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Centreville ❖ Little Rocky Run
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Volunteers collected 1,393 pounds of food for WFCM's pantry, July 21, at Centrewood Plaza in Centreville. They included (from left) Ginny Hinny of Union Bank and her three children, an employee from Northwest Federal Credit Union, and WFCM's Director of Development Mary Ellen Walsh.

Photo Courtesy of Jennie Bush

Gathering 5,005 Pounds Of Food

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Legalizing Short-Term Rentals

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

By Ken Moore
Centre View

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 alway 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 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.

Pat Herrity

Kathy Smith

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, county planning commissioners, planning staff and Board of Supervisors have been interacting with county residents about regulating rentals 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 percent of respondents thought short-term rentals should be allowed in single family homes; 74 percent answered that they should be allowed in townhouses; 76 percent answered they should be allowed in condominiums. Fully 40 percent of respondents said they had first-hand experience with short-term rentals.

"While it would be nice to wait, I don't think waiting is going to yield us any new information that we don't already have today," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay.

"You're going to have people who don't understand it, you're going to have people who love it and want no regulations, and you're going to have people who don't want these anywhere in the county," he said.

The county will examine how the regulations are working after 18 months.

"I do think it is an issue that we need to set rules of engagement, put them in the ordinance, test them, see what's happening, allow people who are doing these in a way that doesn't impact the rest of the community, a legal means by which to do that," said McKay.

NEW RULES go into effect Oct. 1, 2018, allowing homes to be rented out as short-term lodgings with restrictions.

"I think the enforcement issue is going to be a big deal," said Foust. "I do remind people that this is currently illegal, and we've got thousands of people doing it. So we're going to make it legal, let's hope that they respect that it will now be legal and they live within the confines of the law."

These rentals will generate an estimated $428,268 in new transient occupancy taxes a year based upon the estimated 1,500 active listings, according to the county. Of this amount, $249,823 would go to the county's budget fund and the remaining amount would be used to support tourism and regional transportation as required by state law.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS will be allowed in single-family homes, townhouses, condos, mobile homes and apartments with the 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 entrepreneurism.

"This is the new economy, this is entrepreneurism, 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.

Roundups

New Center

The Joint Sully District Council/WFCCA Land Use meeting is set for Monday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Agenda items are as follows:

❖ Sully Community Center: Members of Fairfax County's Building Design and Construction Division, DPWES, will brief the panel on plans for a new Sully Community Center on a 5-acre parcel next to Sully Highlands Park.

❖ Montessori Mansion: Naima Dar has been operating a home daycare in Chantilly for almost 18 months. She'd like to increase the number of children from seven to 12.

❖ Izaak Walton League: The applicant is filing a special exception amendment to permit the phasing of site modifications at its existing facility at 14708 Mount Olive Road in Centreville.

Editor Steven Mauren
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smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Volunteers braving the rain at the Chantilly Walmart are (from left) Elizabeth Casteel, Andrew Casteel (WFCM Board President), Rebecca Kolowe (WFCM Executive Director) holding baby Triston, Pastor Lynn Miller (WFCM Board member, King of Kings Lutheran Church), APO Nelson Fernandez, APO Ashleigh Soloff and Jennie Bush (WFCM Community Outreach Manager).

Sully District Station police officers brought a police vehicle to transport food to the pantry and a tent canopy to protect the food from the rain. From left are MPO Sabrina Ruck, PFC Earl Culbertson and Auxiliary Police Officers Nelson Fernandez and Ashleigh Soloff.

Photos Courtesy of Jennie Bush

WFCM Thanks Community for its Generosity

Stock Our Shelves drive gathers 5,005 pounds of food.

By Bonnie Hobbs

Despite heavy downpours producing more than 5 inches of rain, local residents didn't leave Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) up the creek without a paddle. Instead, they grabbed their umbrellas and went to three stores, Saturday, July 21, to help replenish WFCM's food pantry.

It was the nonprofit's annual, Stock Our Shelves food drive that enables WFCM to keep feeding families in need in Western Fairfax County. Overall, the event yielded 5,005 pounds of food and $586 in cash, and WFCM Community Outreach Manager Jennie Bush was delighted.

"WFCM is grateful for the support of the community at our food drive," she said. "It really was neighbors helping neighbors."

Each month, the organization's food pantry in Chantilly serves more than 370 hungry individuals and families. But, said Bush, "This is a very critical time of year for WFCM. Keeping the food-pantry shelves stocked during the summer months is always a challenge — particularly with children out of school [and those eligible for free and reduced-price meals not receiving them], plus donors on vacation."

That's why the Stock Our Shelves event was so important. The stores participating in the food drive were the Centrewood Plaza Giant in Centreville and the Walmart, and Franklin Farm Giant in Chantilly.

See Gathering, Page 6

From left are WFCM Director of Development Mary Ellen Walsh, the Rev. Carol Hancock of St. John's Episcopal Church and WFCM Community Outreach Manager Jennie Bush in front of the Centrewood Giant.

'He Just Wanted to Kill Someone'

Man convicted of felony murder in pedestrian's death.

By Bonnie Hobbs

Kenan Ozcan was determined to kill someone. He was angry and upset about his life and decided to take it out on someone he didn't know.

At first, said the prosecutor, he wanted to kill a family. But when he saw an elderly woman crossing a road on foot, he targeted her, instead, intentionally striking her with his vehicle – not once, but twice.

The tragedy occurred April 14, 2017, shortly before 10:15 a.m., near the intersection of Route 50 and Rugby Road in Fair Oaks. The victim, Maria Amaya de Ascencio, was crossing Rugby Road, eastbound, when she was struck by a 2016 Dodge Dart driven by Ozcan, traveling south on Rugby.

Ascencio, 75, of Fair Oaks, died at the scene, and Ozcan fled. But police arrested him, a few hours later. And last Tuesday, July 31, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, he was convicted of murder.

Kenan Ozcan

The victim, Maria Ascencio

But even then, Ozcan, 33, of Fairfax, didn't fully take responsibility for his actions. Instead of pleading guilty, he entered an Alford plea of guilt – not admitting any wrongdoing, but simply acknowledging that the prosecution has enough evidence to convict him of the crime of which he's accused.

"Are you entering this plea both freely and voluntarily?" asked Judge Thomas Mann. "Yes, sir," replied Ozcan. Mann also asked him the highest level he'd achieved in school, and Ozcan said he has a master's degree in biology.

Then Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Brandon Sloane presented what the prosecution's case would have been, had it gone to trial. He said police dispatched to the scene discovered the victim lying face down in the intersection.

"Several witnesses described a small, gray sedan being in the intersection while the pedestrian was in it and hitting her in the middle of Rugby Road," said Sloane. "They said the impact threw her in the air, 10-15 feet. Then the vehicle made a U-turn and accelerated through the intersection to hit her again before fleeing north on Rugby."

A lookout was given for the car, and a police officer later saw a vehicle with front-end damage stuck in traffic on the Fairfax County Parkway. The officer also noted that the driver was suspiciously watching him as he passed by the officer. But initially, police weren't certain of the car's make and color, so that vehicle wasn't pulled over.

Then, at 12:45 p.m., police were called to Everybody Fitness Center on Fair Ridge Drive in Fair Oaks for a report of a robbery. "A customer there saw the defendant behind the counter and told him he wasn't an employee and didn't belong there," said Sloane. "She tried to photograph him with her phone, and he assaulted her; he took her phone and ripped her shirt."

Sloane said Ozcan was apprehended in a restroom there, and key fobs to three different vehicles were found on him. "He said he owned the gym, but he had no ID on him and wouldn't tell police where his own vehicle was," said the prosecutor. "So an officer went into the parking lot to find the cars responding to the key fobs."

According to Sloane, Ozcan had keys to his mother's vehicle – which was being repaired – plus keys he'd stolen earlier from

See Convicted, Page 7

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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I have a special favor to ask:

Buy an ad in our 2018 Newcomers and Community Guide. Please.

Show your support for our organization which continues to be here to support the forces of good in our communities.

Our annual Newcomers and Community Guide is a pullout section that will appear in the 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 affordable), 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.

But this request is more than a charitable effort.

For the same reasons that organizations, businesses and campaigns know they want local newspaper coverage, newspaper advertising is an effective way to reach voters, residents, clients. The Connection reaches more than 150,000 readers, in print and online, including remarkable demographics. Our readers include local and national decision makers in the public and private sector.

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.

Share Tips about Community

We need help from our readers for our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

What are your favorite parks? Favorite historic sites? Lunch place? Spot for coffee? What tips do you have for someone getting to know the community?

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, and information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/ by Wednesday, Aug. 15.

— Mary Kimm

Editorial

For information on advertising, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431. See www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising.

The Scouts first learn safety and the range rules. They are then instructed on the proper use of the BB guns all before taking their first shot.

In STEM, the boys engaged in various crafting and science based projects. The two favorites this year were the Den Flags and the Cryptology Wheels that helped them to decode the camp's secret message.

Sully District Hosts Twilight Camp

By Rebecca Shen
Twilight Camp Director

Kicking off the summer fun was the only way to go for many Cub Scouts. Keeping it local was the only way for parents of these Scouts to achieve those goals. Nestled alongside I-66 in Centreville lies the Arlington-Fairfax chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America where Cubs (boys and girls alike) enjoyed fishing, archery, BB's, STEM, and nature.

Naturally, every camp needs a great staff. For the past three years, Troop 1137 stepped up to the plate in every way, all of them were giving, cheerful volunteers.

Learning to work and guide others effectively, young Scouts come in as LITs (Leaders In Training). Learning as they are working, they begin to utilize the "E.D.G.E Method" (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable). When the Scouts become 14 they are then recognized as Staff and help man the different stations located around the camp.

Adult staff at camp play an integral role as leaders at each station, guiding youth staff and LITs as they give guidance and help the camp run smoothly.

Dens and Packs also brought adult leadership to help guide the Cubs around camp. Parents and leaders were not only there to guide but had the opportunity to participate at each station with their Cubs enriching the experience for the whole family.

That said, many thanks to all the Staff, Adult Leaders, and, most importantly, the Cubs. Without all of you this amazing camp never would have happened, and we hope to see all of you back next year.

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.
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A Connection Newspaper

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 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 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 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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Northwest Federal Credit Union employees came with their families to help make WFCM's Stock Our Shelves event a success.

Photos Courtesy of Jennie Bush

Gathering 5,005 Pounds of Food

From Page 3

The event was held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. At each location, volunteers distributed a list of the most-needed food and personal-care items to encourage shoppers to purchase what was especially needed.

"Thanks to the caring customers who donated food and toiletries — and store management who made the food drives possible — many families in need will have an abundance of food to shop for at WFCM's pantry," said Bush. "In fact, our volunteers often witnessed generous donors push a cart full of groceries out of the store, remove just one bag for themselves and donate the rest to WFCM."

Also praising the volunteers working outside each store, Bush said they, too, contributed to the event's success. Throughout the day, they stood — often in the rain — passing out the lists of the most-needed items, sharing WFCM's story and explaining why there were there.

"They kept smiles on their faces as they accepted food, weighed, marked and sorted it for the pantry," she said. "And at the end of the drive, many volunteers were also on hand at the pantry to unload the trucks full of food and personal-care items. They then stocked the nearly empty shelves with the donations."

Pleased with the results, Bush said, "Our community is very caring, supportive and generous, We couldn't do what we do without our neighbors, and we thank them all for donating food and for making Stock Our Shelves such a success."

Tom McDermott prepares to unload crates of food for WFCM's pantry.

Two members of Grace Covenant Church help collect food at Walmart in Chantilly, where the community donated 1,957 pounds of food.

Convicted Of Murder

From Page 3

someone at the gym. “But he couldn’t figure out how the pushbutton start worked, so he had to get a rental car,” said Sloane. “And the car in the parking lot that responded to the key fob turned out to be a car he’d rented that morning,”

It was a gray, Dodge Dart with front-end damage. “Police obtained strands of hair from the windshield wipers and human biological material from the undercarriage,” said Sloane. “It was later compared to the victim and was a match. The coroner determined that she died of blunt-force trauma to the head, torso and extremities.”

Furthermore, said Sloane, the police officer who’d found the car at the gym spoke with the officer who’d seen the suspicious vehicle stuck in traffic, and they concluded that it was Ozcan and the Dodge Dart, both times. In addition, while in jail, Ozcan shared further details with another inmate.

“He told his cell mate the victim’s head hit his vehicle and he ran over her again to make sure she was dead,” said the prosecutor. “He said he just wanted to kill someone because he was upset about other things in his life, such as his mother losing his house.”

“He said he’d planned it for two days and that, initially, he wanted to kill a family – maybe a van full of children,” continued Sloane. “Then he saw [Ascencio] and thought she’d be a perfect victim. He said, after he hit her, he saw her still moving, so he struck her again.”

Sloane said Ozcan told his cell mate he’d “robbed people before and wanted to know what it was like to kill someone. He also said he was going to pretend he was crazy to try to beat the charge.”

Judge Mann then asked Ozcan, “Are you entering your Alford plea because you don’t want to risk going to trial and being found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt?” Ozcan replied affirmatively. In response to another question from Mann, Ozcan said that, at the time of this incident, he was on probation for committing a previous offense. So the judge told him that, as a result of this new conviction, part or all of his probation could be revoked.

Mann further advised him that he could be receive a maximum of 40 years in prison and must serve at least 85 percent of his sentence. He noted, as well, that several other charges against Ozcan will be dropped in exchange for his guilty plea. But he stressed that no agreement has been made regarding his sentencing.

The judge asked Ozcan, “Do you understand that, even though the [state sentencing] guidelines may call for a shorter period of probation or incarceration, I can exceed them and give you the maximum of 40 years – and you won’t be able to withdraw your plea or appeal to a higher court?” Ozcan said he did.

Mann then officially accepted Ozcan’s plea and found him guilty of felony murder. He ordered a presentencing report be made and the defendant returned to jail to await sentencing on Nov. 16.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

“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.

Entertainment

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

ONGOING

Fitness for 50+. Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is $48 a year, and waivers are available. Email lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-322-4475.

History Volunteers Needed. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email volunteers@fairfax-station.org or call 703-945-7483 to explore opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are $8. Visit www.nvshag.org.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilairs.org.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org.

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog.Visit aforeverhome.org.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org.

LIBRARY FUN

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Lego Block Party. Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Swift Action to Protect Migratory Birds. Sully Historic Site is home to a new family: chimney swifts. These small, migratory birds recently moved into the chimney of the original 18th century kitchen and made a temporary home. It is illegal to disturb the birds, their nests or eggs. To protect the birds for the next six to eight weeks, Sully will do its part with some minor programming changes. Sully kitchen programs often include a hearth fire to demonstrate the kitchen use. However, to prevent disturbing the birds' nesting cycle, no fires will be lit until they leave. To learn more about swifts, visit any of Fairfax County Park Authority's five nature centers. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully or call 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY/AUG. 11

Peaches & Cream Event. 1-3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. In the 18th century, Sully was home to more than 1,000 peach trees. Learn about the history of peaches and their uses in this program at Sully. Cook in the historic kitchen using peaches, and hand-crank peach ice cream. Program for family members age 6 to adult. $15 per person. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

Starlight Cinema: Early Man. Gates open at 6 p.m.; movie starts at dark at Trinity Centre, 5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville. Starlight Drive-in Cinema brings the community together with features that appeal to both children and adults. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and FM radio if you wish to sit outside. Children's games and rides. Free. To volunteer, call 703-814-7100.

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.

SUNDAY/AUG. 12

N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 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.

SATURDAY/AUG. 18

Dairy Farming at Walney: Ice Cream. 2-3:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Explore Walney's dairy farm history while touring the ice house and dairy. Try ice-making tools and picking up an ice block, and make and eat hand-cranked ice cream. $10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Starlight Cinema: Lego Batman Movie. Gates open at 6 p.m.; movie starts at dark at Trinity Centre, 5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville. Starlight Drive-in Cinema brings the community together with features that appeal to both children and adults. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and FM radio if you wish to sit outside. Children's games and rides. Free. To volunteer, call 703-814-7100.

Get the Scoop on Historic Desserts. 7-8:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Who doesn't love dessert? Join a historian at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and try making raspberry dumplings and refreshing homemade ice cream. Learn how these desserts were made in the 18th century by residents of Walney. Recommended for those 7 and up. $10 per person; children must be accompanied by an adult. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence/ or call 703-631-0013.

SUNDAY/AUG. 19

Tea Time with a Furry Friend. 1-3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Sample tea and tasty treats at "Tea Time with a Furry Friend." This isn't a typical afternoon tea. Stuffed friends are invited, too. Learn about the Lee family's special furry friend who brought "great care and amusement" to Sully in the 18th century. For participants age 6-adult. $15 per person. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

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.

FRIDAY/AUG. 24

Dairy Days. 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Cost is $7. Learn to churn butter, crank ice cream, milk a fake cow and play 18th century games at Sully Historic Site's celebration of "Dairy Days" in August. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

SATURDAY/AUG. 25

Dairy Days. 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Cost is $7. Learn to churn butter, crank ice cream, milk a fake cow and play 18th century games at Sully Historic Site's celebration of "Dairy Days" in August. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

Starlight Cinema: Coco. Gates open at 6 p.m.; movie starts at dark at Trinity Centre, 5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville. Starlight Drive-in Cinema brings the community together with features that appeal to both children and adults. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and FM radio if you wish to sit outside. Children's games and rides. Free. To volunteer, call 703-814-7100.

SUNDAY/AUG. 26

Meet Moose. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the McDonnell Room at the Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly. Meet Moose and be in the next #MondayswithMoosepost. Give favorite furry K9 a big hug, belly rub, and a treat – and get to chat and hang out with officers. Open to Moose fans of all ages. Contact Officer Meg Hawkins at megan.hawkins@fairfaxcounty.gov.

First Responders Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. 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. 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.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 2

Lego/Potomac Module Crew HO Model Train Display. Noon-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Lego/Potomac Module Crew HO Model Train Display. 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.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 16

2018 Bichon Bash. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Bull Run Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Bichon Bash is a family friendly event where Bichons can play together in a safe outdoor area, and experts can provide advice on the breed. This is an annual fundraiser for the Bichon Frise Club of America rescue group, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Bichons only. $15 pre-register online; $20 at gate; $5 children under 12. Call 703-401-9551 or www.bichonbash.org.

NTRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. 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.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 27

Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. At Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Early Registration starts Aug. 6. Visit www.erinpetersonfund.org. Email erinpetersonfund@yahoo.com.