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# EASTER & SPRING FUN

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From left, Rowan Clark, 13, eighth grader at Frost Middle School, Fairfax, and Ellie D'Alessandro, 19, of Fairfax, 2016 graduate of W.T. Woodson High School participating in Saturday's March for Our Lives.

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PHOTO BY BILL BRONROTT

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## Public Hearings

### Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings/default.asp> beginning April 16, 2018.

Public meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:  
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

<p><b>Monday, April 16, 2018</b> Hampton Roads - Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320</p>	<p><b>Thursday, April 19, 2018</b> Lynchburg - VDOT Lynchburg District Office Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, April 24, 2018</b> Richmond - Hilton Garden Inn 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834</p>
<p><b>Monday, April 30, 2018*</b> Northern Virginia - Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030</p> <p>*meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Thursday, May 3, 2018</b> Staunton - Holiday Inn and Conference Center 152 Fairway Lane Staunton, VA 24402</p>	<p><b>Monday, May 7, 2018</b> Culpeper - Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701</p>
<p><b>Tuesday May 8, 2018</b> Fredericksburg - Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408</p>	<p><b>Thursday, May 10, 2018</b> Salem - Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017</p>	<p><b>Monday, May 14, 2018</b> Bristol - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210</p>

You can also submit your comments by email or mail by May 30, 2018:

For roads and highways: [Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov), or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: [DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov), Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

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A group of students from Robinson who gathered at the Vienna Metro and traveled to the March together. From left: Corinne Baum, Erin Reno, Alayna Ricard, Ivy Mitchell, Danait Haddish, Lily Brintzinghoffer, Laura Armendaris, Adrianna Ladino, Michael McCabe, Laura Tirpak, Lizzy Lawrence, and Tyler Layton



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) join Robinson students at the March.

Photo courtesy of the Office of Del. Eileen Filler-Corn

# Robinson Students Join 'Awakening'

Michael McCabe, 16, points to a 'great examples of kids in Parkland.'

By Natalia Megias  
The Connection

Before the Parkland teens rose up to speak out against gun violence in the aftermath of the Stoneman Douglas school shooting, Robinson Secondary School sophomore student Michael McCabe observed that students who wanted to make a change "were lost in the noise" and often didn't know how to do it.

But since then, "we have had great examples of kids in Parkland that have been uplifted by other examples, like the urban communities affected by gun violence," said McCabe, 16. "There's a lot more visibility of activists working past the apathy and misunderstanding and paralysis and have been doing important work."

"Now kids realize they can reach out to people and there are events, movements, organizations and volunteer opportunities. This has been an awakening in that sense," he said.

**AFTER THE MARCH** For Our Lives, which took place this past Saturday, McCabe said the sentiment among classmates is: "We're not going to let this go away. A lot of us are really fired up," he said.

McCabe was born in Northern Virginia and moved to Fairfax in second grade. Since he can remember, he's always tried to stay engaged and educated.

"I've always been an avid reader of the news and have had my own political opinions from a pretty young age," he said. When he was seven years old, he recalls making signs and cookies for Obama's campaign volunteers and watching the inauguration.

At 11 years old, he joined his grandmother, also an activist, to Richmond for



From left, Rowan Clark, 13, eighth grader at Frost Middle School, Fairfax, and Ellie D'Alessandro, 19, of Fairfax, 2016 graduate of W.T. Woodson High School.

Photo by Bill Bronrott

## Tired of Planning an Escape Route

Rowan Clark, 13, eighth grader at Frost Middle School, Fairfax and Ellie D'Alessandro, 19, Of Fairfax, 2016 graduate of W.T. Woodson High School participated in Saturday's March for Our Lives.

Rowan said: "I am tired of having to plan an escape route. As children and young people, it's come to the point where we have to know our laws and read the bills because they have failed us."

Added D'Alessandro: "An AR-15 is meant for war. We shouldn't be able to buy them. There is no reason for civilians to have these military weapons."

—Bill Bronrott

the lobby days.

"I always remember coming home from those [trips] thinking things through and wondering, what else can we lobby for, how does this issue affect me? It got me thinking about the issue of gun violence," he said.

Fast forward to the recent march on gun violence, which McCabe attended with 150 others from Robinson, including those from the group "Students Demand Action" which he is a member, and he is hopeful and emboldened.

"I wasn't sure what to expect going in [to the march]," he said. But "I've been astounded by the emotion and unedited, unabridged truth and the stories that have been coming out in the wake of Parkland and all the media attention. I knew this would be a wildly successful and meaningful event."

**THE MOST INSPIRING PART** of the march for McCabe was seeing Naomi Wadler on stage. Wadler, an Alexandria fifth grader who represents African American girls, spoke at the march about those suffering from gun violence.

McCabe had met her before the march, describing her as "very self-confident and well spoken for an 11-year-old."

"I had no idea she was going to be on stage. I was blown away by her speech," he said. "The fact that Naomi Wadler was up there and she was affected by gun violence, it's incredible that they're in elementary school and they're doing this. That was my favorite part of the whole event."

He found the march's message promising too.

"I was blown away by the intersectionality and the extent to which they were able to uplift the voices of people who had been affected by different forms of gun violence and really convey a broader scope of the issue. I thought that was really neat to see."

Although the conversation around gun violence has been happening for some time, he said he was struck by how well rounded the speakers were and how well the tone was carried.

"It took a really solid balance between the tragedy and the conversation and the media hubbub, and the broader scope of the issues."

What's next for the movement? "It goes back to lawmakers," he said.

# Opinion

## 'Channeling Outrage into Activism'

By Adam P. Ebbin  
State Senator (D-30)

Ebbin spoke to students at Lewinsville Park in McLean during the walkout on March 14. The students, who attend schools across Northern Virginia, were participating in a rally for gun violence prevention organized by Students Demand Action DMV following a 17-minute National Student Walkout held that morning at 10 a.m. in memory of the 17 who were killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla.

I'm Senator Adam Ebbin, and I have an "F" rating from the NRA. Across the country, the gun violence prevention movement is being led by students like you. You are doing more than just wearing an orange ribbon, you are taking action and leading a conversation. You are channeling your outrage into activism.

I've been moved and inspired by the bravery and resilience of the young people in Parkland. Today, we are amplifying their message. With your activism, we can make real progress.

Every day, 96 Americans are killed with a gun.

Every 10 hours a Virginian is killed with a gun.

153,000 students have been exposed to campus shootings since

Columbine.

For decades, the corporate gun lobby has dictated our gun laws.

Elected leaders at the local, state, and national level can make a difference; implore us all to take action. Hold legislators accountable for their voting records.

While Washington is mired in empty expressions of thoughts and prayers, it's time for state legislators to step up.

I have worked for common sense gun laws for years. This year, over 60 bills addressing gun violence were introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, but every one was defeated. Del. Kathleen Murphy [D-34] and I have formed a General Assembly Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, but we need more voices — loud voices, informed and passionate voices, particularly voices like yours. I'm here to amplify your voice, to tell you that you don't have to be a voter yet to shape the debate. Speak up by calling your elected officials.

Engage the community by writing letters to the editor.



Get involved at election time. Register to vote as soon as you are eligible. Stay informed and stay active.

Vote. Repeat until no school in America has to wonder "Who's next?"

Refuse to accept the status quo. Demand an end to gun violence.

The NRA tells us the AR-15 shouldn't be banned.

When a soft nosed bullet leaves the barrel of an AR15, it is travelling at three times the speed of a bullet fired from a handgun. It will break the sound barrier leaving the gun, travelling at 3,000 feet per second, tumbling end over end until it makes contact with its target. When its target is a human body, the bullet enters and exits in less than the time it takes to blink, shredding tissue in a process known as cavitation, killing soft tissue for up to three inches around the entry path, and leaves an exit wound the size of an orange. A high capacity magazine on an AR-15 can unleash 50 of these rounds in less than a minute.

Outfitted with an NRA-supported bump stock this weapon can empty this magazine in a matter of seconds.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school first responders saw the power of this weapon, the twitch of a finger painting the hallways of their school with blood.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned.

Don't tell us that kids have a right to carry these into our schools and movie theatres and malls and concerts and unleash the fury of this weapon on Americans.

Don't tell us that anyone has the right to carry a gun that holds 50 rounds and can be modified to fire them in under ten seconds.

Don't tell us we shouldn't be able to stop dangerous individuals from buying AR-15s at a sporting goods store.

Don't let the NRA tell you that thoughts and prayers are enough.

Enough is enough.

We're telling the NRA times up, we're telling them no more.

No more fearing the next headline. We're telling the corporate gun lobby we're done with being afraid that when your friends go to school they might not come back. We cannot wait any longer.

The NRA can get out of the way, or they can get run over.

## Cracking Down on Online Predators

### Bipartisan legislation to protect sex trafficking victims.

By Barbara  
Comstock  
US Rep. (R-10)



For years we have warned of human traffickers preying on our youth at a mall or places where teens may congregate. A predator would approach a young girl — average age 12 or 13 — pretending to be a boyfriend and groom them for sexual exploitation by showering them with gifts or drugs, and then exploit their naivety and traffic them for sex.

The same thing is going on today, only now the predator is using the Internet to reach out and exploit our youth.

Online predators now reach into our homes and target unsuspecting children on computers and social media. Congress investigated this Internet sex trafficking and we came up with landmark, bipartisan legislation that will protect sex trafficking victims who have been targeted by online predators.

I cosponsored the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, which has now passed the House and Senate. It will give prosecutors, state attorneys general, and sex trafficking victims a clearer path to take legal

action against websites hosting advertisements for prostitutes, which, in reality, often turn out to be young girls and boys who are being illegally trafficked for sex.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, nearly three-quarters of all reports of online child sex trafficking can be traced back to the website called Backpage.com. In a recent CBS News article, a 14-year old girl who was trafficked on the site said, "They're letting all of this happen on their website. I mean, without Backpage, I would have never been in any of this in the first place."

Her mother continued, "Backpage has a primary purpose and it's to sell sex. Backpage has not done anything to ensure the safety of the kids on there, period."

Congress investigated the practices of Backpage and disclosed that its operators actually helped predators modify their ads to delete references to teenage prostitutes or young victims of human trafficking, and still allowed the ads to run. The Washington Post reported that Backpage used a company in the Philippines to solicit both prostitutes and johns from other websites and created new ads that facilitated trafficking.

It became apparent that current anti-trafficking laws could not be applied to websites like Backpage, which host thousands of exploitive

ads daily — too many of which are children being trafficked by adults. Backpage, time and again, successfully cited the Communications Decency Act, which they argued protected them.

In a 2016 case against Backpage.com, the First Circuit Court of Appeals made clear: "The remedy is through legislation, not litigation." All 50 state Attorneys General joined the call for reform of this legislation to address the use of these sites for trafficking and both the House and the Senate responded on a bipartisan basis. This legislation included backing from many in the technology community such as Facebook's COO Sheryl Sandberg: "Those of us in the United States must recognize that these deplorable acts of buying and selling children for sex don't just happen in other countries. They happen here as well — right under our noses ... we at Facebook support efforts to pass amended legislation in the House." Now our prosecutors will be able to crackdown on online predators.

Every summer, as part of my Young Women's Leadership Program, we provide a session on the problem of human trafficking. We have made it a priority to educate young women about this threat that is online, as well as in their communities. With the passage of this legislation, there will be more tools to stop these unspeakable crimes against our youth.

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## News

# Council Mulls Boosting Old Town's Vitality

## Farmers market moving to Sager/University public lot.

By Bonnie Hobbs  
The Connection

In an effort to increase vitality in Fairfax's downtown, City Council directed staff to investigate four possibilities. These were sidewalk spot-widening, a road diet pilot through Old Town, relocation of the farmers market to downtown and implementation of electronic parking-garage signage.

Transportation Director Wendy Sanford presented the results during a Feb. 13 work session. Regarding spot-widening, however, she said staff will be able to discuss it once the Old Town design guidelines are finalized.

Meanwhile, the segments being considered are: Sager Avenue, north side, east of University Drive; University, west side, north of Sager; Old Lee Highway, west side, north of Main Street; Main, south side, between University and Old Lee; Chain Bridge

Road, west side, between North Street and Main; Main, north side, between University and Old Lee; and Chain Bridge, east side, between North and Main.

As for a road diet, which would narrow the vehicle lanes, Sanford said, "Instead of a permanent road diet, we're considering a temporary, Feet on the Street plan to show the connectivity between places in the City's downtown. The goal is to energize the Old Town area and create a better sense of place. We'd use one of the outer, northbound lanes to create a pedestrian zone along University Drive, Saturday mornings, for a few hours, to test it out."

**THE IDEA**, she explained, is to create a pop-up pedestrian zone. It would provide more space for pedestrians to walk in the downtown area, as well as opportunities for local business engagement and programs. And it could be employed during scheduled, special events such as Fit Foodie on June 2, the Saturday morning children's program, the farmers market and various festivals.

Staff considered four possible sites for the farmers market relocation: The Sager/University public lot and surrounding intersec-

See Farmers Market, Page 10

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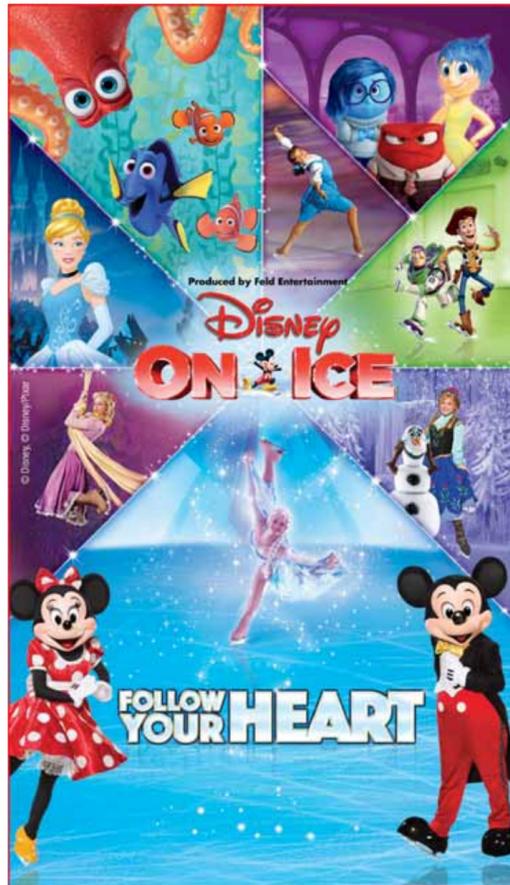


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## Easter & Spring Fun Easter Egg Hunts In the Area

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Upton Hill Park, Arlington. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. Visit [apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks](http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks) for details and to register.

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Pohick Bay Park, Lorton. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. Visit [apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks](http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks) for details and to register.

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### THURSDAY/MARCH 29

**EGG-Streme Teen Egg Hunt.** 8-10 p.m. at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Glow-in-the-dark-themed egg hunt begins at dark. Pictures with the Easter Bunny

and obstacle course moon bounce. 10-14 years old. Bring a basket and a flashlight. \$5 per hunter. Register at [apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecept/Activity\\_Search/11522](http://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecept/Activity_Search/11522).

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Cameron Run Park, Alexandria. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. Visit [apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks](http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks) for details and to register.

### THURSDAY/SATURDAY/MARCH 29-31

**Baskets and Bunnies Event.** Assist with arts and crafts, help with registration, dress up in the Sunny the Bunny costume, assist with Mini Golf or be a Sunny the Bunny helper at Burke Lake Park. Volunteer on Thursday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. On Friday, March 30, volunteers are needed from 4 to 7 p.m. Helpers will be needed on Saturday, March 31. Sign up for shifts from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies)



Photo by ECHO Yard Sale

Shoppers browse the many tables of goods for sale at an earlier ECHO Yard Sale.

### ECHO Yard Sale

Join the hunt for treasures at ECHO's semi-annual yard sale. Toys, fashion accessories, collectibles, and more. Proceeds benefit Ecumenical Community Helping Others in Springfield. Saturday, April 7, 8 a.m.-noon in the Gymnasium of St. Bernadette Catholic Church and School, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Free admission. Email [cefrabee@verizon.net](mailto:cefrabee@verizon.net).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 29-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Fairfax County Parks.** Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055).

**Hidden Oaks Nature Center** is

running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. The program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child. On Saturday, March 31, **Burke Lake**

Park is hosting a day of fun called Baskets and Bunnies. There will be egg hunts, carousel and train rides, crafts and games. \$12 per person in advance; \$16 the day of the event. **Clemyjontri Park** is offering an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and photo ops with the Easter Bunny for children age 1-9. \$7 per child. Add a carousel ride for \$2. There's also an Egg Hunt that day at **Nottoway Park**. Register at the picnic shelter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2, 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4, 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11:30 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. \$10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. \$10 per child - cash only at registration.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 30-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Easter Egg Hunt.** Friday, 3 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Activities include games, crafts, refreshments, and photos with the Easter Bunny. Every participating child will receive an Easter egg. \$12 children, \$5 adults. Call 703-548-1789 or visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 31

**Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt.** 9-10:30 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Enjoy a continental breakfast, a craft or two, and an Easter egg hunt. Bring an Easter basket. Free. Call 703-451-2900 or visit [gracepresby.org](http://gracepresby.org). **Traditional Easter Egg Hunt.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Herndon Municipal Center Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Features craft projects, story time, dance sessions with

KinderJam, a petting zoo, coloring mural, potting station and photos with the Easter Bunny. Cost is \$9 per child in advance; \$10 onsite. Visit [herndon-va.gov/recreation](http://herndon-va.gov/recreation), or call 703-435-6800, ext. 2128.

**MCC Spring Fest.** 10 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's School, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Carnival games and arts and crafts projects, soccer demo, roaming duck, bunny and squirrel characters as well as magic tricks by The Amazing Kevin. A parent and child Easter Egg Hunt will be featured. For children ages 3-8. Hosted by McLean Community Center. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org), and use Activity No. 4501.318. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY-711.

**2018 Community Egg Hunt.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 720 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. The annual Egg Hunt at Van Dyck park is open and free to the community, thanks to Combined Properties. No registration required. All ages welcome. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt.** 11 a.m.-1:30 a.m.; 1 p.m.-1:30 p.m. at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., Tysons. The brunch buffets on both Easter, April 1, and Mother's Day, May 13, occur from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and feature gourmet stations with an array of dishes. Arrive early as a maximum of 50 participants will hunt in each age group. In addition, the Easter Bunny will be available from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for photos. Reservations at 703-761-5131 or on OpenTable at [opentable.com/harh](http://opentable.com/harh).



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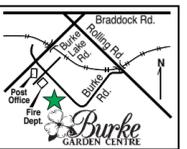
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## Between Thwarted Love and Madness

Virginia Opera presents "Lucia di Lammermoor" at GMU Center for the Arts.

By David Siegel  
The Connection

Virginia Opera concludes its season at the Center for the Arts with the "bel canto" (Italian for "beautiful singing") "Lucia di Lammermoor." Set in Scotland, Donizetti's "Lucia" is the tale of a young woman forced to marry a man she does not love in order to improve her family's fortunes. As she becomes completely distraught, she imagines what it would be like to have married the man she loves. Then she takes actions that change everything.

Ari Peltó, who conducts the opera, called "Lucia di Lammermoor" the pinnacle; the glorification of the voice and

what it can do." Describing the opera, Peltó said it was "full of all the things we could love about opera including grand dramatic gestures and a young woman struggling as she tries to save her family from ruin. It is unforgettable." Virginia Opera's "Lucia di Lammermoor" will feature Metropolitan Opera soprano Rachele Gilmore in the title role of Lucia. Gilmore described her character as "a woman at her emotional breaking point." Complementing Gilmore bel canto soprano voice will be tenor Joseph Dennis as Edgardo.

"Lucia" is about a woman growing up in difficult times. All the men in her life are pressuring her to do things as they wanted," said Gilmore. The opera is full of vocal fireworks and highly dramatic elements, "so the audience will understand and be drawn into and focus on the tragic tale and my character of Lucia."

In an interview, Gilmore noted that she always wanted to be a singer. She received her Bachelor's of Music from Indiana University and continued with Graduate studies at Boston University. As an artist, she was a winner in Plácido Domingo's renowned Operalia World



Soprano Rachele Gilmore (Lucia) in Virginia Opera's "Lucia di Lammermoor."

Opera Contest in Paris. For director Kyle Lang, "Lucia di Lammermoor" is a cautionary tale of a fragile "heroine of a gothic horror story."

It is warning tale of the destructive power of blind ambition. "Lucia" is one of the most-per-

### Where and when

Virginia Opera's "Lucia di Lammermoor" at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: April 7 at 8 p.m. and April 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$110, \$90, \$54. Note: Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Pre-Performance Discussion with Dr. Glenn Winter "Dr. Opera" begins 45 minutes before the performance.

Photos by Ben Schill  
Photography Courtesy Virginia Opera



Tenor Joseph Dennis (Edgardo) and soprano Rachele Gilmore (Lucia) in Virginia Opera's "Lucia di Lammermoor."

formed operas worldwide with its focus on the beauty of the human voice and enduring romantic themes. "Lucia will be a great production for our company and the audience," said Russell Allen, President and CEO of the Virginia Opera. Donizetti's "Lucia di

Lammermoor" is surely to be a compelling performance concluding Virginia's Opera's season at the Center for the Arts. And join Dr. Glenn Winters for his "Opera Up Close" pre-curtain talk for his informative, entertaining insights.

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# Calendar

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

## ONGOING

**Artists & Poets: Freedom of Expression-Freedom of the Press.** Through March 31, 5 p.m.-midnight, daily, at Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Nasrin Navab and Epicure Cafe present: Artists & Poets: Freedom of Expression-Freedom of the Press. Instigated by Helen Frederick, the DC art community came together two years ago in solidarity with people of Iraq and the Middle East to support the "Al Mutanabbi Street Starts

Here!" Project. Al-Mutanabbi Street is Baghdad's bookselling street that has created space for books for hundreds of years. In 2007, the street was destroyed in a car bombing. Visit [www.epicurecafe.org/](http://www.epicurecafe.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. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8-week session. Email [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) or call 703-524-3739.

**Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation.** An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living

facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org) for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at [www.fpow.org/volunteer](http://www.fpow.org/volunteer). [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org), 703-324-5424 or [dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov).

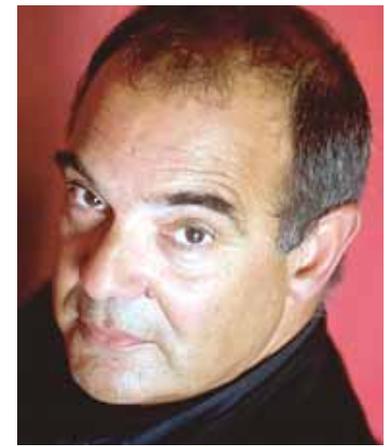
**Exercise Program** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

**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](http://www.fairfaxva.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](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

**Funday Monday** 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. Stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).



Directed by Edward Gero (pictured).

## 'The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail'

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee imagine circumstances surrounding 19th Century writer Henry David Thoreau's imprisonment for his refusal to pay a poll tax designed to support an unpopular war in "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail." Thursday-Saturday, April 5-8, 8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8, 2 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$30 general admission; \$15 students, staff, seniors and groups. Call 703-993-8888 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies).

## MARCH 30-APRIL 15

**"The Pavilion."** at The Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. This play is by turns poetic and comic, romantic and philosophical. Peter returns to his 20-year high-school reunion with dreams of winning back Kari, the girl he left behind. Visit [www.thehubtheatre.org](http://www.thehubtheatre.org).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 31

**Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt.** 9-10:30 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Enjoy a continental breakfast, a craft or two, and an Easter egg hunt. Bring an Easter basket. Free. Call 703-451-2900 or visit [gracepresby.org](http://gracepresby.org).

**2018 Community Egg Hunt.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 720 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. The annual Egg Hunt at Van Dyck park is open and free to the community, thanks to Combined Properties. No registration required. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar).

**Art & Lunch.** noon-3 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax, Fairfax Art League at the Village Gallery. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Visit [www.fairfaxartleague.net](http://www.fairfaxartleague.net) or call 703-587-9481.

**Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra.** 8 p.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Canadian singer, trumpeter, and songwriter Bria Skonberg joins Mason's own Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra in a swinging evening of fresh beats and brassy standards. Tickets: \$46, \$39, \$28. Calling 888-945-2468 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

## TUESDAY/APRIL 3

**Storytime in the Park.** 10:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. In association with Fairfax County Public Library. Weather permitting. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

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# Angelika Theater Hosts International Film Festival

The NOVA Festival will take place over two weeks, from April 1 to April 14.

By David Siegel  
The Connection

**C**ontinuing its growth as the go-to, locally-curated, high caliber film festival for film lovers and film-makers, the Northern Virginia (NOVA) International Festival returns for its fourth year at the Mosaic's Angelika Film Center.

The NOVA Festival will take place over two weeks, from April 1 to April 14, 2018 with film screenings of nearly 60 films, along with workshops, seminars and networking opportunities. There will be a concluding Festival Black-tie awards ceremony.

"Our NOVA International Film Festival showcases cinema's creative talents from near and far. It offers audiences the opportunity to see films before they are even screened nationally," said Fernando Mico, festival founder and CEO.

NOVA offers filmmakers a competitive setting to screen films with award opportunities

This year's "NOVA Festival Legend Award" recipient and keynote speaker will be Michael Uslan, executive producer of Batman movies.

Coming back home to his Fairfax County roots to screen his film "Trouble is my Business" is Tom Konkle.

He grew up in Springfield and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. He went on to American University to study media and drama. "Growing up in Springfield, I always dreamed of making films and moving to Hollywood," said Konkle, who lives on the West Coast.

"Now coming back to Fairfax County to screen my film is like coming full-circle in my life's journey. And I will be showing my son around the area."

Asked about a film he saw as a youth that impacted him, Konkle said "Star Wars." It "changed my outlook on life, and what was even possible."

Kohler's "Trouble is my Business" is in the film noir genre. It has "a hard-boiled attitude and a love of language. It is set in a world where people take wrong turns or do stupid things even after being warned by a friend not to do something."

Some NOVA special events include a reception with George Starke, one of the original Washington Redskins HOGS and others

from that famous offensive line. Starke will be at Mosaic's Great Gatherings for a Festival reception and fundraiser for the Redskins Charitable Foundation on April 11, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. A fundraiser for the Autism Society

of Northern Virginia will be held at Sea Pearl on April 12, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Inviting audiences to the film festival, Mico said; "Hollywood can truly be found right here in Fairfax County."

## Where and When

Northern Virginia (NOVA) International Film Festival at Angelika Film Center, Mosaic District, 2911 District Ave, Fairfax. Film screenings April 1 to April 14, 2018. Tickets: \$15. Seminars and panel tickets on screen writing, film production and distribution \$25. Black tie Awards evening \$85. All access VIP pass \$200. HOG Heaven Reunion Reception \$60. Fundraiser for Autism Society of Northern Virginia \$50. Detailed information and tickets at: <http://www.novafilmfest.com> or call 703.960-1970.

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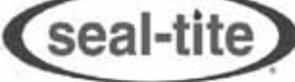
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**News**

**Farmers Market Moves to New Location**

From Page 5  
tion, the Amoco lot and a small portion of Main Street, the Main/University intersection, and the Bank of America lot. And after doing so, they picked the Sager/University option.

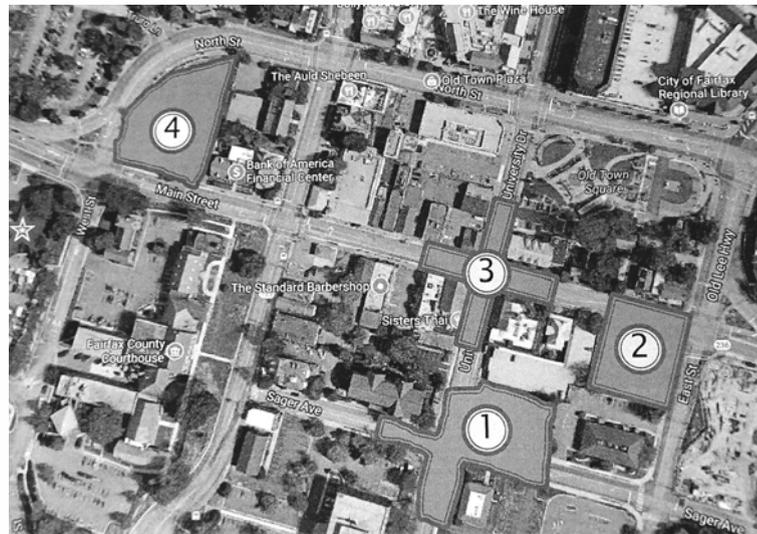
"The farmers market supports this plan, but it's not possible for this year," said Economic Development Director Chris Bruno. "But other events could go there. Some examples are a flea market, a Taste of Fairfax or Old Town, a food truck festival, the Labor Day Car Show, Art in the Lot, pop-up shops and a strawberry festival. This is to anchor and engage businesses in Old Town."

Sanford then asked the Council members, "Do we want to proceed with the one-block, Feet on the Street or with a two-block area from Armstrong Street through Old Town? We haven't done this before, so it'll be a learning experience for us."

Councilwoman Jennifer Passey said, "I like the idea of doing this in short bursts so people can create new habits." Councilwomen Ellie Schmidt and Janice Miller both liked the suggested pop-up pedestrian area, and Councilman Jon Stehle preferred a two-block section.

Councilman Jeff Greenfield wanted to discuss the farmers market relocation. Earlier, Bruno said the reason the vendors didn't want to move their site this year is because they wouldn't be able to park their vehicles near them, as they currently do. But Greenfield and other Council members didn't see that as a valid excuse and wanted to relocate the farmers market this season.

"The Mosaic District has a robust farmers market and the trucks are all parked elsewhere," he said. "We need to talk to the vendors. I don't know why we couldn't have a version of this in Old Town Square, like we did for the Holiday Mar-



**Sites considered for the farmers market relocation: 1. Sager Avenue/University Drive public lot and intersection; 2. Amoco lot and part of Main Street; 3. Main/University intersection; 4. Bank of America lot. The star at far left shows the current location.**

kets. And I'm willing to help recruit new vendors for downtown."

**AGREEING**, Schmidt said, "I'd like to see the farmers market moved sooner, rather than waiting a year. If we take away the [parking] spaces from the Sager parking lot, we need to identify other parking areas." Miller also wanted it relocated this year.

Bruno said the City would do a "significant marketing campaign" to let residents know about any and all changes made. He also noted that "A number of people suggested having a strawberry festival, so we'll look into it." Greenfield said Fairfax needs to do more with its app to promote the farmers market, the City and all the information the app offers - especially about parking - to the residents.

"Our objective is to promote more walkability downtown and, therefore, more business," explained Councilman Michael DeMarco. "But our downtown businesses are struggling to get business, so we should do the pop-

up zone when there's not a special event, so we can test the water. Make it two blocks - and why not on North Street, too? It's about driving more business downtown."

As for electronic parking-garage signage, it would let residents and visitors alike know about the City's parking garage and help the Old Town businesses. Signs can be at the garage entrances or within 1,000 feet. Sanford said an invitation to bid on this project was on the City's Website.

At the work session's end, Mayor David Meyer weighed in on the farmers market. "We should be able to be more flexible and have it in a different location this year," he said. "Having it closer to downtown would give it more visibility and, therefore, attract more people."

Noting that the market could also have "more diverse offerings," he said he wanted a marketing and communications plan for it. Ultimately, said Meyer, "I'd like Fairfax City to be known as the go-to place for farmers markets, every week-end."

**Legals**

**ABC LICENSE**

Double T Restaurant LLC trading as Pho Nu Cuoi Saigon, 9535 Braddock RD, Fairfax, VA 22032. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Tu H. Nguyen. 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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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**Employment**

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# Bulletin Board

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

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the Museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 29-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Holy Week Worship at King of Kings Lutheran Church.** 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Maundy Thursday, March 29 - 7 p.m.; Good Friday, March 30 - 12:15 and 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 1 - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Visit [www.kokf.org](http://www.kokf.org) or contact the church office 703-378-7272.

**Holy Week at Historic Pohick Church.** 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Call 703-339-6572 or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

Maundy Thursday, March 29: Maundy Thursday Liturgy and Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.  
Good Friday, March 30: Good Friday Observance from noon-3 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 1: Lighting of the Paschal Candle at 5:30 a.m., Festival Holy Eucharist at 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Easter Sunday Celebration.** 10:30-noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Springfield, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite 205, Springfield. Special youth activities including an Easter egg hunt. Visit [unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com](http://unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com).

**Easter Sunday Service.** 6:30 a.m. at Lee Chapel Cemetery (Intersection of Ffx County Pkwy & Lee Chapel Road), Burke. This is an outdoor worship sunrise service. Dress appropriately for the weather. From 1871 to 1951, Lee Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church was the home of worship, study, fellowship, celebration, and remembrance for the people of Burke. The ground remains sacred space. All are welcome. Visit [www.leechapelburke.org](http://www.leechapelburke.org).

**Easter Sunrise Service.** 7-7:45 a.m. at The Circle at George Washington Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings, director of Youth Ministries, Aldersgate UMC presents "When Morning Meets Our Eyes." Hosted by the Rotary Club of Mount Vernon assisted by Boy Scout Troop 993. Bring a lawn chair. All are welcome. Free. Email [mikej1013@verizon.net](mailto:mikej1013@verizon.net) for more.

## MONDAY/APRIL 2

**Scholarship Deadline.** Scholarship for research of local Civil War history — The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville, a 501 (3) c organization, offers a \$2,000 scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides either in Fairfax County. Applicants should plan to attend college in the fall of 2018. Information and application instructions can be found at [bullrunwrt.org](http://bullrunwrt.org).

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

**Public Meeting: Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Road, Alexandria. Join a third public information meeting hosted by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) about plans to widen Richmond Highway from four to six lanes between Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road. A brief presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Visit [www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond\\_highway.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond_highway.asp).

## THURSDAY/APRIL 5

**Public Meeting: Painting and Restriping.** 7 p.m. in the Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, West Springfield. The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting on 2018 paving and restriping efforts in the Springfield District. Information will be on display in an open house format, with a presentation at 7:15 p.m. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping).

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## The Daze Continue To Go Bye



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You know, if my feet didn't hurt so much, I could almost forget that I have cancer, other than being aware of my upcoming infusion: April 6; my upcoming CT Scan and MRI: April 18; and my upcoming follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results: April 27.

Nevertheless, the goal is to not think about the fact that I have non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. The kind for which there is no cure; made clear by my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting when he advised me that he "could treat me but that he couldn't cure me." What?! At that surreal moment, what goes in one ear flies out the other.

But here I am, nine years and counting; you bet I'm counting. That's one of the recurring thoughts I have as a multi-year cancer survivor; although, as my friend Frank has said to me: "you're in pretty good condition for the condition you're in."

Other than schedules and my underlying diagnosis (and my original "13 month to two year" prognosis), I regularly consider how long I've lived, one month now into year 10. It's both scary and reassuring: Am I further from the beginning or closer to the end? See. I can't stop thinking about it.

Generally speaking however, I am not bogged down by my diagnosis/circumstances, as anybody who knows me, knows. Nor am I preoccupied with the imminent danger in which my diagnosis places me everyday. And I'm certainly not bemoaning the likely reduction in my life expectancy from what I assumed it would be: mid to late 80s, given how long both my parents lived, to what is logical to believe it will now be: late 60s; considering all the statistics for similarly diagnosed individuals. Typically, one diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer doesn't just live with it (as a chronic-type disease), rather you die because of it.

This column is more for public consumption than it is about private perception. In truth, although a second, minute or hour doesn't go by when I don't think/remember/acknowledge the facts of my case, I am able, most of the time, to keep a smile on my face and not bring a frown to others.

Moreover, I want/need those others to forget that I have cancer as much as it is possible for it to be forgotten. And I want my behavior to be a contributing factor to their forgetting. If I don't start it then there's no reason for them to finish it.

And I'm being selfish in saying so? Absolutely! Because the better vibrations I receive from others, the better I'll feel about myself. And the better I feel about myself, the better and more able I'll be to deal with my disease and all its emotional and physical side- and straight-on effects. Effects which are hardly the stuff with which dreams are made. To invoke and rework a quote from the legendary screen actress Bette Davis: Having cancer is not for sissies.

But it is indiscriminate and projections into the not-to-distant future are frightening: for both males and females, one in three have a "lifetime risk of developing or dying from cancer," according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Database, based on "data compiled between 2012 and 2014, the most recent available."

So how do you put that in your pipe and not smoke it? If you're unlucky enough to be one of these new "diagnosees," you either roll with the punches or get rolled over instead. The choice is yours, as it was mine.

"Get busy living or get busy dying," as Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red," (Morgan Freeman), in the Oscar-nominated "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994). And I try to remind myself of that every day, and every night, too.

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

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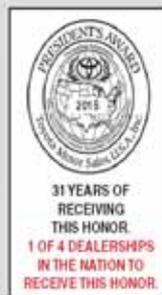
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