

Fairfax CONNECTION

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 1-7, 2018

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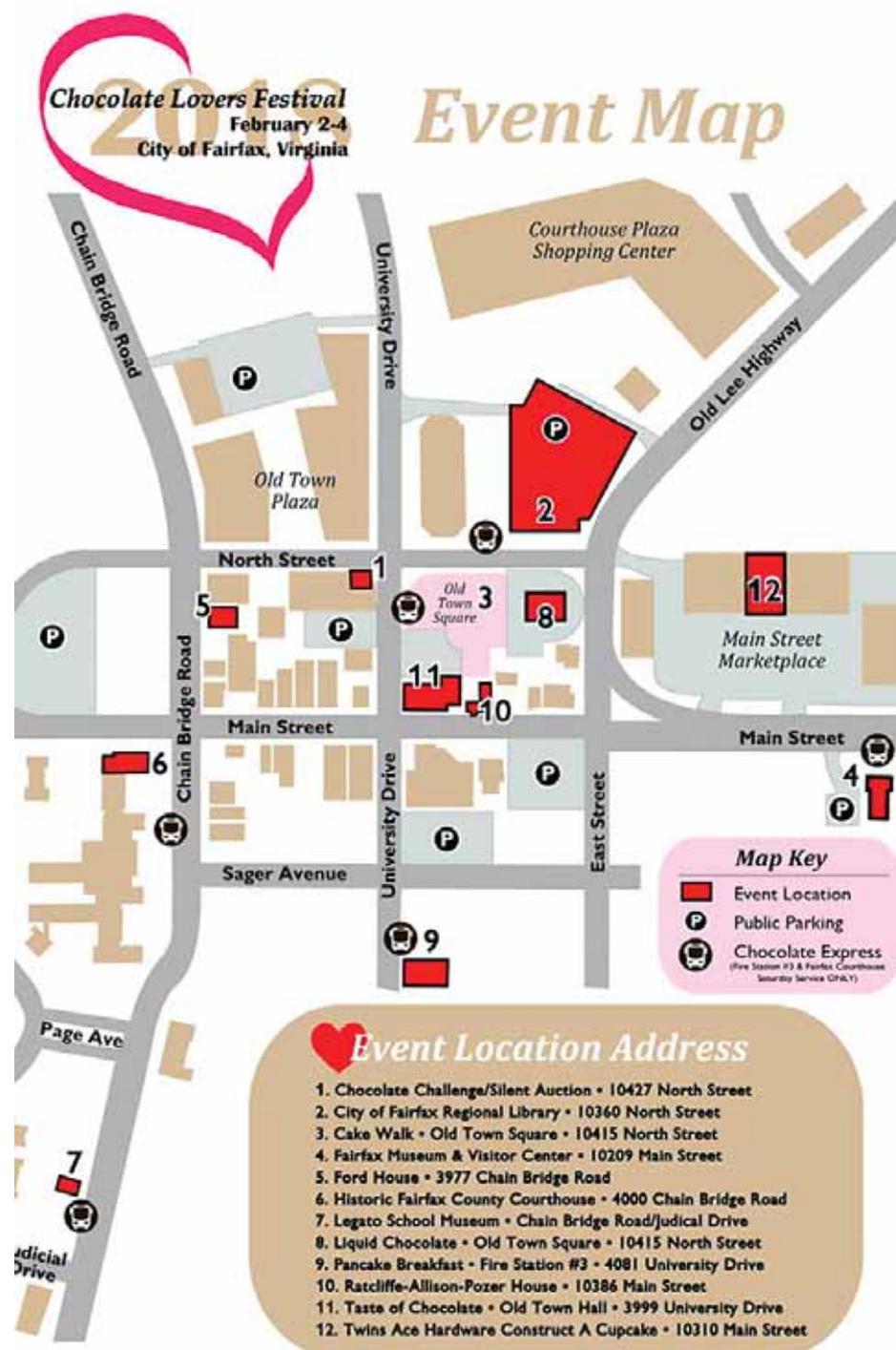
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NEWS



Map of the 2018 Chocolate Lovers Festival events.

Time to Indulge in Fairfax City Chocolate Lovers Festival is this weekend.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Cold weather and comfort food go hand-in-hand, and what could be more comforting than chocolate? The City of Fairfax will offer chocolate in all forms, this weekend during its 26th annual Chocolate Lovers Festival.

Promising something for everyone's chocolate sweet tooth, this tasty extravaganza is set for Friday, Feb. 2, from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 3, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 4, from noon-4 p.m.

❖ Kicking things off in style Friday, from 6-8 p.m., will be Liquid Chocolate inside a heated tent on Old Town Square's upper parking lot, 3999 University Drive. It will also return Saturday, from 1-6 p.m. There'll be beverages ranging from chocolate soda, hot chocolate and chocolate tea for children to chocolate wines, beers and martinis for

adults. Admission is free; alcohol tastings are \$2 each, non-alcohol tastings, \$1 each.

Participating will be: Twin's ACE Hardware, offering chocolate soda; Earth Fare, organic chocolate milk, hot chocolate, spicy hot chocolate and dark hot chocolate; Crossroads Tea Company, chocolate tea; The Wine House, wine and food pairings; Adroit Theory Brewing Co., chocolate beer; Forge Brew Works, chocolate stout; and Spotlight on the Arts, chocolate martinis.

❖ Saturday's ever-popular Kiwanis Club of Fairfax Pancake Breakfast is from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Enjoy regular or chocolate-chip pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice and milk at Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive. Cost is \$8, adults; \$4, children ages 4-10. Children 3 and under eat free with a paying adult (limit two children per adult). Face-painting will be available for \$2/child.

SEE LOVE OF CHOCOLATE. PAGE 9

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Mahika Ghaisas, with the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, plays the violin during the library's anniversary event.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The City of Fairfax Regional Library has now been at 10360 North St. for a decade.

Offering Equal Access to Information

Fairfax Regional Library celebrates a decade at North Street.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Children and adults alike flocked to the City of Fairfax Regional Library on Saturday to celebrate the library's 10th anniversary in its "new" location on North Street. The Jan. 27 event included live music performances, crafts, a balloon artist, refreshments and fun for the whole family.

Violinists, flautists and other members of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra entertained attendees at the entrance to the main room. Meanwhile, in another room, visitors snacked on cider and cookies while children played with robotic, iPad-controlled Sphero balls and made time capsules to take home.

They also posed for pictures in a photo area, made 10th-anniversary buttons, watched imaginative balloon creations take shape and decorated a paper birthday cake with colorful, paper candles on which they wrote their favorite things about the library.

BRANCH MANAGER Laura Raymond was the Sunday manager when this library opened its doors at 10360 North St. on Jan. 26, 2008. She's now the third branch manager to lead this building.

Part of the Fairfax County library system, the library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. For more information, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

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Mila Arif, 5, proudly shows off her butterfly balloon.

Raymond said the biggest changes she's seen at this library have been in the realm of technology. "Besides books, we have a large collection of eBooks that people can download for free with a library card," she said. "Even the way we check out books is different. People used to have to wait in line to check out, but now we have self-check-out, which kids love."

She said this branch opened with the same number of public computers it has now. "What's changed is the number of people who now bring their own devices – laptops, iPads and cell phones – and use our WiFi," said Raymond. "And this is in addition to using our computers."

As for books in languages other than English, she said the library opened with a Korean-language book collection. But now, because of demand, it also offers many books in both Spanish and Vietnamese.

"Another big thing we do here is have a robust ESL program with conversation groups and periodic classes dealing with



Library volunteer Sean Lockwood is about to make the Sphero ball move for (from left) Sampson Fang, 5, and Aiden Rasheed, 4.

topics such as citizenship," said Raymond. "And they're all free."

However, like all public libraries, she said, "Our bread-and-butter is comprised of our children's programs centering around early literacy. There are story hours for preschoolers and toddlers, plus a Mother Goose program for babies."

Furthermore, said Raymond, "We have a staff member on the Newbery Award selection committee for the best juvenile literature.

So she started a book club in which children can read early copies of these books." A sampling of the library's many children's programs and activities – including its "Crazy Eights" program focusing on fun, math activities for school-aged children – may be found on the website.

In addition, she said, "One of the most unique things about this branch is that we have the Virginia Room. It's a collection of local history and genealogy materials, including a large photo archive."



Rachel Zenobia, 9, makes an anniversary button under the guidance of Virginia Room librarian Chris Barbuschak.

Happy to be at such a busy and well-used library, Raymond was pleased with the turnout for Saturday's anniversary celebration. Attendees included various City dignitaries, past Library Board members and library staff, plus many families.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES are also being held at the library, this coming weekend, as part of the City's annual Chocolate Lovers Festival.

"The public library is a leveling plane where everybody has access to books, computers and information," said Raymond. "We also have experts on staff to help people navigate it all. And every one of our programs for all ages – from early literacy for preschoolers up to genealogy for seniors – are free."

Overall, she said, she gets the most satisfaction from "the variety of things we do, the questions we get and the opportunity to assist people and help them find what they're looking for."

Time for Criminal Justice Reform

BY JOHN COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (R)



criminal justice system.

In the United States, our system has focused on long jail sentences for crimes. Jail serves deterrence, retribution, and incapacitation in cases of violent crime. However, it does not serve re-

habilitation or restitution particularly well. And, in the case of mentally ill offenders, jail fails to serve deterrence.

When someone with mental illness engages in crime, it is not due to evil intent, but his or her illness. Retribution does not seem fit for someone who is ill and committing crimes. Incapacitation is accomplished, but what we have done is make our local jails expensive substitutes for psychiatric hospitals.

The expense of jail is no small matter. A year in the Fairfax jail costs the taxpayers about \$82,000. A year of residential psychiatric treatment costs about \$24,000. One year of outpatient treatment costs about \$8,200. When someone with a mental illness, who is often of limited wealth, is arrested, this person often spends up to four months in jail awaiting trial for minor crimes (trespassing, disorderly conduct, petty theft) where the final sentence would generally be far less. Someone with regular income would post bond at \$500 cash and spend no more than two or three nights in

jail. Altogether the government and taxpayers are spending millions of dollars to hold people in jail before they are even convicted. Is this system really helping anyone?

We have learned in the juvenile justice system that incarceration actually creates criminals out of youth who may be only misdirected or who make stupid mistakes. Twenty years ago, our juvenile detention center held 1,509 youth. In 2017 that number fell to 533, which is a 60 percent decrease. In those two decades we learned a great deal about the benefits of jail alternatives for children. Instead of locking these children up, we are reforming, teaching, and mentoring youth and turning them away from crime. And this prevents future crimes from occurring. The same can be said for non-violent crimes by adults. Simply putting people in jail, where they lose their jobs and family contacts, does not necessarily create better citizens when they are released. In the case of mental illness, jail can actually make things worse. There is a better way.

Criminal Justice Reform is not about "going easy" on criminals. It's about finding techniques that stop people from continuing to commit crimes. It's about turning lives around. Oh, and it can save a boatload of money. Violent criminals, murderers, gang members and the like still need long jail sentences. But many other lesser offenders can be turned around into productive, working, self-sufficient citizens. It takes some work, but the payoff is a society with less crime, lower jail costs, and more productive citizens.

ity for many reasons, some of which are:

- ❖ Forcing demographic balance at TJ for political correctness is as much nonsense as requiring Julliard to admit everyone.
- ❖ Identifying that some minorities and low income students are not represented at TJ student population does not logically reflect a prejudice. It means they did not qualify, period.
- ❖ Ignoring the total admission picture does not represent many non-minority students who apply and also do not achieve admission.
- ❖ Disregarding the rigorous qualifications for TJ slants the presented view.

Do Ms. Kimm's and Sen. Surovell's ideas support qualified students being turned away just so non-qualified students be admitted, all for demographic balance? How would Ms. Kimm and Sen. Surovell feel if their jobs were replaced by non-qualified employees?

For improvements in demographic representation, Ms. Kimm and Sen. Surovell should explore reasons why some minorities are not represented.

They probably would find, as many teachers know, emphasis on academic excellence begins at home. Therefore, a better solution to change demographic depiction in school programs is to start at the elementary, through all levels, helping all families make education a priority. That would achieve the overall attitude of striving for excellence, which aids all students in the long run.

Shannon Morgan
Burke

Fairfax County is joining the bipartisan, nationwide movement of Criminal Justice Reform. In 2015 the county introduced its Diversion First program, which provides treatment instead of incarceration for those with mental health challenges or developmental disabilities who come into contact with the criminal justice system for low level offenses. This initiative is just one step in a national movement to make the criminal justice system better serve the American people. Criminal justice reform, broadly speaking, is supported by as diverse range of public officials as U.S. Senators Rand Paul and Kamala Harris. It is well past time for Virginia to dive in as well.

COMMENTARY

Since ancient times society has recognized five purposes to the criminal justice system. One of these is "deterrence," which is the effort to persuade an offender or potential offender not to commit a crime. Another purpose is retribution, which is society exacting punishment to make up for the pain or damage caused by the crime. Incapacitation means removing a criminal from the rest of society so he or she cannot commit more crimes. Rehabilitation refers to changing an offender so he or she does not commit more crimes. Restitution is the payment for damage caused by crime. All of these purposes must be present and well represented for a fair and effective

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rewarding Highest Achievers

To the Editor:

With all due respect, state Sen. Scott Surovell is looking at the wrong end of the horse (Editorial, "What's Wrong with This Picture" - Connection, Jan. 24). The admissions to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology should be determined solely based on merit. Gender, ethnicity, race and economic status should be totally ignored.

TJ should provide the most rewarding programs possible to the highest achievers. Senator Surovell should focus on programs to increase the admission scores of African Americans and Latinos. Let's not dilute the potentials of TJ's classes by mandating quotas. The analogy would be to require that a certain percentage of varsity basketball players be white or Asian American, regardless of their abilities. That would be unwise.

David Elmore
Great Falls

Incomplete Picture

To the Editor:

Mary Kimm's editorial ("What's Wrong with This Picture?" - Connection, Jan. 24) about the demographics of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (commonly known as TJ) leaves out an important statistic, and that is that 70 percent of its students

are Asian, many of whom are first generation Americans. Many of the remaining 30 percent are also first-generation, and have family backgrounds from Iran, Arab and African countries, Russia, and Eastern Europe, or are biracial.

Is the heavily immigrant nature of TJ what's "wrong with this picture"? State Sen. Scott Surovell's SB787 bill's method to increasing enrollment of black and Hispanic students is to impose quotas on middle schools and by economic background. This is a resentment and punishment approach to trying to achieve that goal, and should be rejected as such.

Cindy Gersony
Great Falls

How to 'Fix' Disparities

To the Editor:

I did not compete in the Olympics, gain admission to Mensa, or play professional sports. Why? Because I didn't qualify for any of those. I understand we cannot qualify for everything. However, Mary Kimm's article, "What's Wrong with This Picture?" (Connection, Jan. 24) presents the idea that non-inclusion in a program "needs to be fixed."

Ms. Kimm indicates that the Fairfax County School System (FCPS) should "fix" its admission policies to its one magnet high school, Thomas Jefferson (TJ), due to "demographic disparities" and we should commend Sen. Scott Surovell for pushing for that change.

The problem with Ms. Kimm's and Sen. Surovell's ideas is they miss the mark on real-

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NEWS

Barricade Drama Ends Peacefully; Suspect Treated for Possible Opium Overdose

A man has peacefully surrendered following a nearly 10-hour barricade on Jan. 28 in the 13200 block of Ladybank Lane in the Fair Oaks Police District.

Officers responded to the home around 4 in the morning after a report that 21-year-old Anthony Moaf was threatening to shoot and kill family members. He also threatened to shoot at responding officers. Two adult family members who were inside the home made it out safely and uninjured.

Officers began negotiating with Moaf who spoke to them on and off over the next 10 hours. About two hours in, officers heard what sounded like a gunshot coming from within the home. The shot did not appear to be directed at police, and no officers were injured. Negotiators remained in contact with him after the shot was heard.

Due to ongoing safety concerns, neighbors and people living in the immediate area

were asked to shelter in place and stay away from doors and windows while officers were on scene.

Officers from numerous units responded to assist, and police robot and gas grenades were also deployed after repeated commands to surrender were not followed.

Moaf was taken into custody when he surrendered to officers just after 2 p.m. While on the way to a psychiatric evaluation, Moaf became unresponsive and was taken to the emergency room instead. A preliminary investigation revealed he may have overdosed prior to surrendering. He remained in the hospital overnight and was discharged next morning. He is now receiving psychiatric treatment at another location.

Moaf has been charged with reckless handling of a firearm after officers heard at least one gunshot while on scene of the barricade, according to FCPD.

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.

Grace Presbyterian Church will offer a traditional Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14. All are welcome. 7434

Bath St., Springfield. Visit www.gracepresby.org.

South Run Baptist Church services include: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; Wednesday dinner at 6 p.m. and groups at 6:50 p.m. Pastor is Eric Gilchrest. 8712 Selger Drive, Springfield. Call 703-455-4521 or visit www.southrun.org.



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Effort to Force Diversity at TJ Fails

Lawmakers reject bill that would have required governor's school to admit poor students.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Don't fix what's not broken. That was the message last week from a bipartisan group of state senators, who rejected a bill from state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) that would have required Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology to admit more students who live in poverty. Surovell's bill had only one yes vote on the Senate committee that rejected it, state Sen. Marnie Locke (D-2), an African-American senator from Hampton Roads. The vast majority of the senators on the Education and Health Committee, which includes several prominent members from Fairfax County, rejected the idea.

"Quotas are a politically charged topic, and I don't think we should be going there," said state Sen. Janet Howell (D-32). "I don't think we down here have any business meddling with the decisions of the Fairfax County School Board on this issue."

Concerns over the admissions policy have been festering for years at the school, which currently admits about 2 percent of its students who live in poverty. Back in 2012, the NAACP worked with a group known as the Coalition of Silence to file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Education about admissions policy at the school, which has 2 percent Hispanic students and 1.5 percent African-American students. The complaint charged that black and Latino students are being shut out of TJ because of systematic failure in the public schools to identify gifted students who live in poverty.

The complaint didn't amount to much, Surovell said, which is why he said he filed the bill. "The local school system hasn't dealt with it. And the School Board won't deal with it," said Surovell. "Given that my School Board seems completely incapable of dealing with the problem I figured it was

admissions policy is that it creates a pipeline from schools such as Rachel Carson Middle School while ignoring schools in the Route 1 corridor. "People move right before seventh grade to get into Carson so that they can go to TJ," said former teacher Patricia Hynning. "There are

way into the TJ regardless of where they live.

"Kids that come up through Fairfax County public schools often get steered into advanced studies programs at certain middle schools," said state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). "And so that's why certain middle schools are going to have 60, 70 or 80 kids. It doesn't mean necessarily that the other middle schools are failing. It's just that the best and brightest kids get steered into the best middle schools."



State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) wanted to force Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology to accept more students who live in poverty. But a bipartisan groups of senators, including several from Fairfax County, rejected the idea.

time for the legislature to do something about it."

THE BILL would have required the school to admit about 15 percent of students who live in poverty. It would also put an admissions cap on 15 students per school, an effort to prevent certain schools from dominating the admissions roster.

Plus it would have required that the school admit five students from every middle school in its area, a requirement that would boost admissions from Surovell's part of the county which is currently underrepresented in admissions to the school. Critics of the school's

parents who are buying their kids a seat at TJ, and not all children have this same opportunity but they have the aptitude."

Recent years have seen growing concern that parents are gaming the system, investing in expensive tutoring programs and using their wealth to attend schools that have a better chance of getting into TJ. That's led to some reform efforts, including organizational changes at Fairfax County Public Schools that has senior officials focused on making sure all students have the same opportunities regardless of what schools they attend. Nevertheless, senators believe that high achievers will be able to make their

"The reality is that TJ is a highly competitive school, and only about 17 percent of all applicants get in," said Michael Molloy, director of government relations for Fairfax County Public Schools. "We welcome this discussion, but we don't think this is the right venue for it. This discussion should be held among our constituents, among our stakeholders." Surovell says he remains frustrated that his constituents can't seem to get their students into the school.

"I don't think the kids in my part of the county are any dumber than the kids in the rest of the county," said Surovell. "But apparently they just can't get into TJ."

SCHOOL OFFICIALS

rejected the idea that lawmakers in Richmond needed to take action to address problems in Fairfax County. They said that the new superintendent is making efforts to increase availability of accelerated math and science experiences to parts of the county that currently don't have them. The idea that the General Assembly might institute a rigid quota about how many students who live in poverty should be accepted — or how many students from specific schools should be accepted — is anathema to the merit-based admissions policy they say has worked well for years.

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

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.

VALENTINE'S DAY



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE
Accessories like Moon Melt Lotion Bars by Moon Valley Organics at The Picket Fence in Burke might appeal to those who want to create to a spa at home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME ON CAMERON
A bouquet of felt flowers in assorted colors like these that were handmade in Nepal, is a gift with a charitable flair from Home on Cameron in Alexandria.

Gifts for Valentine's Day

Local tastemakers offer thoughtful giving suggestions.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the most heavily gifted holidays is Valentine's Day. In fact, much of the fun is the anticipation. In preparation for Cupid's Day, a few local style aficionados offer up ideas to sweeten the celebration.

For those deserving some pampering, create a spa experience at home with NW Rainforest Body Cream, advises Isabel Chiotti of Sonoran Rose in Potomac.

"Soaps and candles also make great gifts," she said.

"It can also be fun to think outside the box," said Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Surprise your Valentine with a gift certificate for a spa day or a shopping spree at her favorite store. Put together a basket of a few of her favorite things."

Among the things that Thomas suggests are Moon Melt Lotion Bars by Moon Valley Organics. Decadent and indulgent, these scented moisturizers combine herbs and beeswax to help fight dry skin, she says.

For the romantics, Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Alexandria suggest a bouquet of felt flowers in assorted colors, handmade in Nepal. These eye-catching, fair trade buds offer bursts of color and benefit women artisans who are heads of households.

For the bedhead, Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Old Town Alexandria recommends silk charmeuse pillowcases by Branche. "These

wonderful pillowcases help preserve one's hair and help to keep away wrinkles," she said.

For the stylish, a fur neck warmer is a cozy suggestion that Mertins offers. And for the traditionalists, "Flowers are always welcome and, of course, the color red being very popular as it conveys deep emotion," she said. "Don't be afraid to give varieties other than roses."

For the nostalgic, Kevin Sweitzer of Thos. Moser, Handmade American Furniture, believes that an heirloom quality beacon box to hold keepsakes would be ideal. "[It's] meant to be passed down from generation to generation," he said. "A really nice and memorable Valentine's gift."

For the entertainers, Nelson and Martz suggest all natural, hand blown glass candles, while Mertins says bar accessories work as gifts for mixologists.

For those with a sweet tooth, Chiotti recommends hot cocoa by the Cocoa Company, brown sugar toffee by Gearharts Fine Chocolates or caramels by Big Picture Farm.

For almost everyone, Suzie Clayton of Dalton Brody suggests picture frames. "From wood to Lucite to silver, there's something for everyone," she said. "It's more about finding the right thing for the right person."

"Some of the most meaningful gifts are those which are handmade including cards and a home-cooked romantic dinner," added Mertins. "Don't forget the bubbly and always lots and lots of chocolate."

"It can be fun to think outside the box."

— Courtney Thomas, The Picket Fence



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONORAN ROSE
A basket of spa items like NW Rainforest Body Cream from Sonoran Rose in Potomac is an indulgent Valentine's Day gift.



Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron suggest all natural, hand blown glass candles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME ON CAMERON

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SCHOOL NOTES

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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 Distinguished 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.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

“Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat.” Through Feb. 4, at Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke, 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.

“Uncommon Visions.” Through Feb. 25, 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.

Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com/event/uncommon-visions/.

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. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

Senior Line Dancing. Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at 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. Email barbriba@hotmail.com or call 703-524-3739.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at 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.

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.com. 703-273-3638.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries. Visit: va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp

Funday Monday 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Especially for those who haven’t yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

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.



FILE PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

Chocolate Festival

A plate of cupcakes in the 2016 Chocolate Challenge. This year, the City of Fairfax will be all about chocolate on Feb. 2-4 in Old Town Fairfax.



Sunset Silhouette by Kathy Strauss.

Mobile Views

Opening Feb. 4 and on exhibit until March 4, the Workhouse Arts Center will showcase an exhibit by artist, Kathy Strauss, “Mobile Views” exploring the ‘fine art’ of cellphone photography. She will be on hand at the opening reception on Saturday, Feb. 10, 6-9 p.m. in W-9 in the Arches Gallery, The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday: 11a.m.-7p.m.; Sunday: 12-5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center at www.workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. at George Mason University, Center for Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 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.

Mason Cabaret. 8 p.m. at Harris Theatre, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Musical Theater ambassadors, the Mason Cabaret, offering showstoppers, ballads and duets from the Great White Way. \$30 general admission in support of Mason’s Musical Theater Program. Call 703-993-8888 or visit 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. Activities and crafts with a Valentine’s Day twist. 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.imagerwerks.net or www.workhousearts.org.

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

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 9

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

An Evening with Eva Schloss

Presented by the Chabad centers of Northern Virginia.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, Eva Schloss will share her experiences as the childhood friend and step sister of Anne Frank, including accounts of the publishing of Anne’s diary.

The presentation will take place at the George Mason University Center For The Arts at 7 p.m. and will be suitable for people of all ages including teenagers. Families of all faiths are invited to attend. This is an opportunity to hear a first-hand account from someone whose life intersected with a historical figure.

Chabad of Reston-Herndon is a sponsor for the event. Partners for the evening include:

- ❖ The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
- ❖ JCC of Northern Virginia
- ❖ George Mason University
- ❖ Gesher Jewish Day School
- ❖ Washington Jewish Week
- ❖ Fairfax County Public Schools

In 1938, Germany invaded Austria, causing many Jewish families to flee Austria to avoid persecution. Among the emigrants was 8-year-old Eva Geiringer, who with her mother, brother, and father moved first to Belgium and then to Holland, where one of her neighbors was a German Jewish girl of the same age.

The two girls became friends and playmates (though, as Eva would say many years later, the girl was “much more grown-up and mature than me”). They passed the time by skipping, playing hopscotch and marbles, and drinking lemonade that the girl’s mother prepared.

Ultimately, both girls and their families were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Later they would become step sisters.

Eva survived her concentration camp experience and made her way to England, where she married Zvi Schloss and raised three daughters. She worked as a studio photographer and ran an antique shop.

Her step-sister did not survive Auschwitz, but kept a diary that did. Her name was Anne Frank.

Since 1985, Eva Schloss has devoted herself to holocaust education and global peace. She has recounted her wartime experiences in more than one thousand speaking engagements. She has written two books and has had a play written about her life. In 1999 she signed the Anne Frank Peace Declaration along with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and the niece of Raoul Wallenberg, who rescued thousands of Jews in Budapest.

Tickets for students are free, \$10 for adults and \$360 for VIP which includes two tickets to a VIP reception and reserved seating. Reservations can be made at www.chabadrh.org.

costumed historical interpreters, raffle and live auction to benefit educational programs for Gunston Hall. Music by Robinson High School String Quartet. Cocktail attire. \$50 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” Visit www.imagerwerks.net or www.workhousearts.org.

FEB. 10-14

Singing Valentines. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Throughout Northern Virginia. Surprise a special someone. Singing telegrams delivered to a Northern Virginia or D.C. location of one’s choice by an cappella quartet from the Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus. \$60 and up. Call 571-418-3840 or visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for details.

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. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Design Workshop. 2-4 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center- Fair Oaks location. 12101 Lee Highway. Create hand tied European rose arrangements for your sweetheart. Door prizes. Light refreshments. \$5 at the door for ARF members, \$20 for non-ARF members which includes a 2018 membership. 703-371-9351.

Beau Soir Concert. 4-5:30 at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. DC-based trio of flute, harp, and viola, standard and contemporary repertoire spanning a variety of musical genres. Reception to follow. Childcare provided. Free. Call 703-455-2500 or visit www.standrews.net.

Love of Chocolate Celebrated

FROM PAGE 2

❖ The festival's centerpiece is the Taste of Chocolate, on Saturday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, from noon-4 p.m., in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive (corner of Main Street and University Drive). Leave strollers on the front porch; a fully accessible entrance is on Main Street.

Admission is free; visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse two floors of vendors' tables to see a wide array of mouthwatering, chocolate treats. They purchase pogs from roaming volunteers in red aprons and use them to buy whatever goodies they want.

The deliciousness includes chocolate fudge, cakes, candies, bars, brownies, chocolate-covered strawberries, ice cream and gelato. There are even chocolate fountains into which customers may dip fruit, cream-filled doughnut holes or marshmallows.

Vendors are: C & D Sweets, CakeLove, Cakes by Shelby, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates, The Capital Candy Jar, Capitol Chocolate Fountains, Chocotenango, Confection Connection, Dave's Candy Kitchen, Diestro LLC, HB+M Chocolate, Le Papiyon Chocolatier, Marinucci's Gelato & Pastry, Mike's Fudge, Pacari Chocolate, Salazon Chocolate Co., Schokolat, Sugar Mama's Ice Cream and The Sweet Life Cakery.



By BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Flowers were sculpted out of chocolate for a previous Chocolate Challenge.

❖ In the Chocolate Challenge, professionals and amateurs compete to see who can make the most beautiful and creative chocolate sculptures, cakes and cupcakes. They'll be on display Saturday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, from noon-4 p.m., at 10427 North St., in the former Pacers site at the corner of North Street and University. Admission is \$1/adults; children under 18 are free. A designated, stroller-parking area is outside the building.

Entries are judged in various categories. Visitors may also take part, using their admission ticket to vote for the People's Choice Award winner and participate in

the silent action of challenge entries, plus items from local businesses.

❖ Cake walks will go on throughout the weekend in Old Town Square, and lots of children's activities – including puppet shows, cupcake-decorating, music, movies, juggling and storytelling – are also planned. There's even a scavenger hunt, plus a showing of the original version of the movie, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," on Sunday, from 1-4 p.m., in the tent at Old Town Square.

In addition, four historic buildings – the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, Legato School, Ford House and Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House – will hold

SEE CHOCOLATE, PAGE 11

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

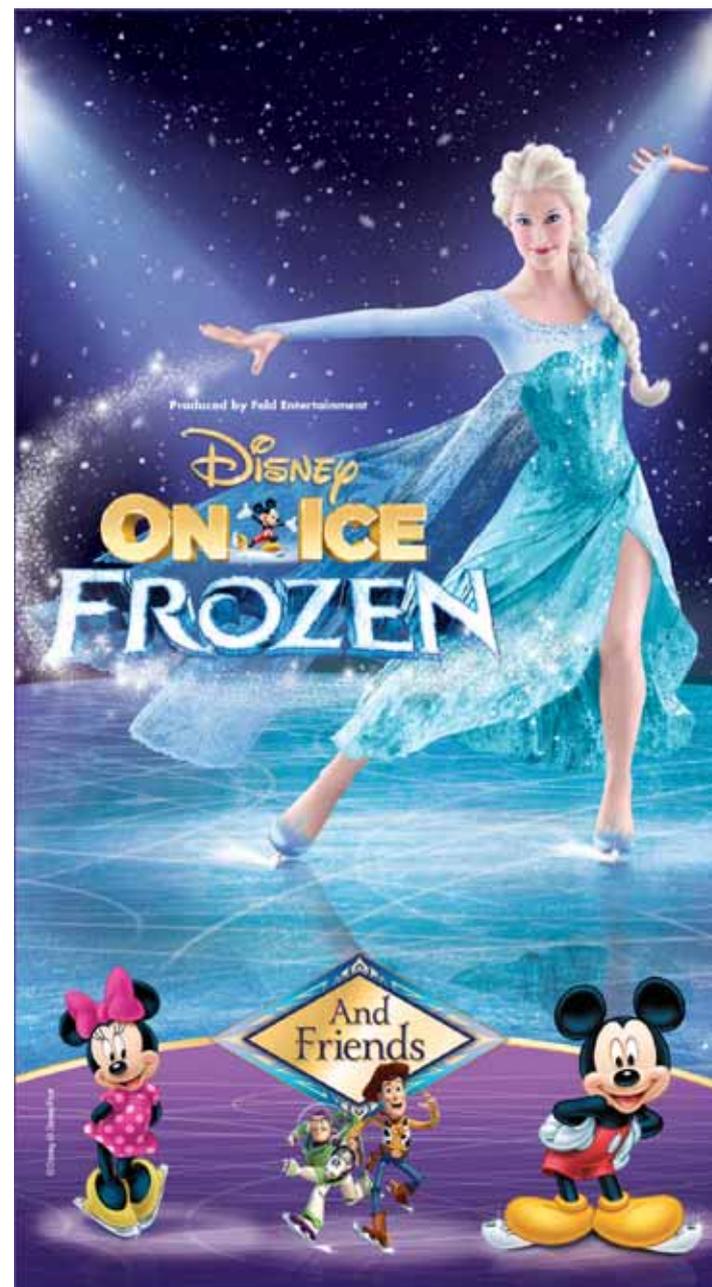
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Employment

Preschool Director Position
Position Available/FT - Preschool Director
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Applications are being accepted until Friday,
February 9. Copies of the job description
and application can be obtained
by emailing churchoffice@kokk.org.

Announcements

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Announcements

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Silver Diner Development, LLC trading as Silver Diner, 12250 Fair Lakes Pwky, Fairfax, VA 22033. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Robert Gaiamo, Manager & Vpe Von Hengst, Manager. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

CHEESETIQUE MOSAIC LLC trading as CHEESETIQUE, 2985 DISTRICT AVE STE 115 FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22031-1566. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a WINE AND BEER ON AND OFF PREMISES AND MIXED BEVERAGE license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. PHILLIPPA ERBER, OWNER. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook (R) speaks at the event.

Give Together Engages Hundreds of Volunteers

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia was Give Together Headquarters on Jan. 15, Dr. Martin Luther King Day, when Volunteer Fairfax welcomed hundreds of volunteers, tall and small, who came enthusiastic and ready to serve.

Service projects planned for the day were designed with young volunteers in mind. They included: making Doggie Chew Toys for Homeward Trails Animal Rescue; creating Valentines for Foster Care to Success (FC2S); assembling Sensory Bags for UCM of Alexandria; making warm fleece scarves for the DC VA Medical Center; and compiling Financial Literacy Classroom Kits for Junior Achievement.

Special guests supporting the event included Supervisor John C. Cook (R-Braddock District), and School Board Members Dalia Palchik (Providence District), Ryan McElveen (At-Large) and Karen Keys-Gamarra (At-Large).

Volunteer Fairfax acknowledges event support from Points of Light and Kaiser Permanente.

Most of all, the volunteer center appreciates the moms and dads who brought their families out on a chilly January day to help local nonprofits. Additional appreciation goes to the event assistants and to the volunteers from schools, clubs, Scout Troops, sororities and business. Special acknowledgement goes to Waples Mill Elementary parent Sara A Holtz who brought her young family to Give Together for the eighth consecutive time.

Join Volunteer Fairfax every year on MLK Day for Give Together. And, save the date for VolunteerFest, another family-friendly event taking place on National Make A Difference Day, on Oct. 27, 2018.

For more information about ways to serve the community, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.



Volunteer Fairfax welcomed hundreds of volunteers who came ready to serve.

Chocolate

FROM PAGE 9

open houses, and a gigantic, LOVE Sculpture will adorn Old Town Square. For a complete list of events, times and places, go to www.chocolatefestival.net.

All venues are handicap-accessible, and the Chocolate Express will provide free, fully accessible shuttle service between event locations. It'll run Saturday, from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Sunday, from 11:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pick-up locations are: Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, Fairfax Regional Library, Fairfax Historic Courthouse (Saturday only), Fire Station 3 (Saturday only), Legato School Museum, Old Town Square and Old Town Hall. The City's Cue buses will also be on their regular schedules.

❖ Free parking, including handicapped, is available at the following locations:

Bank of America, 10440 Main St. (accessible from Route 236 and North Street).

City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. (accessible from Route 123/Chain Bridge Road and George Mason Boulevard).

City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. (accessible from University Drive and Old Lee Highway).

East Street parking lot (accessible from Route 236/Main Street and East Street).

Fairfax County Courthouse Garage B, 4400 Chain Bridge Road (accessible from Page Avenue).

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St.

Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive.

Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road (accessible from Route 123/Chain Bridge Road and University Drive).

Old Town Village (behind Pacer's, 10427 North St.) Open at noon Saturday and all day Sunday; (accessible from University Drive).

Sager Avenue parking lot (accessible from Sager Avenue and University Drive).

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/kindergarten-registration.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

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.

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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/kindergarten-registration .		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		
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Space In Which I Wouldn't Get Lost



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a follow up to last week's column titled "Lost in Space," I have a few recommendations for the medical profession, oncologists particularly, as it relates to their comings and goings and the effect it might have on their patients, many of whom have been characterized as "terminal," as I was.

Respecting and appreciating the fact that on a good day, our anxiety level is likely off the chart, we need you to work with us, not against us.

And though I can certainly recall how I was encouraged to reach out – either by phone or electronically, whenever we had questions or concerns, I believe there needs to be an upgrade to that advisory. That 'encouragement' works fine when you're here/on site. However, based on my most recent experience, I need that 'advisory' to work equally fine when you're not here.

Ergo: I want to meet and develop some kind of relationship with the oncologist who will be covering for you when you're absent. I want that oncologist's name, email address and phone number (none of which I had during this most recent experience). I want some assurance/acknowledgment that this oncologist knows who I am, how I'm treated and is familiar with any special circumstances pertaining to my care and feeding. Moreover, I want "t.l.c.," because I definitely deserve it.

As for the oncologist's goings; on the occasions when, for whatever reason, you're away from your office. I want to know before, not after. I don't want to learn about it by reading a default email saying you're out of the office. Though I appreciate knowing after, it's not good enough. I want to know all the time. In fact, every time you're away, I want to know. Whether or not I have any medical activities (lab work, infusion, scans) planned, I want to know, just in case something unexpected – or even expected, happens.

This would help me to prepare, anticipate, assimilate and coordinate any and all future medical activities so that I could determine in advance, if necessary, an action plan. One that would proactively solve/prevent a problem rather than reacting to one as most recently happened to me. I don't want any more surprises. I don't want to experience any lack of communication at any time. I don't care about how or why. I simply want to know ahead of any potentially complicating circumstances, not behind. I'm already feeling some relief just writing about it.

How can this be implemented? Electronically of course. I don't need any calls. A don't-reply email is fine. I know that system/process works when I want to communicate with you and/or review information which has been posted online. What I want to know next is the doctor's schedule, not hourly, maybe not even daily (although I wouldn't be averse to it), but weekly for sure, electronically in my inbox first thing Monday morning.

Knowing the doctor's availability will help me manage my expectations and minimize my stress. As a cancer patient, I never know what I'll want or when I'll want it. But finding out the easy way (in advance) is certainly preferable to finding out the hard way (during/after).

Medically speaking, I don't want to miss anything nor do I, living forward, want anything to be missed. If you can email an after-appointment summary, you can certainly email me a pre-appointment schedule of when and where my primary care physicians (oncologist and internal medicine) will be. Because out of sight unfortunately doesn't mean out of mind, unless I know otherwise.

And that's my goal: to mind my own business and not have to worry about yours.

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

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NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/18.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

TOYOTA ServiceCenter

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
2015
31 YEARS OF RECEIVING THIS HONOR. 1 OF 4 DEALERSHIPS IN THE NATION TO RECEIVE THIS HONOR.

SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:
Monday - Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!

ToyotaCare Customers

Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000

Now Available Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305

LUBE, OIL, & FILTER SPECIAL

\$29⁹⁵ NON-SYNTHETIC
\$44⁹⁵ SYNTHETIC

Includes: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

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COMPLIMENTARY
15 MINUTE ALIGNMENT CHECK

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ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
\$79⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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BRAKE SPECIAL
\$99⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

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SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES
\$10 OFF

Sight Line only.

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VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$5.00 OFF when you spend \$35.00 - \$49.99
\$10.00 OFF when you spend \$50.00 - \$99.99
\$15.00 OFF when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99
\$20.00 OFF when you spend \$200.00 - \$499.99
\$50.00 OFF when you spend \$500.00 or more

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TRUESTART™ BATTERY SPECIAL
\$99⁹⁵



30,000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE
\$159⁹⁵

SYNTHETIC \$10 MORE

Includes: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts.), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month **FREE** replacement, 24 month **FREE** roadside assistance. Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**