Toddler Brynn Farley prepares to plant a leaf clipping during Springfest 2017, an Earth Day/Arbor Day event at Sully Historic Site in Chantilly. Next one is April 27, 2019.
About the Connection

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Connection’s mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people’s lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we report on the character of your community and people’s lives. We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

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— Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
What’s in the Works for Local Area

Homes, shops and restaurants are planned.

By Bonnie Hobbs

With developers having various projects in the pipeline, Centreville and Chantilly are ever-changing places. On the horizon are homes, restaurants and stores that will bring more residents, as well as add to Fairfax County’s tax base. Here’s a glimpse at just some of the things on the local horizon:

Preserve at Westfields

Some 50 acres of formerly-vacant land along Route 28 and Stonecroft and Westfields boulevards in Chantilly are undergoing a transformation. Called The Preserve at Westfields, this spot will eventually contain 155 townhouses, 650 apartments, plus retail and other amenities. Fairfax County approved a rezoning for that site and also amended its Comprehensive Plan for that area so that high-density, residential uses may be built there. Akridge owns the land and is building the apartment and retail components; Craftmark Homes and Van Metre are constructing the townhouses.

Included will be an amenity area with walking paths, a pavilion/performing and gathering area, plus a lake that’s currently not accessible. Proffer highlights include almost $6 million in recreation improvements and more than $5.5 million in road improvements. Construction is already well underway, with one section of homes already completed.

The Field at Commonwealth

The Field at Commonwealth is along Westfields Boulevard in Chantilly, across Route 28 and just northeast of the Akridge site. It’s inside the Newbrook Drive loop road and is part of a commercial complex including shops and restaurants.

A Comprehensive Plan amendment for that 21-acre site enabled the developer, Regency Centers, to replace the previously approved 338,400 square feet of hotel, office and retail uses with 183,000 square feet of retail.

The centerpiece is a 140,000-square-foot Wegmans grocery store that opened June 3.

When completed, this shopping center will also boast 32,500 square feet of retail shops, plus a 10,500-square-foot sit-down, full-service restaurant. Already open are Mellow Mushroom, Chipotle, Cava Grill, My Eye Dr. and Chantilly Modern Dentistry. And joining them will be Habit Burger, a fast-food restaurant; Gusto Farm to Street, offering fresh salads, pizza and flatbreads; Bella Nail Salon and Fearsome Yoga. Also planned are walking trails, an exercise park near the Flatlick stream valley and several pedestrian and road improvements for safety plus better traffic flow.

Rockland Village Green

Two dozen new townhouses are coming to Chantilly. The community will be at Elmwood and Vernon streets and will be called Rockland Village Green. Developed by Carr Homes, it will go on five land parcels off Route 50, behind the Pohanka Lexus dealership.

An artist’s rendition of the new, Rockland Village Green townhouses planned for Chantilly.

An example of the exterior of a Lidl grocery store.
Welcome to the Sully District. I am your Sully District Supervisor, Kathy Smith, and I proudly represent our community on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. At the crossroads of major highways and adjacent to Washington Dulles International Airport, the Sully District is dotted with thriving office parks and wonderful amenities.

One of the great things about living in the Sully District is the array of public events and activities that happen throughout the year. The Starlight Drive-in Cinema takes place on Saturdays in August as part of the Park Authority’s Summer Entertainment Series. Come watch a movie under the stars at the Trinity Centre in Centreville. Admission is free. This year I held the inaugural Sully District Summer Open House & Food Drive. Attendees learned about Summer RECenter classes, toured the Sully District Office, and much more. Coming up on Oct. 20, 2018 we have the annual Centreville Day celebration – a local favorite. The event includes family-friendly activities, entertainment, and a parade.

Our region is also lucky to include the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum. If you have not been yet, I highly recommend visiting soon and taking in a movie at their IMAX movie theater. Parking is free after 4 p.m.

The Field at Commonwealth center is a newly constructed 169,264 square foot mixed use site located in Chantilly. The anchor store, Wegmans, opened on June 3, 2018. The property also includes a light up interactive floor and the only theremin bollards in the United States.

Another great advantage in our region is our abundance of public facilities. Fairfax County has an excellent public school system. Every day of the week, there are activities and educational programs at both Chantilly and Centreville Regional Libraries. You can learn about new technologies and join a book discussion group. The Sully Senior Center is a great place for older adults to exercise, pursue a hobby, and engage with members of the community.

Fairfax County also has an exceptional park system. The Cub Run RECenter offers an indoor pool, nature program, and a gym. EC Lawrence Park’s 650 acres in-clude: the Walney Visitor Center, athletic fields, trails, a picnic area, and an outdoor amphitheater. The Sully Historic Site, completed in 1799, was home to Northern Virginia’s first representative to Congress.

Guided tours as well as programs and camps happen all year long. The Sully Woodland core properties comprise roughly 2,000 acres of open space park land in the district.

I hope you will find opportunities to get involved in your community. Sully District has representatives on 80-plus boards, authorities, and commissions. If you or someone you know would be interested in one of these positions, please contact my office to inquire about openings.

Furthermore, if you need any help with county services or any other issues, please feel welcome to contact my office any time via email at sully@fairfaxcounty.gov or by phone at 703-814-7100. We have two community rooms that are available at the Sully Governmental Center for free for Fairfax County residents to use. You can reserve our community rooms, and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sully.

Greetings from the Sully District

Ribbon-cutting at Field at Commonwealth on July 18, 2018.

Springfest 2018

McAtee’s Tavern historic marker unveiled on June 10, 2017.
Newcomers & Community Guide

Perspectives on Living Here

**Bijay Lama**
Chantilly
What do I like about living in Chantilly?
Chantilly has an international airport (Dulles), lots of good shopping, and Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum.

**Pawan Gautam**
Centreville, since 2015
I have been living in Centreville since 2015. Best thing I like about this area is all the kinds of restaurants including Chinese. Convenient stores and gas stations are close by. Three big highways, Route 66, 29 and Route 28 are here in Centreville.

**Rocky Clarkin**
Centreville, since 1991
What I enjoy most about this area? Nice family communities, the services in the area, and the schools. What I do not like is the traffic.

**Photos by Will Palenscar**

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**Bulletin Board**

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

**VOTER REGISTRATION AND ID EVENTS**
The Fairfax County Office of Elections (12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323, Fairfax) is open daily during normal business hours to provide county residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. Applicants will need to complete a photo voter ID application, have a photo taken and sign a digital signature pad. Call 703-222-0776.

The following special events will also provide opportunity to register to vote and/or get a free Virginia Voter card.

❖ Tuesday/Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Ct, Fairfax.
❖ Wednesday/Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St #1, Herndon.

**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/taxaid or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277).

**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.

See Bulletin, Page 15

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RESTON RETIREMENT LIVING

What’s the key to a Vibrant LIFE?

A stress-free day without the day-to-day responsibilities of maintaining a home, having unlimited choices of cuisine in our four dining venues, and culturally rich excursions and events, all in casual, yet sophisticated surroundings.

Visit our showroom in the Hunters Woods Village Shopping Center (next to Ledo’s Pizza) to learn how we’ve created a state-of-the-art retirement community planned around giving you more free time, and fabulous ways to spend it.

SHOWROOM NOW OPEN | 888-902-4733

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
What’s in the Works for Local Area

From Page 3

The buildings’ facades will be brick or other masonry material, and the architecture will be compatible with homes in the surrounding community. Most of the residents will also offer 5x22-foot, cantilevered decks on their townhomes.

More than 25 percent of the property will be kept as open space. There’ll be a 90x70-foot village green, with landscaping and benches, where the community residents may relax and socialize. Some 17 of the townhomes’ fronts will face Vernon and Elmwood streets to create a welcoming streetscape. The other seven townhomes will be in the interior, with access from Vernon Street.

The plan includes curbs, sidewalks and street ramps at intersections to make it pedestrian-friendly. And the community’s entrance off Vernon Street will lead to an interior street. Plenty of parking is also slated, with 113 spaces on site, including two-car garages underneath each townhome, plus driveway spaces for every unit, and 17 more spaces for visitors. Construction on this project will begin soon.

Trinity Centre

Once envisioned as the heart of Centreville — a place where people could gather for various events and special occasions — Trinity Centre was originally planned for 1.8 million square feet of office space. It was also to have 250,000 square feet of retail uses, plus 336 homes.

But what’s actually been built there are three restaurants, a hotel, Life Time Fitness, the 336 homes and three office buildings totaling just 587,000 square feet — or one-third of the approved office space.

Now, though, JLB Partners are instead constructing a residential project of 355 apartments there. Also included will be a six-story parking structure in the middle. The units will be within a building that’s four stories in front and five stories in back, because of the site’s topography. Construction is currently underway.

The building will be constructed adjacent to the existing lake and will have two internal courtyards. There’ll be an outdoor pool, and the lower-level units will be walk-outs. In addition, the builder will seek LEED certification, and the lake will be an integral part of the project.

Amenities by the lake will include a fenced-in, off-leash, dog area; benches, chairs and an area where young children could climb. Planned, as well, is an outdoor area for senior citizens to use for games such as chess and bocce ball. Trails will connect it to the office development, and the developer will also improve pedestrian connections to this area.

Called “Serendipity,” this colorful, new sculpture is in the courtyard at the Field at Commonwealth in Chantilly. At 17 feet tall and 7 feet wide, it was created to attract people to the plaza there, which is envisioned as that shopping center’s gathering place.

This building, across the courtyard from Mellow Mushroom, will eventually house a restaurant at the Field at Commonwealth shopping center.

Photo by Bonnie Hobbs

Pender Oaks

K. Hovnanian Homes is currently seeking a rezoning for a site at 3901 Fair Ridge Drive, behind the Pender Shopping Center in Fair Oaks. It’s doing so because it wants to build a residential project with a density of 12.12 homes per acre.

The Applicant proposes constructing 219 dwelling units, including up to 91 townhomes, 56 two-over-two stacked townhomes and 72 multifamily condominium flats. Planned, as well, are 19 affordable dwelling units and nine workforce units, plus a courtyard and a central green with a tot lot and swimming pool.

Commonwealth Centre

This is a project of Commonwealth Centre at Westfields developer Regency Centers and involves a parcel of land adjacent to the Wegmans property. Its amended rezoning allows for both residential and retail.

To be built are 550,000 square feet of residential uses, including 120 single-family, attached homes and 112 multifamily units — stacked townhomes — for 232 homes total. The developer also proposes constructing 106,000 square feet of retail/movie theater/shopping center uses there.

Lidl Grocery Store

A little bit of Europe is coming to Chantilly in the form of a Lidl grocery store in the Chantilly Crossing Shopping Center. The 5-acre site, near the intersection of Chantilly Crossing Lane and Lee Road, is zoned commercial and is currently undeveloped. Lee Road runs north and south of it, and Route 50 runs east and west of it.

What’s planned are two, new buildings, next to each other. One, housing the grocery store, will be 30,000 square feet. The other, envisioned as a rectangular, 19,000-square-foot structure, is anticipated to contain two or three retail tenants.

The entrances are off Chantilly Crossing Lane, adjacent to the main entrance of the grocery store; further east on the site; and via a left turn in from Lee Road, off Route 50. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved this application in January, and Lidl is currently going through the site-plan process.

This building, across the courtyard from Mellow Mushroom, will eventually house a restaurant at the Field at Commonwealth shopping center.

Photo by Bonnie Hobbs

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How To Vote

Every year is election year in Virginia; mechanics and details of voting require attention to detail.

**Absentee Voting By Mail**

To track the status of your absentee ballot application and ballot, you can view your Virginia Voter Record, https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot online, by mail, or by email is 7 days prior to Election Day by 5 p.m. You can apply for your absentee ballot online, https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation

Or print, complete, and sign the absentee ballot application (PDF), https://www.elections.virginia.gov/Files/Forms/VoterForms/VirginiaAbsenteeBallotApplication.pdf

Absentee ballot applications are also available for in-person visits at county government centers as well as Fairfax County library branches. Send in the completed application: Scan then email the application to absenteeballot@fairfaxcounty.gov or mail the application to the Office of Elections at Box 10161, Fairfax, VA 22038 or fax the application to the Office of Elections at 703-324-3725. Once your completed application is received and accepted, your absentee ballot will be sent to you in three business days. If you have questions about your ballot, call the Office of Elections at 703-222-0776 (TTY 711).

Absentee ballots must be returned to the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 6, 2018 in order to be counted.

**Virginia Voter ID**

Acceptable forms of valid identification: Virginia driver’s license, Virginia DMV-issued photo ID, United States passport, Employment-issued photo ID, Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia, Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID, Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID, Virginia Voter Photo ID card

**Need a Photo ID?**

If you don’t have an ID, go to your voter registration office to get a free Voter Photo ID, even on Election Day. You will be required to complete an ID application, have your photo taken and to sign a digital signature pad.

**Forgot photo ID on Election Day?**

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Voters may submit a copy of their ID via fax, email, in-person, or through the mail or commercial delivery service. The copy of the ID must be delivered to the electoral board by noon on Friday; or the provisional ballot cannot be counted.

Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document can be provided to the electoral board for the identification requirement.

**Upcoming Events to Register and Get Voter ID**

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Great Falls National Park

2900 Old Dominion Drive, McLean
www.nps.gov/gf
Great Falls Park is open daily from 7 a.m. until dark. The Visitor Center and bookstores are open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, opening through fall seasons. Picnic, hike along the Potomac River. Swimming and wading in the Potomac are prohibited.

George Washington Memorial Parkway

www.nps.gov/gwmp
703-289-2500
The GW Parkway includes more than 25 sites, ranging from historic homes to wildlife preserves. Join a ranger for a free program or explore sites independently. Some park sites, including Turkey Run Park, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Great Falls Park, etc., close at dark. The Parkway itself remains open 24 hours a day to vehicle traffic.

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
www.wolftrap.org
703-289-2500
Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts is the only national park dedicated to the performing arts. From May through September, multiple amphitheaters in the park present musicals, dance, opera, jazz, and popular and country music. Explore the park without the crowds from October - April. The Barns at Wolf Trap offer indoor entertainment through the winter months.

Parks

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State Park

Mason Neck State Park

7301 High Point Rd, Lorton
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/masonneck.html
703-339-2380 or 703-339-2380 (visitor center)
masonneck@dcr.virginia.gov
The park’s visitor center was expanded in 2010 to include a new exhibit, gift shop and meeting room. There are several exhibits in the center, and with a view of Belmont Bay. Visitor center staff can answer questions and provide information on park trails, facilities and local points of interest. Pond study, bird watching, canoe trips, nature walks and talks, and GPS adventures are just a few of the exciting programs offered by park rangers.

Regional Parks

Bull Run Marina Regional Park & Atlantis Waterpark

7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville
www.nvrpa.org/park/bull_run
703-250-9124
Bull Run Marina Regional Park & Occoquan Regional Park is located at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Visitors can cool off under the 300-gallon dumping bucket, fire the water cannons and splash down the waterslide or search for buried treasure at the world’s largest, outdoor freeform pools on the east coast. Pohick Bay Regional Park, located 1 mile southwest of Mason Neck Peninsula is an ecologically fragile land that shelters an abundance of wildlife, including the bald eagle. Pirates Cove Waterpark is located at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Visitors can cool off under the 300-gallon dumping bucket, fire the water cannons and splash down the waterslide or search for buried treasure at Buccaneer Beach sand play area. 

Carlyle House Historic Park

121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park/703-549-2997
The Carlyle House Historic Park was established in 1753 by British merchant John Carlyle for his bride, Sarah Fairfax of Belvoir, member of one of the most prestigious families in colonial Virginia. Their home quickly became a center of social and political life in Alexandria and gained a foothold in history when British General Braddock made the mansion his headquarters in 1755. On the National Register of Historic Places, Carlyle House is architecturally unique in Alexandria as the only stone, 18th-century Palladian-style house. Daily tours of the house, programs for schoolchildren, special events, exhibits and lectures explore the life and times of John Carlyle in pre-Revolutionary Alexandria. The site may be rented in the evenings for private functions and weddings.

Fountainhead Regional Park

7315 On Road, Fairfax Station
www.nvrpa.org/park/fountainhead/703-206-9124
The observation deck of the Marina Building at Fountainhead commands a spectacular view of the widest point of the Occoquan Reservoir. Summer activities include carfsh tournaments, children’s fishing tournament, paddleboat tours and more.

Hemlock Overlook Regional Park

13200 Yates Ford Road, Chantilly
www.nvrpa.org/park/hemlock_overlook/800-877-9594, 703-280-3556
Hemlock Overlook Regional Park offers a variety of outdoor and environmental education. Programs at Hemlock Overlook are open to the public and groups by reservation. Only the hiking and horse trails may be used without prior arrangement.

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna
www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens/703-235-3631
This 95-acre complex of large ornamental display gardens and unique native plant collections is open year round and includes walking trails, lakes, more than 20 varieties of cherry trees, irises, perennials, an eximious shade garden, native/wildflowers, gazebo, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and foliage. The Arruza’s indoor tropical garden setting is a popular meeting, reception, wedding and workshop location. Interpretive displays accompany a restored 18th-century cabin.

Occoneechee Regional Park

7951 Old Road, Groveton
www.nvrpa.org/park/occoneechee/703-690-2721
This park offers 400 acres of recreational space and a touch of the past with its historic brick kilns and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Park lands, trails and associated waters are part of the Fairfax Cross-Country Trail. Kayak rentals. One hour Tour Boat Rides on the Occoquan River to Belmont Bay and back. Offered Saturdays noon-5 p.m., Sunday 1-8 p.m., April 2 through Nov. 27. $10 adults, $5 children 12 and under, under age 4 are free.

also features picnic pavilions, a deck for sunning and playing, as well as plenty of shade. Captain’s Galley snack bar features food, beverages and sweets. Pirates Cove is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

**Pohick Bay Golf Course**
10301 Gunston Road, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick_bay_golf_course
703-339-8555
This scenic golf course is located on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Lorton. Pohick Bay’s practice facility features a driving range with practice putting and chipping greens, and lessons from PGA pros. A full-service pro shop features an array of name-brand golf clubs, equipment and apparel. Other services include club making, custom club fitting, regripping, reshafting and tournament coordinating.

**Potomac Overlook Regional Park & Nature Center**
2845 Marcey Road, Arlington, VA 22207
www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac_overlook/
703-528-5406
On the Potomac Palisades in north Arlington, Potomac Overlook offers 70 acres of peaceful woodland, trails, educational gardens, a small picnic area and a Nature Center. The Nature Center features brand new exhibits called the "Energerium," offering visitors a fun and accessible way to learn energy basics and ways they can help create sustainable energy solutions. The Nature Center also houses live animals and natural history exhibits.

**Sandy Run Regional Park**
10450 Van Thompson Road, Fairfax Station
www.nvrpa.org/park/sandy_run/
703-690-4392
The park is open to the public for the purpose of education, training, practice, and racing for competitive and recreational sculling and rowing. Only shells and other boats authorized by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority may be launched from the docks or shoreline of Sandy Run. Sandy Run offers a facility for team training and competition for Olympic, college, high school and club canoe, kayak and crew athletes.

**Upton Hill Regional Park & Ocean Dunes Waterpark**
6060 Wilson Blvd., Arlington
www.nvrpa.org/park/ptonhill/ www.oceanduneswaterpark.com/ 703-534-3437 or UptonHill@nvrpa.org
Upton Hill Regional Park offers visitors a wooded oasis in the heart of the most densely populated area of Northern Virginia. A large outdoor water-park complex is a sparkling attraction in this wooded, urban park, which straddles the boundary line between Arlington and Fairfax counties. The deluxe miniature golf course boasts one of the longest mini golf holes in the world, the batting cages include nine baseball and softball cages. The park is open every day for hiking, picnicking, playing on the playground and enjoying the outdoors. Located within Upton Hill Regional Park, Ocean Dunes is loaded with fun features for adults and children.

**Arts Center**

**Workhouse Arts Center**
9410 Or Road, Lorton
www.lortonarts.org
703-554-2990
The Workhouse Arts Center consists of seven studio buildings, the main galleries and the recently opened Youth Arts Center. Visitors are encouraged to interact with artists. In addition to visual arts, the Workhouse Arts Center is home to performing arts, including theater, film institute, musical and dance performances. The education department supports both the visual and performing arts, offering classes and workshops in a variety of disciplines. Future plans for the Workhouse include an event center, amphitheater, Workhouse Theatre, restaurants, apartments, music hall and garden/horticultural area. Other buildings on site, yet to be renovated, may provide for other activities such as a visitors center, a blacksmith shop, theatre scene shops and rehearsal space.

**Burke Lake Park & Golf Course**
7315 Or Road, Fairfax Station
volleyball, driving range, 18 hole, par 3, mini golf, trails, playground, campgrounds, fishing
88.4 acres, multiple resource park

**Clemmyjontri Park**
6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean
fitness, picnic areas and playgrounds
18.6 acres, special purpose park

**Ellanor C. Lawrence Park**
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
baseball, soccer/football (unlit), basketball (unlit), community center, nature center, amphitheater, trails
650 acres, multiple resource park

**Frying Pan Farm Park**
2717 West Ox Road, Herndon
historic structure, hiking/equestrian/hiking trails, open areas, playground
135.3 acres, multiple resource park

**Green Spring Gardens**
4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria
historic structure, hiking/equestrian/hiking trails, open areas, gardens
30.9 acres, special purpose park

**Hidden Pond Park**
8511 Gleeby Boulevard, Springfield
tennis (18), nature center, amphitheater, hiking/nature trails, playground, fishing
25.6 acres, community park

**Huntley Meadows Park**
3701 Lockheer Boulevard, Alexandria
nature center, historic structure, biking/hiking/nature trails, observation tower, boardwalk
144.8 acres, natural resource park

**Lee District Park**
6601 Telegraph Road, Fairfax
soccer/football, tennis, basketball, volleyball, trails, treehouse, sprayground, accessible playground
138 acres, district park

**Mason District Park**
6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale
softball (lit), soccer/football (unitl/lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), trails, picnic
90.9 acres, district park

**Nottoway Park**
9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna
baseball (lit), soccer/football (unitl), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), trails, picnic
411.2 acres, multiple resource park

**NorthWest Park**
7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean
historic structure, historic/hiking/nature trails, fishing
384.3 acres, natural resource park

**South Run District**
7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield
baseball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, center, equestrian, playground, swimming
196 acres, district park

**Wakefield Park & Recenter**
8100 Braddock Road, Annandale
softball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, center, biking, fitness trail, skate park
292.6 acres, multiple resource park
A Guide to Fairfax County Parks in the Centreville, Chantilly & Clifton areas

Map Number | Park Name | Address, City | Property Class
---|---|---|---
1 | Stone Crossing | Sully Lake Drive, Centreville | Neighborhood Park
2 | Historic Centreville | 5714 Mt. Gilead Rd, Centreville | Cultural Resource Park
3 | Elklick Preserve | Access From Pleasant Valley Road, Centreville | Multiple Resource Park
4 | Centre Ridge | 14400 Old Mill Road, Centreville | Neighborhood Park
5 | Richard W Jones | Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly | Multiple Resource Park
6 | Cab Run RECenter | 4630 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly | Special Purpose Park
7 | Westfield SS | 4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly | School Site
8 | Coppermine Crossing SS | 2744 Cooper Creek Road, Herndon | School Site
9 | Lincoln Lewis Vannoy | Braddock & Willow Springs Road, Centreville | Community Park
10 | Arrowbrooke | 2351 Field Point Road, Herndon | Community Park
11 | Dulles Corner | 2446 Dulles View Drive, Herndon | Community Park
12 | Franklin Farm | 13590 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon | Community Park
13 | Fair Woods | 12601 Alder Woods Drive, Fairfax | Neighborhood Park
14 | Flatlick | 4501 Brookfield Corp Drive, Centreville | Multi-Use
15 | Pleasant Hill | 6305 Hidden Canyon Road, Centreville | Community Park
16 | Chalet Woods | 14912 Cranoke Street, Centreville | Community Park
17 | Arrowhead | 5200 Arrowhead Park Drive, Centreville | Neighborhood Park
18 | Lane’s Mill | 14901 Lee Highway, Centreville | Cultural Resource Park
19 | Old Centreville Road | 5885 Old Centreville Road, Centreville | Neighborhood Park
20 | Centre Ridge North | Field Encampment Road And St. Germain Drive, Centreville | Community Park
21 | Braddock | 13451 Braddock Road, Clifton | Community Park
22 | Twin Lakes Golf Course | 6100 Clifton Road, Clifton | Community Park
23 | Chapel Road | 12300 Chapel Road, Clifton | Community Park
24 | Confederate Fortifications Historic Site | 13772 Balmoral Greens Avenue, Clifton | Cultural Resource Park
25 | Rock Hill District | 15150 Old Lee Road, Chantilly | Community Park
26 | Ellanor C. Lawrence | 5040 Walkley Road, Chantilly | Multiple Resource Park
27 | Greenbriar | 4601 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly | Community Park
28 | Poplar Tree | 4718 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly | District Park
29 | Chantilly | 13273 Brookfield Court, Chantilly | Neighborhood Park
30 | Chantilly Library Site | 7900 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly | Community Park
31 | Sully Historic | 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly | Cultural Resource Park
32 | Fair Oaks | 3901 Fair Ridge Drive, Fairfax | Neighborhood Park
33 | Brentwood | 11903 Appling Valley Road, Fairfax | Neighborhood Park
34 | Franklin Glen | 12395 Springhaven Drive, Fairfax | Community Park
35 | Fox Valley | 13420 Hollinger Avenue, Fairfax | Community Park
36 | Fair Ridge | 12300 Meadow Field Drive, Fairfax | Neighborhood Park
37 | Greenbriar Commons | 4300 Middle Ridge Dr, Fairfax | Neighborhood Park
38 | Ox Hill Battlefield | 4134 West Ox Road, Fairfax | Cultural Resource Park
39 | Patriot | 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax | District Park

File photos by John Bordner
featuring Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
Map by Lawrence Foong; Design by Jean Card

File photos by Sean Jones
featuring Flat Lick Stream Valley Park
of Virginia also sets out specific types of property that may be exempted from taxation. For example, the Constitution of Virginia allows the General Assembly to permit localities to provide a partial exemption from real estate taxes as an incentive for property owners to make substantial improvements to existing structures by renovating, rehabilitating, or replacing those structures.

**Proposed Amendment**

The proposed amendment would authorize the General Assembly to allow localities to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if improvements have been made on the property to address flooding. The General Assembly and participating localities would be allowed to place restrictions or conditions on qualification for the tax exemption.

"**YES**" vote will authorize the General Assembly to allow localities to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if improvements have been made on the property to address flooding.

"**NO**" vote will not allow such a tax exemption.

**State Ballot Question Two**

**Question:** Shall the real property tax exemption for a primary residence that is currently provided to the surviving spouses of veterans who had a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be amended to allow the surviving spouse to move to a different primary residence and still claim the exemption?

**Present Law**

The Constitution of Virginia currently requires the General Assembly to exempt from taxation the principal place of residence of any veteran who has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability. This tax exemption is also provided to the surviving spouse of such a veteran, so long as the surviving spouse continues to occupy that property as the surviving spouse’s principal place of residence.

**Proposed Amendment**

The proposed amendment would allow the surviving spouse of any veteran who has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability to continue to claim the tax exemption currently provided, even if the surviving spouse moves to a new principal place of residence that is owned by the surviving spouse.

"**YES**" vote will allow these surviving spouses to move to a new principal place of residence that is owned by the surviving spouse and still claim the tax exemption.

"**NO**" vote will not allow such surviving spouses to move and still claim the tax exemption.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY BOND**

TEXT: Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of $182,000,000 to provide funds, in addition to funds from public safety facilities bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of public safety facilities, including the construction, reconstruction, enlargement, renovation and equipment of civil and criminal justice facilities, police training and operational facilities and stations, fire and rescue training facilities and stations, including fire and rescue stations owned by volunteer organizations, and the acquisition of necessary land?

$73 million would be earmarked for improvements to four fire stations — Mount Vernon ($16 million), Fairview ($16 million), Gunston ($13 million), and Seven Corners ($13 million) — that are all 37 years or older. An additional $15 million would be used to improve one of the eight volunteer stations that is more than 40 years old.

The Fairfax County Police Department would receive $59 million: $18 million to renovate and expand the Mason District Station which was built in 1975; $15 million to renovate and upgrade its Criminal Justice Academy, and $18 million to renovate, expand or replace the Police Evidence Storage Building used to store evidence for court cases, and also houses the warrant desk and the victim services section.

The Adult Detention Center needs $45 million of improvements to three wings, including plumbing, electrical, HVAC, elevator and fire protection systems as well as security and camera equipment. $5 million would be used to improve the Jennings Judicial Center.

**Will Your Child Be Ready for School?**

**The Library Can Help**

Our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is designed to help prepare children for one of life’s big milestones: kindergarten.

Visit any library branch for more information or to sign up. More information and branch locations at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

**CALL Text Live**

#CallTextLive is PRS CrisisLink’s social media campaign for National Suicide Prevention Month, which helps spread the word about actions we can all take to prevent suicide.

Join us in changing the conversation from suicide to suicide prevention, promoting healing, helping and giving hope.

1-800-273-TALK
pslinc.org/calltextlive
Celebrate Fairfax!

Attendees enjoy live entertainment, rides, games and food trucks as part of the 2018 Celebrate Fairfax! festival June 8-10 at the Fairfax Government Center. The annual festival attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year.

MONDAY/MAY 13
Great Falls Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Club House Road, Reston. Join for a morning or afternoon round of golf and support our three Great Falls elementary schools while you are at it. Opportunities for sponsorships and volunteering are available. For more information: www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

THURSDAY/SUNDAY/MAY 30-JUNE 2
Herndon Festival 2019. Thursday: 6-10 p.m. Friday 5-11 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Northwest Federal Credit Union, 200 Spring St., Herndon. Four day outdoor festival with three entertainment stages, two fireworks displays, Kids' Alley with children's art area, arts and craft show and more! All ages. Visit www.herndonfestival.net for more information.

THURSDAY/MAY/AUGUST
Take a Break Concert Series. 7-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 11404 Washington Plaza W, Reston. On Thursdays, take a break from your outdoor concert series. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com to take a break for a weekly lineup.

FRIDAY/MAY/AUGUST
Herndon Friday Night Live! 6:30 p.m. 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. Visit herndonrocks.com/schedule.php for more information.

June 2019
Springfield Days. South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community wide celebration that includes a 5K run, "Pet Feast" and car show. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

September 2018
MONDAY/SEP. 3
Herndon Labor Day Festival. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Great music, a craft show, food, 12 wineries and wine-tours and culinary demonstrations. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/laborday-festival for more.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 8-9
Burke Centre Festival. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at Burke Centre Community Festival, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway Burke. Festival includes an Art-Crafter Fair, festival food vendors, amusement rides, pony rides, musical entertainment provided by local and nationally recognized performers, nature shows, after-hours Wine Garden. Visit www.virginia.org/ Listings/EVENTS/BurkeCentreFestival for more.

SATURDAY/SEP. 15
Dulles Day Plane Pull. At Dulles International Airport, Dulles. The 2014 Dulles Day Plane Pull will be a full day of excitement with airplane and auto exhibits, the children’s zone and box pull, varied displays and activities, vendors, food and entertainment. Visit www.planepull.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEP. 22
Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. The Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates the entire entertainment, dress, food, and cultural treasures from all over the world that are all here in Reston. Rain or shine. Free. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events/exhibits/reston-multicultural-festival for more.

October 2018
WEDNESDAY/Saturday/OCT. 10-13
Fairfax’s Fall for the Book Festival. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy literature and hear authors give readings at the Fall for the Book Festival. Visit www.fallforthebook.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 13
Taste of Annandale. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tom Davis Drive in central Annandale, between Columbia Pike and John Marr Road. The fourth annual Taste of Annandale will showcase local restaurants during a fun-filled day with live music, food, and entertainment. Visit www.tasteofannandale.com for more.

May 2019
Great Falls Artfest on the Green. On the Great Falls Village Green Great Falls Studios Spring Art Show and Sale under the big tent and a few little tents, too. A plein air competition and guided paint draw. With potatoes and a reception, Sponsored by Arts of Great Falls. Then, a grand finale “Blind Impression” to close the weekend and start the always popular series of concerts on the Green by Celebrate Great Falls. For complete schedule and updates visit www.greatfallsartfest.org/artfest/
ENTERTAINMENT

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

PET ADOPTIONS
Adopt a Dog, Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Petsmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog, Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit http://www.petco.com/petfinder/ for more.

Adopt a Dog, Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit store Locator дом for more.

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

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

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children ages 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Plant Clinic. Thursdays, 10-11 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.

Duo 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.

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

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, games and rides. Free. To volunteer, call 703-814-7100.

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 $8. 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.

SUNDAY/AUG. 25
Dairy Days. 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Cost is $8. 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, 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, 4000 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly. Meet Moose and be in the next #MondayswithMoosepost. Give your 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 for more.

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.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/FXR, or call 703-425-9225.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 6
Life on the Farm. 4-5 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 4101 Ox Road, Herndon. Play an active role in helping care for Frying Pan Farm Park in the monthly “Junior Farmer Fun” program. Family members age 5 to adult explore topics such as caring for farm animals, tinkering with farm machinery, and learning the importance of Frying Pan’s crops and gardens. There’s a new topic each session as participants go behind-the-scenes to help farmers with their work. $8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 9
One-hour Tours. 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.
Sully Plantation

Sully Historic Site, known as Sully Plantation, is a nationally registered historic place at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly

Air and Space Museum

The Smithsonian’s Steven Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum, which opened in 2003, is located in Chantilly. The museum displays the SR 71 Blackbird, the Enola Gay, the Concorde, and the Space Shuttle Discovery. The museum has a 7-story observation tower that offers a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Dulles International Airport. Additionally, the museum has the largest IMAX in the area.
WEDNESDAY/AUG. 29
Northern Virginia Regional Elected Leaders Summit. 7 a.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College’s Loudoun Campus in Waldorf, 42000 Germain Dr., Centreville. The event will feature elected officials from across the area, including Arlington County Board Chair Kate Cristol, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall, Prince William County At-Large Chairman Roy Stewart, and Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg. $50 for members of the co-hosting chamber groups; $70 for non-members. Register at: r2v4rL.

Friday/Aug. 31
Public Hearing. ESL Class Registration.
From Page 5

Toys. The full text of the proposed amendment to Park Regulation Section 1.17, Remote-Control Devices and Model Airplanes, is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/model-airplanes. Anyone wishing to speak on this subject may call Judy Pedersen, FCPS, Public Information Officer, at 703-324-8662 or email parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov, to be placed on the Speakers’ List.

By KENNETH K. LOURIE

The event will feature elected officials from across the area, including Arlington County Board Chair Kate Cristol, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall, Prince William County At-Large Chairman Roy Stewart, and Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg. $50 for members of the co-hosting chamber groups; $70 for non-members. Register at: r2v4rL.

Thursday/Sept. 6
SAV Notice of Annual Board Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. The Southwestern Youth Association will be holding its annual Executive Board of Directors Election Meeting. The SYA Executive Board of Directors positions are for a one-year term and include the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations are currently being accepted and may be submitted to the SYA Office at admin@swyouthsports.org. Applicants must be in good standing with SYA and at least 21 years of age. This meeting is open to the community. Contact the SYA Office at 703-815-3362 or admin@swyouthsports.org with any questions.

When Did This Happen?

Bulletin Board

Friday, Sept. 7
Assistance League Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites community members to attend its regular monthly meeting to learn about the non-profit’s 2018-2019 Operation School Bell programs, including Weekend Food for Kids and Reading Express. There are opportunities in the Reading Express tutoring program for first grade students. Pre-meeting social starts at 9:30 a.m. Free. Email Mary Grondal at grondm2@ol.com or visit www.assistanceleague.org/northern-virginia for more.

When Did This Happen?

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

When Did This Happen?

I remember conversations regularly occurring between me and some other person, presum-
ably older (if heard over the phone) or in person if my sight and senses didn’t deceive me, when the question was asked to me: “You’re probably too young to remember” concerning any num-
ber of subjects. Now, I’m asking the identical question, and I don’t think my sight or senses are deceiving me, though they are refraeted, so to speak.

I may be warier and full of perspective, but despite the obvious passage of time, I am, to quote Bob Dylan, “the last of the hard-hitting Easy Riders” (Rolling Stone).” Moreover, to quote Charles Franklin: “No one gets out of this life alive.” (Although, I swear I can still remember my late mother loving that quote to the legendary screen actress, Bette Davis.)

Life goes on is the short version, and through that passage of time, at some point, apparently you’re addressed respectively as “Mister” and “Sir,” and doors are open/held, seats are offered and accommodations made. And when I have those vivid, random conversations with strangers... to pass that time or even with people with whom you have a familiarity, and more of those people are younger than I am, I find myself asking/presuming if they know what past event, historical fact, popular culture reference or sports memory, etc., I am even referring to. And as often as not, they don’t.

What’s odd—or lost on me because I’m loathe to admit it is that the former “question—er” — yours truly— has become the current questioner— again yours truly. As is becoming abundantly clear, I was once ascending, I am now descending.

This has nothing to do with my last few cancer columns. It has to do with my birth year: 1954. Meaning, as the birthday card jokes on the front cover “I wouldn’t say you were old this year” to the inside-of-the-card slam: “Hell, you were old last year.”

It just seems/feels that this juxtaposition of the “growing up” (K. Pape’s, “Weasels Ripped My Flesh”) time/age relative to others has happened in a blink (uncompromised) and that blink is a tell. And no matter what I do to counter that impression, I can’t stop it. It seems that tell has become a tell all.

And since I’m telling all, dealing with one’s own mortality for as long as I have been: Feb. 27, 2009, the official date of my non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis, has certainly had its share of wear and tear, emotionally and physically.

For me—or for any of you regular readers that think this unexpected journey has not been fraught with heartache, sorrow, and after side effects—and main effects, up and down and all around, is unrealistic at best and delusional at worst. And I rave-declare, except when it comes to the Boston Red Sox, it must be unrealistic.

But maybe being unrealistic is what has taken me nine years and nearly six months past my original diagnosis. If that’s the case, I see no reason to change now, age notwithstanding, my original diagnosis. If that’s the reason, I see my share of wear and tear, emotionally and physically.

I wish...
Only $13 registers you in the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) unless you compete in 13 different categories like Charles Toftoy. At $2 for each event, it costs him $39 for registration plus event participation. Several events require additional fees. At 83-years-old, Toftoy has been competing in NVSO for many years. His current favorite event is pickleball which is a national favorite.

This year NVSO begins Saturday, Sept. 15 with the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. followed by track, rowing and diving events. NVSO ends Sept. 26 with pickleball, yo-yo and bongo. In between there is everything from softball hit and throw, tennis doubles, swimming and track events, mini-javelin, volleyball and cornhole toss. New events this year include beach ball wallyball, canasta and croquet.

Events will be held at 29 different parks, recreation centers and sports courts including Fairfax Senior Center-Green Acres, Thomas Jefferson Community Center, Wakefield District Park, Northern Virginia Badminton Club, The Jefferson, Prince William Golf Course, and St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Participants are required to be 50 years old or older and to reside in the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church or Fairfax or the counties of Arlington, Loudoun, Fairfax, Fauquier, or Prince William. Most competitions are held by age group and divided between men and women.

Registration ends postmarked Aug. 31 for regular mail and Sept. 3 for online registration at www.nsvo.us.

Volunteers are also welcomed. To volunteer at an event, call RSVP at 703-403-5360 or email RSVP@volunteerfairfax.org.