

THE CONNECTION

CENTREVIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna



“I think I can!” – Tripp Ladd, 2, takes the wheel of a fire engine from Chantilly’s Station 15. The Sully District Governmental Center in Chantilly celebrated its 20th anniversary June 24.

Who Wants a Data Center?

PAGE 3

Helping with Hunger in Summer

PAGE 5

Historic Demolition?

PAGE 7

Celebrating 20 Years in Sully

PAGE 4

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

JULY 20-26, 2023

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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Artist's rendition of the proposed data center in Chantilly.

Residents: 'Why Would We Want This?'

Huge data center is proposed in Chantilly.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Unbeknownst to most residents, when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recently re-adopted its revamped zoning ordinance, zMOD, it quietly added a provision allowing data centers to be built, by right, on industrially zoned land within a quarter mile of residential homes.

To the supervisors, data centers represent a massive amount of county tax revenue. But for others, they sound the alarm for their potential to emit noise 24/7 and pollute the soil, air and water – including the Occoquan Reservoir, which provides safe drinking water for the county's nearly 1.2 million people.

In Chantilly's Pleasant Valley community, this threat is hitting close to home. That's because PDCREF 2 Chantilly LLC (Penzance) wants to build a gigantic data center nearby. The site is adjacent to the Cub Run Stream Valley, Route 50 and Auto Park Circle, off Stonecroft Boulevard in Chantilly, just 4/10 of a mile from Pleasant Valley.

The land is partly zoned commercial and partly industrial, so Penzance is asking the county to rezone all of it industrial. It's also seeking special exceptions so the data center could be as high as 110 feet, instead of the 70 feet allowed there, plus have more density. A warehouse option is offered as a plan B, but it's obvious to all that the data center would be much more financially beneficial to both the county and the developer.

It would arise on 12.1 acres of a 79-acre parcel, with the remaining 67 acres preserved as a Resource Protection Area. Representing the applicant, land-use attorney Evan Pritchard presented details of the proposal to a recent meeting of the Joint Land-Use Committee – Sully District Council and West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. (WFCCA).

"The site was approved in 2020 for a car dealership that was never built," said Pritchard. "We're proposing a 402,000-square-foot data center, but what

gets built could be smaller. It's large for that site, but not as large as some other data centers. And there's stronger demand now for data centers, than for car dealerships."

He said it would have a couple acres less impervious surface than would a car dealership and 46 percent of the 12.1 acres would be open space, including "a stormwater-management pond to prevent pollution from getting into Cub Run. And a data center would have far less daily vehicle trips." Access would be off Auto Park Circle, with a Route 50 entrance for emergency vehicles only. And a 10-foot-wide trail could go around the Resource Protection Area.

Pritchard said the data center wouldn't be visible from Route 50 or the Pleasant Valley neighborhood, only from the air. However, he added, "There'd be noise impacts from the generators and cooling systems. We'll probably have air-cooled systems, but they do generate noise." He said system maintenance would occur weekdays during daytime and downplayed the noise it would cause, but a resident said it could still disturb people working from home, napping children and the elderly.

A resident asked if there are plans to mitigate the sound if it exceeds approved noise levels, and Pritchard replied, "We'll have to commit to noise proffers in the non-generator portions of the building where the employees are."

Civil engineer/architect Jamie Cox added that county Zoning Code Enforcement would respond to complaints and could cite or even shut down the data center.

But Pleasant Valley's Cynthia Shang disagreed. "There's no way for the county to enforce that or do anything about the problem of continuous noise," she said. "The constant, high-pitched hum [from the roof-mounted chillers] can still be incredibly annoying to humans." And a neighbor said it would be even worse in winter when the buffering trees between the center and homes were bare.

Josh Bowden, Penzance's vice president of development, said it would take 12-18 months just to build the exterior. And Pritchard said they'd contribute some \$108,000 to the Park Authority if the whole, 402,000-square-foot facility is approved.

SEE HUGE DATA CENTER, PAGE 11

Data Center Proposal Generates Unanswered Questions

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Earth.com – an Internet site devoted to providing information about earth and the environment – published an article last week with the headline, "What are we willing to give up for computing power?"

It referred to a research paper written by doctoral candidates at the University of California, Riverside, and stated that "The increasing demand for computing power generates a variety of environmental consequences."

According to the paper, "In addition to water consumption, data centers consume copious amounts of electricity produced at power plants. The resulting emissions include not just carbon, contributing to global warming, but also other harmful pollutants like particulate matter and nitrogen oxides. These elements can form lung-irritating ozone."

"The pollutants generated by data centers pose significant health risks. These include increased chances of cancer, heart disease [and] shortened lifespans. Consequently, residents living near these power plants bear the brunt of these environmental and health impacts."

It's not surprising then that the residents of Chantilly's Pleasant Valley community, as well as others in Fairfax County, are giving serious scrutiny to a proposal to construct a huge data center. And they hope the Board of Supervisors will do likewise and not be swayed by the large amount of tax dollars it would bring.

Pleasant Valley's Cynthia Shang and her neighbors still have a slew of concerns that haven't yet been addressed to their satisfaction, such as how much water the data center would use. And despite the developer's contention that any diesel leaks will be contained onsite, they're still worried about the possibility of contaminating the county's drinking water.

"What are the impacts of potential fuel leaks from 27, 500-gallon diesel fuel tanks, plus the 5,000-gallon base tanks each of them would have?" Shang wondered. "And what plans are in place to ensure that any such leaks won't negatively impact the RPA [Resource Protection Area] or the

Cub Run Stream?"

Likewise, Virginia Run's Jim Hart, a former Fairfax County planning commissioner, worries about "so much diesel fuel delivered and stored in an environmentally sensitive stream valley, as well as such an intense use adjacent to homes zoned residential conservation. What chemicals are in the particulate, and what gets into the groundwater, the Occoquan Reservoir and the food chain? Is the particulate from the diesel generators a carcinogen, and does it precipitate out in the rainwater? The applicant has been unwilling to commit to cleaner technology than diesel generators."

Noting that Penzance also wouldn't agree to any limitations on the data center's electrical use, Hart said its attorney's explanation about who's paying for the substation "was the exact opposite of what the Land-Use Committee was previously told about the electric substation – that the infrastructure upgrade for a data center has to be funded by everyone, meaning all the consumers – or, at least, the Dominion consumers."

In addition, said Hart, "The applicant refused to commit to any limitations on water usage. I wonder if it would commit to adding no PFAS or forever chemicals to the water?" PFAS are synthetic chemical compounds that can lead to serious health problems including reduced fertility, developmental delays and cancer.

Loudoun County already has 115 data centers, more than 40 have been built in Prince William County and more are in the pipeline in both counties. Nearly 50 already exist in Fairfax County, including one along Route 50 near the Fairfax/Loudoun border. And now, a 2.3 million-square-foot data center park is planned for construction by Starwood Capital Group near 13832 Redskin Drive in the Oak Hill section of the Sully District.

So, in light of this proliferation of data centers, Hart has a few more questions about air pollution because of them as well as "the cumulative effect of data centers on the region, on air quality and health. What are the long-term effects on human health and the environment? And how many data centers are too many if we're maxed out on air quality already?"

COMMUNITY



Toddlers happily playing with bubbles coming from a police vehicle.



Kuzi, a Newfoundland brought to the event by Caring Angels, is a therapy dog that loves being petted.



"I think I can!" – Tripp Ladd, 2, takes the wheel of a fire engine from Chantilly's Station 15.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Manning the Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services display are, from left, Sandra Chavez, Kimmie Alcorn and Leslie Schmidt.

Sully Governmental Center Celebrates Two Decades

The Sully District Governmental Center in Chantilly celebrated its 20th anniversary, June 24, with public-safety displays, music and children's games.



The Sudhindra siblings, from left, Manasa, 8, and Samarth, 10, show off their lollipops and glitter tattoos.



Sully District Police Station's Bike Team is the first in Fairfax County to use battery-powered e-bikes. Officers can ride farther, quicker and with less fatigue because of the pedal-assist feature. From left are PFCs Zach Bargeron, Tom Rubinstein and Avery Brunk and 2nd Lt. Scott Reynolds.



Hamsini Chadalavada, 9, just experienced a 5 mph "crash" in the "Seat Belt Convincer."



Manning the Police Department's Community Outreach information table are, from left, 2nd Lt. Deanna Weand, MPO Meg Hawkins and administrative assistant Carol Jones.



Aided by paramedics from Fire Station 17 in Centreville, children practice CPR on small dummies.

NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers for the SLHS PTSA Food Pantry ready for the ongoing weekly distribution surge. (File photo)

SLHS PTSA Food Pantry Breaks Distribution Record

Summer hunger surges.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A break from school does not mean a break from hunger. The demand for food is increasing dramatically across the United States, including locally. The SLHS PTSA Food Pantry (South Lakes High School Parent Teacher Student Association) saw a record number of students and families come through its 2023 curbside distribution last Thursday, July 13.

Volunteers served 166 families. According to the organization's co-founder, Roberta Gosling, each received a large bag of shelf-stable groceries, fresh produce, meat, masa, feminine hygiene products and treats like ice cream. She said there has been an increase in community need since the decrease in SNAP benefits; last week was no exception. "We were also open to the stu-

dents attending summer school and saw 39 student shoppers," Gosling said. She adds that the fresh produce, meat, and ice cream were donated through the organization's grocery store partners, including Trader Joe's, Wegmans, and Safeway.

The two-year-long temporary expansion of federal food assistance benefits to low-income Americans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic ended in February 2023.

"So far this year, we've provided nearly 3,900 orders to students and families through the weekly curbside distribution and another 3,600 through the student shopping program."

The curbside program is open 51 weeks of the year, and the in-school pantry is open for high school students when school is in session. People can donate to the SLHS PTSA Food Pantry at southlakesptsa.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

HERNDON ANNOUNCES UPCOMING RENOVATION PROJECTS

The Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce the commencement of several improvement projects aimed at enhancing the recreational experience for the community. Starting July 17th, the Bready Park Tennis Courts (814 Ferndale Avenue) project will begin, resulting in the temporary closure of all six courts. The project is anticipated to be completed by

October 9th and encompasses the installation of new fencing, a state-of-the-art ProBounce surface, and the replacement of a new bubble structure and mechanical equipment. During the closure of the outdoor courts, alternative options are available for tennis enthusiasts. Chandon Park (900 Palmer Drive, Herndon, VA 20170) and Bruin Park (415 Van Buren Street, Herndon, VA 20170) will remain open for public use.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

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Honest Funding of Our Schools

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN"
PLUM

The Virginia Joint Legislative Audit Commission (JLARC), of which I am a Commission member, released a report last week completed by its professional, nonpartisan staff after nearly two years of study. Its findings were not entirely unknown except the discrepancies between policies and actual funding were much greater than anyone had ever documented. (<https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2023-virginias-k-12-funding-formula.asp>) The difference between state promised funding and actual dollars per year is in the neighborhood of four billion dollars!

For decades local school board members and those knowledgeable of how the complex school funding formula is supposed to work have decried how state funding has left local governments holding the bag on meeting the cost of K-12 education at a time when there is increased insistence on improving school quality and outcomes. During that same period state legislators manipulated State Standards of



Quality to create an illusion that the state was funding its share of education costs. For decades I made the same speech, updated with new numbers, that the state was not living up to its end of the bargain in funding schools regardless of how much there was an effort to mask what was really going on.

Without the involvement of any elected officials, the professional staff of JLARC found that Virginia school divisions receive less K-12 funding per student than the 50-state average. School divisions in other states receive 14 percent more per student than school divisions in Virginia. That equates to about \$1,900 more per student than in Virginia. Virginia funding is even less on average than states in the South.

Part of the discrepancy in state funding for schools comes about because the state has never since the inception of State Standards of Quality (SOQ) in the mid-1970s been willing to acknowledge the true costs of education. The SOQ formula calculated that school divisions needed a total of \$10.7 billion dollars in FY21, but school divisions actually spent \$17.3

billion. Local governments with their sources of revenue limited principally to the real estate tax have had to make up the difference. That explains why real estate taxes have had to increase regularly over the years.

During the Great Recession state government reduced its budget because of the decline in revenue by reducing the Standards of Quality for public schools. Staffing requirements for schools were reduced as a way to balance the budget. Now, more than a decade later those reductions in Standards that were already below actual need have not been restored.

Education is a politically hot topic and will be debated heavily in the upcoming fall election campaigns. There is likely to be a lot of chest beating about the Standards of Learning and whether our children are performing up to standards. The JLARC study results can interject some truth into the discussion.

Before we start berating teachers and local school administrators about student performance we need to seriously evaluate how the General Assembly and the Governor are doing in providing the necessary support to those who work with the children daily. The facts tell me that we have been short-changing our schools, and it is way past time to correct that situation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Centreville Immigration Head Sends Open Letter to Governor

\$3.1 million is the estimated cost of sending 100 Virginia national guard troops to the U.S. border in this month of July 2023, according to Governor Glan Youngkin's press secretary, Macaulay Porter.

Without offering any proof of fact, Virginia's governor claimed the sending of Virginia troops was to "fight the flow of criminals, contraband, and deadly drugs into communities across

the nation," as he wrote in his directive authorizing a 30-day deployment.

On behalf of the immigrant community in Centreville and Northern Virginia, and as Chair of the Centreville Immigration Forum board of Directors, I condemn this costly, misguided, ineffective, seemingly hateful, and essentially political action of Virginia's governor.

I urge the governor to rescind

his directive and assist marginalized people in need of housing, medical care, and good education to strengthen the quality of the lives of our residents. Virginia depends on the deeply talented and broadly diverse immigration population for our production, services, and economic strength.

The governor's directive and statement only serve to feed the chronic sentiment of racism and

anti-immigration prejudice of a small minority of our Virginia citizens and threatens the sense of wellbeing so deserving of our immigrants who are investing their lives in this Commonwealth.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz
Chair,
Centreville Immigration Forum

NVSO Registration Is Open Over 70 Events Offered

Registration for the 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics has opened online at www.nvso.us.

Over 70 events from track and field to croquet and bocce, to swimming and pickleball are on the two week schedule beginning Saturday, Sept. 9 and closing Sunday, Sept. 24. "There are also more than 10 indoor events such as 10 pin bowling, canasta, crossword puzzles, Mexican train dominoes and more," said Herb Levitan, NVSO chair.

Adults 50 years of age and older who live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions (cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William) are encouraged to see the full list of events on the web-

site, www.nvso.us,

After each event, gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded. Most events are played in five or ten year age groups and by gender. The registration fee is \$20 for unlimited events. There are five events that require an additional fee: ten pin bowling; disc golf; cycling; 9 hole, 3 par golf; and orienteering. Members of the general public are welcome to observe those participating. For more information, email, nvso1982@gmail.com.

NVSO is sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William. To date, 2023 Gold Patrons are Advanced Hearing Services; Aetna; Elancé Lux-

Let Us Know Your View

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

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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HPRB APPLICATION, DEMOLITION PERMIT MARCH 10, 2020, 725 ELDEN STREET

The historic house and outbuilding at 725 Elden Street, Herndon, is within the Town of Herndon Historic District. Its owner's application for demolition has led 17 residents to petition the Fairfax County Circuit Court to overturn a decision by the Herndon Town Council allowing demolition.

Petitioners Appeal to Circuit Court to Stop Demolition

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On July 7, Robert B. Walker, Esq., filed a Petition for Review and Complaint in Fairfax County Circuit Court that drew the attention of some residents in the Town of Herndon's Historic District Overlay. Walker asserted in the petition on behalf of 17 petitioners that the actions of the Herndon Town Council were improper on June 13 in the case of Adams Holdings, LLC, appealing the April 19 decision of the Historic District Review Board.

The review board had unanimously denied Adams Holdings, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness required before demolishing its 100+-year-old house and carriage house at 725 Elden Street in the local historic overlay district. The board found the applicant "failed to comply with the applicable zoning ordinance and the Historic District Overlay Guidelines," according to the July 7 petition and complaint to the Circuit Court.

Michael L. O'Reilly, Esq., representing Adams Holdings, LLC, said on July 14, "We firmly believe that a judge in the circuit court will uphold the decision," allowing the demolition.

Walker took issue with the fact that on June 13, some councilmembers used their interpretations and attempted to create review standards different from those per Section 78-60.3(g)(8)

(e)(1). The appeal claims most councilmembers did not abide by the Ordinance's requirements, even though the town attorney, mayor, and vice mayor reminded their colleagues several times that it was their sole responsibility to rule on whether the evidence in the record demonstrated that the review board's decision was correct or incorrect, based on a review of standards for the Certificate of Appropriateness.

Instead, the council based their decisions and votes on factors such as the property's lack of a historic market, the fact that it was not included in a local nonprofit's walking tour brochure, disagreement with the process outlined in the Ordinance, and the desire to support the business over contributing structures. Councilmembers also discussed whether or not the Preservation Guidelines should be revisited and whether or not the HDRB should be disbanded. Moreover, according to Walker, the transactional disclosure declaration statements read at the beginning of the hearing indicated that several councilmembers had either met with or spoken to the Applicant or the Applicant's Agent.

On April 19, the council, in a 4-3 vote, reversed the decision of the Historic District Review Board that denied Adams Holdings LLC the required certificate to demolish the two contributing structures.

No date is set for a judge to hear the petition in Fairfax County Circuit Court. Robert Walker could not be reached for additional comment.



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
GILES	8514	772	SINKING CREEK RD/RTE 772	SINKING CREEK	6/29/2023
LOUISA	11519	649	BYRD MILL RD	SOUTH ANNA RIVER	6/16/2023
CHARLOTTE	4966	701	THORNTONS MILL RD	CUB CREEK	6/12/2023
HALIFAX	9223	610	CRYSTAL HILL RD	LITTLE TERRIBLE CREEK	6/12/2023
LUNENBURG	11623	635	ORAL OAKS RD	BEAR ELEMENT CREEK	6/8/2023
GRAYSON	8733	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	CABIN CREEK	6/7/2023
GRAYSON	8730	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	CABIN CREEK	6/6/2023

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

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ENTERTAINMENT



The Summer of the Arts Exhibit presented by Pathway Homes will take place now through July 31, 2023 at the Fairfax County.

JULY AND AUGUST

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

JULY 10-31

Summer Arts Exhibit. 9-5 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Pathway Homes' 11th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit showcases the art, poetry and crafts of Pathway clients who have mental health challenges. Art will be available for sale by Pathway clients. Visit the website: www.pathwayhomes.org

JULY 13-23

Logan Festival of Solo Performance. At 1st Stage in Tysons. This innovative festival will gather celebrated solo performers from across the country for two-weeks of performances, workshops, discussions, and events.

Schedule:

Not My First Pandemic: Saturday, July 22 at 2:00pm, and Sunday, July 23 at 2:00pm

Mr. Yunioshi: Thursday, July 20 at 7:30pm, Friday, July 21 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 22 at 7:30pm, Sunday, July 23 at 6:00pm

Email the box office at boxoffice@1st-stage.org for reservations.

General admission tickets are \$20 per show and \$10 per show for Students with valid ID. Individual tickets and Festival Passes can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org.

or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

JULY 10-31

Summer of the Arts Exhibit. 9-5 p.m. weekdays. At Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. Reception: July 12, 2023, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Meet the artists at the kick-off reception for Pathway Homes, Inc. 11th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit, where Pathway Homes' residents who have mental health challenges showcase and sell their own art, poetry, and crafts. For more than 43 years, Pathway Homes has enabled tens of thousands of people in Northern Virginia with serious mental illnesses and other co-occurring disabilities to get housing and supportive services to help them recover their lives. The event supports the unique talents of Pathway Homes' residents and enables them to express their journeys to recovery through their unique and personal artwork.

RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER 2023 SUMMER

ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

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

At Reston Town Square Park, Reston Bring the kids for magic, comedy, puppets, music and lots of laughs. Shows include Rocknoceros, Lohr Family Antics, The Uncle Devin Show and Turley the Magician. See the full schedule here: Family Fun Entertainment Series. Family Fun Entertainment is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc. Reston Town Center garages offer free parking on Saturdays.



The G-Scale Model Train Show will be held Sunday, July 23, 2023 at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.

Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory Sundays, thru August 27 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Reston Town Square Park

Wind down your weekend with classical, jazz and cabaret-style music provided by faculty and students from Shenandoah University's acclaimed music conservatory. This series will run through August 27. Visit Sunday Art in the Park for the complete schedule. Reston Town Center garage parking is free on Sundays. Sunday Art in the Park is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

SUNDAY/JULY 23

G-Scale Model Train Show. Noon to 4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS) members will hold a G-Scale Garden Railroad Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. If you are interested in seeing BIG trains running on the lawn, then don't miss this event! Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors (65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. For more information on the museum and show events phone 703-425-9225. Visit www.fairfax-station.org www.facebook.com/FFXSRR

CAPITAL ONE PARK EVENTS

Capital One Center is hosting special events all month at our new baseball stadium in Tysons, Capital One Park, and we wanted to make sure you were in the know. Capital One Park is located at 1820 Dolley Madison Drive Tysons, and steps away from the McLean Metro.

80's Night Out -- July 19th with game times at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Free admission for all guests in 80's attire!

Military Appreciation Night Out -- July

26th with game times at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Free admission for all active and former members of the military.

AUDITIONS FOR "ON GOLDEN POND"

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

THE TRAVELING PLAYERS At Tysons Corner Center Plaza

Jul. 27 – Aug. 2 – at 7 p.m. – Romeo & Juliet

Shakespeare's tale of star crossed lovers

Jul. 29 – Erros & Psyche

An ancient tale in modern language Aug. 3 – Festival of 3 Plays. Miser at 4 p.m. Green Bird at 5 p.m.

A family-friendly festival of comedies, fairytales, and joy!

BACK TO SCHOOL

FALL BOOK SALE

At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville.

Aug. 4, Friday, 1-5 p.m.; Aug. 5, Saturday, 10-5 p.m.; and Aug. 6, Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

Bag sale on Sunday; fill a grocery bag with books for just \$10. Sponsored by Friends of Centreville Regional Library.

'DRIVE-IN' TO THE STARLIGHT CINEMA

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

As part of the Summer Entertainment Series, the Starlight Cinema brings the community together for wholesome family entertainment with live pre-show entertainment and feature film after dark. The schedule features:

Aug. 5: "Minions: The Rise of Gru" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by The Great Zucchini at 7 p.m.)

Aug. 12: "Lightyear" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Rocknoceros at 7 p.m.)

Aug. 19: "The Bad Guys" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Geoff Marsh at 7 p.m.)

Aug. 26: "DC League of Super-Pets" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Marsha and the Positrons at 7 p.m.)

Grab your picnic and enjoy the free entertainment that your family will remember. Gates open at 6 p.m., so come early to get a good spot. The Starlight Cinema is hosted at Trinity Centre, 5860 Trinity Parkway, in Centreville. For details, visit the Summer Entertainment Series' Starlight Cinema webpage.

AUG. 11-12

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

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta. 12 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Sail or splash -- it's all fun.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Register or sponsor Reston Museum's 2023 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard-pre-register>. You must register to race; spectating is free and open to the public.

AUGUST 19

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

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT MCLEAN CENTRAL PARK

The Alden in McLean presents its annual Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park at McLean Central Park. This free outdoor concert series runs now through Sunday, July 30. Performances start at 3 p.m., and the June concerts are designed to be family friendly. McLean Central Park is located at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.

Schedule

Sunday, July 23, 3 p.m. – Justin Trawick

Sunday, July 30, 3 p.m. – Philip Bowen
For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit The Alden website: aldentheatre.org.

LAKE ANNE'S PLAZA CONCERT SERIES

Lake Anne Live! brings Thursday evening concerts to the plaza from now through July 27. The free concerts will feature music and dance from local musicians and dance instructors. The plaza is located at 1609 Washington Plaza North. All concerts are free.

Schedule:

July 20 (7-9 p.m.): Concert with the Reston Community Orchestra
July 27 (6-9 p.m.): Salsa and Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton

FREE CONCERT SERIES AT BURKE LAKE PARK

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

certs. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and/or a lawn chair.

JULY

19 Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille
26 The Skip Castro Band

AUGUST

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

SATURDAY CONCERTS AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton • 7:30 p.m.

JULY

July 22 Bachelor Boys Band (High Energy Cover Music)
July 29 Bobby Blackhat Band (Traditional/Contemporary Blues)

AUGUST

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

CONCERTS AT FRYING PAN FARM

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

JULY

20 Stacy Brooks Band (Blues)
27 Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen (Bluegrass)

AUGUST

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

ARTS IN THE PARKS

Experience free, fun, family-oriented alternatives to cartoons and video games with performances in parks this summer.

Part of the Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series, Arts in the Parks entertains children, teaches the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduces them to live entertainment in an informal, kid-friendly atmosphere, and forges a connection between kids and parks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JULY 21-23

South Asian Music Festival. The DC South Asian Arts Council Inc, a non-profit arts organization, unveils the 1st ever DC South Asian Music Festival from July 21-23. From the soul-stirring classical vocal and instrumental masterpieces to the mesmerizing Sufi, Ghazal, and Evergreen Bollywood, it promises to be an unforgettable musical journey. Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, open the festival with their enchanting classical traditions on Friday, July 21. Saturday, July 22 starts with a Singing Competition, a showcase of exceptional local South Asian talent, taking the stage. On Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23, the exceptional performances continue.

Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20906
For full schedule, passes and tickets, visit <https://www.dcsaaci.org>

THRU AUG. 18

Summer Art Camps. Ages 8-18 years. At Great Falls Village Centre Art School, Great Falls. Looking for a summer art camp for your budding artist? The popular art summer camps include: Fun with Watercolor & Acrylic Paints; Paper Maché Sculpture; Classical Drawing; Color Study; Cartooning; 35mm Photography for Middle and High School Students; Animé Style Drawing Morning (9:30-12:30 p.m.) and afternoon (1:30-4:30 p.m.) camp sessions are available. Camps are taught by professional artists with teaching experience in the Great Falls Village Centre art school. Visit <https://artsofgreatfalls.org/summer-camps-2023/>

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FROM PAGE 5

In a separate project, the indoor pool at the Herndon Community Center will temporarily close on July 22nd. This closure is necessary to facilitate the removal of lighting fixtures, tile repairs, replacement of boilers and UV light systems, general maintenance, and the application of a new white coat. The pool is scheduled to reopen on September 11th, revitalized and ready for use.

Construction of a new picnic pavilion at Haley Smith Park will take place from July 17th

to July 28th. Impact to parking for park visitors will be minimal, and a restricted area will be designated around the construction site to ensure public safety.

FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Families and individuals from the Washington, D.C.-metro region are being sought to become hosts for international students for 12 weeks, a semester, or an academic year. Exchange students represent nearly 80 countries and cultures, including Kenya, Ukraine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Chile, Thailand and more.

AFS-USA, a leader in international high school student exchange for 75 years, is focused on providing opportunities for intercultural exchange that can help lead to a more just and peaceful world.

Those interested in hosting an AFS Exchange Student are encouraged to contact 1-800-AFS-INFO or visit www.afsusa.org for more information. You can also get involved as an AFS-USA Volunteer. Visit www.afsusa.org/volunteer to get started or learn more about opportunities to make a difference.

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Huge Data Center Is Proposed in Chantilly

FROM PAGE 3

But the discussion didn't end there; it continued at a June 15 meeting of Pleasant Valley residents. Since the data center would be built right behind their 541 homes, Shang warned them its "back-up generators would be noisy and pollute the air. And industrial-zoned land has no requirements to mitigate noise and pollution.

"The applicant's 27 diesel generators will run during maintenance and emergencies, and when the data center needs more electricity from the grid. The decibel level then will be 63 dba, which is higher than allowed in our neighborhood. The noise will also affect wildlife and people working in the nearby office buildings."

Pritchard returned to the Joint Land-Use Committee on June 19, saying they'd only have 20 generators; yet the county staff report lists 27. He said maintenance would be done in 30-minute increments, two hours/day, and "any leaking oil from the diesel generators would be caught and contained onsite."

Virginia Run's Jim Hart asked if large, semitrucks coming west on Route 50 would have to make a U-turn at Pleasant Valley Road to access the site. Pritchard initially said they would, so they could make a right turn into the site, but later said they'd have other options.

Another resident asked if Penzance would commit to using something other than diesel generators, but Pritchard said no. And when another person asked, "Will the applicant commit to any limits on electrical or water consumption?" Pritchard again answered no.

However, Cox said, "We can't use so much water that there won't be enough for your homes or fire emergencies. And there are no chemicals added to the water going into the data center."

WFCCA's John Litzenberger asked if power lines would be above or below ground, and Cox said, "Transmission lines will be underground, and Dominion would have to build us a new, electric substation. It'll be a community substation for other commercial uses, as well."

Pleasant Valley's Ed Duggan asked, "Why



The site is near Route 50 and Auto Park Circle

don't you build the substation yourself, instead of having the citizens, ultimately, pay for it?" But Cox only replied that Dominion said it must be offsite.

"Will you do periodic noise studies?" asked Sully District Council's Jeff Parnes. Pritchard said they'd do them both before and after construction.

"What if there's a brownout and there's not enough power from the grid for you to run your generators?" asked SDC's Jay Johnston. "Then you'd have to run your generators 12 hours/day."

Replied Pritchard: "We don't have an answer to that."

"If the power goes out, you've got a backup - we don't," said Johnston. "You all are going to suck all the power out. A data center would use more water and power than a car dealership or warehouse would - so why would we want this?"

"The tax revenue to the county would be about \$100 million," said Pritchard. "A data center is a cash cow - a huge moneymaker. It'll mean less money the county has to raise to do its work. And data centers don't require services, such as schools."

However, said Pleasant Valley's Scott Gorvett, "A data center, with its noise and other adverse effects, could cause a \$35,000 drop in my home's value. And you're taking this money away from all 541 homeowners."

"It'll grow the tax base, and I'm glad about the underground power lines," said Litzenberger. "But if I lived in Pleasant Valley, I wouldn't want it there. And I don't think the applicant has adequately addressed the environmental issues." The Land-Use Committee then deferred its recommendation until a later date.

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

Please, help save these historical papers.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

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

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

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

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

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The Context Was Clothes



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of the mundane tasks that falls to the family members of a recently deceased person is what to do with his or her clothes - and when to do it. For my sister-in-law, Vanessa, the process was not as excruciating as with others I've known. Having lived in the same house for nearly 30 years, keeping my brother's clothes in some sort of stasis as a means of honoring/memorializing his memory was not important to her. She has plenty of reminders of Richard. In fact, she has his ashes in an urn she keeps in the adjacent/Richard's bedroom, the room where Vanessa discovered my brother lying on the floor that final morning of his life. The room where Vanessa performed CPR on him while a 911 operator instructed her what to do. Can you imagine?

It was in this room, on his bed, where Vanessa had laid our Richard's summer wardrobe for me to pick through. While I hesitated, Vanessa assured me, as I would have guessed, that Richard would have wanted me to have these hand-me-downs-of-his-lifetime. And though it felt awkward trying on his pants, shirts, shorts, shoes, et cetera, it sort of felt cathartic in a way wearing things I had seen him wear. It also provided some light moments as we all joked about how much clothing he had accumulated.

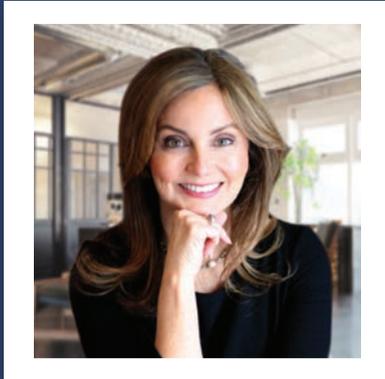
Another predictable task for survivors is to find and organize old photographs of the deceased. Eventually, after the period of grieving has passed, looking through the old photographs conjures up more pleasant memories as the pain of loss begins to subside and you eke out a smile or two. It's an important transition suggesting that there is a future after all, despite this tragedy.

Before we arrived, Vanessa had been going through some old boxes and found a newspaper article about my father. He was 69 and a half and nine months or so away from retirement. On Richard's bedside table lay a brown 5 x 7 manilla envelope. I opened the envelope, per Vanessa's encouragement and there was a folded edition of the Middlesex News, the local community newspapers from Framingham, Ma., where my parents had lived for 17 years before retiring to Florida. Across the top, I could read the faded and yellowing date: Feb. 18, 1989. I opened the fold and in black and white saw a picture of my father sitting at his desk in their Framingham appointment holding one of his many jewelry sample cases. The headline above his picture? "Turning Gray to Green." The article was about the "financial clout" seniors had - as a specific market for advertisers and businesses' to target, and a lucrative one at that.

It was a rather lengthy article, nearly have a page in a broadsheet on the inside with my father's picture on the outside beneath which was "captioned" "Barry Lourie at his Framingham home." He was one of six "elders" interviewed/quoted in the article. As I read through the article, I took notice of my father's quotes. As I read - and reread his quotes, I could almost hear him talking. In addition, I was focused as well on his words/speech patterns trying to glean any familiar jargon or speech pattern, as my father had a unique way of expressing himself. Reading him speak like that was time-travelling for me. It was the first time I had heard his voice/read his words since his death on Dec. 3rd, 2006, nearly 17 years ago. I only wish my brother and I could have shared this feeling together. Interacting with my father like this was like a gift from God, and so unexpected. This jolt of a memory transported me back in time. It occurred while I was sifting through my recently deceased brother's clothes. Go figure. I've often heard it said that clothes make the man. In this experience, clothes made the memory, and a memory I will cherish forever. Almost as if my brother's premature death was not totally in vain.

It has just so happened that a couple of good things have come from Richard's death. None more important than the reconnection I shared with my father.

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



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