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Legalizing Short-Term Rentals

By KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth experienced a short-term rental operating illegally in her neighborhood. "I have the distinction, perhaps dubious, of being the board member with an Airbnb situation a half block from my house," said Smyth.

"So I've seen the operation of it. It has not been a happy situation, it's been a disruption for the neighbors, and it's been difficult," she said.

Smyth was one of three supervisors to vote against the short-term lodging regulations that passed the board on Tuesday, July 31, to go into effect on Oct. 1.

"If we had required that the host be present during the short-term lodging contract period, I think I could have gone along with it, because the host is the neighbor and that's the person the neighbors would know," she said. "But because we are not doing that I really still have major reservations because of experience."

"I cannot support it," Smyth said.

Despite the estimated 1,500 short-term rentals operating in the county to date, the county has only received 80 complaints about short-term lodgings, according to county documents.

"I do believe that owner operators, where they are not present during the rental, where the home isn't the owner's residence, are really operating a business in our neighborhoods," said Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity. "And it does change the residential character of our neighborhoods, and I've always supported protecting those neighborhoods," he said, during the board's meeting Tuesday.

"But I am concerned, on the other side, that we lose tourism benefits, that this really is like Uber and Lyft, part of the new economy. It is something done across the country," Herrity said.

Herrity, who represented the second vote against the short-term lodging plan, asked the board on July 31 to take more time to study the "complexity of the issues."

"I think there's good reason that the General Assembly took two years to address it," he said.

Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook was the final vote against the plan.

"I share some of Supervisor Smyth's overall concern with the concept, but I also recognize that we have to be responsive to a changing economy," Cook said.

"To me, the way to address the impacts on the surrounding community are to enforce existing law," he said. "We have a zoning ordinance and we have it for a reason."

"Occupancy limits are designed to make sure our homes don't overwhelm the area," said Cook.

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, county planning commissioners, planning staff and Board of Supervisors have been interacting with county residents about regulating rent-



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Possible listings through short-term rental sites, including Burke and Fairfax near George Mason.

als such as those advertised on Airbnb, VRBO and FlipKey.

Interest has been high.

More than 7,500 people took part in an online survey. Hundreds of people attended dozens of public meetings. More than 45 people signed up to speak at the Board of Supervisors public hearing on the topic on July 10, 2018, cumulatively speaking for hours. The public hearing before the Planning Commission in May lasted more than four hours.

"I am fortunate that the McLean Citizens Association, they represent 60,000 residents in my district, took this very seriously," said Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust.

"And they recognize that this is going to be a balancing act, they identified the advantages, additional income for the homeowners, making homes more affordable, providing a cheaper alternative to hotels, and providing an opportunity to meet people from other states and countries," said Foust.

"They warn that there are concerns that they wanted raised. And one was the impact on the character of the neighborhood, very legitimate, introduction of commercial uses in a residential area, parking and traffic on local streets, safety and security, noise and trash, impact on homeowner association and condo agreements, and enforceability," he said.

Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith, as chairman of Development Process Committee, spearheaded the board's efforts to finalize regulations to be passed.

"We've been at this for a long time. The General Assembly took a couple of years to come up with the code allowing us to do this," said Smith.

"In reflecting, we're really here because people change how they do things, we've developed a sharing economy, we have shared rides, we have this with the housing," said Smith. "And sometimes local government is a little bit behind the changes."

SURVEY RESPONSES revealed that 82

New regulations will permit homeowners to rent out homes up to 60 days a year.

following requirements:

- ❖ Owners or renters must be permanent residents of the property they offer for short-term lodging
- ❖ Properties may be rented for no more than 60 days per calendar year.
- ❖ Lodgers will be limited to six adults, all be associated with the same rental contract
- ❖ Only one contract per night is allowed
- ❖ Operators must identify an authorized agent, not including themselves, who will be available in to address problems that arise while a property is being rented.
- ❖ There must be one designated parking space available for lodgers.
- ❖ Postings must include the short-term lodging permit number
- ❖ Postings must identify the location of the required parking space
- ❖ Properties may not be rented for events or commercial purposes like parties, weddings or fundraisers.
- ❖ Properties must be made available for inspection by county code enforcement inspectors upon request, and comply with state building safety rules
- ❖ Two-year permit will cost \$200
- ❖ Operators must pay transient occupancy taxes
- ❖ Homeowners associations and community associations can still prohibit short-term lodgings within their subdivision or development

MOUNT VERNON District Supervisor Daniel Storck identified short-term rentals as entrepreneurship.

"This is the new economy, this is entrepreneurship, this is exactly what it is. You're always kind of skating near the edges of what's legal or not legal, what the rules are or not the rules, because that's part of what creates change in society," said Storck.

"We're here, and now we have to address it. As an entrepreneur I don't want to shut it down but at the same time, I have a lot of concerns," he said.

Chairman Sharon Bulova said the board's decision "was not an easy one."

"Short-term lodging, while people have been doing that sort of thing over the years, it hasn't really had a name and hasn't been something that's been recognized in our zoning ordinance. But it's becoming something that is popular and that people are doing," Bulova said during the meeting. "Without any kind of regulation or oversight I feel that we could be interfering with the quiet enjoyment of people's neighborhoods and homes."

"There were many factors to consider and various ways the county could go about regulating or restricting. Through today's decision, the Board of Supervisors aimed to strike the right balance between allowing short-term rentals to operate in Fairfax County under certain circumstances, while protecting the character and quiet enjoyment of residential neighborhoods in Fairfax County," she said.

NEWS

BURKE CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC
703-778-9414 OR SOUTH@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



About 100 people attended the National Night Out held at Burke Cove Condominium Association in Burke Centre on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The band Rough Draught performs.

Burke Neighborhoods Join National Night Out

Burke Cove and Woodwalk Condos hold joint community celebration.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

About 100 people attended a National Night Out celebration at the Burke Cove Condominium Community, a garden community with shady trees, trails and a lake. The event was jointly sponsored by the neighboring Woodwalk Condominium in Burke Centre and featured ice cream and music by the band Rough Draught.

National Night Out is a community and police awareness-raising event held throughout the country on the first Tuesday of August. It helps to increase awareness about police programs in communities, such as drug prevention, town watch, neighborhood watch, and anti-crime efforts.

"It's a great night to be out in the community; this is about celebrating what community is, people coming together celebrating law enforcement, [and] most importantly the partnership that our communities have with law enforcement. We are the safest jurisdiction of our size in the country because we have the best police and the best citizens, and that's a partnership that you

just can't beat," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock District)

"I love National Night Out; it's one of my favorite nights of the year. It's a great community event. It's great to see the kids out enjoying themselves and it's what Fairfax County is all about and one of the main reasons most of us moved here – for the sense of community and the safe neighborhoods," said Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) who was dropping by eight National Night Out events in the 41st District.

According to Rami Lajin, Burke Cove Community Association Manager: "Burke Cove Condominium is a 448-condominium association. There are 46 buildings that sit on 44 acres of land. There are a lot of trees around the community so it's very private but it's also a quiet community. There are people from all generations with some of the owners who bought back in the 1980s, so it's a community that welcomes all generations. We are part of Burke Centre Conservancy so we can have access to the pools, tennis courts. It's within walking proximity to shopping, the VRE, we have a lot of retired and young professionals who commute to D.C."

Kevin Morse, President of the Woodwalk Condominium and Lord Fairfax for the Braddock District, 2017-18, added: "Woodwalk is a 186-townhouse-style condominium association. It's rather unique in its piggy-back construction; for every one,

two-bedroom lower unit, it has two upper three-bedroom units. What we lack in interior space we try to make up with beautiful landscaped grounds. We have a large open Common, which I think our members enjoy very much. We have a pathway directly down to the Burke Centre VRE, walking distance to Walmart across the street and Giant Shopping Center."



Some of the guests at the National Night Out celebration at the Burke Cove Condo Association held in Burke Centre on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018. Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) are pictured.



Tempie Tavenner, Leah Harper and Debbie Andrews at the Ice Cream station.



Lt. Andrew Wehrlein of the Fairfax County Police Department chats with Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41).

OPINION

An Open Letter to Readers and More

Buy an ad in our annual Newcomers and Community Guide, please.

Adapted from a 2016 editorial ...

Has your organization been featured in the Connection Newspapers, or the Alexandria Gazette Packet or the Mount Vernon Gazette or the Centre View or the Potomac Almanac?

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Our annual Newcomers and Community Guide is a pullout section that will appear in the Aug. 22, 2018 edition of all 15 Connection Newspapers, published by Local Media Connection. Deadline is Aug. 16.

We are striving to create a quality special issue, and we need your help. Whether you invest in a small ad in a single paper (super af-

EDITORIAL

fordable), or a full page in all 15 of our papers (super value), we appreciate your help this month.

To put on my publisher's hat (and not my editor's hat) for a minute, if you have a marketing budget, and you value coverage of local newspapers (not just ours), why wouldn't you spend a portion of that budget (any portion) supporting that platform? Heed the cautionary tale in the closures of many newspapers in the last couple of years.

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The deadline for the Newcomers and Community Guide is Aug. 17. Digital enhancements and support are available. Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431 for more information.

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Back to School Safety Tips

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT



COMMENTARY

The sleepy days of summer are coming to an end. In a few weeks children will don their backpacks and step into yellow buses when the Fairfax County Public Schools start on Aug. 28. Back to School season is a hectic time for many Fairfax families. This increase in activity means we all must take extra precautions to keep our children and neighbors safe, especially on the road.

Our entire community should be aware during the morning and afternoon school commutes. This time of day will bring a flurry of buses, car pools, cyclists and pedestrians all across the county. Morning commutes will be more crowded as more than 1,700 school buses get back on the road. Drivers should leave a few minutes earlier to allow for more time in their commute.

School buses carry thousands of children to school and back every morning and afternoon. Please respect their important role in our community. When a school bus is stopped with red flashing lights, all cars must stop unless they

are in another lane divided by a median. So if you are traveling in a two lane roadway that has no median, all cars going both directions have to stop when the bus is loading or unloading. The same goes for a two lane roadway with a center turn lane and a four lane roadway without a median separation. The only time you can continue driving when a bus is stopped is if you are driving on the other side of the median.

It is important to also keep in mind that many children will be walking to school and to neighborhood bus stops. Make sure to yield to children crossing the streets, especially near schools. Look out for crossing guards and follow their instructions. Keep your car off the cross walk when stopped. Be prepared to stop for children who may make unexpected movements into roadways. And finally, follow the school zone speed limits when the signs are flashing. Most school zones have a 25 mph speed limit, but they may vary.

Parents, please remind your children about street, pedestrian, and bus safety. Try to get to the bus stop early so no one gets hurt while rushing to catch the bus. If you are crossing a

roadway, make sure that cars are stopped in both directions before crossing. Teach them to use designated crosswalks if they are available and only approach the bus once it has come to a full stop. If you have young drivers in the family, take time to review the rules about school zones and school buses.

Every Fairfax County child has the right to an education. We all must work together to protect that right by making sure students travel safely to and from school. Please help us keep Fairfax County students safe this year.

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:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

NEWS

Jennifer Jacobs Presents Connect Our Kids at the Rotary Club of Springfield

Jennifer Jacobs USMA 1993 (Physics), UNM PhD (Nuclear Engineering), former White House fellow, Co-Founder & CEO of Connect Our Kids, presented a program at a recent Rotary Club of Springfield meeting, describing how technology assists in finding extended families for foster children.

Connect Our Kids is located in Falls Church. For more on Connect Our Kids, see

URL: <https://www.connectourkids.org/>
and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/connectourkids/>

E. Sean Lanier, President of the Rotary Club of Springfield, presents a certificate which denotes a book given to the Library at Garfield Elementary School, to Jennifer Jacobs, Co-Founder & CEO of Connect Our Kids.



PHOTO COURTESY OF G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III



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Youth-led Protest at NRA Draws Hundreds

Expertise plus traction equals movement for change.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of activists gathered Saturday for three hours at 11250 Waples Mill Rd. in Fairfax to protest gun violence at a youth-led rally called March on NRA.

The event was held on the birthday of Joachim Oliver, a student who was fatally shot on Valentine's Day earlier this year at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Seventeen people lost their lives to a gunman too young to buy beer yet old enough to buy an AR-15 assault rifle he purchased legally last year, according to police reports of the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

Oliver would have turned 18 on Aug. 4 and be old enough to vote on Election Day 2018. A graffiti mural was spray painted Saturday afternoon in his honor and participants wrote their names and messages on the wall. Around 1:30 p.m., a crowd sang "Happy Birthday" and cake was served to protesters.

HIS PARENTS, Patricia and Manuel Oliver, stood in front of the newly-painted mural in their son's honor with another grieving Marjory Stoneman Douglas parent, Fred Guttenberg, the father of 14-year-old Jaime Guttenberg.

Also at the rally: Anna Gonzalez and David Hogg, who survived the Parkland Shooting then turned their anger into action as founding members of Never Again MSD. Their speeches, and 6 minutes and 20 seconds of silence last spring at the March for Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C., moved people from all walks of life to join the hurting teenagers in a nationwide movement for change.

Alex Heckel, 13, his mother Andrea Heckel and younger brother Matthew Heckel, 10, of Alexandria listened to speeches Aug. 4 near the same spot where Matthew Heckel spoke against gun violence at another youth-led NRA protest April 14. Both boys will attend George Washington Middle School in the City of Alexandria, where a student resource officer accidentally discharged his firearm March 13. Alex Heckel said the SRO, who is on administrative leave without pay, is well-liked by students. Alex Heckel believes the incident was an honest mistake. "Every kid forgives you at the school," he said, "and wants you to come back."

Falls Church activist Kris Gregory of the Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence is no stranger to the sidewalk along Waples Mill Road between the north and south entrances to the NRA parking lot. Each month since the Dec. 14, 2012 killing of 20 school



Fairfax resident Ashleigh Conrad, 28, center, holds a protest sign she made for the March on NRA rally Saturday at the National Rifle Association headquarters in Fairfax at 11250 Waples Mill Rd. Conrad believes the NRA is not a non-profit but a lobbying firm "and Congress should revoke their tax-exemption status," she says Aug. 4

PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION



From left: South Florida residents Fred Guttenberg, and Patricia and Manuel Oliver support each other Saturday afternoon at the March on NRA protest in Fairfax. Guttenberg lost his 14-year-old daughter Jaime Guttenberg, to a mass shooter Valentine's Day at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. — where the Oliver's son, Joachim Oliver, also was killed. Aug. 4 would have been Joachim's 18th birthday and his life was celebrated with song, cake and a graffiti wall spray painted during the rally with his image and the message: "We demand to blow out our candles."

children and six adults inside the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., Gregory and other grassroots activists in Northern Virginia have organized a small protest at the NRA in which participants stand along the walkway and hold up signs that decry gun violence and the nation's largest gun rights lobby.

For more than five years, this alliance has worked with elected officials to introduce what they call "common sense" firearm safety bills — which eventually are killed by majority lawmakers both in the Virginia General Assembly and Congress.

"We're all poised to attack," says Carol P. Luten of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence a few days before a student-led protest at the NRA April 14. At the time, she and fellow activists were awestruck by a new citizens' group mad as hell by gun violence: Teenagers. They sprang into action with national student walkouts and the March for Our Lives rally with sister protests across the country.

"Oh my gosh, this is what's going to push

it over," Luten realized last spring.

Teenagers sparked a movement and have been taking their message all over America, with support from other newly-formed student groups — like March for NRA — who are eager to help them change laws that prevent future deaths to gun violence.

"It's a symbiotic relationship in which we have the expertise and they have the traction," states Luten, who believes the preparation of her group and others before hers — like the Brady Campaign To Prevent Gun Violence — is key in their hope for change.

Gregory appreciated the size and diversity of the crowd Aug. 4 March on NRA. She said the protest was wonderful.

"We need everybody involved," she said Saturday afternoon.

Although student organizers anticipated at least 2,000 participants, about a thousand showed up on this hot and humid Saturday afternoon, which offered protesters lots of sun. And sunflowers.

According to organizers, one of the last things Joachim Oliver did for his girlfriend, Tori Gonzalez, was buy her sunflowers. Bouquets decorated the street and organizers handed out sunflowers, bottled water and ice cream to participants as they listened to speeches, cooled off beneath shade trees along the sidewalk or engaged in a heated exchange of words with nearly 50 counter-protesters cordoned off on the north side of Waples Mill Road at the Interstate 66 overpass.

COUNTER PROTESTERS were displeased they weren't allowed to stand along Waples Mill Road in front of the NRA office building during the rally. Paul Brockman, 50, of Annapolis of the gun rights group The Patriot Picket believes it's their right to protest under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

"We're just here to support the NRA and the Second Amendment," he said before the rally started.

A buffer zone set up and monitored by the Fairfax County Police Department at the north end of the NRA parking lot kept both groups separate but within shouting distance.

"I think the police did exactly the right thing," says U.S. Rep. Gerry E. Connolly (D-11), who attended the rally Saturday. He believes we learned the hard way last year in Charlottesville, Va., what happens when law enforcement officers stay on the sidelines and are not actively involved in crowd control.

"We don't want that in Fairfax County," said the Congressman, who is running for his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives against Republican challenger Jeff A. Dove Jr. and Libertarian candidate Stevan M. Porter.

"Today is my son's birthday," said Patricia Oliver. In lieu of discussion about political issues, the grieving mother just wants to give her son "love, justice and tolerance." And sunflowers.

"We are here for a reason," she adds, "to make a change."



A buffer zone across Waples Mill Road in Fairfax keeps nearly 50 gun rights proponents in a state with open carry handgun laws from clashing with hundreds of participants at the March on NRA rally Aug. 4 in Fairfax. Both camps are within shouting distance from each other on this hot summer day. Counter protesters use bull horns to provoke March on NRA activists, who argue with them. Fairfax County Police officers monitor this war of words.

Preparing for New School Year

Home organizing saves space and time.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The sight of store shelves overflowing with school glue sticks and crayons signals that the beginning of school is just around the corner. While squeezing in one last vacation, the thought of turning an eye to getting one's home in order before the school bell rings might be met with dread.

"It can feel like a daunting task to organize when artwork overflows from school or small trinkets come home from birthday parties, the end of summer is a great time to purge a lot of unnecessary items to make way for new school year ahead," said Allie Mann, designer-senior interiors specialist, Case Design/Remodeling. "And it's always a great time to donate gently used items as well."

"Especially now as families are preparing to get back to school, it's so important to get organized," added Anne M. Walker, Esq., Allied ASID, Owner + Principal Anne Walker Design LLC. "Nothing is more stressful than searching for something when you're already five minutes late, it's pouring down rain, it's picture day at school, and you have a big work meeting in 45 minutes."

Now that organization is often considered a part of interior design, the tools and hacks available are more stylish and innovative than ever, say local designers. "In a kitchen in Old Town, Alexandria I installed four shallow drawers underneath the countertop at the island — one for each family member," said Sarah Glenn, interior designer and project manager, Braswell Design+Build, Alexandria. "I designed the drawers to be just large enough to store school papers and a laptop so that each family member would have a dedicated temporary storage space without creating four individual junk drawers."

A Potomac, Md. family recently enlisted Walker's help in redesigning and reorganizing their home from top to bottom with an eye toward all things chic and stylish. She began in the bedrooms of the family's teenage daughter, creating custom closets.

"After the new closet was installed, I spent the better part of two days helping this teen fill the closet with all of her belongings, putting things where they were visible and readily accessible," she said. "Organization is important primarily because of the time it saves. If you can find what you need to get out the door right away, you can sleep 20 minutes later."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS
This kitchen by Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths features custom cabinets of painted Maplewood and quartz countertops. An abundance of drawer space helps with organization.



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Hooks for backpacks and jackets, like this one by Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling, are a must for an organized mudroom.

A similar closet was created for the family's middle school aged son. "Amazing how even young children can keep their rooms tidy as long as there's a system in place that they can understand and is practical enough for them to use," said Walker. "If you know exactly where all of your clothes are, and exactly where to put them back after laundering them, it will seem like you just won the lottery. You won't believe how many things you have, many of which have been long forgotten, stuffed in the back of some drawer or under the bed."

One of the most important tasks on Walker's agenda was organizing a large basement space with abundant shelving to create a home office. "In an office this size, children could easily use it for homework while the parent was working there, also," she said. "Sometimes it's calming and comforting just to be in the same space, even if you aren't actually helping the child with their work."

A home's mudroom is supposed to serve as a gateway into the main house, creating order and keeping clutter from overflowing into the home's interior, but often that isn't the case as clutter overtakes the space. In a recent mudroom project, Mann incorporated elements into the design that addressed the family's lifestyle. "Cubbies and bench storage for sports and after-school activities for older children are a must," she said. "If space allows, allocating a designated cubbie for each child is best to keep things separated and from getting lost."

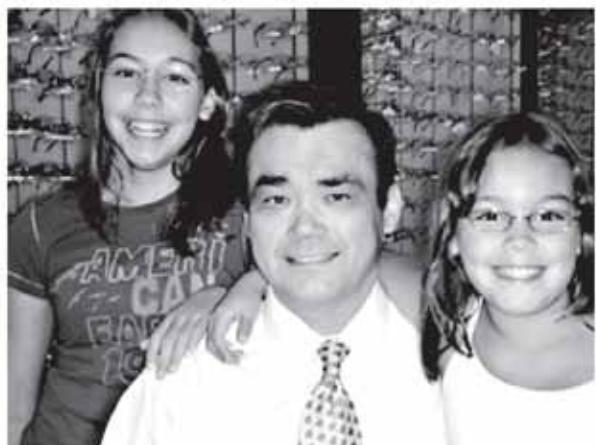
"With organization, you are constantly trying to strike a balance between carving out enough space for a specific function without over-organizing to the point that you lose flexibility to change what you store as your life evolves," added Glenn.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

Interior designer Anne Walker installed a custom closet by Capitol Closet Design in the bedroom of this Potomac, Md. home to create an organized space in time for school.

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NEWS



Turk Ozerol from "My Reptile Guys," displays a red eared slider for the group.



The Common Snapping Turtle can be found around here, the reptile guy says.

Reptiles from Near and Far Star in the Pohick Library Event

Snakes, lizards and turtles dominated the afternoon.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Petting "Flash," the albino Burmese Python was done with one finger, but it was still described as "soft," or "squishy," said sisters Harper and Jillian Gillespie, who were in the room at the Pohick Regional Library for the "My Reptile Guys" show, an afternoon event which featured snakes, lizards and turtles.

"It was my first snake to pet," added their friend Reagan Silver.

The girls were among a crowd of 6-12 year olds at the library to see Turk Ozerol handle the reptiles and discuss their habits and diets. First one to come out of plastic storage boxes was "Fred," the Bearded Dragon lizard, which one of the boys in the audience identified. "They all have names like we do," said Ozerol.

Included in the show was Sara the Red

Eared Slider turtle, Skippy the Black Rat Snake, Doodles the Ball Python, Little Hercules, the snapping turtle, and finally Flash. Ozerol intertwined lessons as he showed the reptiles, and even a little bit of environmental stewardship for the group. Doodles the Ball Python for example, was from West Africa but are now all over the Florida Everglades eating the alligators. Then there was Little Hercules, "he is like a vacuum cleaner of the pond," Ozerol said. One girl in the audience could relate, and saw some

of the same turtles at Burke Lake, she said.

The Bearded Dragon "eats a variety of roaches, crickets and various vegetables," said Ozerol. "In this air conditioned room, he gets cold." Skippy the Black Rat Snake "is actually our friend," he added, and that's because he is known to eat rodents. "He swallows it whole," he added, and that brought out the giggles whispering in the crowd.

The reptile show at the library was part of the summer schedule of events at all the libraries all over the county. Ozerol's stop at Pohick was his 20th library visit this summer.

Other entertainment events include puppet shows, painting lessons, dance, movies and more for county residents. A lively Jack Russell Terrier show at Pohick in June was a hit.

Fairfax County Library spokesperson Mary Mulrenan looks at the learning events in the libraries as a part of their programs. "Anything that gets the people into the libraries is an advantage," she said. Throughout the year, they have a "myriad of opportunities," she added.



Four adults, James Hedrick, Carol Herrity-Tun, Laura Migdal, Heidi Ramanata, made more than 100 dirty rice containers.



Four Boy Scouts of Troop 1131 make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches as adults Gary Klinger and Susan Hedrick pack other parts of the meals into bags. More than 100 PB&J sandwiches and cups of dirty rice were made for distribution in the Fairfax area.

Burke Scouts Make Meals for Feeding the Homeless

Boy Scouts and adults of Troop 1131 located at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Burke, worked for well over an hour to make sandwiches and dirty rice for meals for Feeding the Homeless, part of the FACETS program. After making and bagging the 100 plus meals, several vehicles delivered them to three locations in the Fairfax area.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III



Reagan Silver, left, with Jillian Gillespie, Lilly Silver and Harper Gillespie pose with "Flash," the albino Burmese Python and Turk Ozerol from "My Reptile Guys."



The parents with the cameras did not want to miss the moment.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

CAMP

Youth Arts Summer Camps.

At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Multiple sessions available for ages 3-17. Themes include Doodle Tots (ages 3-5), Visual Arts Explorers (ages 6-10), Fine Arts Innovators (ages 11-13), Summer Arts Intensive for Young Adults (ages 14-17), Short Film, and Game Design. New Music and Theatre Camps include Let's Play Guitar Camp, Vocal Arts Camp, Performing Arts Summer Camp Challenge, and Experimental Theatre Project Camp. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: Free Beer (and other lies).

Through Sept. 2, at Arches Gallery at Workhouse Arts Center, Building 9, 9518 Workhouse Way., Lorton. Featuring works by John Hartt, who is known for his quirky oil paintings which have been described as strangely comforting. His latest kooky collection, "Free Beer (and other lies)," explores some of the concepts and stories surrounding beer, drunkenness and lies as only Hartt can interpret them. Visit www.workhousearts.org. For more information about John Hartt, visit www.jortt.com.

The Sunday Farmers' Market.

Through Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit www.fairfaxesundaymarket.com.

Saturday Community Farmers' Market.

Through Oct. 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit www.fairfaxesaturdaymarket.com.

Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks.

THURSDAY/AUG. 9

Evenings on the Ellipse with Robin and Linda Williams.

5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Evenings on the Ellipse summer concert series is a family-friendly event featuring a wide range of musical genres. Paradise Springs Winery and The Winery at Bull Run will be providing complimentary tastings; glasses of wine and full bottles available for purchase. A Farmers Market (2:30-6:30 p.m.) will also be on site selling fresh fruit and savory snacks. Rain or shine. Free. Visit [fairfaxva.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/parks/performances).

Hometown Thursdays: Lesson Zero.

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Third Thursdays in May-September. The new series will host local bands from the Fairfax area. Meet up with friends, grab dinner at one of the many restaurants in downtown, and listen to great music. A free, family-friendly event for all ages. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/hometown-thursdays.

FRIDAY/AUG. 10

Burke Lake Golf Center Junior Club Championship.

8 a.m. at Burke Lake Golf Center, 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.



Fairfax Station Railroad Museum celebrates with First Responders Day.

First Responders Day

Volunteer Fire and Rescue personnel as well as Fairfax County Police Officers will bring emergency vehicles for display and offer hands-on activities to demonstrate the critical role played by modern day first responders. Civil War Re-enactors will help visitors learn about medical and relief practices then and now. Fairfax Station was the site of a massive relief effort during the Battles of Ox Hill and Second Manassas in August 1862. Sunday, Aug. 26, 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

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

Movies Under the Moon: Moana. 8 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a night under the stars in Van Dyck Park with family and friends with a movie for all ages to enjoy. Free admission, bring chairs and blankets.

SATURDAY/AUG. 11

Community Family Safety Day.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 11230 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. Sponsored by Jubilee Christian Center, Focus Family Martial Arts, and other local businesses and organizations. Free activities, including: inflatables, demonstrations on how to keep children safe, and sno-cones. Food vendors will be on-site. Call 703-383-1170 or visit www.jccag.org.

Opening Reception: Free Beer (and other lies).

6-9 p.m. at Arches Gallery at Workhouse Arts Center, Building 9, 9518 Workhouse Way., Lorton. Artist John Hartt is known for his quirky oil paintings which have been described as strangely comforting. His latest kooky collection, "Free Beer (and other lies)," explores some of the concepts and stories surrounding beer, drunkenness and lies as only Hartt can interpret them. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

www.workhousearts.org. For more information about John Hartt, visit www.jortt.com.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

MONDAY/AUG. 13

Donation Deadline. During bank hours at Sonabank, 10855 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax. Sonabank is collecting school supplies at all branches, including: notebook paper, three-ring binders, spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, No. 2 pencils, pencil pouches, colored pencils, calculators, crayons, pencil erasers, dry erase marker, glue sticks, bottle glue, pocket folders, three-prong folders, pocket dictionaries, markers, highlighters, rulers, tissues, hand sanitizers, copy paper, sticky notes, backpacks and blunt-end safety scissors. Visit www.sonabank.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 14

Farm to Fairfax Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market, will be producers-only – meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

Erin's Epic Stories.

10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square at the pergola, Tuesdays June-August. Weather permitting. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square.

Wagging Tails and Dogfish Ale.

11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. at Dogfish Head Alehouse, 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Dogfish

Head Alehouse will donate 15 percent of proceeds to Guiding Eyes for the Blind. There will also be a raffle and silent auction. Visit www.dogfishalehouse.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 15

Springfield Nights. 7 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring: Dr. FU (Rock/Cover Band). Bring a picnic dinner, blankets, your dog, and lawn chairs and relax with friends and family. Beer and food will be available for purchase. Call 703-451-8873.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/AUG. 15-16

Studio Ghibli: Howl's Moving Castle.

Wednesday, 7 p.m. (Japanese with English subtitles); Thursday, 11 a.m. (English dubbed) at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. The Angelika Mosaic will feature animated films from the celebrated Studio Ghibli praised for their originality, stunning animation, and ambitious storytelling. All tickets are regular admission. Visit www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 16

Evenings on the Ellipse with Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra.

5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Evenings on the Ellipse summer concert series is a family-friendly event featuring a wide range of musical genres. Paradise Springs Winery and The Winery at Bull Run will be providing complimentary tastings; glasses of wine and full bottles available for purchase. A Farmers Market (2:30-6:30 p.m.) will also be on site selling fresh fruit and savory snacks. Rain or shine. Free. Visit [fairfaxva.gov/government/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks/performances).

Aviation and World War II.

7-8:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. World War II marked a new era in aviation technology, weaponry and strategy. Christian Godart of the National Air and Space Museum's Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center will discuss the

important role aviation played in the Battle of Britain. Intended audience: adults and teens. Free. Call Kings Park Library Information at 703-978-5600 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3545032.

FRIDAY/AUG. 17

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

SATURDAY/AUG. 18

The Holy Yoga Experience. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The half-day event includes Holy Yoga practice, instruction, Bible study, worship and fellowship. It's an opportunity for people of all levels of yoga experience to engage with the local Holy Yoga community. \$15. Call 571-239-3416 or visit www.holyyoga.net.

Pet Adoption Event. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

SUNDAY/AUG. 19

Table Top N Gauge Model Train Display. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Table Top N Gauge Model Trains (TTRAK) will be on display and running. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/AUG. 21

Farm to Fairfax Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market, will be producers-only – meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

Erin's Epic Stories. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square at the pergola, Tuesdays June-August. Weather permitting. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square.

Burke Lake 4.5 Mile Race. 6:45-8 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Chip-timed 4.5 mile race around beautiful Burke Lake. Sponsored by D.C. Road Runners, this race will have awards and refreshments at the post-race celebration. \$10 in advance; \$15 on-site registration. Visit www.dcroadrunners.org/sign-up/thurston for more information.

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NEWS

Celebrating Farmers Markets

National Farmers Market Week highlights benefits of supporting local farmers.

By CARLYN KRANKING
THE CONNECTION

Eight-year-old Jelp Shinholster spun a "quiz wheel" Sunday at the Lorton farmers market and watched in anticipation as it determined which category of question or riddle he would have to answer. Shinholster was one of many kids who earned prizes for correctly answering questions in an educational challenge as part of National Farmers Market Week.

"Where do eggs come from? I bet if you asked a lot of kids they wouldn't know, other than the refrigerated section of the grocery store," Master Food Volunteer Mike Perel said.

This week, seven markets celebrate National Farmers Market Week with activities for kids, games, free raffles and healthy cooking demonstrations. The event is meant to bring awareness to farmers markets and spread information about their importance.

According to Fairfax County Farmers Market Coordinator Chelsea Roseberry, these markets help support the local economy by providing farmers with an outlet for sales. Buying local also helps to reduce shoppers' carbon footprints, since the produce doesn't have to travel far to get to market.

Along with these benefits, one factor that draws a lot of people to shop at farmers markets is the high quality of produce sold there.

"The food here is so much fresher," Roseberry said. "It's so pretty and vibrant, and it smells the way food is supposed to smell – the tomato has that dirt smell – and with that also comes nutrition."

To emphasize nutrition, the markets have healthy cooking demonstrations as part of National Farmers Market Week. At the Lorton market on Sunday, intern Diana Lemus taught customers how to prolong the shelf life of produce and handed out samples of salsa made with market tomatoes.

As customers shop, they are able to speak directly with the farmers and ask questions about how the food is produced, which can't be done at a grocery store.

"I love the community the farmers market has," said Fairfax County Farmers Markets Program Assistant Hala Elbarmil. "If you don't shop there for a while, the farmers will ask about you."

In this way, farmers markets provide a personal connection between the buyer and the seller. National



PHOTOS BY CARLYN KRANKING/THE CONNECTION

Cameron Meade, 5, and Quincy Meade, 6, color at the Lorton farmers market as part of the kids' activities for National Farmers Market Week.



Jelp Shinholster, 8, answered a trivia question to earn a prize.

Farmers Market Week seeks to highlight the importance of that connection for the local farms.

"I see this as an opportunity to remind this community you're not just buying fresh food, you really are supporting small farmers and artisans from all across our region that wouldn't have anywhere else to sell," Roseberry said. "You are literally providing livelihoods to these families."

Employment

Employment

Employment

Saint Bernadette School is seeking a Cafeteria / Food Service Manager to operate our school lunch program. Qualified applicants will be responsible for total operation of the kitchen as it relates to school lunches and serves as the coordinator of the use of the kitchen at other times. The position is for a full time, 11-month employee. Responsibilities include menu planning, ordering and receiving, food preparation, scheduling and supervision of kitchen staff, maintenance of kitchen and equipment, inventory management and cost control, documentation and reporting as required for participation in the USDA National School Lunch Program, including production logs, log sheets for HCCAP compliance and renewal. Applicant must be familiar with point of sale software. It is understood that this position requires personal initiative, good problem-solving skills and love for providing nutritious meals for children. Please send resume and references to rkaporali@stbernpar.org.

Saint Bernadette Catholic School and Church is seeking a Facilities Assistant to join our team. Responsibilities include maintenance, upkeep and repair of the parish/school buildings and grounds. The full-time position requires 3 yrs. experience with electrical, plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, painting and drywall work. May perform janitorial duties on days cleaning service is not available and must be able to regularly move equipment/ stock items up to 50lbs. Please send resume to rkaporali@stbernpar.org

BULLETIN

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking to expand its team of volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Tax-Aide, now in its 51st year, offers free in-person preparation and assistance to anyone, especially those 50 and older, who can't afford a tax preparation service. Volunteers make a difference in their communities by assisting many older, lower-income taxpayers, and their families, who might otherwise miss out on the tax credits and deductions they've earned. To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277).

Docents Needed. Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Merrifield Center offers a new stand-up information kiosk. Part of a pilot project, the new feature aims to improve the customer service experience and decrease wait times for individuals who are seeking mental (behavioral) health services. To check in, individuals respond to five simple questions, then the CSB's Patient Track software alerts staff. Based on clinicians' schedules and availability, as well as the needs of the client, individuals are triaged and seen by the next available staff member. For more information on available services, call the CSB at 703-383-8500 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). In an emergency 24/7, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679 or the Fairfax Detox Center at 703-502-7000 (TTY 703-322-9080).

SUNDAY/AUG. 12

Spiritual Prosperity Workshop. 1:30-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Learn how to make changes in life using spiritual laws of abundance in this workshop with nationally-known author and speaker Edwene Gaines. Workshop is offered on a love offering (donation) basis. Call 703-281-1767 or visit www.unityoffairfax.org/four-spiritual-laws-prosperity-workshop-s for more.

AUG. 13-SEPT. 9

Pool Closure: South Run RECenter. Four Fairfax County Park Authority RECenter pools will be closing for regular, periodic cleaning and maintenance next month. Consider trying out another county pool during the temporary shutdown. RECenter passes are valid at all nine Park Authority RECenters. Dates are subject to change. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 18

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. 9-11 a.m. at NOVA Family Church, 9461 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Faith, civic and community members are invited to join together to pray for the community and nation. On this day, join with Muslim friends to honor Eid-al-Adha, a holy day that celebrates Abraham's faith. Guest speakers include Muhammad Irfan Qureshi and Fr. Bayo Adrian. The event is hosted by the American Clergy Leadership Conference of Virginia (ACLC). Donations appreciated. Email wmselig@gmail.com or call 240-274-1744 for more.

TUESDAY/AUG. 21

Lions Dinner Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Lions Club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Guests are welcome to learn about the mission of the Lions Clubs "We Serve," meet club members and learn to help serve the community. Free to first time guests. Email fairfaxlions@cox.net or visit www.fairfaxlions.org for more.

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who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

"Slow Progression"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

OKAY. It's not exactly what I wanted to read in the email from my oncologist interpreting the results of my July 25 CT Scan.

Since August 2013 when I was hospitalized for a week with fluid in my lungs, "CT stable" has been the recurring message. Now the message is different.

My question, which will be addressed Monday afternoon: can I live with 'slow progression?' I would imagine that there are more aggressive characterizations of 'progression.' Nevertheless, I have to wait three more days to find out.

What has been suggested so far by my oncologist is simple enough: reduce the interval of my infusions or change medications. Sounds reasonable and not particularly drastic. What's distressing (but not at all drastic) however, is the fear of the unknown.

Not having had a reason to change in five years, I've grown awfully comfortable and confident in the ebb and flow of my life vis-à-vis my cancer treatment/side effects. I've known what to expect and when to expect it.

For a terminal cancer patient still undergoing treatment, this kind of regularity/normalcy is as good as it gets. Accordingly, I've been able to live a relatively manageable life.

And by 'manageable' I mean a life worth living and one not consumed by, if I may retrieve a phrase from last week's column: "cancer centricity." Not that I don't have deficits or spiritual, emotional or psychological problems/complications, I do, but I have so much more than that. I not only have a present, I have a future too.

No small caveat when one considers I was given a "13 month to two year" prognosis on Feb. 27, 2009. Over nine years ago – and counting. As Maurice Chevalier sang to Hermione Gingold in "Gigi" (1958): "I remember it well."

So life has indeed gone on and I'd like to think that despite this most recent email from my oncologist, life will continue to go on. I have to think positive; I'm my father's son, and deceased though he may be, he wouldn't have it any other way.

Besides, as Dr. Mobley said to Augustus McCray in the epic mini series, "Lonesome Dove," (1989) when Gus refused to let him amputate his remaining leg: "I assure the alternative is gloomy."

Well, Gus was rarely gloomy and considering my circumstances, neither have I been gloomy. There's just no future in it.

Right now, it's the present I'm concerned about. Specifically, Monday afternoon when my oncologist and I (we, actually; my wife, Dina will be on the phone as well) will talk.

Having a three participant phone conversation is a little awkward. The questions and answers might not flow as easily as if the three of us were sitting together in an examining room. But since that's what's happening/been scheduled, we'll endeavor to make the best of it.

What probably will help, oddly enough, is the three days Dina and I will have to think about what concerns we have, what questions we'll ask and what answers from the oncologist we anticipate hearing.

Then, with the doctor's encouragement, together we'll be able to make an intelligent decision concerning a prudent course of action/treatment going forward. A discussion we've had many times before.

And given our respective history over the last nine-plus years, there's no reason to think we can't achieve similar success living forward.

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

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