



Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

Westfield High Homecoming Parade

NEWS, PAGE 3

Westfield High's dance team marches in the school's homecoming parade.

'What This Defendant
Did Is Horrendous'
NEWS, PAGE 5

Bulldogs Beat Bruins in
Homecoming Game
SPORTS, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
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Afraid of an Unknown Future

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



COMMENTARY

Sixteen-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg sailed across the Atlantic on a zero-emissions sailboat to speak at the United Nations Climate Action Summit this week. Thunberg has a strong reputation as a climate activist having staged weekly sit-ins outside the Swedish Parliament resulting in a growing movement of youth climate activists holding their own protests in more than 100 cities worldwide. Having a young person speak about climate issues is appropriate considering the higher-level interest shown by young people over adults on climate-related concerns. After all, it is their future that is being discussed.

Results of a *Washington Post*-Kaiser Family Foundation poll released last week found that young people include climate change among the issues they think are most important facing the country. Eighty-six percent of youth think that human activity is causing climate change. Of considerable concern is the finding that 57 percent of the youth polled said that climate change makes them feel afraid. It

is their future, and they feel afraid of the future we adults are leaving them. The good news is that 54 percent feel motivated to do something about it.

But young people fortunately are not alone in being fearful of climate change and motivated to do something about it. The 2019 Virginia Climate Crisis Forum held at the First Baptist Church in Vienna attracted nearly 300 activists to focus on climate justice. The forum was moderated by William Barber, III, son of the famous Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Karenni Gore, the eldest daughter of former Vice President Al Gore. Reflecting the broad interest in the issue, panelists included representatives of the Green New Deal of Virginia, People Demanding Action, Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions and others. Emphasis of the discussion was on working together to repair a damaged climate while ensuring that everyone most impacted — including low-income people, people of color, the vulnerable, and those on the front lines—are part of every solution and not disproportionately impacted.

Coming out of the Virginia Clean Energy Summit also held last week was an announcement by Governor Ralph Northam that the goal in Virginia is that by 2030, 30 percent of Virginia's electric system will be powered by renewable energy resources and by 2050, 100 percent of Virginia's electricity will be produced from carbon-free sources such as wind, solar and nuclear.

In his Executive Order establishing the goals, the Governor expressed the concerns being heard from the young people and in the various meetings on the issue: "Climate change is an urgent and pressing challenge for Virginia. As recent storms, heat waves, and flooding events have reminded us, climate disruption poses potentially devastating risk to Virginia." Reflecting the concern about economic justice, the Governor's Executive Order stated that "These clean energy resources shall be deployed to maximize the economic and environmental benefit to under-served communities while mitigating any impact to those communities."

Young people remind us that there are ample reasons to be afraid of an unknown future with climate change. The best response to that fear is to intensify the discussions such as have been going on while taking positive steps like that by the Governor to reverse impact on climate change.

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 miti-

gation 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 libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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

By e-mail:
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

NEWS



This school year is Westfield's 20th anniversary.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Cross-country runners walk in the parade.

Westfield High Homecoming Parade 2019

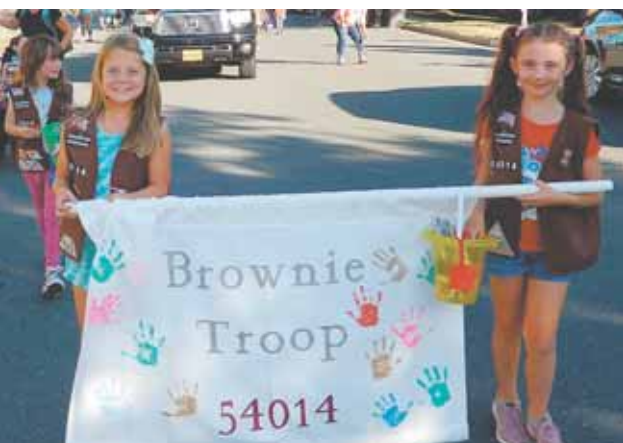
Westfield High's Homecoming Parade was Friday, Sept. 20.



Senior Court members Victoria D'Ercole and Jalin Dew.



The hip-hop dance team having fun.



Brownie Troop 54014.



Girl Scout Troop 54012 poses for a photo.



Westfield field hockey represents.

REACH YOUR ONLINE AUDIENCE

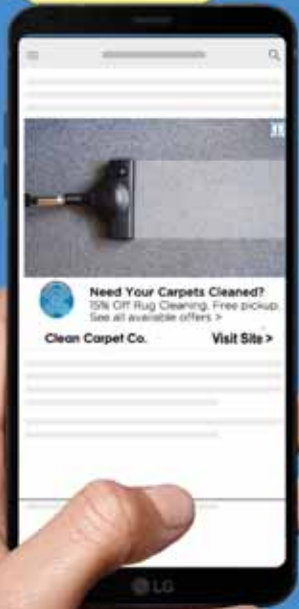
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Senior Living

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

'What This Defendant Did Is Horrendous'

Rauf given 18 months in prison for unlawful filming.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When people try on clothes in store dressing rooms, they have an expectation of privacy. But for the unlucky ones filmed by Mumtaz Rauf, that innocent belief is shattered forever.

Following his guilty pleas in June, he returned Sept. 13 to Fairfax County Circuit Court for sentencing. And while his attorney argued that Rauf's behavior was out of character for him, the prosecution saw it otherwise.

"What this defendant did is horrendous," said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney John Pickett. "Mr. Rauf has nothing in his past to justify his actions – he simply has a twisted and perverted moral compass."

In the end, the judge agreed, and sentenced Rauf to 18 months in prison. First, though, people testified for and against him and the attorneys presented their cases.

The incidents occurred in late December 2018, rippling like shockwaves through the community when residents learned that, unbeknownst to them, a man had been filming customers trying on clothing in dressing rooms at Fair Oaks Mall. Police arrested Rauf, 39, of Alexandria, on Christmas Eve.

The incidents occurred Dec. 22 and Dec. 24, 2018. On Dec. 24, around 4 p.m., police responded to the Forever 21 clothing store following a customer's complaint. There, the young victim told them a man looked over the top of the dressing-room door and photographed her while she was changing.

A STORE EMPLOYEE then saw a man leaving the store and heading into the mall and described him to police. Officers found Rauf – who matched the description – in the fitting room of the H&M clothing store. Police said he had a pinhole camera, black tape and a battery-powered, Bluetooth transmitter that officers believed he was using to remotely gather video and pictures from various fitting rooms. Rauf was

charged with felony unlawful filming of a minor, since the victim was under age 18.

He also told police he'd been in Forever 21 previously and would put a device on top of the dressing rooms, film people and then watch the footage on his cell phone. He said he did it in Forever 21, H&M and Old Navy. Police later searched Rauf's home and seized two, small, digital cameras – one that looked like a pen.

But that's not all. Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau continued investigating and discovered more than 100 videos on Rauf's phone. They then identified three additional females he'd recorded in store dressing rooms over the holidays, after these victims contacted them. As a result, on Jan. 23, police charged Rauf with three more offenses.

On June 12, he pleaded guilty to one felony and three misdemeanor counts of unlawful filming. And before his Sept. 13 sentencing, defense attorney Justin Daniel called Dr. Michael Hendricks, a forensic clinical psychologist, to testify. Hendricks said he spent 4-1/2 hours with Rauf in jail and did a psychosexual evaluation of him.

"He had no signs of sexual interest in children," said Hendricks. "He said he wasn't aware a minor was involved – he was simply videotaping whoever was in the next stall. He doesn't have any psychiatric disorder, so my opinion is that he's less likely to recidivate than the typical sex offender."

"Is it true that Mr. Rauf has nothing unusual in his sexual history and wasn't sexually abused, himself?" asked Pickett. "Yes," replied the doctor.

Judge Dontae Burke then noted that he'd received two, victim-impact statements from the parents of two of the people Rauf filmed. And the mother of one of them testified by phone. She said her daughter was just 13 when it happened.

"She now won't try on clothing in stores," said the mom. "Everywhere she goes now, she looks for a camera. She's very bothered by it and thinks people are constantly videotaping her everywhere. And it makes me sick to think that he saw her take her clothes off."

Calling it a "difficult and serious case,"



Rauf

"He has a twisted and perverted moral compass."

— John Pickett, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, describing Rauf

Daniel said Rauf has "no prior history of any kind of criminal act, mental-health issues or substance abuse. It was an aberration. It involved no actual nudity or acts of sexual gratification, and he cooperated with police, to his own detriment. The police thoroughly searched his electronic devices and found no evidence of deviant, sexual interests or child porn."

Daniel said Rauf had no plan to target minors, just whoever walked into the dressing room. "It only went on for a two-week period in December, and he didn't distribute any photos to anyone," said Daniel. "So no one else saw these images."

He said Rauf has worked since age 17, is a longtime Northern Virginia resident and has provided for his wife and young daughter. And, added Daniel, "He had full custody of his daughter for six years, after her mother died, before he remarried. And there were never any allegations of misconduct made against him then, or in his past – which you'd expect in a case like this. And he has family support from his mother and sister."

Daniel also said Rauf hasn't seen his daughter since his arrest and wants to reunite with her. But her biological aunt is suing him for custody, and a hearing is scheduled for Oct. 1. So because of this case, he's in danger of losing custody.

"He's not a predator or pedophile and is no danger to others if he's released," said Daniel. "He has no history of violence, so he wouldn't be a threat if he's on probation. He's already done eight months in jail and, if you give him a year, the custody case can be continued until he can get out and appear in court. The child is now living with her aunt; and wanting to be with his daughter is his strongest motivation for him not wanting to re-offend."

Saying this case has no sentencing guidelines, he asked Burke to sentence Rauf to time served, with a lengthy term of super-

vised probation. But Pickett vehemently disagreed. "At the time he filmed someone 13, his own daughter was 13," said the prosecutor. "And his actions had a terrible impact on the victims."

Furthermore, said Pickett, "One victim's mother wrote that her daughter doesn't want to leave the house and that's she's embarrassed and ashamed and had to undergo counseling. [Rauf's] actions will stick with [his victims] for the rest of their lives."

"This case is about the protection of other women, so it doesn't happen to anyone else and about punishing the defendant," he continued. "There's nothing to rehabilitate." Pickett then recommended two years' incarceration, plus active probation and sex-offender treatment.

Rauf then stood and apologized to his wife and daughter and the victims. "I'm very sorry," he said. "Not a day goes by that I don't think about what I did."

"I struggle with understanding why you did this," replied Burke. "The un-consenting videotaping of adult women is also a problem, and it sounds like you were just getting started. And the court has to take into account the victim-impact statements. I don't think you were there looking for young girls, but that's what happened. I can't fix your custody case – I can only deal with the case before me."

THE JUDGE then sentenced Rauf to five years in prison, with all but 18 months suspended, for the felony offense. He placed Rauf on four years' supervised probation, ordered him to complete a behavioral-intervention program and banned him from Fair Oaks Mall. In addition, Rauf must register as a sex offender and undergo any sex-offender treatment the probation office recommends.

Burke also sentenced Rauf to a year in prison on each of the three misdemeanor charges, running these sentences consecutively to each other and suspending them all. So he has 10 months total left to serve behind bars.

The judge then told Rauf that, now that he's been convicted, a sample of his DNA would be taken and entered into Virginia's database of convicted felons. Addressing him sternly, Burke said, "Mr. Rauf, you've got some stuff to figure out – and the community and your family need you to figure it out."

ROUNDUPS

Venture into Volunteering Fair

Fairfax County will hold a Venture into Volunteering Fair, on Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center in Chantilly. Representatives from more than 90 organizations will share information about a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in Northern Virginia.

In addition, attendees can help others by bringing shelf-stable food to donate to Food for Others, dental hygiene supplies for the Children's Project Mobile Dental Van, or old hearing aids/eyeglasses for the Lions Club. The American Red Cross will also be there for blood donations. The event is free, and door prizes will be awarded.

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.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

Candidate Forum. 7 p.m. at Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. Candidates for Sully District: Supervisor and School Board. 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.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

CLASSIFIED

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Employment

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Announcements

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Announcements

Announcements

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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.

Crafters Wanted for 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold its 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show and LEGO (TM) Train Show on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For crafters interested in joining the event, booth space is enough room for a 10x10 canopy and cost is \$50 per space. Email dmueller@fairfax-station.org for an application and further information. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Chantilly Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3:30-7 p.m., through Nov. 11 in the parking lot at St. Veronica Catholic Church, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. The farmers market is a family-friendly weekly event where everyone can access local foods around, and build connections with local farmers, small business owners, and their neighbors. Farmers and vendors bring locally raised fruits, vegetables, breads and baked goods, meats and eggs, local honey, wine, soaps, prepared foods, and more each week. Free admission. Visit www.community-foodworks.org/chantilly for more.

2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's

Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Registration at 1:30pm; Ceremony at 2:30pm; Walk at 3:00pm. 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 Amartye, samartye@alz.org, <https://act.alz.org>

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.

Fresh Food Drive. 3:30-7 p.m. at St. Veronica Catholic Church, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. The Chantilly Farmers Market is teaming up with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries to accept food bank donations at the market each week in September. Free admission. Call 703-376-1170 or visit www.facebook.com/events/2024634134303532/.

DATA Celebrates 33 Years. 5:30 p.m. at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel. Dulles Area Transportation Association hosts a

networking cocktail hour followed by dinner and the program. To reserve a seat, table or sponsorship, contact Kelly Woodward at 703-945-0135. Visit datatrans.org for more.

Teen Volunteer Information Night.

7-8 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. This presentation will show teens how to find agencies in need of volunteers and explore upcoming volunteer opportunities. Hear from staff members at Volunteer Fairfax and get connected with the Youth Service Learning Directory to make volunteering a reality with impact for this school year and beyond. Ages 12-18. Call 703-502-3883, TTY 711, for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Centreville Unified Pyramid Track and Field Event. 9 a.m.-noon at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Centreville. All the schools in the Centreville Pyramid (Centreville ES, Centre Ridge ES, Bull Run ES, Colin Powell ES, Union Mill ES, Liberty MS, and Centreville HS) will be sending track teams consisting of students with and without disabilities to compete as one unified team. Unified Sports is a

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

Announcements

Announcements

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Announcements

Announcements

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 5

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.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Mental Health and Wellness Conference. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax High School. The morning will focus on social and emotional learning, with a keynote address given by Dr. Marc Brackett, founding director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. A special session for high school students, the Our Minds Matter Teen Summit, will take place in the morning as well. Attendees are encouraged to stay for Inova's Act on Addiction Summit, which will be held from 12:30-4 p.m. Breakout sessions, exhibit tables, and resources will be available to all attendees throughout the day. Lunch will be provided. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness/mental-health-and-resiliency/mental-health-and-wellness to register.

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. Noon-2 p.m. at Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet's rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional \$10 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 7

DiabetesSisters PODS Meetup. 7-9 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Join the first meeting of this new PODS Meetup for an evening of sisterhood, encouragement, and peer support. Women living with any type of diabetes are warmly welcome. Free. Email sara@diabetessisters.org or visit diabetessisters.org/pods-part-diabetessisters-meetups for more.

MONDAY/NOV. 4

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ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Residents Can "E-cycle" at the I-66 transfer station. It is free but residents may be asked to show proof of residency. Personal waste only. The I-66 station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax and open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. from Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm for more.

DONATIONS

The **Student Auto Sales Program** operating from Centreville High School works in conjunction with the CVHS automotive technology classes to bring in donated automobiles, boats and motorcycles for students to work on. Some refurbished vehicles are sold, with 75 percent of the proceeds going back to the auto tech program. The program is in need of cars, trucks or motorcycles, which are fully tax deductible, for student training. Contact Lyman Rose at 703-802-5588 or by e-mail lyman.rose@fcps.edu 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.



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

Students from Westfield HS show their support.



Westfield team captains walk out to midfield for the coin toss.

Bulldogs Beat Bruins in Homecoming Game

**Westfield 40,
Lake Braddock 34.**

BY WILL PALENSCAR
THE CONNECTION

The Westfield Bulldogs and Lake Braddock Bruins met up for Westfield's homecoming game on Sept. 20. Both teams entered undefeated.

Westfield would get on the scoreboard first when Noah Kim connected with Avery Howard on a short 3 yard touchdown with 9:21 to play in the opening quarter. After a James Williams PAT, the Bulldogs led 7-0. Later in the quarter, Joe Murray would run in from 5 yards out for the first of two touchdowns. Austin Rawlins was successful on the PAT and the score was even again at 7.

After a scoreless second quarter, Max James would give the Bruins their first lead of the game, 14-7, when he ran in from a few yards out with 9:22 to play in the third quarter. Rawlins was then successful on the PAT. Westfield's Noah Kim would then find receiver Alex Richards in the end zone for a 37 yard TD with 4:06 to play in the 3rd quarter. James Williams would add the PAT, and things were knotted up once again, 14-14. Lake Braddock would score again when Matt Hibner was the benefactor of a Billy Edwards 10 yard TD pass. Rawlins was again successful on the PAT. Lake Braddock now led 21-14, with 1:14 to play in the third. Avery Howard then took the ensuing kickoff from the 1 yard line and sprinted to the endzone,



Mikal Legall #28 carried the ball 21 times for 92 yards and 2 touchdowns.



Noah Kim #10 completed 15 passes, two of which were touchdowns.

with just 14 seconds elapsing from the clock. Williams was again successful on the PAT.

The fourth quarter would see six touchdowns scored in the next 12 minutes and the teams deadlocked at 21. The Bulldogs would get the ball back after punt went off the side of the Lake Braddock punters foot and giving Westfield great field position. With 10:09 to play in the game Westfield QB Noah Kim ran in from 1 yard out to give the Bulldogs a 28-21 advantage. Then later in the fourth Westfield

again able to add points to the scoreboard when Mikal Legall scored his second TD with 4:08 remaining. The Bulldogs elected to attempt a two point conversion and were unsuccessful. The score was now 40-21. However, the Bruins still had fight in them, A nearly three minute drive resulted in the Bruins getting a touchdown in the most crucial of times. Max James scored his second touchdown of the game with 1:14 to play. After a successful PAT the score was now 40-28. After a short delay after the kickoff it was determined that Lake Braddock had recovered the ball. A few plays later Billy Edwards threw his second TD pass of the game to Hibner, this one covered about 5 yards. The ensuing PAT was blocked by Westfield and the score remained at 40-34. Westfield would fall on the onside kick attempt with 40 seconds remaining it would just take a snap to make the game official.

Westfield (3-0) will host Stonewall Jackson (3-0) on Sept. 27. Stonewall Jackson has allowed just 21 points in their first three games while scoring 131 points. Lake Braddock (2-1) will host Marshall (2-1).



Mikal Legall rushes in for one of his two touchdowns.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

subdivision of Special Olympics. Free. Email ASBlount@fcps.edu or call 703-282-5555 for more.

Celebrate Cabell's Mill. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Celebrate the 250 year anniversary of Cabell's Mill and the 75th anniversary of the purchase of the property by David & Ellanor Lawrence. Celebrate the many uses of Cabell's Mill and hear about the people who have been a part of its past. All ages. Free. Call 703-631-0013, TTY 711, for more.

Ono Brewing Company's 2nd "Onoversary." 1-8 p.m. at Ono Brewing Company, 4520 Daly Drive, Suite 102, Chantilly. Ono is celebrating its anniversary with an all-day Hawaiian Luau party and Hawaiian cultural event. The family-friendly festivities include live Hawaiian entertainment including 14 different Hawaiian music and hula dancing performances, Hawaiian crafters and vendors, lei making demonstrations, food from Odd BBQ including traditional Hawaiian plate lunches and other BBQ plates. There will also be treats from the islands such as Hawaiian shaved ice and a Samoan dessert called Pain popo, which are coconut sweet rolls. Visit www.onobrewco.com for more.

Spy Walk. 2-3 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Go on a "Spy Walk." Visitors age 12 to adult are invited to hear a spell-binding tale about espionage, secret payments and the Russians. Walk and talk about a spy who used Ellanor C. Lawrence Park as a drop-off location as the Soviet Union entered its final years in the 1980s. The program meets at Walney Pond. \$6 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclareance.

Tuscan Recipes with Chef Cal. 2-3:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Regional Italian recipes that are easy to fix and taste great. Adults and teens. Call 703-502-3883, TTY 711, for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Fall Warblers. 7-8:30 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Wake up with the birds and discover these delightful fall visitors with an expert guide. Ages 8 and older. \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013, TTY 711

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>