

# Chantilly

## CONNECTION

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Welcome to Centreville:  
Saturday-afternoon drivers  
on Route 28 south, ap-  
proaching Braddock Road.

# 'We're Asking a Lot Of Drivers in this Area'

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
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# NEWS

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF MALINI PULI

**Rocky Run Principal Amy Goodloe (second from left) and her staff with a \$60,000 check from Asha-Jyothi.**

## ‘Inspiring Children to Design, Build and Invent’

### Rocky Run Middle receives \$60,000 grant from nonprofit.

BY MALINI PULI  
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

**A**sha-Jyothi, a Chantilly-based nonprofit, is aiming to take public education to the next level by providing grants to local schools to build state-of-the-art learning environments designed to spur innovation and creative thinking.

“The idea behind this initiative is to bring together diverse communities and demonstrate the importance of giving back, early and often,” explained Asha-Jyothi founder Sekhar Puli. “Educators are the greatest influencers of the next generation. Through these grants and the opportunities they provide, our hope is that all children will be inspired to design, experiment, build and invent, while believing that anything is possible.”

Now in its second year, Asha-Jyothi’s Educate-Innovate initiative recently awarded nearly \$90,000 in funding to 17 public schools in both Fairfax and Loudoun counties, including a \$60,000 grant to the 2019 grand prize winner, Rocky Run Middle School.

Rocky Run’s winning proposal will allow the school, currently undergoing extensive renovations, to create a dedicated space for creative learning. It will feature a LEGO wall, podcasting/recording room and a workspace with dry-erase tabletops and flexible seating.

“We are thrilled to accept this grant to build an Inspiration Lab in our new library, which will open by Spring 2020,” said Rocky Run Principal Amy Goodloe. “Thank you, Asha-Jyothi, for your generosity and for inspiring our students to aim high and dream big.”

In addition, two other local schools received 2019 Educate-Innovate grants. Liberty Middle was awarded \$2,950 to purchase a vinyl cutter, and Brookfield Elementary received \$1,800 to buy Ozobots – small robots that teach students programming skills. Grants are awarded based on proposals from the schools to fund specific requests enabling students to engage in creative thinking and problem solving.

**IN ITS FIRST YEAR**, Asha-Jyothi’s Educate-Innovate initiative donated \$106,000 to build the Innovation Lab at Chantilly High School. This lab offers students access to state-of-the-art 3D printing, audiovisual technology and recording, take-apart technology, writable walls, robotics and more.

To be eligible for funds, local schools were invited



**(From left) are Asha-Jyothi Finance Director Seshu Thota, Liberty Middle Vice Principal Greg Hall and Asha-Jyothi Director Kiran Vemuri.**



**(From left) are Brookfield Elementary teacher Andrew Orenstein, Asha-Jyothi Finance Director Seshu Thota, Brookfield teacher Sheri Reed, and Asha-Jyothi Director and spokeswoman Kiran Vemuri and Yamini Ganta, respectively.**

to participate in Asha-Jyothi’s annual 5K Run/Walk, held this fall in Fairfax Corner. Asha-Jyothi then donated each school’s registration money back to them to fund education projects.

At the 2019 Educate-Innovate awards ceremony, principals and faculty from 17 participating Loudoun and Fairfax County public schools received checks for their registration, along with a matching amount from the nonprofit. Participating schools included: Chantilly and Centreville high schools; Rocky Run, Liberty and Franklin middle schools; and Centreville, Lees Corner, Brookfield, Poplar Tree, Union Mill, Willow Springs, Oak Hill, and Greenbriar East and West elementary schools.

Overall, in 2019, Asha-Jyothi donated \$110,000 to local communities and schools, here and in other states. And according to organization Director Kiran Vemuri, “Going forward, Asha-Jyothi looks forward to even greater community engagement and will continue to fund unique, educational opportunities for students, both locally and beyond.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about this nonprofit, go to [www.asha-jyothi.org](http://www.asha-jyothi.org).

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Residents packed the meeting to learn about the road-construction projects in Centreville.



The new Poplar Tree Road bridge over Route 28, near Westfields Boulevard.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

# 'We're Asking a Lot of Drivers in this Area'

Update on road construction on Routes 28/29 and I-66 in Centreville.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Anyone who's driven on Routes 28 or 29 in the vicinity of I-66, in the past several months, knows that this portion of Centreville has basically become a VDOT work zone. There are orange cones and heavy equipment everywhere, men in hard hats and, of course, the usual traffic – which is why improvements to the I-66/Route 28 Interchange became part of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project, in the first place.

To keep local residents abreast of upcoming, long-term, traffic-pattern changes and detours at the Routes 28 and Route 29 interchanges, planned construction activities along the Route 28 corridor, plus the Route 29 partial bridge demolition, VDOT recently held an information meeting at Stone Middle School.

However, due to rain and other delays, not all of the anticipated time schedule went as planned. Dates changed and became moving targets. However, a great deal of work has now been accomplished and the project is progressing well.

This article will include information from the meeting, as well as the latest updates, as of Jan. 31.

Traffic engineer Rich Clifton, with the design-build contractor, FAM Construction LLC, gave a project overview, plus specific details, at the meeting. He began by noting that the E.C. Lawrence Park access from Route 28 has been moved up to 5000 Stonecroft Blvd., and all exiting traffic must leave the park there, too.

He then said the Poplar Tree Road extension "will come in, and Route 28 will be closed, a couple nights, from midnight-4 a.m., to set the beams." This work was done last week and involved closing Route 28 between Braddock Road and Westfields Boulevard so beams could be installed for the new Poplar Tree Road bridge over Route 28.



Coleen Owens, of Centreville's Heritage Crossing community, speaks with Project Manager Charlie Warraich about the Route 28 north detour to Braddock Road.

However, drivers planning to turn onto Route 28 south from Braddock will still be able to do so. "The ramp from I-66 west into the Braddock turn lanes may be closed first, if possible," said Clifton. "Or [the changes] may all be implemented at once. Southbound traffic on Route 28 will still have a red light so it can turn right. But left-turn lanes won't have a traffic light stopping them [as they do now]."

As of Jan. 31, an exact date hadn't yet been set for the left-turn lane closures, but VDOT officials expect this action to happen in the next few months and remain in place, at least through November.

This work is necessary so VDOT may complete bridgework for the new overpass that will connect Braddock and Walney roads over Route 28. These roads used to be connected, many years ago; having them joined again will provide easier and more-direct access to the main part of Centreville for residents living in Cabell's Mill and other nearby communities.

Another big project that's part of the whole was the partial demolition of the I-66 bridge over Route 29 so it can be rebuilt and lengthened. The work started in December and finished Jan. 23. It took off the outside edges of the bridge so more could be added onto it.

Piers are also being added on Route 29 between the northbound and southbound lanes to support the additional width of the I-66 span over Route 29. Ultimately, when this part of the project is finished, I-66 over Route 29 in Centreville will be wider, longer and taller.



Rich Clifton with FAM Construction.

**THE LEFT LANE** on Route 28 north will become two, protected, U-turn-only lanes. At the traffic signal, drivers will make a U-turn onto Route 28 south, continue in that direction for about 1.5 miles and turn right

## Dazzling Pace of Change in Richmond

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



### COMMENTARY

**D**azzling is the only word I could think of to describe the amazing work that is going on in the Virginia General Assembly this legislative session. The annual meeting of the legislature is just approaching half-time of its annual session, but already significant policy changes are being debated and adopted. There is little new to the policies that are being adopted; many are in place in other states already. But in Richmond they seem revolutionary!

I have already written about the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the early days of the session. The movement to ratify the ERA began in the early 1970s but was not successful in Virginia until nearly 50 years later! Since two ratification deadlines have already passed, the fate of the amendment with Virginia being the needed 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify is uncertain. Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring is among the leaders seeking a judicial decision to validate the amendment's ratification.

Although the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote was ratified in 1920 and added to the Constitution, Virginia did not add its support to ratification until 1952!

While legislation must be passed by both houses of the legislature and signed by the governor to become law, here is a run-down on what has been approved so far by at least one house. By the time the legislature adjourns in early March this legislation is expected to be approved by both houses and sent to the governor. Numerous bills have been passed to ban discrimination against persons because of their sex; bills to protect LGBTQ+ persons would not have made it out of committee last year. Bills to ban discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment and credit applications have passed as has a bill to ban conversion therapy.

Likewise, bills to protect public safety from the misuse of guns that would never have made it out of committee previously have passed in both houses of the Assembly. My bill to require

universal background checks has passed as well as bills granting localities the right to ban guns in public spaces, increasing the penalties for leaving guns unsecured around children, and requiring people to report lost or stolen guns within 24 hours. A "red flag" law that allows authorities to remove guns from individuals who have shown themselves to be a danger to themselves and to others has passed.

This week action is expected on bills that will open up the state to more solar and wind power and that will establish standards for the increased use of renewables in generating electricity. Plastic bags may be eliminated or taxed to reduce plastic pollution. I am sponsoring the Governor's bill to advance the clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay that is getting some push-back from the farming community that would be affected by regulations to clean up stream runoff. Numerous bills have already passed to make it easier to register to vote and to vote on election day, including no-excuse absentee voting.

There is more to come. Tune in next week or follow the sessions on live-streaming at <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php> for more dazzling action!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Not a 'Siege'

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Delegate Ken Plum's OpEd in the Jan. 22-28 issue of the Connection, titled "Siege of the Capital."

After reading this letter, all I can say is "Wow!" Delegate Plum certainly has very poor opinion of Virginia gun owners. Stating that a peaceful and lawful demonstration by a large number of Second Amendment supporters is a "Siege" is incredible. Clearly Delegate Plum knows nothing about the people he appears to fear. He should get out of his liberal bubble and learn about the people who feel strongly about having their constitutional rights oppressed. They are non-violent and are law abiding.

Delegate Plum should read Virginia's constitution. He states "A well regulated militia made up of state and local police will protect the Capitol building and its occupant legislators from those who would deny freedom to others through their misuse of firearms."

Article 1, Section 13 of Virginia's constitution states:

"That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the

military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power."

Note that our constitution specifically states that the "militia" is made up of the body of the people, meaning you and me. It is not made up of police officers. It sounds to me like Delegate Plum really wants to establish a standing army to protect him and his ilk from the people.

Our constitution cautions that such a thing is "dangerous to liberty".

**Michael Kirchner**  
Clifton

#### Don't Abolish The Death Penalty

To the Editor:

It's become quite clear that the movement to abolish the death penalty has reached Virginia. Death penalty opponents have suggested replacing it with life without parole (LWOP). They advocate for it as a more humane alternative to execution. That it's "punishment enough." Except you shouldn't believe that death penalty opponents will keep LWOP.

Recent legislation in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont is seeking to end LWOP, using the exact same arguments that have been used against the death penalty. "Few civilized countries have

LWOP, it's too harsh," et cetera. The movement to abolish the death penalty has become a moving of goalposts, as opponents (who have suggested LWOP) as an alternative, are using the very same arguments they used against the death penalty, to advocate for the removal of the very same alternative punishment that they suggested in the first place! Vox News and The Sentencing Project are now promoting the abolition of LWOP so you shouldn't think it's me fearmongering. The death penalty should stay in Virginia, not just because some crimes are just too heinous to be punished by life without parole, but because it also prevents the abolition of life without parole. If the death penalty is abolished on a Monday, the movement to abolish life without parole will begin the following day. And before you know it, murderers will be back on the streets.

**Daniel Garcia**  
McLean

#### Becoming a More Equal and Inclusive Community

To the Editor:

I am an American, but my origins lie in a country where you cannot exercise your rights as a human being, let alone as a

woman. Women are forced into marriage at a young age, girls need permission from their fathers or brothers to leave their homes, and embracing your sexuality is unfathomable — and illegal at times.

It is for this reason that I write to you.

As a local newspaper serving the people of Northern Virginia, I ask that you write an article on the Jan. 15 ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Virginia. It is crucial that we shed light on this recent event in Virginia that, while long overdue, must be celebrated.

On Jan. 15, 2020, Virginia voted on a resolution to ratify the ERA, making it the 38th state to pass this resolution. For decades feminists have been fighting to add a simple yet monumental phrase to the U.S. Constitution: "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Shedding light on this century-long issue will give our daughters, mothers, and sisters not only the recognition they deserve, but it will pave the way for other states and even nations to recognize and embrace equal rights as well. If we—as residents of the state of Virginia—are one step closer to becoming a more equal and inclusive community, then we must hold a responsibility to report on these views and enlighten others along the way.

**Rudan Balay**  
Springfield

# Predatory Student Lenders

**Northern Virginia lawmakers hope to crack down on student-loan servicing companies.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s a high school student, Katlyn Weiser dreamed of attending George Mason University. She wanted to have a career in public service, being in the room where it happens on Capitol Hill. But instead she found herself under a mountain of debt, struggling to keep up with meeting minimum payments and ultimately being forced to make a difficult decision about her future. She says she'll never forget the day when an agent from loan-servicing company Navient told her that she should probably drop out of school to pay off her student debt. "I cried," says Weiser. "I cried a lot because I had come so far. I had become the first person in my family to go to college, one of the first people in my high school to go to college, and it was sad to hear that because I had come so far."

Weiser did not listen. She didn't drop out, and she's now a senior at George Mason University. She says she has determined that she

can't afford a career in public service, so she plans on being a lobbyist instead. She's one of the student borrowers state Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) wants to help with a bill she calls the Borrowers Bill of Rights. It would use the power of the State Corporation Commission to crack down on what she calls the egregious practices of student loan servicing companies. "We can regulate these student loan servicers to ensure we're protecting our borrowers from shady practices, and believe me there are shady practices," says Howell. "Every other type of debt is regulated in Virginia except student loans debt. This lack of regulation is egregious given one million borrowers are collectively carrying more than \$41 billion worth of student debt."

**DEMOCRATS HAVE WANTED**

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

**Katlyn Weiser speaks at a press conference in Richmond in favor of a bill designed to crack down on egregious practices of student loan servicing companies.**

to crack down on student-loan servicing companies for years, but the Republican-led House of Delegates has blocked the effort. Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) has introduced legislation to have the State Corporation Commission regulate student-loan servicing companies for years only to be blocked by the GOP majority over and over. Even when Howell was able to get similar legislation through the Senate, Simon found that the Republican-led House was not interested.

"It's interesting that a number of delegates who have been sympathetic but didn't think this was the

student loan servicers engage in deceptive and predatory practices, borrowers can face insurmountable barriers to financial security."

**THE BILL** requires student loan servicing companies get a license to operate in Virginia from the State Corporation Commission, which would crack down on egregious practices like misrepresenting the amount of money due, recklessly applying loan payments to outstanding balances and failing to report payment history to consumer credit bureaus. Violators would be hit with a \$2,500 fee.

"This bill is not about free college," said Seth Frotman, executive director of the Student Borrower Protection Center. "This bill is about making sure borrowers in the commonwealth who took on debt to chase the American dream aren't ripped off in the process."

right solution voted for the bill in committee this year," said Simon. "So I think we're on a glider path here, although there are a few people who continue to believe that we shouldn't be helping out students for whatever reason."

This year, Democrats are in control of the General Assembly. That's opened the floodgates for a number of issues, and cracking down on student-loan servicing companies is one of them. Howell's bill cracking down on student loan servicing companies passed a Senate committee with a unanimous vote. And Simon has a similar bill that's already passed the House with an 84 to 15 vote.

"When student-loan servicers engage in deceptive and predatory practices, borrowers can face insurmountable barriers to financial security," says Anna Scholl, executive director of Progress Virginia. "When

All of the egregious practices outlined in the bill are already illegal. But borrowers would have to hire a lawyer and file a federal lawsuit to take action, which is not a workable solution for people who are already under a mountain of debt.

Instead, this bill makes these actions a violation of state law and empowers the State Corporation Commission to go after bad actors. That way borrowers who feel they've been wronged could file a complaint with the Bureau of Financial Regulation.

"Why are Virginia borrowers having to resort to lawsuits for their consumer protections?" asked Del. Cia Price (D-95). "It is past time for student loan borrowers in Virginia — like me — to have common-sense protections."

**"This lack of regulation is egregious given one million borrowers are collectively carrying more than \$41 billion worth of student debt."**

— Sen. Janet Howell (D-32)

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THINK**

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**Braddock Road and Old Lee Road Safety and Operational Improvements Study  
Fairfax County**

Public Information Meeting  
**Thursday, February 13, 2020**  
**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
Presentation begins at 7 p.m.  
Inclement weather date: Thursday, February 20, 2020

Westfield High School, Lecture Hall  
4700 Stonecroft Boulevard  
Chantilly, VA 20151

Find out about a study assessing potential safety and operational improvements at the intersection of Braddock Road (Route 620) and Old Lee Road, and the S-curve on Braddock Road just west of Old Lee Road. The concepts being studied include realignment of the S-curve and intersection enhancements at Braddock Road and Old Lee Road such as turn lanes and innovative intersection improvements.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the study. A presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Study staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website ([www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org)), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call 703-259-2239 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **February 24, 2020** to Mr. Andrew Beacher, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or email [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Braddock Road and Old Lee Road Safety and Operational Improvements Study" in the subject line.

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**NEWS**

# Bakery Manager Charged With Sexual Assault

Fairfax County police have charged Alberto Figueiredo, 73, of Fairfax, with object sexual penetration against a developmentally disabled adult. Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau's Sex Crimes Squad began their investigation in late January when the victim disclosed the alleged assault to her parents.



**Figueiredo**

According to police, she was an employee at the Wildflour bakery in Chantilly, where Figueiredo is also employed as the general manager. The bakery routinely hires individuals with developmental disabilities, and Figueiredo has been employed there for more than a decade.

After a thorough investigation, detectives arrested Figueiredo last Thursday, Jan. 30. He was then held

without bond in the Adult Detention Center. Meanwhile, victim specialists from the Police Department's Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division are making sure the alleged victim is receiving the appropriate resources and assistance.

In addition, detectives are asking anyone who has information or may have had inappropriate contact with Figueiredo to call Major Crimes Bureau detectives at 703-246-7800, option 3.

Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone, 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477); by text, type "FCCS" plus tip to 847411; and online at <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/>. Or download the mobile tip411 App, "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers." Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

—BONNIE HOBBS

**ROUNDUPS**

## Learn about Peer Support Service Dogs

The next meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Lt. Chris Sharp and PFC Dustin Granofsky will bring their service dogs and discuss the Police Department's Peer Support Service Dogs program.

The dogs came from First Responder Canine Service Dogs (FRK9), and this is a pilot program to spread awareness of PTSD/TBI (traumatic brain injury), plus psychological and physical disabilities in the first-responder world. These dogs are deployed to community events, traumatic/critical events and debriefs of major incidents.

## Braddock, Old Lee Roads Meeting

VDOT will hold a public information meeting Thursday, Feb. 13, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., in the lecture hall at Westfield High, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. A formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m., as residents learn about a study assessing potential safety and operational improvements at the intersection of Braddock Road and Old Lee roads, and the S-curve on Braddock Road just west of Old Lee Road.

The concepts being studied include realignment of the S-curve, plus intersection enhancements at Braddock Road and Old Lee Road, such as turn lanes and innovative, intersection improvements. Residents will be able to view displays and ask questions of VDOT staff. (Inclement weather date: Feb. 20).

## Road Construction Progress Discussed

FROM PAGE 3

there'll be room for a wider Route 29, with more lanes, under I-66 – also in the future. Widening Route 29 there is not part of the current project but will enable it to someday accommodate these additional lanes.

But that's not all. Yet another part of the I-66 project here that will greatly impact local motorists is the closure of the left-turn lane and ramp from Route 29 north to I-66 east in Centreville. It began Jan. 16 and will remain closed for approximately four months for demolition and construction of new, I-66 bridges over Route 29.

**TO ACCESS I-66 EAST** from Route 29 north, drivers must now stay to the left and continue north on Route 29 to the intersection with Trinity Parkway/Machen Road. At the traffic signal, they'll use the left-most turn lane only to make a U-turn onto Route 29 south. They'll then continue on that road until they reach the ramp for I-66 east. Or, alternatively, motorists may continue north on Route 29 to Route 28 north, stay to the right and follow the signs to I-66 east.

"We're asking a lot of drivers in this area," said VDOT'S Regional Transportation Program Director Susan Shaw. "But the work at Routes 28/29 is very complicated. We estimate spending \$300 million in that interchange. So we advise drivers to stay off their phones and be alert. We'll focus

on safety first, traffic operations and reducing congestion, as much as possible."

At the meeting, a resident worried about making a U-turn at E.C. Lawrence Park to go southbound on Route 28 during the afternoon rush, "when 20 cars are backed up, trying to make a left onto Braddock."

"We can't do the U-turn until we have a 1,200-foot-long, right-turn lane," replied Clifton. "But there'll be more green time going southbound so there shouldn't be as much of a backup there. We believe we'll be able to make traffic flow reasonably well."

He also noted that "Northbound Route 28, north of I-66, won't have traffic signals once the Braddock Road signal is removed. On southbound Route 28, it'll be at least a year before that happens. Then we'll have free-flowing traffic and no traffic signals on Route 28, between Route 29 and Westfields Boulevard."

Another resident said, "For those of us who live in Cub Run and Sequoia Farms, it's taking us a half hour to get out of our neighborhood. And traffic backs up [on Route 28 south] for five or six lights before we can get through the Braddock Road/Route 28 intersection."

Hopefully, said Clifton, "Once the U-turn happens, we might be able to put in a triple, right turn there." For more information, go to [outside.transform66.org](http://outside.transform66.org).

# BULLETIN BOARD

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

## FEB. 3 TO MARCH 31

**Deer Management.** Manassas National Battlefield Park will implement its second year of deer management to protect and restore native plants, promote healthy and diverse forests and protect historic landscapes. Extensive safety measures will be in place during operations, which will take place at night when the park is closed. Biologists, who are also highly trained firearms experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will work under the direction of National Park Service (NPS) natural resource management specialists and in coordination with park law enforcement rangers to conduct reduction actions safely and effectively. The NPS will donate all suitable venison to local food banks. Last year, the park was able to donate 7,230 pounds of venison to Tree of Life Food Pantry.

## MONDAY/FEB. 10

**Joint Sully District Land Use and Transportation Meeting.** 7 p.m. At Fair Oaks Police Station, 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Topics:  
7 p.m. — Germain Property Rezoning and Special Exception  
7:45 p.m. — Single-issue proffered condition amendment (PCA) to modify proffer for an already approved new vehicle storage site on Old Lee Road  
♦ Previous Land Use and Transportation Committee Minutes  
Next Land Use and Transportation Committee Agenda

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

**Sully District Council Meets.** 7 p.m. At Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Topic: Fairfax County Economic Development Authority Speaker: President and CEO, Victor Hoskins.

## CRI RECEIVES \$500,000 GIFT

CRi received \$500,000 from an anonymous donor on Dec. 18. This generous gift, from a valued local family, was received as a part of CRi's 2019 Comfort & Joy Annual Holiday Campaign. CRi is dedicated to providing personalized supports to youth & adults with mental health needs & developmental disabilities. Since its inception 45 years ago, CRi has served as a caring, innovative, and ethical human services nonprofit agency. As years have passed, the critical need for expansion of programs and supports has greatly evolved.

## PICKLEBALL FACILITY COMING

Locally-owned-and-operated Pickleballerz signed a lease on Dec. 17 to become the Washington, D.C. region's first-ever dedicated indoor pickleball facility. The company will open its almost 20,000 square-foot facility located at 14424 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly, VA. in the Spring, 2020.  
Pickleballerz will feature a state-of-the-art six-court facility for players of all abilities to hone their skills, socialize, and be a part of an inclusive community within the fastest-growing sport in America.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 3

**Kindergarten Registration.** 12:30-3:30 p.m. At Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Colin Powell Elementary School will conduct its Kindergarten Registration on Tuesday, March 3 from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Parents may also call 571-522-6008 to schedule an appointment. Forms and other information are available on line at: <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements>  
Due to the time required to register your child, they request that only parents come to school for registration.

## 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. on Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm) for more.

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## Off Topic, Way Off



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

From cancer to toilet paper. Is that 'off' enough? My reason for writing this column might be because I need a diversion (see last week's column), and because, as is so happened recently, I needed to replenish our toilet paper supply. (It had nothing to do with a winter advisory in the forecast.) As the consumer in the house, I am keen and motivated to spend our money wisely. I look for sales, I use paper coupons, I use digital coupons and of course, I peruse the advertising circulars, in print and online (if necessary) regularly. In addition, I have a number of plastic bonus cards hanging on my keychain. In short, I am prepared and ready for any retail or wholesale opportunity that might present itself.

With respect to toilet paper, I believe us regular users have been victimized by the toilet paper manufacturers. I refer specifically to the increase in the size of the actual roll itself; from single to double to triple to jumbo to mega and now super mega. Since the manufacturers can't exactly increase demand, they've devised a strategy to increase supply - in our homes. And though using myself as an example is hardly empirical evidence, I will nonetheless continue to do so in an effort to justify my accusation.

If you're like me, you probably like to have an ample supply of toilet paper in the house, just in case (it happened once in college; not good). And to that end, the toilet paper manufacturers have offered up multipacks equivalent to as high as 96 rolls, if I'm not mistaken, to address this potential shortage. However, my beef is not with the number of rolls in these multipacks, my beef, as I've said, is with the size of the rolls. In these cases, size does matter.

For years, we've been buying 4-, 6-, 9-, 12-, 24-, 36- and even 48-roll multipacks, some single and some double to stock the bathroom linen closets, so we're used to having a specific number of rolls on hand/in inventory. Now the rolls are double or even triple the size we had grown accustomed to having as back-ups. But we're still, in spite of the gargantuan size of the newer mega/super mega rolls, wanting to have the same number of rolls in the closet as we've always had (I do, anyway). Sort of a comfort level, you might say. The problem is that having the same number of super mega rolls in inventory as previously one had as single or double rolls gives one way more toilet paper in the house than you ever had. In effect, we have over-purchased. The toilet paper manufacturers have used our predispositions against us in order to take a greater share of our household budget previously allocated for toilet paper.

I don't need six super mega rolls in our bathroom. But I do want to see at least six rolls in reserve (aid and comfort you might say). If the six rolls in reserve were single or doubles, their size would be irrelevant. The number of rolls was more important - in my head. And now, because of the toilet paper manufacturer's insistence that size matters, I am forced to buy these spare-tire, donut-sized rolls that I can't possibly use no matter what "snowmageddon" might hit us. But I can't stock my shelves with reasonably-sized rolls because their unit cost is prohibitive compared to the big roll multipacks. As the consumer I am, I am loathe to overpay for such household necessities. So I buy in bulk, stuff my shelves with ply and go about my business. I just wish I had more than a hand in their decision-making.

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

# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Beginning English Conversation.** Fridays 10:30-12:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Drop-in conversation group for ESL speakers who want to improve their skills. Adults. No registration required. Fridays 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Call 703-830-2223. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/6119888>

**Sock Drive for Local Students.** Now thru Feb. 10. At Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. The Sully District Police Station is hosting its annual Sock Drive for Fairfax County students in need. Last year, this station collected more than 3,500 pairs of socks that were given to students as a special, Valentine's Day surprise.

**Collect Coats for Children in Need.** Now thru Feb. 28. At CSB Office, 14150 Parkeast Circle, Suite 200, Chantilly. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) Youth & Family Outpatient staff is holding a coat drive to benefit its clients and the community. Bring new or gently used coats, hats, scarves and gloves to CSB's office.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 8

**One Year Celebration.** 2-6 p.m. At Dano's Granola, 4520 Daly Drive, Chantilly. Learn about their story and commitment to healthy ingredients. Be among the first to try the new product launch. Tour the kitchen and meet the partners. Sample ways you can use granola at the Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack Stations. \$5 registration fee per adult. 100% will be donated to No Kid Hungry. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/danos-granola-29210595801> or email [DANOSGRANOLA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DANOSGRANOLA@GMAIL.COM).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 9

**Free Chair Yoga.** 3:30-4:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Gentle and mindful chair yoga. For adults. Free.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 12

**Free Photography Class.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Learn about photography fundamentals with basic camera controls. Teens and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**"Cinderella."** 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Old Town Manassas. This brand new production choreographed by Artistic Director Rafik Hegab will enchant audiences with beautiful sets, costumes, music, choreography, and dancing. Starring Saaya Pikula as Cinderella, and featuring VNB's professional company as well as students from VNB School. Tickets are \$40 adults, \$25 students (age 17 and under). Visit the website <https://hylton.calendar.gmu.edu/virginia-national-ballet-cinderella>

## SATURDAY/FEB. 29

**CVHS Choral Cabaret.** 6:30-10 p.m. At Centreville High School Cafe, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Come join the 16th annual Choral Cabaret, featuring a night of marvelous music, spectacular silent auctions, and delectable desserts. Cost is \$10.

**Pink Tie Breast Cancer Charity Ball.** 6 p.m. to midnight. At Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. The IIB's Foundation will host its 9th Pink Tie Breast Cancer Charity Ball to raise funds for their Bosom Buddy Baskets which are presented to women when they wake up in hospitals following breast cancer surgery. These baskets provide comfort from the pain associated with breast cancer surgery and treatment and lets them know they are not alone in their journey. The event will feature a Candlelit Served Dinner, Open Bar and Dancing All Night, Silent Auction, Raffles, Surprise Guests and More. 100% of All Proceeds benefits The IIB's

## Capital Remodel and Garden Show

George Olphant will highlight the Capital Remodel and Garden Show at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly.

### FEB. 21-23

**Capital Remodel and Garden Show.** From 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. More than 300 companies will be on hand to showcase the latest products and services in home remodeling, renovation, home décor, landscape and garden design. An ongoing schedule of home remodeling and landscape experts conducting seminars will be carried out throughout the three-day event. George Olphant, "George to the Rescue," will be the headliner. Tickets are \$12 Box Office adult admission; \$9 Adult online admission; \$3 Children age 6-12, Children 5 and under free. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://capitalremodelandgarden.com/>



## ALNV Volunteer Opportunities

Learn about ALNV Volunteer Opportunities on Monday, Feb. 10 at the Sully District Government Center.

### MONDAY/FEB. 10

**ALNV Volunteer Opportunities.** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Sully District Government Center, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Volunteer to help your community through the many programs sponsored by Assistance League of Northern Virginia. Assistance League programs support local children and families in need through Weekend Food for Kids, tutoring programs, and providing new clothing and layettes. Individuals looking to stay in touch with the local community are invited to attend to learn more about the organization's programs. Pre-meeting social starts at 9:30 a.m. Free. Visit the website [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

Foundation. Ticket prices are \$199 per person.

### MARCH 20-22

**Super Pet Expo.** At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Fri., Mar 20 - 3-8 p.m.; Sat. Mar. 21 - 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun. March 22 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission: Adults \$13; Children age 4-12 \$8, age 3 and under - Free. The family-friendly event will feature more than 200 pet-related exhibits along with entertainment and educational activities. Dogs, cats, Champion Trainer, hermit crabs and reptiles will highlight this show. Tickets: [www.superpetexpo.com](http://www.superpetexpo.com)

## ONGOING

**Diabetes Sisters PODS Meetup.** Meets the first Monday from 7-9 p.m. At Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. An evening of sisterhood, encouragement, and peer support. Opportunities to share experiences, peer support, and lived expertise with others who have been there too. Meet with other women living with diabetes for encouragement, education, and empowerment. Women age 18+ living with any type of diabetes or prediabetes

are welcome, regardless of whether they were diagnosed yesterday or 40-plus years ago. They strive to create an open, respectful environment for women with diabetes or prediabetes to truly focus on their health. Free. Visit the website: <https://diabetessisters.org/pods-meetups>

**Fitness for 50+.** Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email [lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-322-4475 for more.

**History Volunteers Needed.** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email [volunteers@fairfax-station.org](mailto:volunteers@fairfax-station.org) or call 703-945-7483 to explore opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), 703-425-9225.

**Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call

703-409-0919 for more.

**Carolina Shag Dance.** Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit [www.nvshag.org](http://www.nvshag.org) for more.

**Open Rehearsal.** Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxjubilaire.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilaire.org) for more.

**Live After Five.** Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com) for a full schedule.

**Mondays are Family Night.** 5-7 p.m. at Villaggio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030 for more.

## LIBRARY FUN

**Toddlin' Twos.** Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Storytime for Three to Fives.** Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Plant Clinic.** Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

**Lego Block Party.** Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Duplo Storytime.** Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Legos Kids Club.** Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

**Starlight Storytime.** Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

## IMPROVING ENGLISH

**One-on-One English Conversation.** Various times at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Spend an hour with a volunteer tutor to practice conversing in English. Various times and days. Reservations are required. Call the library at 703-830-2223 to make a reservation.

**ESL Book Club.** Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

**English as Second Language Book Club.** Mondays, 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call the library 703-830-2223 for book title.

**Advanced English Conversation Group.** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop-in conversation group for adult English as Second Language speakers who want to improve their skills. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

**English Conversation Group.** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

**English Conversation Group.** Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

**Practice English Conversation Group.** Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop in and enjoy casual conversation and learning for adult learners of English. Volunteer led program. Call 703-830-2223 for more.