

Burke CONNECTION Candidates Speak Out at Forum

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Candidates for Chairman-Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Joseph F. Galdo (R) and Jeff C. McKay (D) at the Fairfax County 2019 Candidate Forum, Monday, Sept. 23.

Lake Accotink Lives On

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Bocce, Horseshoes Medals Awarded at Senior Olympics

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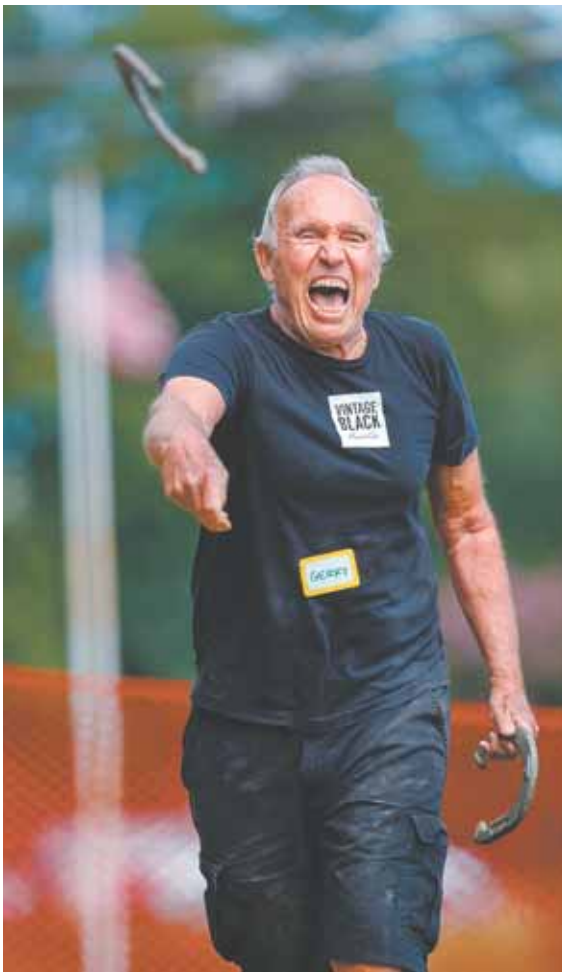
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THE CONNECTION

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/

NEWS



Gerry Rhoads of Burke in action during the horseshoe event. Rhoads shared a bronze medal in his division.

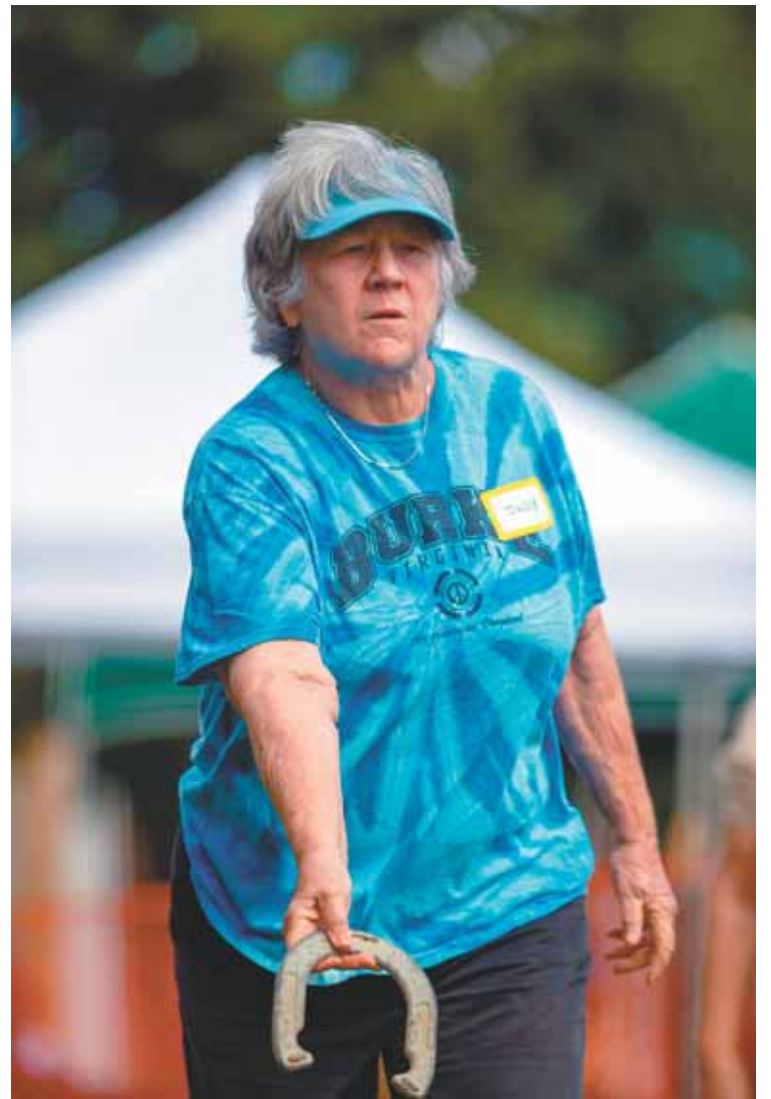
PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION



Fairfax Station resident Glenn Snodgrass releases a horseshoe towards a metal stake en route to a silver medal.

Bocce, Horseshoes Medals Awarded at Senior Olympics

The 2019 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) featured bocce and horseshoes at the Green Acres Senior Center in Fairfax on Sept. 19. The 37th annual NVSO provides senior adults with an opportunity for competition, self-improvement, and fellowship through various athletic and recreational events.



Judy Landolt-Korns of Clifton prepares to throw during the horseshoes competition. Landolt-Korns won a gold medal.

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Candidates Speak Out at Forum

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

With eyes on the Nov. 5 state senate and delegate races in the Virginia General Assembly and all county and constitutional officials races, the League of Women Voters-Fairfax Area presented its second in a series of fourteen Fairfax County 2019 Candidate Forums. On Monday, Sept. 23, the League introduced its second forum focused on the one seat for Chairman-Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and three seats for Fairfax County School Board at large member. Held at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax, this forum like all others by the League was nonpartisan.

Vying for County Chairman were Joseph F. Galdo (R) and Jeff C. McKay (D). For Fairfax County School Board at large member were Abrar E. Omeish, Cheryl A. Buford, Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, Priscilla DeStefano, Rachna S. Heizer and Vinson X. Palathingal.

Styled as a forum rather than a debate with interaction among the candidates themselves or with the audience, but instead, as a moderated discussion, the League made time after the formal setting for an informal meet and greet session.

Award-winning author and journalist Michael Pope moderated the forum and presented questions submitted by the public as well as his own to the candidates. Pope provided each candidate equal and fair opportunity to express their views through timed opening/closing remarks and answers to questions.

Organizers divided the forum into two segments; the candidates for County Chairman went first, followed by candidates for Fairfax County School Board at large member. The League co-sponsored the forum along with twenty-two local organizations.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Candidate Forum

Moderator Michael Pope

Q1-The elephant in the room- "Can you assure voters you, (McKay) paid full market value for your house and are you willing to release the appraisal?"

Q2-Affordable housing- Fairfax County increased the amount of spending for affordable housing by \$5M to \$15M. Is this enough money, and what would you do to increase the availability of affordable housing?"

Q3-Body cameras for police officers- There's a proposal on the table to spend about \$30M for body cameras for 1200 officers for five years. Do you favor the proposal?"

Q4- Describe in one word, your campaign and your goals for this office.



Jeff C. McKay (D), 2019 candidate Chairman- Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Joseph F. Galdo (R), 2019 candidate Chairman- Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Abrar E. Omeish-2019 candidate School Board at large



Cheryl A. Buford, 2019 candidate School Board at large



Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, 2019 candidate School Board at large



Priscilla DeStefano, 2019 candidate School Board at large member



Rachna S. Heizer, 2019 candidate School Board at large



Vinson X. Palathingal, 2019 candidate School Board at large

Candidate Joseph F. Galdo (R) opened his comments stating he chose to live in Fairfax County because the schools had an excellent reputation and the house he wanted to purchase was affordable; however, he was concerned about the future. "Just the last five years, real estate taxes increased twice the rate of inflation, and the county is becoming unaffordable for more residents even while our children are taking classes in trailers. É Traffic congestion is worse. É Our county has experienced rapid development and its getting worse. É Worst of all, my opponent has just signed a promise to codify radical extreme sanctuary policies that would make Fairfax County, a haven for criminals."

Q1- The elephant in the room- "It's a matter of transparency. From the beginning, when the vote was taken on the application for the zoning change, the chairman asked if there were any conflicts of interest. You did not report anything."

Q2- Affordable housing- "We are destroying affordable housing in Fairfax County because of the pace of development and the real estate speculation that is ongoing. We are unable to replace it. The first

thing that we have to do is slow down development that is going on, particularly the very high-density developments... At the pace we are replacing affordable housing, we won't get to where we need to be in ten years."

Q3-Body cameras for police officers- "The state law requires every byte of data (from the cameras) to be reviewed. That is the reason why we are hiring 23 personnel for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to review these videos. Not everybody in Fairfax County needs to have, or desires to have, body cameras in their districts. There are a couple of districts, a couple of communities where police have a problem with trust. Those are the communities we should be deploying body cameras; and wait until a time when the state legislature, the General Assembly, decides to relax the requirement for reviewing every byte of data in the videos."

Q4-One word- "Responsive. As I go through the county talking to voters, this is what I hear most often, that the county is not paying attention to what they need in their community."

Vying for county chairman and at large school board member.

Candidate Jeff C. McKay (D) stated he was the Democratic endorsed candidate for chairman of the board of supervisors and explained his experience. "I spent twelve years on the Board of Supervisors and before that twelve years in county government. I know how this county works. É This county is successful because we welcome people from all over the world to come to Fairfax County. ... We've done some amazing things in Fairfax County whether it's Diversion First and leading the country to treat mental health; whether it's triple-A bond rating. ... I think that what our voters want is they want a leader who's shown that he knows how to deliver; he knows how to work hard on the issues, understands them (and) understands how this county is governed."

Q1- The elephant in the room- "Absolutely, I've done that. I paid full market value for my house. This has been a joke from the beginning, perpetrated by a developer himself who hired by a right-wing law firm to make up a concocted story that has no merit. ... So I've said from the beginning, it is false."

Q2-Affordable housing- "It doesn't always take the county to make affordable housing happen. We made it happen with our community-based nonprofits É we're putting out additional money so that County money can be used and stretched much further for our nonprofit housing providersÉ Every land-use case that has come forward in my district has affordable housing; it has met or exceeded the ordinance requirements."

Q3- Body Cameras for police officers- "I absolutely do. I wrote the body language to support body cameras. For me, this is an investment in justice and fairness for everyone in our community. We're blessed with a state-of-the-art, top-notch police department. And our men and women who are in uniform support body-worn cameras because they have the confidence and the training they have to interact with the public. Our community overwhelmingly supports body cameras to make sure that when they have interactions with police that they're treated fairly and, there's a third-party validation of that."

Q3-One word- "Experience; it matters in this campaign. This is a big, complicated county. You want somebody, especially with half of this board turning over, who knows how to do this job on day one."

School Board at Large Candidate Forum

Moderator Michael Pope

Q1- Boundaries- How do you strike a balance between keeping neighborhood together vs. making sure there is diversity?"

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 5

County Announces Plan to Save Lake Accotink

BY JOHN COOK
SUPERVISOR (BRADDOCK DISTRICT)



Two years of advocacy and resident involvement paid off big time when I, Supervisor Jeff McKay, and Park Authority staff announced last week our plan to save Lake Accotink forever. It was a great day for the community.

This plan costs less than the original forecast, dredges the lake, provides for regular continued maintenance dredging, and will not require any large trucks to drive through neighborhood streets.

The Park Authority announced two years ago that Lake Accotink was in danger of disappearing absent new dredging. Since then my office and the Park Authority have held multiple community meetings to inform the public and listen to the community's preferences for the future of the lake. Community input was and remains vital in deciding how to move forward. A community survey initially found an overwhelming majority wanted to save the lake. Thousands of residents signed petitions with the same position. Of the five lake manage-

ment options presented by the Park Authority, the most popular one called for the installation of a sediment forebay and the full dredging of the lake. Supervisor Jeff McKay and I and the Park Authority held a final community meeting on Sept. 19, 2019 to review the Park Authority's final recommendations for lake management.

The Park Authority's recommendation is to do an initial wet dredge of the lake to an average 8-foot depth. Regular dredging on a much smaller scale would continue in future years. The initial dredge would cost a total of \$30.5 million to complete and \$2.013 million annually to maintain. This is much less than the \$50 million we expected last year. The sediment collected in the dredging would be brought by pipe to an unused area of Wakefield Park under the power lines for dewatering. Once it dries, the dirt would be trucked out of the county via the I-495 beltway. No truck would need to use neighborhood roads. The Wakefield dewatering area gives direct access to Braddock Road, and a minimal impact on wetlands in the area. Further study found truck-

ing was the best way to move the final dirt.

The dewatering system recommended by the Park Authority is known as the Geotextile Fabric Dewatering System. This reusable system easily accommodates large volumes of sediment. It reduces dewatering time versus the traditional basin method and does not disturb the ground at the installation site. It will require trucking sediment to a permanent disposal location at the end of the process.

The sediment field is recommended to be placed north of Braddock Road. This location is ideal due to its proximity to the Braddock Road access route. The sites considered south of Braddock Road would cause an increase in construction and trucking activities near residential communities. By building the dewatering site north of Braddock Road the site would have access to on-site dewatering and quick access to I-495 to truck to the final disposal site. Lastly, it would have the least impact to streams and wetlands compared to sites below Braddock Road.

The Board of Supervisors will vote on this proposal on Oct. 29. There is still time to voice your opinions to my office. You can email us at Braddock@FairfaxCounty.gov or call us at 703-425-9300.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Climate Action: A Top Priority

To the Editor:

I was very interested to read about public participation in Fairfax County's strategic planning process ("Fairfax County Long Term Plan Enters the Think Tank"). As I read through the nine areas of discussion, I noticed that every one of those areas will be impacted by climate change. For example, economic opportunity: clean energy infrastructure and emerging carbon capture technologies are just a couple of the ways that climate action can benefit our economy. Mobility and transportation: As transportation contributes to climate change, incentivizing and facilitating the use of efficient public transportation can massively affect Fairfax County's carbon footprint.

And the most obvious, health and environment: without action, extreme weather and other environmental changes will continue

to make us sicker and take more lives — of our own species and many others.

I sincerely hope that as Fairfax County continues with its strategic planning process, climate change is top of mind for the planners. It's an issue that transcends all others, and we have an opportunity to ensure that the county is on the forefront of climate mitigation and adaptation.

One way that both our elected representatives and citizens alike can do this is to learn about and support the Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763). This bill, which has been introduced in the House of Representatives, would put a price on the use of fossil fuels while returning all revenues to American families. It is an important step, toward making sure that Fairfax County remains a place where all citizens can live healthy, safe, rewarding lives.

Rose Hendricks
Falls Church

Write

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

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com



Bear on the Deck.

Black Bear Visits Great Falls Home

Cindy Gersony of Great Falls sent us this picture of a bear on her deck. On Sept. 14. Gersony writes: "I heard a noise as I was sitting in my kitchen in the early afternoon, and imagine my surprise to see a bear on our deck — he had to climb up the stairs — casually tipping our bird feeder so he could eat the bird seed. He looks to be a juvenile black bear. He stayed

a good 20 minutes, and then ambled off down the deck steps out to the woods in the general direction of the river. We live on Black Riffles Court, in the neighborhood where River Bend and Beach Mill roads meet, not too far from Riverbend Park."

If you see something interesting, by all means, send us a note or a photo. Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com



County Chairman, School Board Candidates Speak Up

FROM PAGE 3

Q2-Teacher Salaries-Should teachers in Fairfax County get more money, and what can we do to pay for it?

Q3-Guns- Should there be more guns and training of teachers or find ways to prevent guns from coming into schools?

Candidate Abrar E. Omeish said she's running for the seat because Fairfax County is one of the most successful counties in the country; at the same time, meritocracy exists along with disparities and inequalities. "The American Dream is under threat," she said. Omeish talked about children with food insecurities. "The kids who can't hear the teachers' instructions over the grumbling of their tummiesÉI encourage you to join me. Who wants to fight for that leader in every child in Fairfax County?"

Q1- Boundaries- "I think this conversation starts with empathy and understanding because there are families across this county who have different interests, different... concerns

Q2-Teacher Salaries- "We need to pay teachers with the dignity the profession demands... We have to continue to pressure Richmond to fully fund our schools... and something I heard from a constituent... start with \$5M investment into an endowment that will continue to fund our schools."

Q3-Guns- "Safe schools are critical to even begin to have the conversation of success and excellence...I am not a supporter of increasing guns in our schools...I am interested in thinking about safety holistically with students.

Candidate Cheryle A. Buford: "I am fighting for our children's future." Buford focused on her skill and professional experience: a former 10-year teacher; a master degree in Public Policy; worked at Department of Education on policies to address at-risk youth and as a consultant to nonprofitÉhelped turn good intentions into measurable outcomes. "I will never forget, I work for you... I will champion academic rigor. Did you know that 50 percent of the students that graduate from FCPS and attend Northern Virginia Community College have to enroll in remedial writing?" Buford added that Fairfax County needed to provide more technical education, expand ROTC program and provide multiple pathways to escape poverty.

Q1- Boundaries- "I find it very troubling the current school board was trying to ramrod a change of policy without getting community input... It's up to you voters to decide if you will give them another blank check for four years."

2-Teacher Salaries- "One thing I will compliment the board on is they did raise

the teachers' salaries, so they are competitive with the surrounding jurisdictions...A couple of people mentioned we need to keep pressuring Richmond to increase our funding. And that is a nice pipe dream. Good luck."

Q3-Guns- "We need to have SROs in our elementary schools as well, and in schools like McLean and Centreville HS, where they have many, many children in trailers, maybe they need a second SRO as well because walking between the trailers and the buildings puts them at greater risk."

Candidate Karen A. Keys-Gamarra: "I have had the distinct pleasure of serving as your at large school board member since September 2017...When you develop a good educational plan for our children, you give them the keys to success."

Keys-Gamarra detailed that as an attorney she worked with at-risk children, custody visitation, and more, and she worked fighting domestic violence in the community. "I bring all that experience to the board... I've worked on exposing younger children to languages... I've put forth a budget amendment to provide support for our special education community...I listen to constituents."

Q1- Boundaries- "As a current board member, we are in the process of trying to figure it out...there is a lot of misinforma-

tion out there." She said that they were in the process of getting a consultant. "There is nothing that has been outside of our regular processÉ The next step as we will see with the McLean situation is scoping, to go into the community."

2-Teacher Salaries- "Absolutely we need a competitive wage...the board has focused on raising teachers' salaries for the last two budget cycles, in addition to reducing class sizes."

Q3-Guns- "Teachers have come to me and said they don't want to walk around packing...We need to focus on mental health (for our students)...we also need to provide support for our teachers so they can recognize when a child has experienced trauma...We will do this together because the safety of our children is our top priority."

Candidate Priscilla DeStefano: "I'm a proud first generation American, and I'm actually living the American Dream...I became pregnant with my firstborn son but was able to transfer to Mountain View alternative." She said she received her degree from George Mason and her youngest child, age three is in the special needs program. DeStefano explained that she wanted to say all of this because she wanted people to

SEE FORUM, PAGE 10

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Senior Living

Exploring Art in Retirement

Seniors get a chance to pursue their passion.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

It was in third grade when Barb Cram first discovered her artistic talent. Her teacher asked to use one of her drawings as an example to teach a technique to other students.

Though she was lauded for her artistic talent from elementary school through high school, upon graduation, she says she put that interest on hold and engaged in educational pursuits that she was told were practical.

"When my generation as growing up it was all about getting skills like typing, bookkeeping and stenography so that you could get a job after you graduate said Cram, now 72.

After a long career, which included a stint in the White House, Cram has reengaged with her creative side. Now as President of Falls Church Arts, she is helping other retirees live out their passion, discover their talent or simply learn to appreciate art.

"Art can do so much for seniors. It's like a vacation for the mind," she said. "Whether as an artist, a teacher, a docent or an art student, there's place for everyone."

Retired clinical psychologist, Carolyn Jackson Sahni, spent her career practicing in settings ranging from state universities to non-profit organizations. Retirement has offered her the opportunity to explore her creative interests.

"I have never been employed as an artist or in a specific art related field, [but] art has always been my first love, said Jackson Sahni, who lives in Vienna. "I see art as our ultimate means of personal expression. I have an overwhelming preference for beauty and nature. Art has been my way of indulging this preference."

Sahni says that art has given her the gift of living out her dedication to life-long learning. "I believe in ... growing, expressing and discovering, she said. "While I am not quite ready to accept the definition of senior that I am, I cherish every day of my seventy-one years."

Though she spent 32 years as a government employee working in a variety of agencies including the National Institutes of Health and The Department of Homeland Security, Cynthia Miller had always wanted to explore visual arts. A few discouraging childhood experiences left her afraid to try.

"I have been interested in art my whole life, but my hands were frozen until I found my courage" she said. "I decided at age 70 that it was my time to learn and explore my desires as an artist."

Not only is Miller an artist, but she volunteers her time as a docent, sharing her passion with others. "I often speak with others who are seniors with few outside interests," she said. "They think I am brave in approaching my art as another career. I have a love of life, and feel I have a gift yet to develop and offer to others."

McLean resident Sallie Evans once worked as a recreation therapist, in retirement she works as an art instructor at Falls Church Arts teaching. "I love



Sallie Evans of McLean loves teaching art and helping students experience the job of creating art.



Cynthia Miller, who says that she enjoys experimenting with angles and shades, describes her art as abstract explosion.

teaching because it allows me to be an active participant when students experience the joy and absolute empowerment of making art. Teaching not only children, but she leads art projects for Fall Church Art's Memory Café, a social and recreational gathering of individuals with memory loss and their caregivers, friends, and family.

Deborah Conn, 70, retired from a career in marketing and began taking lessons in watercolor at the Art League in Alexandria. These days she's an active and prolific artist. Her medium is watercolor, frequently on textured paper that she makes by crinkling tissue paper and gluing it on the painting surface. Humans are the subjects of most of her work, but as one of the resident artists at Palette2 restaurant in Shirlington, she sketches dogs for patrons while they eat.

"I've been experimenting with making parts of my paintings less defined so viewers can fill in with their own mind," said Conn, who teaches art out of her home studio and works as an art curator. "In the last ten years or so, painting and art have become enmeshed in nearly every area of my life. Many of my closest friends are artists."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FALLS CHURCH ARTS

New Life for Lake Accotink

Dredging the lake and applying preservation measures is a victory for Accotink.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

There is good news and bad news about the fate of Lake Accotink, the topic of discussion at a recent meeting in the Cardinal Forest Elementary School cafeteria. For most of the packed house, the good news that the lake will be dredged and outfitted in such a way that it will be preserved for years to come. How it will be accomplished was not so good to some, including Philip Latasa, who walked around with “No Pipeline,” signs on his back and chest.

The pipeline he didn’t like was the talk of a pipeline that will carry the sludge from Lake Accotink to a spot under the power lines at Wakefield Park, where it will be trucked off to some abandoned quarries in western Fairfax County or Loudoun County. Even trucking it out of the lake would be better,

Latasa thought, calling the pipeline a “hideous eyesore.” “We might want to reconsider the possibility of trucks in our neighborhood,” he said.

Allan Robertson, the president of the Save Lake Accotink, agreed. “I’m concerned about the pipeline,” he said.

But the dredging idea was the favorite of most of the people involved, including county officials, so it will be just one part of a \$30 million solution to save the lake, which has become a very popular park in Springfield. There were 4,168 signatures on the petition to save the lake. “I think it’s going to be a home run,” said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) of the plan, which he and Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) worked over several months with other officials and the residents to come up with.

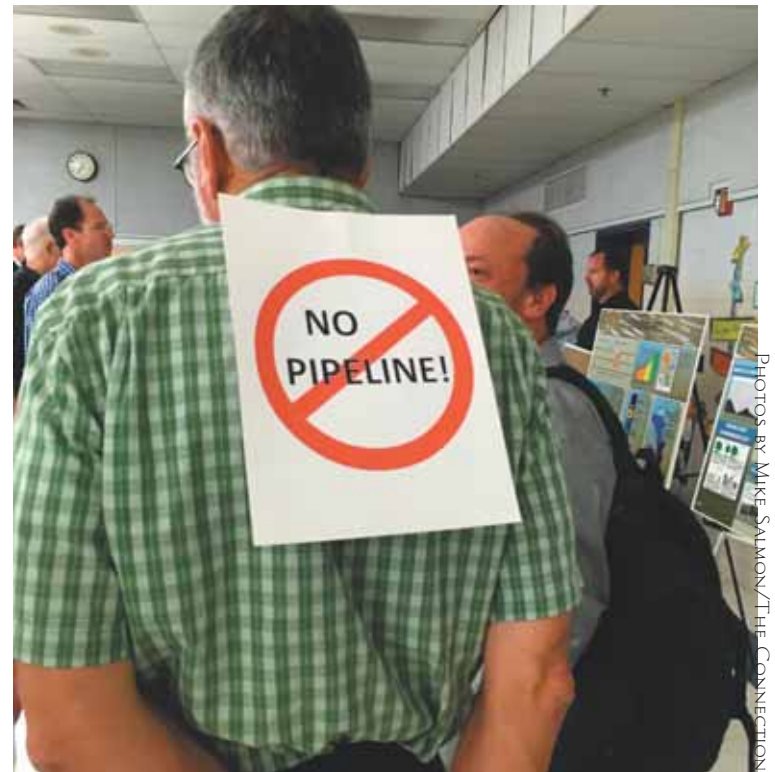
“We have a plan, we are going to save Lake Accotink forever,” added Cook.

The lake is formed by a dam that was put in years ago, and is fed by several streams which carry sediments that settle in the lake bottom. The lake is now four feet deep, in the deeper areas, and it will be dredged to eight feet deep in a process with a submerged pump that will take four years. It was dredged once in the 1985, and then again in 2008.

The \$30 million will come from the Virginia Clean Water Fund or the Economic Development Authority, but the explanation of how it will not be completely paid by the taxpayer was a little murky. Somewhere in there, the FY2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan identifies \$50 million for lake dredging in general. As far as the schedule, the county is expected to award the dredging contract in January 2021.

The price includes stream restoration upstream from the lake so that the sediments will not continue to flow downstream at the current rate, preventing another dredging a few years from now. “Lots of efforts to choke down that sediment load,” said one county official.

The spot where the sludge will



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Most attendees wanted to save the lake, but the methods were challenged by others, including Philip Latasa, who had “No Pipeline” signs on his back and chest.

be dumped in Wakefield Park under the power lines was of some concern, as was the impact the dredging will have on fish, animals and birds. “The problem has moved from Lake Accotink to Wakefield Park,” said one man during the comment period.

Accotink is the second largest watershed in Fairfax County, and

the park has become a sight of cultural and natural resources, various types of recreation, and an integral part of the county’s bike trail system. The trail around the lake is part of the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail Improvements, i.e. the “Cross County Trail,” that stretches from Great Falls to the Occoquan River.

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BE

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ONGOING

Shir HaLev, the Community Jewish Chorale of Northern Virginia. Rehearsals are held select Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax. The Chorale is a friendly, welcoming, adult volunteer choir. Membership in the group is open to all, members of Congregation Olam Tikvah and other Northern Virginians. Their repertoire consists mainly of Jewish liturgical music and also some contemporary Jewish music and some secular showtunes, too. Visit carolboydleon.com/shir_halev for more.

Senior Olympics. The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The public is invited, free of charge, to all NVSO events. The games run through Sept. 28. Visit www.nvso.us.

(Im)Permanence Continued. Through Oct. 6 in the McGuireWoods Gallery, 2nd Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. A solo exhibition featuring work by Cynthia Myron. Visit www.WorkhouseArts.org for more.

VMFA: Futures. Through Oct. 6 in the McGuireWoods Gallery, 2nd Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. VMFA: Futures showcases artists joining the 2019-2020 Fellowship Program at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. Humanizing works of ingenuity which live the art landscape through sculpture, videography, painting, photography and new media. Featured artists include Soomin Ham, Rebecca Silberman, David Fransich and Sarah Phillips. Visit www.WorkhouseArts.org for more.

Juried Exhibition: Clay International.

Through Oct. 6 in the Vulcan Gallery, 1st Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Ceramic Artist and Educator Peter Beasecker juried over 300 images to select 52 pieces of art which incorporate a contemporary spirit as well as a technical mastery. www.WorkhouseArts.org for more.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. Fridays, through Oct. 25, 4-7 p.m. in the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne.

Wakefield Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m. through Oct. 30, at Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield.

Lorton Farmers Market. Sundays, 9 a.m.-noon, through Nov. 17, in the VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton.

Springfield Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit www.community-foodworks.org or call 202-697-7768.

Burke Farmers Market. Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. 703-642-0128 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke for more.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 25-29

Library Book Sale. Wednesday (member preview), 3-6 p.m.; Thursday, 1-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday (\$5 bag sale), 1-3 p.m. at the Burke Centre Library. Join the Friends of the Burke Centre Library at their largest fall book sale with over 12,000 books, 75 percent hardcover and 100 percent donated. All proceeds benefit the Burke Centre Library and the Fairfax Library Foundation for collection enhancement and other programming.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. At the Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Erin was a 2006 Westfield High grad who died in the April 2007 Virginia Tech tragedy. Afterward, her parents started the Erin Peterson Fund (EPF) to award scholarships in her memory to those less fortunate, plus the Leadership for Tomorrow program which provides grants to at-risk male students at Westfield. Community members make that possible each year when they play in the tournament and support the fund. To register, go to www.erinpeterfund.org and click on Golf Registration. Raffle tickets may also be purchased online.



Community Country Fair

The Annual Pohick Church Country Fair on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. offers a day of outdoor fun and learning with historic colonial church tours, Living History reenactors, organ concerts, children's games, barbecue, hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade apple butter, live country music, and more. Call 703-339-6572 or visit www.pohick.org.

Flea Market to Be Held on Oct. 12

Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (nvr.org), 3951 Pender Drive Suite 130, Fairfax, will host Indoor Flea Market on Saturday, Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Doors will not open before 9 a.m.)

Fundraiser with all proceeds to benefit NVRC services and programs for deaf and hard of hearing people and their families in Northern Virginia.

More information at Info@nvr.org; Voice: 703-352-9055 Ext: 102, Video Phone: 571-350-8656, Website: NVR.org

The Flea Market will be held rain or shine as an air conditioned inside event with easy parking.

It offers real bargains for the whole family including: Housewares, Clothing for all Ages, Toys, Games, Books, DVDs, CDs, Crafts, Jewelry, Decorations, Holiday items, Collectibles, Miscellaneous Treasures. Delicious Bake Sale Items. All sales cash or check, no credit cards accepted. No furniture or electronics.

Donations of quality items needed. Accepting your tax deductible charitable donations at NVRC at 3951 Pender Drive in Fairfax. Receipts provided. Drop off your items only during the following times: Tuesday, Oct. 8 from 10 - 5 p.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 10 - 5 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 10 from 10 - 5 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 11 from 10 - Noon. Then closed for pricing.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 27

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

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 27-29

General & Virginia Room Book Sale. At City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-3 p.m. Hardback books \$1-\$3, trade papers \$2, mass markets \$0.50. Sunday bag sale, \$5. Cash or check only. Free admission. FOLfairfaxcity@gmail.com or call 703-293-2132.

ValeArts "Colorful Journeys." Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (reception, 7-9 p.m.); Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Historic Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. 27th ValeArts Fall Show will feature more than 150 original works by nine local artists in various media, styles, and sizes. Three days fine art exhibition, a family friendly neighborhood event. Free admission. Visit www.valearts.com or call 703-860-1888.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

38th Annual Fall Civil War Mosby Bus Tour. The bus will leave Truro Parish (10520 Main Street, Fairfax City) promptly at 8:30 a.m. The

tour will stop at Miskell's Farm, John Moberly's Grave, Key Switch, Duffield Station and more (The bus will arrive back around 5:30 p.m.). \$65 members of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society; \$75 for non-members. Arrive before 8 a.m. to sign in. Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or email dhakenson@verizon.net.

Annual Community Country Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Enjoy a day of outdoor fun and learning with historic colonial church tours, organ concerts, children's games, barbecue, hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade apple butter, live music. Visit www.pohick.org or call 703-339-6572.

Burke Historical Society. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Kayleen Reusser, author of several books documenting interviews with World War II veterans, discusses her travels in Europe tracing the war and conversations with veterans who served in those locales. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com. or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

Wiygul Automotive Clinic Grand Opening. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Burke, 5665 Burke Centre Pkwy. Free fun for all ages, including a bounce house, video game truck, mini manis, food, drinks, scavenger hunt with cool prizes including a \$1,000 tire giveaway.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Anniversary Event: Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic Gallery. 3-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic 105 District Ave.,

Fairfax. In celebration of Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's 45th anniversary, member artists have contributed 45 works of art. Ticket holders' names are randomly called and that person chooses from one of the available pieces of original art. Preview artwork Sept. 18-29; Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Ticket holders may bring a guest for free. \$200. Art Lovers Sweepstake: a \$45 ticket gives buyers an opportunity to take home one of three works of art, valued at \$1,500 or more. Purchase tickets at tinyurl.com/tfaacc19.

2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Registration at 1:30pm; Ceremony at 2:30pm; Walk at 3pm. All funds raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Each registered walker with a wristband will receive a Promise Garden flower. Blue represents someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. Purple is for someone who has lost a loved one to the disease. Yellow represents someone who is currently supporting or caring for someone with Alzheimer's. Orange is for everyone who supports the cause and vision of a world without Alzheimer's. Coordinator: Sonya Amartey, samartey@alz.org, <https://act.alz.org>

MONDAY/SEPT. 30

Funday Monday. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Crafts, music, movement, and fun with Mr. Skip, My Gym, Paint Your Own Pottery and a new VIP series featuring community helpers and leaders. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts or call 703-385-2712.

TUESDAY/OCT. 1

Archaeology at Mount Vernon. 7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Sean Devlin, curator of archaeological collections at Mount Vernon, will describe the process of interpreting history through physical remains. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 2-6

Disney On Ice. At EagleBank Arena, 4500 Patriots Circle, Fairfax. Disney On Ice presents Road Trip Adventures will whisk families away on an immersive getaway chock-full of magical participatory moments. Featuring new and classic tales, this multi-generational experience visits Fairfax for nine performances. Visit www.ticketmaster.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 3

Selling Suffrage: Words and Symbols to Win the Vote and the ERA. 6-9 p.m. at Tower Club-Tyson's Corner, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1700, Vienna (entrance at back of building). Powerful arguments and compelling visual images were essential in convincing the American public to support votes for women. The need to "sell" the Equal Rights Amendment has also faced communication challenges. Come hear experts and advocates describe the written and graphic messages that suffragists used to change public opinion, and learn how those messages connect to later campaigns for the Equal Rights Amendment. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and soft drinks will be served. \$75. Visit suffragistmemorial.org/ to register.

Celebrate "Hitchcocktober." 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center - Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Dial M for Murder (3D). Hitchcock's 1954 classic was originally shot in 3D but rarely seen in this format. Every Thursday night in October, a classic film by Alfred Hitchcock will be featured, culminating with a showing of Psycho on Halloween. \$14.50. Visit www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 4

OLGC Golf Classic. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Join Vienna's Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church for a fun-filled day with contests, food and drink, and company to share it with. Register by Sept. 23. \$200. Visit www.olgcv.org/fellowship/golf-classic or call 703-896-7425.

"Shot in the Dark Nite Tournaments." 7:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Golf Course, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Teams of two play a nine-hole scramble using glow-in-the-dark balls. Prizes, closest-to-the-pin contests. Dinner served, beginning at 6 p.m. \$70 per team, and golfers must be age 12-adult. The price includes one glow ball and a flashlight. Additional glow balls are \$5 each. Limited to the first 18 teams. Call 703-323-1641 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake.

Agatha Christie Mystery from Providence Players

Pre-Halloween treat on the James Lee Theatre stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A theatrical murder mystery for these pre-Halloween nights is what the Providence Players have in store for audiences. The Players will open its new mainstage theater season with Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None." Christie is the best-selling novelist of all time. Her books have sold more than a billion copies. Producing Christie's "And Then There Were None" was an easy decision. The play, as adapted by Christie herself, is about ten strangers, apparently with little in common, who have been lured to an island mansion by a mysterious couple. Over dinner, a record begins to play, and the voice of an unseen host accuses each person of hiding a guilty secret. That evening, one of the guests is found murdered by a deadly dose of cyanide. Tension begin to escalate over the murder of one of the ten strangers. Will the killer strike again? Tina Thronson directs "And Then There Were None" for the Providence Players. "I am a fan of murder mysteries and Agatha Christie is at the top of her game in this one. Ten people trapped on an isolated

"Ten people trapped on an isolated island with a murderer on the loose – you can't beat it."

— Tina Thronson



Sara Bennett as Emily Brent in Providence Players production of 'And Then There Were None.'



Craig Geoffrion as William Blore in Providence Players production of 'And Then There Were None.'



Roxanne Waite as Toni Marston in Providence Players production of 'And Then There Were None.'

Where and When

Providence Players presents "And Then There Were None" at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: Oct. 4 to 19, 2019. Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m. with Sunday 2 p.m. Matinees on Oct. 6 & 13. Ticket Prices: Adults \$20, Seniors (62+) \$17. Students (w/ID) \$17. Call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org

island with a murderer on the loose – you can't beat it."

Making directorial choices, Thronson switched "the genders of several characters" and still they "are from different walks of life, and different ages."

"The action moves forward at a tight clip," noted Thronson. Audiences can expect "a superlative cast, a gorgeous set and costumes, and terrific technical touches."

"With such a dark premise, I wanted to create as much contrast as possible with the locale and the ensuing mayhem. So, although the play still takes place just before the start of World War II, it is no longer placed off the dreary Devon coast. It will take place off the coast of Santa Barbara," said Thronson. "Such a lovely locale cannot possible be the scene of a crime É can it?"

The "And Then There Were None" cast includes Providence Players veterans and newer members. The eleven member cast includes Sara Bennett, Arianna Colligan, Craig Geoffrion, Amy Griffin, Christopher Persil, James McDaniel, Allen McRae, David Ranowsky, Jaclyn Robertson, Scott Stofko and Roxanne Waite.

"This is Agatha Christie at her best," said David Whitehead, Providence Players Board member. "This is 'right up our alley,' as they say. A complex, ensemble production with high production values and a seasoned and talented director and cast. You won't want to miss this show."

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-Werner Heisenberg

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At-Large Forum

FROM PAGE 5

know her experiences were not unique. "I want to represent the people in this county that have not been represented; that do not have a voice on the school board."

Q1- Boundaries-"So wrong. The new policy is totally different...The new boundaries will be based on racial and socio-economic compositions. What that means is, my Hispanic son can go to a different school if that school is not diverse enough."

2-Teacher Salaries-"Teachers should be respected for what they do in our communities...I do believe they should be compensated appropriately"

Q3-Guns-"I agree we should have more SROs (in McLean and Centerville); one SRO is not enough...I think it is a shame we don't have SROs at our elementary schools."

Candidate Rachna S. Heizer said that as a former professor at George Mason University, she understood what children needed to be successful. "It's not teaching to the test...What I want to do is bring back more critical thinking, more creativity, more innovation, more entrepreneur-

ship, and more collaboration." Heizer added that as a Berkeley educated lawyer she started her career as a corporate attorney and had the skills to manage a budget. Heizer said that her proudest role was as a disabilities adjunct judicial advocate and fighting for children who did not have a voice at the table. "I want to have a strength-focused education system."

Q1- Boundaries-"This is not a policy that has been voted on right now...We are a beautiful, diverse community so we can have diversity in our schools and keep kids in their communities."

2-Teacher Salaries-Teachers are professionals, and they need to be compensated competitively and fairly...we need to look at our funding formula from the state. We receive significantly less money than other school systems do. Another great place would have been the meals tax, actually."

Q3-Guns-"No, we do not need more guns in our schools. That's the answer. Period. End of conversation."

Candidate Vinson X. Palathingal said there were three parts of his platform: academic rigor, fiscal prudence and

parental rights. He also shared that he had worked for Metro Washington Council of Governments and Fannie Mae Freddie Mac and was currently running an IT company. "I'm always an enthusiast for education and youth. According to Palathingal, the schools have misplaced priorities in funding and were failing miserably at developing youth with strength and moral character. "They are wasting millions of dollars on school name changes when kids study in trailers...We need change."

Q1- Boundaries-We want to be sure we have a system where real people and their interests matter, not the politicians' interests...All the people now agree; we are diverse enough. So why are we doing this? It's just absurd."

Q2-Teacher Salaries-"Hire the best. Keep them. Pay them whatever salary."

Q3-Guns-"Every school having an SRO is the first thing to do...I support armed security in all the schools."

To view the complete video, go to the League of Women Voters-Fairfax area's post at www.facebook.com/lwvfairfax/

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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.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Caregiver Bootcamp. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join IMCC for a special day-long training event covering many essential caregiving topics. Insight offers the Caregiver Bootcamp to help caretakers learn more about essential caregiving topics, all in one place. Learn from experts in their fields. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Register at insightmcc.org, or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.

Messy Church. 5-6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station. Join St. Peter's in the Woods for their monthly Messy Church. It's a worshipping community especially geared towards families and young children, but welcoming to all. Bible-themed crafts and activities, casual worship and a free, family-style dinner. Call 703-503-9210. Registration is appreciated, visit www.stpetersinthewoods.org/events.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Registration at 1:30pm; Ceremony at 2:30pm; Walk at 3pm. All funds raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Each registered walker with a wristband will receive a Promise Garden flower. Blue represents someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. Purple is for someone who has lost a loved one to the disease. Yellow represents someone who is currently supporting or caring for someone with Alzheimer's. Orange is for everyone who supports the cause and vision of a world without Alzheimer's. Coordinator: Sonya Amartey, samartey@alz.org, <https://act.alz.org>

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30-OCT. 23

Community Emergency Response Team Training. 7-11 p.m. at the Fire and Rescue Academy, 4600 West Ox Road, Fairfax. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program trains county residents in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. Emphasis on hands-on skill development and Fairfax County protocols and procedures. Instructor will provide syllabus with class schedule at first session. This training does not require any special physical strength or agility. Visit volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/184991 to register.

TUESDAY/OCT. 1

Fairfax Lions Club Dinner Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, upper level, 939 Oak St., Fairfax. Visit a Lions Club dinner meeting. Enjoy a buffet dinner, speaker, and club announcements. Guests are cordially invited - meet members and learn about Lions community service. Free. Visit www.fairfaxlions.org or call 703-879-5795.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 2

New Volunteer Orientation. 7:30-9 a.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. People and their dog, cat or bunny are needed to join other Fairfax Pets on Wheels, Inc. volunteers who make a difference in the community by visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Visit www.fpow.org or call 703-324-5424.

THURSDAY/OCT. 4

Candidate Forum. 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Candidates for Springfield District. These candidate forums are nonpartisan. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area does not support or oppose any party or candidate and invite all certified candidates in their respective districts. After a moderated discussion, meet the candidates. Volunteers, including students, are welcome. Visit www.lwv-fairfax.org/candidateforum for more.

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Engineering a Solution



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though not exactly "The Continuing Story of Bungalow Bill," ("The Beatles," 1968) but for those of you regular readers still interested in the presumptive outcome - in my lifetime, of my 250 year-old home's "structural integrity" - as it relates to my pending refinance application, we may now have lift off, so to speak. (Hopefully Houston, we don't have a problem.) A structural engineer came by the house yesterday at my request and examined and measured the cracks in the concrete slab which "porches" the front of my house. After which he offered his professional opinion, a more detailed version of which will be emailed to me in a few days (copies of which I will forward to all the interested parties). According to this engineer, there is a concrete solution which, cost notwithstanding (or even known yet) will secure my home's structural foundation and assuage the appraiser.

The problem, as I understand it, concerns the possibility of my house falling down, from back to front. On my porch there are five wood pillars which stand floor to ceiling equidistant across the porch. They are not embedded in the concrete (nor are they cracked or rotting). They are supporting the weight of the house, but apparently are on shaky ground. What has happened is, due to the improper preparation of the soil onto which this concrete slab was originally poured (100 years ago - or whenever), the concrete has buckled under the pressure, and the house is tilting, sort of (and/or has the potential to slip further and fall). And if this happens, neither my wife nor I will be able to get up, whether we're owners of Life Alert medallions or not.

There is a solution however, which doesn't require "a pick and shovel and 20 men" (to invoke a Three Stooges reference). Nor will it require any heavy equipment and/or cabling of my house in some way to lift it off the ground in order to break up all the length, width and depth of approximately 150 square feet of concrete (I don't know about the cubic exactly). The plan seems to be for the house to be temporarily supported by wood beams as it is raised up a bit and then one foot square sections of the concrete surrounding each of the pillars will be broken up. According to the engineer, not a major undertaking. Then piers, which are structural engineering jargon for whatever I need to have supporting the pillars, will be placed on the ground/ foundation beneath each pillar and then back-filled with concrete and Bob's your uncle: structural integrity. At least that's as much as I can understand/explain, anyway. Orthotics for the house you might say.

Now whether my description of the repair is at all accurate, the engineer was clear. Though the repair is delicate, he agreed, nobody is reinventing the wheel here, and the solution as proposed is not that complicated. (As for the "structural integrity" of our 100 year-old stable, another concern of the appraiser, the engineer said "We don't certify the structural integrity of 100 year-old buildings." Now whether this out-building situation becomes a deal-breaker, I can only hope that reasonable minds prevail. Check back to this space for future updates.)

At present, I fear there will be fits (by me) and starts (by the various external parties lining up to solve my homes structural problems) to get me to the refinance finish line with some financial integrity still intact. I won't lie, there's a bit at stake here, and I can't afford (literally and figuratively) any slip ups. As I approach my 65th birthday, my goal is to simplify my life and secure my future, not complicate my life and "insecure" my future. I had hoped this refinance would accomplish the former. I had no idea that it would lead to the latter.

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

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