

Fairfax Station CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton



WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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Fairfax County All Stars (2017) performing with Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

Inspiring Performance

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Naked Truth About Strip Searches at Traffic Stops

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Promoting Safe Bicycling

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Resolve to Get Involved in 2018! 31st Annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting



Join Supervisor Storck for the 31st Annual Town Meeting! As part of the town meeting, Supervisor Storck will take guests on a “virtual flying tour” of the changes in the Mount Vernon District over the past year.

Speakers: Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, New County Executive Bryan Hill, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, New Superintendent of Schools Scott Brabrand and other community leaders.

Saturday, February 3, 2018

7:45 a.m. Exhibit Hall Open | 9:30 a.m. Speakers, Q&A's and Virtual Tour

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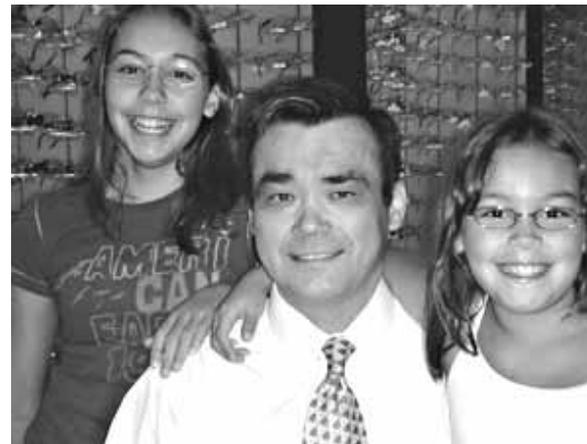
For more information, call the Mount Vernon District Office at 703-780-7518, TTY 711, visit the office at 2511 Parkers Lane, or send your questions/comments to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov

To request reasonable ADA accommodations or language translation services, call the Mount Vernon District Office, 703-780-7518 or TTY 711 on or before 1/29 /18.

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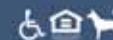
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Naked Truth About Strip Searches at Traffic Stops

Northern Virginia Democrat advocates for strip searches to combat opioid crisis.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Police officers across Virginia would be able to strip search drivers at traffic stops under a bill proposed from Del. Patrick Hope (D-47). Hope says he introduced the bill as a reaction to the opioid crisis after being approached by sheriffs across the commonwealth who are concerned inmates might smuggle drugs into jails. Hope says sheriffs did not ask for strip searches at traffic stops, although he adds the two issues are linked in the code.

"The existing statute allows for strip searches for weapons at traffic stops and going into jail, and that's there for a reason — because you don't want to put someone in your squad car who might have a weapon," said Hope. "And so the question is whether opioids today are lethal enough where you need that same protection at a traffic stop where you are going to put somebody in your car."

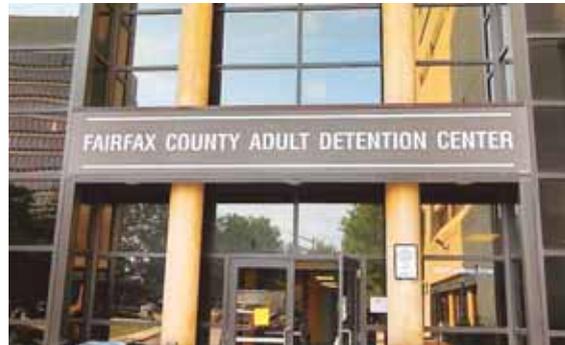
Advocates for civil liberties are concerned that strip searches would be based on nothing more than an arresting officer's "reasonable cause to believe" that a suspect has drugs. They worry that suspicion may often be based on nothing more than a hunch. And although courts have upheld the ability of sheriff's deputies to conduct strip searches at jails, they say allowing strip searches at minor traffic infractions would violate the dignity of the accused — a burden that would disproportionately fall on minorities.

"This proposal will fall more heavily on people of color because of disparate policing," said Claire Gastanaga, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia. "Keep in mind that people who are black are eight times more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana in Arlington than white people, even though usage rates for both populations are the same, about 13 percent."

RECENT YEARS have seen the opioid crisis spiral out of control in Virginia. The number of fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased by more than 30 percent last year, according to a recent report from the Virginia Department of Health. Fentanyl is an opioid pain medication that's 100 times more potent than heroin. It's often used to treat pain after major surgeries, and it's frequently traded on the black market. A dose the size of a grain of sand can be lethal, creating a potential problem at jails.

"Google the words 'jail' and 'overdose,' and you'll come up with a number of hits of people who are sneaking in drugs like fentanyl and heroin and other opioid type drugs and people are overdosing on it," said Hope. "It's a very serious concern of the jails and the sheriffs asked me to carry the bill."

A Google search of "jail overdose" comes up with 8.7 million hits with horror stories from across the country. Four inmates overdosed in two days last year in Ohio. Two inmates were found dead last year after overdosing in a D.C. jail. In Miami, prosecutors are considering murder charges after two inmates were found dead after opioid overdoses. None of the



A spokesman for the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office says there are no numbers that show smuggled opioids are a problem at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

"Google the words 'jail' and 'overdose,' and you'll come up with a number of hits of people who are sneaking in drugs like fentanyl and heroin and other opioid type drugs and people are overdosing on it."

— Del. Patrick Hope (D-44)

stories seem to be from Virginia, though, which worries critics of the bill.

"My concern is that I'm not sure how common that is — how frequently that happens — that drugs are being smuggled in," said Cindy Cunningham, founder of a progressive group known as VA Plan. "A lot of people are concerned about police in general and I think at this point this is sort of encouraging civil rights violations."

Requests for data on opioid smuggling into the Arlington jail and the Alexandria jail received no response at press time. And spokesman for the Fairfax County Sheriff said no data existed to prove opioid smuggling was a problem.

"There are no numbers that show that smuggled opioids are a problem at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center," wrote Jamel Perkins, public information officer for the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in a response to written questions.

Hope acknowledges that his bill may end up changing significantly as it makes its way through the legislative sausage-making factory in Richmond, a process that starts this week with a subcommittee hearing followed by a hearing in the full committee. And then, if he's lucky, a vote on the House floor. Considering the heart of his bill allows for strip searches at jails rather than traffic stops, he says, that part may end up being stripped out before it's considered by member of the House of Delegates.

"If law enforcement feels like that's not necessary, we'll take it out," said Hope.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left: PFC Christina Gaizick and PFC Sheila Ayers of Traffic Safety Services, Fairfax County Police Department, were the guests at the January meeting of Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, held at the Patrick Henry Public Library in Vienna.

Promoting Safe Bicycling

Cycling advocacy group hosts county law enforcement reps at monthly meeting.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

At its first monthly meeting of the New Year, the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) got right to work, inviting two Fairfax County Traffic Safety Police Officers to attend and expand the dialogue between law enforcement and cyclists in the county. FABB member Charlie Bobbish introduced Officers PFC Sheila Ayers, and PFC Christina Gaizick and began the conversation by asking them to comment on the "state of traffic safety" in Fairfax County.

Safety of all county residents is a priority, according to Ayers, be they drivers, cyclists or pedestrians, but the officer added that she and her colleague were particularly pleased to be invited to the FABB meeting to gain a better understanding of the concerns of the pedal-powered citizenry and to have an opportunity to discuss safe cycling practices and education.

According to Ayers, statistics show a decrease in cycling-related incidents, with only one fatality recently reported in 2015. Early figures for 2017 indicate 72 reportable bicycle incidents, although the fact that there are no clearly defined categories for bicycle accidents in the statewide reporting system TREDIS (Traffic Records Electronic Data System) and that "reportable" incidents must



Sally Smallwood is the Safe Routes to School coordinator for the Fairfax County Public Schools. Smallwood brought the FABB members up to speed on school-related bicycling events and activities and encouraged people to nominate a School Crossing Guard of the Year by the Jan. 26 deadline.

meet a \$1,500 damage or a reportable injury threshold in order to be included in the TREDIS data, left some attendees somewhat in doubt as to the accuracy or usefulness of the information.

Jeff Anderson, president of FABB, Steve Ward, the organization's secretary, and board member Bruce Wright all indicated that advocating for more specific reporting tools might be on the FABB work menu in the future.

SEVERAL QUESTIONS were posed to the officers regarding how to stay safe as a cyclist on the road, and what to do when witnessing or experiencing in

SEE BICYCLING, PAGE 11

OPINION

What's Wrong with This Picture?

**Male, 60 percent; female 40 percent;
less than 2 percent poor; less than 2 percent
African American; less than 2 percent Latino.**

If these are the demographics to something, you know it needs to be fixed, no matter what "it" is. Especially something paid for with public dollars.

Male, 60 percent; female 40 percent.

Less than 2 percent poor.

Less than 2 percent African American.

Less than 2 percent Latino.

These are the demographics of this year's freshman class at our Governor's school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, known as TJ.

We also know that there are geographic disparities (some middle schools have many more students admitted than others; some have none).

State Sen. Scott Surovell represents a part of the county that tends to be under represented at Thomas Jefferson, and he is kicking off what no doubt will be a lively discussion by introducing SB787, Governor's Schools;

enrollment, which would use both economics and geography to change the admissions dynamics at Jefferson.

Summary:

EDITORIAL "Requires any academic school Governor's School that has a focus on math, science, and technology and that has an overall enrollment of over 1,000 students to accept for enrollment (i) a sufficient number of students eligible to receive free or reduced price meals such that the total of such students is at least 50 percent of the weighted average of the participating divisions' percentage of such students in the previous school year and (ii) at least five students but no more than 15 students from each middle school in each school division eligible to matriculate students to such Governor's school who have completed at least two full years at such middle school."

The school divisions currently participating in TJHSST are: Arlington County, Fairfax

County (includes City of Fairfax), Falls Church City, Loudoun County, Prince William County.

We've said this before, because these demographics have been trending in this direction for more than a decade.

Fairfax County Public Schools has a single elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson, and TJ is frequently referred to as the top high school in the country. Dramatic disparity in the makeup of admissions at TJ is an indicator of disparity in early identification of students as gifted and talented, of access to advanced classes and enrichment, and in the basic education that the Fairfax County Public school system offers to all of its students.

School leadership can't continue to act like there are things they can't do anything about. Surovell deserves credit for giving an incentive to get started.

Learn about the referral and screening and selection process for full-time (Level IV) and school-based (Levels II-III) Advanced Academic Programs at www.fcps.edu/registration/advanced-academics-identification-and-placement.

— MARY KIMM

KIMM.MARY@GMAIL.COM

LETTERS

Our American Story

To the Editor:

One hundred years ago, my grandparents left eastern Europe to take a chance in making it in America. They were poor, spoke no English, had little formal education and were probably not seen as particularly desirable immigrants.

They worked hard and started small businesses, a laundry and a candy store. Their sons fought in WWII and then they, our parents, got mostly blue-collar jobs. They, in turn worked hard, made sure we studied hard and we all got college educations.

Now, three and four (and beginning five!) generations into our American Story, we are teachers, social workers, engineers, counselors, and business people, working to improve our country and our communities.

Our family story has been repeated millions of times over. It may be your story, too.

All because America saw the value of allowing a large, diverse influx of people who were willing to work hard for the American Dream. The value of continuing that diversity is as true today as it was 100 years ago.

Mark Menzer

Reston

A Matter of Style

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

The experiences of the Virginia colonists with King George III taught them a lesson not forgotten even until today. Executive authorities are not to be trusted. Monarchies are likely to try to take away the people's rights and property.

The assertions of the Declaration of Independence were to make it clear that the people of America had sworn off monarchical government. They were not about to replace a king with a president or a government who might try to exert the kind of absolute executive power they had under the king.

Instead, controls were incorporated in the U.S. Constitution as well as state constitutions to keep the executive authority in check. Virginia's limitations on the governor were especially limiting. For example, the governor's term was one year. He could run for re-election more than once, but likewise he could be turned out after just one year.

We have loosened up somewhat in modern times by extending the term to four years, but there is a limitation of one consecutive term. The governor can run for an additional term, but it cannot be consecutive with the first. I think the one-term limitation is unnecessarily restrictive and have voted on more than one time to allow the governor to run for a second consecutive term. One term may keep a governor under control, but it can also limit his or her effectiveness.

Governor Terry McAuliffe was a high-energy, strongly motivated, hard-charging governor whose accomplishments exceeded those of his predecessors. He accepted the fact he had just one term, and he



worked energetically to get all he could done in the relatively short four-year term.

He pushed the legislature to get things done, and he did not hesitate to use executive authority when necessary. He was taken to court by the Republicans for restoring citizenship rights to those who had been incarcerated, but he won and restored citizenship rights to 172,000 ex-felons. He brought about a New Virginia Economy of high employment, job growth, and attractiveness to those seeking to locate a company here.

Governor Ralph Northam who served under the shadow of Governor McAuliffe as lieutenant governor was always recognized as being extremely able but without the show of high-energy and flair of the Governor. No one questioned his ability, but it was widely concluded that he would bring a different style to the governorship. Most expected a mild-mannered, cordial leader who would govern more by consensus.

Clearly the styles are different, but there may have been a bit of selling short Governor Northam because of his easy Eastern Shore manner. His inauguration speech as well his first speech to the General Assembly was anything but mild or equivocal. It was as strong and as direct as any that Governor McAuliffe delivered.

Calling upon his background as a physician, he built a hard case for the expansion of health services to the people in need in the Commonwealth. He is as direct as anyone I have heard speak about the need for common-sense gun control measures. He is emphatic in his defense of women's reproductive rights.

We may not have a second term for the governor in Virginia, but we have a governor taking over who is going to continue the policies of the first. The difference in the two will simply be a matter of style.

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
CONNECTION

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COMMENTARY

Resolve to Get Involved in 2018

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK
(D-MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT)



Community engagement is vital to building and maintaining strong communities and passionate individuals. As stated by Coretta Scott King, “The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” I believe that statement to be true, especially here in the Mount Vernon District. We have many strong community leaders who are driving issues from increased economic development and transportation improvements along the Richmond Highway Corridor, to the protection of our natural resources such as Dyke Marsh and Mason Neck State Park. However, we always need more voices and helping hands.

I invite you to join us on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018, for our 31st Annual Town Meeting at Mount Vernon High School to learn more about our District and how you can be engaged in 2018. The morning will start at 7:45 a.m. with the opening of the Exhibit Hall, where you can meet over 75 community groups and County agencies. Here are just a few opportunities you will find in the Exhibit Hall:

- ❖ Sign up to volunteer with the United Community Ministries or GrandInvolve.
- ❖ Learn about Connector Bus service or the Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team.
- ❖ Join the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations, the South County Federation or the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park.

31st Annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018
7:45 a.m. – Exhibit Hall Open
9:30 a.m. – Speakers, Audience Q&A’s and Virtual Tour
Mount Vernon High School
8515 Old Mt Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309

❖ Explore educational opportunities with the National Park Service and the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia.

At 9:30 a.m. the program will begin with musical performances and my personal welcome addressing our major accomplishments in 2017 and our main focuses for 2018. Throughout the morning you will hear from several distinguished speakers about the “State of the District and the County.” Speakers include Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, new County Executive Bryan Hill, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, new Superintendent of Schools Scott Brabrand and other community leaders. Audience members will have the opportunity to have their questions answered directly by these leaders. The highlight of the morning will be taking a “virtual flying tour” of the changes in our district in this past year, with me as your pilot.

Come out and join us. Learn and get involved. The more residents engage and participate in our district, the more we will all be enriched and fulfilled in our day-to-day interactions within our community. Working together, we all have a hand in our future and in improving the quality of life for all Mount Vernon residents.

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Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



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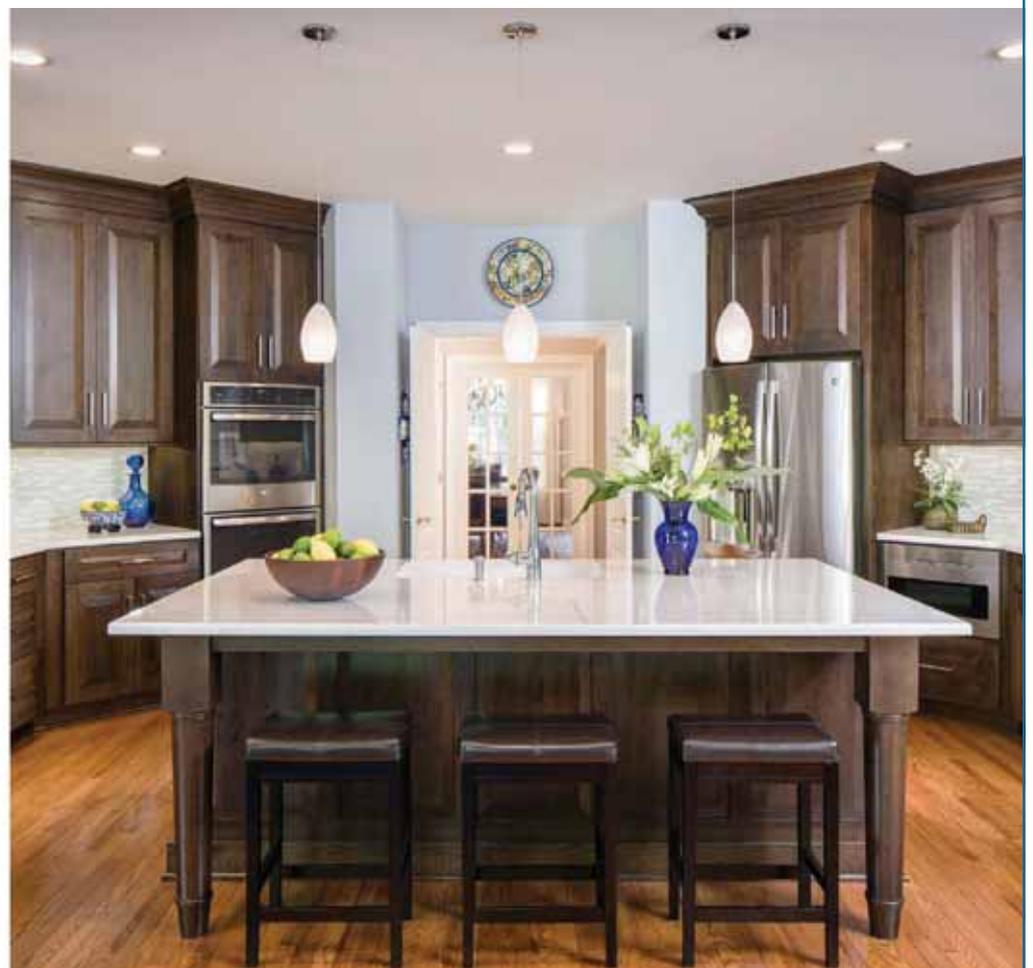


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WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Second Saturdays. 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet nearly 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Experience performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Enjoy art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. at 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.

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.fairfaxvd.com. 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

JAN. 24-FEB. 25

"Uncommon Visions." Various times at 2905 District Ave., Suite 115 (in the Mosaic District), Fairfax. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) presents "Uncommon Visions," the third exhibition at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic. This mixed-media show features the work of more than 40 TFAA member artists. Each of the artists, through use of form, color, technique, or materials, aim to guide the audience into unexpected avenues and share their own personal perceptions. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com/event/uncommon-visions/.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 24

Music Showcase. 7:15 p.m. at Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway (at route 29), Fairfax. An evening of mini-concerts. \$10 suggested donation goes to the featured act. Visit EpicureCafe.org for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 25

Fall for the Book. 5:30 p.m. at the Great American Bistro, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Fall for the Book's New Pop Up Lit Nights invite the community to happy hour appreciations of literature and storytelling. Visit fallforthebook.org for more.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 25-28

"Honk!" At Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The Fairfax Academy's Musical Theatre Actors' Studio presents "Honk!" a children's show with a timely message. Show times are Thursday-Friday, Jan. 25-26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 27, at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 28, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are available via fxdance.ticketleap.com/honk. Tickets for the 11 a.m. Young Artists Series shows are \$5 online (fxdance.ticketleap.com/honk-yas) or at the door.

FRIDAY/JAN. 26

Artist Reception. 6-9 p.m. at 2905 District Ave Suite 115 (in the Mosaic District), Fairfax. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) presents "Uncommon Visions," the third exhibition at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic. This mixed-media show features the work of more than 40 TFAA member artists. Each of the artists, through use of form, color, technique, or materials, aim to guide the audience into unexpected avenues and share their own personal perceptions. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com/event/uncommon-visions/

Old Town Hall Concert. 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Dave



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA PRICE

Grace, Ugly, Ida and the Cat look toward bright futures once they're reunited and home at last. (From left) are Tatiana Jones (Grace/Bullfrog), Craig Goeringer, Samantha Price and Eila Nash.

Honk!

The Fairfax Academy's Musical Theatre Actors' Studio presents "Honk!" a children's show with a timely message. At Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Show times are Thursday-Friday, Jan. 25-26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 27, at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 28, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are available via fxdance.ticketleap.com/honk. Tickets for the 11 a.m. Young Artists Series shows are \$5 online (fxdance.ticketleap.com/honk-yas) or at the door.

Anderson and Mike Wingo: Anderson-Wingo Duo with guest vocalist Kim Scudera. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxarts.org.

JAN. 26-FEB. 4

"Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat." At Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Good Shepherd presents the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," a fun family show, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Sensory-friendly performance on Thursday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. \$15 adult; \$10 students. Visit goodshepherdplayers.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 27

10th Anniversary Celebration. Noon-4 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library 10360 North St., Fairfax. Celebrate 10 years in the beautiful new library space. Please join for an open house featuring music, refreshments, crafts, a balloon artist, and much more fun for the whole family. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more.

SUNDAY/JAN. 28

Railroad Story and Craft. 1:15 and 2:30 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have a day of fun for younger visitors with a railroad-theme story and a related craft. The Museum is open that day from 1-4 p.m. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2, 16 and older, \$4. Cost of activities included in admission. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Birdland All-Stars Concert. 7 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. With drummer Tommy Igoe for a high-energy performance. Call 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu for more.

Burke Historical Society. 8 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org for more.

MONDAY/JAN. 29

Acting, Art and More. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Spend the teacher workday indulging a creative side. Join for a full day of drama, art, and music with arts instructors who will share their craft in a fun, relaxed environment. \$60. Register at www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/one-day-camps-spring-break.html.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 31

Music Showcase. 7:30 p.m. at Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway (at route 29), Fairfax. An evening of mini-concerts. \$10 suggested donation goes to the featured act. Visit EpicureCafe.org for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 2

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit www.fairfaxvd.com for more.

FEB. 2-4

Chocolate Lovers Festival. Various times in Historic Downtown Fairfax. Chocolate-oriented activities all weekend, including a Kiwanis Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast. The "love of chocolate" is the unifying theme. Visit www.chocolatefestival.net for a current schedule of activities or call 703-385-7858.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. at George Mason University, Center for Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) will be saluting the next generation of classical musicians with a special performance by the 22-year-old Korean string virtuoso, In Mo Yang and the premiere of the 2018 Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra. Tickets are \$39, \$53 and \$65. Call 703-993-8888 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/FEB. 4

Railroad Story and Craft. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have railroad theme activities and crafts with a Valentine's Day twist. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Activities and craft supplies included in admission. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

FEB. 4-MARCH 4

"Mobile Views." Various times in W-9 in the Arches Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In her show, "Mobile Views" Kathy Strauss explores the 'fine art' of cellphone photography. Visit www.imagewerks.net or www.workhousearts.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 5

Funday Monday. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, story telling, performances, crafts for children of all ages. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts for more.

THURSDAY/FEB. 8

Art and Lunch. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts for more.

Artist Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Come and enjoy refreshments, meet the featured artist and be a part of your local artist community. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 9

Bingo. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.

The Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall

Performance Series. 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. "The Nearness of You" featuring Darden Purcell, a Washington D.C. based jazz vocalist. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

Champagne and Chocolates Fundraiser. 4-7 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Champagne, small plate hors d'oeuvres, desserts, mansion tours by costumed historical interpreters, raffle and live auction to benefit educational programs for George Mason's Gunston Hall. Music by Robinson High School String Quartet. Cocktail attire. \$50 per person. RSVP by Feb. 3 at bit.ly/champagneandchocolates2018. Call 703-550-9220.

Artist Reception. 6-9 p.m. in W-9 in the Arches Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In her show, "Mobile Views" Kathy Strauss explores the 'fine art' of cellphone photography. Visit www.imagewerks.net or www.workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 11

Table Top N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

Music Showcase. 7:30 p.m. at Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway (at route 29), Fairfax. An evening of mini-concerts. \$10 suggested donation goes to the featured act. Visit EpicureCafe.org for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 18

NTRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Admission, Museum members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2 and 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR or call 703-425-9225.

THURSDAY/MARCH 22

Teacher Basketball Game. 6:45-8:15 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The staff from two different elementary schools will play a basketball game to raise money for charity. \$3. Visit www2.fcps.edu/MosbyWoodsES/ or call 703-937-11600.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Model Classic 2018. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. An Educational/ Art & Craft/ Exhibit by the Northern Virginia Modelers Chapter, International Plastic Modelers Society. \$8. Visit www.novaimps.org for more.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Fairfax County All Stars (2017) performing with Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

Inspiring Performance

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra inspiring next generation of music makers and music lovers.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where & When

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) will be saluting the next generation of classical musicians with a special performance by the 22-year-old Korean string virtuoso, In Mo Yang and the premiere of the 2018 Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra. The Youth Orchestra features outstanding high school student musicians from across Fairfax County selected through a competitive audition process.

"We are thrilled to build on the success of last year's pilot program and showcase the 2018 All-Stars," said Jonathan Kerr, Executive Director, Fairfax Symphony. "The FSO is unique in the orchestra field by programming such a significant education initiative on our main series. Inspiring the next generation of classical musicians is vital to the FSO's mission, and this program is invaluable to maintain the artistic excellence of the next generation of orchestral musicians."

The Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra is composed of nearly 20 musicians. Under the musical direction of FSO's Christopher Zimmerman, the young musicians will perform excerpts from Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet" side-by-side with the professional musicians of the FSO. "The All Stars reflect Fairfax County's diverse, artistic achievements and cultural leadership and is an indication of its vibrant future," said Zimmerman.

FSO mentor Patti Reid said, "I love the idea of sharing with the young musicians so that they can experience what it's like to be in the symphony. Knowing

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in performance with special guest In Mo Yang and the Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra at George Mason University, Center for Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Feb. 3, 2018 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$39, \$53 and \$65. Call 703-993-8888 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu

that the students are being affected by this is fabulous."

For Dean Woods, another FSO mentor, "Working with the students is such an important part of development as a musician and as a person."

In Mo Yang will perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, playing the unique "Joachim-Ma" Stradivari of 1714, the violin used by Joseph Joachim for the premiere performance of the Brahms Concerto through the generosity of the New England Conservatory.

Students in the 2018 Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra include: Benjamin Ascoli, Soni Bae, Huay Din Angel Estrada, Andrew Gantzer, Colin Hill, Liam Johansson, Michael Lee, Stephanie Manning, Anna Paek, Irene Paek, George Pekarsky, Daniel Shen, Katherine Yang, Alan Zhen and Yilun Zhou.

Impacts of the musical mentoring program can be found in this comment from 2017 All Star, Courtney Tern, "playing music with so many accomplished adults...I want to play as well as they do."

"I can't wait to hear these talented, student musicians from across Fairfax County in this rare opportunity to perform with the Fairfax Symphony," said Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

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WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



“Raymonda’s Wedding” performed by Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.



PHOTOS BY SASCHA VAUGHAN/COURTESY GMU CENTER FOR THE ARTS
“Pauqita” performed by Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

World-renowned Dance Troupe Comes to Town

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo coming to Center for the Arts.

Where & When

Northern Virginia audiences have been “asking for Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo to be scheduled for another visit to the Center for the Arts,” said Tom Reynolds, director, artistic programming, Center for the Arts (CFA). Well, wait no more.

After too long away from the CFA, “The Trocks,” as they are affectionately known, will be returning to perform their brand of both serious and fun dance moves.

If you are not familiar with “The Trocks,” they are highly skilled male dancers, who portray both male and female dance roles. Accompanied by recorded symphonic dance music befitting each dance, they will perform both traditional ballet pieces “en pointe [on their toes]” as well as other dances as parodies with intentional foibles.

“Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo is such a delight. Though there is a bit of ‘camp’ to what they do, it is all performed by extremely accomplished ballet dancers who enjoy using their considerable skill, abilities, and humor to entertain,” said Reynolds. “The comic pieces are complemented by more traditional ballet pieces that perhaps more clearly showcase their talent.”



PHOTO BY ZORAN JELENIC/COURTESY GMU CENTER FOR THE ARTS
“Corsaire” performed by Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

According to Tory Dobring, “The Trock’s” director, as “the technical skill of the company has grown over the years, we’ve been able to create a wider variety of works and

expand the repertoire in new ways. However, the company has remained committed to its core mission of presenting a playful, entertaining view of traditional and

“Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo” performing at the George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Ave, Fairfax. Performance: Friday, Feb. 2, 2018 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$50, \$43 and \$30. Call 703-993-8888 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu

classical ballets, with a few modern works thrown in for variety.

“We are excited to bring one of our signature works, ‘Paquita’, to Fairfax, which brought down the house at New York City Center’s Fall for Dance Festival last October,” added Dobring. “If you know and love ballet, you will appreciate the skill of the dancers — and a few ballet in-jokes thrown in there — and if you are new to dance, it’s a great variety of ballet types and a lot of comedy!”

Inviting audiences to the Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo performance, Tom Reynolds said, “I think they are so successful because they are very serious about not taking themselves too seriously.”

Get ready for a performance like few others at the Center for the Arts as muscular men wearing tutus dance flawlessly. And they will also dance to bring huge smiles. “The Trocks” will be appreciated by those who are ballet aficionados, and those wanting something different.

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.

adults is in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. Fellowship is in Hottle Hall on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. 8508 Hooes Road in Springfield. www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.

Arabic New Life Baptist Church is located at 6428 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. Worship services are on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and prayer services are on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Bible Study is on Fridays at 7 p.m. Pastor: Wissam Jamil. Call 703-273-5599.

St. Anthony of Padua American National Catholic Church, 10383 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, holds mass for Contemporary Catholics every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. St. Anthony’s is an independent Catholic parish, inclusive and accepting of all people. Experience true acceptance and true Catholicism. www.MySaintAnthonys.org.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church has Worship services Saturday in the chapel at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday in the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. traditional worship. Sunday School for youth and children is in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m., and Sunday School for

Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, conducts Worship team practice for the Praise Band in the Sanctuary every Thursday at 7 p.m. All are welcome. 703-323-1347.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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SCHOOLS

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.

Kylie T. LeBlanc, of Clifton, was recently named to the dean's list for the fall 2017 semester at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. LeBlanc was also named Defensive Player of the Week for the MAC Conference for D1 Field Hockey. LeBlanc is a freshman.

Xavia Alimah Batchelo, of Lorton, was named to the dean's academic honor roll for the 2017 fall semester at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

Ryan Baier, of Fairfax Station, earned the distinction of faculty honors for spring 2017 at the Georgia Institute

of Technology.

Jayanth Devanathan, of Clifton, earned the distinction of faculty honors for spring 2017 at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Meghan Pollard, of Clifton, earned the distinction of faculty honors for spring 2017 at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

University of Alabama student **Adrian Robertson**, of Fairfax Station, participated in the Cooperative Education Program during the summer of 2017 through Hoar Construction.

Christopher McGowan, a native of Fairfax Station, has enrolled at the University of Iowa for fall 2017 semester.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kinder-garten-registration.

year. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, for the first grade immersion program and by 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, for the kindergarten immersion program. Visit www.fcps.edu/registration/world-language-immersion-programs-registration.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Job Fair. FCPS is searching for educators with a strong academic background and a passion for making a difference. To meet increased hiring needs FCPS is hosting an invitation only job fair during which they will be interviewing candidates in all instructional areas. The fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, with a snow makeup date of Feb. 24. To learn how to be considered for an invitation, visit www.fcps.edu.

WEDNESDAYS/FEB. 7-MAY 9

Exercise Classes. 9-10 a.m. at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Forms are available at the Abiding Presence Church Office or by clicking on the link below. Registrations will be accepted on the first day of class. Call 703-323-4788.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

Stuff the Bus. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Shoppers - Fair City, 9622 Main St., Fairfax. Support **Britepaths' Stuff the Bus food drive** and help the families they serve.

Grant Application Deadline. The Community Investment Funds are the signature grant cycle managed by the Community Foundation in which funds are invested in organizations serving the Northern Virginia community. This year funding will be provided in four areas of focus: Child and Youth Development, Education, Poverty Relief, and Aging. Visit www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/community-investment-funds.

THURSDAY/FEB. 22

Gentle Yoga. 12:30-2 p.m. at Sentara Surgery Specialists Comprehensive Breast Center, 8988 Lorton Station Blvd., Suite 103, Lorton. This yoga protocol is facilitated by Pat Fitzsimmons RN, C-IAYT, E-RYT 500, an instructor specifically trained to work with cancer patients. Pat will adapt traditional yoga practices to meet the physiological and psychological needs of cancer patients. No registration required. It is recommended that participants dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat, towel(s), and water. Visit www.sentara.com for more.

FY 2019 SCHOOLS BUDGET

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will present the **2018-19 school year (FY 2019) Proposed Budget** at the School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, at Jackson Middle School at 7 p.m. The School Board plans to hold a budget work session on Jan. 22, and a public hearing on the Proposed Budget on Jan. 29, with additional hearings on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31, if needed. Get more information on the FCPS budget at www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Award Nomination Deadline. 5 p.m. Nominate a volunteer or volunteer group that has made a positive impact on the Fairfax County community at www.volunteerfairfax.org. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards is a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. For guidelines, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call Kristen Moore at Volunteer Fairfax at 703-246-3531.

Comment Period Closes. The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board either at the meeting, via correspondence or by email. Information outlining all proposed fee changes is now available for review online, at the Park Authority's main office in the Herrity Building and at staffed park facilities, including RECenters, golf courses, nature centers and historic sites. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting for more.

Registration Opens: Two-way and Immersion Programs. Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) online registration for the county-wide lottery. Current prekindergarten students may apply for the kindergarten immersion program and current kindergarten students may apply for the first grade immersion programs for the 2018-19 school



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KINDERGARTEN

Fall 2018/2019

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Announcements

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Announcements

AREA ROUNDUPS

**Two More Juveniles
Arrested in Connection to
Man Set on Fire**

Two 15-year-olds are now facing attempted robbery and malicious wounding charges after setting a man on fire in Annandale. One of the teens was arrested the evening of Jan. 22, the other the morning Jan. 23. They were both taken to the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center. This is in addition to a 14-year-old who was arrested and charged on Sunday. Detectives believe they have now arrested all the suspects involved in this case. At this point, they do not believe this incident is gang related.

A 14-year-old juvenile was arrested Jan. 21 and taken to the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center. On Sunday, Jan. 21, around 2:45 p.m., officers were called to the 4500 block of Commons Drive for the report of several people assaulting and attempting to set a man on fire. When officers arrived, they found a man who had burns on his clothing and backpack. Officers got descriptions of the suspects and quickly searched the area. Further investigation revealed several juveniles had planned to rob the man of his backpack. The man, who was initially sleeping, awoke to the juveniles setting his backpack on fire. The man was treated for injuries to his upper body and was released from the hospital.

**Murder Suspect Held in
Juvenile Detention Center**

On Monday, Jan. 22, the suspect charged with murdering a Reston couple in December had his detention hearing via teleconference. The judge ordered that the 17-year-old be held at the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). He was then taken

to the JDC by Fugitive Unit, according to FCPD.

The petitions obtained in December for the 17-year-old Lorton boy accused of murdering a Reston couple in their home were served Jan. 19. He is still not being identified because of his age.

The suspect has been charged as a juvenile with two counts of murder after police say an investigation determined he shot and killed Scott Fricker and Buckley Kuhn-Fricker in the 2600 block of Black Fir Court the morning of Dec. 22. The suspect then shot himself.

The preliminary investigation determined the suspect, who knows the residents of the home, got inside and was then confronted by the couple.

**Human Foot Found in
Springfield Backyard**

A resident called officers to the 5900 block of Brunswick Drive in Springfield at noon Saturday, Jan. 20, for possible human remains found in their backyard. Officers arrived and observed a partially decomposed human foot. Investigators are unclear of the race or gender associated with the remains at this time, according to FCPD. Officers and detectives canvassed the neighborhood to determine if there was any recent suspicious activity in the area. During the canvass and search of the surrounding area, permission was given to check other yards for any potential remains. Additional bones were collected in a nearby backyard, but they appear to be from an animal and are likely unrelated. Detectives will continue their search of the area for additional information and evidence.

The Medical Examiner's Office has verified that the foot is human and will provide additional investigatory support. Further updates will be provided as they develop.

Critical Need for Blood Donations

Ongoing severe winter weather has more than doubled the number of canceled American Red Cross blood drives and the resulting blood and platelet donation shortfall since earlier this month. The Red Cross now considers the situation critical and is reissuing an urgent call for blood and platelet donors.

More than 550 blood drives have been forced to cancel due to winter weather in January, causing over 16,500 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected through last week. In addition, bitter cold and widespread flu have contributed to low turnout at many blood drives.

Every day, no matter the weather, the Red Cross must collect more than 13,000 blood and platelet donations to meet the needs of patients.

Make an appointment to give blood or platelets by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in area, through Feb. 15

BURKE

Feb. 5 – 3-7:30 p.m., Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road

FAIRFAX

(Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Ave., Suite 200 unless otherwise noted)

- Jan. 25 – 12:45-5:45 p.m.
- Jan. 26 – 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Jan. 27 – 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Jan. 28 – 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
- Jan. 29 – 1:15-8:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30 – 10:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m.
- Jan. 31 – 12:45-8 p.m.
- Feb. 1 – 12:45-5:45 p.m.
- Feb. 2 – 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Feb. 3 – 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Feb. 4 – 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
- Feb. 5 – 1:15-8:30 p.m.

- Feb. 6 – 10:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m.
- Feb. 7 – 12:45-8 p.m.
- Feb. 8 – 12:45-5:45 p.m.
- Feb. 9 – 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Feb. 9 – 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway
- Feb. 10 – 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Feb. 11 – 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
- Feb. 12 – 1:15-8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13 – 10:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m.
- Feb. 14 – 12:45-8 p.m.
- Feb. 15 – 12:45-5:45 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD

- Feb. 5 – 2:30-7:30 p.m., Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road
- Feb. 13 – 1:30-7:15 p.m., American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave.

HOW TO DONATE BLOOD

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at redcrossblood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

For more information, visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or on Twitter at @RedCross.



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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Bitter temperatures and slick roads did not keep Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling member Ken Lutz of Vienna from riding his bike to the January meeting from work in Falls Church and then home.

Bicycling

FROM PAGE 3
Interaction with aggressive drivers.

Although the answers did not provide the cyclists with many solutions, Ayers and Gaizick both stressed that the first thing to do was “get out of the way and be safe.” Even when the incident is not deemed “reportable,” the officers still encouraged the riders to “be the best witness you can be and call it in.” Calling in and providing as much detail about the alleged offender is still helpful, and could cause the police to issue a “look out” for the vehicle.

In addition to the presentation and conversation with Ayers and Gaizick, a report by Sally Smallwood, Safe Routes to School coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools was on the agenda. Smallwood brought the members up to speed on educational events scheduled for Fairfax County schools, a significant donation that would allow for a number of shareable bicycles to be purchased for several elementary and middle schools, and preparation for this year’s “Bike to School Day” scheduled for May 18.

Smallwood also wanted to spread the word that nominations for Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year for 2017 were still wanted, with the deadline being Jan. 26 for the Feb. 14 announcement of the honorees on Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. Anyone can nominate a crossing guard by going to the Virginia Department of Transportation website at www.virginiadot.org and searching Safe Routes to School.

FAAB encourages all cycling enthusiasts of all levels of ability and cycling usage to join their organization to stay informed, to be better educated on cycling safety, and to participate in social rides and other FAAB activities. FAAB is on the web at www.fabbikes.org and has a Facebook page, as well. Its next meeting is Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Public Library in Vienna.

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<p>An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg</p>		<p>LOCAL SERVICE CONNECTION 703-778-9431 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com</p> <p>Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Homeholds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arlington/Gaithersburg Beltsville/College Park Chantilly/Leesburg Clarksburg/Reston Crystal City/Fairfax Herndon/Leesburg Manassas/Manassas Park McLean/Reston North Potomac/Reston Springfield/Venue Vienna/Woodbridge 	

Lost in Space



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not a reference to the iconic television series of my youth, but there was “danger,” Ken Lourie, and it wasn’t caused by Dr. Zachary Smith nor by “robot,” (Robbie) either. And it wasn’t a conspiracy. It was simply a confluence of absenteeism by my health care providers. Both my oncologist and internal medicine doctor were absent with leave and yours truly was caught in the crossfire, so to speak. Let me provide some context to help you appreciate my dilemma.

I have chemotherapy every six weeks. Accordingly, I have lab work the Wednesday before the Friday to check for anomalies – anomalies which over the years have occasionally delayed my infusion by up to two weeks waiting for my body to settle. In the early days of treatment, my white blood cell count was crucial; too low and no treatment; too high, it was never too high. No treatment and the cancer was left unchecked. An incredibly stressful occurrence when your treatment is stopped. Whether or not a week or two delay ultimately mattered in checking the cancer, it certainly mattered – emotionally, to the patient. You feel adrift, sort of, which is exactly how I felt during the first two weeks of January.

Typically, what my current lab work presents is my creatinine level and the associated glomerular filtration rate, measuring kidney function/efficiency. After nearly nine years of infused toxicity, I have suffered some collateral damage to a major organ. My oncologist and internal medicine doctor are incredibly sensitive and concerned about this damage. Per these results, every medical decision made concerning me; from prescriptions approved to “normal” internal medicine stuff to whether I get “contrast” when I have my scans and MRIs to what chemotherapy drug I infuse and how frequently its infused, is decided with my kidneys in mind. Nothing happens medically until my kidneys sign off on it, if you know what I mean?

As it happened, my creatinine level for my Jan. 12 infusion was higher than usual. When this measure occurs, I know to call the Infusion Center and ask the head nurse if I should come in for treatment. She will contact my oncologist and with his direction, will advise me what to do, except for this week. My oncologist was away and though another oncologist – whom I’ve never met – was covering, I’m not really sure she knows enough about my situation. Specifically that I’m a bit of a special case, per my oncologist’s own characterization of me, and I’ve never gone seven weeks, let alone eight weeks without treatment. Delaying my infusion would break a multi-year precedent. In fact, around the holidays when I asked my oncologist if I could extend my infusion interval from six to seven weeks (to accommodate life), he emphatically said “No.” Moreover (to complicate a covering physician’s decision), my oncologist has also told me that if I were a new patient with creatinine levels as chronically high as mine, he wouldn’t/couldn’t treat me until those levels reduced.

So not only was I in the middle of an unprecedented one to possibly two-week delay in my infusion, but I also needed an oncologist – who I don’t know and who doesn’t know me – to decide/make an exception/maybe risk her medical license (if something were to happen to me), to authorize treatment for a patient whose creatinine levels fall outside of protocol, and me not having either of my two primary-care physicians available for consultation. And other than the default emails advising that both were out of town, I had nowhere to go and no one to turn to.

Heck, I might as well have been on another planet, given the limited choices I had.

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

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