

THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

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More than a year after
rescue, Angela Domingos
remains beagle Ashton's
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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

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ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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Offered for...\$709,000

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Offered for...\$1,399,000



FOR SALE!

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NEW CONSTRUCTION!

SOLD!

**1741 Fairview Avenue
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\$1,570,000

SOLD!

**6631 Tucker Avenue
McLean 22101**
\$1,824,750

SOLD!

**1562 Forest Villa Ln
McLean, 22101**
\$1,550,000

SOLD!

**2336 N. Oak Street
Falls Church, 22046**
\$2,000,000

SOLD!

**1639 Macon Street
McLean, 22101**
\$2,215,000

SOLD!

**2204 Beacon Lane
Falls Church, 22043**
\$1,795,000

Curious what your home is worth? Call to chat with JD and Ed today!

NEWS

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



The new truck is clean and ready to go out on trash day.



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck has been behind environmental solutions.

Fairfax County Plugs in First Electric Trash Truck

New truck is quiet and spews no diesel fumes.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

When the sun peeks out on trash pick-up day during the week, a noisy diesel engine, squeaky brakes and compactor in action are an unwelcome alarm clock in some neighborhoods. This may be coming to an end with the all-electric trash truck that was recently launched by Fairfax County. It's the first truck of a new fleet the county is buying and will be in action soon.

"We're trying to pilot this to demonstrate that it works," said Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay. "This is an investment in our environment," he added.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) has been behind protecting the environment throughout his time as supervisor and was one of the officials at the ribbon cutting that launched the new truck. He noted the way it aligns with the Fairfax Green Initiative that was launched in 2019. "We put together



One of two special plug-in stations.

some aggressive goals," he said.

One of those goals was for the county buildings to be at zero waste by 2040 and the county to be carbon neutral by 2050. "We're on track," Storck said.

McKay and Storck were at the launching event with Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Exec-



Not only did the green ribbon get cut, this ceremony had the official 'plugging in' at the Newington Collections Facility.

utive; Chris Herrington, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services; and John Morrill, Acting Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination. They cut the "green" ribbon and then

did the ceremonial "plugging in" of the truck too. The county facility along Cinder Bed Road in Newington has the only two trash truck charging stations, located just outside the garage.

According to Fairfax County, the truck costs nearly \$350,000, funded by the department's Solid Waste Management Program and a grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Talking Trash

Americans throw out 4.9 pounds of trash per person every day which equals 1,800 pounds per year. According to the EPA, the largest percentage of trash is paper followed by food, plastics and yard waste.

Currently, trash trucks use about 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel each year, spewing smoke out the exhaust pipe. But the trash must be picked up somehow. The new trucks will save all that fuel and exhaust, which will be easier on the county employees that work with those trucks too.

Not everyone in Fairfax County will see or barely hear the new truck though. Most communities have a private trash service and only about 10 percent of the households in the county have official Fairfax County trash service.

Cash from County's Carryover Funds

\$100K may be coming for each district's unfunded capital improvement projects.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Sept. 26, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing and vote on the FY 2023 Carryover Budget package. In his July 24, Memo on Transmitting the County's 2023 Carryover Review with Appropriate Resolutions, County Executive Bryan J. Hill

reported the county ended the fiscal year with a balance of \$203.14 million. County staff recommended how to spend \$200.9 million, leaving the Board of Supervisors to decide how to allocate \$2.24 million for one-time expenses.

As part of the review of carryover funds for FY 2023, Hill's memo recommended funds for "investments in board priorities," such as

- ❖ \$2.58 million for the expansion of youth mental health services
- ❖ \$8.05 million in investments for the continued support of environmental and energy strategies by the county
- ❖ \$30 million for enhancements to library collections
- ❖ \$230,000 for the continuation of the Illegal Sign Removal Program
- ❖ Funding totaling \$1 million, equally divided at \$100,000 between each of the nine district offices and the chairman's office, to address small-scale capital projects.

The \$1 million is intended to support

"modest yet impactful (unfunded) capital improvement projects at a low cost," according to an Aug. 23 email from Supervisor John W. Foust, representing McLean, Great Falls, Tysons, and portions of Herndon.

The funding source is familiar, and in other years, organizations such as local associations have requested funding for specific projects in the districts they represent. The Great Falls Citizens Association Board of Directors is asking its members for suggestions "to compete for surplus funds for the Dranesville District."

SEE CARRYOVER FUNDS, PAGE 5

First for Fairfax County 9-1-1

Public Safety Day Open House from Fairfax County Public Safety Communications.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday, Aug. 26, Fairfax County's Department of Public Safety Communications, also known as 9-1-1, held its first Public Safety Day Open House.

Fairfax County 9-1-1 is Virginia's largest public safety answering point and is recognized nationally for its public safety telecommunications services, training, technology, and policies and procedures. The employees of 9-1-1 are considered the First of the First Responders. The tagline of the department is "Fairfax County 9-1-1...always there...always ready...24/7/365."

Scott Brillman is the new director of the county's Department of Public Safety Communications. He surveyed the many families enjoying the event. Alongside the many first responders were police cruisers, motorcycles, fire trucks and other vehicles.

Officers and therapy dog handlers introduced their K9 partners to adults and children. Volunteers walked adoptable dogs from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter through the crowds.

Parents, children, and adolescents listened and learned how to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. Individuals and families signed up for tours through the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center to learn more.

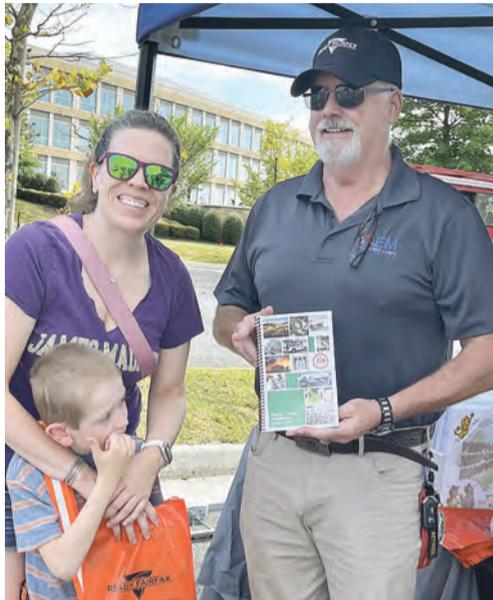
Asked what he thought of the inaugural event, Brillman said, "I love that your family gets to meet our family at 9-1-1. It's a special treat, and we will do this more often."

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, Fairfax County Police and Animal Protection Police, Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Transportation, United States Park Police, and others were among those who participated in the event.

To download a copy of the community Emergency Response Guide and templates, visit

Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide - cerg final jan 30 final.pdf. <https://tinyurl.com/bdfhtrb6>

Email the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management to



Kara and Johnny Green, 10, of Fairfax, enjoy the police officers, the big equipment, and talking with Matthew Matia of the Office of Emergency Management Volunteer Corps program. He reached out to the public at the event with educational material to increase awareness of emergency preparedness.



The Fairfax County Animal Shelter's Clear the Shelters event, held Friday and Saturday, waived fees on all pet adoptions. Katherine Zenzano, humane educator at Fairfax County Animal Shelter, gives Tulip, who is up for adoption, a treat as Erin Johnston of Fairfax City holds the leash.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Detective Ramirez, special operations, Fairfax County Police Department, and his K9 partner visit with the Murphy family of Clifton, Brom, 5, Joy, 2, and their parents, Lincoln and Michael.



From left, Scott Brillman, director of the county's Department of Public Safety Communications, his wife Regina, and son Micah, ten months, with Lorraine Jackson, Assistant Director of Operations at Fairfax County 9-1-1. She has been on popcorn duty. "It's the first time, but hopefully not the last," Jackson says.



There is no better place to wait your turn to meet the Fairfax County Motor Squad of officers than seated high on Dad's shoulders.



Dad Nick holds Anthony, 2, as Maria, 10, Joseph, 4, Lucas, 6, and mom Emily look on. The family lives in Springfield.

learn about preparedness presentations at oem-outreach@fairfax-county.gov

The McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center is a 147,000-square-foot facility at 4890 Alliance Dr. in Fairfax. It is home to multiple agencies including Fairfax County's 9-1-1 Call Center.



NEWS

3 Shot, 1 Arrest; Arlington Swat Team Responds

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Violent Crimes Division, with the assistance of the Arlington County Robbery and Homicide Unit, executed a search warrant and arrested Jorge Armando Melendez Gonzalez, 25 of Falls Church, late Sunday night. The Arlington County SWAT team took the suspect into custody on multiple warrants and detectives collected evidence related to the shooting that left three men wounded.

At 1:51 a.m. on Aug. 26, officers responded to the 7700 block of Lee Hwy in Merrifield, for a shot persons call. Officers found two victims, both adult men, in the parking lot suffering from gunshot wounds. One victim suffered from a gunshot to the arm and the other victim suffered from a gunshot to the abdomen. Officers provided aid until fire and rescue personnel arrived. Both victims were taken to a local hospital and treated for their injuries.

At 3:39 a.m. a 911 call was made advising a man walked into the hospital with a gunshot wound to the arm. Officers were able to determine the victim was related to the

earlier shooting. The victim's injuries were considered non-life threatening and he was treated and released from the hospital.

Investigators determined that a male, later identified as Jorge Armando Melendez Gonzalez, 25 of Falls Church, approached a group of men who were standing in front of a business. During the encounter, the suspect was assaulted by one of the men and the suspect opened fire into the crowd of people who were standing in front of the business. The suspect then fled the area on foot.

Jorge Armando Melendez Gonzalez has been charged with three counts of Felony Malicious Wounding and three counts of Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony. He is being held at the Adult Detention Center on no bond.

Detectives continue to investigate the circumstances that led to the shooting. Anyone who may have information about this shooting is asked to call 703-246-7800, option 5. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Carryover Funds

FROM PAGE 3

Upgrades to existing streetlights, installation of new streetlights based on safety concerns and resident requests, construction of missing trail segments and walkways, and repairs to pedestrian bridges were typical projects utilizing this funding source in the past. This funding is often essential for connecting neighborhoods, activity centers, revitalization centers and schools, and it supports the county's One Fairfax commitment by providing resources to address gaps and promote equitable access for all, according to Hill's FY2023 carryover review.

Who else can request county carryover funding, what other funding sources are there, and who can make the requests may come as a surprise.

A spokesperson for Fairfax County confirmed in an email dated Aug. 25 that "other jurisdictions and organizations are not precluded from requesting capital project funds," including the Town of Herndon, the Town of Vienna, and the City of Fairfax could propose capital improvement projects for funding.

However, the county spokesperson noted that the towns and the city have their respective capital improvement programs to fund their jurisdictional capital project priorities.

As for support for nonprofits and for-profit businesses, the county has a Contributory Fund, which was established in 2001, so those groups can apply for funding from the total budget surplus if their projects benefit community members.

The Contributory Fund provides annual

appropriations to nonprofit organizations to promote community health and welfare. The non-profit's submission of an annual report updating its financial status and service delivery is a prerequisite for receiving funding. Requests are due annually in the fall for consideration in the following fiscal year.

New contributory agencies or changes to existing contributions outside of the annual budget process are typically requested through a member of the Board of Supervisors. County contributions are generally limited to non-profit organizations.

"County contributions are generally limited to non-profit organizations; however economic development initiatives by for-profit entities could be considered for funding through the County's Economic Opportunity Reserve," said the county spokesperson. Typically, members of the Board of Supervisors initiate these nominations, he said.

The carryover balance for FY 2023 is primarily the result of higher-than-anticipated property tax receipts, other local taxes, and revenue from the federal government's use of money and property. In addition, county agency disbursements were lower than anticipated due to continued tight expenditure management and prolonged vacancy rates, according to the Carryover Budget Package for Fiscal Year 2023 (Management and Budget).

Visit these sites to learn more about carryover funding opportunities. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2023-carryover-budget-package>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/sites/budget/files/assets/documents/fy2023/carryover/fy%202023%20carryover%20package.pdf>

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PUBLIC NOTICE

In-Person Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY2025 Budget

(July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)

McLean Community Center Governing Board
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.

Small District 1A-Dranesville residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers list. The draft budget proposal will be available on the center's website and copies can be picked up at the center's reception desk on or after Thursday, Sept. 14.

Written comments may be delivered to the McLean Community Center (see address below) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to feedback@fairfaxcounty.gov. Written comments may be provided after the Public Hearing up through Friday, Oct. 6.



McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711
mcleancenter.org

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The First To Blink

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned sine die back in June of this year when the work of the legislature was complete with one notable exception: a mid-point revision of the biennium budget on which the House, Senate, and Governor could not agree had gone to a conference committee that could not agree on its final form. The lack of agreement did not cause the kind of budgetary crisis seen at the federal level when the federal government faces a shutdown without a budget. In Virginia the legislature passes a biennial budget good for two fiscal years and at the halfway point such as this year passes a revision to the existing budget. The revisions take into account any additions or subtractions to revenue as a result of what is happening in the economy and any changes in priorities impacting the budget that came from the outgoing governor but is now being implemented by the current governor. Most years these revisions

pass fairly easily. This year was an exception in that revenues increased substantially over the last couple of years with an economy that did much better than economists predicted, and the state received gobs of federal monies from Covid-related programs and economic recovery monies intended to stave off a recession. In many respects appropriating new monies can be as difficult as having to skimp by to balance a budget for the unmet needs are so great.

Last week there was an announcement among the Governor and the nine senators and six delegates that make up the conference committee that an agreement had been reached except only the roughest outline of what it contains is known. Hopefully there are no details that will blow up the deal or no misunderstanding that will cause it to fall apart.

In broad terms the disagreement had been from the Governor who wanted to return more than a billion dollars to the richest Virginians and corporations in the form of tax cuts and the Senate Democrats who constitute a majority

in that body and wanted to appropriate more monies for education and mental health and to limit any tax relief to one-time tax rebates that would not recur unless the state realized an economic bonanza as it has recently. Cutting tax rates would reduce state tax revenues into the future indefinitely at a time when school and mental health funding have been shown to be inadequate and would reward the wealthiest in a state that already has a low rate of taxation on the wealthy. Rebates reward all taxpayers including those at the lowest income levels and are made available only as the state realized higher than usual tax revenues.

Those essential differences have had the Governor and the House Republicans on one side and the Senate Democrats on the other side for months. A special thank you goes to Senators Janet Howell and George Barker for holding firm on the Senate position that for the most part seems to have prevailed. After months of discussion the Governor and the Senate Republicans blinked!

Love and Protection Not Enough for Furry Family Members

Pet parents must be informed.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

I thought I killed my little puppy, Oshi. She was a typical nine-month-old Pomeranian two weeks ago, although on the delicate side. She weighed only 4.5 pounds, equal to five cans of Campbell's tomato soup.

I enjoy gardening in the morning, and since I always kept Oshi close by, tethered to my gardening apron, I assumed she was safe and protected. I could pull her toward me if a fox stealthily crept up on us — same for the circling hawks searching for a light breakfast. I always check the raised beds for snakes hiding under the large leaves before she bounds in.

As Pom Mom, I am responsible not only for letting Oshi be a dog while at the same time protecting her but also for being informed. I failed on the last one. It caused great pain and suffering for her.

Oshi is a highly confident dog for her size, curious, and exceptionally bold, which causes her to get into trouble when not adequately supervised. And that means me. That Saturday morning, she thoroughly enjoyed romping through the

garden plants, exploring, digging, bulldozing her nose through the soft soil, tossing it in the air, and shaking the dirt off. She picked up tiny twigs beneath the plants, leaped over the raised bed frames, and strutted across the lawn, always tied to my long leadline.

It appeared to amuse my furry friend, who must have imagined herself as a large dog carrying a large stick. I continued to harvest the garden's bounty by removing the cherry tomatoes from their vines and stems. I never considered that trimming a tiny green stem, the length of my little fingernail, from the fruit and its green leaf and allowing it to fall to the ground, accessible to quick-pawed "Little Dog," could be fatal.

The morning passes. Oshi vomits a small portion of her breakfast. Strangely, its odor is spicy. But she seems fine and curls up for a nap. When she awakens, her pupils are significantly dilated. Despite having open eyes, she appears unconscious of my presence. When I pick her up and set her back down, Oshi cannot stand. She collapses and drools incessantly; her tiny body jerks. She mews, crying.

I cradle my puppy in my arms, rushing to my husband. Barely uttering a word, we dash to the car



Chives belong to the Allium family, which includes leeks, garlic, and onions. They are poisonous to dogs and cats.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



"Ha-ha, seeing the garden again makes me so happy," little Oshi, a nine-month-old Pomeranian, seems to be saying after her near-death experience. "But let's learn what's poisonous to me, Pom Mom."

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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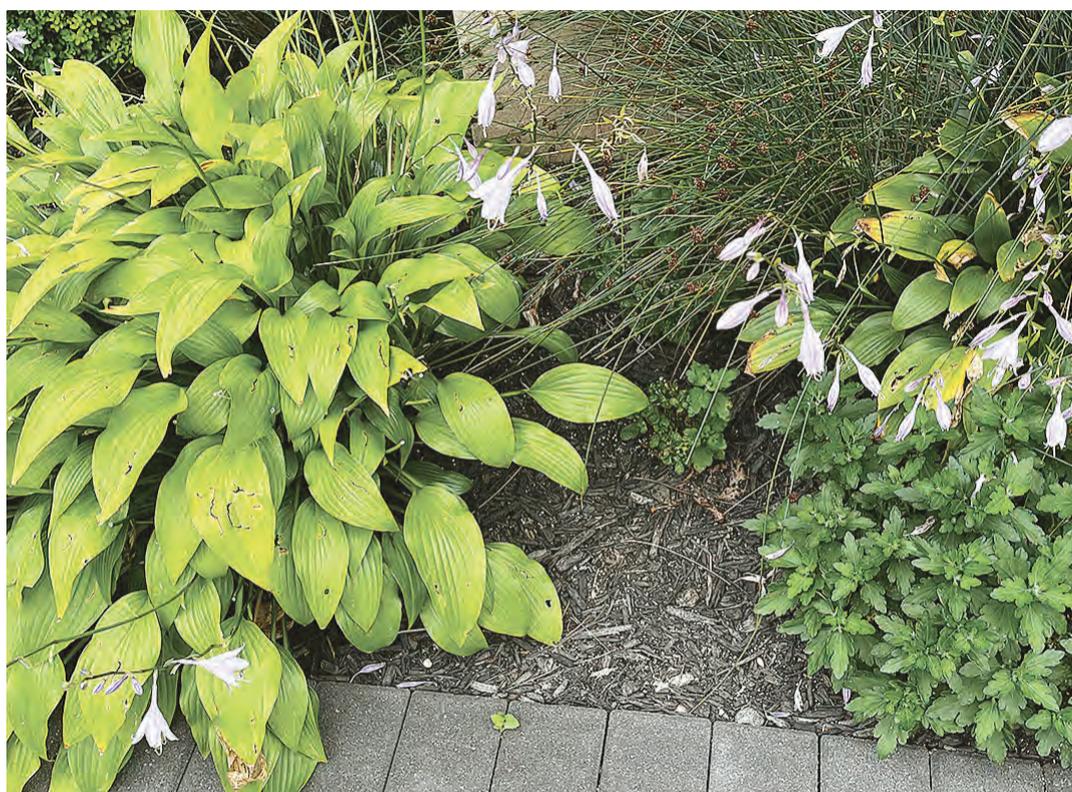
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SEE POISONOUS TO PETS,
PAGE 7

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PET CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



From left, all parts of a hosta plant — leaves, flowers, and roots — are toxic to dogs and cats. Right, any plant in the chrysanthemum family, such as asters, mint, dahlias, carnations, lilies, marigolds, and more, is toxic to your dog. All parts of the chrysanthemum are highly poisonous: leaves, stems, flowers, and sap because they contain pyrethrins. If your pet may have ingested chrysanthemum, get them to the vet immediately.



A tomato plant's green stems and leaves are toxic and give dogs and cats severe stomach pain and slows the heart. Dilated pupils are a tell-tale sign your pet may have eaten them.

Poisonous To Pets

FROM PAGE 6

and drive three blocks to Dominion Vets in Herndon. I leap from the vehicle and enter the waiting room, saying something is very wrong with Oshi.

A technician immediately grabs Oshi and takes her to the treatment area. Another technician takes us to a private waiting area in the adjacent room. We can hear metal clanking and footsteps. I am nauseous and must sit down.

Joseph Bourke III, DVM, tells us they've made Oshi vomit, and she receives IV fluids. It appears she ate something toxic. I ask if she is dying. Dr. Bourke says he must ask a delicate question. "Do we have cannabis at home? Are we growing it? What about gummies?"

"No", I reply. According to Dr. Bourke, her symptoms are consistent.

We go through my morning. Oshi is in the garden. I cut the bounty of cherry tomatoes from the branches, trimmed the green stems and leaves, and dropped them to the ground. Oshi had bounded toward me and grabbed an itty-bitty branch before I could snatch it—tomatine poisoning.

Ripe tomatoes are not poisonous for dogs, as they're non-toxic. However, green tomatoes, stems, and leaves contain natural chemicals called solanine and tomatine.

Dr. Bourke can do no more locally. He calls us into the LifeCentre in Leesburg for emergency specialty care, alerting the team that we are coming. The Life Centre is closer to us than the Hope Center in Vienna. A tech brings Oshi to us wrapped in a green terycloth towel. Her head lolls back, and her eyes are closed. I say her name, and Oshi

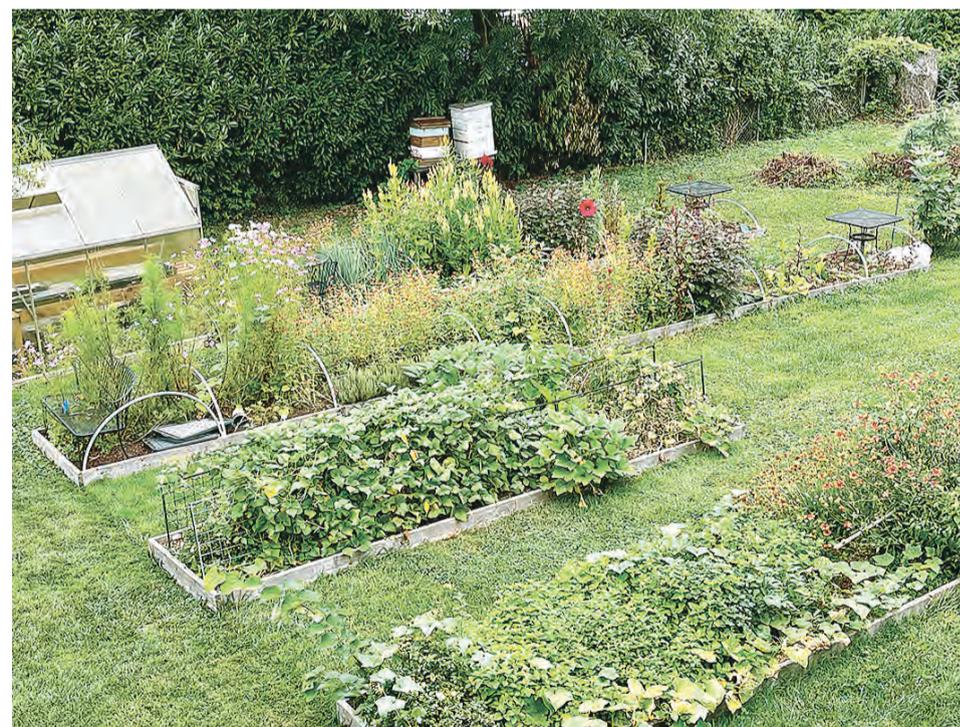


"I do love garden plants," little Oshi seems to be saying

blinks. "She hears you," Dr. Bourke says.

The ride down Route 7 to Leesburg is excruciating. I keep checking Oshi, who is on my lap. Her chest is ever-so-faintly going up and down. Did it stop? It crosses my mind that if we make it to the Life Centre, she may come home in a box the next time she is in the car with us. I push the negative thoughts away.

Fast forward a few hours. We are still in the lobby. A technician asks if we want to hold Oshi. The hospital campus offers a complete critical care unit and an ICU. Taken to another private room, we sit with her, softly stroking our little dog. She remains still. Her eyelids flutter but quickly close. She mews



Danger alert- Gardens are pet playgrounds.

again. I go to pass her on to my husband to hold. But first, I raise Oshi up and gently press her snout against his cheek to nuzzle him — unexpectedly, one quick lick. Oshi recognizes him.

According to the ASPCA's website, four hundred sixteen plants are toxic to dogs. Learn them. I must have at least 60 in my gardens: azaleas, hostas, bay laurels, begonias, carnations, Chinese jade, garlic, on-

ions, chives, choke cherries, and more. If you believe your animal may have ingested a poisonous substance, contact your local veterinarian or the APCC 24-hour emergency poison hotline at 1-888-426-4435.

Oshi is back home. We've been working hard on something, and she has nearly mastered it—the most critical command second to "Come."

"Drop it, Oshi. Good girl."



PHOTO TABATHA TRELOAR

On their day of rescue, no beagle could know what was ahead.



PHOTO SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Next stop, the arms of many well-meaning strangers, as beagles arrived at partnering rescue organizations.



PHOTO NEW BEGINNINGS/ENVIGO BEAGLE SURVIVORS

The first days and weeks were tiring for pups and humans as all got accustomed to a new beginning.



PHOTO J. ELROD

Young pup Thistle puts on a brave face in her new surroundings during first days.

Rescued Beagles Cuddle Into Safe Homes

Bred for research, rescued dogs bring happiness as family dogs.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Just over one year ago, we reported on the adoption, by area families, of research beagles rescued from a medical research breeding and testing facility in central Virginia. Their saga drew national attention and prompted one of the largest ever companion animal rescues, with adoptions for about 4,000 dogs. After the breeding facility was shut down by federal inspectors for serious violations and cruelty, many Northern Virginia families were among those across the country willing to offer loving homes to the traumatized beagles. Hidden behind adorable faces and cute floppy ears, many of the dogs had physical and behavioral issues related to their early treatment. Each pair of cute ears hid ominous tattoos on their undersides, marking their research lineage and their association with an unimaginable life.

Some of the beagles had spent years at the facility, either as breeding stock or test subjects. Others were there for various lengths of weeks or months after their birth, pending sale to overseas research



PHOTO NEW BEGINNINGS/ENVIGO BEAGLE SURVIVORS
Puppies who knew only cement discovered grass and dirt.

or testing enterprises, due to shipments forestalled by Covid impacts. After their rescue in groups beginning August 2022, adopter families sought connection and advice from other adopters through social media groups. Their comments from that time were a mix of the heart-warming and the heart-breaking.

Heartbreak of Early Traumas

Adopters described seeing the



PHOTO SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION
Ashton found comfort and security by flattening in grass.

impacts of life in a place that was loud, crowded, and where human contact more often meant pain than warm affection. In early days, adopters noted: Lucy "is a little scared of things. She doesn't understand stairs or mirrors; working on potty training." Rocket is "terrified of doors, cats, linoleum, and toys." Sage: "If we don't catch her right away, she eats her poop." Ashton "will only poop on the sidewalk." Snoopy Dog: "Potty training will take some time, but we love her." Loki: "He's been adapting well, but tonight he started tearing



PHOTO SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION
Angela Domingos remains Ashton's 'security blanket'.

at the couch pillows. Any advice? Need more chew toys." Ruthie: "I was ready to cry yesterday because our girl was so scared and wanted to hide in the corner." Enzo is "hypersensitive to noise. Growls and barks at the TV." Pete "wincens at opening of a soda can." Fergus: "Four, but vet says he has teeth of a nine year old." Mango: "He had a broken left bone that was never treated. He has a bit of a limp at seven months old." Pluto: "We can't get our beagle to come inside. He's still really scared. I just wish he'd come inside and live with us."

After Weeks or Months — Signs of Progress

An inkling of human effort and the resilience of the dog breed that must be behind adopter comments after the first early weeks and months passed. Adopters began to share heartwarming progress and small successes: Milo: "After a month, today was our first day without an accident." Lacey "has mastered the steps." Juno "really likes the backyard." Jennay "has

us wrapped around her little paw." Bailee "spent nap time together for a bit." Winnie "now grasps the 'sit' command." Rocket "earned his name by launching himself from the ground to your arms to get kisses." Winnie: "In past month only two accidents, down from five times per day." Unnamed: "Spent \$25 at doggy bakery on treats of all flavors — nothing. My family brought welcome treats — nothing. Tried fruit and veggies — got the 'beagle eye.' Likes goat milk blueberry ice cream — must be homemade not store bought." Winnie "rolls in leaves and grass. No longer cowering in fear when the wind blows." Winslow "walked over the threshold into the house completely on his own. It was such a big deal that he wagged at me, then went to his bed. He's been asleep for over an hour. That hurdle was huge in his beagle mind."

One Year Later

Although some particular anxieties continue, and backsliding from time to time, a year later, most families are declaring success and expressing happiness about adopting their beagles. Birdie: "We are still working on the scary noises of the garbage trucks, her possessiveness and trusting strangers, but she is getting better. She's a sweet pup and I'm glad she's a part of our family." Max: "He is one of the best things that has come into our lives." Happy "is doing so well and he's as beagle as he could be." Polly Wog: "Become a true dog in 365 days or

Dogs Riding Bicycles??

Bizarre travel modes of pets.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Dog walking might not look the same for everyone. If you have a senior pet, or a pampered one, "walking" the dog could take a less traditional look than the classic equipment of collar or harness, leash, and four paws. Have you ever seen a dog riding a bicycle? Here we explore the less traditional travel of a variety of area pets.

Dog "walking" may not involve walking at all if your have tiny legs, like Cookie, and an accommodating family, like Victoria, Stephanie, and Georgetowne Cook, of Woodbridge, enjoying Laurel Hill Park.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Now you have seen not one, but two, dogs riding a bicycle, like this salt and pepper pair of Pugs, who enjoy the ride, except when kisses must wait till paws hit the ground.



Getting royal treatment during car rides is expected when you share the name of a princess, like Leia Mulligan, of Springfield. Forget the limo mini-bar; where's the big treat bar?



PHOTO COURTESY T. EVERETTE
Four month old Rue, of Alexandria, would prefer flying to walking, if only his ears were a little bigger and the wind a little stronger.



Tia, of Springfield, and Olive, of Alexandria, can enjoy the thrill of the ride without worry about flying ears or mussed hair... of course, they aren't actually moving, just looking pretty.



As a celebrity, Lola, Pet Connection edition cover girl July 29, 2021, with Adriana Gomez, of Lorton, protects her identity, and eyes, during regular trailer limo trips to Laurel Hill's Equestrian Center for walks and workouts.



Some dogs prefer to walk with the company of a small group of friends, like Belle, King, Isla, and Cher, with Stephenie Thomson of Lorton's Liberty.



Other dogs enjoy the rolling dynamics of a large pack, with professional dog walkers on the way to the dog park.



Dexter, enjoys seeing many such sights which surprise him while walking alone with Caroline Shaw, of Lorton.

BEAGLES

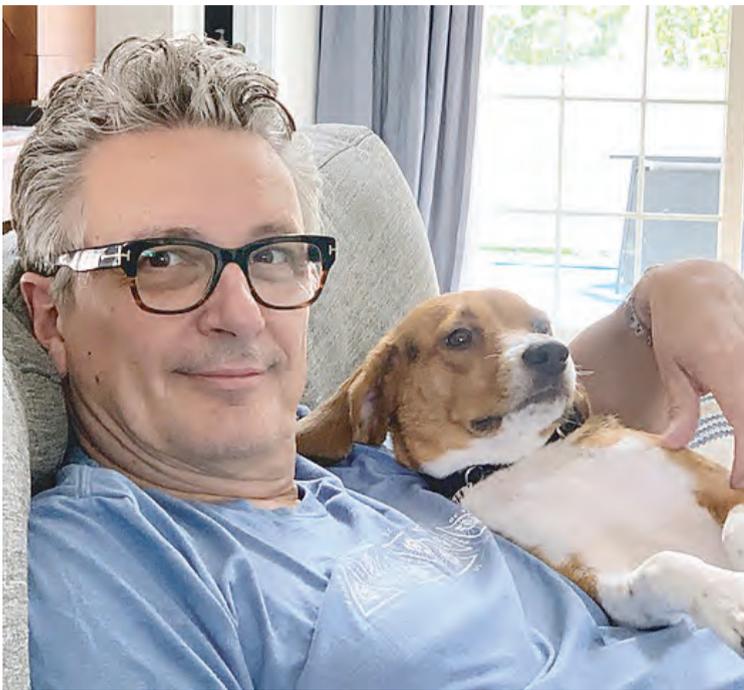


PHOTO COURTESY D WINTERLING

Vermont enjoys snuggles with Andy Crook.



PHOTO NEW BEGINNINGS/ENVIGO BEAGLE SURVIVORS

A now confident and comfortable Birdie rules her new domain.



PHOTO NEW BEGINNINGS/ENVIGO BEAGLE SURVIVORS

Kelce Pooperini's hat says all about her new circumstances — Happy.

Rescued Beagles Cuddle Into Safe Homes

FROM PAGE 7

less - accomplished! What a sweetheart! We love her." Gunner: "He is the sweetest, most lovable dog I think we have ever had. Even with all the beagle craziness we could not love him more." Shiloh: "Now you are a lovable goofball that runs our home. We love you so much." Pumpkin: "It took four months to get that tail to come up when we walk, now it is hardly ever down." Matcha: "A year later she's made so much progress and acts like a dog now; a little skittish but she's also curious now! Today she is spoiled, happy, playful, and sometimes a little mischievous." Kelce Pooperini: "You are loved beyond words."

Vermont

A year ago, in Chantilly, beagle lovers Donna Ann Winterling and her husband Andy Crook were the first to adopt from the Beagle groups sent to Fairfax County Animal Shelter. (See their adoption story at Springfield Connection, Sept. 1-7, 2022, pg 6-7). They named him Vermont. He had assistance from an older family bea-

gle, Utah, to show him the ways of being a family dog. This companionship likely aided Vermont's transition from sterile kennel to warm home. Winterling says, "Given his early life he quickly became accustomed to all the comforts of home living, including knowing when he needed to go to the front door to go out — no small feat given we live in a four story townhouse." Although Winterling describes Vermont's behavior as generally good with food, furniture and shoes, she adds "given the chance, he is lightning quick when he knows he has something he shouldn't." Winterling echoes the feelings of other beagle rescuers, "There's not a day goes by when we don't smile because of the way he has changed our lives. He is certainly a lover. We both have plenty of cuddle time with Vermont's particular style, where he has to curl into your neck."

Ashton

We met Ashton last year, soon after his human mom, Angela Domingos, and her existing rescue dog, Jimmy, collected Ashton from Richmond to begin his new life in

Springfield. Early on, Ashton was too anxious to eat or sleep. He sat on his dog bed for three days.

He was afraid of doors, would not go into a crate, and didn't understand potting outside. Sudden noises put him into a body stiffened low crouch, going almost flat with his tail tucked. He was most comfortable flattened on the grass. But he loved long walks, running at the dog park, behaved well on-leash and was interested in people, dogs, and cars.

Today Ashton is still an anxious dog, who Domingos says sees her as his security blanket. His family has grown to include a four month old puppy, Hawkeye, a "failed foster" by Domingos. The three dogs, Ashton, Jimmy and Hawkeye, play together and especially like walks. Ashton and Jimmy get doggie day care outings once per week; to be joined by Hawkeye when old enough. It's such a joy for Ashton to play with large groups of dogs that he refuses to leave doggie day care and must be carried out in protest at the end of the playtime.

Domingos says although Ashton has adapted, she suspects he always will be

a ball of anxiety. "If you drew a picture of what anxiety looked like, it would be a picture of Ashton." His fear of men continues; even after ten weeks of specialized behavioral training, he still cowers with strange men, and has not fully acclimated to her husband. Domingos admits, "he has his set of idiosyncrasies". Even though life with Ashton includes making on-going accommodations, Domingos says, "The fact that we saved him makes everyone in the family happy. Seeing him do something new, knowing that if not here with us, if his old life continued, he'd never have experienced that new thing."

The nature of the beagle breed might have doomed them to selection as research animals.

They are described as merry, amiable, even tempered, intelligent, gentle, determined and happy-go-lucky. It appears those same traits have made it possible for them to come back from the worst of bad situations and give the love and companionship looked for from any family dog. As Domingos says, "He's my cuddlebug," a common comment from beagle adopters.

BULLETIN BOARD

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

Champions for Accountability: Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. 8:30-10:30 a.m. Join in the Champions for Accountability, a leadership discussion that explores the power of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in business. Led by Champions for Accountability leaders including Kendall Holbrook, CEO, DevTechnologies, and Bud Morissette, CEO, Interstate Moving | Relocation | Logistics, Champions for Accountability will be your opportunity to meet with and learn from companies already finding business success in recruiting

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

and retaining diverse talent. Visit novachamber.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

NARFE Chapter 1116 Meeting. 1 p.m. At Vienna Community Center Auditorium. NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association) will host a Candidate Forum for the Mayor of Vienna and eight candidates for Vienna Town Council. Free. Members and guests welcome. Call 703-205-9041.

SEPT. 26 TO DEC. 5

English and Citizenship Classes. At St. Mark Catholic Church, Christian

Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Registration Dates: -Tuesday, September 19, and Thursday September 21 from 7pm to 8 pm. at St. Mark in Vienna. A placement exam will be given. Link to register online: <https://bit.ly/StMarkRegistration2023>. Classes: - Tuesdays and Thursdays, from : September 26- December 5. - English classes from 8 pm to 9:30 pm; - Citizenship, Writing, Conversation from 7 pm to 7:45 pm, same days. Where: - St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 2nd floor. Cost: - English classes: \$25 (for 9 weeks of lessons). - Citizenship, Writing, Conversation : \$10 (for 9 weeks of lessons). -

Book cost is extra where applicable. Cash and Credit/Debit accepted! Questions: - Visit the Web page: www.stmarkesl.org/; or - Email: stmarkesl@gmail.com; - Call: 703-980-9380 or 703-403-4170.

LOOKING FOR

SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more

information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.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.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

Artist Team Selected to Mark Local Struggle with Covid

ArtsFairfax and the Fairfax County Arts Committee named the artist team of Miriam Gusevich and Salvatore Pirrone to design a permanent memorial to the County's victims of Covid-19 and to recognize the heroic efforts of county staff, nonprofits, health care providers and others who worked to help with the impact of the pandemic in the County. The memorial will be located in front of the Herrity Building and Public Safety Headquarters at 12055 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

More than 1,700 residents of Fairfax County had died of Covid as of March, 2023, according to data compiled by the New York Times. Since the beginning of the pandemic, a total of 262,100 cases had been reported in the county.

The team of Gusevich and Pirrone was the unanimous choice to design, fabricate and install the memorial. Miriam Gusevich is a Cuban American environmental artist, architect, scholar and educator. She was a Loeb Fellow (1997) at Harvard University and received her bachelor's degree (1975) and master's degree (1979) in architecture from Cornell University. Her built memorial projects include the "Jane Addams Memorial" (with Louise Bourgeois) and the "Cancer Survivor's Garden" in Grant Park (with Julie Gross), both in Chicago. "Remember Sambir," a Holocaust memorial site in Western Ukraine that she began with Peter Miles, is under construction and on hold be-

cause of the war.

She is a Washington, D.C. resident and was a tenured professor at the Catholic University of America from 2000-2020.

Salvatore Pirrone is an American artist, designer, and educator. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree (2007) from Parsons at The New School in New York City, and a master's degree in architecture (2000) from the University of Florida. He has exhibited regionally at Arlington Arts Center, Atlas Performing Arts Center, Cultural DC's Mobile Art Gallery, Sandy Spring Museum, Transformer, Arlington Project for Affordable Housing, Maryland Art Place, Hillyer Gallery, and the Dittmar House at Marymount University. He lives and works in Upper Marlboro, Md. and is a tenured associate professor of Design and Art at Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

The artists proposed a tall and slender memorial as a landmark to protect a contemplative space. The monument will be comprised of a 27-foot tall hollow concrete cone, divided by a break in the center and topped with an oculus from which to view the sky. Visitors will be invited to sit inside the structure and on the surrounding benches. Entitled "Circles of Memory," it will honor the local victims of the pandemic and the courage of frontline health care workers, community heroes and first responders.

SEE COMMENORATION, PAGE 12

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Co-Responder Program Shows Promise

Fairfax County police and the Community Service Board's co-responder program continues its expansion, enabling teams to provide direct mental health treatment to individuals in crisis.

The co-responder program partners one police officer assigned to the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) with a CSB Crisis Intervention Specialist. The pair ride in a patrol cruiser together and respond to behavioral health calls for service throughout the county. These calls could be linked to mental health issues, substance usage, developmental disabilities, or other concerns, FCPD said.

There are currently three teams of co-responders, with a fourth team to be added this fall. The teams are deployed every day, operating between noon and midnight based on peak volume of calls for service related to mental health. The co-responder units respond to calls for service received by dispatch.

The original July 2020 proposal for mental health teams to respond to appropriate 911 calls cited programs in other parts of the country, for example in Eugene, Oregon. The city implemented "a strategic triage initiative that dispatches unarmed medics and mental health workers to 911 calls that do not contain elements of extreme violence or criminal activity. These crisis intervention workers are able to alert law enforcement in instances where they require additional support, however out of roughly 24,000 calls dispatched in 2019 only approximately 150 required additional intervention from law enforcement."

The board matter from Supervisors Rod-

ney Lusk and Walter Alcorn mentioned that only 40 percent of FCPD officers had received Crisis Intervention Training. They continued: "Jurisdictions in California, Arizona and New Jersey have instituted similar models to great effect, and I believe that the time has come for Fairfax County to evaluate the feasibility of following their example."

The motion, which passed, called for a review of the 9-1-1 dispatch and response system "to enhance our Diversion First strategies by implementing systems for the deployment of trained unarmed medical, human services, and mental health professionals in instances where mental and behavioral health are the principal reason for the call."

Chief Kevin Davis of FCPD objected to the idea of CSB crisis case workers going out without police, citing safety concerns, and the co-responder program emerged.

Still training FCPD officers in Crisis Intervention training and Integrating Communications Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) was lagged.

In its April 2023 Fairfax review of FCPD police shooting incidents, the Police Executive Research Forum identified that in 2022, the Fairfax department recognized the need to train its officers on how to defuse critical incidents through the implementation of the PERF-developed program ICAT, but did not implement the program in 2022.

The department says it expects all officers to be trained in ICAT by the end of September.

The goal of the co-responder program is to increase timely, on-scene assessment and

de-escalation of behavioral health crises, FCPD said in a release. The co-responder program could assist in diverting community members from arrest and incarceration.

To date, 838 officers of approximately 1,400 have completed Integrating Communications Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) training with the remainder of the Department to finish in September, according to police.

The co-responder program also aligns with the Marcus Alert, the Virginia law that requires 9-1-1, crisis call centers, law enforcement and behavioral health agencies to work together to improve responses to individuals experiencing behavioral health

crises, according to FCPD.

One example of the program working as designed:

On June 6, officers responded to a parking garage in the 2600 block of Park Tower Drive in Vienna for a man who was sitting on the edge of the top deck. Officers engaged the man in conversation and determined he was considering taking his own life. An officer trained in crisis intervention spoke with the man, building a rapport and pleading with the man to step off the ledge. A co-responder unit responded to assist with the conversation. Together, the officer and clinician successfully convinced the man to step off the ledge. The man received further treatment.

Commemoration of County Struggle with Covid

FROM PAGE 11

"Art does not cure, yet it can help us heal. Creativity can offer renewal; through it we can nurture faith in the future," says Gusevich.

"We hope to provide an environment that will bring people together. The memorial strives to be a place of reverence for the lives lost and the people who honor them," notes Pirrone.

"We need memorial spaces and art-

works to help us appreciate the bonds we share as human beings," said ArtsFairfax President and CEO, Linda Sullivan. "With such artworks, engagement invites us to learn from our pain and redouble our efforts to lift up each other every day, not just in emergencies."

The project will require several months to complete, and the project team will reach out to the public at various junctures to meet the artists, engage with the artwork concepts and share experiences.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

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 Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

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

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find

out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmafc.org. The Center's website is www.scmafc.org.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: prsinc.org/carering-volunteering/. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfo/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcount-

ty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs a Certified Arthritis Exercise Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteers for Change. A program for adults which offers more than 50 weekend and evening volunteer opportunities per month. www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Great Falls Hike or Bike Volunteers. Bike or Hike Patrol volunteers assist park rangers by riding on accessible trails in Great Falls Park. To assist park staff in providing info and services to park visitors, maintain good public relations as a representative of the National Park Service, and monitor park resources, visitor usage, and emergency needs. Skills and Experience Desired: Excellent communication skills. Ability to work with culturally, socially, and economically diversified people. Knowledge of the park and local resources, or the

desire to learn. Knowledge of basic bike maintenance or willingness to learn. Willingness to provide basic first aid. Ability to demonstrate skill in basic operation of a bicycle. Call Volunteer Coordinator 703-285-2965 ext. 225

Potomac Paddlers Volunteer Corps. The Potomac Paddlers Corps is a volunteer group with the National Park Service under shared management between Great Falls Park and the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The primary mission of the Corps is to have trained, uniformed park volunteers on the Potomac River to assist the park in identifying and reporting incidents, watch out for risky park visitor behavior, and to deliver safety messages to the public about the dangers of the Potomac River in the Potomac Gorge. Contact: Volunteer Coordinator 703-285-2965 ext. 225 or visit www.nps.gov

ONGOING

1 Million Cups. Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. networking: 9-10 a.m. program at Make Offices at Tysons, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean. Each week a different business owner gives a brief six-minute presentation about where they are in their business. They then offer up a challenge question about a new idea, product, expansion or something they are facing in their business. The group then masterminds solutions. Free and open to the public. Visit www.1millioncups.com/.

ENTERTAINMENT



The 30th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival will take place Sept. 2-3, 2023 at Holy Transfiguration Church in McLean.



Fairfax City Restaurant week Sept. 4-10, 2023 in the City of Fairfax.

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.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

SEPT. 2-3

30th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday; 12:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday. At Holy Transfiguration Church 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. The festival will feature authentic Middle Eastern food, pastries, music and dancing, as well as vendors, church tours, and activities for both children and adults. Smell the aromas from the outdoor grills, partake of Kibbee, Chicken Shish Kebab, Roast Lamb, Falafel, Fattoush, Hummus, and Stuffed Grape Leaves, or any number of other delicious menu choices. Be sure to save room for dessert and coffee. Some of the mouth-watering Arabic pastries include Baklava, Maamoul, Namoura and Ghraybeh. Children can enjoy the moon bounce, face painting, pony rides and the petting zoo, as well as participate in some of the many games going on throughout the festival. Visit www.MiddleEastern-FoodFestival.com.



The Dog Daze event will be held Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023 at The Water Mine in Reston.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 3

5K Run/Walk. 9 a.m. Registration/10 a.m. Race/Walk. At Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home & Fairfax Memorial Park Cemetery, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Proceeds from the 5K will benefit the local Make-A-Wish chapter, the organization that makes wishes come true for terminally ill children in our area. Visit Fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com

SEPT 4-10

Fairfax City Restaurant Week. At restaurants in Fairfax City. Some 30 participating restaurants will offer prix fixe menu experiences at set prices of \$25 for brunch/lunch and \$40 for dinners. Additionally, specialty restaurants offer a Two for \$10 Deal, providing food lovers the opportunity to further explore the rich variety and eclectic flavors of Fairfax food and drink purveyors. Fairfax City Restaurant Week allows diners to experience flavors from Azerbaijan to Vietnam. The ever-popular program will feature more than 30 participants, including Audacious Ale Works, Baku Delicious, Bellissimo, Bollywood Bistro, Cameron's Chocolates, Capital Ale House, Coyote Grill and Cantina, Curry Mantra, Draper's Steak and Seafood, Dolce Vita, El Pollo Rico, Hamrock's, Jas & Fam Caribbean Flavor, Kims Pho Kitchen + Bar, Marco's Pizza, Marumen, Meokja Meokja, Merk-

ado Mexican Grill and Bar, Ned's New England Deck, Old Dominion Pizza Company, ONE Bar and Grill, Ornerly Beer Company, Patriots Pub and Grill, PJ Skidoos, Red Hot and Blue, Roots Natural Kitchen, The Auld Shebeen, The Wine House, and Vivi Bubble Tea. Visit fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 2

Mykle Lyons Commemorative Concert and Jazz Festival. 12-6 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Lake Anne & Washington Plaza Merchant Association (LAWPA) in conjunction with Roxplosion & Kalypso's Sports Tavern announced the artist line up for their 3rd Annual Mykle Lyons Commemorative Concert and Jazz Festival. In honor of Mykle Lyons, LAWPA, with the help of Kalypso's and Roxplosion, have set up a memorial scholarship fund with tax-deductible scholarship donations going to Friends of Music at George Mason to help a deserving jazz student at George Mason University. Checks can be made out to George Mason Foundation; please write "in memory of Mykle Lyons" in the memo line and mail to GMU-CVPA Development Office, Friends of Music, 4400 University Drive, MS 4C1, Fairfax, VA 22030. Visit the Website: <https://www.kalypsoSPORTStavern.com/currentevents>

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 6

"How to Sort Fact From Fiction Online" Talk by AARP's Larry Lipman, 10 a.m. 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Free, refreshments. Sponsored by NARFE 1159. Also available by ZOOM; contact doujones500verizon.net by Sept. 4

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 6

Interfaith Forum for Survivor Support. Reston Community Center, Hunter Woods Room, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. A safe space for sharing how child sexual abuse can affect survivors and learning how you can support them. Questions? Email Angie at 2020victimssurvivors@gmail.com. Join if you... Are a survivor. Are a supporter of a survivor. Want to learn how to support survivors.

SEPT. 7-10

Tysons Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Thursday, 7 September, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday, 8 September, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 September, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 September, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Email: tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com. Call 703-338-3307 for additional information

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Dog Daze Returns. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At The Water Mine, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Join Fairfax County Park Authority for a howling good time at the annual Dog Daze event at The Water Mine. Experience the joy of watching dogs swim and have an all-around good time. The popular event once again features a canine resource fair, so you can visit pet-related vendors and learn more about fun opportunities for dogs around the county. For the safety of the dogs and owners, please observe the following rules: All dogs must be current on vaccinations. All dog handlers must be 18 years or older and supervise dogs at all times. No female dogs in heat or puppies younger than 3 months old.

Aggressive or unruly dogs are not permitted. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. Dogs swim at owners' risk. Humans are not permitted in the pool. Entry costs \$10 per dog. All proceeds go to benefit parks through the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Robinson Secondary Tag Day. Tag Day is the biggest fundraiser of the year where all high school band and orchestra students canvass the entire attendance area to knock on doors and ask for donations. Residents should consider removing their "no soliciting" signs for the morning -- students are instructed to not knock on the door if there is a "no soliciting" sign -- and keep an eye out for members of the orchestra in their Robinson Orchestra polo shirts and all members of the Robinson Marching Rams in their full uniforms.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Memorial Benefit Concert. 2 p.m. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Benefitting United Community and in memory of Phil Bolin, come to a Memorial Benefit Concert/Recital. Join in this enchanting performance honoring the memory of Phil Bolin featuring mezzo-soprano, Caroline Nielson, and pianist, Eddie Rothmel. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. All ticket purchases are non-refundable and will be donated to support United Community. Visit unitedcommunity.org/concerts.

9-11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Great Falls Freedom Memorial. On Monday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m., the annual 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony will be held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial to honor the six residents of Great Falls and all others who lost their lives and suffered in the attacks and their aftermath. The event will feature patriotic songs, a Boy Scout color guard, a keynote speech by Great Falls native Vitale Christy, and a candlelight vigil. The Freedom Memorial is located behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike. Updates to the schedule will be posted at www.gffreedom.org.

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Public Comment on Greenway Toll Increase Request Now Open

The Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) has opened its public comment opportunity and scheduled hearings on an application from the owners of the Dulles Greenway requesting to increase the maximum tolls for most drivers to \$8.10 during peak hours, up from the current \$5.80, and \$6.40 during off-peak hours, up from \$5.25, according to a release from Loudoun County government.

Members of the public may submit written comments through Jan. 24, 2024.

Written comments regarding the Greenway's request for increased toll rates can be provided online through the SCC's website at scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments (click on "Submit Comments" next to case # PUR-2023-00089).

Written comments can also be submitted by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments must refer to case number PUR-2023-00089.

Register for Oral Testimony

The SCC has also scheduled hearings regarding the Greenway's request for increased toll rates. The public witness session is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024, at 1300 East Main Street in Richmond. Public witnesses will testify by telephone.

Public witnesses who wish to provide oral testimony must pre-register by 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024, in one of three ways:

- ❖ Complete a public witness form for case number PUR-2023-00089 on the SCC's website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

- ❖ Email a PDF version of the form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov.

- ❖ Call the SCC at 804-371-9141 during normal business hours (8:15 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and provide your name and a phone number where you can be reached during the hearing.

The SCC allots each witness five minutes to provide testimony.

A separate public evidentiary hearing will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, to receive testimony and evidence from the company, any respondents and the SCC staff. Although testimony

SEE PUBLIC COMMENT, PAGE 15
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Drought Operations Begin for Potomac River

The Potomac River flow is dropping and with little rain in the forecast, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin is ramping up Drought Operations, the commission announced last Friday, Aug. 25.

The staff of the commission's Section for Cooperative Water Supply on the Potomac (CO-OP) announced the flow of the Potomac River has reached a low significant enough to start drought contingencies.

The staff uses river flow forecasts to determine whether changes in operations are needed to meet upcoming water demands. These include releases from upstream reservoirs, Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca, to augment Potomac River flow.

According to Dr. Schultz, Director of the CO-OP, "Today we are initiating CO-OP Drought Operations, per the Water Supply Coordination Agreement of 1982." According to the agreement, drought operations are triggered when flow in the Potomac River at Little Falls, plus Washington metropolitan area Potomac withdrawals, is projected to be less than twice the projected withdrawals for any of the next five days.

The Potomac River supplies 78% of the Washington, DC, metropolitan area's water, with public water supply intakes located in the river just upstream of the city. During drought, water from three upstream reservoirs can be released if necessary to increase river flow. Public water suppliers in the region use the Potomac River as a source of raw water and distribute treated water to homes, businesses, and critical government facilities. Combined, they serve five million residents and over three million workers in the District and surrounding Maryland and

Virginia jurisdictions. The region depends on water for use by residents and workers, use by hospitals and other medical

facilities, fire suppression, and cooling water for industrial air conditioning systems

Drought monitoring is not uncommon for the drier months of fall. There was indication of an especially dry summer to come when earlier this spring the Potomac River flow at Point of Rocks dropped below the drought monitoring threshold of 2,000 cubic feet per second. This is an uncommon occurrence so early in the year.

While Drought Operations are unusual, they are not unprecedented.

"In 1999, a record low June flow was observed in the river and we began Drought Operations. As a result, the first water supply release ever was made from the Jennings Randolph Reservoir over a several-week period, relieving stress from the low flow conditions downstream," said Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director of Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. Additional reservoir releases were made during the Drought Operations of 2002 and 2010.

According to Nardolilli, "Cooperative operations among the three major water suppliers, with coordination and technical support provided by ICPRB's CO-OP, ensured that sufficient water was always available in the river to meet water supply needs and to maintain the environmental flow recommendations at Great Falls and Little Falls."

It is always a good idea to be mindful of water use, including turning off the tap when not actively using water, running the dishwasher and laundry only when you have a full load, and trying to reduce the amount of water we use on landscaping, which is a significant portion of summer water use, Nardolilli said.

Public Comment on Greenway Toll Increase Request

FROM PAGE 14

from members of the public will not be accepted on Jan. 31, 2024, the hearing will be open to the public.

Both hearings are scheduled to be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Background

Loudoun County has opposed toll rate increases requested by the operators of the Dulles Greenway, Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II), which filed its application for the authorization for an increase in the maximum level of tolls last month. The SCC is the entity that considers such requests.

TRIP II has requested a toll increase of 22% during off-peak hours (from \$5.25 to \$6.40) and a 40% increase during peak morning and afternoon hours (from \$5.80 to \$8.10). TRIP II claims the increases are necessary to meet its debt obligation; however, data shows that use of the Greenway is down because of its already high toll rate. Traffic on the Greenway decreased substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic and has not returned to pre-COVID levels.

To promote use of the Greenway by more motorists, Loudoun County has consistently

supported changing the Greenway's toll structure to distance-based tolling while also lowering toll

rates. The Greenway operator has the lawful ability to implement both changes now.

Virginia law enacted in 2021 provides objective criteria for evaluating toll increase proposals, including a requirement that proposed Greenway toll rates are "reasonable" to users in relation to the benefit they are deriving from using the road so that the rates do not "materially discourage" use of the road. Loudoun County believes TRIP II's proposed rates will further discourage the use of the Greenway. The SCC uses the objective criteria to evaluate toll rate increase proposals and Loudoun County supports the SCC review process.

In addition, Loudoun County has opposed any legislation that would potentially permit automatic toll rate increases each year of an unknown amount and an extension of the Greenway's operator's license for an unlimited period of time, which is not good for Loudoun residents. The county's opposition to automatic toll rate increase legislation and continued support of the SCC review process is intended to protect Loudoun residents who may choose to use the Greenway from arbitrary toll rate increases. Legislation supported by TRIP II pertaining to this matter was previously defeated by the Virginia State Senate twice on bipartisan votes.

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

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

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

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Our Daily Diversion, Unfortunately



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I imagine you regular readers have noticed that this column has veered away of late from cancer-centric subjects. I wish I could say it was because they rang the bell (a world-wide acknowledgment that a patient has successfully completed their chemotherapy regimen) at the Infusion Center, but "Alas, poor Yurick ... Unfortunately, I did not hear any bells.

What I did hear was how understanding and concerned and willing to help everybody at my homeowner's insurance company's claims department were, everyone except the actual claims adjuster. And that omission is particularly important because it seems – from what little I know/have observed, he releases the money that satisfies (I can dream, can't I?) my claim and ultimately, he's the one who will determine my future fate: whether it's miserable or rewarding. I just hope his finger is not too fickle.

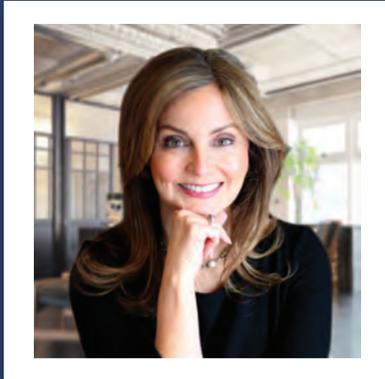
To this hopefully fairly and reasonably compensated end, I have been preoccupied. Not in the way that prevents me from living my life in any sort of normal/functioning way. Hardly. More that it is a recurring subject of disappointment and bewilderment that something we had absolutely nothing to do with/contributed to in any way, a tree crashing into and onto our house thereby poking a hole in the roof (yes, where the water comes in) is the cause of this consternation. It was that water that shorted out one central air-conditioning unit rendering it useless, seeped into the chandelier in the den and then soaked the 6 x 9 Oriental-type rug on the floor, its pad, and the wood floor underneath, a wood floor dated back probably 100 years. The other damage – aside from now needing an entire roof replaced, was a broken window from where a limb from the tree that fell hit a window and shattered it and finally, damaging the other central air-conditioning unit. Which, due to the force of the tree hitting it, was nearly knocked off its cement pedestal. In addition, all its connecting wires to the house were nearly pulled away from the house. The total repair/replacement cost we estimated for all damages at maybe \$60,000. However, the insurance company estimated our damage differently. So different in fact that not only are we not in the same universe, but we also don't even speak the same language.

Consequently, no repairs/replacement have commenced unless we commit to pay the miscellaneous contractors ourselves and hope we're reimbursed at 100% or so when the process finally inches forward. And since we can't afford, literally or figuratively, to assume any possible financial discrepancy, we are currently in "no man's land," stuck between a repair/replacement that's needed and one which has received money/commitment from the insurance company insufficient to do the job at hand/return our house to its pre-July 14th status.

And while Rome burns, so to speak, "Belly Acres," as I named our designated-as-historic (according to the Office of Historic Preservation for Montgomery, County, Md.), "log house" – as its described, its occupants (me, Dina, four cats and one dog) are forced to twiddle our collective thumbs and/or pant non-stop. Given the financial constraints of our reality, all we can do is wait for the powers-that-be to come to their senses and allocate appropriate funds to make us whole again (no pun intended). I would guess all homeowners with similar policies would expect to be covered completely. We don't want more than we deserve. We just want what contractors are telling us we need. Call me naive but I was thinking the \$212.25 I pay monthly – and have paid since May '92, would provide some reassurance that if a tree hit the fan, the fan would be replaced/ fixed. And until there's a resolution/agreement here, "Belly Acres" and the Louries are going nowhere slowly. Consequently, this subject is the last thing we think about/discuss at dinner and likewise the first thing we mention at breakfast as well.

You bet we're talking about it. At the expense of everything else. Cancer? I can't be bothered. I need a new roof/downspouts/gutters, two central air-conditioners, a chandelier, a rug, its pad, a replacement pane of glass, and refinish the wood floor in two rooms. I need to finish all this stuff so I can get my life back to normal, for a cancer survivor, anyway. I can't have all these issues dragging me down. Cancer is enough of a challenge. I don't need another one. That would be piling on.

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



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