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INSIDE**

Burke CONNECTION

Kids and coding and robotics and video-game designing – a sure-fire way to attract many of today's young jobseekers. From left; Code Ninjas owner, (soon-to-open in Burke) Jessica Lopez talks about her business and its job opportunities to Vishal Green from Irving Middle School, and Ben McGarry, a freshman at West Springfield during the Teen Job Fair on Saturday, March 23.



Shopping Center
Set for a Facelift

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Planning for Disaster

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

High winds are tearing through Fairfax County. Maybe a tornado? There is structural damage to a number of local businesses. Power lines are down, so there are outages being reported. No lights, so traffic is snarled at several major intersections, and some of those downed lines sparked a fire along a heavily-travelled “back road” in the area with the danger of trees falling, as well. The sudden, lashing rain will probably help extinguish the fires, but the overflowing stream on your route has blocked your way home with dangerous flood waters and debris. Is that other road similarly affected? How will you know before you try it?

It’s almost four o’clock in the afternoon. Did your kids get home safely? What about your spouse? Will he or she be able to find a way home, and soon? You keep trying to call them all, but the cell phone system is overwhelmed. And what about your parents? They live in an area prone to flooding with lots of old trees that may not stand up to this onslaught from Mother Nature. Your mom just had knee surgery. She can’t get around too well. Will anyone in her



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management director Seamus Mooney talks about the new Community Emergency Response Guide. Board chair Sharon Bulova and Braddock District Supervisor John Cook also spoke at the launch.

neighborhood check on them and help out if need be?

ALL OF THE ABOVE may sound like the plot line from a disaster movie, but Fairfax

County government and emergency management personnel know that one emergency event can easily trigger another, and another, and within minutes that fictitious script can become reality with chaotic, and

potentially deadly, consequences.

They want you to be prepared to help yourself and help others by asking yourself “what if?” instead of “now what?” and planning ahead for those often unexpected moments of danger.

It was no accident that county officials chose Tuesday, March 19 — the same day that the Commonwealth was conducting a state-wide tornado drill — to launch CERG, the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide.

Tornadoes are one of the deadliest and most damaging of natural disasters. They can be the trigger for more causes for concern — and they are one of 14 natural and human-caused hazard scenarios, and three “everyday” emergencies, covered in the CERG.

From extreme weather incidents like tornadoes, hurricanes or tropical storms, to man-made actions including cyber attacks, acts of terrorism and danger from chemical, biological or other agents, to structural fires, power outages and medical emergencies, there are practical steps to take to mitigate many of these events, and important actions to take during and after the crisis. The CERG outlines them all and offers ad

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 10

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Megan Marhanka talks with Amanda Loudin and John Donovan with NV Pools. Donovan, a West Springfield graduate and the company's director of personnel, started with NV when he was only 15, so he makes a good case for joining the group that provides lifeguards for many area pools.



Here to help! Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity, co-founder of the Teen Job Fairs and still its dedicated sponsor since 2015, and his army of volunteers at the ready to help young jobseekers sign in and get going.

Teens Explore First Jobs

Teen Job Fair held in West Springfield High, three more to follow at area schools.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Upcoming Teen Job Fairs

The second of the five scheduled 2019 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs was held on Saturday, March 23, back where it all started at West Springfield High School, when Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity and Pat Malone of Alexandria came up with the idea to bring young job seekers and employers together in one place at one time.

This edition of the fair was co-hosted by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Fairfax County Government, FC Public Schools and the Connection Newspapers sponsor all of the events.

Herrity is a graduate of West Springfield, and these days he calls the West Springfield Government Center, less than half-mile from the school, one of his official homes. West Springfield was the launchpad for the teen job fair program that only increases in size and popularity since its inception in 2015.

"The fair started as an event at one school, once a year," said Herrity from his greeter's post in the high school's hallway, just outside the cafeteria. "I couldn't be more pleased at how it's grown. This gives the kids an opportunity to job search in a safe, relaxed, environment among their peers."

THAT SAFETY FACTOR, and the ability for the kids to seek jobs without "wandering door to door" is a big part of the job fairs' success, says Susan Jones, who has been a volunteer for the events from the very beginning.

"For many of the youngsters, they are looking for that first job," Jones added.

2019 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Resume Building Workshops.

First jobs are important and these events help connect teens and employers face to face and prepare our youth for the workforce.

These events will focus on student job seekers (approximately ages 16 to 18) looking for full time employment, after-school employment, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, or volunteer experiences. It is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment or wanting tips to build their resume. Volunteer opportunities and resume building workshops will be available for younger students looking to begin to build their resume.

Teens and employers should visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs> for registration and more information.

"This event makes sense. The employers here are looking to hire, they have experience with employees of this age group, and the parents can be present to keep an eye on things and guide them if needed."

With the addition of workshops like "The Do's and Don'ts of Interviewing," "Networking," and "Resume Writing," to the job fairs, the youngsters also get some practical advice on enhancing their chances in their job search.

Jared Johnson, 17, who attends Hayfield Secondary School, took in the "Do's and Don'ts" session. He's got an eye on a future in biomedical engineering, but hasn't held a paying job to date and wanted to see "what was out there" and definitely felt he needed some tips from real world experts, like session facilitator Monica Jackson. The 2014 Lady Fairfax honoree, Jackson has experience in several industries. Today, she uses her Early Childhood Development degree as the owner of Jackson Child Care in

Friday, April 5

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Chantilly High School
Co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Intellectual Point

Saturday, April 6

10 a.m. to 12 Noon
South County High School
Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County High School

Saturday, April 27

10 a.m. - 12 Noon
Mount Vernon High School
Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, and Mount Vernon High School

Springfield and as chair of the Fairfax County Child Care Advisory Council.

So, what did Jared learn from the hour-long workshop? "Be prepared. Practice. This will help you with your confidence."

Developing and projecting confidence was a theme in the session, as were the critical elements of research and practice.

"Treat the interview like an important exam," advised Jackson. "Know about the job and think beforehand about ways you are the best for the position."

Meanwhile, back in the cafeteria, hundreds of youth – and quite a few parents – were making the rounds, checking out summer jobs, internships, year-round part-time positions, and even volunteer opportunities.

Large-scale employers, one-offs, summer camps, government departments and agencies and nonprofits alike had representatives on hand to interact with the jobseekers, and in some cases, accept applications and even hire on the spot.

Wegmans and Greenspring senior living facility are just two of the larger organizations that have hired significant numbers from the talented youth pool. More than forty vendors registered to set up shop with a recruiting station at the fair.

"That's one of the things I like about this event," said Stephen Kohlberg, a 16-year-old from Falls Church. "There are so many different kinds of jobs in so many kinds of businesses. I didn't know about a lot of them and here you can talk to people about them, not just read about it on the internet."

That variety, and the large attendance, appealed to Sunil Nabesan, as well, who had brought his son Sujay Sunil to the fair.

"I want him to see what's out there," he said, "but also to get an understanding of how many others are out there looking for those same jobs." By attending the workshops, the interested father also thinks this is a good way for his Justice High School son to learn from others' mistakes and how to avoid them in his own job searches.

Some of the jobs just looked like fun. One attraction for employment with NV Pools is the ability to work with your friends, pitched the company's director of personnel, John Donovan.

Donovan, also a West Springfield graduate, started with the lifeguard-providing company when he was just fifteen.

"It turned into a career," but with his years of experience with NV, Donovan makes a credible recruiter for applicants like Megan Marhanka, who stopped by to check things out with her mom, Beth. Megan has worked with Greenspring before and enjoyed the experience. Now she wants to explore other

SEE TEEN JOB FAIR, PAGE 5

Every Year Is Election Year; in 2019 Twice

Primary Election Day, June 11, will determine the outcome of many races in Fairfax County.

First, go to elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation and check that you are registered at your current address. Deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is Monday, May 20, 2019.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Primary Election Day for party candidates in Virginia, there will be an astonishing array of candidates on the ballot in Fairfax County. One reason is that many incumbents in local offices are retiring, and that causes a domino effect because incumbents in other offices will step down to run for something different. Change is coming. Voters must pay attention in the primary, so much will be determined.

On the ballot: Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Sharon Bulova is retiring and there are four candidates in the Democratic primary. (We will miss Bulova, but that is a discussion for another day.)

EDITORIAL

All nine members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot, and in addition to Bulova, Cathy Hudgins, John Cook and Linda Smyth will be stepping down, and Jeff McKay will give up his seat as he is running for chairman. That is guaranteed change for five of nine seats, and more is possible.

All 12 members of Fairfax County School Board are on the ballot, three at-large and nine District members. Several school board mem-

bers will give up their seats to run for other offices. (4-year term)

All 40 seats in the Virginia Senate (4-year term) are on the ballot, nine in Fairfax County.

All 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates (2-year term) are on the ballot, 17 seats in Fairfax County.

There is a rare challenge to the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney on the primary ballot. (4-year term)

Fairfax County Sheriff is also on the ballot. (4-year term)

Parties control information on primary candidates. See Fairfax County Republican Committee at <https://fairfaxgop.org/voter-toolkit/>; Fairfax County Democratic Committee at <https://fairfaxdemocrats.org/2019/01/14/candidates-running-for-office-in-2019/>.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Budget Equity

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

Increases in budget revenues as a result of federal tax changes and the ability to tax sales on goods purchased on the internet put Virginia in an unusual position to increase its budgeted funds mid-year of a biennial budget while at the same time providing many taxpayers with refunds.

As the fall elections approach the actions on the state budget will receive many different "spins." Certainly taxpayers like getting money refunded. At the same time they recognize when programs to meet needs are underfunded, they may over a period of time become even more underfunded. It is more than mathematics and accounting to approve a budget when revenues have increased—it is also very much an expression of values on the part of decision makers.

An example of values affecting budgetary decisions came during the Great Recession of 2008. State revenues dipped at the greatest rate in modern times just as many businesses faltered and failed. A great bail-out went to businesses from the federal government as did



Only now has the Virginia economy recovered such that the funding of education today is exceeding that of pre-2008 levels.

COMMENTARY

major funding to state government. The feds did not match the private losses, but they did provide relief for some greater cuts for programs like education. Only now has the Virginia economy recovered such that the funding of

education today is exceeding that of pre-2008 levels.

Beyond simply funding programs and services with more money next year than last year are the equity issues involved in distributing money across programs. My trip to Prince Edward County as I described in my column last week reminded me just how inequitable funding can be. There was no pretense of equity among black and white schools. The whites went to a brick school that was modern for its time; the black children went to school in a tar-paper shanty. With many federal court decisions we have gotten beyond the inequities of segregated services and programs, but inequities still exist.

The budget presented to the General Assem-

bly by Governor Ralph Northam represented the greatest attempt at resolving equity issues that I have seen. Funding for schools was increased but with those who had the greatest needs receiving the most money. Programs for students with special needs were enhanced as was funding for historically black institutions of higher education. The Governor found himself with a major problem pushing his agenda as he got himself in political hot water for his behavior many years ago. Whatever way that situation is resolved, it need not take attention from the basic problem of increasing equity among school divisions, mental health programs and criminal justice programs.

There is ample evidence gleaned from numerous studies that document inequities that exist in the state's budget. These facts will be manipulated among candidates this election season to gain advantage, but candidates need to acknowledge that inequities exist and must be dealt with fairly. I understand that most regions feel that they do not get a fair shake. There are metrics that can be used to find the inequities; once resolved the state will be stronger because of it.

nor Northam in order for any regional coordination efforts on reducing greenhouse gases to have a chance to proceed.

Sensible solar bills? Common sense community controlled single-use plastics legislation? A moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure? Good things were proposed, but we got nothing through our representation in Richmond.

Which is why the timing of some good news from our Virginia delegation in Congress on climate and related social justice issues is so welcome.

Rep. Gerry Connolly co-sponsored the 'Green New Deal' House Resolution - an aspirational set of goals for sure, but he has now followed it up with co-sponsorship of a piece of detailed climate legislation - the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763). Following all the dire climate projections, global experts concur that pricing carbon (CO2) is the best first step to address emissions causing climate instability. Returning all net revenues, in form of a monthly dividend, protects families and ensures support for the

transition to renewables at the household level. Border adjustments ensure an equal playing field for international trade. Thank you, Rep. Connolly, and may the rest of the Virginia delegation pick up the call.

While the climate threat is not so visible and measurable as that from a coal ash pit, nor the solution so engineerable, it must be treated at an emergency scale of effort and urgency.

Meredith Haines
Vienna



Teen Job Fair Held at West Springfield High

FROM PAGE 3

opportunities, like NV Pools, “I’m also looking at the Fire and Rescue and EMT possibilities,” she said.

Jessica Lopez’s soon-to-open Code Ninjas franchise for game-based coding education in Burke, was another booth attracting a lot of attention – from young and not-so-young.

“We will need people for our summer camps, but also a few for year-round work,” said Lopez, and they are willing to train people with the aptitude for the work “who are willing to work patiently with kids aged 7-14, teaching, but also mentoring and making the experience fun. I bet our employees will be having just as much fun.”

Vishal Green from Irving Middle School, Ben McGarry from West Springfield and Amshala Bharathan from Herndon High School all looked interested in the coding job prospect.

While the emphasis is mostly on first-time and part-time jobs, some of the employers, like PAE are of-



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Mom Jamie Patton watches as her son Joseph, an almost-16-year-old attending Hayfield Secondary School, fills out an application for employment at the Teen Job Fair. “I’m excited, but nervous, too,” said the first-time jobseeker.

fering entry-level positions that can turn into long-term careers, or springboards for advancement at PAE or other companies.

“We train for intelligence community security monitoring,” said recruiter Kamiar Janneskari. “We handle the process for our hires to get their security clearance –

something that will benefit them greatly, especially in today’s job market, and certainly in this region.”

IF YOU MISSED this chance to job search and learn ways to stand out from the crowd, there are still a few more teen job fair opportu-



Mr. Johnson and his 17-year-old son Jared who attends Hayfield Secondary, both said they learned a lot from Monica Jackson’s interviewing workshop, especially on being prepared.

nities to get in on the action in other parts of the county, since “we all work together for our kids,” says Herry. “We are one community.”

Interested students – and employers – can go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs for more

information and to register. The other fairs will be held at Chantilly High School on April 5, co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, April 6 at South County High School, co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, and Mount Vernon High School on April 27, also co-sponsored by Storck.

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BULLETIN

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2019, are eligible to attend kindergarten. Find the correct neighborhood school by entering your address at boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/. Complete a packet of registration forms found at www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf or in the school office. Gather supporting documents: proof of residence in the school boundary, a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent. Learn more at www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements.

Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2019-20 school year. Find registration forms in the Union Mill Elementary office or online at www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf. Call 703-322-8500 or email lrmill@fcps.edu to make an appointment to bring completed registration forms and supporting documentation to school. Kindergarten Orientation will take place on Monday, April 1, 4-5 p.m.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

State of Children's Health Legislative Update Breakfast. 8:30-10 a.m. at Northern Virginia Community College - Medical Education Campus, Springfield. Join the MCCC Foundation to hear the latest on the state of healthcare for children locally, across Virginia, and

at the Federal level. Meet with legislators, health professionals, business leaders, and community advocates to discuss current news and updates from experts in the field. \$25-\$35. Visit mccpfoundation.org/event/legislative-update-breakfast-march-29-2019/ to register.

Teen Depression: What Parents Need to Know. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. This workshop presented by Dr. Kathryn DeLonga, PsyD, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Director of the Mood Brain and Development Unit Psychological Treatment Program at the National Institute for Mental Health, will highlight the prevalence of major depressive disorder and how to identify depression in teenagers. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

Language Immersion Lottery Registration. Immersion lottery registration will close on March 29 for kindergarten. A SIS parent account is required to register. More information about Immersion programs and information meetings can be found at www.fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Northern Virginia Housing Expo. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. Dozens of exhibits and workshops will provide all the information needed to rent an apartment or

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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NEWS

Shopping Center Set for a Facelift

‘New and improved’ will be the mantra for the Old Keene Mill Shopping Center.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Shoppers at the Old Keene Mill Shopping Center in West Springfield are seeing signs of change as the center is getting a face lift. The project started March 18 and will continue into the late fall this year. New features will include upgraded seating areas outside Starbucks and the Mezeh restaurant, a double-sided stone fireplace, new signage and landscaping. Federal Realty, long-term owners of the center, are collaborating with ARTSFAIRFAX to include an interactive component at the center as well.

“Federal Realty continually invests to enhance our properties to best meet the desires of the customers and community it serves,” said Sarah North, director of marketing at Federal Realty in Charlottesville.

There is a local group that meets for coffee at Starbucks in the mornings, and they usually sit outside, even in the colder months, so for now they are looking for other options. The project is fast tracking a spot for outdoor diners though in front of Starbucks, and it is expected to be open in May, said North.

“This space will remain active throughout the construction period providing customers a place to gather and enjoy takeout food while the outdoor cafes are under renovation,” she said.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) has been in talks with Federal Realty about the renovation and is happy with the plans. “I’m excited about the improvements being made, from the signing and façade changes to the new gathering spaces for our residents,” Herrity said.

Bailey Dawn at Honest Soul Yoga has a fence partially obscuring her entrance, but said it isn’t in the way. Yogis are known adjust easily. “The final plans seem beautiful and we’re excited for the finished project,” she said.

Parking may get challenging throughout the project. The lot is big, but it may require walking a longer distance though. Springfield resident Jan Speerstra wasn’t too concerned as she walked to her car, pointing at the dated shopping center across Rolling Road. “The other side would have been better for renovations,” she said. That shopping center is in the Braddock District and got some new restaurants and stores in the recent past, but no renovations as of now.

Exiting from the center to northbound Rolling Road continues to be a challenge due to the side road and steep ramp onto Rolling Road, but that fix isn’t part of this project. Cars will continue to navigate this on the side of Whole Foods and down a steep ramp, occasionally scraping the bumper to get out on this main road.



ARTIST RENDERING/COURTESY OF FEDERAL REALTY.

The two-sided fireplace that is planned for the center will be convenient in the fall when the Old Keene Mill Shopping Center facelift project is complete.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

The Explorer's Club. Through March 31, Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. London, 1879. The prestigious Explorers Club is in crisis: their acting president wants to admit a woman, and their bartender is terrible. True, this female candidate is brilliant, beautiful, and has discovered a legendary Lost City, but the decision to let in a woman could shake the very foundation of the British Empire, and how does one make such a decision without a decent drink? This is the area premier of The Explorer's Club by Nell Benjamin, directed by Frank Shutts. \$20-\$30. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Art Exhibit: Spring Marches On. Through April 1, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill Street in Historic Occoquan. "Spring Marches On" features paintings by Jeanne and David Pacheco of Springfield. Contact the gallery at 703-494-0584 or at info@artistsundertaking.com.

Fine Arts Enrichment Camps. The Youth Arts Camp & Education Outreach (ages 13-17) programs at the Workhouse provide rich experiences in fine arts year-round. Campers work alongside professional artists and professional educators to excel in different mediums, learning various techniques, and creating quality artwork with every visit. Find upcoming camps at reservations.workhousearts.org.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 28-30

Our Country's Good. Thursday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday 2 and 8 p.m. in the deLaski Performing Arts Building, A105, TheaterSpace, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. In June 1789 in an Australian penal colony, a marine lieutenant puts on a play to celebrate the king's birthday, using the camp's English convicts as his cast of characters. Contains language that some may find offensive. \$15-\$30. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/our-country-39-s-good.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 29-30

Mason Dance Company Gala. 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall on GMU's Fairfax Campus. The Gala Concert is Mason Dance Company's crowning season event featuring a program of works by contemporary professional choreographers. \$28 adults, \$15 students and seniors, \$10 groups. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/mason-dance-company-gala-at-the-center-for-the-arts.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 29-31

August: Osage County. Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoma family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling mysteries. This play contains strong language and adult content. \$17-\$20. Email tickets@providenceplayers.org, call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org.

Bye Bye Birdie. Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Church of the



Spring Art Lessons

Art Lessons in Burke for 5-8 years; 8 years and older; and teens and adults are held at the Woods Community Centre at 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Next session starts Tuesday, April 2 or Saturday, April 6, 2019. Summer art camp registration opens in mid-April. Visit www.czartlessons.com or call 703-250-6930.

Students of Carol Zeitlin explore interpreting a seal into a line drawing.

Good Shepherd (in the Grand Hall), 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. A musical comedy for the whole family. \$15 adult, \$10 student (18 or younger). Purchase tickets at www.goodshepherdplayers.com or call 703-323-5400.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

NoVaTEEN Book Festival. 9:30 a.m. at Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The NoVaTEEN Book Festival is back with a day full of panels, games, and signings with over 30 bestselling and emerging Young Adult authors. Learn more on the official festival website. The event is free and open to the public; find tickets and schedule at novateenbookfestival.com.

Spring Fling Features Alice McDermott. At the Springfield Golf and Country Club. Alice McDermott, winner of the National Book Award for Charming Billy, will be the featured speaker at the AAUW's annual Spring Fling. This fundraiser, which includes a luncheon and silent

auction, supports AAUW programs such as fellowships, leadership development, lifelong education for women, the Legal Advocacy Fund and other similar projects. \$40; reservation deadline is March 22. Email Absaberman@aol.com with questions or SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com to make a reservation.

Chili Cookoff. 1 p.m. at Hopsfrog Grille, 6030 Burke Commons Road, Burke. Hopsfrog Grille's annual Chili Cookoff benefiting the Fort Belvoir Fisher House (www.fisherhouse.org) features chili tasting and raffle. Contestant pre-registration by March 17; \$10 per chili entry. Chili tasters: \$10 and a vote for best chili. Call 703-239-9324.

Faulty Artist Series: Julianna Nickel & James Nickel. 4 p.m. in the Harris Theatre on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Free and open to the public. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/faculty-artist-series-julianna-nickel-flute-amp-james-nickel-horn.

The Mason Dance Fête. 5:30 p.m. in the deLaski Performing Arts Building

on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Held prior to the March 30 Dance Gala Concert, The Mason Dance Fête is an intimate benefit reception featuring a Q&A with Lucinda Childs and student showcases exploring the featured dances. Proceeds from The Mason Dance Fête go towards School of Dance scholarship funds. \$95 for reception and performance. Visit dance.gmu.edu/mason-dance-fete.

Live Music: Lesson Zero. 8 p.m.-midnight at The Mixing Bowl (formerly J W and Friends), 6531 Backlick Road, Springfield. Free. Visit www.jwandfriends.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 30-31

Children's Book Sale. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-3 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Thousands of gently read books and non-book media organized by categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, chapter books, young adult, etc. \$0.50-\$2. Some specials \$3-\$4. Check or cash only.

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- Reston Connection
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- Vienna/Dakota Connection

ENTERTAINMENT

Plenty of free parking in library garage. Free admission. Email FriendsofFairfaxCityLibrary@cox.net.
Marvel Universe Live. At EagleBank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Marvel Universe LIVE is performing at EagleBank Arena. \$20. Show times are Saturday, March 30 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 31 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Visit www.marveluniverselive.com/tickets.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Book Launch: City of Peace. 11:15 a.m. at the Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. A launch party for City of Peace by Henry G. Brinton will take place as part of a "Morning of Music and Mystery" and will begin in the church's Fellowship Hall with a short talk and several readings. The event will end with a book-signing. Copies of City of Peace will be available for purchase. Visit www.henrygbrinton.com for details.

Bunny Meditation. Noon. Liberty Lorton, the former prison turned new development, is hosting a series of events that includes barnyard yoga, outdoor movie nights, and the second annual Turkey Trot. Events are open to residents and non-residents of Liberty. Events are open to residents and non-residents of Liberty alike. Visit thelibertylife.com.

Learn about the "Tender Cars" on Trains. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about the "Tender Cars" a type of railroad car on trains. Story boards and a craft will begin the series of activities to learn about the different types of cars on trains. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Author Event: John A. Wasowicz. 2-5 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. John A. Wasowicz will be discussing and signing copies of his legal thriller, "Daingerfield Island." Wasowicz resides in Mt. Vernon; he practiced law for 10 years in Fairfax County and is a former president of the Fairfax Bar Association. Free. Email AlendronLLC@aol.com.

Faculty Artist Series: Dr. Dorotea Racz, Cello. 3 p.m. in the Harris Theatre on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Croatian cellist Dorotea Racz has concertized throughout Europe, United States, Central, and South America as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. Free and open to the public. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/faculty-artist-series-dr-dorotea-racz-cello.

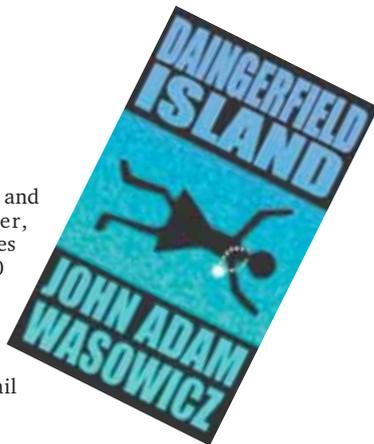
Story of Ravensworth. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn about the largest landgrant in Colonial Fairfax County, covering part of present-day Burke. Beginning with William Fitzhugh in 1685, the story covers many generations and fascinating characters. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

Matsiko Choir Concert. 5-6:30 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Join Franconia UMC for a concert by the Matsiko World Orphan Choir. Matsiko has performed at sports events, the Rose Bowl, Disneyland, and Mount Rushmore. All are welcome to this free concert. Visit franconiaumc.org or call 703-971-5151.

"Unplugged." 6 p.m. at Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. "Unplugged" will feature performances by youth dancers in tap, jazz, contemporary, music theater, and hip hop. Pre-Performance reception sponsored by Burton's Grill & Bar. \$20. Visit

Book Signing

John A. Wasowicz will be discussing and signing copies of his legal thriller, "Daingerfield Island." Wasowicz resides in Mt. Vernon; he practiced law for 10 years in Fairfax County and is a former president of the Fairfax Bar Association. Sunday, March 31, 2-5 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Free. Email AlendronLLC@aol.com for more.



www.metropolitanarts.org or call 703-339-0444.

Aquila Theatre: A Midsummer Night's Dream. 7 p.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, Fairfax Campus. Aquila Theatre returns with a magical and witty production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the performance. \$44, \$37, \$26. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/aquila-theatre-a-midsummer-night-39-s-dream for tickets.

MONDAY/APRIL 1

Big Band Showdown. 8 p.m. at the Concert Hall on GMU's Fairfax Campus. George Mason University, Jazz Studies Department is proud to present the Big Band Showdown 2019. The Mason Jazz Ensemble, directed by Jim Carroll, offers opportunities for improvisation, performance, recording, writing, leadership and service. \$12 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 youth through grade 12. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/big-band-showdown for tickets.

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Researching Historic Cemeteries. 7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Mary Lipsey of the Burke Historical Society and the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association will speak on how to locate, study, and care for local historic cemeteries. Free. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

APRIL 2-MAY 6

Art Exhibit: "Simply Spring." 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily (except major holidays) at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St. in Historic Occoquan. The Artists' Undertaking Gallery presents "Simply Spring," an exhibit featuring photography and digital paintings by David and Jane Ernst of Springfield, fiber work by Lauren Jacobs and jewelry by Tyler Kulenguski. A Meet the Artists Reception will be held on Sunday, April 14, 1-5 p.m. Call 703-494-0584 or email info@artistsundertaking.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 4-7

August: Osage County. Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoma family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling mysteries. This play contains strong language and adult content. \$17-\$20. Email tickets@providenceplayers.org, call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

GAMEmason. 11:15 a.m.-9:30 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall and throughout the Music Theater building on GMU's Fairfax Campus. GAMEmason (Gaming, Appearances, Meet and Greet and Experiences) is an all-day gaming convention. The

event also includes bring-your-own communal gameplay opportunities and food trucks throughout the day. \$20-\$40. Find tickets and information at si.gmu.edu/gamemason.

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 5-6

Genealogy Conference/Expo. Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Fairfax Genealogical Society's two-day spring conference and expo. Lectures, workshops, individual consultations, vendors with items/services of interest to family researchers. FxGS member, \$100; non-member, \$120. Details at www.fxgs.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Ballet Performance: Cinderella. 2 and 7:30 p.m. at NOVA Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performers from Classical Ballet Theatre will tell the story of a young girl who discovers her prince with a little help from her fairy godmother. \$15. Visit www.cbtnva.org/cinderella or call 703-573-0182.

Fundraiser: Wine Dinner. 5:30-10 p.m. at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bite Me Cancer, presents its annual Wine Dinner fundraiser. All proceeds from the event will benefit Teen Cancer Support Bags and other teen-related programs which help teenage patients in more than 115 hospitals in 46 states and the District of Columbia. \$150. Visit bitmecancer.networkforgood.com/events/9464-6th-annual-bite-me-cancer-wine-dinner.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Author Event: Missy Sheldrake. Noon-2 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes. Missy Sheldrake, of Centreville, is the author/illustrator of the "Keepers of the Wellsprings" young adult fantasy series and will be signing books. Visit www.missysheldrake.com.

A Turning Point in Women's History. 1-3 p.m. at Temple B'nai Shalom, 7612 Old Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Come hear Pat Wirth, of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, give an in-depth look at a critical time in the history of women in our country. Open to all. Free. Suggested contribution of \$10 at the door. Get tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/a-turning-point-in-womens-history-wrj-mid-atlantic-district-area-day-tickets-57807894970.

Burke Historical Society April Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Dr. Cindy Gueli speaks on her book Lipstick Brigade, telling the stories of the 100,000+ women from across the country who went to work in Washington during WWII. Free. Visit burkehistoricalsociety.org.

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NEWS

The calm before the storm. Staff from the county's Office of Emergency Management "at work" in the Office of Emergency Management's Alternate Emergency Operation Center, giving insight into the department's operations before a state-wide tornado drill.

PHOTO BY ANDREA WÖRKER/
THE CONNECTION



County Launches Emergency Response Guide

FROM PAGE 2

ditional resources to help citizens prepare and produce the best possible outcomes for themselves, their families and their neighbors.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova opened the session to launch the guide. She was followed by Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, who also chairs the board's Public Safety committee.

"We're proud that Fairfax County is once again taking a leadership role," said Cook. "We are only the second county in the nation to put together such a comprehensive and accessible resource for our citizens."

One of the key reasons for their efforts to provide the information was the need for everyone to do their part in working for the safety and wellbeing of the community, Cook said.

The Office of Emergency Management coordinates all hazard mitigation, response and disaster recovery for the residents of Fairfax County. Depending on the severity and the scope of the situation, Cook noted that local emergency services could be stretched to their limits.

In the event of a major disaster, residents may have to act as their "own first responders" and the guide discusses how to be ready to do just that for the first three to five days of a large-scale event.

While not suggesting that private citizens would, or should, assume the major duties of rescue and other responders, Cook, and Seamus Mooney, the OEM's director, both offered that lives could be saved and the impact of any such catastrophe be reduced if residents prepare and plan for themselves, and look out for others around them.

"The call to 9-1-1 is still the first order of business," said Mooney, but, again, if the event is severe and/or wide-spread throughout the region, those emergency personnel will be handling hundreds – if not thousands – of calls and prioritizing individual needs and the actions required to bring the situation under control.

The county has a comprehensive plan for response to these and other emergency scenarios and they are highlighted in the CERG, but, more importantly, the guide offers practical before, during, and after advice and resources for our citizenry. It all starts with "Make a Plan."

THE GUIDE discusses the planning assumptions residents have to make. That could mean dealing with no water, no power, limited communications and possibly no access to retail, including pharma-

cies, no gasoline, and possibly no ATMs for cash or even the ability to use a credit card.

The CERG provides a basic checklist to help develop your plan for yourself, your family, your neighbors, your pets and even your business, if you are a business-owner.

Step 2 in the preparation stage is to "Practice Your Plan" since a plan is only useful if everyone knows it and can execute it quickly during a stress-filled situation.

The final ingredient to the planning stage is to assemble and maintain an Emergency Kit – and again, the CERG is your guide to knowing just what to include and how to safeguard lives and protect important items and documents. All this valuable information is covered in the first 20 or so pages of the more than 120-page reference book.

Next comes the "what to do's" of response — the "during phase" — covering evacuation strategies, lock-downs and sheltering-in-place as safely as possible.

Resources for the recovery phase are next, from physical clean-ups to how to apply for assistance from local and federal agencies.

Before getting into the specifics of the different emergency scenarios, the CERG offers practical tips on how to mitigate the effects of flooding, fire, and high winds and what you can do to promote a continuity of utility services. There are also mitigation recommendations for shoring-up financial resilience and preparing to make insurance claims to lessen that pain and possibly shorten the wait for benefits.

After the "cheat sheets" for the different types of emergency, the CERG offers more resources, more checklists and templates to make the process as simple as possible, and encourage its use.

Mooney urges residents to sign up for Fairfax Alerts at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts. For residents with physical, sensory, mental health and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities, as well as women in late-stage pregnancy and seniors, Mooney strongly recommends that they register with the Fairfax County Functional Needs Registry.

The registry is an opt-in list of names, addresses and needs that the county uses to deliver targeted emergency alerts and updates in the event of an emergency.

"With information like this, if permitted, we can train communities to make connections," Cook said. "We can help connect neighbors like these with each other and help create a plan to assist." Sometimes, the call to duty can be as simple as just checking in on the neighbor during an emergency to be sure they are informed and not in any immediate need or danger.

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FROM PAGE 6

purchase a first home at the 2019 Northern Virginia Housing Expo, a regional housing fair. Free. Visit www.novahousingexpo.org for more.

International Dinner & Play Workshop. 5-7:30 p.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Infant Toddler Family Day Care (ITFDC), a non-profit organization providing child care resource and referral services in Northern Virginia, will be hosting the 2019 International Dinner & Play Workshop for its network of 120 Early Child Care Educators and 300 families. Visit www.infanttoddler.com for more.

MONDAY/APRIL 1

Scholarship Application Deadline. The Bull Run Civil War Roundtable in Centreville, Va., a 501 (3)c organization, offers a \$2,000 scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides in Fairfax, City of Fairfax, Manassas, Manassas Park, or Prince William County. Applicants should plan to attend college in the fall of 2019. Information and application instructions can be found at bullrunwrt.org.

"Pardon Our Dust" Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at the West Springfield Government Center (Community Room), 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation and the office of Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity will hold a "Pardon Our Dust" meeting on a pedestrian improvement project located along Center Road from West Springfield High School to Garden Road. Owners of potentially affected properties and other interested parties are invited to review and discuss the project with county staff.

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Scholarship Application Deadline. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia has opened its scholarship applications for the 2019-2020 school year. The scholarships are open to graduating high school seniors in Northern Virginia. The applications managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia are due by April 2. Additional scholarships are available, with deadlines throughout the spring. Visit www.cfnova.org/scholarships to review the list of scholarships available and apply.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways Public Meeting. 7 p.m. at Sangster Elementary School, 7420 Reservation Drive, Springfield. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is inviting the public to attend a second round of public meetings on the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study, and provide feedback. The meetings will begin with a formal presentation at 7 p.m., followed by a question and answer period. Participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback. For residents who cannot attend the public meetings, FCDOT will upload the meeting presentation to the study webpage by April 4 and invite feedback via an online survey. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/fairfax-county-parkway.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Sibshops. 9 a.m.-noon at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. The Sibshop workshops are for children in grades 2-5 who have siblings with special needs enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools. Meet other siblings in a fun, recreational setting; celebrate siblings; share sibling experiences and receive peer support; play games and more. A snack will be provided. Registration is free, donations will be accepted to support the cost of materials and food. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center or call the FCPS Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 to register.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

2019 Special Education Conference. 7:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. FCPS will hold its 14th Annual Special Education Conference with a focus on building inclusive and post-secondary practices to support the development of 21st Century skills and Portrait of a Graduate (POG) attributes. Visit www.fcps.edu/spedconference2019 for details, a list of workshops, exhibitor information and to register.

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Weight For It ... Wait ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't like interacting with artificial intelligence. Nor do I like interacting with artificially-intelligent emailers.

And I especially don't like when there's an attempt by these "a.i.s" to modify my behavior by suggesting a pre-programmed, presumptive course of action – or inaction on my part, based on some survey I may have completed or some list that I've recently been added to – without my consent, or most likely due to a purchase or service I likewise recently paid for.

To that end, which does not justify their means, today I received an email that goes above and beyond the "a.i.'s" purview. And how this particular email came my way is "curious," as Spock from the original "Star Trek" might say.

On March 1, moments before my last infusion, I stepped on a scale which registered my "overweight," which along with taking my blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels are part of the usual and customary vitals I provide each and every time I go for treatment. Other than my "overweight," my vitals are completely normal.

Treatment start-date to date, 10-plus years now, my "overweight" has never been a problem (truth be told, I'm hardly obese, just pleasingly plump), just a factor in determining how much medicine is dripped by my IV.

The oncologist and medical staff has seemed more concerned with a patient losing weight – which I rarely have. Although during the early days of six-plus hours of heavy-duty chemotherapy, I did lose weight and it was a concern and can portend a serious complication.

Fortunately for me, whatever weight I did lose did not portend anything other than I wasn't eating. Eventually, that lost weight – and more – was definitely found.

A few days later, I received an email from my health care provider; not my doctor, not a nurse and not personalized by any medical professional, but rather sent from some artificially-intelligent thing offering me information on varying diets and their respective benefits. At first I laughed at its location – in my inbox, and then I began to question its legitimacy and then I got mad at its presumptive intent.

Was this a coincidence? Was this merely a continuing outreach to the HMO's patients like its colon-rectal screening program, sent to patients of a certain age, seems to be? Or was it something more insidious like "Hal" nearly became in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey"?

The nerve. The bypassing of protocols. The attempt to circumvent the human element. Is this what medicine has become?

Not calls or personalized messages from your doctor/medical staff but instead an electronic missive emailed with the cold, insensitive precision of Pentium chips?

Putting aside the obvious fact that I do need to lose weight, even though as my brother Richard says so often when he sees me: "The weight looks good on you," I am not doing so because a computer told me to.

In fact, I may not do so at all just to spite that computer, and by association, the system that exists/was put in place (presumably by some human) that believes that communicating with its members electronically is the wave of the future rather than the bane of my present. I cannot, I will not be a pawn in this game of clones where the same messages get sent to millions of semi unsuspecting patients by uncensored non-professionals as a matter of some coarse level of routine.

If you want me to change my behavior, or at least consider changing my behavior, you have to try a little harder than by sending pre-programmed message to patients who meet/exceed a certain threshold.

And how did my personal information actually get known anyway? Is there a system in place that automatically reviews patient's private histories by cross-referencing who had appointments and what the new details were? Was the scale and blood pressure machine in on it? If so, is my medical care becoming more automated and less individualized?

I realize I'm just a number but I didn't think they'd take it literally.

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

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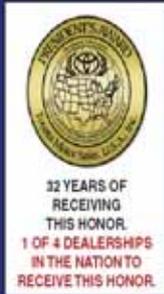
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