Meet New Supervisor

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Conservatory Construction Delayed

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The ‘Olympics of the Violin’

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Violinist Kayleigh Kim, 15, of Oak Hill practices for Menuhin Competition Richmond 2020 in anticipation of competing against the world’s greatest young violinists in the 11-day event to be held May 14-24.
Tax Season, Tax Scams

The most common tricks and have to avoid them.

By Marilyn Campbell

T ax season and tax scams often go hand-in-hand. Scammers will try to steal tax documents, money and even a person’s identity and seniors are often their prime target.

“Con artists will target anyone, but older adults are targeted at higher rates because criminals go where the money is, and older adults have the majority of wealth because of their years of hard work and savings,” said Amy Nofziger, Director of Fraud Victim Support at the AARP. “Plus, older adults have not grown up with the technology of today, which has grown so fast.”

“Older Adults are often targets because they are going through life transitions and scammers can be very convincing,” added Rachel Coltes, Director of the Arlington County Agency on Aging. “Awareness is critical.”

While numerous scams abound, there are some that are currently more prevalent than others. “The complaints we hear…is the IRS phone scam,” said Stacy Northrop of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs. “This is where the caller will state that a warrant of arrest has been issued for the victim.”

“The crook will claim that the recipient is in trouble for not paying enough in taxes or not filing properly,” added Eric Friedman, Director of the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection. “Crooks instill a sense of fear and urgency, then they’ll trick the consumer into wiring money or paying over the phone with a prepaid gift card. Consumers make quick decisions that they wouldn’t make if there wasn’t a sense of urgency.”

Some of the features commonly thought to be safeguards may not be so, says Friedman. “You cannot trust Caller ID to tell you who’s really on the other end of the phone,” he said. “Caller ID is of no value because crooks can say anything over the phone. They can have IRS as the name that appears to make it look official.”

“Callers instill a sense of fear and urgency. Consumers make quick decisions that they wouldn’t make if there wasn’t a sense of urgency.” — Eric Friedman, Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection.

“Crooks instill a sense of fear and urgency. Consumers make quick decisions that they wouldn’t make if there wasn’t a sense of urgency.” — Amy Nofziger, Director of Fraud Victim Support at the AARP.

“Many older adults are unaware that criminals are lurking on what we consider innocent websites or apps, like ‘Words with Friends,’ Instagram or other social media platforms,” said Nofziger. “This is why education and warning people about the red flags is crucial.”

Identify theft is also prevalent during tax season, says Friedman of Montgomery County. “Crooks will steal someone’s social security number and file (taxes) really early, like in January or February, before the consumer files their return,” he said. “When the consumer really does file, the IRS rejects it. When the problem is reported, the IRS will have to investigate which takes months to resolve, which is not good if you’re getting a refund.”

Scammers seek to obtain money from a victim often in the form of wire transfers or cash, says Nofziger. “It’s important to know the red flags of scams,” she said. “Even though the scam tactics might vary, the criminals’ demands never change. They want money or personal information. So if anyone calls, mails, emails or texts you asking for money, that is a red flag. If they ask you for personal information such as your Medicare number, Social Security number or financial information, it’s a huge red flag.”

Know the warning signs to avoid scams this tax season.

For Help and More Information

• AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/FraudWatchNetwork. AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline and our trained fraud specialists can help walk you through 1-877-908-3360.
• Tax ID Theft Awareness Week: https://www.idtheftcenter.org/tax-identity-theft-awareness-week-2020/
• Arlington Adult Protective Services 703-228-1700
• Fairfax County Silver Shield Anti-Scam Campaign https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-county-silver-shield-anti-scam-campaign

For Help and More Information

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• Tax ID Theft Awareness Week: https://www.idtheftcenter.org/tax-identity-theft-awareness-week-2020/
• Arlington Adult Protective Services 703-228-1700
• Fairfax County Silver Shield Anti-Scam Campaign https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-county-silver-shield-anti-scam-campaign
Meet New Supervisor

Superior Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) to host Town Hall Meeting Monday, Feb. 3.

By Hobson
The Connection

Walter Alcorn represents the residents of the Hunter Mill District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. On Jan. 27, Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) posted on Facebook, “As promised, I am scheduling town hall meetings so that we can have an engaged community discussion about priorities and how we want to move forward in the Hunter Mill District. Bring your questions.

The first town hall meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza N, Reston. Supervisor Alcorn added, if possible, RSVP that you are attending with an email to huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov. Put “February 3 town hall” in the subject line.

According to the FairfaxCounty.gov: “Volunteers (are) needed to serve as Hunter Mill District Representatives on County Boards, Authorities and Commissions…Our county government has the most impact on our daily lives, including transportation, water quality, property taxes, public safety and many other critical services. Advisory groups play a very important role in our county government. If you are interested in serving on a county board, authority, commission or committee (“BAC”) as a Hunter Mill District representative, contact Supervisor Alcorn’s office.” Current openings include:
❖ Reston Transportation Service District Advisory Board
❖ Citizen Corps Council
❖ Civil Service Commission

For more information or to forward your resume for consideration, email Gwenn Minton at CivicsCts@fairfax.gov or call 703-478-0283. Stay up to date on information about the Hunter Mill District by following Supervisor Alcorn on social media: Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Map of the Hunter Mill District in Fairfax County

Photo courtesy Fairfax County

South
West
Oak Hill/Herndon Connection ❖ January 29 - February 4, 2020 ❖ 3
The People’s Business

By Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

The General Assembly has shifted into high gear to get through its agenda of thousands of bills in sixty days. The old saying that you cannot be in two places at one time is disproven every day as the 140 members of the House and Senate scurry among sub-committees and standing committees on which they serve and the sub-committees and committees before which they have to present their bills. By strategically placing an assistant or intern in one meeting while the member moves quickly among several meetings, it may even appear that a member is in more than even two places at one time. The legislature is not a place for lengthy contemplation but rather is a place for action. After all, we ran on a platform of what we promised we were going to do, and the legislative session is the time of action to deliver on our promises.

With such a “meat grinder” approach can we trust the outcome of a legislative session? Consider that in order for a bill to become a law it must meet the approval of a sub-committee and full committee, passage twice in the full house on two different days, the same process in the other house of the legislature, and the signature of the governor.

All that time there are hundreds of advocates, constituents, lobbyists and others looking over your shoulder and providing comments on what you are doing. Bills get intense scrutiny before they are passed. It is easier to describe how a bill does not make it than it is to tell how a bill becomes a law. Fewer than half the bills introduced become law. Election outcomes do matter for to change the outcome of debate on important issues it may be easier to change the people in the legislature through the ballot box than it is to change the minds of incumbent legislators. A case in point is ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment that was debated for decades but approved within a week in a General Assembly made up of new members supporting the rights of women. Those same new members, joining the progressives who were already there, have even now approved sweeping new commonsense gun safety laws such as my universal background check bill that had been defeated for two decades by previous members of a sub-committee of the House. Laws that put barriers in the way of women in making choices concerning their own reproductive health are being repealed. Laws that disproportionately affected people of color are being repealed. The criminal justice system is undergoing a major shift to make it work more fairly for all people. Challenges to the environment are being met with meaningful legislation.

It is impossible to list in a short column the thousands of bills before the legislature. You can however review the full list with descriptions and status at lsis.virginia.gov and for the first time this year you can see livestreaming of most full and sub-committee meetings at virginia general assembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream and virginia senate.granicus.com/viewPublisher.php?view_id=3. And you can visit the Capitol in Richmond; all meetings are open to the public. Some say the process is like making sausage. The important thing is it is doing the people’s business.

After Virginia Ratification Of Equal Rights Amendment
Beyer: ‘Next Steps Depend On Congress’

Rep. Don Beyer (D-8), a longtime supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and cosponsor of legislation to extend the deadline for ratification, issued the following statement: “Today, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and I could not be more proud. Ratification of the ERA is long overdue, but it is wonderful that Virginia took the historic step today which brought the Amendment across the three-fourths threshold necessary for ratification.

Wexton: ‘A Historic Moment’

In response to the final passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in the Virginia General Assembly, Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-10) issued the following statement: “Today, Virginia sent a powerful message to the rest of the country — that ‘Equal Justice Under Law’ is a constitutional right for women.

“I was a sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment during my time in Richmond, and I am proud of my former colleagues in Richmond who made this issue a priority in this year’s session. “This is a historic moment nearly one hundred years in the making. Thanks to the tireless work of so many trailblazers and activists over the years, women — finally — are one step closer to being included in our nation’s founding document.”
Board of Supervisors approves additional time for special exception.

When preparing to build a $40-M, 48,000 square-foot arts and music conservatory in a sustainable design utilizing energy and green building techniques, with a minimum of 231 parking spaces to serve three shifts of 365 students a day and introduce traffic calming measures while retaining a historic place of worship and converting three historic homes to non-residential use in ultimate condition, an applicant may need a little more time than the initial approved special exemption allowed to establish the use.

The proposed “Floris Conservatory For Arts & Music” project in Herndon, located within the Hunter Mill District of Fairfax County, did not break ground within the period allowed with Special Exception SE 2016-HM-007. Shovels in the ground could be up to two years given Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Jan. 14, 2020 approval of Additional Time to Establish Use or Commence Construction for Special Exception SE 2016-HM-007.

ACTING ON BEHALF of Scimores Academy, LLC, Andrew Painter Esq. wrote to Leslie B. Johnson, Zoning Administrator Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development, and requested additional time to “establish use” associated with Special Exception SE 2016-HM-007 that runs concurrently with the approved rezoning application RZ 2016-HM 010. The special exception was set to expire 30 months after the date of approval, on Dec. 6, 2019, unless construction of the improvement had commenced and been diligently pursued. While the expiration date did pass, the approved special exception would not expire pending the Board’s action on the request on behalf of the applicant for additional time.

Jan. 14, 2020, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meeting, Agenda Item Administrative 2 read: “Additional Time to Establish Use or Commence Construction for Special Exception SE 2016-HM-007, Scimores Academy, LLC (Hunter Mill District).” Meeting Materials for Administrative Item 2 included a copy of Painter’s letter in which he said the Applicant worked to secure financing for the project, diligently pursued the development of the Property and such. Also, the site plan for the site was in bonds and agreements, and the building permit application underway. Painter added that Scimores had closed on the property dated April 4, 2017, the Applicant seeks approval of Additional Time to Establish Use and Commence Construction for Special Exception SE 2016-HM-007.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK week Painter provided supplementary information about the project status and intent. “Scimores continues to raise funds for the project, and the support we have received thus far has been tremendous. The Conservatory will provide Fairfax County youth in the Oak Hill, Chantilly and south Herndon areas direct access to a community-based arts educational facility. This is consistent with the broad policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors and the Arts Council of Fairfax County, which encourage new arts education opportunities and performing arts spaces,” he said.

“The Conservatory will facilitate the dispersion of fine arts education in an underserved area of the County and augment arts educational programs offered by Fairfax County Public Schools, private and parochial schools, the Fairfax County Park Authority and local arts organizations. Importantly, it is hoped that the Conservatory will provide experience and training for youth who will be prepared to move up to a higher skill level at the post-secondary education level and beyond,” Painter said.

The Floris Conservatory of Arts and Music Project

According to the Fairfax County Staff Report dated April 4, 2017, the Applicant seeks to construct a LEED-certified Conservatory at the northeastern quadrant of the intersection of Centreville Road and West Ox Road adjacent to Frying Pan Park. The subject property includes the Floris United Methodist Church and three Historic Structures all of which contribute to the Floris Register Historic District, not a Fairfax County Historic Overlay District. Located on approximately 8.07 acres, the Conservatory would offer classes in music, dance and movement, and creative and visual arts to students ages 4-18. On most days, the Conservatory would utilize a three-class session daily schedule, with approximately 356 pupils enrolled during each session and employ a maximum of 100 faculty and staff members, including faculty and administrative, support, maintenance, and transportation. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a school up to 48,000 square feet, parking for 236 vehicles, private outdoor recreation areas and open space areas subject to proffers, special exception conditions and a Generalized Development Plan/ Special Exception/Special Exception Amendment Flat. The Building Permit application process was initiated in Nov. 2018.
Hernon Reston Youth Lacrosse Goes All-in for ADM

Hernon Reston Youth Lacrosse (HRYL), located in Northern Virginia, had a great Fall Ball program this year. We invited coaches and players from the two local High Schools (Hernon High School and South Lakes High School), to come in and do some coaching for HRYL.

Both the boys side and the girls side have had a lot of success with ADM small sided games. For Fall Ball program they started by conducting ADM training for only the High School coaches. About 14-15 coaches came out so this was great support of the program for about 40-50 boy players and 30-40 girl players of all ages.

Players did all the ADM drills: Messy Backyard, Penny tag, Cross the Pond, and 3x or 3by.

—Carl Cassani, HRYL Boys Commissioner

About 40-50 boy players and 30-40 girl players of all ages participated in Herndon Reston Youth Lacrosse Fall Ball program.
NOW THRU FEB. 18
Herndon Accepting Arts Grants Proposals. The Town of Herndon is accepting grant proposals up to $4,500 through the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) Creative Communities Partnership Grant for projects to be implemented in FY 2020. For information about this program and other grant opportunities, review the 2020 Guidelines for Funding which are available at http://www.arts.virginia.gov/grants_guidelines.html. Nonprofit arts organizations incorporated in the Town of Herndon must meet general policy guidelines as published by the VCA. The Commission’s Guidelines for Funding and other resources are available on the website at www.arts.virginia.gov. Applicants should provide full documentation of projected budget, program planning, and a detailed description of the implementation of the project. Organizations who intend to apply for grant funding must submit their proposals by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18 to the Performing Arts Supervisor at the Town of Herndon Department of Parks and Recreation. Proposals may be mailed to Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon, VA 20170, hand delivered to the Herndon Commission for the Arts, 14444 Fendale Ave, Herndon, VA, 20170, or sent electronically to parkandrec@herndon.va.gov. Applicants are encouraged to confirm receipt by the department prior to the deadline. To learn more about the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, visit Herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

TUESDAY/FEB. 18
DMV2GO at the Library. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Herndon-Bergich Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver’s license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at dmv.virginia.gov/general/ #dmv_2go.

SUPPORT GROUPS
Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcountygov- healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

ONGOING
STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org. During the 2019- 2020 school year Contact Don Rea at 571-551- 2488 or donalrea@aol.com.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League’s philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children, including those at 11 Title 1 elementary schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. Through Weekend Food for Kids, tutoring programs and providing new clothing and layettes. To learn more, email bchamiltonav@yahoo.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services’ BeFriend-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324- 4547.

Can You Spell Thyroidectomy? (Or Ice Cream?)

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I couldn’t before, Mr. Rogers, but now I can. And I even know what it means, which 10 days ago, in my neighborhood, I wouldn’t have had a clue. Now, not only do I have a clue, I have a date for surgery on Feb. 27. Monday, in addition to a date (and I don’t mean my wife), Dina, I have a time and a place, a list of pre-surgi- cal do’s and don’ts. Not exactly what I would buy a post-surgical healing ointment and a special scrub to help minimize the risk of infection. And of course, I’ve been advised to wear loose-fitting clothing; perhaps a button down cardigan will do. If all goes well, I’ll be home in my jammies around supper time when my recovery begins. Definitely will have to order ice cream which 10 days ago, in my neighborhood, I wouldn’t have had a clue. Can You Spell Thyroidectomy? (Or Ice Cream?)

Kenny Leece is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
**Virginia Polar Dip**

Kalyppso’s Sports Tavern staff takes the plunge in the 2018 Virginia Polar Dip dressed as Power Rangers.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 1**

**Freezin’ for a Reason Polar Dip**

2 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Registered participants will take the plunge either by cannon-ball jump or a “Chicken Dip” — to raise funds for Camp Sunshine.

The Virginia Polar Dip is a fundraiser for Camp Sunshine, a national year-round resort for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. This year’s goal is to raise $100,000, which will allow 40 families from the Mid-Atlantic area to attend Camp Sunshine. The event is sponsored by: Kalyppso’s, Sports Tavern, David Madison Photography, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston Community Center, Salon Khouri, Ourisman Chantilly Toyota, Reston Association, Fairfax County Cold Water Dive Team, Manor Woods Painting, Leeloo Chiropractic & Rehab, and OneLife Fitness. Cost is $100 minimum donation to plunge and is open to anyone willing to brave the elements for a good cause. Visit www.freezinforareason.com.

**Rocknoceros**

Rocknoceros will appear at the Herndon Community Center on Monday, Feb. 17.

**MONDAY/FEB. 17**

**Rocknoceros**

10:30-11:15 a.m. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Fernade Ave., Herndon. Coach Cotton, Willeebob, and Boogie Woogie Bunnie perform widely popular award-winning music for the whole family. Rocknoceros has dominated the DC children’s music scene for many years. Visit herndon.va.gov/recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

**TUESDAY/FEB. 5**

**DIY Club — Jewelry Making.**

6:30 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Build and create using Duplo blocks. Age 2-5 with adult. One’s love of reading with stories, songs, and crafts focused on relationships… the different people (and pets) we love and who love us. Age 3-5 with adult.

**WEDNESDAY/FEB. 1**

**Preschool Storytime — Love Stories.**

10:30 a.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Join the ongoing nursery rhymes and songs while building with your little one. Recommended for those with allergies to nuts or dairy. Call 703-437-9101 or visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plying-pan-park.

**Geocaching Workshop.**

3-5 p.m. At Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Set off on a search for hidden treasure at Lake Fairfax Park after learning how to put your Global Positioning System (GPS) to work. Students ages 8 to adult will learn how to enter latitude and longitude coordinates into a GPS. Treasure hunters will then follow the coordinates to find a hidden object, container or unique geological feature in the park. Cost is $15 advance; $20 day of. Please bring your own GPS; a limited number will be available to borrow from the instructor at cost. Call 703-473-5444 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

**SUNDAY/FEB. 9**

**Gustaf Yellowgolf.**

11 a.m. and 2 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2130 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Meet and talk with a widely recognized music performer. Cost is $12 advance; $15 day of. Please bring your own VHS or audio cassettes to digital formats. Visit the website https://www.reston-regional.com/programs/facilities/arts/arts-dance.html#.

**MONDAY/FEB. 10**

**RCRC’s 40th Anniversary.**

6:30 p.m. At RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Coln Neck Road, Reston. RCC is invites everyone to mark Community Center’s 40th anniversary and plan for its future. The agenda of this special annual joint Community Relations and Program/Policy Committee meeting includes a screening of a short film created by staff families of RCC, a presentation on the results of the 2019 RCC Community Survey; facilitated discussion on four important RCC strategic planning pillars (Facilities, Community Building, Programs and Community Survey); and a summary of these discussions. To encourage community attendance RCC will be serving dinner, providing translation support (Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and Russian) and offering childcare support for busy families with children ages 6 to 12. RSVP at RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov. To register, visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.