Teaching Youth Fire Safety

County Says No to Glass In Curbside Recycling

Dates and Deadlines For Election Day

The two EMTs teach a girl how to do CPR during the Greater Springfield Fire Department Open House on Saturday, Oct. 12.
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ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA FOR YOUR TOYOTA
No More Curbside Pickup for Glass

Residents will have to take their glass bottles and jars to a purple bin.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

On Oct. 1, Fairfax County announced it will no longer accept glass bottles and jars in curbside recycling bins. The county decided to make the announcement after consulting with private recycling sorting centers and Covanta Fairfax, Inc., which operates the waste-to-energy plant. With the elimination of glass jars and containers from its single-stream curbside program, the county provided options for glass containers.

“Residents should reuse glass containers or bring them to purple, glass-only recycling containers located throughout the region. If this is not possible, glass should be placed in the trash,” said Fairfax County in its post. Glass items not accepted included lamps, light bulbs, ceramics, porcelain, mirrors, windows and sheet glass.

Glass collected from the purple containers will be delivered to the only glass processing plant in the area, the I-95 landfill complex in Lorton.

When residents deliver used glass containers to purple, glass-only recycling containers, that glass is crushed and reused in county projects. Glass processed in Lorton is pulverized. It has been tested and reused in place of quarried gravel as bedding and fill construction projects.

For years, most glass has passed through the recycling process as residue, or waste. The broken, abrasive glass also damaged machinery. Ten other states have created container deposit laws or so-called “bottle bills.” Under a bottle bill system, when you purchase a beverage container, you pay an additional deposit amount (usually 5 or 10 cents per container), which is added to the cost of the product. Once the product has been consumed, you take the empty container to a redemption center where you receive your deposit back.

According to Fairfax County, glass processed in Lorton is pulverized. It has been tested and reused in place of quarried gravel as bedding and fill construction projects such as the Flatlick Branch sanitary sewer replacement project. See www.youtube.com/watch time_continue=19&v=3NtGoyRtH_Y.

For container glass, place it in the trash where it will go to the landfill with other unrecyclable waste, much like what is currently happening with contaminated recyclable materials in the county. According to “Fairfax County Government Public Works, Shatter the Glass Ceiling – Recycle Glass” @ I-95: “For years, most glass has passed through the recycling process as residue, or waste. Some of the glass is applied as landfill cover, an approved use by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, but most of it is simply landfilled with other unrecyclable waste.”

“Carefully package into a rigid container. Label the package “GLASS” and set out with your trash for disposal. Intact glass windows, sliding doors, glass sheets and mirrors can be taken to the I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex for disposal.”

The county forewarned Feb. 15, 2019 that it was encountering many problems with materials. The broken, abrasive glass also damaged machinery.

Some of the glass is applied as landfill cover, the recycling process as residue, or waste.
On or About Sept. 20: Absentee Voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax

Oct. 15: Voter Registration Deadline. In-person: 5 p.m., online: 11:59 p.m.

Oct. 29: Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, 5 p.m.

Nov. 2 Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5 p.m.

Nov. 5: Deadline to return your ballot to the Office of Elections, 7 p.m.

Nov. 5: Election Day. Polling Places open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fairfax County Office of Elections

Hours: Monday-Wednesday, Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323
Fairfax, VA 22035
703-222-0776 TTY 711
voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/

When you register to vote in Virginia, you do not register to vote by party. Virginia is an Open Primary state which means that any registered voter in Virginia can vote in either a Democratic or Republican primary. When both parties are holding a primary election, you will be asked which primary you want to vote in when you check in to vote with your photo ID.

OFFICES ON THE BALLOT, Fairfax County

❖ Member Virginia Senate, vote for one in your district
❖ Member House of Delegates, vote for one in your district
❖ Commonwealth’s Attorney, vote for one
❖ Sheriff, vote for one
❖ Chairman Board of Supervisors, vote for one
❖ Member School Board at Large
❖ Member Board of Supervisors, vote for one in your district
❖ Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District
❖ School Bonds Referenda

Voter Registration and Voter Photo ID Opportunities

The Office of Elections is open during normal business hours to provide residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. The Office of Elections also provides residents opportunities to attend offsite events throughout the year.

School Bond Ballot Question

This is the text of the public school bond question that will be on the Nov. 5, 2019, general election ballot:

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of $360,000,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from school bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the cost of school improvements, including acquiring, building, expanding and renovating properties, including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishing and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system?

Candidates, Fairfax County

Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey C. McKay (D)
Joseph F. Galdio (R)

Commonwealth’s Attorney
Steve T. Descano (D)
Jonathan L. Fahey (I)

Sheriff
Stacey Ann Kincad (D)
Christopher F. De Carlo (I)

Board of Supervisors, District Representatives
Braddock District
James R. Walkinshaw (D)
S. Jason Remer (R)
Carey Crez Campbell (I)

Dranesville District
John W. Feust (D) incumbent
Ed. R. Martin (R)

Hunter Mill District
Walter L. Acom (D) unopposed
Lee District
Rodney L. Lusk (D) unopposed

Mason District
Penelope A. “Penny” Gross (D) incumbent, Gary N. Aiken (R)

Mount Vernon District
Daniel G. “Dan” Storck (D) incumbent, unopposed

Providence District
Dalia A. Palchik (D), unopposed

Springfield District
Linda B. Sperling (D)
Patrick S. “Pat” Hertty (R) incumbent

Sully District
Kathy L. Smith (D) incumbent, Srílékha R. Palle (R)

School Board
School Board At-Large (vote for three)
Abiwar E. Omoun (endorsed by Democrats)
Cheryl A. Buford (endorsed by Republicans)
Priscilla M. DeStefano (endorsed by Republicans)
Rachna Sizmuer Heizer (endorsed by Democrats)
Vivian Palaghanal (endorsed by Republicans)
Ilyong Moon, incumbent (withdrawn)
Karen A. Keys-Gamaara, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)

Braddock District, School Board
Zia Tompkins (endorsed by Republicans)
Megan O. McLaughlin, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)

Dranesville District, School Board
Anastasia S. Karlouzos (endorsed by Republicans)
Ardavan Mobasher
Elaine V. Tholen (endorsed by Democrats)

Hunter Mill District, School Board
Laura Ramirez Drain (endorsed by Republicans)
Melanie K. Meren (endorsed by Democrats)

Lee District, School Board
Tama J. Dereka Kasfi, incumbent, (endorsed by Democrats)

Mason District, School Board
Richard J. Anderson (endorsed by Democrats)
Tom L. Pafford

Mount Vernon District, School Board
Pamela C. Ononogwu
Steven D. Mosley (endorsed by Republicans)
Karen L. Corbett Sanders, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)

Providence District, School Board
Andrea L. “Andi” Bayer (endorsed by Republicans)
Jung Byn
Carl V. Frisch (endorsed by Democrats)

Springfield District, School Board
Laura Jane H. Cohen (endorsed by Democrats)
R. Kyle McDaniel
Elizabeth L. Schultz, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)

Sully District, School Board
Stella G. Pekarsky (endorsed by Democrats)
Tom A. Wilson, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)

Soil and Water Conservation Director
Northern Virginia District Vote for Three
C. Jane Dudik (endorsed by Republicans)
Chris E. Koerner (endorsed by Democrats)
Christopher A. Bowen (endorsed by Republicans)
Edward F. McGovern, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)
Jonathan E. “Jet” Thomas
Monica A. Billger (endorsed by Democrats)
Gerald Owen “Jerry” Peters Jr., incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)

General Assembly
House of Delegates District 34
Kathleen J. Murphy (D), incumbent
Gary D. Pan (R)

District 35
Mark L. Keam (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 36
Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum, incumbent, unopposed

See Election Day, Page II
Teaching Youth Fire Safety

By Jennifer Albarracin
The Connection

On Saturday, Oct. 12, the Greater Springfield Fire Department kicked off their open house at 10 a.m., inviting the community - including children - to learn fire safety and more. The day was full of a bouncy house, teaching kids how to stop a fire, the exhibition of fire trucks, learning how to duck and roll, exposing kids to suited up fireman, CPR safety, and so much more. The open house was part of National Fire Prevention Week, a nationwide event that occurs each year meant to educate the community on fire safety, especially the youth. This year’s theme is to teach the community multiple ways out of their house in case of a fire.

Chief Blake Payne, a 46-year-old firefighter, has been volunteering for 26 years, elaborated on one activity they carried out to teach kids about fire safety, “We have a little station where kids can come in, we pretend it’s their house, there’s a door and there’s a window and we tell them ‘oh, you can’t get out through the door because there is a fire. Where do you go?’ Most of the kids are like ‘The window?’ and we also make them climb through the window, we make them run out of the door, jump over a little box, jump through some cones, then we give them a little house and they can put out some fake fire we have set up. We have a wooden display. It has little wooden windows and they hit it with a water hose, and it knocks the windows down to put out the fire. The kids love it and hopefully it teaches them something.”

When asked what other methods are used to inform the Greater Springfield area on fire safety other than those who dropped by this weekend, Payne added “We go to schools. We try to meet with most the grades where we try to talk about the same information. That gets the majority of the children.”

While the fact the Fire Station is run by volunteers stirs curiosity, Payne assured they are all well trained. “It’s probably be close to two years before you go through all the intro level training, then EMT training, the medical training, then you go to fire school. Fire
See Teaching Youth. Page 7

Children enjoy the bouncy house out in front of the fire station.

Public Meetings
2019 Fall Transportation Meetings

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with a brief open house followed by a public comment period. At the open house you can learn about various transportation initiatives, including:

- Adjustments to Virginia’s project prioritization process (SMART SCALE)
- Virginia’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- VTrans Draft Mid-term Transportation Needs (Virginia’s Statewide Transportation Plan)
- Adjustments to the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Representatives of the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP) and Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and discuss your ideas and concerns about Virginia’s transportation network. The open house will be followed by a public comment period, during which you may provide comments and ask questions on the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted at the meeting and may also be submitted via email or online at www.CTB.Virginia.gov.

Meeting Dates and Locations
Open House begins at 4 p.m. in each of the locations unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, October 15, 2019* Richmond District
2420 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, VA 23060
**This meeting will also provide opportunity for comment on the I-95 Corridor Study Plan

Tuesday, October 22, 2019**
Northern Virginia District
Potomac Conference Room
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030
**meeting begins at 5 p.m.

Monday, October 28, 2019**
Staunton District
Doubletree Hotel Harrisonburg
1400 E. Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
**meeting begins at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 30, 2019
Salem District
Holiday Inn Valley View
3315 Orway Drive
Roanoke, VA 24017

Wednesday, November 4, 2019
Lynchburg District
Lynchburg District Complex
Ramey Memorial Auditorium
4303 Campbell Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Monday, November 12, 2019**
Fredericksburg District
James Monroe High School
2300 Washington Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
**meeting begins at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Culpeper District
VDOT Culpeper District Office
1061 Orange Road
Culpeper, VA 22701


You may submit comments on any transportation projects and initiatives to OIP Deputy Director Ronique Day, 1221 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219 or PublicComments@OIP.Virginia.gov. Comments will be accepted until November 30, 2019.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation’s Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).
Keeping Children Safe on Halloween

Safety advocates offer tips ranging from costumes to trick-or-treating.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

From princesses to superheroes, within the next two weeks, as Halloween approaches, many children will be choosing a costume. As children express their creativity with the help of wigs and light sabers, public safety advocates are encouraging caution both in costume selection and mapping-out a Halloween night route.

“There are several components to safety, first make certain the costumes are well-fitted so they aren’t a tripping hazard,” said Tammy Franks, senior program manager for Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council. “Instead of masks that could obstruct their view try using non-toxic face paint.”

It’s possible to use face paint that it free of toxins, but doesn’t sacrifice a creative disguise, says Aieda Turner of costume supply store Total Fright in Arlington. “Mehron face paint is completely safe and it’s made of aloe vera and cucumber and doesn’t have any alcohol which can irritate a child’s skin,” she said. “Almost all children’s costumes made now, even elaborate costumes, are fire resistant.”

When children are trick-or-treating without a parent, says Franks, drivers should be able to see children, especially if they are wearing a dark costume. Adding glow-in-the-dark or reflective tape can help. “Children should carry a flashlight or glow stick so that they can see and be seen,” she said. “Parents should make sure that costume is flame resistant and they should add a reflective component.”

The costume itself shouldn’t have accessories that pose hazards, says Franks. “For example, if your costume includes a sword or knife, make it out of foam or cardboard or something flexible,” she said.

When out-and-about trick-or-treating on Halloween, retired pediatrician Julia Baker, MD, advises parents to accompany children under the age of 12. “Parents know their children best and should use their own judgement when it comes to allowing a child to go trick-or-treating [without an adult],” she said. Parents should make a plan with their child about the route they’ll take so they’ll know where to find them in an emergency situation. They should also agree on the time when a child should be back at home.

Children should carry a cell phone so that parents can contact them if necessary, says Baker. “Parents should definitely be able to reach their children on Halloween,” she said. “As hard as it might be these days, parents should stress to their children the danger of texting and keeping their head buried in their phones while trick-or-treating.”

Staying in well-lit areas and trick-or-treating with a group of friends can help make Halloween activities safer. “The same basic rules of pedestrian safety also apply on Halloween,” said Franks. “Cross the street in crosswalks, stay on the sidewalk and walk instead of running when crossing the street so that you don’t trip.”

—Tammy Franks, Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council
Teaching Youth Fire Safety

From Page 5

School itself is six months long. It's close to 600 hours of training just to become a firefighter."

Payne also says, "There's no difference because the [call] system doesn't recognize any difference between volunteer or career because we are all trained at the same level, the same standard because we do the same classes, we recertify the same way."

Rocco Rousso, 38-years-old who has volunteered for four years, shares his empathy for those who he serves, "We visit people's houses on their worst day, it's nice to be able to make that a little better for them."

Though it can be difficult at times between a full-time job, volunteering and family for many firefighter volunteers, Payne, who also has additional responsibility of teaching, shares one of the best things about the job for him is the problem solving, "People call for anything, we have to go there and figure it out."
**Haunted Trail** at Workhouse

Workhouse Arts Center presents the "Haunted Trail" at Workhouse Arts Center, Workhouse Road, Lorton, through weekends nights through Halloween Night. Dates and times are as follows:
- Fri., Oct. 18, 7-11 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m.-2 a.m.
- Sun., Oct. 20, 10-7 p.m.
- Mon., Oct. 21, 7-11 p.m.
- Wed., Oct. 23, 7-11 p.m.
- Fri., Oct. 25, 7-11 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 26, 7-11 p.m.
- Sun., Oct. 27, 1-11 p.m.
- Mon., Oct. 28, 7-11 p.m.
- Wed., Oct. 30, 7-11 p.m.
- Fri., Oct. 31, 7-11 p.m.

For more information, visit www.workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900.

**Halloween 2019** — Breakout — each weekend during October and Halloween night. A storyline has been crafted on a prison theme with inmates running out of control through the woods and around the prison grounds (including through the only building on campus that still has jail cells), guards trying to capture them, and an army of terrifying clowns attempting to take over the prison. $20. Visit www.workhousearts.org/event/breakout-haunted.

**Skeleton on Bicycle** - created by Tex Forrest with bicyclist Dale Marhanka.

Special Treat of Fall Gala offers a specially curated, locally-sourced fall tasting menu, delicious wine and local craft beer, fabulous live and silent auctions and so much more. The event supports FACETS work that help neighbors experiencing hunger, poverty and abuse, and celebrates its commitment to a Fairfax County where everyone has a place to call home.

**OCT. 19**

**Family Campout** 2 p.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday at Burke Lake Park, 7/315 Ox Road, Fairfax. On Saturday, your family will enjoy a naturalized night hike, a family movie in the campground and a live animal talk. On Sunday, morning wake up and head to the marina for a tour boat ride and fishing from the banks. The cost is $78. One registration per family. Activities are designed for campers ages 5-17. Call 703-325-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 20**

N Gauge Train Display. 12-2 p.m. Free at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Presented by the Northern Virginia Train Enthusiasts Association, the display recognizes the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations as well as the community members who support the arts in Fairfax County and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. Join the fun! Coat is optional. All are welcome. 

**OCTOBERFAIRS**

Kolonial Oktoberfest Dinner/Dance. 6-8 p.m. At American Legion Post 176, 5820 Ashton Ave., Springfield. Sponsored by the Village Heritage Daughter's Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 176, this event is a traditional peruvian fall tasting menu, live music presented by Rene Muzy Music Masters. 

**MONDAY, OCT. 21**

Monday, 10:00 a.m. At The Workhouse Arts Center, 7348 Bar Street, Springfield. The semi-annual Children's Consignment Sale is sponsored by Grace Weekday Preschool. The sale will make it simple for you to shop for all types of infant and children's clothing, toys, furniture and maternity items at affordable prices. Does not accept credit cards, but will accept cash (no $100 bills please) and in-state personal checks with a current in-state driver's license or valid military ID only. Call 703-451-3314 or visit the website www.gracepresby.org/consignment

Help for homeless SK Walk. 8 a.m. At Veterans Amphitheater, 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax. Pathways Home, Inc. is hosting its 20th Annual Help for Homeless 5K walk to help provide non-time-limited housing and support services for adults with mental illness and co-occurring disorders throughout the Northern Virginia. Registration fees and donations in support of Pathways' walkers go directly to support residents of Pathways homes and continuation of the agency's supportive services. The 5K walk costs $35 for adults, $20 for youth, and $15 for canines. Register at https://pathwayshome-sakinus.net/uc2019Walk

**FACETS** A Very Personalized Health, 8100 Innovation Park Drive, Fairfax. Cost is $150. FACETS’ A Very Personalized Health program is for adults with disabilities, young adults, and seniors who are 50 years of age and older. This program covers a lot of ground and will arrive back in Lorton at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. and in Springfield at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or dhakenson@verizon.net

**OCtober 26**

Ghost Train Halloween Ride. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax. Riders enjoy a ride through the Burke Lake Park miniature train ride to fun a holiday adventure for children and adults of all ages. See your favorite nursery rhymes and fairy tales come to life in the Fairy Tale Loop and try to spot a friendly witch in Witches’ Junction. In addition to the train ride, family members enjoy a mowed hay maze, a carousel and pumpkin painting. Food and drink will be available for purchase from vendors inside and outside the Ice Cream Parlor. Be sure to dress for the occasion with your favorite Halloween costume. Tickets are $15 per child, $10 for seniors, and $8 for younger than age 2. Visit www.FutureQuestGmu.org or call 703-325-3929 for more information.
Facelift for Springfield Plaza

Parking lot resurfacing underway at Springfield Plaza.

Carlos Cruz uses precision to remark lot lines.

Photos by Susan Laume

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Springfield Connection October 17-23, 2019 9
MONDAYS THRU NOV. 11
Older Adults Shape Up. 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. At Shepherd Center of Fairfax-Burke, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinkletree Road, Fairfax. Cost is $30. This program is open to all adults age 50 or better. Being a bring a brown bag lunch and stay for a full day of classes/activities and socializing, or pick and choose the classes that interest you the most. Registration form and class schedule are available at https://s3.amazonaws.com/storage.nm-storage.com/scfbva/files/ailinsert-8-19.final_(2).pdf, or by calling the SCFB office at 703-426-2824.

THURSDAY/OCT. 17
What You Need to Know About Transportation. 7:30-10 a.m. At Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Do you have questions for the panelists? Submit them to info@nvta.org for a chance to be in the know about upcoming transportation priorities and the impact on our regional mobility and infrastructure solutions. The speaker is The Honorable Pete Rahn, Secretary of Transportation, Maryland.

FRIDAY/OCT. 18
Become a Courageous Leader. 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At American Legion Post, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. Leaders of all types in Central Fairfax are called to attend Leadercast Women 2019 to discover the power of taking courage in their daily leadership lives. This year, attendees will be inspired by bold leaders whose stories will teach everyone what courage looks like. This event is hosted by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Prince William Chamber of Commerce. Visit www.leadercast.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19
Concerts from Kirkwood. 3-4 p.m. At Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. “Concerts from Kirkwood” will present piano duo Charles and Sophia, in a concert featuring music of Rossini, Bellini, Wagner, Ravel, and De Falla. Free although voluntary donations accepted to support the series. Visit the website: concerts@kirkwoodpres.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 26
Future Quest. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At George Mason University, Fairfax Campus, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Future Quest is a large college and career conference offered for free every two years at George Mason University. Students with disabilities in middle and high schools, their families and professionals who work with them are invited. The event is a full day of informative and interactive presentations on a huge variety of topics related to transition from high school to postsecondary life. It also features an extensive resource fair, with representatives from more than 40 organizations, as well as a book sale highlighting materials related to life after high school. Visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Opinion

Election Day

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District 37
David L. Bulova (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 38
L. Kaye Kory (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 39
Nick O. Bell (R)

District 40
Dan I. Helmer (D)

District 41
Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent

District 42
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent

District 43
Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent

District 44
Paul E. Krizik (D), incumbent

District 45
Richard C. “Rip” Sullivan (D), incumbent

District 46
Allison H. Lopez (D), incumbent

District 47
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent

District 48
Richard C. “Rip” Sullivan (D), incumbent

District 49
Allison H. Lopez (D), incumbent

District 50
Marcia S. Fauver (D), incumbent

District 51
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent

District 52
Jean B. Bossiere (D), incumbent

District 53
Marcus B. Simon (D), incumbent

District 54
Barbara R. Robinson (D), incumbent

District 55
Steve P. Adragna (R)

District 56
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent

District 57
Scott A. Surovell (D), incumbent

District 58
E. Shelly Simonds (D), incumbent

District 59
Richard L. “Dick” Saslaw (D), incumbent

District 60
Paul S. Simonds (D), incumbent

District 61
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent

District 62
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent

District 63
David L. Bulova (D), incumbent

District 64
Michele A. McQuaid (D), incumbent

District 65
Steve P. Adragna (R)

District 66
Jennifer F. Brading (D), incumbent

District 67
Karrie K. Delaney (D), incumbent

District 68
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 69
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent

District 70
Ibraheem S. Samirah (D), incumbent

District 71
Cyrus C. Goldstein (D), incumbent

District 72
Jennifer F. Brading (D), incumbent

District 73
Jim H. Snyder (D), incumbent

District 74
Jennifer K. Wexton (D), incumbent

District 75
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent

District 76
Brian W. Blake (D), incumbent

District 77
Nick O. Bell (R)

District 78
Brenda L. Record (D)

District 79
Ken R. Plumlee (D), incumbent

District 80
Steve P. Adragna (R)

District 81
Jennifer K. Wexton (D), incumbent

District 82
Jennifer K. Wexton (D), incumbent

District 83
Jennifer K. Wexton (D), incumbent

District 84
Jennifer K. Wexton (D), incumbent

District 85
Jennifer K. Wexton (D), incumbent

District 86
Ibraheem S. Samirah (D), incumbent

Election Day by Kenneth B. Lourie

This is a punchline to a joke I heard 50 plus years ago during my adolescence. I never knew what the actual joke was, but somehow it was thought to be funny. And so too funny the other day when preparing to take a shower at home. I noticed that the bar of soap waiting for me in the shower was almost gone. It seemed inefficient for the task at hand. I then opened the bathroom vanity where I knew I had back up and saw there was only one bar remaining. It was the last hold-out of an eight pack I had bought many months ago. As Maurice Chevalier sang in the movie “Gigi”: “Ah, “Como fais ce bien?”

And remember it well as I remember other similar bulk-type purchases. Sometimes, being mentally clear on the negative and interference in the most unusual way. When I buy things or make arrangements when I’m not thinking clearly in the future, I’ll often wonder if I’ll still be able to actually derive the benefit from this day’s commitment. As involves the soap; that day in the supermarket aisle, I was really looking for a two- or a three-pack, not an eight-pack, hesitating to over-buy when I may under-use. I suppose if I had plenty of money and fewer financial concerns than I do now, I wouldn’t have given this soap purchase any thought at all. But I’m me, not somebody else.

And sometimes, I don’t want to be me. I’d rather be somebody else. Somebody else who threw a bit more caution to the wind. Somebody who damned the torpedo and goes full speed ahead. Somebody who’s a bit fast and furious and less slowly, if I can invoke metaphorical Commodon turtles into the conversation. Nevertheless, at the end of the day (at the beginning, too), I may not be Sammy Davis Jr., but “I Gotta Be Me.” And “me” is someone who doesn’t throw caution anywhere, has never sworn at a torpedo and loves turtles, especially when they beat hares. My approach to this excruciating cancer ordeal is to keep my glass half full, compartmentalize, invoke the same popular culture references and not “Live Like You Were Dying,” as sung by Tim McGraw, but to live like I was living. Which to me has meant to live normally as if I didn’t have stage IV lung cancer, with no bucket list or urgency about anything; and to assimilate having cancer into my life as just another variable, like the weather or the Red Sox bullpen.

Unfortunately, and it might just be me (oh, really), but this kind of nonchalant mundane mundanity does occupy (I’m not saying pre-occupy though my world. But it doesn’t necessarily occupy it because I have cancer. It occupies it because I’m more like my mother than I am my father and cancer or not, it’s what I do. And being exactly ‘who I am’ in spite of my diagnosis is how I’ve rolled through these last 10-plus years. It’s been a living for which I remain extraordinarily grateful and to be honest about it: amazingly lucky.

Moreover, I make the same jokes, with or without punchlines, do the same impressions, invoke the same popular culture references and make decisions as I always have. In addition, I allocate resources, juggle funds and plan for the future while being mindful of the present. As Ed Freeman once said: “Every morning you wake up and are in the game. And the only thing you can control is how you play the game.”