original television show, sort of.

The short production schedule is part of the fun for this summer feature starring 29 youth actors from Metropolitan School of the Arts and surrounding high schools, supported by their 12-piece mentoring orchestra. “Those kids had to come in, ready to go,” said Tom Pedersen, the Postgraduate Program Director at the Metropolitan School of the Arts. “We’re all learn-



Ky Davis who stars as Wednesday Addams

If you go...

“The Addams Family”
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, AUG. 11 AND 12.
Church of Good Shepherd
9350 Braddock Road, Burke

ing it together,” he said on the first day of practice. The dance class had 10 days to pull it all together before the curtain drops at the Church of Good Shepherd in Burke on Aug. 11 and 12.

“My dad is coming to both shows and bringing other family members,” said Ky Davis who stars as Wednesday Addams. Davis is a Kingstowne resident who graduated from the Metropolitan Academy in June and will be heading to Elon College in the fall where she’ll study musical theater. Roach is also a graduate of Metropolitan, who’s heading to Syracuse University.

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NEWS

Does FCPS Have Enough Air Purifiers?

Deadline passed for more free help for classroom air.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Time ran out Monday, July 31, for schools in Virginia and across the United States to access free portable certified, High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) air purifiers through a state-run, federally-funded grant program.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention distributed \$62 million to Virginia, part of billions across the country. The program, which started as a strategy to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infections, was overseen by the Virginia Department of Health.

While COVID-19 emphasized the importance of improving school indoor air quality to help prevent disease and avoid disrup-

tions to education, air filtration at optimized levels is a critical part of a multilayered strategy to enhance and protect educational opportunities through healthy environments.

"Two separate programs" for air purifiers were available to schools, said Maria Reppas of the Virginia Health Department, adding the Virginia Department of Health offered the opportunity and the funds to Virginia schools to purchase the air filters. Many schools chose to participate, while others did not. Local school districts made the decision on how many air filters to get. Fairfax County Public Schools received "2,200 units, which is the amount they requested," Reppas said.

FCPS reports online that 198 schools and centers serve a diverse population of more than 181,000 students in grades prekindergarten through 12.

This number of air purifiers amounts to about 10 per school. Other school districts have taken a different approach. The Erie County Department of Health purchased 10,600 air filtration units last year for every k-12 public and charter classroom in Erie

County, where there are about 130,000 students in the system.

Keri Rodrigues Langan is co-founder and president of the National Parents Union. She said on Friday, July 28, the Centers for Disease Control released updated guidelines around what air filtration is supposed to look like. Rodrigues Langan stressed that it is not just about COVID-19 anymore. The air quality is a concern, "terrible because of the wildfires."

The values of the Air Quality Index (AQI) correlate with levels of health concern. The EPA represents air quality with six colors, ranging from green, which indicates good air quality conditions, to yellow, orange (unhealthy for sensitive groups, including young children and older people), and red (unhealthy for all). Then as conditions worsen, purple, which is very unhealthy, and maroon for hazardous.

"At the end of June, I saw [parts of Fairfax County] were in the purple. This is something that is not going to go away; it is not a one-time thing. What is going to end up happening is that air quality is going to deter-

riorate," Rodrigues Langan asserted.

"When we were in COVID, people were trying to guess: should we close schools, should we open, what about [distancing], six feet, three feet, all of this stuff? School administrators are not doctors. They're not epidemiologists. And frankly, they're not indoor air quality experts," she said.

FCPS responded in an email on Monday, July 31, that it had "maximized the benefits of the HEPA air purifier program and procured as many air purifiers as our system was able to afford or practically accommodate in terms of space availability."

"While the individual air purifiers may be technically free of charge under this program, each unit carries with it operational costs (maintenance, running costs, space constraints) that can run into the millions," said Kathleen Miller, media outreach specialist at FCPS, in an email.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states in its Reference Guide for Indoor Air Quality in

SEE CLEAN AIR IN FCPS, PAGE 12

This Summer, We All Scream for Ice Cream

Bruster's Ice Cream set to open next month in Hilltop Shopping Center.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Getting "brain freeze," from drinking an icy beverage in the summertime is a right of passage for many, whether it be a Slurpee from 7-11, Pina Colada or a frappuccino coffee drink.

When Bruster's Real Ice Cream opens next month in Hilltop Shopping Center there will be another option they call the "Brain Freeze," that's made with sherbert.

That will just be one of the options this newcomer in the local ice cream world has to offer. Bruster's is a newcomer to the Hilltop area of Alexandria, but they've been around up in Pennsylvania for a while.

A passerby was fully versed in Bruster's dishes from her experience in Pennsylvania. "I love it," she said, "the chocolate peanut butter something, that's my go-to," she said. In fact, there are lot's of concoctions they make including shakes, sundaes and waffle cones.

Franchise owners Jim and Jessica Winland are racing against the summer to get their store open before fall comes. While looking at a franchise to open, they noticed there weren't many places to get good ice cream around the south county near Fort Belvoir. "It was hard to find good old ice cream," Jim Winland said. Their ice cream is a premium, hand-dipped variety.

Jim was in the Army and liked the fact that the Hilltop location is just outside Fort Belvoir. During the week, lots of workers from Belvoir and offices nearby flock to the Hilltop center to eat at the Wegmans, The Green Turtle or the Mission Barbecue restaurant so



There will be three walk-up windows when Bruster's Ice Cream opens.

Bruster's

Hilltop Village Center in Kingstowne
6463 Old Beulah St, Alexandria, VA 22315
571-223-6822
Will Be Open daily 11am-10pm

the ice cream will be an option too. "This is a lunch destination," he said.

At Bruster's they offer 24 flavors of premium ice cream that has a certain level of butterfat in it, and they have three walk-up windows that will cater to the mobile diners.



Get the scoop at Bruster's.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



Franchise owners Jim and Jessica Winland with daughter Manuella, age 7. They are racing to get their shop open while it's still summer.



Fifteen year employee Jorge Maldonado, of Fairfax, stands at a wet-well access pipe while completing a weekly inspection of the Workhouse Road pumping station.



Hundreds of miles of sewer pipes are inspected annually with cameras, sensors, and lasers to assess pipe condition, sometimes requiring entry into the system to retrieve entangled equipment



Deep below, sewage under pressure is flowing to the station's tank to be pumped to the next high point, so gravity can assist the movement toward the treatment plant

Pumping Wastewater for Clean Water

The unseen system that completes the circle.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

You've likely seen these small, sometimes larger, unassuming buildings, or sometimes just a fenced cabinet, near your home. There'll be a discrete sign identifying them — pumping stations. They are part of Fairfax County's wastewater collection and treatment system. Have you ever wondered exactly what's inside and how the system works? Here is a look at this part of Fairfax County's wastewater infrastructure.

The Wastewater System

The wastewater system, one of the largest in the country, serves over a quarter of a million customer accounts, protecting public health by treating wastewater to meet or exceed state and federal water quality standards, and once cleaned, releasing it back into the region's waterways. What is wastewater? It's the water used in households and businesses that comes from drains, sinks, bathtubs, showers and toilets. Since the earth's water system is closed, meaning we have all the water on earth we will ever have, this wastewater is cleaned for continual reuse. Stormwater, from rain and snow, moves through a separate system, cleaned by soil's natural filtration.

In order for wastewater to be cleaned, it must be collected. That's what about 3,300 miles of sewer pipes and 63 pumping stations accomplish every day of every year, round the clock. About 100 million gallons is conveyed through the pipe network daily. The majority moves through use of gravity sewer, using the energy that results from a difference in elevation, to move the flow. Most sewers are gravity sewers because they offer dependable movement of the water

with no energy costs wherever the grades are favorable. This is the reason one often sees sewage manholes along stream beds, as all water naturally moves to the low points of topography. The system uses pressure pipe meaning the water is always full and flowing, and at a speed that keeps solid waste moving without creating blockages. Wastewater moves under pressure, by gravity, to a low point where there's a pumping station to move the wastewater to another high point. Eventually, the wastewater moves to one of five wastewater treatment plants. The Noman T. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant is owned and operated by Fairfax County. (For more on the Cole treatment plant, see "Local Naturalists Tour Cole Pollution Control Plant", Mount Vernon Gazette, Oct 14-20, 2022.)

Pumping Stations

Crews from the pumping station branch of the county's Wastewater Division visit the pumping stations weekly to perform inspections. There are 26 employees in the branch involved with the inspections, including mechanics, instrumentation technicians and electricians. They check to assure the pumps, located deep underground, 10 to 50 feet depending on location, are working and the wastewater is flowing without obstructions. They clean and sanitize the pipe entries into the main pipe system's wet-well. They also check the operation of the above ground generators which are used to keep the pumps working in the event of a power outage. While one might expect unpleasant odors from the large wet-well access pipes, only a mild aroma of pine-sol cleaner is detectable from the regular cleaning regimen. Carbon filters scrub air at stations located close to backyards.

Two new pump stations are in the design

phase, five pump stations are currently undergoing rehabilitation, and 15 are in various phases of design for rehabilitation. Customers pay for the sewer base system and service usage as part of their water bill received quarterly, not through taxes.

The Pipe System

The pipe system, too, is inspected regularly. Employees conducting inspections fall under a separate management branch under the Wastewater Division. With so many thousands of miles of piping, inspections can cover only about 250 to 300 miles of the 3,300 total each year. Six in-house crews, sometimes supplemented with contract help, use cameras, multi-sensors and lasers, to see below the flow line and assess pipe conditions to determine if upgrades are needed.

Making new sewer connections which are needed at a distance from existing county main piping, is no small task to accomplish. Consider the new rest room facility being built at Laurel Hill Park's Central Green in Lorton. Contractors are working now to connect new pressure piping to the nearest sewer line connection point. They are using a boring method, accomplished using ditch witch machinery. This method avoids having to open a trench and disrupt Lorton Road to lay pipe to connect the new line to the nearest pressure piping and pumping station. The work is slow, requiring several test pits to assure that pipe is laid near, but without disturbing or damaging, existing gas lines. Work started near the Workhouse Road pumping station and has continued for more than two months with piping now approaching the new restroom facility. When the line connection and building construction is completed next year, the park will have full restroom facilities.

These unpretentious pumping sites, miles of pipeline, and the crews who maintain the

Do Not Flush or Put in Drains:

- Fats, Oils, Grease
- Medicines or other pharmaceuticals
- Baby wipes or disinfectant wipes, even if they are labeled "flushable"
- Rags, cloth or clothing
- Sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms
- Cotton swabs
- Napkins or paper towels
- Contact lenses
- Plastic
- Food items
- Hair
- Diapers (cloth, disposable or "flushable")
- Facial tissues
- Dental floss
- Limit or eliminate your garbage disposal use, instead compost food waste items

system are parts of a huge, but little thought of complex, that makes life easy and pleasant. There are a few things each of us can do to help the 134 employees in the wastewater division to keep the system flowing smoothly, says director Shwan Fata. In addition to remembering what things should not be flushed or poured into drains, Fata asks if you see or smell anything abnormal happening with the system, call the 24 hour Trouble Response Center at 703 323-1211, where employees are dispatch ready to handle those issues that start at the curb connection.

For more on the county's wastewater treatment system, see The Connection, "Down the Toilet. Down the Drain. Then What?", Dec 22-28, 2022.

CONSERVATORY

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS



Cutting the ribbon are (from left) Tess Rollins, Gretchen and Hansel Buckingham, Catherine Read and Doug Church.



Doug Church and Catherine Read in one of the practice rooms.

'Tranquil Space for People to Learn Music'

Fairfax Conservatory of Music expands its studio.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When Gretchen Sterling Buckingham first began teaching music in 2009, she drove to people's homes to give them lessons. She later taught students in her home before she and her husband Hansel opened their studio, Sterling Conservatory of Music, in Fairfax City.

Hansel had been in the military; and when he left, he used his retirement money to buy the musical instruments and equipment they'd need for their new venture at 10341-B Democracy Lane. Their faculty members are Grammy-winning, international performers with Carnegie Hall experience. And they now have more than 100 students – mainly adults – although the overall age range is 4-80.

"We have lots of retirees and government workers," said Hansel. "And we're excited that our business is growing." In fact, it's doing so well that the Buckinghams have re-branded its name to Fairfax Conservatory of Music and expanded their studio downstairs into 10333-B Democracy Lane – so Fairfax Conservatory of Music occupies both floors of the building.

At the recent ribbon cutting celebrating their expansion, Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read told the couple, "We're delighted to have you here. I'm amazed that you have mostly adult students – that gives people hope that you can do a government job during the day and play music at night."

"Music feeds your soul," she continued. "We hope you have a wonderful experience here and find a warm welcome. Thank you so much for choosing Fairfax City. I'm impressed with how you've grown your business and the caliber of teachers you're attracting."

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Chairman Doug Church called the new studio space "magnificent." And Tess Rollins, executive director of the Old Town Fairfax



Gretchen Buckingham playing the piano.



From left, an antique sitar and an antique phonograph.

Business Assn., said she was a former vocalist and cellist.

"Music speaks to everybody and connects the community together, and that's what I love," she said. "And we hope we can connect and collaborate with you and the other businesses here."

"It's been a long journey for us, and we're grateful for all the City has done for us," said Gretchen. "We hired high-quality instructors and wanted to create a tranquil space for people to learn and to tap into that other side of themselves."

"We're different from most studios because we offer a more informal environment," added Hansel. "We created a relaxing atmosphere by having rooms with chimneys, fireplaces, couches and antiques. Our students feel like they're in someone's house because we wanted our studio to be fun. We're here for people who love music; we want to enrich them as artists."

Fairfax Conservatory of Music doesn't currently offer brass or woodwind instruments, but it does teach piano, violin/viola, guitar, vocals, performing arts and music production. There are five grand pianos, including a concert grand Steinway and a semi-concert grand, and even an antique harpsichord.

The studio provides artistic, personalized lessons to students of all levels of experience and musical backgrounds, with an emphasis on creative learning and technique. And it also has a music lab/vocal booth.

"All our teachers are still active performers, so they stay on top of their game," said Han-



From left, Chamber of Commerce member Paul Dellapenta and Hansel Buckingham in a guitar room.

sel. "And we integrate technology, so we're not just another place to learn music. For example, we have an interactive Woojer-brand vest to assist students with tempo. When they wear it, they can feel the beat of the music."

"We partnered with a huge recording studio, Shuman Studios, where our students can record, if they want. And I also teach students how to publicize themselves and move up in the music industry." In addition, Fairfax Conservatory of Music holds workshops, enrichment courses and summer camps.

"Our students make friends with people

they might not have met, otherwise," said Gretchen. "They network with others to create a community that interacts with and feeds off of each other."

And besides the music lessons, said Hansel, "We offer adult soirees in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. Students can perform or not, and then we talk about their performances and the composers whose pieces they played. We also hold recitals in January and June and focus on each student's artistic development."

He said the instructors demonstrate various styles of teaching and discuss with the students which style and teacher is best for each of them. "We appeal to their senses, as well," said Hansel. "For example, we could turn on a blue accent light to remind a student of a particular part of a song they're trying to learn. Gretchen also uses scents. The more we can stimulate the students' senses, the more they can retain the music."

After the ribbon cutting, attendees toured the studio and were treated to vocal and piano performances by Gretchen and another teacher. Mayor Read then told the Buckinghams, "It looks and feels like a music conservatory in here. It's a unique business and a safe space to learn where you build your students' confidence and musical abilities."

Students may play any genre of music they desire and may book lessons, seven days a week, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, go to www.scmusicarts.com/. To inquire about lessons, email music@scmusicarts.com or call 571-659-1954.

Long Awaited Lidl Opens in Lorton

Store commits to bond with community.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

With the festive feel of a block party, Lidl opened the doors to its newest store in Lorton for a two hour preview a day before opening for business on Wednesday last week. Located on the grounds of the former Lorton prison in the new Liberty development area, the store anchors a smattering of new businesses: Taco Rock & Tequila Bar, Petite Smiles, Yada, Always Polish'd, and Ledo Pizza. The first store to open in the center, Lidl took advantage of the space to offer bounce houses, face painting, and free hot dogs in the parking lot. Many customers returned early the next morning for the official ribbon cutting and start of grocery sales. By the 8 a.m. opening time, the parking lot was full with the line snaking past the store front and other shops as customers waited to shop and hoped to receive give-away items.

Addressing the crowd before cutting the ribbon, store manager Ron Cole welcomed all to the store. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck recalled moments, eight years ago, when community members first started looking at the possibilities for the former prison area. With several new housing developments on and close-by the former prison grounds now, Storck expressed gratitude that Lidl had endured the process and difficulties of developing within a historic site and construction during COVID to bring the grocery to the community.

Lidl starts its Lorton presence making a bond with the community and a commitment to help; not just throwing a block party. They have committed a dollar for each download of their app when a person selects Lorton as their home store as a donation to the nearby Lorton Community Action Center food pantry. In addition, they have named the pantry as their local partner. Any food overstock not sold at the store, but still within recommended use dates, will be donated to the pantry.

Lidl, the German grocery store company with the name that's puzzling to pronounce, is a quickly growing chain with headquarters in Arlington. With 150 stores throughout the east coast of the United States opened since 2015, it operates globally with stores in 32 countries. They say that their "suspiciously low prices" not only offer high quality at low prices, but that they bring down prices at other stores, as a result of the competition they provide.

Their layout model includes center aisles of non-food merchandise bargains. Restocking of those items every Wednesday, means one can often find some new bargain you didn't know you had to have; anything from sweatpants to cast iron cookware, and seasonal items.



First in line at 4 a.m. for the 8 a.m. Wednesday opening, Mike Maloney, who received a \$100 gift card and a bouquet of flowers for his effort, was joined between 4:15a.m. and 5:30 a.m. by Najlah Masri, Victoria Graham, and her neighbor Sandy Middle, all hoping for gift cards and to see for themselves "all the good things heard about."



Michelle Kochosky, who cooks most of the family meals, her husband Matthew, who carries the shopping bags, Mia, who enjoys making dog treats and cakes for other people's pets, and Drake the family breakfast chef, says Michelle, "love Lidl and we're excited we have one in Lorton."



Lidl spokesperson Chandler Spivey helped customers locate areas around the store including their middle aisle where non-grocery bargains are renewed each Wednesday, often including seasonal items, like these school supplies

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



One of Lidl's two food trucks, which travel around the east coast for events such as openings, was on-site at the block party serving up complimentary hot dogs.



Rossana Hunt, says, "love that Lidl is here and all the fresh produce." She made a middle aisle 'find' she wants to take home, a cute friend who seems to share her enjoyment of fresh produce.



New store manager Ron Cole has been with Lidl for two years, and has more than 20 years experience in the grocery business. "We are happy to be here to serve the community."



Olivia Merino, 7 and going into 2nd grade at Greentree Elementary, finds it easy to smile about her painted heart face, especially when standing in front of two of her favorite ice creams.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 7

LIDL OPENS

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Noah Mikyas, 7 and going into 2nd grade at Nativity Catholic School, channels his inner Broadway character created by a face painting artist from Lambert Bounce Parties



Steve and Sandy Vann, who were stationed with the military in Germany and shopped in Lidl stores while there, said, "We're excited for this to come and definitely to get German and International products we recall from our time there."



Natalie Joshi, after waiting for 2 1/2 years, is "thrilled with the variety, especially of the meats and seafood, and with seeing things I used to get when I was living in Europe. I have a feeling I'm going to gain weight."



Sara Carter, Spring Hill, describes the store as "very organized, clean, and decent prices."



Lidl Lorton's opening preview hours felt like a block party with bounce houses, face painting, and nearby neighbors gathering to celebrate the long awaited store opening

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and Arlington counties.

Swim School Opening in Central Springfield

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Big Blue will offer year-round swim lessons.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

With the face of Springfield Plaza under a major transformation, a newcomer to the scene is the Big Blue Swim School, nestled between Malek's Pizza and a wedding dress shop. Big Blue opens Aug. 7.

The new company offers four levels of swim lessons from the "Baby Blue," at one end for children three months to three years, to the "Big Blue," for six years and up. Their mission statement is to show kids they can do anything by unlocking their full potential in the water, and this teaching is entirely through swimming lessons.

The CEO at the Springfield location will be Olympic swimmer Tom Dolan of Arlington. Dolan graduated from Yorktown High School and then Michigan State. He won Olympic swimming gold medals in 1996 in Atlanta and in 2000 in Australia.

Dolan knows how valuable it is to be able to swim.

"It's a life-saving skill," Dolan said, of teaching children to swim. It's also "an activity for kids that gets them out socializing."

After his retirement, he dedicated his time to showing kids they can unlock their full potential in the water. "As both a swimmer and a father, I have a lifelong passion for swimming," says Dolan, CEO of Level 5 Swim and franchise owner of Big Blue Swim School.

"Every child should learn how to swim. ... We aim to share the importance of water safety and the fun of swimming."

Big Blue first opened in 2009 and has locations in various states throughout the country. They partner with the USA Swimming Foundation and the United States Swim Schools Association. Other nearby Big Blue Swim Schools are in Dulles, Chantilly, Falls Church and Fairfax.

This addition of an indoor swimming lessons space will join the new Whole Foods which is an anchor to the Springfield Plaza renovation which includes moving Whole Foods from the West Springfield location, relocating Trader Joe's and renovating the Giant Foods. Another newcomer to Springfield Plaza is the Container Store. They are expected to open in the summer of 2024 and will occupy a 15,282 SF space in the renovated center.

Having grocery stores is a draw that will add to the participation at Big Blue, Dolan noted. "It's a fantastic location," he said.

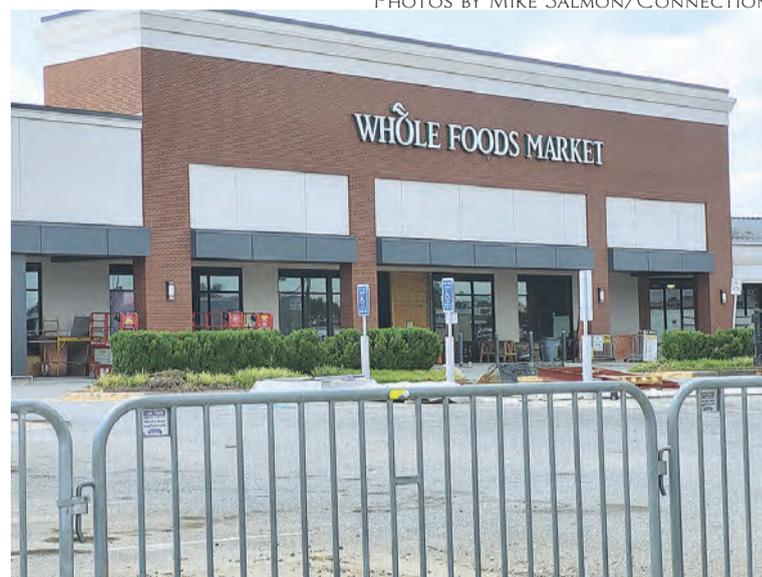
Big Blue Opening Celebration

SATURDAY, AUG. 5, 2023

11 am - 3 pm

7202 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA Free

Big Blue Swim School celebrates opening its fifth Northern Virginia location. A ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. Then attendees can take a tour of the facility and enjoy refreshments from a BBQ food truck with events and activities for families and little ones to enjoy.



The sign is up at the new Whole Foods location around the corner from Big Blue.



The blue building sticks out along Old Keene Mill Road



They specialize in children's swim lessons.

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ENTERTAINMENT

JULY AND AUGUST

Pups in the Pavilion. Wednesdays from 5-7:30 p.m. At Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Reston Town Center Kicks Off "Pups in the Pavilion" this Summer; Pavilion transforms into a leash-free play area during the dog days of summer. Enjoy treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Visit <https://www.restontowncenter.com/>

RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER 2023 SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

Saturdays, June 17 – August 5
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

At Reston Town Square Park, Reston
Bring the kids for magic, comedy, puppets, music and lots of laughs. Shows include Rocknokers, Lohr Family Antics, The Uncle Devin Show and Turley the Magician. See the full schedule here: Family Fun Entertainment Series. Family Fun Entertainment is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc. Reston Town Center garages offer free parking on Saturdays.
Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory
Sundays, thru August 27
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Reston Town Square Park
Wind down your weekend with classical, jazz and cabaret-style music provided by faculty and students from Shenandoah University's acclaimed music conservatory. This series will run through August 27. Visit Sunday Art in the Park for the complete schedule. Reston Town Center garage parking is free on Sundays. Sunday Art in the Park is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

JULY 31 – AUGUST 28

FUNDAY MONDAY in the heart of Fairfax City! 10:30-11:15 a.m. Enjoy free family programming that's perfect for the preschool set, but is open to children of all ages! On any given Monday there will be music, movement, storytelling, crafts and more. All performances and programs are held inside Old Town Hall located at 3999 University Drive, in the heart of Fairfax City. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> for more information. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts.
August 7: Drew Blue Shoes Magic
August 14: Storytime with the Fairfax Regional Library
August 21: Miss Mollie's Bubble Party (held outside)
August 28: My Gym

JULY 29 – AUGUST 26

KIDZ KORNER in Old Town Square in Fairfax City! 10:30-11:15 a.m. Join us outside for a morning of Free Family Fun on Saturdays in Old Town Square (near the Splash Pad!) located at 10415 North Street in historic Fairfax City. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> for more information. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Department of Parks and Recreation.
August 5: Mad Science! Things that Go Boom
August 12: My Gym
August 19: Superhero Training with Captain America!
August 26: Miss Mollie's Musical Fun

THURSDAYS THRU OCT. 19

Weekly Farmers Markets. Thursdays 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. At The PARC at Tysons, 8508 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Celebrate Fairfax, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building community in Fairfax County, is excited to announce the launch of a weekly farmers market at The PARC at Tyson. The market is run by Potomac Farm Market, which has over 20 years of experience connecting communities to local farmers and artisanal food producers. Each week, residents can expect to find seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh cut flowers, and other locally sourced specialties.



Weekly Farmers Markets has opened on Thursdays at the PARC at Tysons.

AUG. 3-6

2023 4-H Fair and Carnival. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon. Witness livestock displays and 4-H exhibits; indulge in mouth-watering fair food; enjoy live performances and carnival rides; and get up-close and personal with adorable farm animals.
Carnival Hours
Thursday, Aug. 3: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 4: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Big Truck Night: 5 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 5: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 6: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Carnival ride specials are available online. Save \$5 per person by purchasing before Aug. 3. Ride specials are \$20 per person for unlimited rides on Thursday, Aug. 3 and Friday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
For a full schedule of activities and information on buying ride specials, visit the 4-H Fair and Carnival webpage. For more information, visit Frying Pan Farm Park or call 703-437-9101.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

Family Fun Day Opening Celebration. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Big Blue Swim School, 7202 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Arts & crafts, face painting, a dunk tank and balloon animal art. There will also be a BBQ food truck so guests can take a break to enjoy a meal before joining in on more opening celebration fun. The location will offer weekly swim lessons year-round for children ages 3 months to 12 years of age. Visit www.bigblueswimschool.com

AUG. 12-13

Gel Plate Printing Basics. 1-4 p.m. 2-Day Workshop with Jennifer Duncan. Learn to use the Gel plate to create beautiful collage paper and as an easy form of monotype printing. In this two-day, six-hour workshop they will create prints using botanicals and stencils on a variety of papers. Class limited to 8 participants. Supplies list will be sent to registered students. About the instructor: Jennifer Duncan has been teaching abstract painting and collage from her home studio and Great Falls School of Art since 2010. Her classes aim to be fun, innovative, and informative, and are designed to help students discover their own creative approach to making art. Visit <https://artsofgreatfalls.org/adults-summer-2023/>

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

"Civil War History Where It Happened." 1 p.m. At Mercer Tavern Antiques, 39359 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. The Aldie Ruritan Club Presents "Civil War History Where it Happened." Hear historians and authors Don Hakenson and Carl Sell describe Mosby's Flour Mill raid, Captain George Custer's fall into the Little River and the Battle of Aldie right where it all happened. Books on sale benefit Aldie Ruritan Club and Clinton Hatcher Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans. Contact Carl Sell at sellcarl@aol.com or 703-971-4716 or Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net or 703-971-4984.

The 2023 4-H Fair and Carnival will take place Aug. 3-6, 2023 at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon.

verizon.net or 703-971-4984.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Poetry Beneath the Stars. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Turner Farm Park, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Calling all stargazers. Join up at Turner Farm Park to contemplate the cosmos through poetic form. Attendees will be provided with examples of star-gazing poetry and then given writing prompts to generate poems of their own while staring up at the marvelous Milky Way. This event will include a telescope viewing in the Roll Top Observatory, weather permitting. This workshop is limited to 25 participants. Visit ArtsFairfax.org to register.

AUDITIONS FOR "ON GOLDEN POND"

Presented by Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation.

Dates: Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 14 and 15 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Callbacks by Invitation on Thursday, Aug. 17 from 7:30-10 p.m.
Performances Oct. 20 to Nov. 5, 2023
Visit: www.viennatheatrecompany.org/audition/

BACK TO SCHOOL FALL BOOK SALE

At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville.
Aug. 4, Friday, 1-5 p.m.; Aug. 5, Saturday, 10-5 p.m.; and Aug. 6, Sunday, 1-4 p.m.
Bag sale on Sunday; fill a grocery bag with books for just \$10. Sponsored by Friends of Centreville Regional Library.

'DRIVE-IN' TO THE STARLIGHT CINEMA

Enjoy an all-new season of family-friendly entertainment at the Starlight Cinema at Trinity Centre, in Centreville, every Saturday evening in August. Come to watch the movies "drive-in" style from your car or bring

chairs and blankets to watch from the lawn. As part of the Summer Entertainment Series, the Starlight Cinema brings the community together for wholesome family entertainment with live pre-show entertainment and feature film after dark. The schedule features:
Aug. 5: "Minions: The Rise of Gru" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by The Great Zucchini at 7 p.m.)
Aug. 12: "Lightyear" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Rocknokers at 7 p.m.)
Aug. 19: "The Bad Guys" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Geoff Marsh at 7 p.m.)
Aug. 26: "DC League of Super-Pets" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Marsha and the Positrons at 7 p.m.)
Grab your picnic and enjoy the free entertainment that your family will remember. Gates open at 6 p.m., so come early to get a good spot. The Starlight Cinema is hosted at Trinity Centre, 5860 Trinity Parkway, in Centreville. For details, visit the Summer Entertainment Series' Starlight Cinema webpage.

AUG. 11-12

"The Addams Family." 7 p.m. At Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Presented by the Metropolitan School of the Arts Music Theatre Company. The Addams Family theatre performance will feature 29 student-actors from the DC area, including Metropolitan School of the Arts and surrounding high schools. The performance is recommended for ages 10 and older, and will be supported by a 12-piece mentoring orchestra, consisting of professional musicians and the top youth orchestra players in the DC area. To get tickets to watch the comical antics of The Addams Family, go to www.metropolitanarts.org. Cost is \$25 per adults and \$10 per student.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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Legals

**Main Street Enhancement Project Phase 2a in
Downtown Historic Clifton Open Forum Public Hearing
Thu., Aug. 17, 2023, 7:30-9PM, 12641 Chapel Rd, Clifton, VA
20124 (Wayne H. Nickum Community Meeting Hall)**

Find out about proposed street and sidewalk improvements and utility undergrounding on Main St. (Rte. 645) from Ford Ln. to Chapel St. in the Town of Clifton. Proposed project is to improve safety and ADA accessibility for pedestrians and enhance the beautification and function of Main St. as a scenic and historic byway with landscaping and amenities. Come see the proposed plans and learn about the project timeline and cost estimate. The Hearing will be held in an open format with doors open at 7PM and will begin with a presentation at 7:30PM followed by a question-and-answer session and the opportunity to provide public comments and discuss individually with project team members until 9 PM. Project information, including the approved National Environmental Policy Act document, is available on the project website at <http://cliftonva.gov/committees/specialprojects/>. Property impact information and tentative construction schedules are available for review at the above address and will be available at the Public Hearing. Give your written or oral comments at the meeting or submit them no later than Aug. 23, 2023 to Amanda Christman, Town Clerk, Town of Clifton, P.O. Box 309, Clifton, VA 20124. You may also email your comments to clerk@cliftonva.gov. Please include "UPC 109949 Clifton Main Street Streetscape - Phase 2a" in the email subject line. The Town of Clifton ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the Town Clerk at the email or mailing address listed above no later than Aug. 9, 2023. State Project: CLFT-029-101, P102, R201, C502 Federal Project: 5B01094; UPC: 109949 FROM: Ford Ln. TO: 50 ft. east of Chapel St.

40th ANNUAL VIRGINIA OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN SHOW VPS



AUGUST 4, 5 & 6

MEADOW EVENT PARK
13191 Dawn Blvd., Doswell, VA 23047

FRI: 1 - 7 | SAT: 9 - 6 | SUN: 10 - 5

VIRGINIA'S LARGEST HUNTING SHOW!

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Announcements

SYA Notice of Annual Board Meeting

SYA will be holding its annual elections of Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) meeting on Thursday, 09/07/2023 at 7:30pm at the SYA Office located at 5950 Centreville Crest Ln, Centreville VA 20121. All SYA members in good standing may attend. If you wish to submit your name (applicants must be in good standing and be 21 years of age or older) for nomination, please send email (with resume and subject line "NOMINATIONS") to INFO@SYAPORTS.ORG. Please include name, address and phone.

CALENDAR

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance. 4-6 p.m. At Herndon Friends Meeting House, 2263 Cocquina Drive, Reston. Join in this remembrance of the victims and effects of the 1945 bombings. Outside 4-5 p.m. vigil; inside 4-6 p.m. learning and reflecting through art (painting and peace crane making). Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available at the meeting house via Locust Street and nearby public parking is located across the street from the Herndon Depot. Visit the website: <https://www.herndonfriendsmeeting.com>.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta. 12 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Sail or splash -- it's all fun. Register or sponsor Reston Museum's 2023 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard-preregister>. You must register to race; spectating is free and open to the public.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Summer Concert Series: Genres. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Join the Summer Concert Series featuring Delta Spur with Country & Classic Rock on August 19. Enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while dancing and singing along to your favorite tunes!

FREE CONCERT SERIES AT

BURKE LAKE PARK

Every Wednesday night from June 28th through August 23rd at 7 p.m., Supervisor Pat Herry (Springfield District) along with the Fairfax County Park Authority will be hosting the fifth annual Free Concerts in the Park series at Burke Lake Park. The series has expanded to nine shows with pop, rock and R&B music. Peterson's Ice Cream, 2 Silos beer and food trucks will be on site at all concerts. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and/or a lawn chair.

AUGUST

2 The English Channel
9 The Road Ducks
16 The Colin Thompson Band
23 Riptide

SATURDAY CONCERTS AT

WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton • 7:30 p.m.

AUGUST

5 Workhouse Musical Event (Ticketed event. For details visit www.workhousearts.org)
12 Quin Tango (Classical Argentinian Tango Music)
19 Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone (Rock, Blues)
26 The United States Army Field Band Six-String Soldiers (Country)

CONCERTS AT FRYING PAN FARM

Thursday Evenings 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. At Park Lawn Near Farmyard

AUGUST

3 Patsy Cline Tribute Band (Country)
10 City of Fairfax Band Alte Kameraden German Band (Music of Germany)
17 The United States Army Blues Band Swamp Romp (Jazz)

ARTS IN THE PARKS

Experience free, fun, family-oriented alternatives to cartoons and video games with performances in parks this summer. Part of the Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series, Arts in the Parks entertains children, teaches the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduces them to live entertainment in an informal, kid-friendly atmosphere, and forges a connection between kids and parks.

Don't miss memorable shows starring The Great Zucchini, Marsha and the Positrons, Mr. Lilo Gonzalez, 123 Andres, Groovy Nate, Uncle Devin and Geoff Marsh! Free performances featuring comedy, children's songs, magic, puppets and juggling are hosted at the following locations:

Burke Lake Park Amphitheater (7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station), Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Frying Pan Park Visitor Center Pavilion (2739 West Ox Road, Herndon), Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater (5040 Walney Road, Chantilly), Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Mason District Park Amphitheater (6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale), Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Trinity Centre (5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville), Saturdays in August at 7 p.m. (followed by outdoor movies)

Wakefield Park, in front of the Rec Center, (8100 Braddock Road, Annandale), Saturdays at 10 a.m.

For a complete calendar of summer performances for Arts in the Parks, visit the Summer Entertainment Series Arts in the Parks webpage.

THRU AUG. 18

Summer Art Camps. Ages 8-18 years. At Great Falls Village Centre Art School, Great Falls. Looking for a summer art camp for your budding artist? The popular art summer camps include: Fun with Watercolor & Acrylic Paints; Paper Maché Sculpture; Classical Drawing; Color Study; Cartooning; 35mm Photography for Middle and High School Students; Animé Style Drawing

Morning (9:30-12:30 p.m.) and afternoon (1:30-4:30 p.m.) camp sessions are available. Camps are taught by professional artists with teaching experience in the Great Falls Village Centre art school. Visit <https://artsofgreatfalls.org/summer-camps-2023/>

BULLETIN BOARD

DEPRESSION AND BIPOLAR SUPPORT ALLIANCE OF VIRGINIA

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Virginia has been a continuous support for people living with mental health challenges. DBSAVA's mission is to provide hope, help, and support to improve the lives of people with mental health challenges. Mental health challenges meaning illnesses or disorders like Depression, Bipolar, Anxiety, Post-traumatic Stress, Schizophrenia, Borderline Personality, etc. The support services are free to all and offered by Peer Specialists, which includes individuals, family members and friends affected by these challenges. Visit the website: dbsava.org.

MARRIOTT AC HOTEL & RESIDENCE INN COMING TO RESTON TOWN CENTER

The Donohoe Companies, Inc. has announced \$74.7 million in construction financing with Artemis Real Estate Partners to build

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

a first-of-its-kind dual-branded Marriott AC Hotel and Residence Inn at Reston Town Center. Donohoe was represented by Jamie Leachman and Chris Hew of JLL.

This new 120-key extended-stay Residence Inn and 147-key upscale boutique AC Hotel will be the premier lodging in the Reston submarket. Located within Reston Town Center's latest expansion, the hotel site is walkable to 4.6M square feet of premier workplace and 450k square feet of retail and restaurants and adjacent to 1.1M square feet of premier workplace developed by BXP that is 90% committed. The project will enjoy a direct pedestrian entrance to the new Reston Town Center Silver Line Metro, providing easy access to Dulles Airport and the greater DC area.

The project's 34,000 square feet of street-level retail and restaurant space will be the central gathering place for local offices and residents. The upscale rooftop bar and lounge will be a unique draw with spectacular views of Northern Virginia.

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We Need Your Help Again

We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784


 THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online


 Mount Vernon Gazette
ALMANAC CENTRE VIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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"Triple Dog Dare"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a long-surviving, hopefully evolving cancer patient, (14 years and counting; you bet I count), over whatever time it takes the patient to integrate his or her cancer and all its related tentacles into their life/routine/goals and objectives, eventually you reach an accommodation. In so doing, you no longer plan for it; rather, you plan around it. At some indeterminate length of time, you decide, almost consciously, that you are going to live what's left of your life and consider less and less the consequences and impairments/challenges of your disease.

Cancer, however, often has something to say about your best laid plans. One's schedule, particularly months ahead, especially if airline tickets, hotel accommodations and the like are required (to make the best of your bad situation), are subject to change and not by your own choosing. One blip in your lab work, physical examination/video appointment, an irregularity in one of your recurring scans (PET, CT, MRI and/or body/bone) or just feeling lousy, can play havoc with your commitments. Commitments which are not so easily – or inexpensively, changed. A re-test in any of your regular diagnostic requirements has a cascade effect down your scheduling line. What dates were once windows of opportunity can quickly become impossible/unrealistic doors slamming shut.

As such, during conversations with my oncologist about more than my papillary thyroid cancer, he often asks about any future plans. This is asked in the context of, and in relation to, a scheduled scan whose results might be disappointing, shall we say – and downright life-changing shall we never say, especially if known before one's departure – thereby ruining any positive vibe. Sensitive and considerate of the razor's edge on which I and many cancer patients live, my oncologist will typically ask if I want to schedule the scan after I return from wherever I'm going, just in case.

To that hopefully-not-premature end, I elected during this most recent cycle to keep my scheduled scan in place before I left town on vacation. Given that the usual and customary turnaround in which the results are emailed to me, it's very likely I'll know the details before I leave town. And though keeping this scan appointment was absolutely my decision ("it was my idea, but I don't think much of it," to invoke a Moe Howard quote from a long-ago Three Stooges episode when the boys grabbed off a doorstep what they thought was an abandoned baby), I do have some anxiety about it.

On the one hand, am I being arrogant and inconsiderate of my fellow vacationers – potentially concerning my last-minute news which might not be for the best? Or am I trying to control my cancer with a sort of false bravado-type confidence in my results thinking that if I remain positive about the possible negative, I will win the day (quarter, actually) and not "earthquake" our vacation plans? I sure hope it's the former and not the latter so I can go on pretending the latter won't soon be happening.

But that's exactly what a cancer diagnosis does to your life. Topsy-turvy, up and down, in and out, all-around; "here, there, and everywhere" (our wedding song, by the way) and who knows what, are your daily (not really minute by minute) emotions. It's sort of like having an upset stomach but your brain is what's upset. And unfortunately, rest or a bromo seltzer won't change how you feel or even offer any relief from your pre-existing condition. Cancer is the big dog, and it absolutely doesn't want to get off the porch. But if you don't make friends (sort of) with your cancer and don't learn to expect the unexpected and work that unpredictability into your life's equation, then your future will be one gigantic hassle. Finding a path forward where you can live with it, maybe even live because of it, is the key. However, it's nearly impossible to make light of such a heavy load. There are so many reminders, both internally and externally that trigger your "canceritis" that finding some kind of mechanism to get you through the day is paramount. Otherwise, you'll become a very dull boy. And whatever fight you have in you; finding something funny, something positive, something to be grateful for; are all methods to the madness that a cancer diagnosis creates.

I've found that planning a future – even one with all the inherent risks I've described, is an attempt at normalizing an abnormality (cancer, especially "terminal" cancer, certainly qualifies). It may sound simple but as one of my best friends, Lynne, said to me at the beginning of what has become a 14+ year journey: "Being diagnosed with cancer will be the toughest thing you've ever had to do." As a former cancer patient herself, I took her words to heart. When you're right, you're right; and Lynne was right.

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

Clean Air in FCPS

FROM PAGE 3

Schools, 2023, that “understanding the importance of good indoor air quality in schools is the backbone of developing an effective IAQ program. Good IAQ contributes to a favorable environment for students, the performance of teachers and staff, and a sense of comfort, health, and well-being. These elements combine to assist a school in its core mission — educating children.”

According to the EPA's report, failure to prevent or respond to school IAQ problems can increase long- and short-term health problems, including coughing, headaches, and allergic reactions.

“Nearly 1 in 13 school-age children have asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic illness. There is substantial evidence that indoor environmental exposure to allergens, such as dust mites, pests, and molds, plays a role in triggering asthma symptoms. These allergens are common in schools. There is also evidence that exposure to diesel exhaust from school buses and other vehicles exacerbates asthma and allergies.”

Some schools in Virginia may lag behind recommended ventilation or have low rates. While no federal, state, or local agency sets the rate for schools to target, Harvard University's School of Health targets at “least five total air changes

per hour (ACH).” Their stated bare minimum is three to four total air changes per hour.

Among Harvard's strategies, if the classroom does not meet the target air changes is to “use MERV 13 filters (or greater) on recirculated air and add portable air cleaners with HEPA filters to the classroom.

The Connection contacted FCPS about their target airflow rates for maintaining healthy indoor air quality — the number of times the total air volume in a classroom or school space used by students or staff is replaced each hour and information about rates per school. This information was not available by the Connection's deadline.

Manslaughter Arrest in July 18 Crash

According to Fairfax County Police, a 42-year-old man of Burke has been arrested for involuntary manslaughter charges related to the July 18 crash on Burke Centre Parkway that left one teen dead and three others in critical condition.

Detectives from FCPS Crash Reconstruction Unit determined the man was traveling nearly double the 40 mph speed limit moments prior to the crash. On Monday, July 31, detectives obtained the warrant and officers from the West Springfield Police District arrested him, according to police reports. He is being held on no bond at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. All three other passengers remain hospitalized.

On July 18, one juvenile died and three remain hospitalized after a two-vehicle crash on Burke Centre Parkway.

Officers responded to the crash at 9:00 p.m. in the 5700 block of Burke Centre Parkway in Burke. Preliminarily, detectives from the FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit determined the driver of a 2014 Cadillac XTS4, an adult man, was traveling westbound on Burke Centre Parkway. The teenage driver of a 2023 Kia Forte was attempting to exit a parking lot onto Burke Centre Parkway when the Kia Forte was struck by the driver of the Cadillac.

The teenage driver of the 2023 Kia Forte was declared deceased at the scene. Three juvenile passengers in the Kia Forte were taken

to the hospital with injuries considered to be life-threatening and remain hospitalized. The driver of the Cadillac was transported to the hospital with injuries not believed to be life-threatening.

Detectives continue to investigate the circumstances that led to the crash.

Per Virginia Code 19.2-11.2, police departments are prohibited from providing information about juvenile victims unless parental consent is provided.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

NEWS BRIEFS

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Fairfax County's inaugural Hispanic Heritage Celebration, the Fairfax Fiesta, will be on Saturday, Sept. 23, from noon to 5 p.m. at the PARC at Tysons (8508 Leesburg Pike). The free celebration highlights Hispanic culture and embraces the diversity of our community. Cultural performances and entertainment, artisan market showcasing exceptional handmade goods from talented local vendors, children's activities and traditional foods.

More on Speed Camera Pilot Program

Slowing down drivers and improving traffic safety are the objectives of a new Speed Camera Pilot Program that will include the installation of photo monitoring devices (speed cameras) in eight school zones. Data suggests that school zone speeding is prevalent and cameras are effective. In the five school zones surveyed last year, thousands of drivers exceeded the speed limit by more than 10 mph during the sample period.

Ultimately, it is expected that the pilot program will change driver behaviors to keep Fairfax County residents safe.

Studies indicate that speed camera enforcement reduce traffic related injuries and accidents and ultimately save lives. Speed cameras will help protect pedestrians, especially in congested and vulnerable locations. The pilot program has one overarching goal: to improve the safety of roads for all residents. The cameras are only active when the school zone is in effect. There are no points or insurance impacts resulting from a citation. An escalating fine structure, starting at 10 mph over the limit, maxes out at \$100.

SPEED CAMERA LOCATIONS

Chesterbrook Elementary School: Kirby Road near the school (Dranesville District)

Irving Middle School: Old Keene Mill Road near the school (Braddock District)

Key Middle School: Franconia Road- near the school (Franconia District)

London Towne Elementary School: Stone Road near the school (Sully District)

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School: Sleepy Hollow Road near the school (Mason District)

South County Middle School: Silverbrook Road near the school (Mt. Vernon District)

Terraset Elementary School: Soapstone Drive near the school (Hunter Mill District)

West Springfield High School: Rolling Road near the school (Springfield District)

An additional school zone speed camera near Oakton High School (Blake Lane near Sutton Road) and a work zone speed camera at Route 28 (near Old Mill Road) are forthcoming.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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