Pedestrian Deaths Continue to Mount on Richmond Highway

Intersection improvements can barely keep up with the traffic.

A pedestrian was killed last week in a part of Richmond Highway just south of Hunting Creek in an area that has traffic coming in from the Capital Beltway, and several secondary roads intersecting, and is short on pedestrian-friendly crossings.

According to Fairfax County police, a 78-year-old man died as a result of injuries from being struck by a car on Wednesday, Sept. 9 around 10 p.m. Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit have preliminarily determined that James Spack, of Alexandria, was crossing the road in the area of the 5900 block of Richmond Highway. The driver of a 2012 Hyundai Veloster was traveling northbound on Richmond Highway when he struck Spack. The driver remained on the scene and is cooperating with detectives. Spack was taken to a local hospital where he died from his injuries. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors for the driver, according to police. The investigation is ongoing.

This is the 12th pedestrian fatality in the county to date in 2020. There are several parts of Richmond Highway that have been improved for pedestrian safety, but this part of the corridor, which has several turn lanes, merging areas and traffic signals, not much has been done for pedestrian safety. The roadway here can be a daunting eight lanes to cross, plus the median.

The Richmond Highway corridor will be impacted in the future by the “Embark,” project, but this particular strand of roadway is just outside of the project limits. Embark Richmond Highway is a plan that is slowly coming together to provide multi-modal transportation solutions and create opportunities for economic development in the Richmond Highway Corridor. Multi-modal means a transportation system that is inviting for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and drivers by including separate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on both sides of the roadway, project information stated.

The Embark plan includes six business areas, and while the area where James Spack was killed is near the “North Gateway,” business area, identified as part of Embark, it is just outside the project scope.

VDOT Study Says
Pedestrian fatalities in Virginia have increased, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation 2017 Pedestrian Crash Assessment. In response to the continuing increase in pedestrian fatality rates, the VDOT Traffic Engineering Division completed an inaugural statewide Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) in early 2018. Of the three troubled areas in Northern Virginia that VDOT listed as “hot spots” on the action plan, the one spot listed in Fairfax County was Richmond Highway. This plan considers ways to improve pedestrian safety, and ultimately reduce pedestrian fatalities throughout the Commonwealth. VDOT

Opening Date for New Army Museum Still At Large

With the pandemic still impacting the area, museum crowds need to be avoided.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

At 5 p.m. every weekday evening, officials retire the flag at the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir. The museum has not yet opened due to the pandemic, but there is still staff on duty there, face masks in place. The flag goes up in the morning and down at sunset, just like hundreds of other flags at military installations across the country.

On April 16, the U.S. Army postponed the museum’s public opening, which was originally scheduled for June 4, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the exhibit gallery finishing work was suspended, impacting the project timeline. Currently, there are a few staff members still on duty, finishing up the final touches until the grand opening, which is coming soon, but a date has not been set yet.

According to museum communications official Dan Gregory, the official announcement for the big day may be coming soon, but this decision has not been made yet. "Some essential Museum and Foundation staff and contractors who can perform their work safely are working on site to continue progress on the Museum," he said.

The Museum will open when the conditions can ensure the health and safety of Museum visitors and staff, and the Museum is ready to begin daily operations, read the museum website. www.thenmusa.org

The large facility for the National Museum of the U.S. Army is right off the Fairfax County Parkway on the west end of Fort Belvoir.
McEnearney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

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This is not your typical duplex! Cottage-style inside and out with 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, open kitchen, dining & living spaces, and just remodeled basement. Special touches throughout: beadboard walls, pocket doors, screened-in porch and multi-season gardens. Jodie Burns 571.228.5790 www.JodieBurns.com

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OPEN SUN 9/20, 2-4PM
Neighbors chat it up at the community gathering place.

Belle View shopping center has a post office, grocery store, florist and restaurants, good for this community, they say.

Plans Nixed for an Updated Belle View Shopping Center

Proposal for mixed use redevelopment is withdrawn.

By Mike Salmon

The Connection

When a proposal to renovate the Belle View Shopping Center came up earlier this year, builders wanted a mixed-use development consisting of retail, office, and midrise multifamily residential uses with a maximum building height of 5 stories, totaling 837,872 to 1,047,340 square feet.

After getting a healthy dose of push back from area residents and officials, the developer reconsidered. Residents cited traffic, sewage, flooding and wildlife for reasons for not moving forward with the redevelopment plan.

But on Monday, Sept. 15, David Gill, land use attorney for the project, sent a letter to planners withdrawing proposals to redevelop the Belle View Shopping Center.

“After careful thought, we have determined not to further pursue the SSPA (redevelopment plan) at this time. Given COVID and the recovery from the recent fire, we are focused on ensuring that the shopping center and our tenants are able to recover as soon as possible. Our focus on these efforts, and, frankly, the feedback from both Staff and the Community, made us realize that continuing to pursue the SSPA at this time does not make sense,” Gill wrote.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) looks at the process as a good opportunity for the community to weigh in so any proposals will be a better fit for everyone, and after hearing the concerns, this was not the right proposal at this time, he said.

“I appreciate Belle View management for recognizing staff and community concerns and withdrawing the proposal. I also appreciate all the residents who took the time to engage in this public process and advocate for their neighborhood,” said Storck.

The revised plan, known as PC19-MV-007 “is not recommended to be added to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program. The revised nomination remains problematic when evaluated against Plan goals regarding neighborhood compatibility, buffering, and transitions to the surrounding suburban neighborhood, as well as goals seeking to achieve environmental benefits,” the addendum read, dated September 8, 2020.

“The retail environment continues to evolve and the Belle View shopping center owners want to meet the needs of their businesses as well as the needs of the surrounding community,” said Holly Hicks Dougherty, Executive Director at the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce who is one of the 13 members on the Mount Vernon SSPA Task Force.

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17
Fall Garden Tour & Tea. 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adult) Tour the lush demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will inspire you with stories of Green Spring past and present and highlight the standout plants of fall. Afterwards, enjoy a delicious English afternoon tea in the 1784 Historic House. $36 per person. Call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19
Floral Design Workshop: Autumn Beauty. 1-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Enjoy autumn’s rich colors and textures by bringing them into your home. Learn step-by-step how to create a unique, take-home floral design that celebrates the season with the help of professional floral designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn tips and tricks of the trade to practice on your own designs at home. $39 per person (plus a $20 supply fee). Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code BA9A17E) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 22
Car Free Day will be celebrated locally on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Commuters are encouraged to telework, bike, walk/run, carpool/vanpool (Car-Lite), scooter, or use public transit. Take the pledge, even if you’re already car free. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, residents taking the Car Free Day pledge are encouraged to review and follow the region’s “Commute with Confidence” guidelines in a safe and healthy manner.

FRIDAY/OCT. 2
Now through Sept. 30, applications are being accepted for the Spring 2021 semester for the Hope For The Warriors Military Spouse and Caregiver Scholarship program. Since 2006, Hope For The Warriors has awarded Military Spouse and Caregiver Scholarships twice a year. The program recognizes and rewards post-9/11 spouses and caregivers for their strength, fidelity and resolve despite adversity as they assume critical roles in the financial well-being of their families. Scholarships vary from $1,500 to $2,500 and applied toward higher education at an U.S. accredited university, college or trade school. To receive an application to apply for the Spring 2021 semester, visit hopeforthewarriors.org and apply for services.
Facilitating Voting, Adjusting the Budget and Tackling Criminal Justice

By Sen. Scott Surovell

Over the last month, the Virginia General Assembly has been in what’s called a “special session” to address voting in the forthcoming election, the budget and criminal justice. We have been juggling our jobs, families and other responsibilities to serve the public in this historic session.

The legislature had to revisit the state budget because the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted the budget this February 2020. Revenues have stabilized somewhat and the state has received some federal assistance. Our money committees are now reconciling the ideas from both chambers to cut about $2 billion from the budget. Both chambers to cut about $2 billion from the state budget because the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted the budget this February 2020. Revenues have stabilized somewhat and the state has received some federal assistance. Our money committees are now reconciling the ideas from both chambers to cut about $2 billion from the budget.

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8th Congressional District Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area invites you to join its U.S. House of Representatives - Virginia 8th District Candidate Forum, to be held online on Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The candidates certified for the Nov. 3 general election are U.S. Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D); and Jeff A. Jordan (R).

This event is free and open to the public. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n2O-kz-GTXSTUD7y_zT-SQ

Questions addressed to both candidates should be submitted in advance at: https://forms.gle/ht7jUnr4y1aTAdy7

League of Women Voters’ Candidate Forums are nonpartisan. The League never supports or opposes any party or candidate. We invite all certified candidates competing for office in their respective districts.

Please direct any questions about the event to: pr@lww-fairfax.org

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

Special Session

HB 5109 (Hope) Standardizes and enhances training by criminal justice academies and establishes required in-service training standards for law enforcement officers.

Finally, HB 5103 introduced by Delegate Sickles, passed through the House, establishing absentee ballot drop-off locations, supporting pre-paid postage for absentee ballots, and making it safer to vote by mail in absentee ballot. Its companion bill, SB 5120 (Howell), passed both bodies and is already signed by Governor Northam into law. As we approach this critical election, where more people than ever will request to vote absentee, it is important to continue to ensure that voting is accessible and safe to all citizens, and that voters can trust in the integrity of our elections.

As a reminder, absentee voting for the November 3rd election begins this Friday, Sept. 18. In-person absentee voting will begin then at the Fairfax County Government Center, and those who have already cast their ballot in-person are encouraged to vote absentee. It is important to continue to support and encourage those who choose to vote absentee, as it is a critical part of our democratic process.

The League of Women Voters is proud to continue to support and promote voting rights and access to the ballot. We encourage all citizens to exercise their right to vote and to ensure the integrity of our elections.
Opinion

Good Deeds in Difficult Times

On August 22, while on my morning dog walk along Paul Spring Creek, I came upon a group of enthusiastic scouts from Trail Life Group VA-1115 splashing about as they removed several hundred pounds of trash from Paul Spring Creek in Hollin Hills.

The project, initiated by 11-year-old Armstrong “Army” Robertson as a service project for his Timberline Award, included a couple of dads as well. Lots of wet socks, but even more joy and laughter as they tackled the constantly increasing trash that fills our streams and pollutes the Potomac.

Kudos to the Trail Life Group!

Mary Tracy
Hollin Hills

Food fit for a king on a family budget

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703-548-1616

Callen Shirley (left), Grant Berge (middle), Elias Comeaux (right)

Facilitating Voting

From Page 4

reform the current law that addresses assault on a law enforcement officer. My bill eliminates the mandatory minimum, six-month sentence, requires an investigation of incidents by an independent police officer, requires a prosecutor to approve charges and gives a judge or jury the option of convicting someone of a misdemeanor if the defendant has slight culpability and there is either no bodily injury or the defendant has either diminished mental capacity or pervasive intellectual disability.

On a 30 to 6 vote, the Senate also passed my bills to restore prosecutors’ discretion to drop charges or enter plea deals that involve rehabilitation, mental health treatment and either reduced charges or dismissal. I expect the Senate to pass a bill this week to enhance civilian review boards’ powers and to set up standards for mental health emergency response teams.

Last week, the Senate debated creating a new state lawsuit for police violations of any provision of the U.S. Constitution, the Constitution of Virginia or any provision of state or federal law. The sponsors referred to it as “repealing qualified immunity,” but it was in-fact much broader than that and would have constituted a massive and unpredictable expansion of liability for local governments. We will continue to work on this legislation.

I and many of my colleagues want to increase opportunities to hold law enforcement misconduct accountable in civil courts. We will work with the House to arrive at a targeted approach in the 2021 session.

We expect this special session to conclude in the next three weeks. If you have any feedback, please email me at scott@scottsurovell.org.
Restaurant Worker Wins $1 Million

Restaurant workers, among many others, have been facing economic hardships since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but one restaurant worker, Nelson Lopez Rivera, is now the winner of $1 million from the Virginia Lottery.

Mr. Rivera went to Sai Express at 8178 Richmond Highway in Alexandria to buy food and decided to buy two 20X the Money tickets. He said, “Something called me to come buy this ticket.” While the first ticket wasn’t a winner, the second one surprised him. He initially thought it was a $1,000 winner, but when he uncovered the additional zeros, the Fort Washington, Maryland, man realized he’d just scratched to win the game’s $1 million top prize.

Mr. Rivera is the third top prize winner in the latest version of 20X the Money (game #1998); that means one top prize remains unclaimed. The game features prizes ranging from $10 up to $1 million. The chances of winning the top prize are 1 in 1,224,000. The chances of winning any prize in this game are 1 in 3.51.

He had the choice of taking the full $1 million prize over 30 years or a one-time cash option of $601,685 before taxes. He chose the cash option. The store receives a $10,000 bonus from the Virginia Lottery for selling the winning ticket.

Mr. Rivera said he plans to take some time to think about what he wants to do with his winnings. Authorized by Virginia voters in 1987 referendum, the Virginia Lottery generates more than $1.7 million per day for Virginia.

Pedestrian Deaths Continue

report that crossings at “mid block,” where there is no light or intersection is a greater risk than crossings at intersections without a marked crosswalk, followed by intersections without a traffic signal.

VDOT uses the PSAP to prioritize corridors for select safety enhancements, based on available funding, like intersection improvements, in collaboration with localities, said VDOT spokesperson Jenni McCord.

In 2020, there have been dozens of pedestrian crashes including 12 fatalities in Fairfax County.

Fairfax County reports that there are nearly 4,000 miles of roads in the county, and that many are now being re-engineered to be more pedestrian friendly.

Pedestrians are one of the most at-risk groups of roadway users, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. While pedestrians account for only 3 percent of all Americans involved in traffic crashes, they represent 14 percent of all traffic fatalities. Pedestrian collisions often occur at intersections and crosswalks, where foot traffic and roadway traffic meet and interact, and vehicle speed is another primary risk factor, according to the NHTSA. The faster a vehicle is travelling, the more likely a pedestrian will be seriously injured or killed in a collision. Nationally, pedestrian deaths in the U.S. hit their highest levels in the past 30 years in 2019, at 6,590 deaths.

Anyone with information about this fatal crash is asked to contact the police Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.
As symbols of racial tension and injustice seemed ubiquitous this summer, a group of parishioners at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria began meeting virtually to engage in dialogues about the thorny issue of race. They began watching documentaries and reading lengthy passages on racial history in advance of their discussions. At one point this summer, members of the predominantly white and wealthy parish joined the Prayer Walk for Peace & Justice sponsored by Alfred Street Baptist Church, an African American congregation also located in Alexandria.

“It has been incredible … but our people are so willing to spend time on it, and hungry not only to learn more but to be part of supporting real change in our society,” said Reverend Elizabeth Rees, Senior Associate Rector at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. “We’re using the Sacred Ground curriculum. Over the past months, we have heard parishioners talking about their eyes opening to their white privilege and their struggles to use that privilege to open their worlds up to different people and different voices.”

From social media and the workplace to classrooms and places of worship, buzzwords like white privilege and micro-aggression and discussions around race were important after a summer of racial unrest. While open and honest conversations can improve race relations, researchers say that workshops, classes and group discussions are basic components such as education and self-scrutiny that is self-referential,” said Anita Chari, Ph.D., cofounder of ‘Embodying Your Curriculum’.

“For me the most important aspect of teaching about race is to foster a conversation that is self-referential.” — Anita Chari, Ph.D., cofounder of ‘Embodying Your Curriculum’

While open and honest conversations can break down racial barriers on the road to racial justice, says David Trigaux, director of programs and fundraising, Washington Urban Debate League, an organization that creates debate teams for young adults and older students in Montgomery County and other parts of the Washington region. “Students prepare for debates by reading and trying to understand both sides of an argument,” he said. “This process forces you to see an issue from the perspective of someone whose view is the opposite of your own. Any experience that forces you to be intellectually aware of another point of view and to walk in another person’s shoes, causes empathy and brings people together in a way that can spur social awareness and awakening.”

The topic for the league’s current season is the criminal justice system, says Trigaux. “We get to think about the fact that some people might see a police officer as helpful while another person might see them as a threat,” he said. “Switching sides forces you to think about where someone else is coming from.”

Because of the controversial nature of discussions around race and the fear of being misunderstood or criticized, some might opt for silence, says Rees. “People in my generation and community were taught to be colorblind when we were children,” said Rees. “We didn’t consider ourselves racist, but we didn’t talk about race because we didn’t want to offend.”

The goal now, says Rees, is to be color conscious. “Some might say ‘this doesn’t have anything to with me because I’m not racist,’” she said. “That’s part of the problem. Racism and injustice is a community sin. Until we realize that we’re part of the system that affects other people and unless we’re addressing it, we’re part of the problem.”

Due to its popularity, Rees says that St. Paul’s is planning for a second phase of the forum, which is open to anyone and not limited to parishioners.

“We will learn more particularly about racial injustice in Alexandria and Virginia and think about what injustice and antisocial might look like for us as a parish,” she said. “It seems like we’ll be spreading this learning to other parishioners.”

As with the structure of the program of study at St. Paul’s, a review of the past ra-
Restaurant of the Week

Glory Days Outside, Inside, Catering and To-Go, It’s Local

Glory Days Grill is a sports themed family-friendly American grill and bar that combines an award-winning menu of freshly prepared appetizers, entrees and sandwiches with entertainment that appeals to all ages.

Dining rooms are open with occupied booths and tables spaced for social distancing. The patios are popular with diners and “to-go” orders may be placed online at https://glorydaysgrill.olo.com/ where customers can see daily specials or seasonal menus, like the special Oktoberfest menu items.

Each restaurant has an abundance of televisions to watch the big game, news, cartoons or just about anything that’s available for watching, along with the latest interactive games. Glory Days Grill offers a full bar, “to-go” services, catering and banquet/party facilities.

The name “Glory Days Grill” originated from the concept of the “glory days” or “good ol’ days” of sports and famous moments in sports history. This is reflected both in the sports-themed memorabilia in the restaurants, as well as the large-scale photography of “glory moments” on the walls. When Glory Days Grill was conceived, the founders were soccer moms and football dads like many parents today, and they relished watching their own children play local sports, win trophies, and break records.

See Glory Days. Page 10

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg

ABC LICENSE

7-Eleven Inc and Vaada LLC trading as 7-Eleven 35388, 7501 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306, Fairfax County. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a wine and beer off-premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. David Seltzer, VP; 7-Eleven Inc and Aruna Gulati, Manager Member, Vaada LLC. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Restaurant of the Week

Glorious Days Grill is a sports themed family-friendly American grill and bar that combines an award-winning menu of freshly prepared appetizers, entrees and sandwiches with entertainment that appeals to all ages.

Dining rooms are open with occupied booths and tables spaced for social distancing. The patios are popular with diners and “to-go” orders may be placed online at https://glorydaysgrill.olo.com/ where customers can see daily specials or seasonal menus, like the special Oktoberfest menu items.

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And So It Begins
By KENNETH B. LOUIE

Eleven years, six months and two weeks, approximately, after being diagnosed with “terminal” cancer: stage IV non small cell lung cancer, I have begun my treatment for stage IV papillary thyroid cancer. I’ll be taking three pills a day, all at once, same time every day. The list of possible side effects are as long and scary as it possibly gets (dull clots, arthralgia, to highlight just a few). I doubt this bluster. Likely somewhere between it depends and probably: Every patient is different of course so what happens next to me, can only be forewarned. It cannot be foretold - with certainty, that is.

What I’ve read about these straight-on effects so far is somewhere along the lines of the cancer untreated would have been so pick your poison. I suppose. I didn’t exactly pick, but the poison - euphemistically speaking, if not literally, which has been prescribed, arrived by mail at my home as of 1:30 this afternoon and I see no reason to wait. Gulp. Let us go forth in hope because there are no guarantees here. The guarantees left the building late Feb., 2009 with my initial diagnosis. Maintaining a positive attitude and a good sense of humor has to remain my not-so-secret weapon. Granted, wishing and thinking a thing, doesn’t make it so, but meaning and groaning about it will be neither productive nor prudent. It would simply reinforce a negative attitude and as Brian Dennehy (a.k.a “a Cobb”) said in the movie “Silentado” about a completely different subject: “We can’t be having none of that now, can we?”

I think the reason I’m meandering about here and in life is that I don’t have a clear understanding of my prognosis yet, though I have asked. Moreover, since my new normal has only just begun, I don’t have my routine down and as a result, the treatment process has not yet become second nature. And until it’s no longer first nature, I’ll be more preoccupied and cognizant of what I’m doing and why, and when I should be doing it. Primarily, this confusion/series of arrangements has to do with coordinating taking the three thyroid cancer pills with my current and pre-existing - going back 11 plus years, pill regimen which involves upwards of 60 pills daily. It’s not overly complicated. It’s just new and some pills shouldn’t be taken together as is the case with the synthised medication, the anti-nausea pill and additionally, not all pills can be taken with food, without food and so forth. I realize this isn’t rocket science, but my life sort of depends on it, so it’s kind of important that I pay attention to what and when I’m ingesting.

And it’s this newness that is scary because it represents the great unknown - for me. Will the side effects be debilitating, life changing? Will they be treatable/managable? Will my life expectancy once again be front and center as I wobble back and forth from lab work, diagnostic scans and follow-up appointments? Previously I sort of knew where I stood. Now, I don’t really know anything. Oddly enough, having been there and done that is not as comforting as I would have anticipated.

Even though I’ve switched over - so to speak, from lung cancer to thyroid cancer, I can’t really say I’ve experienced a “serenity now,” type moment. I’m not nearly so confident in my outcome now as I was six years ago. I only had lung cancer. Being diagnosed with a ‘new’ cancer, 11 plus years in the presenting, hardly matters that all is under control. I mean, what about my “incurable” lung cancer? We’re not treating it anymore. It is going to now grow, and mess itself and it will, will we then stop the thyroid cancer treatment? It seems that there could be a return to sender situation here where we’ve back and forth between oncology and endocrinology. I’ll figure it out. I’m not afraid to ask the tough questions. It’s the answers that might scare the hell out of me.

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

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From Page 5
I n the afternoon hours of Sunday, Sept. 13, several companies of firefighters re- responded to a fire that broke out in a Kingstowne townhouse near Hayfield Road. According to Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, firefighting crews from Fort Belvoir and Alexandria assisted the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue in extinguishing the townhouse fire in 6000 block of Wescott Hills Way in the Kingstowne area. The fire spread to a second townhouse. There were no reported injuries, they said.

The neighbors were on the scene, looking at the aftermath and thinking about next steps to possibly help the inhabitants. One said he heard it was the grease from their grill, which was on the wooden deck, but it is still under investigation, fire officials said. This fire occurred right before Fire Pre- vention Week, which is Oct. 4-10. This year’s theme is “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!” This focus on cooking fire safety comes in response to home cooking fires representing the leading cause of U.S. home fires, with nearly half (49 percent) of all home fires involving cooking equipment.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires.

Every October for the past few decades the fire department has invited community members into fire and rescue stations for Open House events during Fire Prevention Week.

Special Session
From Page 5
already applied for absentee ballots will be- gin to receive them in the mail. To date, over 800,000 registered voters have requested absentee ballots. In the previous Presidential election of 2016, we had a total of 616,000 absentee ballots cast. Our satellite locations open October 14th and they will include bal- lot drop boxes where you can drop off your absentee ballot safely and securely. Visit https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/Voter- Information to register to vote, check or update your registration, and apply to vote absentee. Absentee ballots, to be counted, must be postmarked on or by Election Day and arrive at the Office of Elections by 12:00 noon on the Friday immediately after Elec- tion Day. To be safe, allow even more time for your ballot to arrive and mail as soon as possible.

To track the status of your absentee bal- lot application and ballot, view your Vir- ginia Voter Record via the citizen portal at https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterIn- formation. I doubt I need to remind you, but please don’t forget to vote! And, be safe out there wearing your mask and social distanc- ing.

Glory Days
From Page 9
The first Glory Days Grill was launched in Burke, Virginia, and the owners and man- agement team are still local. They have grown the business to 39 locations in six states.

It is this love of sports, friends and family that is celebrated every day at Glory Days restaurants.

Every day is a “glory day” for guests by en- joying not only great food and good sports but also for those everyday celebrations - a winning game, a birthday dinner, or a great report card.

Glory Days is the “Restaurant of the Week” from Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Com- merce. Restaurants are an industry deeply affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Support local restaurants and help retain the variety of wonderful eateries in our community.
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