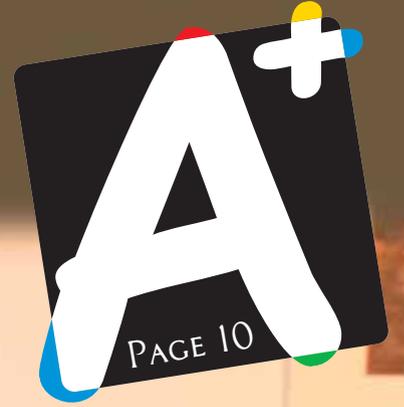




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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly announced this year's 11th Congressional District Art Competition winners. First Place was awarded to Taharah Islam, center, from South County High School, for her entry, "Opulent."

Congressional Art Competition Winners

NEWS, PAGE 11

How To Solve Affordable Housing Dilemma

NEWS, PAGE 3

Burke Lake Golf Center Renovated

NEWS, PAGE 4

5

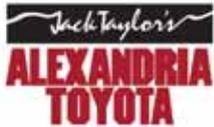
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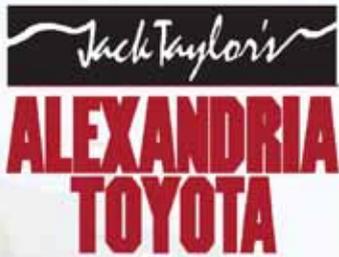
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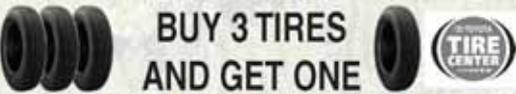
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How To Solve Affordable Housing Dilemma

County seeks public's ideas.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The turnout was pretty small, considering the topic, but those who attended the county-wide Housing Strategic Plan meeting at South Lakes High School, led by the Department of Housing and Community Development and hosted by Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, made up for the lack of numbers with their attention and their engagement in the discussion.

The April 17 meeting was in competition with the joint Town Hall event of state Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), and Del. Ken Plum (D-36), as well as several other public meetings taking place simultaneously around the county.

"It was our first go," said Vincent Rogers, director of Policy, Reporting and Communication for the sponsoring Fairfax County government agency. "We will do everything we can to get the word out to the public for future meetings. This is an issue that really does affect us all."

Rogers explained that his department has been tasked by the Board of Supervisors to develop a strategic plan to tackle the problem. "No one wants another plan that sits on a shelf," he said. The goals for this strategic plan are concrete. It must not only "create a shared community vision of how housing supports local economic growth and community sustainability," but also "quantify the housing needed to sensibly accommodate future growth, develop specific, measureable, and actionable strategies for meeting the goals, and identify the programs and policies, and specific funding sources that will be required to address housing needs in 5, 10, and 15 years."

Rogers feels confident that the county staff working the problem are up to the challenge. The county will build on work already done: The Strategic Plan to Facilitate Economic Success, last year's county Human Services Needs Assessment that compiled and analysed the data on who in the county is in need of social services and what those service needs are, and the One Fairfax Resolution that "directs the development of a racial and social equity policy to ensure all individuals in Fairfax have an opportunity to reach their highest potential."

But even all of the previous work, and the dedication of the county staff to solving the problem, will not be enough, said Rogers. He and his group will be engaging with nonprofits and faith-based groups. They will also take the issue to the business community for their input, since "no



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Dr. Lisa Sturtevant reads a series of vignettes, illustrating the extent, and potential harmful impact, of the affordable housing dilemma and leads a discussion with the attendees.

local workers can ultimately mean no local work."

And then there will be more meetings like this one, aimed at educating the community as to the depth and extensive nature of the problem, and asking for residents to pitch in with their thoughts. As Hudgins said, "This is not a county plan. You are critical to the creation and success of the plan."

THE ATTENDEES SEEMED prepared to accept their responsibilities, but even some among them confessed to not knowing the extent of the problem. Consultant Lisa Sturtevant, Ph.D., and president of Lisa Sturtevant & Associates, LLC, has been contracted to help guide the process. She helmed most of the presentation, and used a series of vignettes as case studies to illustrate the needs, and the potentially devastating effects of failing to find an answer to the housing crisis.

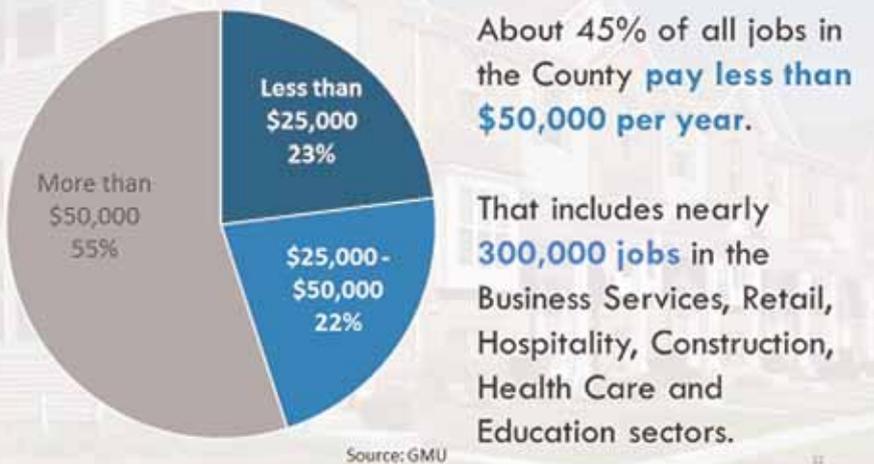
The vignettes not only personalized the issue, but offered some possible consequences if those described in each narrative failed to secure affordable housing in the community.

"Especially when you look at each one as representing dozens, if not hundreds, of people in the same situations throughout the county," she said. The stories were fictitious, but based on real-life people and situations.

In one scenario, Sturtevant spoke about "Patrice Markham" who was a licensed practical nurse earning \$48,500 a year and working at INOVA at a job she loved. In order to afford decent housing in a safe neighbourhood, "Markham" currently lives in Stafford, but the hour and a half commute each way every day has made her consider leaving INOVA for a job closer to home.

Key Employment Sectors in the Fairfax County Economy Have Lower Wages

Fairfax County Jobs by Wage



CONTRIBUTED BY FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

At the county-wide Housing Community forum, county staff provided graphs showing the breakdown of wages in the county.

Another vignette focused on a millennial worker. A recent college graduate earning \$50,000 as an analyst in the Tysons area, this young woman has accumulated \$40,000 in student loan debt. A friend recently moved to Memphis where the cost of living is lower and she is thinking of moving, too, so that she can afford to live on her own, and consider owning her own home in the future. This particular case had several audience members commenting that Charlotte, N.C., seemed to be a hot destination for many of the young workers in their families or among their acquaintances.

The two-income "Park" family have good jobs and together earn \$118,000 per year. With a new baby to consider, they wanted to stop renting in Herndon and buy their own home somewhere in the area that they now consider home base. Having a hard time finding something that they can afford without over-stretching the budget, the "Parks" are talking about moving back to Seattle where they have a better chance of finding affordable housing, and where family can help with the newest member.

"So, you are starting to see the common consequence, and what it could mean," Sturtevant said. Losing talented workers and good neighbors is not the way to sustain a diverse, economically healthy and happy community. "Where the work pool goes, so go the employers," she said.

She also offered scenarios that included couples ready to downsize, or even those older residents who want to stay in the community that they know and in which they have their roots, but need to leave the four-bedroom house behind in order to age in place.

That was a circumstance that had several

in the audience nodding in understanding. The loss of too many people in this age group was of particular concern to Kerrie Wilson, who works for Cornerstones, the Reston-based nonprofit. "People who have retired or are near retirement are the backbones of many nonprofits and faith-based service organizations through their volunteering. So much gets accomplished in the community because of these volunteers."

Sturtevant also presented narratives about the housing needs of public and health sector workers, like teachers and law enforcement personnel, as well as the many residents who work in retail, restaurants, and other service positions. "Did you know that there are nearly 150,000 workers in Fairfax County earning less than \$30,000 a year?" she asked. "And they are working hard and doing their best."

THE VIGNETTES, coupled with slides and graphs provided by the county, illustrated an issue that touches all sectors of the populace, young and old, below-poverty level earners and households above the mean average income for the region, in jobs as diverse as their backgrounds, ethnicities and religious beliefs.

"That's why we need all of you, all of us, working together to keep our community strong and growing," said Hudgins as she thanked the attendees at the close of the session.

The county will be holding more public forums as it heads toward its goal of producing a strategic plan for review by the end of the year. A website dedicated to the issue and keeping residents informed of future meetings and progress should be up and running shortly. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov\rha.



PHOTO BY DON SWEENEY, FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



PHOTO BY DON SWEENEY, FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Local officials cut the ribbon on the new golf facilities at Burke Lake just in time for the summer golf season.

Supervisor Pat Herrity expresses his enthusiasm for Burke Lake's ability to make quality golfing affordable.

Renovations Bring New Opportunities

Ribbon-cutting ceremony held at Burke Lake Golf Center.

BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH
THE CONNECTION

In celebration of the \$6.6 million renovations at the Burke Lake Golf Center, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held atop the new double-decker driving range on May 13. Presented by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, the ceremony touched on the old and new aspects of the golf center.

Welcoming remarks were given by Fairfax County Park Authority Board Secretary Michael W. Thompson Jr. who touched on his time at the golf center as a child.

"When the weather was bad, you were out of luck," said Thompson.

That was one of the initial issues with Burke Lake's driving range — its disadvantage in inclement weather. The driving range used to be just 40 hitting stations, but there was no roof. The golf center's manager, Louis Musolf, said they would often have to close the range because of the weather.

"We found the need to redevelop. We had a lot of times, especially during our peak hours, that people were waiting to hit golf balls," said Musolf.

With the need for more stations and a solution to being rained out, the golf center contacted Hughes Group Architects to make the necessary changes to the driving range.

Amado Fernandez, a principal with Hughes Group, said initial discussions about the renovations were made around two years ago, following with the year-long design process.

"The existing facility that was here before followed roughly the same shape," said



Ian Palmer, 6, takes a swing on the upper-deck putting green.



PHOTOS BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH/THE CONNECTION

The covered hitting stations allow golfers to hit balls even in inclement weather.

Fernandez. "The idea was to create a two-story element that would increase the number of tee boxes," he added.

After the plans were finalized, the golf center closed on Oct. 1 of last year to officially start the renovations.

The new driving range now has 64 lighted stations, 24 of them covered and heated. In addition, private functions can now reserve tee areas, and Wi-Fi and televisions are soon to come.

"In the past, we have always had to send (private functions) to Burke Lake Park and use one of the picnic shelters or the mini golf area," Musolf said.

The new reservable areas can seat 20 to 25 people, housing bistro tables and

benches behind the stations.

Thompson also talked about the ongoing construction of the new clubhouse, set to open in October. The new facility will be 4,000 square feet compared to the one room, 800 square feet operation that is the current clubhouse right now. A larger outdoor patio will be constructed as well.

Attendees at the ribbon cutting were Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herrity, Park Authority Director Kirk W. Kincannon and Golf Enterprises Manager Todd Johnson.

Johnson said that the new driving range "gives us a chance to execute our commitment to youth golf." The Burke Lake Golf Academy has already taken in 200 students in the three weeks it has been open. It of-

fers clinics, camps, and private lessons to people of all ages.

Doris Huff, a Burke Lake Golf Center veteran and Springfield local, has been golfing for a "long, long, long time." She and her daughters, who have been golfing for four years now, come to the driving range between classes. She plans to come to the range more often now that it is heated and covered, making it possible to comfortably drive balls in the colder, rainier weather.

"(The range) is different and much, much better than it was. It looks more dedicated," said Huff. For more information about the new range and signing up for the golf academy, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/blgc/.

Filler-Corn Receives Excellence in Education & Workforce Development Award

On May 11, The Virginia Chamber of Commerce awarded Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), the Excellence in Education & Workforce Development Award for her efforts to improve workforce development. Filler-Corn was one of three Democratic members of the House of Delegates to be honored by the largest pro-business advocacy organization, Thursday night in Richmond at the Chamber's 93rd Annual Dinner and 2017 Legislative Awards Reception.

"Del. Eileen Filler-Corn sponsored bipartisan legislation that will help address Virginia's most critical workforce-readiness needs," said Barry DuVal, president and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. "We are pleased to recognize her with the Excellence in Education and Workforce Development Award for her leadership in improving career and technical education in Virginia high schools."

Filler-Corn has both introduced or co-patroned key bipartisan legislation focused on improving workforce development for many years and this year was no different. She introduced bipartisan legislation this session (backed by the Chamber of Commerce) that would have changed the way the Commonwealth looks at accreditation by including industry career technical education credits. She also introduced a resolution that would have studied experiential learning and workforce development opportunities for high school students in high-demand fields.

"I am grateful to Virginia Chamber of Commerce for honoring me with the Excellence in Education and Workforce Development Award," said Filler-

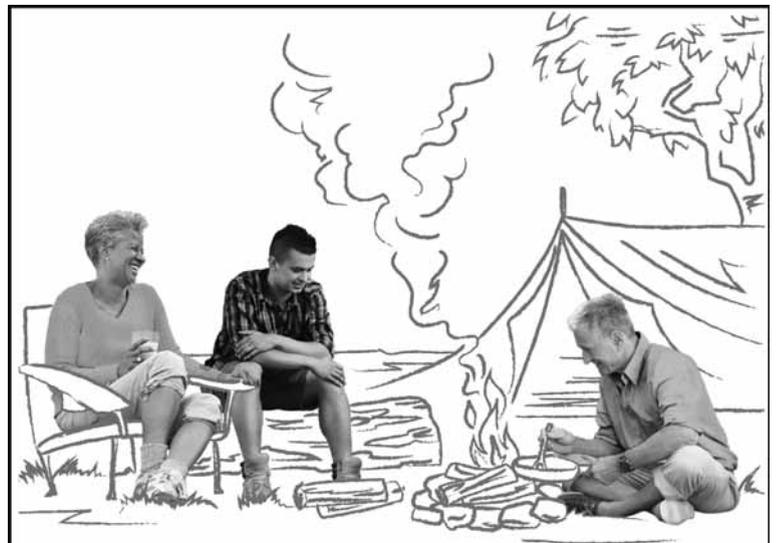


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce awarded Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), the Excellence in Education & Workforce Development Award.

Corn. "Education and workforce development are always key priorities for me. I was proud to introduce legislation this year that focuses on workforce development, specifically preparing our high school students for the workforce. This is an area I care deeply about as I also serve as Chair of Jobs for Virginia Graduates, a statewide program which helps Virginia's at-risk students graduate high school and transition from school to work," she added.

Filler-Corn hopes to continue to work on legislation that fully prepares Virginia students for the workforce in the coming 2018 session.



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OPINION

The Ugliness of Prejudice

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



COMMENTARY

Last week without provocation a woman in the check-out line at a local grocery store told another customer — a Muslim woman — “I wish they didn’t let you in the country.” In the exchange that was recorded on a camera phone, the woman to whom the remark was directed explained that she had been born in the United States. Rather than leave it at that, the first woman went on saying, “Obama’s not in office anymore; you don’t have a Muslim in there anymore. He’s gone — he may be in jail in the future.”

I realize that there are more people than I would like to acknowledge that have strong prejudices against others because of their race, religion, ethnicity or other reason. It continues to shock me when I see the ugliness of the expression of such prejudices as the recording of this event provided. As the woman to whom

the remarks were directed pointed out, it’s abnormal to start a conversation like that with someone you do not know. There really is something wrong with people who are so blinded by their prejudices that they feel compelled to lash out at a person who has done them no wrong. The comments reflect a deep-seated hatred that comes out for reasons only a mental health expert could help discover.

What is particularly troubling these days is the blurring of the line between political convictions and prejudice toward individuals. In our deeply divided political landscape, too often political views become opportunities to demonize people who hold different views. Unfortunately talk radio, social media and some cable news shows tend to invite this destructive phenomenon.

In addition to the repulsiveness I feel about the hateful comments, I was also saddened that social media and news accounts described the

scene as a store in Reston, Va. I know from a lot of personal experience the amount of effort that so many people have made over the years to ensure that Reston is an open, welcoming and inclusive community. While I understand why the store did nothing to address the situation, I wish somehow there had been a disclaimer on the video: The woman speaking does not represent the views of the people of Reston.

The situation reminds us that building community is not a one-time occurrence, a workshop, or a feel-good session. Building a community of respect and love is an ongoing process that we work at a little every day. We greet those we meet; we hug each other; we attend each other’s houses of worship; we show respect to others; we speak out against hate and prejudices; we listen to each other. We use appropriate channels to discuss political views, and whether in person or online we stick to the issues and don’t resort to personal attacks.

A display of hateful and ugly prejudice as we have just witnessed must bring us together in mutual support and respect as we want Reston and every other community to display

FCPS to Propose Increases in Class Sizes

BY MOLLIE REGAN

COMMENTARY

The lead-in for the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Proposed FY 2018 Budget states the following: “The FCPS FY 2018 (2017-18 school year) budget reflects the school system’s priorities. It’s also a communications tool that informs parents, staff members, students, and community members about our values and goals.”

If that is true, then why is FCPS proposing to balance its FY18 budget by increasing class sizes by 0.5 students in all elementary, middle and high schools?

Large class sizes have a negative impact on students’ ability to learn and succeed, and on teachers’ ability to teach. Large classes burn out good teachers and affect teacher decisions about whether to continue working at a school. Every time a good teacher leaves the employ of FCPS, we forfeit our investment in hiring and training that person.

In many recent meetings about teacher compensation, the School Board has expressed concerns about teacher attrition. In FCPS, we lose about 40 percent of our teachers in their first five years of employment, and we lose many more teachers after their fifth year. Class size is cited — both in FCPS and in a national study — as a top factor in teachers’ decisions to leave the school district.

At this critical time when we already suffer from teacher shortages and large class sizes, FCPS should not be considering additional class size increases as a means to save \$14.7 million. There are alternatives that could better address the FY18 budget gap. Some alternatives actually reduce expenses. Others just change budget assumptions.

For example, the School Board could cut \$15 million of other expenses with the understanding that in July, it would use the “found money” from the year-end FY 2017 budget review to restore those programs. This is exactly what the board did about six years ago, when Jack Dale was the FCPS superintendent.

Alternatively, FCPS could find \$14.7 million by using more realistic assumptions about employee attrition. Every year, FCPS prepares its budget using unrealistically low attrition assumptions, which in turn consistently produce about \$30 million/year of “found money” from higher-than-projected teacher attrition during the budget reviews.

Of course, if FCPS made a sustained commitment to reasonable class sizes, it could arguably avoid increasing the costs associated with that teacher attrition. Imagine the cost savings from retaining our teachers. What additional

innovations could be used to reduce the expense of endlessly restaffing our classrooms and training a new workforce?

The FCPS Strategic Plan, “Ignite,” affirms its commitment to student success and a caring culture. Seeing “Ignite” in action would mean that our School Board representatives resolve the FCPS financial shortfall without again balancing its budget on the backs of our teachers and students.

Class Size Counts created an

online petition asking the School Board not to increase elementary, middle and high school class sizes by 0.5 students across the board as part of the FY 2018 budget. Please sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/fairfax-county-public-schools-join-class-size-counts-to-oppose-the-core-academic-class-sizes-in-fcps> and join in the advocacy.

Mollie Regan is Vienna resident and a Class Size Matters advocate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Press Needed More Than Ever

To the Editor:

Dear Members of the Press: We need you now more than ever. Republican Congressmen Jason Chaffetz and Devin Nunes quit their positions as chairmen of Congressional committees rather than have to investigate General Flynn, the Russian interference with our national elections, and the Russian involvement with the Trump administration.

President Trump has fired New York’s U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, Attorney General Sally Yates and FBI Director James Comey, when they each turned up their investigatory heat. The American public is being given various explanations by various members of the Trump administration as to what’s going on. We

need you now more than ever.

Vice President Pence advocates for all of President Trump’s actions.

Attorney General Sessions refuses to recuse himself. The prospect for an Independent prosecutor is tenuous. I hope the Senate Intelligence Committee stays strong. But we need you now more than ever.

The President may call you names. He may call you “fake news” or “the enemy of the people.” But he can’t fire you. Thank goodness for the First Amendment. We need you now more than ever. Don’t let us down.

Barbara Glakas
Herndon

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NEWS

What's Next in Elections?

Sasnett delivers keynote address at the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area annual meeting.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area held its annual meeting on April 23 in Fairfax. Cameron Sasnett, General Registrar, Fairfax County's Office of Elections, gave the keynote speech titled "What's Next in Elections? Bridging 21st Century Technology with Democratic Principles."

His office is working on making improvements to the voter registration process by the use of technology, so all citizens can participate in voting during elections. The office serves all residents including senior citizens, baby boomers, and millennials. There are 74.4 million millennials and 75.9 million baby boomers.

While many have grown up using paper registration forms and ballots, the millennials have grown up using technology. In 2020 for the first time, millennials will be eligible to run for President of the country. The new generation of voters can be reached through Facebook, Twitter, and

Snapchat. Although voters can use an account-based login to manage and update his or her information, Sasnett predicts that it will take several decades before the country will move to a completely virtual, online voting system. In the meantime, photo identifications from the Department of Motor Vehicles are keeping the lines moving during elections because they can be scanned. His office is also working to scan important paper records because these types of records currently occupy a space that is the size of two ballrooms.

In addition to listening to the keynote address, the attendees elected the following as officers for 2017-2019: Judy Helein, co-president, and Betty Ellerbee, secretary. The following were elected as directors: Peggy Knight (at large); Carol Bursik, membership; Adarsh Trehan, public relations; Sidney Johnson, voter services coordinator; and Bob Meredith, voter registration coordinator. Wendy Fox-Grage will serve as co-president. If interested in reading more about The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) or joining, visit: www.lwv-fairfax.org. The LWVFA is a non-partisan political organization, that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. It does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.



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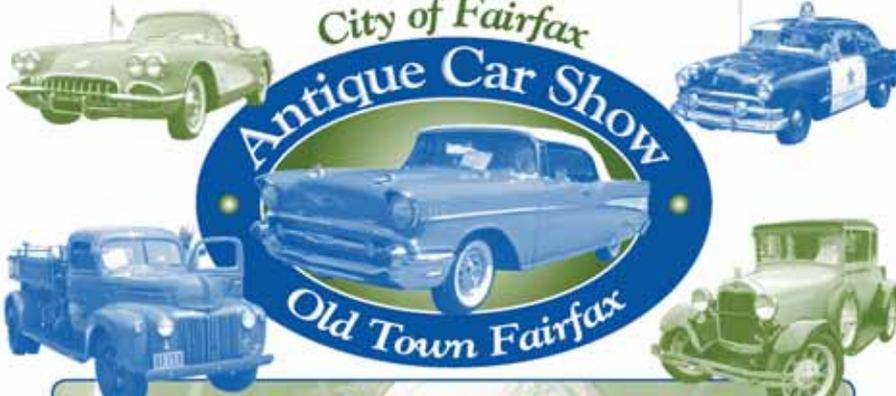

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- Springfield 5K
- PetFest
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SCHOOLS

From left: Gus Cobba, Craig Allison, Doris Dougherty, Jake Borenstein, Maddie Gereski and Cassidy Donaghy in South County High School's production of "Addams Family."



PHOTO BY LAURA MANCUSI

Lives Turned Upside Down

South County High School's production of "Addams Family."

BY LAUREN BOGLE
 WOODGROVE HIGH SCHOOL

Do you see the world in shades of grey? Do you have a taste for death? Then you might be lucky enough to be a part of South County High School's "Addams Family." Based on the Charles Addam's one-panel comics, the musical follows a family with a love for the morbid whose lives get turned upside down by their daughter's choice to step out of family tradition.

The stage is full of interesting characters from overture to final bows. The catalyst for the story is young Wednesday Addams (Maddie Gereski) who falls in love with a painfully normal boy, Lucas (Nick Ferlazzo). The two have decided to get married but want their parents' blessings. However, this would require the families to get along for an entire night. Featuring hilarious clashes between Wednesday's flamboyant father and histrionic mother, and Lucas' hysterical mother (Anna Luczynski) and man's-man type father (Rashaad Martin) — not to mention the torture-crazed little brother, Pugsley — the waifish old grandmother, who may or may not be family (Lulu Romero), and various Addams family ancestors: even "one normal night" seems next to impossible.

Featured in the cast was Craig Allison as the father of the family, Gomez. His performance was one of true commitment; his constant swagger and ability to take advantage of the difficult written and physical comedy kept audiences engaged and laughing the whole night. Sharing the spotlight with Allison was Doris Dougherty. A bright spot in the show, her featured songs such as "Secrets" and "Death is Just Around the Corner" brought energy to the

show, and the night benefited greatly from her powerful stage presence and leadership. Dougherty's interpretation was fully developed and the commitment to her cartoonish personality brought the character to life. Together, Allison and Dougherty had great chemistry and were able to bounce off each other in a way that suggested professional theater.

In the supporting roles, Gus Cobba made a wonderful Pugsley. Taking advantage of every moment he had onstage, he endeared the audience to his plight and surprised listeners with his small script additions and fresh take on the childish character. Additionally, Jake Borenstein as Fester was extremely enjoyable to watch. Capturing the hearts of all with his small ballet-esque turns and heartfelt love-ballads to the moon, he had the entire audience cheering as he chased his love through a chorus of flappers and colonial soldiers.

The entire cast had a great chemistry that was fun to watch and made the show engaging and honest. The family interacted wonderfully due to their distinct personalities and execution of characters. While it is easy to go overboard with the dramatics of this show, the cast toed the line perfectly between comedic drama and uncomfortable overacting. The ensemble worked together like a well-oiled machine, creating characters and scenes between themselves that enhanced the richness of the story line and made the show visually interesting, while also staying connected and not distracting from the main action.

The Addams Family technical team gave a clean performance. The set changes were smooth, efficient, and quick. Despite the large cast, the choreography was very clean, and the group worked together with trademark unification. While there were some flubs with individuals' microphones, the cast recovered well and it did not seem to hinder their performances — a huge credit to the professionalism of the cast. All makeup and wigs fit the character very well and showed a close attention to detail and character choice.

South County High School presented a night of uproarious laughter and glee in "The Addams Family."

UPCOMING SPECIAL SECTIONS

MAY
 5/24/2017.....Summer Fun, Food, Arts
 5/31/2017.....Connection Families

JUNE
 6/7/2017.....Wellbeing
 6/14/2017.....HomeLifeStyle
 6/14/2017.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts
 6/21/2017...A+ Graduations & Summer Education
 6/28/2017.....Connection Families

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- Potomac Almanac
- Burke Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- Reston Connection
- Centreville View
- McLean Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Chantilly Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

New Eagle Scout

Pictured are Rick Tackaberry, father and an Eagle Scout, as was his father, and son, Elias Reyes, recently approved by an Eagle Scout Board of Review at Troop 1131, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, in Burke. Elias is the 200th Eagle Scout of Troop 1131. An award ceremony is pending.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

AREA ROUNDUPS

Historic Church to Host 'Sounds of Pohick'

"The Sounds of Pohick" annual concert in the Historic Church will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 4 p.m. All ages are welcome.

Musical groups featured are the St. Francis Choir and St. Cecelia/St. Alban Choir, both for children; the Pohick Pickers, an instrumental group; the Pohick Bell Choir, who will ring handbells and handchimes; the Pohick Early Church Music Ensemble, which sings 16th and 17th century anthems; and the Choir of Pohick, the nearly 40-voice adult choir.

Musical instruments include guitars, fiddle, bass, tin whistle, Celtic harp, organ, piano, keyboard and percussion. There is no charge for the concert, but a free will offering will be collected. A reception follows in the parish hall after the concert.

Historic Pohick Church is located at 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, on U.S. Route 1 between Telegraph Road and Pohick Road. For more information, call the church office at 703-339-6572, or visit www.pohick.org.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Jubilee Christian Center will have a Patriotic Service on Sunday, May 28, 8:45 and 11 a.m., featuring special music and message. Jubilee is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. There will be no 6 p.m. service on May 28. For information, call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org

The Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rugby Road in Fairfax, has facili-

tators available to help those who are experiencing a separation or divorce. 703-631-2100 or www.fxcc.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services during the summer on Sundays at 10 a.m. The regular schedule, Sundays at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., resumes Sept. 11. www.uucf.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 6 p.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

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Burke/Longwood Knolls \$574,950

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Burke/Longwood Knolls \$649,950

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SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Fairfax Station resident **Mackenzie Braucht**, was named to the spring 2017 dean's list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

Lorton resident **Madison Mitchell**, was named to the spring 2017 dean's list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

Airman Graduates

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jeremy T. Seeley graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.



He is a 2011 graduate of Robinson Secondary School. Seeley completed an eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.



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Safety in the Water Advice in advance of summer swimming.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

During the month of May, National Water Safety Month, water safety educators are waging a month-long campaign to educate the public about responsible water practices before the start of summer. The campaign is designed to help prevent drowning and water-related illness and injuries.

“The most important tip from swim experts [is] to have your child in perpetual swim lessons,” said Gina Bewersdorf, who owns Goldfish Swim School in Reston. “Situations will always arise in which we or our children are around water, [like] at a friend’s pool party, vacation near a lake, or a boating trip, so learning the necessary skills to stay safe is vital. It only takes a second for a child or adult to unsuspectingly fall into a body of water.”

Constant adult supervision is the first and best way to prevent accidents in and around water, says Lisa S. Grepps, director, Marketing & Communications, The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals in Alexandria. She also recommends additional safeguards to help prevent children from gaining unsupervised access to a pool or spa or to warn of a child’s presence. “But don’t get lulled into a false sense of security with barriers and other devices as they are just backups to the primary means of accident prevention which is constant adult supervision,” said Grepps.

In addition to learning to swim, Bewersdorf recommends making sure that children are taught wa-

ter safety skills as well as how to perform CPR on both adults and children. “We recommend a child enroll in swim lessons as early as possible [and] year round, not just during the warmer months. Persistent swim lessons are proven to be incredibly beneficial in order to keep these life-saving skills sharp” she said. “We offer classes as young as four months old in which the parents are constantly with their infants. This gets the child used to simply being in and around water and they learn simple safety skills.”

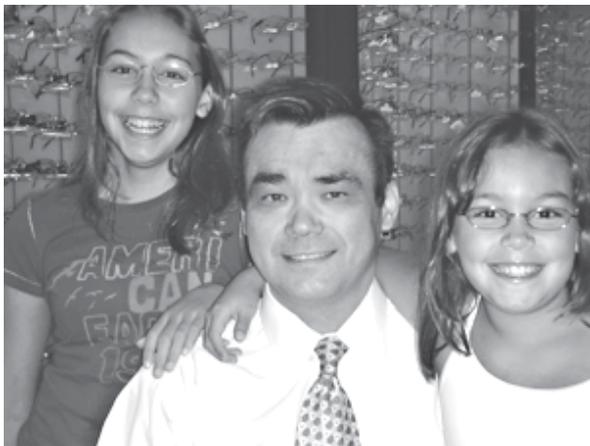
When choosing a pool, check for an on-duty lifeguard. In cases where a lifeguard is not available, look for accessible safety equipment such as a rescue ring or pole.

“We want people to have a safe and fun time swimming and that’s why [we] issue permits to all public pool facilities and routinely inspect them to ensure they are being operated in a safe and healthy manner, in accordance with Fairfax County Code,” said Martin A. Thompson, Environmental Health supervisor for Fairfax County. “It’s also important that swimmers take steps to maximize the health benefits of swimming while minimizing the risk of injury or illness to themselves and others.”

Thompson advises adhering to other safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which include looking to see if the drain at the bottom of the deep end is visible, staying out of the pool if you have diarrhea, covering any open wounds with waterproof bandages, showering before entering the pool and only using flotation devices that are Coast Guard approved.

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) with this year's award recipients and presenters. Back row, from left: Nancy Kyme (obstructed), Clearbrook Center for the Arts; Ava Spece, president and CEO Workhouse Arts Center; Debra Balestreri, Workhouse Arts Center; Jim Gallagher, Prince William Art Society, Laura Readyoff, Arts Herndon; Lisa Mariam, Arts Council of Fairfax County; and Lily Siegel, Greater Reston Arts Center. Front Row: Anna Semizhonova (James Madison HS), Thomas Estrada (Gar-Field HS), Taharah Islam (South County HS), Congressman Connolly, Grace Nicoletti (Charles J. Colgan HS), Amy Des Jardin (Charles J. Colgan HS), and Grace Woo (West Springfield HS).

Connolly Announces Congressional Art Competition Winners

On Saturday, May 13, at an awards ceremony hosted at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly announced this year's 11th Congressional District Art Competition winners. First Place was awarded to Taharah Islam, from South County High School, for her entry, "Opulent." This piece will hang in the U.S. Capitol for one year. In addition, Connolly announced that Amy Des Jardin, who attends Charles J. Colgan High School, was named the 2017 High School Rising Star. Her work, titled "Adolescent Wonder," will hang in the Lorton Workhouse Art Center for the next year.

"Congratulations to all of this year's participants for your creativity and talent on full display today," said Connolly. "This year, we had more than 154 pieces by 134 artists representing 26 different high schools. The

range of entries include virtually every artistic medium: oils, pastels, acrylics, photography, computer graphics, pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, and for those who couldn't pick just one, mixed media."

"Since the very beginning, the Workhouse Arts Foundation has been a tremendous partner," said Connolly. "This art competition is an amazing opportunity for our young artists to have their work displayed in a professional art gallery. I thank you for your support in fostering the next generation of artists."

Additional award recipients include: Grace Nicoletti of Charles J. Colgan High School (3rd Place), Anna Semizhonova of James Madison High School (4th Place), Thomas Estrada of Gar-Field High School (5th Place), and Grace Woo of West Springfield High School (6th Place.)



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly announced this year's 11th Congressional District Art Competition winners. First Place was awarded to Taharah Islam, center, from South County High School, for her entry, "Opulent."



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CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

ONGOING

Storytime in the Park. Tuesdays through May 30, 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square. Fairfax. Visit fairfaxva.gov/parksrec or call 703-385-7858.

Senior Line Dancing 1-2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8 week session. barbriba@hotmail.com 703-524-3739

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation First Wednesday of each month. 7:30-9 p.m. 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at www.fpow.org/volunteer. Please do NOT bring pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. www.fpow.org, 703-324-5424 or dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

Exercise Program Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike,

Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP.Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo. 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). www.fairfaxva.gov. 703-273-3638.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp

Stories From Strawberry Park 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic, Strawberry Park, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Visit www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/.

Funday Monday 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts

Kingstowne Farmers Market opens. 4-7 p.m. every Friday through Oct. 27, at Kingstowne Giant Parking Lot, 5870 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria. Freshly picked, producer-only vegetables and fruit, from-scratch bread (including gluten free), baked goods, kettle corn, salsa, hummus, cake pops, fruit popsicles, and ice cream. Email Chelsea.roseberry@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-642-0128 for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 18

Clifton Homes Tour. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane. Clifton Community Woman's Club presents annual tour of homes in Clifton and Fairfax Station. Silent Auction and Marketplace at Clifton Presbyterian Church. Proceeds donated to local scholarships and charities. \$25 in advance, \$30 day of tour, free to silent auction. Visit www.cliftoncwc.org for more.

Fashion Show and Luncheon. noon-

2 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Proceeds to support support the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. \$30. Visit www.scfbva.org for more.

Burke Historical Society. 7 p.m. at the Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. The evening will feature Cindy Bennett speaking on "Camp Alger and a Local Epidemic." In 1898, Camp Alger's poor sanitation led to typhoid and a disastrous relocation march. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/ or call 703-256-3800.

The Fabulous Hubcaps. 7:30-11 p.m. at the ELKS 2188 Lodge, 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax. Oldies rock band. \$45 in advance (or \$50 at the door). Visit www.thehubcaps.com or www.elks2188.org for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 19

Bike to Work Day 2017. Registration — now open — is free and open to anyone who commutes in the region, from first timers to daily cyclists. All registrants will be entered in a regional bicycle raffle, and the first 16,000 to register and attend will receive a free t-shirt at one of more than 85 pit-stops throughout Northern Virginia. Participants can register online at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org. Email Megan Goodman at mgoodman@mwocg.org, or call 202-962-3209 for more.

Family Movie and Dinner Night. 6-8 p.m. at the Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Hawaiian luau and watch the Disney film "Moana." Free. Call 703-451-8223 or visit sydenstrickerumc.org/movienight.

SATURDAY/MAY 20

Antique Car Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. The show is presented by Northern Virginia Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club and the city. Call 703-273-6097 or visit nvrg.org for more.

Hope and Health Festival. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lorton Park, 9518 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Free health screenings, food, inflatables, children's games and activities will be available to all in attendance. Visit www.lortonaction.org for more.

Map and Compass Reading. 11 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Mark Chapin, the founder of the Mountaineer Wilderness outdoor program in Virginia and West Virginia, an Air Force veteran and graduate of the Wilderness Survival School and Sea Survival School will be sharing his knowledge with teens and adults. \$10. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/ for more.



McKenna Karnes and Beth Whelan after their classes at Aldea SOS Orphanage in Panama City. Six students from George Mason will be providing dance workshops for the students at this orphanage at the end of this month.

Serving through Dance this Summer

George Mason University Students provide accessible dance education to underserved populations at home and abroad.

While most students will be heading home or on vacation to celebrate the end of the school year, six students from George Mason University will be volunteering their time to give back to the world through dance. In collaboration with Movement Exchange, an organization that unites dance and service globally, these individuals will be attending their long-awaited trip to Panama this May 28 through June 4.

This is George Mason University's second time to Panama with Movement Exchange and during this international dance exchange, participants will be taking and teaching classes with dance majors at the University of Panama, taking a variety of classes from professional Panamanian dancers, and providing free dance education to children at Aldea SOS Orphanage in Panama City and Malambo Orphanage in Arrajain.

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OBITUARY

Charles Winston Knight, 22, Dies

Charles "Chuck" Winston Knight, 22, died by suicide on May 1, 2017. He was born June 21, 1994 in La Jolla, Calif. Charles was living in La Mesa, Calif. at the time of his death. He grew up in Smithfield, Va. Sanford, Fla. and Burke. He graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School. Charles loved music, writing lyrics, singing and playing his guitar.

Survivors include his mother, Laura Knight of Burke, his brother Andrew Knight and sister Kerri Knight of Fairfax; his grandmother Patty Graham, his Uncle Glen Graham, his Aunt Kim Magby and husband Mike, his Great Uncles Joel Adams and Jammie Adams, his cousin Garrett Small and his wife Ruby and children Braelynn, Rylee, and Ezekiel, his cousin Joshua Graham, wife Heather and children Travis, Denise, and Sa-

vannah, his cousin Kelli Wright of Ridgecrest, Calif.; his Great Uncle and Aunt Larry and Oleta Adams and his cousin Scott Adams of California City; his Great Uncle and Aunt Bill and Susan Ray and cousins Kristin and Jordan Ray of Tehachapi, Calif.; his



**Charles
"Chuck"
Winston
Knight**

cousins Shaun Adams, Ryann and Justin Burke of Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.; his cousins Mark Adams, Annabelle and Xavier of Fresno, Calif.; his cousin Thomas Small and wife Rachel of Tucson, Ariz.; his Grandmother Gwenn Knight of Wash-

ington, his Aunt Lisa Knight of Sultan, Wash.; his Aunt and Uncle Karen and Steve Allison of Mukilteo, Wash.

He was preceded in death by his father Matthew Knight.

The Celebration of Life of Charles Winston Knight will be held on June 2, 2017, 5-9 p.m. at the Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in the name of Charles "Chuck" Knight to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention <https://afsp.org/> 1-888-333-AFSP

DONATIONS: <https://afsp.org/take-action/give-a-gift>

For donation, next of kin: Laura Knight, 7117 Stanchion Lane, Burke VA 22015.



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2017 COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKETS

Oak Marr

Every Wednesday 8 a.m.-noon from May 3-November 15 at Oak Marr Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets for more.

Wakefield

Every Wednesday, 2-6 p.m. from May 3-Oct. 25 at Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets for more.

Fairfax County

Every Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. from May 4-Oct. 26 at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy. Closed June 8 due to the set up for Celebrate Fairfax.

Kingstowne

Every Friday, 4-7 p.m. from May through October in the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets for more.

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NEWS

Historic Springfield Schoolhouse Receives Historic Marker

The Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse will hold a dedication ceremony on Sunday, June 4 at noon to celebrate the installation of their new Fairfax County Historic Marker. The Springfield District's 2016 Lady Fairfax Lisa Friedrich Becker worked with the Upper Pohick Community League, Friends of Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, and the Fairfax County History Commission to have the marker installed on the schoolhouse grounds. "The schoolhouse has played a notable role in our little community for nearly a century, and we are proud that it is finally being recognized," says Becker, who is also President and a founder of Friends of Sydenstricker Schoolhouse. "This marker, and our June 4 celebration will be a way of honoring the generations of people who have loved, cared for and helped to preserve this little piece of history."

The first schoolhouse on the site was known as the Pohick School #8, and was built around 1900 on land donated by civil war veteran, Barney Deavers (who is buried within view of the schoolhouse at the adjacent Sydenstricker Methodist Cemetery). It replaced another schoolhouse located a mile away (the Barkers School), which was built around 1874. The original schoolhouse burned in July 1928. A new, larger school was constructed in November 1928, and opened to students in November 1928. The school became known as the Sydenstricker School (for its proximity to the neighboring Sydenstricker Church). In 1934 the school was closed, and the children were sent to the Burke School. The community petitioned to reopen the schoolhouse, and in September 1937 the school was reopened to the first four grades.

THE SCHOOLHOUSE closed for good in June 1939. Despite being closed, the schoolhouse continued to be used regularly for community events, wedding receptions and meetings.

In August 1943 the building became home to the Red Cross "Sydenstricker Surgical Dressing Unit" for the purpose of making bandages for the war. In 1954 the Upper Pohick Community League (originally the Sydenstricker School & Community League, the "PTA" of the schoolhouse) purchased the building from the school district for \$550 to use as a community center. During the 1950s the League sponsored a Boy and Girl Scout troop, as well as a "Litter Buggy" which collected trash from local roads. It was an active group that influenced the development of local roads, bridges and sub-divisions in a time when the area was very rural. The schoolhouse is listed in the Fairfax Inventory of Historic Sites, The Virginia Landmark Register, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2012. It is the last remaining example of an early 20th century one-room schoolhouse in Fairfax County in nearly original condition and still on its original site. It was the last one-room schoolhouse in the county built prior to consolidation, and when it closed in 1939 it was among the last operating one-room schoolhouses in Fairfax



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Board of Directors of the Upper Pohick Community League and Friends of Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, (from left): Kathy Pablo, Judy Riekse, Lisa Becker, Ellen Plissner, Shirley Edwards.

County.

The schoolhouse continues to be owned and maintained by the Upper Pohick Community League, which today is the oldest continually operating community association in Springfield, and among the oldest in Fairfax County.

THE COMMUNITY is invited to attend the Historic Marker dedication, and learn about the restoration projects taking place at the schoolhouse. Tax deductible donations are appreciated to help fund the ongoing renovations and improvements to the schoolhouse and grounds, that will make the building a more useable space for the entire community. "The schoolhouse has been a community center for much longer than it was a school, and we realize that the only way we can keep it going is by getting the entire community involved, and educating them about this very special piece of history right in the middle of our neighborhood," says Becker. "Most of the people who stop by say they have lived here for 20 years, and never knew it existed! We want to change that. We want everyone to know that this schoolhouse belongs to all of us, and we want everyone to feel personally invested!"

The Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse is located at 8511 Hooes Road in Springfield. Visit their website for more information, www.sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Jubilee Christian Center will have a Patriotic Service on Sunday, May 28, 8:45 and 11 a.m., featuring

special music and message. Jubilee is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. There will be no 6 p.m. service on May 28. For information, call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org

The Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rugby Road in Fairfax, has facilitators available to help those who are experiencing a separation or divorce.

703-631-2100 or www.fxcc.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services during the summer on Sundays at 10 a.m. The regular schedule, Sundays at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., resumes Sept. 11. www.uucf.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

TUESDAY/MAY 9

Dementia Caregivers Support Group. noon-1:30 p.m. at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. The group is for those caring for someone with dementia or interested in learning more about providing caregiving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 11

Fairfax 50+ Employment Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fair Oaks Marriott Hotel, 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Jewish Council for the Aging, Fairfax County and AARP are sponsoring the event. The event is free and no registration is necessary. Go to www.accessjca.org/programs/senior-employment/.

SATURDAY/MAY 13

Yard Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. All proceeds will support Youth Missions. Call 703-378-7272 for more.

MONDAY/MAY 15

Homework and Study Strategies. 11 a.m.-noon at PEATC, 8003 Forbes Place, Suite 310, Springfield. In person and webinar options. Topics to be covered include how to help children get organized and manage time and various strategies to be used for specific homework difficulties. Register to attend: www.eventbrite.com/e/peatc-parent-coffee-and-presentation-with-remotewebinar-viewing-tickets-31717825871. Webinar: zoom.us/webinar/register/80b22ca516ff533366858a512be5123a.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 17

Legal Considerations for Caregiving. 1 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. An elder law attorney will lead this discussion on legal needs to be taken care of such as powers of attorney, wills and estates, guardianships, and trusts. Contact Christi Clark, christi.clark@insightmcc.org, or call 703-204-4664 for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 18

Van Dyck Park Workshop. 7:30 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. The Parks and Recreation Department has launched the Van Dyck Park Master Plan to help plan the future of this park. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/ for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 20

Hodge Podge Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. On sale will be furniture, collectibles, household goods, books, clothing and much, much more. All proceeds will benefit the many ministries of Pohick Church, which serves the southern Fairfax and northern Prince William County areas. Call 703-339-6572, or visit www.pohick.org.

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New To Some, Old News To Others



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you unfamiliar with my column: in Burke, Springfield, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Mount Vernon and Alexandria, welcome aboard the Kenny train. I have been writing a weekly column for Connection Newspapers since December 1997 appearing primarily in our "Tuesday papers," as we call them: Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon, Arlington, Chantilly, Centre View and Potomac. The question has persisted among friends and family: Ken he continue to, as my older brother Richard jokes, "churn out this dribble?" Apparently so, if the last 19 and half years are any indication.

Back in the day when I first had to characterize my column for various local yearly Press Association editorial contests (of which I have won nearly a dozen awards), I would write "Everything in general about nothing in particular." A great friend of mine, Edward Faine, himself an accomplished author — of children's and jazz books, and a small press publisher as well, has described my columns as "Thoughtful humor and insightful commentary." Perhaps between these two quotes you'll get a sense of what you're likely to get from my weekly wondering.

And so it continued until June 2009. That's when I published my first column about a diagnostic process which had been ongoing since New Years Day which ultimately led to a lung cancer diagnosis delivered to "Team Lourie" on Feb. 27, 2009 (you bet you remember the date). That column, entitled "Dying to Find Out, Sort Of," chronicled the process, excruciating as it was/is that one often endures attempting to determine the cause of a medical problem; in my case, a pain in my left-side rib cage which a day or so later, migrated to my right-side and eventually took my breath away — almost literally, especially when inhaling and/or bending over. This difficulty forced me off the couch and into my car for a drive over to the Emergency Room. Once the diagnosis was confirmed, I wrote another column entitled "Dying to Tell You, Sort Of" which detailed the findings of the nearly eight weeks the process took to specify my diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Out of the blue, I had become "terminal," as my oncologist described me, and given a "13 month to two-year" prognosis to boot. Surreal, which is a common description offered by many in similar situations, is how one feels after receiving news of this kind, and only begins to tell the tale of the change and evolution in the individual's life living forward into treatment and subsequently beyond into the great unknown.

This 'great unknown' is mostly what I have written about and published ever since; "cancer columns" (original I know) is what I call them. Occasionally, I will write a non-cancer column, one a month or so, depending on my experiences. These columns will address non-cancer issues of the day, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. Most recently topics have included the movie "The Exorcist," "Exercising a Demon," paying for things with a credit card: "Credit the Card," reacting to advertising for grass seed and riding mowers: "And So It Begins," and buying in bulk: "Bulky Boy," but never/well, almost never do I write about my wife, Dina; I have been warned.

Though the recurring theme of these columns is cancer, the content is rarely morbid or dare I say, self-indulgent, believe it or not. I try to make fun a very "unfun" set of circumstances. I'm still writing about life; now however, it's life in the cancer lane, a road unlike any I had ever traveled before. Nevertheless, I've gotten through eight years and nearly three months of it relatively incident free, save for a week in the hospital three and a half years ago. And yes, I am still undergoing treatment.

I hope you readers will be semi amused at the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune upon which my columns are based. Please know: the significance of their content is not that it is me writing them, it is that cancer is being written about.

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



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