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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 12 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

Preston White, 5, of Reston and Devin Tanis, 5, of Herndon take turns at the controls of the big rig they sat in at Herndon's annual Big Truck Day.

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION



Big Truck Days 2018 in Herndon

NEWS, PAGE 7

Small Businesses Play
Critical Role in Herndon

NEWS, PAGE 3

Supporting
Pride of Herndon

NEWS, PAGE 4

Tenth District Forum to Be Held in McLean

The McLean Forum for 10th District candidates from both parties will focus on economic equality, jobs, health care and key safety net programs, education, women and minority issues and infrastructure investments, Wednesday evening May 23, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road. This is a meeting put together by the Virginia committee of the Economic Equality Caucus, a nonpartisan coalition of nonprofits and concerned citizens in northern Virginia. No candidate will be endorsed. The organizers want to focus on economic policy for all working families in this nationally watched race.

There is a non-political section for nonprofits

from 5 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. and then the candidates' forum from about 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Organizations who will be attending include:

- ❖ Phillips Programs for Children and Families;
 - ❖ Share, Inc. nonprofit in McLean/Tyson's;
 - ❖ Community Foundation for Northern Virginia;
 - ❖ Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Social Concerns Committee;
 - ❖ Hunger Free America nonprofit;
 - ❖ Northern Virginia labor federation;
 - ❖ Virginia Planned Parenthood advocates;
 - ❖ business groups;
 - ❖ faith-based entities;
 - ❖ women and minority organizations.
- This is free and open to the public.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Karen Amster, fundraiser chair, Tony Perkins, keynote speaker, and Ed Hogg, from Dunn Loring-Merrifield Rotary.

Raising Funds for Operation School Bell Programs

Assistance League of Northern Virginia recently hosted its annual Spring Luncheon to raise funds for the non-profit's activities benefiting children in need at 11 Title I schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. Operation School Bell Programs include Weekend Food for Kids, New Clothing for Kids and Reading Express which touch the lives of more than 6,000 children. The fundraiser also supports the Hugs program, which provides comfort items to low income children undergoing medical procedures at the Inova Cares Clinic in Falls Church.

The event, held this year at the Country Club of Fairfax, was attended by more than 120 members and guests who generously supported the silent and live auctions of a wide range of items donated by local businesses. Fundraising efforts were also supported by individual donations and contributions from event sponsors Quadrant, Joyce Koons Honda Buick GMC, NOVEC, Spine Care of Manassas Chiropractic and

Manassas Honda Kawasaki Suzuki.

The Spring Luncheon was organized by fundraising chair Karen Amster, working in collaboration with event committees to coordinate an enjoyable event. Assistance League President Kathy Jackson chaired the event, expressing the organization's appreciation to corporate sponsors. Attendees representing all of the elementary schools participating in Operation School Bell® Programs were also recognized, as well as other special guests who actively support the organization's programs in a variety of ways.

Jay Nocco, principal of Lynnbrook Elementary School, spoke to attendees about the direct benefits of Assistance League programs as well as the importance of children recognizing that there is community support to meet needs. The keynote speaker was Tony Perkins, co-host of MAJIC 102.3/92.7 and Fox 5 News Anchor. To learn more, visit www.assistanceleague.org/north-ern-virginia



Kathy Jackson, Assistance League President and Armando Peri, Principal at Pine Spring Elementary.

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¹All money deposited at account opening must be new money to Fulton Financial Corporation and its affiliate banks. Relationship Banking bonus does not apply for this account. The rate may change after the account is opened. The interest rate and APY may be changed once (and only once) during the initial term of the CD. Upon receipt of a written bump-up request from you, we will adjust the interest rate and APY to the interest rate and APY then in effect for Fixed Rate CDs with the same term. In the event the same term fixed rate product is not available, you will be able to select a fixed rate term that does not exceed the initial term of your CD. No new money may be added when exercising the bump-up option and specialty products or promotional rates are not eligible for selection.

²All money deposited at account opening must be new money to Fulton Financial Corporation and its affiliate banks. Relationship Banking bonus does not apply for this account.

Small Businesses Play a Critical Role in Herndon

What do Herndon's 'Little Boxes' offer patrons, how do they do it and what do they need to thrive?

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

From the shops and stores located in the Historic Downtown District in Herndon to those in the nearby shopping centers, Herndon offers opportunities for both big national chains and small independent retailers.

Yet, how do the Little Boxes compete with the mega-retailers, what's it like to own and operate a small local store, and what do privately held businesses want the public and local governments to know?

The Connection reached out to four locally owned small businesses in Herndon, their owners and a president of the board. Businesses included the nonprofit organization, The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc. located at 845 Station Street, Herndon; Great Harvest Company, Herndon Bakery at 785 Station Street, Herndon owned by Ken Marter; Rejuvenations Massage Therapy, 150 Elden St, Suite 150, Herndon owned by Rick Morgan, LMT, NCBTMB Provider; and The Music Loft, LLC, owned by Laura Readyoff.

The small business owners and the president of the board answered following six questions:

1. Why did you decide to open your business in this location?
2. What has been your most difficult or challenging struggle in owning this small business and how did you overcome it?
3. What do you want people to know about you as a person and/or about your small business?
4. Give one word or sentence to describe operating your business.
5. What can local government do to help your business thrive?
6. Is there anything else you would like included?

Ken Marter, co-owner of Great Harvest Company, Herndon Bakery at 785 Station Street, Herndon: "I was actually talking with Great Harvest about opening up a store in D.C, but when the opportunity came about to buy the Great Harvest Companies here in Herndon, Ashburn and Vienna it made much more sense since we had moved to Herndon back in 2012. I took over Aug. 1, 2016.

The most difficult challenge is finding the right people to come and work at the bakery.

We are not a large chain that can pay higher salaries; we need to find those who really want to work for a small business even if the pay may be a little less than they could make at a large chain operation."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Ken Marter owns The Great Harvest Company, Herndon Bakery at 785 Station Street, Herndon.

"People should know that I love what I do and that while we have to make a profit, we give back to the community in many ways by supporting the local schools, races, charity auctions, fundraising events and many many other not-for-profit organizations. Owning a small business has many challenges that you must overcome, long hours and not seeing friends and family as much as you would like.

"Local government can plan for smart growth. They must make sure that the infrastructure is in place so that people can access our businesses without too much difficulty, and remember that if it is too difficult to find parking or traffic is too jammed, the small businesses will lose out to the bigger stores that have large surface or garage parking."

Laura Readyoff, owner of The Music Loft, LLC at 1141 Elden Street # 212, Herndon: "I live in Greater Herndon, and I had previous music students who would be happy to make the small commute to my current location near the downtown area. I love Herndon.

"The location and signage for The Music Loft are hidden from Elden Street, the main thoroughfare through the town. To combat the lack of visibility and the low number of walk-ins, our teachers got involved in bringing programming to the residents and children of the community.

"I genuinely care about music education for all children. My husband and my four

children have always been supportive of the business even when times were tough. They stood by me and lent encouragement. I can describe owning my business in one word: joyous.

"I would like to see local governments continue to support all areas of the arts including arts education. I would love to have the opportunity to put signage for The Music Loft, LLC on Elden Street, so people know where the business is located. For as much as small businesses bring to the community, I think governments should consider tax breaks or incentives to help small business thrive.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our community. Small businesses are invested in the community; they believe in the community, and give back generously to the community."

Rick Morgan, LMT, NCBTMB Provider, Owner of Rejuvenations Massage Therapy, 150 Elden St, Suite 150, Herndon: "We moved our clinic here in 2008 when we consolidated with another massage practice on Herndon Parkway called For Health and Balance. We then grew and needed more space. In 2011, we moved to our present location at Elden Plaza. It is a great location with easy access off the Fairfax County Parkway and Elden Street. Finding highly skilled massage therapists (is a challenge). Herndon used to have a great massage school, but it closed dur-



Laura Readyoff is the owner of The Music Loft, LLC at 1141 Elden Street # 212, Herndon (next door to Amphora's Restaurant). Readyoff said, "Small businesses are invested in the community; they believe in the community and give back generously to the community."



Rick Morgan, LMT, NCBTMB Provider is the owner of Rejuvenations Massage Therapy, 150 Elden St, Suite 150, Herndon.



The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc. at 845 Station Street, Herndon offers many upscale items from glassware to name brand clothing.

ing the recession along with most of the other massage schools in the area. This has made finding quality therapists more challenging.

We often have to recruit from people moving into the area. We also started an intensive work-study program to help new therapists gain the more advanced knowledge and skills needed here.

"I'm a big believer in learning and developing through life, so every year I try to learn a new skill or hobby. This year I've taken up painting watercolors specifically.

"While our immediate goal is to help you get out of pain and to reduce your stress, our end goal is to help people be their best selves.

We are all better parents, friends, partners, bosses, workers, athletes, etc. when we are pain and stress-free." [Owning a small business is] fulfilling. It's awesome to see people arriving in one state and leave feeling better."

Asked what local government can do to help small businesses thrive, Morgan said, "As little as possible! Haha.

All kidding aside, we need to manage the growth and congestion that comes with it. Small service businesses like us rely on people being able to get here easily from neighboring towns, and if the growth from the metro rail expansion adds time and stress for people to come into or through Herndon, businesses like ours will suffer.

SEE SMALL BUSINESS, PAGE 5

OAK HILL/HERNDON CONNECTION ♦ MAY 16-22, 2018 ♦ 3

Supporting Pride of Herndon

Herndon Marching Band will represent the United States at the D-Day 75th Anniversary Ceremonies in Normandy, France.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Pride of Herndon Marching Band held their Normandy Kick-off Celebration and Benefit Concert on Saturday, May 12, with a live performance by the popular rock concert band, The 5:55. The Herndon High School Jazz Band and Saxophone Ensemble also performed.

The purpose of the benefit concert was to help raise funds to partially support expenses for the Pride of Herndon Marching Band's upcoming trip to Normandy, France where they will represent the United States at the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. Total expenses for the trip are estimated at \$600,000. Costs are high due to airfare, lodging, and food for all the band members plus airfare for the band equipment, uniforms and such.

Mayor Lisa C. Merkel was one of the guest speakers at the benefit. She said, "The Herndon community is excited to be behind the Pride of Herndon Marching band once again. They are representing not only Virginia but also the entire United States at Normandy next year. We are so proud to support them."

According to the organization's Facebook page, the band will send approximately two hundred students, chaperones, and band instruments to France for the event. The Pride of Herndon comprises Herndon High School band students and Director of bands, Kathleen Jacoby.

The Pride of Herndon is supported by a group of volunteers who are actively fundraising to help send all band students to the event including those whose families have limited financial resources. "If sufficient funds are not raised, some band members may be left behind," said organizer Ken Ozkaptan.

Approximately 800 people attended the benefit Rock Concert that sought to raise \$5,000 Ozkaptan said. He shared expenses and incomes were still being tallied at press time, and results were not available.

There are multiple other fundraising events coming up.

The next one is a Pop Concert at HHS on June 3, 7-9 p.m., performed by Alumni and Jacob Reeves.

Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker announced at the Normandy Kickoff Celebration and Benefit Concert on Saturday, May 12, 2018, if anyone is interested in joining the band in Normandy, she is organizing a travel group.

4 ♦ OAK HILL/HERNDON CONNECTION ♦ MAY 16-22, 2018



Dion Stempfly drops a donation in the jar held by band member Danny Hale, 15, of Herndon before he enters the Free Normandy Kickoff Celebration and Benefit Concert performed on the Herndon Town Green Saturday night, May 12. Funds raised will help offset expenses for the band to go to Normandy in June 2019.



Members of the rock band 5:55 perform at the May 12 Normandy Kickoff Celebration and Benefit Concert for the Pride of Herndon Marching Band.

Information can be found on the band's Facebook page.

If you would like to make a difference in

the community and help support the Pride of Herndon, visit herndonband.org. On the band's Facebook page is a small poster. It



Mayor Lisa C. Merkel said, 'The Herndon Community is excited to be behind the Pride of Herndon March Band.' Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker shows her support.



Members of the Herndon High School Jazz band perform during the Normandy Kickoff Celebration and Benefit Concert held on May 12, 2018.

says, "Making a difference is not about the size of the act, but the heart that goes into it."

Small Business Experiences

FROM PAGE 3

We love being in Herndon. Herndon is a very open and accepting town to mom and pop/ independently owned businesses. In this day of Box Store and franchise development, I hope your readers recognize and support Herndon's vision and commitment of small businesses."

Gene Wiley, President of the Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc., at 845 Station Street, Herndon: "We are centrally located in Herndon's historic district, which is very convenient for our customers.

Also, many customers use the bus lines servicing the area. We enjoy being located in one of Herndon's oldest downtown buildings. Expanding and enhancing the service we provide our customers has been the biggest challenge. We accomplished this by staying open six days a week, 9-5, and two nights (Monday and Thursday) until 8. We also trained staff to work more efficiently. In addition, we began renovating the interior to make shopping and working at The Closet more pleasant for our customers,

staff, and volunteers.

"The Closet staff and volunteers place the highest priority on providing great value and quality service to our customers.

We are a non-profit organization, and we rely on receiving good quality donations from our donors, which we then sell at affordable prices. All our profits, less expenses, are returned to the community through distributions to local non-profit organizations and high school scholarships. We also distribute free of charge, clothing and essential household items to persons referred to us by local social service agencies and to needy people in western Virginia.

The Closet is Herndon's thrift store that gives back to the community! We need government officials to continue to understand our situation when we seek approvals and authorizations.

We appreciate all the consideration we have received to date.

"The Closet enjoys being one of Herndon's oldest anchor businesses in the downtown area. We started our store in 1974, and we get better and better, year after year."

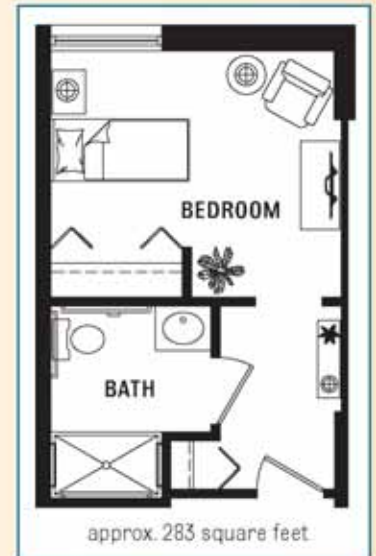
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10th Congressional Campaign Forum in McLean

May 23, Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean

1545 Chain Bridge Road

Candidates from Both Parties in the Nationally Watched 10th District Race

Key issues: Virginia Economic Equality Caucus (EEC) nonpartisan forum for 10th District Candidates on economic progress and equality, job creation, infrastructure, health care, and opportunity for women and minorities, Wednesday evening, May 23.

This is free. Please register ASAP to Lee Powell at leepowell@delta.comcastbiz.net or by phone at (202) 360-6347

Key Speakers are 10th Congressional District candidates from both parties:

- Alison Friedman, Democrat, (confirmed)
- Dan Helmer, Democrat, (confirmed)
- Shak Hill, Republican, (confirmed)
- Paul Pelletier, Democrat, (confirmed)
- Lindsey Davis Stover, Democrat, (confirmed)
- Julia Biggins, Democrat, (confirmed)
- State Sen. Jennifer Wexton, Democrat, (invited)
- US Rep. Barbara Comstock, Republican incumbent in the 10th District (invited)

Agenda: 5 p.m.-5:50 p.m.-Reception & Non-political section for nonprofits 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.—Forum for 10th Congressional candidates from both parties

The Virginia EEC committee is a nonpartisan coalition of nonprofits, faith-based entities and grassroots leaders in Virginia.

There is an optional suggestion for a donation to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Social Concerns committee to help the needy.

TRAIL SAFETY & ETIQUETTE

When you enjoy Fairfax County's 500 miles of trails by bike or foot, please be mindful of the comfort and safety of other trail users.



The 2018 Fairfax County bike & trail map is now available at all government centers and bike shops in Fairfax County, as well as at fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk



Big Truck Days 2018 Held in Herndon

Children climb up, in and try out DPW's massive metal monsters.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Since 1999, the Town of Herndon and the Department of Public Works (DPW) has hosted their very popular Big Truck Days, and 2018 was no exception. On Thursday, May 3 and Friday, May 4, parents, grandparents and teachers descended upon the Herndon Public Works Complex at 1418 Sterling Road with their little ones in tow. Attendees began arriving shortly after 9 a.m. and came from the surrounding communities with some coming from as far as Arlington, Manassas and Leesburg.

Visitors young and old were there to see, touch and even better climb on board the monster equipment that keeps the Town of Herndon clean, safe and moving but not before members of the DPW staff greeted each visitor individually and passed out pink and yellow plastic construction hats and tattoos to the children.

Whether the monster machines were meant to haul big loads like the trash trucks or if they were needed to push a megaton of snow, it made no difference to the staff at DPW who got to show off the equipment to the children and parents and explain how they helped keep Herndon ready to roll.

The men and women of DPW encouraged the children as well as the parents to climb up in the big rigs and try them out. "Check out the view from up there." "Beep the horn." "Go ahead, turn that steering wheel."

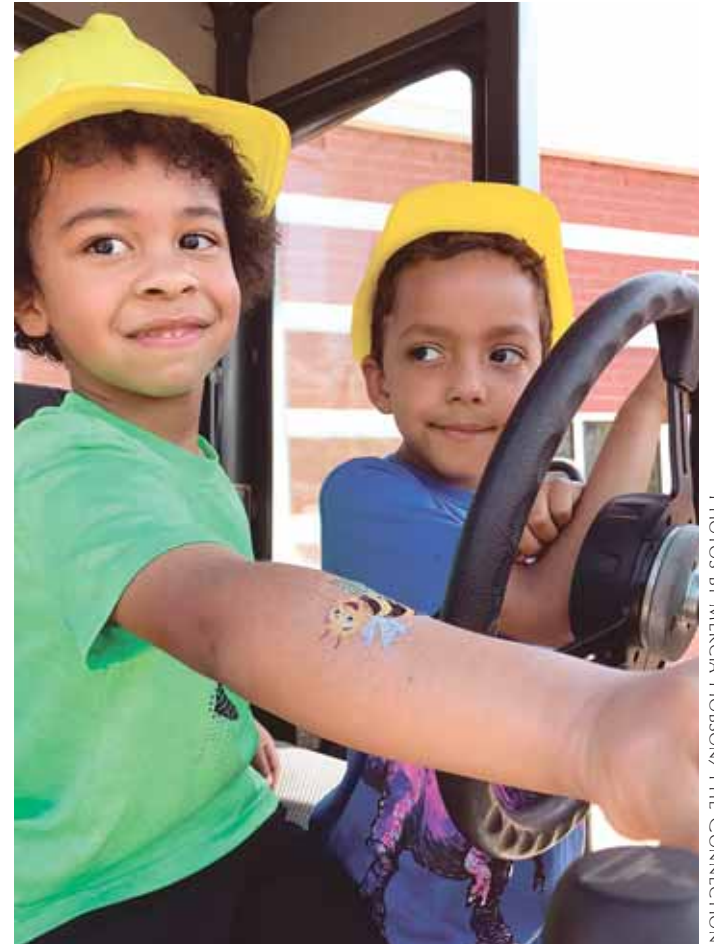
Roséya Underhill, 5, of Reston readily scaled the steep metal stairs to one of the front loaders. She sat in the driver's seat. "I know how to drive this," Underhill said with conviction. "First you turn the wheel. If it's a red light, you turn on the brake. If you want to go a wee bit faster, you push on this," she said as she stretched to reach the gas pedal. Bill Smith is the General Services Administrator for the Department of Public Works. In an interview, Smith told how the annual event originated nineteen years ago. Before the institution of Big Truck Days, he said that the Department would get multiple requests on a monthly basis to bring a couple of the big rigs to preschools or youth gatherings. As the town grew, so did the number of monthly requests. "So we thought, why don't we do it all at one given time, and do it up big."

Asked what he liked about Big Truck Days, Smith had a quick reply. "I like going out there and seeing all the children's faces while they're driving the equipment."

DPW staff took turns strolling around the parking lot and stood ready to answer the questions by children and their parents. "What does this do?" "Where does the trash go?" "Do you push snow at night?" "Do you sleep here?" Besides the big trucks, there was an activity area where children could control a stop light by pushing a button to change its colors and a set of pedestrian signals set out for them to learn first-hand how



William Sherman, 1 1/2, of Arlington, gets great joy at finally being able to steer the bulldozer at Big Truck Days 2018 in Herndon.



Preston White, 5, of Reston and Devin Tanis, 5, of Herndon take turns at the controls of the big rig they sat in at Herndon's annual Big Truck Day.



Roséya Underhill, 5, of Reston tries out the controls on one of DPW's front loaders. "If you want to go a wee bit faster, you push on this," Rose'ya says as she presses down on the gas pedal.



Parents, grandparents and children enjoy a day with the monster machines of the Town of Herndon Department of Public Works at Big Truck Days 2018. Attendees at the event donated approximately 150-200 bags of food to LINK to benefit those in need in the area.

to cross a street properly. A Herndon Police cruiser stopped by for a welcome visit and was enthusiastically greeted by the chil-

dren.

Interviewed toward the end of the event on Day 2, Smith reported that although the

hot weather did affect visitor attendance levels, he believed an estimated 800 people attended the fun-filled community event.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Craig Moran: Spaced Out. Through May 29 at GRACE at Signature, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. A D.C.-based painter known for his boldly patterned canvases, Moran's newest body of work is a whirl-wind of exuberant colors and energetic shapes, evoking elements of the natural world and portraiture in a dynamic flattened space. Call 703-471-9242 or visit www.restonarts.org.

Twitterpated: Animated Adoration at ArtInsights. Through June 30 at ArtInsights, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. ArtInsights celebrates Devoted Couples of Disney, with images of Lady and Tramp, Pongo and Perdita, Mickey and Minnie, Thumper and Miss Bunny, Belle and The Beast, and more, including new releases by official Disney concept and production artists. Call 703-478-0778 or visit artinsights.com.

Reston Concerts on the Town. 7:30-10 p.m. Saturdays, June through August. At Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music genres from around the nation are performed by live bands each week. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets for seating. Free. Rain or shine. Alcohol permitted at restaurants only. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

Reston Farmers Market. Open Saturdays, through Dec. 1, 8 a.m.-noon at 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Fairfax County Park Authority markets are strictly producer-only meaning that vendors must grow or make from scratch everything they bring to market. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Homegrown Yoga. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Alison Adams is bringing Homegrown Yoga to ArtSpace Herndon. All levels welcome. Drop in and take a class. \$25 two week unlimited pass or drop-in available. Visit www.homegrownpoweryoga.com to sign up.

The Elden Street Tea Shop. Saturdays in ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Sip tea and enjoy a variety of locally made snacks and pastries while enjoying the latest art installations in the gallery. Visit www.eldenstreettea.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

“FIX,” an Original Work. 7 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Dodgeball Theatre's Teen Ensemble 18 presents: “Fix,” an original work. “FIX” considers the nature and intention of trying to fix the world around us and ultimately asks the question when is it enough? \$10, tickets available at the door. Visit www.dodgeballtheatre.com.

Encore Choral Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at United Christian Parish Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Combined Encore Chorales from Reston, Fairfax, and Lansdowne Woods sing music from Broadway, the Great American Songbook, and traditional Spirituals. Free. www.EncoreCreativity.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 18-20

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market



Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival takes place Friday-Sunday, May 18-20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Visit restonarts.org and click on “Festival.”

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival

The annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival returns for its 27th year with more than 200 artists from 35 states. Festival Friday kicks off the weekend of activity; and the Festival Party is on Saturday night. Free parking is available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of festival weekend. Friday-Sunday, May 18-20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Visit restonarts.org/fineartsfestival/.



PHOTO BY VHAO PHAM

Odette the Queen of the Swan Maidens is pleading with Prince Siegfied to not shoot her fellow Swans. Odette is Claire Trevithick.

Swan Lake

The Ravel Dance Studio will be performing Swan Lake. The Ravel Dance Studio is one of few schools in the area to produce such an elaborate production requiring 24 highly trained ballerinas to perform the roles of the entranced Swan Maidens. Eighty other ballerinas ages 8 and older will perform in Act III of the ballet. Friday, May 25, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 26, 2 p.m. at Center Stage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.\$25. Call 703-437-9664 or visit www.raveldance.com.

St., Reston. More than 200 artists will show off their works. Presented by GRACE - Greater Reston Arts Center. Admission \$5/adults. Free garage parking. Visit northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 19

Kids in the Park. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Claude Moore Recreation & Community Center, 46105 Loudoun Park Lane, Sterling; Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling; and Heritage Farm Museum, 21668 Heritage Farm Lane, Sterling. Celebrate National Kids to Park Day, a fun-filled day including a scavenger hunt at all three sites, farm tour, moonbounces, arts and crafts, games, food trucks and more. Free admission. Call 571-258-3600

SUNDAY/MAY 20

Red Shoe 5K Run & Walk. at Dulles Station in Herndon. The family-friendly event will feature a timed 5K course suited for both runners and walkers, and a Kid's Fun Run for kids 8 years and younger. Sponsored by Ronald McDonald House Charities. \$35 for Adult 5K registration, and \$25 for Kid's Fun Run (8 and under); \$40 day of. www.RedShoe5k.org.

Reston. The Reston Community classical hits including “Rhapsody in Blue” with pianist, Carlos Ibay, Haydn's “Cello Concerto #1” featuring Kurt Uowski. Table seating with refreshments available for a \$15 advance donation. Visit www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 22

INOVA Blood Drive. 1-6 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Schedule Bloodmobile appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood.

Healthy Diet Kickstart. 7-8:30 p.m. at GreenFare Organic Cafe, 408 Elden St., Herndon. Kickstart your Plant-Based Diet — explore the basics of a healthy diet and how to conquer your health issues with instructor, Pericles Silva. The 21-day kickstart includes meals to help you overcome obstacles to change. Class meets for four Tuesdays beginning Tuesday, May 22, 7-8:30 p.m. Call 703-689-0506 or visit GreenFare.com. Contact Gwyn Whittaker at gwyn@greenfare.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

DMV2Go. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go.

FRIDAY/MAY 25

Ballet: Swan Lake. 7:30 p.m. at Center Stage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Ravel Dance Studio will be performing Swan Lake. The Ravel Dance Studio is one of few schools in the area to produce such an elaborate production requiring 24 highly trained ballerinas to perform the roles of the entranced Swan Maidens. Eighty other ballerinas ages 8 and older will perform in Act III of the ballet. \$25. Call 703-437-9664 or visit www.raveldance.com.

Submission Deadline. The Reston Photographic Society, a special interest group of the League of Reston Artists, invites photographers to enter photographs in the RPS at Lake Anne show by May 25 through the web site. Entries will be judged and \$1,000 in prizes will be awarded at the reception on Sunday, June 3, from 2-4 p.m. at the gallery. The exhibit runs from May 29 through June 25 and is free and open to the public, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 10 a.m.-noon at Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Focus will be on garden diseases. Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

Myths & Monsters at the Museum. 11:30 a.m. at Reston Historic Trust & Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Meet the authors of Myths and Monsters of Reston Virginia: Field Guide. Get the scoop on Reston's supernatural secrets in a presentation by the authors at 11:30. Rock decorating and hiding starts at 12. All ages welcome. Free. Visit www.restonmuseum.org.

Ballet: Swan Lake. 2 p.m. at Center

Stage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Ravel Dance Studio will be performing Swan Lake. The Ravel Dance Studio is one of few schools in the area to produce such an elaborate production requiring 24 highly trained ballerinas to perform the roles of the entranced Swan Maidens. Eighty other ballerinas ages 8 and older will perform in Act III of the ballet. \$25. Call 703-437-9664 or visit www.raveldance.com.

Christian Perez Chamber Ensemble. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This project not only combines musicians of different backgrounds (classical, Bulgarian folk, Jazz, Tango, Bluegrass, Latin-american, etc.). The ensemble will perform original compositions and arrangements from Perez's first album “Anima Mundi” as well as newer compositions. Visit artspaceherndon.org.

Star-Spangled Salute. 7 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Presented by The Reston Chorale. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy patriotic music performed by The Reston Chorale along with Brass of the Potomac. Free. Donations of items for troop care packages are welcomed. Visit restonchorale.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 29

International News – Cross-Cultural Communications. 7-8:30 p.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, Meeting Room 2, 768 Center St., Herndon. Part of Hot Topics: News, Blues and How to Defuse. An interactive workshop on international news and dialogue skills. Guided by experts from GMU's School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and FCPL Librarians. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3971589.

THURSDAY/MAY 31-SUNDAY/JUNE 3

2018 Herndon Festival. The 38th annual Herndon Festival, a community-wide celebration in and around Herndon's Municipal Center complex and historic Town Hall Square. Will feature entertainment on three stages, a carnival, fireworks on Saturday, a Kids' Alley with children's hands-on art area, arts and crafts show, business expo, 10K/5K races and fitness expo, and a variety of food vendors. Free and open to the public, although there is a charge for some activities. Follow on Facebook.com/herndonfest and on Twitter @herndonfestival. Visit the website www.herndonfestival.net. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 703-787-7300 or visit herndon-va.gov/recreation.

SUNDAY/JUNE 24

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 4-6 p.m. at Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Focus will be on garden diseases. Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 4-6 p.m. at Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Focus will be on planning a fall vegetable garden. Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

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THEATER

NextStop Theatre Explores Family and Faith

Scorching comedy 'Bad Jews' from May 24 to June 17.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION



Sophie Schulman
portrays Daphna
in NextStop's
production of
"Bad Jews."



Noah Schaefer
portrays Liam in
NextStop's produc-
tion of "Bad Jews"

PHOTOS COURTESY NEXTSTOP THEATRE

Equally comically uproarious and verbally ferocious, Joshua Harmon's "Bad Jews" in an unflinching take on family fireworks. The production centers upon three twenty-something cousins in a high stakes clash over their faith, assimilation, even their romantic choices as they come to terms with the death of their Holocaust survivor beloved grandfather. And there is one heirloom he carried with him his entire life that becomes the epicenter of attention.

In selecting "Bad Jews," Evan Hoffmann, NextStop artistic director, said he "wanted to produce a play that explored big ideas and big pictures issues about faith and family dynamics. At its core 'Bad Jews' is about how people argue using what they know about each other as weapons against each other. And yet the family keeps together, even during tough times.

"In Joshua Harmon's heated 'Bad Jews' we have an amazing ensemble of local actors who portray three cousins engaged in verbal battles that must be seen to be believed," added Hoffmann.

Christina Alicea directs the

Where and When

NextStop Theatre presents "Bad Jews" at 269 Sunset Park Drive, (Inside the Sunset Business Park), Herndon. Performances: May 24 to June 17, 2018. Thursday at 8 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturdays May 26 at 7 p.m.; June 2 at 8 p.m.; June 9 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and June 16 at 8 p.m.; Sundays May 27 at 2 p.m.; June 3 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; June 10 at 2 p.m.; and June 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets: General Admission: \$35-\$60* (Ticket prices increase as performances get nearer and fill up.). Note: "Bad Jews" contains adult language that may not be suitable for all ages.

NextStop production of "Bad Jews." Originally from Northern Virginia and a graduate of George Mason University, Alicea is the Producing Artistic Director at Vermont Stage, a professional, year-round home for contemporary theater located in Burlington, Vt.

In a recent interview, Alicea said the play was "in her wheelhouse with a type of comedy that has something meaningful to say. It is a comedy that will start conversations as it explores family dynamics."

Alicea cast local actors "who would be verbal sparring partners; able to give as good as they got." The cast includes two central characters. There is Noah Schaefer, a veteran of Northern Virginia stages such as Tysons' 1st Stage, who plays a proudly secular Liam. Sophie Schulman portrays his par-

tisan, a more religious cousin, Daphna. Schulman is a veteran on Northern Virginia stages such as Fairfax's The Hub.

For Schaefer, his character Liam "wants to be heard. And for Liam, image is very important. How others perceive him has great significance to his being." For Schulman, the play and its characters "are truthful; as sharp, funny versions of real life and real people."

Others in the NextStop ensemble include Vitaly Mayes as Liam's brother and Elizabeth Vinarski as Liam's non-Jewish girlfriend.

For Hoffmann, "Bad Jews" is the capstone to a year-long commitment to provide distinctive perspectives on similar topics. In this case, what happens when good people express vastly divergent points of view."

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers Needed for Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. At Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Greater Reston Art Center's (GRACE's) largest annual fundraiser. Draws up to 30,000 visitors and there is free garage parking all weekend. Over 500 volunteers are needed. Volunteers perform a variety of roles including setting up with the logistics crew, welcoming and booth sitting for participating artists as part of the Artist Hospitality entourage, welcoming visitors and accepting donations for GRACE as a Festival Ambassador, or helping young artists with their creations in the Family Art Park. Visit restonarts.org/fineartsfestival.

The Herndon High School PTSA is in need of a treasurer, but anyone interested in serving on the board is welcome. The HHS PTSA works to provide connections between students, teacher and parents. They offer mini-grants to teachers, scholarships and achievement awards to students as well as appreciation events for staff. Email HerndonHSPTSA.Treasurer@gmail.com to learn more.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in six Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551- 2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children

who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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For more info: Janet.Giles@JobZoneOnline.com / 540-226-1473

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Employment

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Announcements

PEOPLE

Melissa Heifetz Named Executive Director of Congregation Beth Emeth

Congregation Beth Emeth (CBE) has announced the appointment of Melissa Heifetz as Executive Director, only the second individual to hold this title in the synagogue's 39-year history.

Her appointment comes as the current Executive Director, Linda Eisinger, retires after nearly 25 years of outstanding service. Heifetz begins her new role at CBE April 30.

"CBE is a thriving Jewish congregation in western Fairfax County, which needs an executive director prepared to help us move into our future," said CBE President Marty Zelman. "Our senior leadership and members of the search committee were unanimous in the choice of Melissa Heifetz, who will bring fresh ideas, a new perspective, solid experience, and an understanding of our unique and vibrant community to her new role."

"I am thrilled to take up this new challenge, which combines my non-profit management experience with my interest in maintaining and growing the vi-



Melissa Heifetz

tal Jewish community in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties," said Heifetz. "I am especially excited to serve a congregation with such a warm and welcoming atmosphere."

Heifetz has been a member of the CBE community for nearly a dozen years, and has had a long career in the nonprofit sector. Most recently, she was Executive Director of The Arc of Loudoun at Paxton Campus, where she was named the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce 2018 Non-Profit Executive Leader of the Year.

ABOUT: Congregation Beth

Emeth is a welcoming, egalitarian Conservative Jewish Congregation located at 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon, serving Western Fairfax and Eastern Loudoun counties in Northern Virginia. With nearly 400 families, Congregation Beth Emeth is "just the right-size" — large enough to meet the spiritual, educational, and social needs of members while preserving the warmth of a close-knit community. To learn more, visit bethemeth.org.

Dispose of Old Medications

By **MERCIA HOBSON**
THE CONNECTION

While drug disposal programs are commonly offered at cities and towns across the nation multiple times a year, here in Herndon, there is no need to wait for a special collection day. CVS Health launched its CVS/pharmacy Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Program through a grant initiative in which the company distributed drug collection bins to police departments and municipalities so they could set up local drug disposal programs. One of the CVS Health drug disposal bins is located in the parking lot of the Herndon Police Station located at 397 Herndon Parkway, Suite 300.

If drugs are flushed down the toilet or through the sink, most of the chemicals pass through local treatment plants or septic systems and can end up in nearby streams and rivers.

According to CVS Health, their specialized drug disposal units meet federal requirements to collect and securely store prescription medications, including those considered "controlled substances," drugs that have the potential for abuse or dependence and are highly regulated by law enforcement agencies.

Eileen Howard Boone, the CVS/pharmacy senior vice president of corporate social responsibility and philanthropy, stated, "The first 100 bins collected nearly 6,500 pounds of old medications in their first six months of use." The goal of the initiative, Boone said, is to award 1,000 drug collection bins to local governments across the U.S.

Ten to thirty percent of all prescription and over-



In the parking lot of the Herndon Police department sits a drug collection bin by CVS Health. It serves as an environmentally and socially responsible drug disposal site, easily accessible to the public.

the-counter drugs sold are left unconsumed, according to a State of Washington report, and all those leftover medications pose significant risks to public health and the environment.

If unused medications are stored in the medicine cabinet, this can lead to possible drug misuse and abuse.

A 2018 study by the Washington State Department of Health, cited home medicine cabinets have become the new drug dealer. Over half of teens abusing medicines get them from a family member or friend, often without their knowledge.

Based on data available for analysis on April 3, 2018, the National Center for Health Statistics disclosed the results of a 12 month-provisional count of drug overdose deaths in Virginia. Findings revealed a continuous upswing in reported deaths for the

last few years. For the 12 month period ending September 2015, there were 1,009 counts of drug overdose deaths, September 2016, 1,260, and in 2017, 1,431 deaths noting 2017's number is likely underreported due to incomplete data. Comparing the number of deaths by overdose to highway fatalities, the Virginia Highway Safety Office reported in their 2017 Virginia Traffic Crash Facts, 843 persons died in single and multi-vehicle crashes. This number is slightly more than half the number of individuals who died in Virginia during the same period from drug overdoses.

The CVS Drug Disposal bin is located directly in front of the Herndon Police Station. It's open to the public 24 hours a day.

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 9

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/MAY 17

Community Food Packing. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, invites community members to help pack food for its Weekend Food for Kids program. This critical program provides nonperishable food over the weekend to children who receive free or reduced-price meals. Arrive at 9:30 if you would like to help with setup. Free. Email LynnB517@verizon.net or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

RSVP Northern Virginia Orientation. 10:30 a.m. at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. RSVP Northern Virginia will hold an orientation for prospective volunteers. RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older and provides individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities. The event is free and open to the public. Sign up by email at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-403-5360. Visit www.rsvpnova.org.

SATURDAY-TUESDAY/MAY 19-22

Registration System Update. The Fairfax County Park Authority is switching to an updated registration system later this month. As the switch is being made, park customers will not be able to complete any member-based transactions; these include registering for classes or camps or purchasing passes or memberships. However, park visitors can buy a ticket for a spin on a carousel, rent a boat or pay daily admission fees at RECenters. Call 703-222-4664 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

THROUGH MAY 20

NVTA Candidate Projects. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority has released 60 candidate projects and related information for its inaugural FY 2018-2023 Six Year Program for public comment. The Authority invites the public to learn more about and comment on the candidate projects under consideration for funding. A detailed project list, project description forms, maps and technical analyses are available at www.TheNoVaAuthority.org and at the NVTA offices (3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax), on weekdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. E-mail: TheAuthority@TheNoVaAuthority.org; phone: 703-642-4652 Visit www.TheNoVaAuthority.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 20

Community Screening. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at North County Governmental Center Community Room (across from Reston Regional Library), 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. A community screening of "How to Die in Oregon" (abridged version), followed by a discussion of End-of-Life options, including Medical Aid-in-Dying. Free. RSVP to compassionchoicesva@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 22

Networking Night. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. Join the Reston Chamber of Commerce for their monthly network night. They will also be announcing their ACE Nominees. \$20 for members; \$30 for future members/guests. Additional \$10 fee at the door. Visit www.restonchamber.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 23

Proposed Zoning Changes Community Meetings. 7-9 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. The Department of Planning and Zoning will hold provide information about upcoming Zoning Ordinance Amendments and staff will speak one-on-one about zoning issues. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/learn-about-proposed-zoning-changes-may-affect-your-neighborhood-2018-zoning-open-houses.

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Musing About Infusing

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Seven weeks between chemotherapy infusions; I could get used to this. Here I am sitting and writing on Wednesday, May 9 and my next scheduled infusion isn't until Friday, June 1. That's another three-plus weeks. It's a "staycation," of sorts, meaning: I'm not going anywhere, but due to the new extended chemotherapy infusion interval – from six weeks to seven, I don't have to.

Though it's hardly an ideal vacation – either staying or going – for a cancer patient still undergoing treatment, not having to go the Infusion Center is about as good as it gets. What's even better is receiving scan results (which at present are still scheduled quarterly) which show "stable," "shrinkage," or even "N.E.D.," which means "no evidence of disease" (I'm "stable"). All of which I can live with. Despite ending that last sentence with a preposition.

With respect to "N.E.D.," unfortunately, being asymptomatic as I generally am – and mostly have been, is not necessarily an indicator that all is well.

Neither do symptoms always confirm "progression" (medical jargon for growth and/or movement). Sometimes the pain is scar tissue. Other times it's a side effect of the medicine you've been infusing or the pill you've been swallowing. (Presently, there are targeted treatment options which enable patients to take pills at home, tarceva being one example. Which if I may quote the late Maurice Chevalier singing in "Gigi:" "I remember it well" from the 11 months a few years ago when I didn't have to commute to the infusion center.)

Throw in the occasional phone appointment I've had with my oncologist, post-scan, when he and I both know – per an email he usually sends, that the results continue to show "stable," and when an in-office examination is likely not to "present" (more medical jargon; this one meaning, show) any contradictory findings and I've definitely had my moments of relative/comparative calm. Moments which, when they do occur, need to be cherished because, in the terminal cancer world, the news is not always good.

And since you have to take the good with the bad, with minimal control over both – acknowledging the good and not giving into the bad, become your stock and trade. It's easy, maybe even inevitable that a cancer patient will get overwhelmed by his or her circumstances so finding a way to navigate the slings and arrows of the outrageous misfortune which has befallen you is more than crucial; it's life sustaining.

Practically speaking though, how does one absorb the news and subsequent reality of a cancer diagnosis? What word I used to describe what I felt and heard at the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist when he told me I had a "terminal" form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, was "surreal."

It's a word I've heard many other cancer patients use when describing the moment when they first heard their devastating news. At that ground-zero moment, the words "non-small cell lung cancer," at least for me, were almost incomprehensible, especially if there's no cancer history in your immediate family (which was true for me). I mean, I understood him well enough, I just didn't process the information.

Similar to when I received a call at work, from my internal medicine doctor, a few days after my biopsy (and a week or so before meeting my oncologist), advising me of the results. He asked me if I wanted to meet him at his office (that can't be good I thought – and it wasn't). I said, "No. Just tell me" And so he did.

He told me that they found tumors in my lungs which were malignant. My knee-jerk reaction? "What does that mean?" Upon hearing that kind of news/maybe just that word, "malignant," you sort of lose control of your faculties. (At least I did.)

Thinking straight? Hardly. You're thinking crooked. But as time goes by and you somehow begin to assimilate/compartamentalize your diagnosis/prognosis, it becomes quite clear: anything you can do to bring some normalcy into your life is a win-win for you and a lose-lose for cancer.

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

OPINION

Decision Slows Transportation Progress

BY JEFFREY C. MCKAY
LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



COMMENTARY

Frustrating. Exasperating. Maddening. Irritating. Anyone who regularly drives in Northern Virginia is familiar with these feelings, because we all spend time sitting in traffic, staring at miles of brake lights in front of us.

One way we overcome these congestion problems is through funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVT), a state agency that has awarded \$990 million to transportation projects all over the region.

After years of underfunding by the Commonwealth led to crippling traffic and insufficient maintenance, the 2013 Virginia General Assembly and then Governor McDonnell thankfully reached an agreement to significantly

increase funding for transportation, particularly in Northern Virginia, through this new pot of funds. It has been tremendously successful.

This year, attention was focused on the needs of Metro — a vital component in our transportation network and the Commonwealth's economy. While the Commonwealth provides significant aid, it is important to note that the local jurisdictions in Virginia that have been responsible for funding Metro since its inception — over half a billion dollars has been provided through local and regional revenue sources in the last five years alone.

Unfortunately, Speaker Kirk Cox and Del. Tim Hugo blocked Gov. Ralph Northam's plan

to provide new revenues for Metro (through small increases in taxes on hotel stays and property sales), which resulted

from discussions with a bipartisan coalition of businesses, local governments, transportation advocates, and legislators — instead, they forced the adoption a plan that diverts more than \$100 million per year from existing road and transit projects funded by the transportation revenues enacted in 2013.

Our region's transportation needs are still sizable, as evidenced by the fact that NVT received \$2.5 billion in project requests over the next six years, though it only has approximately \$1.25 billion available to

distribute. As a result, many projects that would alleviate congestion and improve mobility will likely be delayed, deferred, or never built — a regrettable outcome that could have been avoided. We should not be addressing one transportation need at the expense of others.

The Quest for Education

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



COMMENTARY

I can remember the conversation almost word for word even though it occurred decades ago. The counselor in my high school asked me to come to her office, and there she told me it was time for me to start preparing applications to go to college. I was about to fall out of my chair. I explained to her that no one in my family had ever been to college, and there was no way that I could go. Most of my family had never finished high school. She told me that lots of people are the first in their families to go to college and that I could be such a person. I did not know what to answer; it was such a new idea that she proposed to me.

Secretly inside she had set ablaze in me a fire that would never go out. The excitement of the idea that I could go to college and learn about so many new things of which I had been curious was more than I could contain. I was

skeptical, however, and I did not go to college the first year out of high school. The next year with lots of fear and trepidation I did start my education at a higher level, and I never have stopped. From my Bachelor of Arts at Old Dominion College, now University,

to my master's in education at the University of Virginia to a thirty-year career with Fairfax County Public Schools, to the Plum Center for Lifelong Learning being named in my honor, to my teaching at George Mason University's Osher Lifelong Institute, education both formal and informal has been a fundamental part of who I am. I can still feel the excitement that I have had in being a part of so many different educational experiences.

All these reminiscences about my educational background came back last week as my grandson received his MBA from Virginia Tech. Growing up in a family where the high-

est educational achievement was a brother who graduated from high school, I now live in a family where I, my wife and our children and grandchildren have among us 14 college degrees with six of those degrees being beyond the bachelor's level. I am honored to represent a district with constituents who are among the very best educated in the state.

Needless to say, education is among the highest priorities I have as a legislator. I want all students to have access to educational programs that will help them realize their highest potential. Fundamental to me is that our educational system leave all students with a quest for knowledge and the appropriate tools with which to pursue their interests. We cannot afford to have students not like school, nor can we ignore the fact that learning is a lifelong adventure. We have the institutions and the resources to make education at higher levels the best in the Nation. Virginia needs to join the states that are making community colleges free. Can we afford it? The answer is simply that we cannot afford not to!

Send Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, and once again this newspaper will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, we put out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 12.

You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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1606 King St.
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Call: 703-917-6444.

By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com
Upload: www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/

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