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Ages 9-11 8:45 am (100 m swim; 3-mile bike; 0.6 mi run)

Ages 8 and under 9:00 am (50 m swim; 1.5-mile bike; 0.6 mi run)

For more information, contact Bonnie at TrifortheKidsLPRC@gmail.com

NEWS

Richard Byrd Library Takes On Summer

**Only a couple events left at
Richard Byrd as summer
approaches an end**

As summer begins to wind down, Richard Byrd Library still has a few more events left in store in its final days of summer.

Alongside Fairfax County Public Libraries' summer reading adventure challenge where children, depending on their rising grade, are challenged to read a certain number of books and receive a reward upon completion- there are other ongoing events at Richard Byrd that prove fun for children and families.

Two of its final events for the summer include a Robotics course for teens at 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 12, and a Maker Lab on Aug. 15 at 3:30 p.m. where children ages 6-12 will be making rain sticks.

"For the robotics, the company who is presenting it will come in with the base of the robot - the kids will be able to modify it and then put the robot through an obstacle course," said Youth Services Manager at Richard Byrd, Delia Ullberg.



PHOTO BY BASMA HUMADI/THE CONNECTION

Richard Byrd Library staff tries to get children pumped for summer reading.

The library will also continue to host its final "Fun with Ones," "Time for Twos" and "Bedtime Storytime" sessions where children come in and enjoy listening to stories. The final Bedtime Storytime will be held Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. and children anywhere from 0-5 can come in their PJs with a stuffed animal and listen to a bedtime story.

This summer proved to be especially busy for Richard Byrd as their events can often bring in anywhere from 40 to 80 people.

"We've had a bunch of paid performers, we had somebody who brought some animals in and talked

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When Politics Becomes Family Tradition

Girls/Boys State develops into a three-generation family legacy.

BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH
THE CONNECTION

Boys/Girls State is a summer leadership program put on by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for rising high school seniors. The program is highly selective, looking for students who are intellectually advanced as well as greatly involved in their community and school. For Springfield local Genevieve Montavon and her family, this has become a household tradition.

From June 18-24, the West Springfield student traveled to Longwood University to participate in Girls State. Accompanying Genevieve was Leslie Lermo, as Caleb Barnes and Josh Chapman served as the male candidates from West Springfield to Boys State.

The intensive, week-long schedule included lots of speech-giving and debating, both by camp-goers and special guests. Guest speakers included Ralph Northam, current Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Mark Herring, current Attorney General of Virginia.

EACH STATE PROGRAM differs slightly, but the main layout of boys/girls state follows a “city” format. This means participants are divided into subgroups, called cities, in which they elect mock public officials and state legislature representatives.

From there, partakers have the chance to get elected into a state office like governor or lieutenant governor. As the week goes on, legislatures meet to elect officials, pass bills and complete other tasks as a real State Legislature would. In addition, mock trials are held.

“To be a judge or attorney general, you had to do a certain activity which is moot court,” said Genevieve. “Everyone got the same case which all contained the same facts and case laws, which was about a guy with marijuana possession and you had to prove or disprove his possession and intent to distribute.” She added.

Genevieve and three other teammates assigned to the case made it to the last stage in the mock trial. After the completion of the hearing, she was voted as state judge.

“I knew that at Girls State Genevieve, and all the other attendees, would participate in a powerful week that enabled them to be actively involved in the government process



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVE MONTAVON

West Springfield High rising senior Genevieve Montavon loads her suitcase into the bus set to take her to the Girls State at Longwood University.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVE MONTAVON

Genevieve Montavon being sworn in as judge during the Girls State week at Longwood University.

and to learn about how the government works first hand,” said Eve Montavon, Genevieve’s mother, who went to Girls State as well.

Eve attended the citizenship program back in 1983 in Arizona, from McClintock high school. Her experience gained her the title of attorney general; a role she was inspired to run for because of her uncle, Bruce Babbitt. Babbitt served as governor of Arizona from 1978 to 1987. He was also the

United States Secretary of the Interior from 1993 to 2001, under President Bill Clinton.

On the day Genevieve left for Longwood, Eve gave her the brochure from her 1983 visit.

“In the brochure, we were laughing, because one of the requirements to apply to Girls State was that you could not be married. I was interested to see if it was still the same,” Eve said.

In addition, Eve’s aunt, Patty (Bilby)

sored club.

“What I got out of the camp is a much better understanding of the state government and how much it can affect day-to-day lives. If you want to make change it’s important to start locally,” Genevieve said.

Although the schedule was “completely exhausting,” Genevieve described Girls State as a fun environment in which she was able to surround herself with positive influences who turned into good friends.



PHOTO BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH/THE CONNECTION

Genevieve Montavon and her mother Eve.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVE MONTAVON

Mother (left) and daughter’s Girls State programs placed side by side.

Moore attended Girls State from Flagstaff high school, Arizona in 1965. Patty’s cousin and Bruce’s brother, Jim Babbitt, attended Boys State the same year.

GENEVIEVE believes that the organizations she participates in at school helped her get accepted into the program: This past year she took on the role as captain of the debate team at West Springfield and manager of the volleyball team. In addition, she is a member of multiple organizations such as the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Key Club, Technology Student association and Girl Up, a United Nations sponsored club.

CAMPS & SCHOOLS



With studios in Fairfax, Alexandria and Mosaic, Tiny Dancers offers a curriculum designed especially for young children ages 2-12.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Tiny Dancers Receives Top Honors

Tiny Dancers has been named Best Ballet or Dance Studio and Best Kids' Birthday Party Venue in the July 2017 issue of Washington Family Magazine. In addition, Northern Virginia Magazine, in the June issue, named the program Best of NoVA in the Parent & Me category.

Studio owner Donna Rathe, commenting on the awards, said, "We're thrilled to be able to share our passion for dance with our young dancers. To watch them start out as toddlers in our Wiggletoes program and then a few years later dancing with confidence and poise is what keeps us going."

With studios in Fairfax, Alexandria and Mosaic, Tiny Dancers offers a curriculum designed especially for young children ages 2-12. The literacy-based program uses age appropriate choreography and emphasizes technical excellence in a fun and nurturing environment. By introducing dancers to the basics of ballet, tap and jazz using well-known fairy tales and hundreds of costumes and props, students are encouraged to learn through creative self-expression and exploration.

Visit www.tinydancers.com or call 703-385-5580 for more information.

Mayor Visits Main Street Child Development Center

Mayor David Meyer, pictured here with students and teachers Liz Cassidy and Elisa Otiniano, visited Main Street Child Development Center, Fairfax, in July with a handful of letters and a stack of brand new recycle bins. The letters were from the "Dolphins" Pre-K class, expressing the need for recycling pick up at their preschool, located at the Green Acres Community Center. The Mayor thanked the children for taking care of their community and the environment and congratulated each for an early and successful start in exercising their rights as citizens.



Park Authority Honors Lake Braddock Junior

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board has named Hidden Pond Nature Center volunteer Jennifer Ochs of Springfield the 2017 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Student Honoree. The annual Elly Doyle awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute outstanding volunteer service to the Park Authority, and one student honoree is named each year.

Ochs has been a volunteer at Hidden Pond since the summer of 2013, working as an assistant naturalist/animal caretaker. Her regular duties include live exhibit care and maintenance, visitor services at the front desk and summer camp support. She leads weekend birthday party programs and has supported projects such as invasive plant removal, stream clean-

ups and erosion control.

Ochs also is on the nature center's Envirothon team, which is a competitive natural resources program. The Lake Braddock Secondary School junior was praised for her professional demeanor and mentoring of younger volunteers and for serving as a good role model for younger children and her peers through her commitment and accomplishments.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Award program was established by the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1988 in recognition of former board member and Chair Ellamae Doyle's years of outstanding service. Awards will be presented at the Elly Doyle Park Services and Outstanding Volunteers Award ceremony in November.



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PHOTO BY BASMA HUMADI/THE CONNECTION

Richard Byrd Library makes a nice home for its community by hosting events that cater to children and adults.

Library Takes on Summer

FROM PAGE 2

about their survival strategies,” said Ullberg. “We’ve had someone come in with an African didgeridoo, Hidden Pond come in and talk about tracking and we’ve had a program which was a partnership between us and the park authority on the solar eclipse.”

Having worked in FCPL for 10 years Ullberg has recently most enjoyed hosting “Maker Lab” sessions where children get to do activities like decorate planters or make rain sticks.

“It’s always fun to watch the kids get really creative,” said Ullberg.

— BASMA HUMADI

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An Open Letter to Readers and More

Buy an ad in our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

Last year, when I wrote an editorial similar to this one, there was some controversy about it inside the Connection. But many community organizations, civic organizations, businesses and elected officials responded positively, and it made a difference.

I have a special favor to ask, once again: Buy an ad in our Newcomers and Community Guide.

To put on my publisher's hat (not my editor's hat) for a minute, if you have a marketing budget, and you value coverage of local newspapers (not just ours), why wouldn't you spend a portion of that budget (any portion) supporting that platform?

Show your support for our organization which continues to be here to support the forces of good in our communities.

Our annual Newcomers and Community Guide is a pullout section that will appear in the Aug. 23, 2017 edition of all 15 Connection Newspapers, published by Local Media Con-

nection. Deadline is Aug. 16.

We are creating a quality special issue, and we need your help. Whether you invest in a small ad in a single paper (super affordable), or a full page in all 15 of our papers (super value), we appreciate your help this month.

For the same reasons that organizations, businesses and campaigns know they want local newspaper coverage, newspaper advertising is an effective way to reach voters, residents, clients. The Connection reaches more than 200,000 readers, in print and online, including remarkable demographics. Our readers include local and national decision makers in the public and private sector.

According to an independent study cited by the National Newspaper Association: 86 percent of voters who cast ballots in the election four years ago read newspapers in print or online; 79 percent of voters ages 18 to 34 read newspapers in print or online; 91 percent of voters who contribute to campaigns read newspapers in print or online.

The deadline for the Newcomers and Community Guide is Aug. 16. Digital enhancements and support are available. For more information, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

See www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising

Share Tips about Community

We need help from our readers with ideas for our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/> by Wednesday, Aug. 17.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

Local Impact of Immigration

"Lifeblood of our astounding economic success story."

BY GERRY CONNOLLY
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-11)

White House Advisor Stephen Miller took pains last week to point out that Emma Lazarus' sonnet, "The New Colossus," was not affixed to the Statue of Liberty when she was unveiled in 1886. He, of course, was right in fact but wrong in spirit.

The famed "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses" lines were added 20 years later, but have come to represent the American ideal that we are a nation of immigrants, enthusiastically welcoming those from any background who want to come here, work hard, and play by the rules. Here in Fairfax County, we not only embrace that ideal, we recognize it as the lifeblood of our astounding economic success story.

President Trump and the senators pushing the RAISE Act, a bill to severely restrict legal immigration into the United States, would



have you believe a dramatic increase in immigrants leads to economic decline and lower wages, not to mention higher crime rates and a host of other social ills. If anyone from the White House made

the 15-mile trip to Fairfax County, they would learn the opposite is true.

In 1970 less than 4 percent of Fairfax's population was foreign born. Today that number is 30.7 percent, more than double the rate in the country at large. But that dramatic increase in immigration did not lead to the kind of dystopia the President envisions. Instead, since 1970, Fairfax County has become an economic colossus that drives our state's economy and is envied across the globe. Household income is among the highest in the nation, crime rates remain at historic lows, and our community hums with the kind of economic dynamism that drives

innovation and long-term productivity growth.

How did we get here? Undoubtedly we've capitalized on our proximity to, and our partnership with, the federal government. But the facts are quite clear that the dramatic increase in foreign-born immigration has accelerated our economic success. Immigrants in Fairfax are primarily working age, more likely to start a business, less likely to commit crimes, and contribute to economic growth in both high-skilled and low-skilled fields, creating technology firms worth billions and caring for the elderly as home care workers. Immigrants have revitalized many of our older

neighborhoods, adding \$7,383 to the value of each and every home in our county, according to the Partnership for a New American Economy. The results speak for themselves. Foreign-born immigrants have fueled our success.

But Fairfax is not alone. Small towns, rural communities, and large cities across the country have capitalized on the economic vitality and opportunities created when immigrants show up and get to work. Welcoming "the homeless, the tempest-tost" is the moral thing to do, but right here in President Trump's own backyard we've proven that's the smart thing to do.

AUGUST 29: SPECIAL ELECTION - FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

A special election to fill the Fairfax County School Board seat left vacant by the resignation of At-Large member Jeanette Hough will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017. The winner of the election will serve the remainder of that term, which extends to Jan. 1, 2020.

Important dates:
❖ Aug. 15 - Voter Registration Deadline: 5 p.m., Online: 11:59 p.m.
❖ Aug. 22 - Deadline to Apply for an Absentee Ballot by Mail: 5 p.m.
❖ Aug. 26 - Final Day In-Person Absentee Voting
❖ Aug. 29 - Absentee Ballot Return Deadline: 7 p.m.
Absentee Voting at the Fairfax County Government Center* July 14 through Aug. 25

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 26: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 323
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❖ There will be no absentee voting at any satellite locations. Absentee voting will only be available at the Fairfax County Government Center. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm for more information.
More information about voting in this election is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm.

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FAITH

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday.

Grace Presbyterian Church offers Sunday school for all ages at 9:15, and a blended worship service 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. Coffee and fellowship follows worship. Nursery care is provided from 9-11:45 a.m. 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. 703-451-2900 or www.gracepresby.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplce.org.

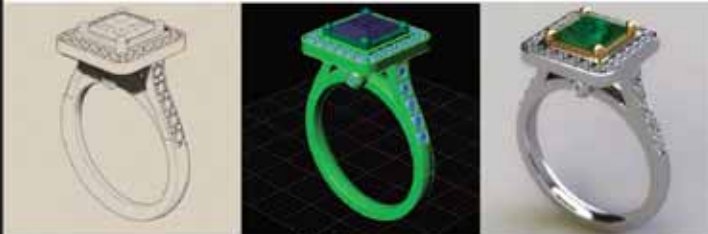
Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. franconiaumc.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

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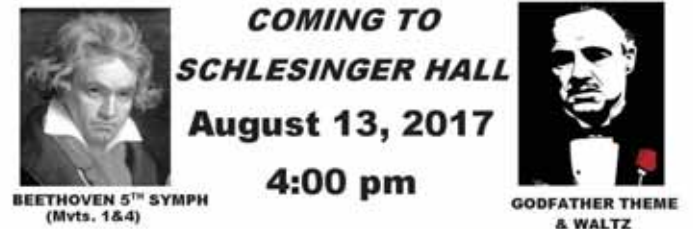


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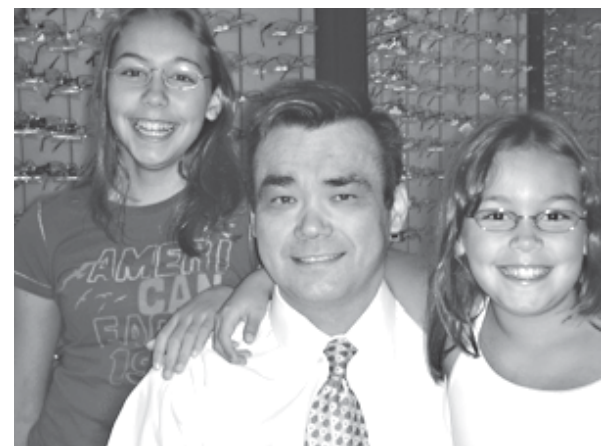
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Setting a Summer Table

Warm weather design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

From a backyard barbeque to a simple brunch, there's still plenty of time to celebrate warm weather with table designs that embody summer's trends.

"We're still in summer and the weather is going to be warm for quite some time," said Amanda Mertins, president of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. "An indoor or outdoor tablescape style depends on the occasion. Birthdays, holidays [and] retirements, all evoke a different feeling."

Start with fresh foliage inspired by the natural surroundings. "Go out into your garden and use flowers [or] greens on your table," said Mertins. "Simple summer dinner party tables look great with lots of candles in votive holders, mason jars and glass lanterns. Remember to hang some of them in the trees for romance."

Incorporate a personal touch into each place setting, advises Hope Hassell, Case Design/Remodeling. "It will make each guest feel truly welcomed and you will look like the perfect hostess. It's as simple as printing off some photos from your phone or just adding place cards."

"Keep it casual by presenting family-style dishes down the center of the table," added Kimberly Asner, designer at Country Casual Teak. "Mix in mood-setting candle lighting and colorful, fresh-cut flowers in multiples for the most impact ... keep arrangements below eye level for easy conversation."

For alfresco dining, practicality is key, says



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLLY PRITCHARD

Sea-themed serveware in blue help create an elegant tone for summer entertaining.

"The effort you put into your party table will go a long way to the overall success of the party."

— Amanda Mertins, Patina Polished Living

Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. Dinnerware needs to be both durable and aesthetically appealing. "Bamboo dishes ... are perfect for outdoor dining," she said. "They won't break if dropped and

are a great alternative to melamine."

Summer offers an abundance of options for using color, says Hassell. "Not only do you have so many options of in-season flowers, but you also have the nature around

you to provide the backdrop."

The color blue establishes the type of serene atmosphere that Molly Pritchard of Arlington-based interior design firm, Design Lines likes to create at her summer parties. "Especially light blue because everything about it represents summer," said Pritchard. "It's cool and clean and neutral, especially when paired with white or cream. It creates a seaside feel which is very summery."

IN ADDITION TO COLOR, motifs can set the stage for summer dining. Designers at JT interiors in Potomac suggest using white



PHOTO COURTESY OF JT INTERIORS

Dinnerware and accessories like these from JT Interiors create a festive summer table.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNTRY CASUAL TEAK

This candle holder by Country Casual Teak helps create a casual summer table setting.

SEE SUMMER TABLE, PAGE 9

HOME SALES

In June 2017, 267 Springfield homes sold between \$900,000-\$185,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$900,000-\$645,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY THOMAS

Break-resistant bamboo dishes are ideal for outdoor dining says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
8719 SCOTT ST	5	4	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$900,000	Detached	1.21	22153		CHAPEL ACRES
9067 NORTHEEDGE DR	6	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$825,000	Detached	0.36	22153		SOUTH RUN FOREST
6310 STILL SPRING PL	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA		\$825,000	Patio Home	0.09	22315		KINGSTOWNE
6756 EDGE CLIFF DR	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA		\$810,000	Detached	0.20	22315		EDGE HILL
7548 LAUREL CREEK LN	5	4	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$790,000	Detached	0.31	22150		LAUREL CREEK
6750 EDGE CLIFF DR	3	4	1	ALEXANDRIA		\$785,000	Detached	0.21	22315		EDGE HILL
7209 NEUMAN ST	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$776,000	Detached	0.50	22150		SHIRLEY SPRINGS
8920 MOUNTAIN ASH DR	4	2	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$770,000	Detached	0.20	22153		WHISPERWOOD
8714 MIDDLEFORD DR	5	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$765,000	Detached	0.19	22153		MIDDLEFORD
6803 BLUECURL CIR	5	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$750,000	Detached	0.26	22152		HUNTER VILLAGE
9025 SCOTT ST	5	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$750,000	Detached	0.30	22153		SOUTH RUN FOREST
8747 CENTER RD	5	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$749,900	Detached	0.26	22152		RED FOX ESTATES
6906 TRILLIUM LN	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$749,900	Detached	0.27	22152		HUNTER VILLAGE
8725 MIDDLEFORD DR	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$749,900	Detached	0.20	22153		MIDDLEFORD
7703 STONE WHEAT CT	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA		\$739,000	Detached	0.12	22315		KINGSTOWNE
7611 GRALNICK PL	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$727,000	Detached	0.28	22153		LAKEWOOD HILLS
9051 NORTHEEDGE DR	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$719,900	Detached	0.33	22153		SOUTH RUN FOREST
7011 DEVEREUX CIRCLE DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA		\$710,000	Detached	0.21	22315		LAKE D EVEREUX
7205 COUNTRYWOOD CT	5	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$705,000	Detached	0.42	22151		WOODLAND VILLAGE
6312 STILL SPRING PL	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA		\$700,000	Patio Home	0.09	22315		KINGSTOWNE
7819 BELLEFLOWER DR	4	2	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$699,888	Detached	0.29	22152		DAVENTRY
9115 NORTHEEDGE DR	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$680,000	Detached	0.32	22153		SOUTH RUN FOREST
6286 ALFORTH AVE	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA		\$671,005	Townhouse	0.06	22315		DEVONSHIRE
7850 ROUNDABOUT WAY	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$670,000	Detached	0.27	22153		MIDDLE VALLEY
7436 SILVER PINE DR	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$669,000	Detached	0.27	22153		GREENWOOD ESTATES
5401 CASTLE BAR LN	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA		\$665,400	Detached	0.13	22315		KINGSTOWNE
8546 BAUER CIR	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$660,000	Detached	0.12	22152		BAUER
9243 NORTHEEDGE DR	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$660,000	Detached	0.31	22153		SOUTH RUN FOREST
7132 BARRY RD	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA		\$657,500	Detached	1.18	22315		WINDSOR EST
7522 CANDYTUFT CT	5	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$650,000	Detached	0.22	22153		MIDDLE VALLEY
8502 ETTA DR	5	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$645,000	Detached	0.29	22152		KEENE MILL STATION
8481 BRUTUS CT	5	3	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$645,000	Detached	0.21	22153		THE FOREST AT SOUTHRUN

Copyright 2017 MarketStats for ShowingTime. Source: Bright MLS as of July 15, 2017.



Adding a fresh flower arrangement to a table design, like this one by Patina Polished Living, will enhance the overall party.

COURTESY OF
PATINA POLISHED LIVING

Summer Table Trends

FROM PAGE 8

dinnerware, emblazoned with a lemon, to turn an everyday meal into a summer soirée. The tableware can be accented with an array of accessories including platters, coasters, bowls and tea towels. “It creates a very summery look, and it’s white and clean. Lemons and water are summery, like lemonade.”

Summer table décor need not be expensive, says Hassell. “Simplicity can be stunning,” she said. “The

thoughtful placement of a sprig of rosemary can add just enough without having to go overboard.”

Originality is a quality that Mertins encourages.

“Think outside the box,” she said. “Having a brunch? Use a vintage quilt as the tablecloth. Hosting a baby shower? Use silver rattles as decor and baby silver cups for the flowers. The effort you put into your party table will go a long way to the overall success of the party.”

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Debating Future of Airbnb in Fairfax County

Supervisors are considering updating its zoning ordinance to allow short-term rentals.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Right now, there are more than 300 rentals available in Fairfax County through Airbnb — all illegal.

Airbnb, which is a lodging reservation website, is just one company that gives its users the ability to list spare rooms, apartments or entire homes for strangers to book for an amount of time and fee of their choosing.

Referred to as short-term rentals, Airbnb and other companies, like Craigslist, HomeAway, FlipKey and more, are considered the hospitality industry's segment of the sharing economy, a model where individuals directly borrow or rent assets owned by someone else.

Comparable to ridesharing services like Uber or Lyft, which disrupted the taxi industry, short-term rentals are giving people more lodging options to consider other than booking with a hotel chain or bed and breakfast.

Residents of Fairfax County cannot legally list their property for rent on these reservation websites, but that could change by next year.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and county employees are considering updating the Zoning Ordinance of Fairfax County to allow for the operation of these rentals.

The zoning changes are being developed after Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed the Senate Bill 1578, "Short-term rental property; registration of persons offering property for rental," into law on March 24, which authorized localities in the commonwealth to adopt an ordinance to require people to register annually in a short-term rental registry.

Taking effect on July 1, the bill defines short-term rental as the "provision of a room or space that is suitable or intended for occupancy for dwelling, sleeping or lodging purposes for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days, in exchange for a charge for the occupancy."

The bill defines an operator of these rentals as "the proprietor of any dwelling, lodging or sleeping accommodations offered as a short-term rental, whether in the capacity of owner, lessee, sublessee, mortgagee in possession, licensee or any other possessory capacity."

People and entities already licensed or registered for rental or management of property by the Department of Health, the Real Estate Board, the Virginia Real Estate Time-Share Act, or a locality would not be required to register, according to the legislation.

The state bill also authorizes localities to impose penalties not to exceed \$500 per violation to those who violate the registry ordinance.



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

John and Mary Lou McEwan, who rent a home at 9319 Ludgate Drive in Alexandria on Airbnb, are one of two operators in the county that received a violation from the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance, which has received 18 complaints of possible short-term rentals operating in the county this year.

Lawmakers Favor Local Control

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the legislation was a win for the county and other localities.

"The county pressed the General Assembly to give us the authority to set our own rules for short-term rentals," said McKay, who is the chairman of the board's Legislative Committee and a board director of the Virginia Association of Counties.

"The Virginia Association of Counties negotiated with industry and the General Assembly some discretion, although not uniform discretion as to where these things go and how we can regulate them," McKay said. "My role in this really was to protect the interest of the county and allowing us to have local land-use control and not letting the state create a one-size-fits-all solution."

"Virginia is very diverse and what might work in Arlington might not work in Rockingham," he added.

He and Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) are leading the charge for the county to analyze and recommend changes to the ordinance for the board to consider. On March 14, they directed the county to create a working group comprising county's Planning and Zoning, Tax Administration and Code Compliance departments, and the

Office of the County Attorney to draft the new zoning regulations and to establish the registry.

The group is also supposed to include county residents who have personal experience with short-term rentals, as well as representatives from the hospitality industry and business community.

The new regulations will address several factors: Where these rentals would be allowed in the county; how often they could be rented out; what types of properties could be rented out; and occupancy levels, parking accommodations, safety standards and other concerns that would be required from any other business enterprise in the county.

"At what point in the time is it an accessory use to someone's home versus a standalone hotel in the middle of a neighborhood?" McKay asked. "We still have to distinguish those factors, but ultimately if you're going to be operating a business in Fairfax County, we have a moral obligation to make sure our ordinance respects your ability to do that, but also puts in adequate safeguards to protect the public — fundamentally from a public safety standpoint and also to protect the neighbors of these residences who live in residentially-zoned areas."

Senate Bill 1578 already standardized the consumption of alcoholic beverages for the rentals because the legislation amended the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act to classify short-term rentals as a bed and breakfast establishment for purposes of alcoholic beverage licenses.

Under this consideration, short-term rental operators would need to apply for a specialized retail bed and breakfast alcoholic beverage license if they want to provide libations to guests on premises.

There is a nonrefundable \$65 application fee and a \$35 license fee for bed and breakfast establishments, according to the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Matter of Balance

"It's a balancing act," McKay said.

Another challenge facing the working group is balancing the interests of those who are against the rentals being used in residential neighborhoods with the interests of those who want to take advantage of the sharing economy.

"These short-term rentals are obviously a part of this new sharing economy, a technology that didn't exist years before," McKay said.

SEE ZONING ORDINANCE, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Re-examining Zoning Ordinance in Fairfax County

FROM PAGE 10

There are vested interests in how the regulations are formulated.

"The hotel industry has a lot at stake here and we certainly don't want to do anything that hurts our brick and mortar hotel industry," McKay said.

The new regulations, according to McKay, would level the playing field and make sure there are certain conditions and standards for the new industry to meet.

"Home sharing has become a valuable tool for many middle-class families in need of supplemental income to help pay their mortgage, save for retirement and handle life's unexpected challenges," said Crystal Davis, Airbnb spokesperson. "Airbnb has worked with over 250 U.S. municipalities, including the state of North Carolina and the District of Columbia, to collect and remit millions in tax revenue."

The company has collaborated with other jurisdictions around the country to establish a licensing and registration process, according to Davis.

"We look forward to continued conversations with Virginia representatives on fair home sharing regulations that preserve neighborhood quality of life, protect communities and give residents the ability to share extra space in their homes to make ends meet," Davis said.

The working group will be hearing more from hospitality industry lobbyists across the spectrum.

"We're going to make sure that our ordinance is fair to both [short-term rentals] and our standard brick and mortar hotels throughout the county," McKay said. "We're definitely going to get their input on this before anything goes to a vote. That's for sure."

Not a New Frontier

Zoning ordinance regulations went into effect on Dec. 31, 2016, in neighboring Arlington County before state lawmakers acted, which defined short-term residential rentals and created standards for their use.

Under the regulation, Arlington County residents have to apply annually for what is called an "accessory homestay" permit for \$60.

Arlington County received 50 applications from Dec. 31, 2016, through Feb. 14, 2016, and issued 47 permits, according to an Arlington County Board agenda from Feb. 25, 2017.

Whether Fairfax County moves forward with changing the ordinance, or how it changes the ordinance depends on how the public reacts.

"We're trying to right-size our ordinance to allow these where reasonable, but also give our community, the neighborhoods, the confidence that there's levers of control over them so they don't become a neighborhood problem," McKay said.

Trouble in Neighborhoods

"It's sort of evenly divided between people who would like to be able to use their prop-

"At what point in the time is it an accessory use to someone's home versus a standalone hotel in the middle of a neighborhood?"

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)



erties for short-term rentals and then we've got people who absolutely do not want anybody in their neighborhood to be doing short-term rentals," said Supervisor Penelope "Penny" Gross (D-Mason).

She said the issue has really cropped up in the Lake Barcroft area of her district. This is because the lake is privately owned and maintained through the Lake Barcroft Association, Inc.

"They own the lake and these short-term rentals in some cases have been advertising that they have lake privileges," Gross said. "Well, not exactly."

The Lake Barcroft Association has not yet taken a position for or against allowing short-term renters to use its lake, but its members have been speaking with Gross about their concerns, she said.

Many homeowners' associations have written policies governing its members' rights to list property for rent or barring members from listing property for short-term rental in their communities altogether.

Members of the Reston Association, a homeowners' association that all Reston property owners are members of, have been vocal about curtailing short-term rental use in residential areas. The RA Board of Directors is currently considering developing policies for its members regulating or banning short-term rentals and plans on lobbying the county for its residents.

In the meantime, people continue to illegally use Airbnb and other short-term rental services throughout the county.

Over the past year, the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance received 18 complaints of possible short-term rentals operating in the county, according to Tony Castrilli, a spokesperson for the county government.

"DCC staff investigated these complaints and found sufficient information to corroborate two [short-term rentals], one in the Mason District and one in the Mount Vernon District, for which notices of violation were issued," Castrilli said. "Some of the other cases were closed because there was insufficient evidence that STRs were actually operating at those addresses or that there were any other zoning violations occurring."

The property owners who were issued notices of violation were: John and Mary Lou McEwan for their property at 9319 Ludgate Drive in Alexandria and Blake and Sara Ratcliff for their property at 3320 Grass Hill Terrace in Falls Church, according to Castrilli.

"We live in a nice, quiet, safe neighbor-

hood and I'm very concerned about my wife and daughter's safety," an abutting neighbor wrote in a complaint to the DCC about the McEwan's property in Alexandria in March, according to documents obtained by John McEwan through a Freedom of Information Act request. The identities of complainants were withheld in the documents.

On May 1, John McEwan spoke to DCC staff and told them that he had rented his property for a weekend indoor Moroccan wedding when the complaint was made. He also told the employees that he would be renting it to someone for 40 days, which is longer than what the state defines as a short-term rental, according to the FOIA documents.

On May 9, DCC employees toured the rental property, a multi-level home with five bedrooms, and advised John McEwan that short-term rentals were not allowed in the county, even if the county was looking to adopt new rules and regulations, according to the FOIA documents.

From that point on, the DCC and Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck's office received several emails from the original complainant and others stating that the house was being rented.

Many of the emails included attachments of photos of people near the home and cars parked in the driveway as evidence, according to the FOIA documents.

On May 19, a warning letter was sent to the McEwans.

"This property has had a revolving door of transients, including a large weekend event, disrupting our quiet, peaceful neighborhood, not to mention the neighbor on neighbor conflict this has created," an email that was written to Peggy Delean, DCC Code Compliance Supervisor, said on May 25, according to FOIA documents.

"Allowing a revolving door of strangers every couple of nights does not sit well with those of us who have children, and will not add value to our properties," the email continued. "Calling the police for noise complaints, speeding cars, neighbor disputes, or other menacing problems created by this situation is a waste of taxpayer money and police resources. What is preventing you from shutting this operation down?"

Throughout the month, DCC staff spoke with John McEwan who admitted that he was still renting his property.

On June 19, the McEwans were ordered by the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office to vacate short-term renters from the property within 14 days and to permanently cease

the use of the dwelling for transient occupancy, unless and until they obtained Board of Supervisors' approval of a special exception for a bed and breakfast use, according to FOIA documents.

The zoning violation carried a \$200 fine if they did not comply, with each subsequent offense carrying \$500 fines.

"The funny thing about Airbnb is everybody uses it but nobody wants it in their backyard," McEwan said.

But he is no hypocrite when it comes to this issue because he lives right next door to the rental property with his wife and mother in law.

"I'm next door, so nothing is going to happen without me being here," he said. "It's my asset. It's my property. I don't want my house trashed. It's my neighborhood."

McEwan says that there is a fairly high barrier to enter the property, which requires a \$1,200 minimum fee: \$200 cleaning fee; \$500 a night with a two-night minimum; as well as a \$1,000 security deposit, according to the property's Airbnb listing, which has four positive reviews.

McEwan considers the barrage of emails from his neighbors to county officials complaining about his short-term Airbnb tenants to be more racially motivated than anything else, since his renters have all been culturally diverse and often different from the majority of the neighborhood's residents.

John McEwan said he would be appealing the violation at the cost of \$600 because he was told by various county employees that no citations would be given while the county considers changes to the zoning laws.

McKay could not speak to the individual cases being investigated, but he said it wouldn't be unusual if the county waited to enforce open cases until the discussion about changing the ordinance was complete.

A majority of the cases remain under investigation, according to Castrilli.

Collecting Feedback

The county short-term rental working group is collecting public feedback through an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/short-term-rentals. Residents can take the online survey and email comments or concerns to ordadmin@fairfaxcounty.gov by Aug. 31.

"There is no proposed ordinance language at this point," McKay said. "They're just fact-finding and sharing scenarios and experiences in the field and looking at best practices."

The public will also be able testify at future public hearings about the new short-term rental zoning rules if such hearings are authorized and scheduled.

A Planning Commission hearing is expected in the fall with a Board of Supervisors public hearing and vote in December or January 2018, according to a memo about short-term rentals that was written to the Board of Supervisors by Deputy County Executive Robert Stalzer.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Photo Exhibition. Through Aug. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. “Chalkboards to Smartboards: Free Public Schools in Fairfax County and Fairfax City” traces the evolution of free public schools from the log and frame one-room schools of late 19th and early 20th-centuries to today’s high-tech learning centers. Exhibition explores life in a one-room school, desegregation, and challenges of the post-World War II suburban population explosion. Free. Call 703-385- 8414 for more.

Senior Olympics. Deadline to register for the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics is Aug. 26. Participants must be at least 50-years-old by Dec. 31, 2017. Register at www.nvso.us until Sept. 2 or via U.S. mail before Aug. 26 with forms available at area recreation centers. To volunteer contact RSVP Northern Virginia at 703-403-5360 or email rsvp@volunteerfairfax.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 10

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Learn about “dirt critters,” in the area. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588 for more.

AUG. 10-11

Golf Tournament. all day at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Middle Atlantic PGA Junior Tour Championship. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/lhgc or call 703-439-8849 for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

Kidz Korner Children’s Event. 10:30–11:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. “Oh Susannah!” Call 703-385-7858 for more.

Aviation Historian. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room A/B, 10360 North St. Local historian, Mary Lipsey, will speak about the little-known inventor and pilot, Dr. William Christmas, whose 1908 flight in Fairfax Station was the first aviation success since the Wright Brothers. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/ or 703-293-6227 x6.

Double Bubble Run. noon-4 p.m. in Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Foam, bubbles, colors, obstacles, super heroes, and food. Visit www.doublebubblerrun.com or call 703-385-7858 for more.

Body Paint Workshop. 5-9 p.m. at Fairfax Art League Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. The workshop consists of free dance, yoga movements and other techniques to reestablish harmony between the artist and their art. \$8. Email melanie.bikowski@gmail.com or call 757-822-0561 for more.

“Tangles” On Stage. 7 p.m. at Harris Theater (near Mason parking deck), George Mason University, Fairfax. Musical written and directed by visiting scholar Jeffrey Steiger and produced by Charles Samenow, MD. Visit www2.gmu.edu/ for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

Yoga on the Square. 10 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring A yoga mat, a water bottle, and yourself! Call 703-385-7858 for more.

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge T-TRAK model train show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Meet the Artist Reception. noon-3 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Art Quilts Exhibit by fiber artist Marisela Rumberg, exhibit runs Aug. 9-Sept. 3. Visit www.MariselaRumberg.com for more.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St.t, Fairfax. “Reston: A Revolutionary Idea.” Author and biographer Kristina Alcorn will discuss the history of Reston and sign and sell her book, “In His Own Words: Stories from the Extraordinary Life of Reston’s Founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr.” Free. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. 703-385-8414.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

Tai Chi. 6:30-7:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Class will take place in Old Town Square at the pergola, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

AUG. 16-20

Cirque du Soleil. Various times at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle. Their current “OVO,” show is created by Deborah Colker, the first female director in Cirque du Soleil history. Visit www.eaglebankarena.com/ for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 17

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Learn about insects in the area. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588 for more.

Lucia Valentine Concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive. Grab dinner at one of the many restaurants in downtown, and listen to great music. Free. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 18

Music on the Plaza. 7 p.m. at the Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Free, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

Family Fun Movie Nights. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. “Sing,” is the feature. Free. An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 14. Food to donate for Britepaths can be dropped off at the Sherwood Center on the evening of the Family Fun Nights. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

DJ Music and Golf. 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by Rush Hour DJ. Call 703-924-2600 for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

DJ Music and Golf. 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by Face DJ. Call 703-924-2600 for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 20

Meet the Civil War Author. 11 a.m. at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Historic Pohick Church Docents Guild sponsoring Don Hakenson, award winning author and producer of Civil War books and a Mosby



‘Ovo’

From Aug.16-20 Cirque du Soleil will be performing “OVO,” at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle. The “OVO,” show is created by Deborah Colker, the first female director in Cirque du Soleil history. Visit www.eaglebankarena.com/ for more.

documentary, will talk about the Civil War history in and around Pohick Church. After the 10 a.m. service. Call 703-339-6572 for more.

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge T-TRAK model train show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/AUG. 21

Great American Eclipse. All day at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Learn the science behind eclipses and how to view them safely, solar eclipse glasses will be provided to attendees at all the programs. \$7-\$12 per person. Visit go.usa.gov/xNvvb for more.

Funday Monday Eclipse Special. 1-4 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Stories, crafts, music, and more while the eclipse travels overhead. Pack a picnic lunch or visit one of our local restaurants. Free viewing glasses will be available as supplies last. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 23

Tai Chi. 6:30-7:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Wear comfortable clothes

and bring a mat. Class will take place in Old Town Square at the pergola, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 24

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Go on the trail walk and learn about the pond. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588 for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 25

Music on the Plaza. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Rock the Block with the Alex Hilton Band Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock. **DJ Music and Golf.** 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by Tnyce DJ. Call 703-924-2600 for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 26

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Battle of Ball’s Bluff — local historian James Morgan will focus on his tactical study of the battle: “A Little Short of Boats: the Battles of Ball’s Bluff and Edwards Ferry.” Book signing and sales follow the talk. Free. Call 703-591- 0560.

DJ Music and Golf. 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by Radyus DJ. Call

703-924-2600 for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 27

Civil War Reenactment. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host Civil War re-enactors and modern practitioners who will demonstrate medical and rescue practices then and now in commemoration of Fairfax Station’s role as an evacuation center during the Battle of Second Manassas in 1862. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 1

Photo Exhibition. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. 10209 Main St., Fairfax. “Over There: Americans in World War I” a traveling exhibition from the National Archives and Records Administration showcases photographs from the battle fronts in France, Italy, and Russia, supply and support operations behind the lines, and the Paris Peace Conference, open through Oct. 20. Group guided tours available by reservation, \$25. Call 703-385- 8414 for more.

DJ Music and Golf. 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by Sway DJ. Call 703-924-2600 for more.

SEPT. 3-4

Model Train Shows. noon-5 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Labor Day Weekend, The Potomac Module Crew members will have HO Scale and others will have a LEGO Model Train Show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SEPT. 9-10

Burke Centre Festival. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Burke Conservancy, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway. Arts and crafts, live shows, rides, face painting, and festival foods. Visit www.burkecentreweb.com for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 10

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. 10209 Main St., Fairfax. “The 35 th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial,” Janet Folkerts, curator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection, will share stories of the artifacts left at the Memorial and the soldiers they honor and memorialize. Free. Call 703-385- 8414 for more.

SEPT. 18–OCT. 28

Photo Exhibition. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. “Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African-Americans in Civil War Medicine” looks at the men and women who served as surgeons and nurses during the Civil War and how their service challenged the prescribed notions of race and gender.Free. Call 703-591-0560.

SEPT. 21-24

Golf Tournament. All day at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Middle Atlantic Amateur Championship. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/lhgc or call 703-439-8849 for more.

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OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
(ABC) for a WINE & BEER ON PREMISES
& MIXED BEVERAGE license to sell or
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JONG HI CHOI, PRESIDENT.
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beverages. William Susinski Owner/Managing
Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of
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SPORTS

**National Champions:
The Braddock
Road Youth
Club '99 Elite.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Braddock Road Youth Soccer Club Wins National Championship

The Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC) '99 Elite boys soccer team recently returned from Frisco, Texas crowned as the 2017 US Youth Soccer National Champions. The team went undefeated during a very hot week in Texas to capture the fifth National Title in BRYC's history with a resounding 4-1 victory on July 30, 2017.

BRYC is located in Fairfax and the team members are rising seniors and recent graduates of Northern Virginia high schools. The '99 Elite boys are the reigning Under18 State Cup Champions of Virginia and also won the US Youth Soccer National League Blue Division to qualify for the National Championships. The team is coached by Head Coach Brian Welsh. The new national Champions are:

Alexander Barakat (who also won the Golden Glove award), Julien Reininger, Jack Rawlins, Jared Valdes, Marcos Villeda Sanchinelli, Alexander Shahmirzadi, George Smith, Vinicius Almeida (who was also awarded the Golden Ball), Ryan Moore, Ryan Teuschl, Kahlil Dover, Ryan Powell, Tristan O'Brien, Adam Laundree, Juan Benavides, Williamson Seymour, William Boinest, Eli Smolen, Aidan O'Connell, Christian Beckmeyer, and Jordan Gamarra.

As is tradition, BRYC will now change the club logo to include a fifth star commemorating this latest National Championship.

USYS National Championship web page features the following final game report:

"BRYC 99 Elite (VA) defeated West Coast 99 Wyss (CA-S) for the 18U Boys National Championship title. In just the fourth minute of play, BRYC's Vinicius Almeida found the back of the net and 14 minutes later, he struck again to make the score 2-0. The remainder of the first half was scoreless, but BRYC picked up where it left off in the 66th minute with a goal from Julien Reininger. Shortly after Reininger's goal, West Coast Wyss' Ryan Bishop netted a goal to make the score 3-1. The final goal of the match came in the 90th minute, just before the whistle blew, when Kahlil Dover scored for BRYC.

Winning a National Championship seemed far-fetched to a team who hadn't won state cup until this year. However, through hard work and sacrifice, BRYC was able to achieve something many can only dream of. In order to make it to the National Championships, BRYC's Head Coach, Brian Welsh, said that the team stayed fit, had regular double sessions and kept its incredible team spirit."

South Run Forest Community Joins National Night Out

On Aug. 1, 2017, the South Run Forest Community participated in its first National Night Out event with an ice cream social. National Night Out is an annual event held throughout the United States and provides communities such as South Run Forest the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to fight crime, to show neighborhood spirit, and to strengthen partnerships with local police.

South Run Forest is also teamed up with the Fairfax County Police Department through its community's Neighborhood Watch Program. This program is composed of volunteers who come together to keep an eye on their neighborhood. It also communicates that the residents are concerned about preventing crime and will call the police when suspicious activity is observed. Through this partnership with the local police, home security and personal safety awareness is



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Norman Bayne, South Run Forest Neighborhood Watch Coordinator presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Master Police Officer Michael Stewart of the West Springfield District Station. Also shown, McGruff, the crime dog.

enhanced as well as neighborliness by encouraging residents to get to know their neighbors and to lookout for one another.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

THROUGH AUG. 25

Summer Lunches. The Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Food and Nutrition Services will be hosting the FEEDS (Food for Every Child to Eat During Summer) BBQ program, a USDA-funded program is free to all children 18 years and under and \$2 for adults. There is no registration involved, and open to everyone. Meal service will be provided at the following sites Monday-Friday, 11:30-1 p.m. No service on July 3 and 4. In the Springfield area, FEEDS is offered at the following schools:

- Springfield Gardens Apartments, 6116 Cumberland Ave.
- Springfield Square Apartments, 7000 Rhoden Court, starts at noon
- Chelsea Square Apartments, 5734 Backlick Road, starts at noon

THURSDAY/AUG. 10

Deer Management Program. 7-8 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Learn about the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. Contact Sergeant Earit Powell at 703-324-0280 or Dr. Katherine Edwards, Wildlife Management Specialist, at 703-324-0224.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

Orientation for Prospective Volunteers. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, Meeting Room B, 10360 North St., Fairfax. RSVP Northern Virginia, the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older, will hold an orientation for prospective volunteers. The event is free and open to the public. Free parking garage underneath the library. To sign up for the Aug. 16 orientation email RSVP Volunteer Specialist Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

SEPT. 29-30

Fall Children's Consignment Sale. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Some items are half price on Saturday. To become a seller, email: CUMC.CCS@gmail.com, or visit www.cameron-umc.org/.

ONGOING

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50 and older who no longer drive. **Volunteer drivers** are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. **Office workers** are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788.

Positive Parenting Strategies Course. At PHILLIPS, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale. A series of classes and in home consultations taught by PHILLIPS' counselors. Open to all local families. Call Stacy Stryjewski at 703-658-9054.

Thermal Camera Loan Program. Learn where the energy is leaking out of the home with a special attachment for the iPhone or Android. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy or call 703-324-5955 for more.

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.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

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Coincidental Or Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of our older/oldest cats, Biscuit, born late September 2006 and his oldest human parent, yours truly, born late September 1954, are both having teeth issues. In fact, the exact same teeth issues: the 1st molar and the 2nd bicuspid in the “upper right quadrant” are causing us problems and have to be extracted.

Biscuit's teeth extraction will be done by our regular veterinarian. Mine will be done not by my regular dentist but by a specialist, an oral surgeon. Unfortunately, the two practices are not related so there's no chance of a “BOGO.” Nor is there any chance that the two procedures will be about the same cost. My teeth extraction will be double at a minimum, perhaps even quadruple, if I'm lucky. (I made inquiries.) Accordingly, Biscuit's extraction will occur/has occurred first.

What's of interest to me is the coincidence that Biscuit and I need the same teeth extracted at the same time. Which when you consider that Biscuit and I are approximately the same age, is not really a surprise. It's really more of a fact of life/aging – for both of us. Perhaps there are other behaviors and/or physical/mental indicators in Biscuits day-to-day activities which might clue me in to my own aging process. After all, we are living similar lives.

So far, Biscuit's post-teeth-extraction recovery has been uneventful. He's been spry and energetic. He's been on the kitchen counter, various window sills, the dining room table, the ironing board and all the other furniture; he's knocked over the wicker trash basket in our bedroom three times and he's been eating like a dog. In short, he's “back baby.”

He almost appears to be smiling – except when we attempt to give him his post-procedure pills. As per usual, during the day he's sleeping on the back of the couch and at night he's curled up in the laundry basket; and he's still the first cat – of five, an hour early, I might add, for breakfast and dinner, to place his order/meow his presence. He's as ready to eat as ever. He hasn't missed a beat or a step. If I had to summarize/characterize his actions now, I'd say he has a real joie de vivre, “an exuberant enjoyment of life.” So what am I waiting for? Godot?

As for my procedure, I've been told it takes 30 minutes or so. Local anesthesia is used (unlike Biscuit who was totally sedated/anesthetized). Moreover, the post-surgical pain is not terrible and the chance of infection is minor. And though I'll have a space in my gums where my teeth used to be, no longer will I be anticipating the pain and discomfort that cracking or splitting either of these two teeth would cause. The only pain I'll likely have is the pain of payment. (See 7/26/17 column entitled “Taking Care of Business” for associated details.)

I guess my curiosity/concern is whether I trust anything I've observed from Biscuit's dental experience – considering we're the same age. Is what's good for the cat also good for the human - all things being equal, sort of? Is Biscuit's return to normalcy so quickly and so easily – and so vigorously, a lesson to be learned? If seeing is believing and I do see extremely well for someone nearing his 63rd birthday, then Biscuit's ‘experience’ and the comparison between his pre- and post-extraction behavior should be an inspiration to us all, especially those of us of similar age with one and the same, two actually, teeth which need to be extracted.

I mean, the procedure I've been putting off is not exactly brain surgery, it's oral surgery. I'm not admitted to a hospital. It's outpatient. I'm in and then out. Same day service, just like the restaurant where my wife, Dina works. I don't even need someone to drive me home (unlike Biscuit. I had to drive him home.) And now that Biscuit is home, safe and sound, I suppose it's time for me to buck up and schedule my appointment. After all, it has nothing to do with cancer and everything to do with quality of life. I'd say that's a win-win.

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



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