

# Fairfax Station

## CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton



Caramel, a Norwegian pygmy goat, shows off her climbing tricks after a goat yoga session on Liberty Green in Lorton.

## A Goat Yoga Session On Liberty Green

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 6

## Kofi Annan Resigns As County NAACP President

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Texas Donuts Opens in Lorton

NEWS, PAGE 9

Inside  
**PET CONNECTION**

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## Kofi Annan Resigns As County NAACP President

**Fairfax NAACP issues statement;  
Sean Perryman assumes presidency.**

President Kofi Annan tendered his resignation as President of the Fairfax County NAACP and it is with profound regret that the Executive Committee has accepted the resignation of Kofi Annan as of Sunday, July 28. Annan resigned for personal reasons, but his resignation did follow a story in the Washington Post about a dispute with former branch president Shirley Ginwright. Despite the private nature of the dispute in the context of a personal text message conversation with Ms. Ginwright, the Executive Committee denounces Mr. Annan's use of derogatory language towards Ms. Ginwright, as well as his negative comments about Fairfax County officials - NAACP said in a statement.

Our primary focus as an organization is to address the myriad of issues Fairfax County residents face on a daily basis, from

education and affordable housing, to community policing. The Fairfax NAACP chapter just completed a community service project benefiting the Capital Area Food Bank earlier this month. In partnership with the Fairfax County Police, we're preparing for the Cops and Kids Basketball game next month. It's unfortunate that in the midst of a busy summer, we have to be distracted by what amounts to an interpersonal matter between two individuals who have known each other for years.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we apologize to Ms. Ginwright for the disrespectful comments made by our former president. They do not reflect the attitude or values of this Board. Ms. Ginwright is always welcome to attend our events and share her perspective.

The Executive committee apologizes to Chairman Sharon Bulova. Though we've



**Kofi Annan**

had our share of disagreements, Chairman Bulova has been a friend and an ally of the NAACP. She was especially critical in establishing more civilian oversight of the Fairfax County Police Department through the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Committee and the Police Civilian Review Panel. As Chairman Bulova is stepping down after this term, we plan to continue this excellent relationship with the Board of Supervisors, and the new Chairman.

The Executive Committee would also like to apologize to FCPD Chief Edwin Roessler. We appreciate Chief Roessler and the FCPD's commitment to serving all the residents of Fairfax County, and intend to continue working with them to strengthen our community.

Though the Fairfax Branch is one of the oldest chapters of the NAACP, the branch has truly flourished in recent years under Mr. Annan's leadership. His tireless advocacy and tenacious pursuit of justice drove everyone in this branch to the next level, culminating in winning the NAACP's prestigious Thalheimer Award in 2018.

We invite the community to join us at our next General Membership Meeting on Aug. 10 at the A.M.E. Baptist Church in Alexandria. Membership in the Fairfax NAACP is open to all Fairfax County residents, regardless of gender, race, creed, religion, or national origin.

**STATEMENT FROM SEAN PERRYMAN,** on assuming presidency of Fairfax County NAACP:

"As many of you may have heard by now, I'm assuming the Presidency of the Fairfax County NAACP. I'm both excited and humbled by the opportunity to represent an organization with a legacy as rich and important as the NAACP.

In an organization founded by legendary intellectuals and titans of civil and human rights like Ida B. Wells and W.E.B. Du Bois, it's daunting to compare yourself to leaders of past. The work remains though, and must continue. I realize, however, that every branch is only as good as the people who volunteer. Thankfully, in Fairfax, we have some of the most talented and passionate individuals in any branch in the



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**Sean Perryman**

country. I hope to lead in a way that honors their service and dedication. I also hope to lead in a way that does justice to the work already started by Kofi Annan.

I remember when I attended my first meeting not sure what to expect. Kofi brought me into the fold. He gave me real responsibility. He let me ascend to leadership quickly and listened to the advice I gave. I'm incredibly proud of the work I accomplished with him and I'll never forget the opportunity he gave me.

The outpouring of love for Kofi Annan following the announcement of his resignation is a testament to the impact of his work and the lives he's touched. I'm wise enough to understand that you don't replace someone like Kofi but can only try to further the work with the amazing team they left you. I hope he continues to stay involved and we can partner in whatever he does next.

I cannot and will not seek to be like previous leaders for I fear I could only be a bad imitation. I will instead try to carve out my own brand of leadership focused on equity, policy, and elevating the status of this branch. I will not try to recreate myself but continue to lead with honesty, humor, occasional snark, and a lot of passion. The branch will shift somewhat but our resolve and mission will remain the same.

My motivation—my daughter Ava and every child like her—remain the same. Because as a nation, we must realize that no one is coming to save us. We must create the communities we seek until eventually the world becomes something we are proud to hand our children and children's children.

As I look forward to the future, I am eager to continue my work with leaders throughout Fairfax County and hope to meet with leaders from the Virginia state delegation, county board, and school board soon.

I appreciate all of you as I prepare for this task of leading this amazing organization.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Dr. David Anmuth of Pediatric Lung and Allergy Center answers questions from the community during an open forum Q&A session on July 18 in Fairfax.**

### Discussing Food Allergies

On July 18, the pediatric allergists of Pediatric Lung and Allergy Center (PLAC) teamed up with the Northern VA Food Allergy Group to host an open forum question and answer session for the community. The session was geared toward parents of children who manage food allergies of all kinds. The physicians, Dr. David Anmuth and Dr. Anne Miranowski, talked with parents of infants, teenagers, and all ages in

between. They covered a myriad of topics including food allergy testing, how cooking can trigger specific allergic responses, reading food labels, ancillary support services, various treatment options, and more.

For more information, follow the groups on facebook: @pediatriclungandallergycenter, www.fnacp.com | @novafoodallergy, www.novafoodallergy.org.



# OPINION

## Back-to-School Rituals Cause Stress

BY JOE FAY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FACETS

As summer nears the end, we are getting ready to say goodbye to 21 teens that are headed off to college. These young people have been involved in our summer youth programs for many years. They have experienced — like the other children in our programs and all kids — the excitement and anxiety around back to school preparation. These rituals include buying clothes and school supplies, getting a haircut, and finding out what teachers you have.

For the nearly 23,000 kids that live in poverty in Fairfax County, back to school rituals can cause stress. In a region of so much wealth, it's hard to remember that many children do not share the same levels of preparation. They want to but simply cannot.

FACETS serves many impoverished youth through our Education and Community Development Program. The program operates year-round in four low-income, subsidized communities offering a continuum of supportive services to break the cycle of poverty. People living in these affordable housing communities have limited financial resources, with the average annual income for a family of four less

than \$24,000.

At Robinson Square, Ragan Oaks, Barros Circle and Wedgewood, staff and volunteers offer an array of educational, preventative and enrichment programs to help youth, including mentoring and tutoring, and a variety of classes such as literacy, art, and computers. Participation provides many benefits, including ensuring a safe after-school and weekend environment, interaction with caring adults, award winning programs, and access to resources and case management.

We also work with these youth to help them get ready to go back to school. Like many nonprofits, we conduct supply drives that help make sure they have backpacks, pencils, and a myriad of other supplies that come on the lengthy lists provided by the schools. In many of the 400 backpacks, we also supply kids with a voucher for a haircut from the Hair Cuttery.

These school supply drives really do make a difference, and we hope you will consider contributing to ours or other organizations. If your means permit, perhaps consider donating a gift card to a clothing store or a hair salon. Helping a child feel confident and fit in during those first weeks of school goes a long way in making the school year productive. And if the youth we are helping prepare for college are an indi-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Volunteer stuffing backpacks.

cator, then we know it works.

Learn more about how you can help at [www.FACETSCares.org](http://www.FACETSCares.org).

## 400 Years of Democracy and Its Scars

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



### COMMENTARY

On July 30, 1619, 22 men met in Jamestown for what eventually would become the longest, continuing, democratically-elected legislative body in the western hemisphere. They were originally called burgesses and their meeting was an experiment in representative democracy that changed the world. This week, the nation importantly celebrates the 400th anniversary of that historic gathering.

While the experiment of democracy in the New World ultimately led to some incredible results, Virginia's democracy was far from perfect. Some of the most egregious scars were Virginia's laws that codified, encouraged, tolerated and forced enslavement on African people, forcibly first brought to Point Comfort in today's Hampton a few weeks after the House of Burgesses' first meeting.

For most Virginia's history, the state had laws designed to discourage voting and perpetuate elite power. In 1619, only adult, white men who were not enslaved or indentured servants could vote. After various experiments and Bacon's Rebellion, legislators enacted property ownership requirements for voting so onerous that three decades after American independence in 1776, one-third of adult white Virginia men still were still not allowed to vote. This law especially affected Virginians west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In fact, the legislature did not abolish property ownership voting requirements until 232 years after democracy began in Virginia.

When Reconstruction Era constitutional reforms pushed voter participation to new levels, white backlash brought state-sanctioned discrimination openly directed at African and Native Americans resulting in voting policies designed to reduce turnout to only the "right" voters — wealthy white people. Voter turnout dropped from 264,000 voters in the 1900 presidential election to 130,000 four years later thanks to the poll tax, literacy test and felon voter disenfranchisement.

Like many other states, Virginia's laws also barred women from voting until the 19th Amendment became law on Aug. 18, 1920, 301 years after the founding of democracy in the western hemisphere that we celebrate. Virginia refused to even ratify the 19th Amendment until 1952. With women voting, Virginia voter turnout jumped from 232,000 in 1920 to 305,000 by 1928.

Virginia also has a long history of abusive gerrymandering. In the first 300 years, the legislature periodically refused to redraw legislative districts to perpetuate the power of wealthy landowners in the Tidewater. By 1960, fear of minority, lower-income whites and ultimately progressive Democrats meant districts had little relation to population and some congressional districts had 50 percent more residents than others. In 1962, Fairfax County was given one state senator after seeing 179% population growth between 1950-60. The U.S. Supreme Court ended this with "one man, one vote" in *Baker v. Carr* in 1962.

Entrenched power worked to keep minority influence down in other ways. For example,

Virginia cities often annexed neighboring county land as "white flight" gave rise to more minority voting in cities, particularly in Richmond. After many counties converted into cities (cities could not annex land from other cities), the General Assembly enacted an annexation moratorium in 1987.

Virginia's blemished history is one reason many Virginians object to efforts to restrictive measures like voter identification laws. When the current majority of the House of Delegates was decided by the flip of a film canister, one cannot help but think that these policies make a difference in maintaining power.

Last month, I was in Greece where democracy was invented. As I travelled the country and saw many old statues, I wondered how many were hated by subsequent generations, torn down and replaced. I also wondered how a society that achieved so much, ruled the western world and created much of the foundational elements of western culture could come crashing down but exists today with a population smaller than Virginia and an economy smaller than the states of Oregon or Tennessee.

Our current national political environment has demonstrated that many basic, norms that Americans thought were permanent can be shattered. The last two millennia and Virginia's last four centuries show that democracy can be a fickle thing if we do not protect it.

So while we honor the 400th anniversary of democracy in Virginia on July 30, 2019, please remember our scarred history. It has been an honor for me to serve you as part of this experiment started 400 years ago and I will continue to do my best to make Virginia's democracy as strong and participatory as it can be.

Fairfax Station,  
Lorton & Clifton  
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# How to Volunteer in Retirement

RSVP-Northern Virginia holding free seminar Sept. 5 in Burke.

**R**SVP-Northern Virginia will hold a seminar on volunteering in retirement, Thursday, Sept. 5, at 1:30 p.m., at the Burke Centre Library in Burke. The one-hour event is free and open to the public.

To sign up for the Sept. 5 info session, email RSVP volunteer specialist Brandi Morris at [bmorris@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:bmorris@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. You can also find an easy to use online sign up link at [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

Burke Centre Library is located at 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke, just a few yards off the Fairfax County Parkway. Free parking is available.

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), the region's largest volunteer network for those 55-years-old and better, provides personalized support to seniors and retirees who are seeking convenient, fun and social service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County

and the City of Alexandria.

RSVP offers more than 300 meaningful opportunities that include helping seniors age in place, assisting local food pantries, and teaching financial literacy. RSVP also recruits volunteers for various community events including the 2019 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics taking place Sept. 14-28.

Several of RSVP's nonprofit partners offer opportunities in the Fairfax-Burke area including Junior Achievement, The Fairfax County Park Authority and Insight Memory Care.

RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are also invited to monthly volunteer group service projects and social gatherings.

To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org). RSVP-Northern Virginia is a program of Volunteer Fairfax, Volunteer Alexandria and Volunteer Arlington.



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## PET CONNECTION



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

### Going for a Ride

**Cocoa Latte - of Lorton - with his rock and roll haircut, ready to go take a ride in the car.**

## Dog Parks in Fairfax County

**T**he Fairfax County Park Authority welcomes leashed dogs in all of its parks. In addition, for owners of well-socialized canines who enjoy a good run, a friendly romp, or simply the presence of other dogs and people, the Park Authority operates dog parks or dog runs. These are designated fence-enclosed areas where unleashed dogs can have free play. At present, the Park Authority has eleven established dog parks located throughout Fairfax County.

Volunteer Dog Park Monitors are Park Authority volunteers who assist staff with the operations and maintenance of each dog park. They do so by encouraging awareness of dog park rules and regulations, reporting maintenance needs to the Park Authority, picking up litter and dog waste in order to model proper use and to keep park areas clean; and by promoting a sense of community among those who visit a dog park.

Users of off-leash dog areas do so at their own risk. Neither Fairfax County nor the Fairfax County Park Authority shall be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog in the off-leash area. Operating Hours are 7 a.m. to one half-hour after sunset Monday through Friday. On weekends and federal holidays, the hours are 8 a.m. to one half-hour after sunset.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/offleash](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/offleash)

**Baron Cameron**  
11300 Baron Cameron Avenue,  
Reston

Established: September 2001  
Capacity: 35 dogs (28 Large / 7 Small)

Special Features: Water supply and separate area for small dogs (under 25 lbs.)

**Blake Lane**  
10033 Blake Lane, Oakton  
Established: June 2000  
Capacity: 25 dogs

**Chandon**  
900 Palmer Drive, Herndon  
Established: January 2003  
Capacity: 47 dogs (43 Large / 4 Small)

Special Features: Water supply and separate area for small dogs (under 25 lbs.)

**Dulles Station Community Park**  
13707 Sayward Blvd, Herndon  
Capacity: 18 dogs  
Special Features: Water supply, shade pavilion

**Grist Mill**  
4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria  
Established: April 2006  
Capacity: 64 dogs  
Special Features: Water supply

**Lenclair Park**  
6725 Lenclair Street, Alexandria  
Established: October 2014

Capacity: 46 dogs  
Special Features: Water supply

**Mason District**  
Intersection of Alpine Drive and Pinecrest Parkway, Annandale  
Established: June 2002  
Capacity: 62 dogs

**Monticello Park**  
5315 Guinea Road, Burke  
Established: November 2018  
Capacity: 41 dogs (32 Large / 9 Small)  
Special Features: Water supply

**Rock Hill District Park (Originally Quinn Farm)**  
15150 Old Lee Rd., Chantilly  
Established: March 2006  
Capacity: 90 dogs (80 large/10 small)  
Special Features: Separate area for small dogs (under 25 lbs.)

**South Run**  
7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield  
Established: December 2001  
Capacity: 85 dogs

**Westgrove**  
6801 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria  
Established: November 2012  
Capacity: 82 dogs  
Special Features: Water supply and when the large area of the dog park is closed due to wet conditions or maintenance, the small area only has a capacity of 26 dogs.

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

**SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB**  
**Newcomers & Community Guide**  
**August 28, 2019**

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

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## NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF FENCING

**Phil Sbarbaro**

**Chris Matt**

## Area Fencers Qualify for World Championship in Egypt

Springfield-based Virginia Academy of Fencing (VAF) has announced that two VAF fencers qualified for the 2019 Veterans Fencing World Championships taking place in Cairo, Egypt Oct. 5-11: Phil Sbarbaro of Vienna, a 3-time National Champion and Silver-Medalist at the recent US Fencing Association's (USFA) National Championships; and Chris Matt of Fairfax Station, a Gold-Medalist in the Men's Team Sabre and fifth place in the Veterans Men's 50-59 years events at Nationals. Both qualified due to impressive results after a tough year of USFA-sponsored national competitions.

Phil Sbarbaro of Vienna is a three-time National Champion sabre fencer who placed in the top eight in the world in 2008, 2011 and 2017 Veteran World Fencing Championships. This will be his seventh appearance at the World Championships representing the United States. Sbarbaro is a founding director of the National Fencing Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-

profit based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to the academic and athletic advancement of underprivileged youth through the Olympic sport of fencing.

Sbarbaro holds a B.S. from Holy Cross College, an M.B.A. from Northwestern University, a J.D. from California Western University, and an LL.M. in Securities Law from Georgetown University. He served the country as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Chris Matt of Fairfax Station, a national medalist, has represented the United States at the Veterans Fencing World Championships three times from 2014-2016 prior to qualifying for the US Veterans fencing team again this year. After serving as a Naval Aviator flying the S-3B Viking, including during Operation Desert Shield, Matt entered the consulting profession and eventually became a small business owner. Matt holds both a B.S. in Systems Engineering and an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### DONATIONS NEEDED

**School Supply and Backpack Drive.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Parent Resource Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Room 105, Dunn Loring. For the nearly 56,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools living at the poverty line, obtaining school supplies can be difficult. FCPS is partnering with roughly 20 nonprofits and businesses to ensure that students will have the supplies they need this fall for its "Collect for Kids" campaign. A \$25 donation will fill a backpack with FCPS approved supplies for a student. Organize a collection drive of new backpacks in your community and bring to one of the Collect for Kids drop off locations. Visit [www.collectforkids.org/get-involved](http://www.collectforkids.org/get-involved) or call 703-204-3941.

#### FRIDAY-MONDAY/AUG. 2-5

**Road Closure: Route 50.** Eastbound and westbound Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) at the Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) interchange and eastbound Wilson Boulevard (Route 613) between the eastbound Route 50 service road and the westbound Route 50 service road will be closed from 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2 to 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 5 to demolish the Wilson Boulevard bridge deck over Route 50 and install the new bridge deck. Drivers can expect major delays and are advised to use alternate routes. After the weekend closure, drivers can expect single-lane closures on Route 50 and the eastbound Wilson Boulevard bridge until late fall. The project is scheduled for completion this winter. Visit [www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/wilson\\_over\\_50.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/wilson_over_50.asp)

#### SATURDAY/AUG. 3

**Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group.** 2-4 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



Worship Gathering - Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM  
Sunday School 10:10 AM  
Sun. Evening - Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM  
Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM  
Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult  
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#### Walk to End Alzheimer's

**Sept. 29 • Reston Town Center**  
**Oct. 12 • National Mall**

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# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

### Art Exhibition: Virginia Watercolor Society.

Through Aug. 2, gallery hours in the McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Virginia Watercolor Society (VWS) is organizing its 40 th annual juried painting exhibition with about 85 paintings on display. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/) or [www.virginiawatercolorociety.org](http://www.virginiawatercolorociety.org) for more.

### Junior Golf Fairfax Camps, Clinics and Competition.

Burke Lake Golf Center is located at 6915 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Pinecrest Golf Course is located at 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Oak Marr Golf Complex is located at 3136 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior).

**Registration Open: The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics** features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The games run Sept. 14-28. There will be no on-site registration. Paper registrations, available at most local recreation and senior centers, must be postmarked by Aug. 24. Online registrations must be completed by Aug. 31 at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

**Crafters Wanted for 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show.** The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold its 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show and LEGO (TM) Train Show on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Booth space is enough room for a 10x10 canopy and cost is \$50 per space. Email [dmueller@fairfax-station.org](mailto:dmueller@fairfax-station.org) for an application and further information. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**Kingstowne Farmers Market.** Fridays, through Oct. 25, 4-7 p.m. in the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Call 703-642-0128 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne).

**Wakefield Farmers Market.** Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m. through Oct. 30, at Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Call 703-642-0128 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield).

**Lorton Farmers Market.** Sundays, 9 a.m.-noon, through Nov. 17, in the VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Call 703-642-0128 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton).

**Springfield Farmers Market.** Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Vendors include Cascade Beverage, Celestial/Fossil Farms, Chilanga Tortilla, Conecopia, Greenwich Farms, Iganacio's Produce, Kingdom Gourmet, Lola's Kusina, Lund's Produce, Smiths Mecklenburg, Taste Old Country, Three Puppies,Tyson Farm, and Windmill Meadows. Visit [www.community-foodworks.org](http://www.community-foodworks.org) or call 202-697-7768.

**Burke Farmers Market.** Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. Call 703-642-0128 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke)

## THURSDAY/AUG. 1

### Evenings on the Ellipse: Machaya

**(Klezmer).** 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Government Center's backyard will be alive with fun, music and good company this summer as the Evenings on the Ellipse concert series returns. Tastings and sales from Fairfax County's two Wineries, Paradise Springs and Bull Run. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/evenings-on-the-ellipse](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/evenings-on-the-ellipse) for more.

**Hometown Thursdays: Lesson Zero.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Fairfax's Hometown Thursdays concert series takes place the first and third Thursdays through September. A free, family-friendly event for all ages. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/hometown-thursdays](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/hometown-thursdays) for more.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 2

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest



**Kyle Harrell, better known as Humble, has been painting walls, doing illustrations and creating captivating canvases in Richmond for years. His work is all over the city, the state and the world.**

## Workhouse Mural Project and Festival

Visit the inaugural Workhouse Mural Project (WMP) and Festival. This one-day event is the first mural project of its kind in Fairfax County and will showcase the creativity of regional artists whose primary art form is mural painting. This outdoor festival include live painting, live music and performances, food trucks, cash bar, local vendors and sponsor booths, and more. Saturday, Aug. 3, 3-6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. \$15-\$20. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/workhouse-mural-project-and-festival-tickets-61120026645](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/workhouse-mural-project-and-festival-tickets-61120026645). Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/) for more.

progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 3

**Children's Entertainment Series.** 10-10:45 a.m. at Burke Lake Park Ampitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring Mr. Jon & Friends (children's songs). Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/springfield-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/springfield-nights).

**Unprofane Riders DMV Car Show.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. Unprofane Riders DMV 1st Annual Car Show/Cars, Trucks, SUVs and Bikes, all models welcome. Proceeds go to Shelter House, Inc., a nonprofit organization helping victims of domestic abuse. Spectators free admission; registration for cars, trucks and SUVs \$20, bikes \$15. Bring a donation of school supplies donation and receive entry into the giveaway prizes. Email [unprofaneridersva@gmail.com](mailto:unprofaneridersva@gmail.com)

**Summer Saturdays.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure. Call 703-550-9220 or visit [www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events](http://www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events).

**The Drew-Smith School Reunion and Picnic.** Noon-5 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 8115 Fordson Road, Gum Springs. Celebrating the Communities of Spring Bank, Gum Springs, Hybla Valley, and Springfield. Share common history with photos, year books, and tributes to Fairfax County School leaders and community pioneers. Tickets must be reserved and picked up before the event. Contact: Carolyn Quander at 703-772-9440 or [cquander@outlook.com](mailto:cquander@outlook.com); and Sharon "Shubby" Suggs at 703-371-3388 or [SuggsSharron3@gmail.com](mailto:SuggsSharron3@gmail.com). In case of rainy weather, meet in the Gym at the Gum Springs Community Center.

**Workhouse Mural Project and Festival.** 3-6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Visit the inaugural Workhouse Mural Project (WMP) and Festival. \$15-\$20. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/workhouse-mural-project-and-festival-tickets-61120026645](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/workhouse-mural-project-and-festival-tickets-61120026645). Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/)

**Live Music: Toney Rocks.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. After

two years on the scene, Toney Rocks left Las Vegas for a round-the-clock commitment to the road. Epicure Cafe presents the alternative singer-songwriter playing songs from his latest album, Drifting. \$10. Visit [www.facebook.com/events/304964177036680/](https://www.facebook.com/events/304964177036680/) for more.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 4

**Reading Circle Activities.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Join for a fun afternoon discussing a book on railroads, everything from the history of railroading to different types of railroad cars. A book on life during the Civil War might also be read and discussed that day. There may be a craft to highlight the book theme of the day. No extra charge for craft fees. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**Burke Historical Society.** 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Shortly before D-Day, Jerry Wolf who served as a B-17 turret gunner was shot down. He will be sharing stories of his detention and liberation. Free. Visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org) for more.

**Films in the Park: Small Foot (2018).** 7 p.m. at Strawberry Park in Mosaic, Fairfax. Mosaic's summer movie lineup. Grab a blanket, friends and family and watch favorite films underneath the stars. Visit [mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/films-in-the-park-2/](http://mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/films-in-the-park-2/).

## TUESDAY/AUG. 6

**Volunteering with Students.** 1:30-3 p.m. at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Information session about GrandInvolve recruiting older adults who are interested in volunteering in the classroom in Fairfax County's Title 1 elementary schools. Opportunities: mentors, classroom helpers, material preparation, and more. Free. Visit [www.grandinvolve.org](http://www.grandinvolve.org) for more.

**Searching Fold3 Records.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to search military records through the Fold3 database, available through the Library of Virginia and covering from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War. Free. Email [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com) or visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 7

**Springfield Nights: The Colin Thompson Band (Blues Rock).** 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Springfield Nights returns for a second summer season with free musical performances on Wednesday evenings at Burke Lake Park ranging from bluegrass and pop, to rock and R&B. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/springfield-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/springfield-nights).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 8

**A Musical Revolution.** 2:30-3:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church. Welcome U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. This special performance brings to life the music and instruments of the Revolutionary War. All ages. Free. Visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5224826](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5224826) for more.

**Evenings on the Ellipse: The David Kitchen Band (pop/rock).** 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Government Center's backyard will be alive with fun, music and good company this summer as the Evenings on the Ellipse concert series returns. Generous tastings and sales from Fairfax County's two Wineries, Paradise Springs and Bull Run. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/evenings-on-the-ellipse](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/evenings-on-the-ellipse)

## FRIDAY/AUG. 9

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

**Author Event: E. A. Dustin.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble Mosaic District, 2921 District Ave., Suite 180, Fairfax. Join for a discussion and signing with local author E.A. Dustin who will be talking about and signing copies of her book, Save Me Twice – a WWII story. She will also give a preview of her upcoming book "Self-Healed," a thriller. Free admission. Call 703-245-9260 or visit [bn.com](http://bn.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 10

**Geocaching.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Set off on a modern-day treasure hunt at Burke Lake Park with the "Geocaching Workshop." Participants 8-adult will learn to use hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) units to locate hidden treasure caches within the park. After learning how to enter latitude and longitude coordinates, students will test their skills by following the coordinates to find a hidden object. Bring a GPS. There are a limited number to borrow. \$22 per person. Call 703-323-6600 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake).

### Music in the Parks - "Feast for Young Ears."

10 a.m. at Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra is partnering with Fairfax County Parks to provide free Music in the Parks children's concerts. The performances are engaging and interactive experiences; perfect for young, first-time concert-goers. Each concert offers an introduction to the musicians, their instruments, their roles in creating the music, and features a wide variety of musical selections. Visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org/concerts-in-the-parks](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org/concerts-in-the-parks).

**Family Safety Day.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Focus Family Martial Arts Academy, 11230 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. A family-oriented, fun day to spend time with community members at "Family Safety Day." Dance demonstrations, sno-cones, inflatables, more. Free. Email [office.manager@jccag.org](mailto:office.manager@jccag.org) or call 703-383-1170.

**Summer Saturdays.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure. Call 703-550-9220 or visit [www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events](http://www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events).

## SUNDAY/AUG. 11

**TTRAK Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia TTRAK members will hold a N gauge Model Train Display. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**Films in the Park: Homeward Bound (1993).** 7 p.m. at Strawberry Park in Mosaic, Fairfax. Mosaic's summer movie lineup has something for the whole family. Grab a blanket, friends and family and watch favorite films underneath the stars. Visit [mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/films-in-the-park-2/](http://mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/films-in-the-park-2/).





The colorful signage designed to catch people's eye on the way to work.

## Texas Donuts Opens in Lorton

The bigger than usual donuts will be the main draw.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

They say everything's big in Texas, and starting Aug. 8, customers in Lorton will have a chance to see if the saying is true when Texas Donuts opens at the intersection of Silverbrook and Lorton Road.

"We have a Texas-sized donut, four times the size or regular donuts," said owner Annie Park, who opened the shop with husband Brian Park. They came from Korea and started in the donut business in Texas and branched out to Oklahoma where they had seven shops. The Parks opened a shop in Centreville so the Lorton store is their second location in the area.

Cheryl Jesse came by a couple of times to see what was happening. She's had their Texas Donuts from the Centreville store, and claims "hands down, they're better," she said. Her hands went up to show how big the donuts were compared to some national chains. "I'm coming back," she said.

The Parks had seven stores all together but they sold them and moved to the City of Fairfax to start again. They came to the Northern Virginia area so their children could go to better schools. "Lots of trees," in this area, Brian Park said. Texas and Oklahoma "is flat, to see the ocean I'd have to drive 11 hours," he said.

He learned how to cook donuts and

### Texas Donuts

Grand Opening Thursday, Aug. 8 at 5 a.m.  
Texas Donuts  
8224 Gunston Corner Lane  
Lorton  
703-551-3110



School employee Cheryl Jesse shows the size of the "Texas Donuts."

started opening stores. In the Northern Virginia area "not many independent donut shops, more in Texas," he said.

In addition to donuts, they will have a "kolache," a small sandwich from former Czechoslovakia that is "like a pigs in a blanket," Annie Park said. It was a big seller in Texas. Another popular item is the "Croughnut," and they hope it will be popular in Lorton too. They will have Illy coffee too.

Texas Donuts is in a strip of stores at the busy Lorton intersection, a few doors down from Burger King where Rebecca Addams works, but that may not be for long, she said she plans to apply to work at Texas Donuts. "I feel like it's a good place to start," she said.

They will open early and close in the mid-afternoon. No evening hours. It's okay with Jesse though. "It works for me, I'm up early," she said.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Donut shop owners Annie and Brian Park were attracted to Northern Virginia by the good schools.



**CALENDAR**

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

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## NEWS

### Area Woman Elected President of National Association

On Friday, July 19 at the 82<sup>nd</sup> National Convention of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., the members voted to elect their new National President: Sherelle T. Carper, the President of a local club, the Northern Virginia Business & Professional Women's Club. Carper expects to step down as the President of the local club as of Aug. 1 to assume her position as the 24<sup>th</sup> National President. The voting was held at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort in Florida. Carper walked away with more than 65 percent of the votes. The installation of new officers was carried out by a local judge of Ft. Lauderdale at the closing banquet that Saturday evening, July 20. In the Association, the tenure of the Presidency is 2 years, with the possibility to be reelected for another 2 years.

Eighty-six years ago, in 1934, a realtor of New York City, and a member of the New York Club of Business and Professional Women, Emma Odessa Young came up with the idea of establishing a national organization throughout the United States. In July 1935, Mrs. Ollie Chinn Porter, President of the New York Club, extended an invitation to local clubs, organized as Business and Professional Women's Clubs, to join and form a national organization. During that



**Sherelle T. Carper.**

era in history, Black people were referred to as "Negroes," therefore the word, "Negro" is used in the name of the National organization as opposed to "Black" or "African American."

Prior to her recent election, Sherelle Carper was the President and Co-Founder of the Northern Virginia Business & Professional Women's Club; the club was established as one of the Mid-Atlantic regional clubs of the National Club.

Carper obtained her education from the University of Virginia and the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration. A resident of Centreville, she worked as an Air Traffic Controller at the Federal Aviation Administration. She also was a Manager at the FAA. Carper has been vigilant in her support of local community groups and organizations. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of Fairfax based Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation.

With their mission stated in 4 parts, the Club is committed to promoting and protecting the interest of African American business and professional women, to serving as bridges for young people seeking to enter business and their professions, to improving the quality of life in the local and global communities, and to fostering good fellowship.

#### WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

### Man Charged in Fatal Stabbing

A 34-year-old Louisiana man has been charged with second degree murder from July 27 morning's stabbing in Springfield. He remains under guard by officers as he receives treatment from a nearby hospital. Upon his release, he will be taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and held with no bond.

This is the county's sixth homicide of 2019.

Franconia Police Major Crimes Bureau and Crime Scene Section detectives continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the stabbing death of a woman in Springfield in the morning of July 27 at the Hilton Hotel at 6550 Loisdale Road.

Officers responded at 3 a.m. for a call for help. When officers arrived, they found a man in a room with injuries to his upper body and Toni Newkirk, 55, of Louisiana, dead as a result of the stabbing. The man was taken to a nearby hospital with serious injuries but is now stable.

Newkirk and the man are known to each other and there is no threat to the public safety.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

### Rainbow Over Kingstowne

After a thunderstorm on Wednesday, July 24 at 7 p.m., a rainbow formed over Kingstowne Boulevard.



# BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 7

Columbia Pike, Annandale. The Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group for greater Washington meets the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome. RSVP for available seating. Call 301-263-0616 or visit [www.dcpnsupport.org](http://www.dcpnsupport.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 4

**Life Notes Workshop.** 1:30-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Join singer/songwriter and presenter Daniel Nahmod for an experience of music, readings, journaling, and discussion. Through the Life Notes process developed and refined by Daniel, participants will learn to see themselves with clarity and resolve. \$25-\$45. Visit [uof-nahmod-workshop.eventbrite.com](http://uof-nahmod-workshop.eventbrite.com) or call 703-281-1767.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 6

**Car Seat Safety Check.** 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 7

**Setting the Stage for School Success: Preparing for a New School Year.** 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Transitioning to a new school year can be overwhelming. Join us to learn important strategies to help kick-start a child's school year in elementary, middle, or high school. Call 703-204-3941 or visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) for more or to register.

**New Volunteer Orientation.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. People and their pets (dog, cat or bunny) are needed to join other Fairfax Pets on Wheels, Inc. volunteers who make a difference in the community by visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org). Call 703-324-5424 or visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 10

**Shamanic Journeying.** 5-8 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Learn about Shamanic Journeying is, and how it is different than meditation in this three-hour long intensive. In the first two hours, there will be a presentation on the history of shamanic journeying, the different types, and an in-depth explanation describing many different paths that use shamanic journeying as a tool. The third hour will be an application of the skills learned. Donations accepted. Call 703-281-1767 or RSVP at [journeyingaugust10.eventbrite.com/](http://journeyingaugust10.eventbrite.com/).

## TUESDAY/AUG. 13

**Car Seat Safety Check.** 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule

**Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group.** 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's focus is an open discussion on caregiver stress. Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 20

**Volunteer Seminar: RSVP.** 10:30 a.m. at Junior Achievement Finance Park, 4099 Pickett Road, Fairfax. RSVP-Northern Virginia (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) will hold a seminar on volunteering in retirement. The one-hour event is free and open to the public. To sign up for the Aug. 14 info session, email [bmorris@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:bmorris@volunteerfairfax.org), call 703-403-5360 or visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

**Car Seat Safety Check.** 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. See above.

**Public Comment Sought.** The Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, under the leadership of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), are developing a plan to study Virginia's 179 miles of the Interstate 95 corridor between the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Alexandria, Virginia and the North Carolina border. The first comment period will end Aug. 21, 2019. [VA95Corridor.org](http://VA95Corridor.org).

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## Money For What, Exactly?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Presumably, most of you readers are aware that many supermarkets have a rack located somewhere near the rear of the store that is stocked with off-price merchandise: discontinued items, items with damaged packaging, out of season products, etc.

Over the years, I have been a regular checker of this rack looking for such bargains. I have purchased breakfast cereal, soup, cookies, candy, and miscellaneous other non-perishables. I've even purchased two bags of Kingsford charcoal.

In addition, I've seen household products, health and beauty, school supplies; and everything else you can imagine, running the gamut from "A" to "Z," for sale. Recently however, on this rack I saw a product I'm not sure I even thought was available to the general public, and if it was, would not have thought buying it from the discontinued merchandise rack at the supermarket would not have been the way to go. But what do I know? As has been proven many times: not much.

The item? A DNA Paternity Test Kit. I guess, I thought, if this test was necessary, it would involve a physician or at least be administered by a health care professional and/or involve witnesses/legal representation (at least a notary). Going to the supermarket or even the drug store? And then testing yourself without necessarily knowing the precautions and proper procedures appropriate for the task at hand?

There seems as if there's a bit more at stake here than an at-home pregnancy test, a test with which many of us are familiar. But DNA testing at home?

What is this, the Maury Povich Show?

Having not traveled down this particular road myself, perhaps I'm unaware of the realities. All I know is what I've seen on television or read about in the papers.

I guess I just assumed (generally a bad thing), that the steps one takes to verify/confirm/resolve paternity-type issues were a bit more involved than a visit to the supermarket.

Apparently, this subject is just another where I know very little about, like tools and how to use them, automobile repair, home maintenance, lawn and garden, cooking, and on and on and on. But enough about me.

What about those wanting answers to extraordinarily important questions: Who's the father? And is that my child? Looks can be deceiving so a professional, or so I thought, incorrectly, is brought in to oversee the process.

Nope. No professional need apply. Just go to your local "chemist," as they say in England. No need to visit "the surgery," as they also say over there.

Just find a box with the right letters on it and go back to your home/work and swab, stick, pin-prick or whatever and the results will be known soon enough if you or someone else is whomever they claim to be or not to be. That is the question which begs an answer, Shakespeare notwithstanding.

It seems only fair that one's birthright should be gotten wrong. And not that home-testing can't be trusted. Just the opposite. Nevertheless, some things, like circumcisions, though they can be performed at home (see "Shaky the mohel" from a long ago Seinfeld episode).

I would have thought, a DNA Paternity test, given the need/want of a resolution/clarification which could possibly impact multiple individuals/families over generations, be similarly performed in the most careful of conditions. This kind of test has no margin for error – or humor.

"Bought the kit in the discount rack at my local supermarket." Is that the answer you want to give when all eyes are on you? And saying how much you saved over regular price is unlikely to endear you to any and all of the interested parties on hand.

After all, money really isn't the issue.

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



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