

CONNECTION

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In period dress attending the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial dedication at Occoquan Regional Park, Dave Williams, Debbie Glaser, Julieanne Smith Quinn Jones and Michelle McCall.

Memorial to Suffragist Women Dedicated

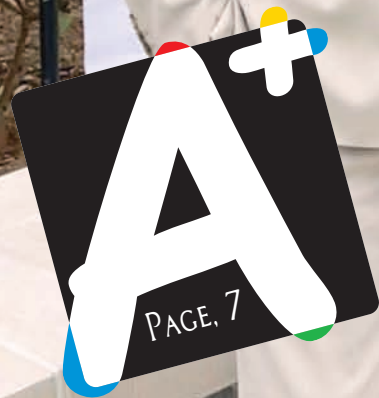
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NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM KLAIN

Striking a pose during Fairfax High's musical are (from left) Maddie Tyler, Tori Miller, Ruth McCoy Miles and Sammy Hayes.

'Timeless Story of Friendship, Love and Growing Up'

Fairfax High Presents 'Little Women, the Musical'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, "Little Women" describes the lives of the author and her sisters, growing up during Civil War America. And Fairfax High is bringing it to the stage with its production of "Little Women, the Musical."

It'll be streamed this Thursday-Friday, May 20-21, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 22, at 2 and 7 p.m. Get tickets via fxplayers.org.

"It's a coming-of-age story about Jo March and her family," said Director Chris Whitney. "Wherever she goes and whatever she does, her best work is her memories of her family. The story is about hope. As they get older, the March sisters – Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy – aren't able to be together, but they hope to eventually be able to reconnect – and that's what we're all going through, too."

The cast and crew of 30 has rehearsed since March, and a professional videographer photographed the actors from all angles. "My cast has been really resilient, adapting to change," said Whitney. "This is my first year here, and I was absolutely amazed at the talent and dedication they have for theater. This is a great musical for the students because there are a lot of seniors in this production and they'll be moving on into the world, just as their characters are doing."

PORTRAYING JO is senior Tori Miller. "She's the black sheep of the family and wants to go against society's standards," explained Miller. "She's a tomboy and doesn't want to get married – which was expected of women

then. Instead, she's adventurous and passionate and wants to make her own money, travel and write books. But she loves her family most of all and would do anything for them."

Miller likes playing Jo because "She's inspirational and a strong woman and role model. She has an amazing progression and journey to maturing and learns how to become her own person. I love her passion and love for her family, and she can be very dramatic."

Miller also loves singing Jo's song, "The Fire Within Me," saying, "It's beautiful and I really connected with it. In it, she goes from being heartbroken to accepting, as she moves on from a really hard part of her life."

She said audiences will enjoy the "lovable characters, great energy, and both sad and comedic moments. It's a timeless story that teaches lessons about life, growing up and learning to become your authentic self."

Senior John Jennings plays Laurie, who's initially in love with Jo, who rejects him. "In the beginning, he's 16, happy-go-lucky, positive and energetic and dreams about his future," said Jennings. "Later on, he's older, more mature and grounded and has a real-world view of how life works. He's fun to play because it's nice to channel happiness and joy in such a sad time. And when the show is serious, he can be a hopeful beacon of light."

Jennings sings the song, "Take a Chance on Me," after a ball. "Laurie's asking Jo to take a chance on him in life and marry him," said Jennings. "I run around, jump on couches and even have a pretend boxing match with Jo."

As for the show, he said, "Audiences will come away with a sense of family and love."

SEE FAIRFAX HIGH, PAGE 10

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Memorial to Suffragist Women Dedicated

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

To educate, inspire, empower present and future generations.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

For more than seven decades, millions of American women sought the right to vote. On May 16, the first monument in the country to commemorate their struggles, to tell the lengthy story of the suffragist movement, and to celebrate suffragists' accomplishment - the passing of the 19th Amendment - was dedicated in Lorton. Located on the grounds of Occoquan Regional Park, not far from where suffragists were incarcerated and tortured for peacefully picketing on the sidewalk in front of the White House, the Turning Point Suffragists Memorial was dedicated in a small ceremony, live streamed across the country, in advance of its public opening.

Jane Barker, Vice Chair/CoFounder of the memorial association, shared the early humble vision, first discussed by League of Women Voters with NOVA Parks staff, to tell the local story of the suffragists imprisoned at the nearby Occoquan Workhouse. They discussed "a brick wall with a few picture plaques of the women, ...on a small brick-paved area that would be called the Turning Point Plaza; the projected cost was \$25,000." They soon realized "telling just part of the 72 year long struggle wasn't enough - we needed to create a national memorial that was befitting their sacrifices



Association members, NoVA Parks Board members, State legislators, and County Supervisor cut the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial ribbon in front of the entrance replicating the White House gates where suffragists maintained their "silent sentinel."

and accomplishments." The nearly \$3 million dollar memorial, designed by Robert E. Beach Architects, LLC, is the culmination of that needed recognition.

SEVERAL SPEAKERS spoke of the effort that went into making the bigger vision come to completion. The site is seen as an

apt location due to its historical setting near where the horrible treatment of suffragists led to the important "turning point" in public opinion, from which the memorial draws its name. Cate Magennis Wyatt, Chair of the NOVA Parks Board, said thousands who stroll by will have the opportunity to learn the story of the right to vote struggle

in America which is not taught in history books; to learn history and "herstory." And through international tourism, "for people world-wide to aspire to suffrage in their own countries."

NOVA Parks will steward the care and upkeep of the memorial on its grounds.

SEE MEMORIAL. PAGE 6



Girl Scout Troop 1600 members Hannah Smith, Katelyn Sullivan, Kasey Petrie, and Rory Gilles stand with the statue of Alice Paul, author of the Equal Rights Amendment.



Re-enactrist Lynne Garvey-Hodges, as Mrs. Robert 'Mimi' Walker who was arrested for picketing and served 60 days at the Workhouse, poses with the statue of Carrie Chapman Catt, a leader in the suffrage movement and founder of the League of Women Voters.



Peri and Page Schiavone sit taking in the memorial's grounds and 19 history information stations with other visitors

Graduating in Pandemic Time

Area high schools' graduates look forward to graduation ceremonies, all-night parties.

BY JESS KIRBY
THE CONNECTION

After another school year impacted by COVID-19, John Lewis High School, West Springfield High School and Lake Braddock Secondary School are finding creative ways to celebrate their graduates, from dances to All-Night Grad Parties and graduation ceremonies.

All three schools are having in-person graduations. While Lake Braddock and West Springfield will be celebrating at Jiffy Lube Live, John Lewis High School will be hosting their ceremony in their school's stadium.

"It will look like none other graduation we've ever had on our campus," said Kim Harrison, the assistant principal and 12th grade administrator at John Lewis High School. "It's being held outside in our stadium, and it is socially distanced, students sitting on the turf. It's really about students—we're not doing a bunch of guest speakers, we're hearing from people who literally have gotten these young people to this point."

EACH SCHOOL will be taking a more traditional approach to graduation, similar to the ceremonies of pre-COVID times.

"We are keeping as many of the traditional elements that we've had in the past," said Dr. Daniel Smith, the principal of Lake Braddock Secondary School. "Last year's [graduation] was different in that we weren't able to have a graduation ceremony with all of our graduates in one place. We really wanted to make sure we could have all of our seniors come together and graduate at once. Finding a Jiffy Lube that can accommodate us outdoors has been fantastic."

Although the ceremonies are returning to normal, Harrison will miss the fanfare of last year's graduation at John Lewis.

"To me, last year's was a lot more of a celebration," she said. "[Students] were given the opportunity to ride around the school and make a final lap because school was abruptly closed. We had staff, we had parents, just cheering kids on. It was so much fun out in the parking lot; it was ridiculous because I was the hypewoman. As [students]... came back up to the front of the building, the assistant principal escorted

them out of their car. Wearing their cap and gown, they picked up their diploma cover, their counselor called their name and they went across the stage. You could scream and you heard horns blowing—it was a true celebration. Kids decorated their cars, and we got the chance to really go out with a bang."

As the COVID conditions and guidelines evolve, the schools' plans will be evolving with them.

"FCPS is working with [updated state guidelines] to see what implications that might have for us, if any," said Smith. Lake Braddock has not finalized how many guests each student is allowed to bring.

Each school will also be celebrating their seniors with additional events, like dances and All-Night Grad Parties.

West Springfield and John Lewis will be holding their All-Night Grad Parties at the St. James, a large sports and wellness center.

"It's a massive facility, it's over 400,000 square feet, so it is definitely a different experience for everybody," said Juliet Neal, the co-chair of the All-Night Grad Party committee for West Springfield. "In the past, we had them at the Lee District Rec Center."

However, until recently, the John Lewis High School PTSA was unsure if they would be hosting an All-Night Grad Party.

"It's all just come together in the last few weeks," said Liz McGhan, the PTSA president for John Lewis. "For months leading up, I did not think we were going to be able to have an All-Night Grad Party. We hadn't really done any fundraising over the year... it was all up in the air. But we had a couple of SGA students who really wanted to have an All-Night Grad Party at the St. James, and I thought there was no way we'd be able to afford that. But they work there, these two girls, and they started talking with [the St. James], and one of their moms got in and negotiated. St. James has very graciously brought the price very reasonable for us."

Neal, who is also a parent of two graduating seniors from West Springfield, is looking forward to the in-person celebrations.

"I'm most excited for the kids to be able to be together after a long year and a half of just really not being able to see each other," she said. "I'm really excited for them to be

SEE GRADUATES, PAGE 7

VIEWPOINTS

What do you expect from graduation during a pandemic and what are your plans for after high school?

— JESS KIRBY



Brandon Tran, Springfield, West Springfield High School

"I am hoping for a semi-normal graduation since I know there are still many guidelines that the school has to follow because of COVID, but I'm hoping it will be as close to normal as we can make it. I am a little bummed that we can only have four guests especially because we booked such a large venue. After high school, I plan on going to George Mason for two years and then transferring to UCLA majoring in biomedical engineering, and possibly going into pre med."



Madi Parker, Springfield, West Springfield High School

"I don't expect much from our graduation. However, I know that everyone who has put it together has done the best they could and have been super helpful in making this year great although we are in a pandemic. After high school I am planning on attending California State San Marcos and majoring in criminal justice!"

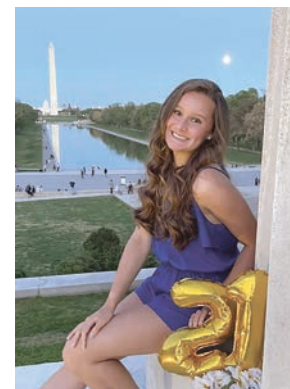


Brianna Trouin, Burke, Lake Braddock Secondary School

"I expected us to have to wear masks and social distance, and I know each person is limited to only bringing four guests, so many families will have to have some people stay at home. My plans for after high school are to attend College of Charleston. I haven't decided on a major yet, though."

Maddy Mae Dickinson, Springfield, Lake Braddock Secondary School

"LBSS graduation is being held at Jiffy Lube Live, and it is going to be a lot of fun. Although it is definitely a change from previous years, I'm glad we get to have a graduation during these rough times. I plan on attending the University of Central Florida, majoring in broadcast journalism."



Abigail Bangs, Springfield, John Lewis High School

"Lewis is organizing graduation as an outdoor event on our football field, which is a change from locations in past years. I expect that it'll feel more exciting this year because it's occurring during a pandemic, as well as we're graduating literally from our school. My plans for after high school include attending the University of Richmond to study something biology-related, however I am wary of choosing a major just yet."



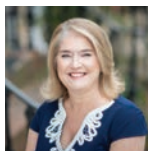

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Published by
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 Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Dr. Thelma Daley, Past President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, poses with a statue of Mary Church Terrell, an honorary member of the sorority and co-founder of the NAACP. The Sorority contributed \$100,000 to the Memorial's \$2.7 million dollar funding.

Memorial to Suffragist Women Dedicated

FROM PAGE 3

Executive Director/CEO of the memorial association, Pat Wirth, who oversaw completion of the project, spoke of her expectation that the Turning Point Institute to follow will inspire girls to leadership roles and train young women in the skills of the suffragists: public speaking, political candidacy, social awareness, civil and equal rights.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial uses a significant number of stations, 19, to tell the suffrage movement story from 1848 to 1920. Its cost was funded through contributions of thousands of donors from 45 states and the District of Columbia, Fairfax County, the Virginia Commonwealth, foundations, corporations, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, women's associations, and non-profit organizations. Three life-sized bronze statues, donated by the National Suffrage Centennial Commission, reflect the images of Alice Paul, co-founder of the National Women's Party; Mary Church Terrell, co-founder of the NAACP and an organizer and honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; and Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National Woman Suffrage Association.

Also included in the memorial is an actual section of the White House fence, on loan from the National Park Service; the first section to be given.

THE FENCE was a backdrop for the quiet



Jane Barker, Vice Chair/Co-Founder of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, extended an invitation to all to "come here and learn this history and enjoy our beautiful memorial in this gorgeous park."

picketing the suffragists carried on in front of the White House, the first ever to protest there, to gain President Wilson's attention, earning them the name, "Silent Sentinels".

The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the United States and individual states from denying the right to vote to citizens on the basis of sex. The first women's suffrage amendment was introduced in Congress in 1878, but not passed until 1919; it was ratified by the required 36 states and was certified on Aug. 26, 1920.

To learn more about the memorial and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, see www.suffragistmemorial.org

Bikeway Will Link Newington to the Metro Station

The wooded trail is being linked and extended for commuters and hikers.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In a lesser-known area of the southern Springfield-Beulah Road area, Fairfax County is building a multi-use path from Cinder Bed Road along Long Branch creek to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, enhancing a commuting option for many in this part of the county. The proposed trail, called the "Cinder Bed Bikeway," will be a two-mile connection with two bridges over the creek, lighting, and neighborhood connections that are part of the county bicycle path network.

Serenity Cromer walks her pit bull named Becca on the wooded path nearly every day and has seen deer, foxes and other wildlife near the path. She hadn't heard about the project, but liked the thought of it linking to the Metro station. "You are still in the city but it's a nice retreat," she said.



MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The trail follows Long Branch through the woods.

THE COUNTY describes the project as a continuous shared use path between Newington Road and the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station. A shared use path will be constructed along the west side of Cinder Bed Road, connect to an existing trail through Fairfax County Park Authority property, and then continue through private property to tie into the trail at the end of Barry Road that leads to the Franconia/Springfield Metro Station. The Cinder Bed Bikeway was discussed at a recent video public information meeting May 10 with county officials, the biking community and nearby residents.

"This is a commuter trail, bike trail," said Jeffrey Fasceski, the Fairfax County project manager who led the video conference. It is one part of a county effort to extend the trail from the Metro station to Fort Belvoir. "The entire trail will have lighting, the intent is to be a commuter path," Fasceski added. The trail crosses from the Mount Vernon District into Lee District and Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) participated in the video conference. Storck is an advocate for bike route improvements in his district and was "very pleased to see this bikeway being done," he said.

THIS PATH is frequently used by area residents who walk, jog and bike, and some of the area children have even been fishing in the creek. "It's a great trail, we walk this trail every day," added Cromer. After the county laid out the plans for the project, there were a series of questions from residents, and the Friends of Accotink Creek were concerned that the trail edges too close to the creek in some parts.

The trail project is funded through county funds along with Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Grant funds. Final plans are expected to be completed fall 2021, and construction is scheduled from November 2022 to May 2024.

TRAIL SAFETY

Lighting is planned for this trail, and one of the slides showed one of the bridges with the planned lighting. The area is heavily wooded and down the hill from houses and roads and last year there was an incident on the existing trail. According to police, on May 14, 2020, a woman was jogging on a trail near the end of Thomas Grant Drive when a man began to assault her. A witness came to her aid and the man ran away. The woman was taken to the hospital and treated for serious injuries that were not life threatening. After a search of the area, officers identified and arrested 21-year-old Vincent Wesley nearby. Wesley was charged with malicious wounding and strangulation. He was taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and held without bond.

The Fairfax County Police Department does have Neighborhood Patrol Units that frequently patrol trails using mountain bikes said FCPD officer James Curry. "We would encourage those who do traverse these trails to make sure they notify a friend or family member prior to embarking on the trail, carry a fully charged cell phone, and be sure to start your hike or ride with enough daylight for your entire trip," Curry recommended.

Celebrating Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Importance emphasized in context of recent discrimination and hate crimes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Educational videos and on-line trivia questions, organized by the school's Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Committee, are giving Montgomery College students an opportunity for reflection, while food, music and film offer students at Marymount University in Arlington a glimpse of a different culture. These experiences are in observance of Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, celebrated each May.

"It's a time to reflect and celebrate the contributions of the Asian Pacific American community who shaped and influenced the history and culture of the United States," said Tait Brooks, Associate Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Deputy Title IX Coordinator at Marymount University.

The importance of this year's observances, in emphasized by growing evidence of discrimination and hate crimes targeting Asian Americans. Educators are using the month to address and work toward solutions to some of these current issues.

"The recent violent actions are steeped in xenophobia. Education and learning their history and its

significance to American history is the solution," said Brooks. "Once we know more Asian history, we will understand their plight."

"Schools and universities can pursue inclusive curriculum that fully integrates the experiences and contributions of Asian Americans," added Dae Young Kim, Ph.D., associate professor of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. His message: "Educate on Asian American history and experience and show support to the Asian American community by standing against racism."

For Kim O'Connell, author of "Echoes of Little Saigon," a booklet on the Vietnamese immigration to Arlington, May is a monthlong opportunity to use education as a vehicle for reconciling some of the wounds incurred through recent racial turmoil.

"I hope that people will realize that Asian Americans are as diverse as any other group," she said. "They can't be characterized in one simple way and they definitely should not be subject to the racism that we've seen in recent months."

For some in the Asian-American and Pacific Islander



COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Marymount University's first Cultural Graduation Reception acknowledges the accomplishments of first-generation college graduates from underrepresented groups in an intimate and inclusive environment. Graduate Anna Moon, center, receives her Cultural Graduation certificate alongside Dean Brooke Berry, right, and Associate Director Tait Brooks.



Dae Young Kim

"Educate on Asian American history and experience and show support to the Asian American community by standing against racism."

— Dae Young Kim, Ph.D.,
George Mason University

community, celebrations this year's observances are accompanied with fear.

"It is clear that many Asian Americans are feeling that they are not immune to acts of violence and bias and social media is helping to increase awareness of such incidents, which is prompting more conversation and action," said Kim. "We are feeling fearful of violence directed against us. This is what makes this month different from previous years."

In recent weeks, Kim has engaged in dialogue and outreach aimed at helping others understand the experience of Asian Americans now. "I've participated in a roundtable conversation with Governor [Ralph] Northam and Asian American community leaders about hate crimes against Asian Americans," he said. "I was on a panel organized by Inova ... to talk about the Asian American experience."

"Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed to American culture, society and history in immeasurable ways and I encourage everyone to learn more about these contributions," said O'Connell.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JUNE 26

Ken Britz, Artist of the Year. At VAS Gallery in the Village Green, 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society is thrilled to present a collection of "Favored Subjects", artworks by Artist of the Year Ken Britz. The exhibition is open April 12 through June 26, Mon. - Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Discover more about Ken on the website: www.Vien-naArtsSociety.org

NOW THRU MAY 31

Dinosaur Drive-Thru Experience. The Dinosaurs are ready to return from extinction. The drive-thru dinosaur exhibit is the first of its kind at the Bull Run Events Center in Centerville. The Museum quality exhibit, with more than 75+ animatronic and static dinosaurs, runs May 14 through May 31. Tours are available Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Visit www.drivethrudinos.com or call 800-830-3976.

SATURDAY/MAY 22

Art Walk on Main. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Main Street, Fairfax. A hyper-casual event on Main Street to reclaim our sense of community post-pandemic. Artists demos and installation art on view. This is a no sale/no fee event meaning visitors will not be charged admission and artists will not have works for sale. We hope everyone will support our local shops instead by enjoying the various foods, beverages and items they have to offer. Please support our local shops instead. Visit the website: www.debrawrightstudio.com

SATURDAY/MAY 22

The Quander Family. 1:30-3 p.m. Rohulamin Quander speaks about the Quanders of Fairfax County, one of the oldest and most notable African-American families in the country. This Burke Historical Society sponsored talk will be presented online by Pohick Regional Library. Registration required. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/777952>

SUNDAY/MAY 23

Life After Breath. 2-4 p.m. Online. At the age of three, Jacob contracted a dangerous disease which caused him to suffocate and leave his body. Jacob will shed light on his experienced from the other side and share lessons learned during his NDE. Cost is \$10. Visit the website: <https://www.meetup.com/IANDS-Northern-Virginia/events/278022887/>

SUNDAY/MAY 23

Milling Class. 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. The "Run of the Mill Class" at Colvin Run Mill is anything but run of the mill. This unique class offers family groups a firsthand look at the old-fashioned process of milling grain from beginning to end. Colvin Run's hands-on program teaches you how grain is sifted using antique equipment and what it takes to clean the mill. You even get to take home a sample of the grain that is ground during the program. Classes run from 11 a.m. to noon and from 3 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$60 per family group of up to nine people, age 6 to adult. Call 703-759-2771.

Graduates Celebrate 'New Chapter in Life'

FROM PAGE 4

able to go to the All-Night Grad Party and... see them be able to celebrate a lot that they've gone through this past year and a half."

STUDENTS are also excited for these events.

"I think I'm most excited for graduation day because it'll mark the end of my high school life and the start of my adult life," said Brandon Tran, a Springfield resident graduating from West Springfield High School. "I am also excited for the All-Night Grad Party later that day, which would hopefully be a very fun event and a good chance to have fun with my classmates for the very last time."

Abigail Bangs, a Springfield resident graduating from John

Lewis High School, is looking forward to graduating as well.

"Honestly I'm most excited for graduation and All-Night Grad. Prom has just passed and it was fun, but I'm more so excited for the 'graduation' portion of senior year," she said. "Moving into a new chapter in life through graduation and All-Night Grad feels like closure, to me at least."

Despite the hardships these schools have faced, many are eager to see what the future has to hold for these graduates.

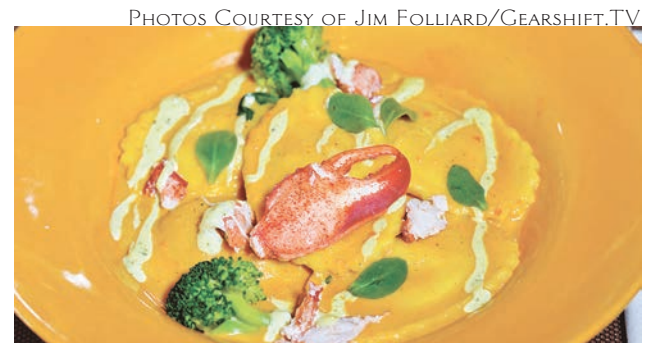
"When I look at these young people, I feel a sense of pride, a sense of security because I know if they're going into the future, and the world is in their hands, we're in good hands," said Harrison. "They're not victims of the pandemic, they are victors in spite of the pandemic."



Capital Ale House's entrée of Basil Shrimp and Scallop Sauté with lemongrass-infused brown rice, sautéed spinach.



Coyote Grille's appetizer of Carne con Crema de Maiz - Marinated steak on a bed of creamed corn drizzled with chipotle bourbon sauce.



Lobster Crab Ravioli with lobster ginger sauce and lobster garnish is an entrée at Hamrock's Restaurant.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM FOLLIARD/GEARSHIFT.TV

Showcasing Fairfax City's Diverse Dining Scene

Restaurant Week is May 24 through May 31.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

More than 30 restaurants are participating in Fairfax City's fourth annual Restaurant Week, which runs Monday, May 24, through Monday, May 31. And with all restaurants still struggling after the pandemic, these local eateries need customers' support more than ever before.

During the event, participating restaurants will once again offer both dine-in and take-out options featuring three-course, prix fixe menus of \$20 for lunch/brunch and \$35 for dinner, per person, with couple and family-meal options available. In addition to the curated menus, specialty restaurants will offer buy one, get one free, (BOGO) promotions providing food lovers the opportunity

to explore and indulge in what promises to be a special and memorable, culinary experience.

THIS YEAR, Fairfax City Restaurant Week will feature an unprecedented number of participants, including: Coyote Grille & Cantina, Ornerly Beer Co., Marumen, Koo-bala, Kiroran Uyghur Restaurant, The Wine House, The Auld Shebeen, Dolce Vita Italian Kitchen and Wine Bar, Capital Ale House, Patriots Pub & Grill, Masala Wok, Bebop Korean Mexican Grill, High Side, 29 Diner, Woody's Ice Cream and Havabite Eatery.

Also participating are: Cupcakes and Beyond, Mama Chang, P.J. Skidoos, Bellissimo Restaurant, Baku Delicious, Epicure Café, Hamrock's Restaurant, Kim's Kitchen and Bar, East Wind Restaurant, Yama Chen's Sushi, Declieu Coffee & Sandwich, Corner

Coffee House, Señor Tequila's, Max's Chicken Restaurant, Curry Mantra and Bollywood Bistro.

"It is important to us that Fairfax City Restaurant Week be inclusive of all eateries this year, as restaurants and their employees were one of the most impacted sectors of the pandemic," said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "We are thrilled that more than 30 restaurants are participating to showcase the diverse dining scene found in Fairfax City and encourage everyone to dine out at one of the participating restaurants."

In addition, while supplies last, diners who choose RW2GO (Restaurant Week To Go) orders from the Fairfax City Restaurant Week prix fixe menus, will receive a complimentary, branded, picnic blanket. This incentive is geared at encouraging foodies who are not yet dining indoors to support these local restaurants safely by ordering take out and enjoying it during a picnic at one of the many,

green spaces the City has to offer.

With such a wide variety of culinary options available, the Restaurant Week organizers are hoping customers will follow the event's slogan and "Take a Bite of Fairfax City" at several of the City's unique restaurants. The goal is to draw attention to the independent and diverse restaurant community here, while bringing them both new and repeat customers.

RESTAURANT WEEK is sponsored by the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. Diners are encouraged to follow at @FairfaxCityRestaurantWeek on Instagram and Facebook and tag #FairfaxCityEats.

Further details, plus photos of many of the dishes to be offered, may be seen at fairfax-cityrestaurantweek.com. For a list of participating restaurants and their menus, go to fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com/restaurants.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT PUBLIC HEARING OF TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION

MAY 25, 2021

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold an electronic Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. via Zoom as permitted by law to consider the application for a Special Use Permit for Clifton Café d/b/a Clifton Eatery, LLC located at 7144 Main Street, to increase the number of restaurant seats from 56 to 74, to increase total employees on-site from 8 to 10, to increase the parking allocation from 17 to 21 off-street parking spaces, and to expand hours of operation. The application for the Special Use Permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.cliftonva.gov and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the application. To participate in the electronic Public Hearing, contact the Town Clerk at clerk@cliftonva.gov no later than Noon on May 25, 2021.

PUBLIC HEARING OF TOWN OF CLIFTON TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 1, 2021

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council will hold an electronic Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. via Zoom as permitted by law to consider the application for a Special Use Permit for Clifton Café d/b/a Clifton Eatery, LLC located at 7144 Main Street, to increase the number of restaurant seats from 56 to 74, to increase total employees on-site from 8 to 10, to increase the parking allocation from 17 to 21 off-street parking spaces, and to expand hours of operation. The application for the Special Use Permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.cliftonva.gov and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the application. To participate in the electronic Public Hearing, contact the Town Clerk at clerk@cliftonva.gov no later than Noon on June 1, 2021.

Legals

Legals

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED RESTORATION OF INDUSTRIAL STORMWATER OUTFALL #0015 FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the proposed restoration of industrial stormwater outfall #0015 (Outfall 0015), at the Fort Belvoir Main Post in Fairfax County, Virginia. Outfall 0015 is located at the head of a ravine in the southeast portion of the Fort Belvoir and discharges stormwater runoff from an approximately 70-acre watershed (part of the Accotink watershed) into an unnamed ravine west of Theote Road. Outfall 0015 has fallen into disrepair, allowing stormwater to discharge at high volumes and erode the downstream channel that ultimately leads to Accotink Bay. The Proposed Action would allow Fort Belvoir to repair, restore, and upgrade Outfall 0015 and the downstream channel using several engineering controls. The Proposed Action would comply with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality requirements to meet stormwater quality objectives.

The EA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508, and the Army's Implementing Regulations (32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions). Based on the analysis provided in the EA, no significant adverse direct, indirect or cumulative effects on the quality of the human or natural environment are expected. Therefore, at the conclusion of the public comment period, it is anticipated that a FNSI would be appropriate and would be signed for the proposed restoration of industrial stormwater outfall 0015.

The EA and Draft FNSI are available to view/download electronically at <https://home.army.mil/belvoir/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental-division> (click the "Programs and Documents" tab, then "National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Program"; information about this EA and links to download the various documents are provided under the "Open for Public/Agency Review & Comment" heading); or view in printed form at the Lorton Branch, Kingstowne Branch, and Sherwood Regional Branch of the Fairfax County Public Library system.

Comments or questions on the EA and Draft FNSI may be directed in writing to: Ms. Wilamena Harback, Chief, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, or by email to: usarmy.belvoir.imcomatlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc. has a position open for a volunteer for our non-profit thrift shop in downtown Herndon VA. A brief description of the job is as follows: The Volunteer Coordinator ensures that the interests of volunteers are served and that the volunteer force remains well staffed. The Volunteer Coordinator will work to actively recruit volunteers for The Closet Thrift Shop. The candidate must be skilled at using various marketing tools, including electronic databases, social media, e-mail, written communications of various types, and outreach events. The candidate must be detail-oriented and organized, requiring work on several projects at once. The Volunteer Coordinator must be outgoing and communicate effectively with a variety of people. The full job announcement is available on-line at our website: <http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/job-openings/>. Interested applicants should email a resume and cover letter to: Mr. Gene Wiley, President The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc. gwiley106@gmail.com

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A True Sense of Insecurity



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

From the moment you hear the word cancer spoken in your direction - from your new best friend, an oncologist with whom you've had zero previous interaction, you are transported to a new reality. A reality that a few of those moments before, was nowhere on your radar. Whatever innocence, expectation of normalcy and/or predictability you anticipated experiencing in your life, is now completely gone. Not only are you not in Kansas anymore, you are nowhere to be found, emotionally. All your hopes, dreams and presumptions about your life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are back-burnered by your life-changing diagnosis. A diagnosis which will require some kind of treatment, side effects notwithstanding, which will likely dampen your enthusiasm for living and affect all your decisions. Figuratively speaking, there's a new sheriff in town and if you're not compliant and attentive to your doctor's orders, you'll become a prisoner to your disease.

Even if you are compliant, a cancer diagnosis, however curable, is the kind of news that sticks with you no matter how long into your remission you are or how encouraging your diagnostic scans appear to be. Since I've not experienced being cancer free - after having received an initial diagnosis/prognosis, I can't imagine the relief and rebirth one might feel after learning their cancer has been beaten into submission. It's really too much to even contemplate when you've been given a sort of death sentence. Practically speaking, how does one go from being constantly under threat of a worsening outcome to one which is completely free from the emotional and physical tentacles of a cancer diagnosis?

You can't really unwrite the bill, to coin a phrase. Moreover, hearing "You have cancer" sticks with you like Gorilla Glue. It's hard to even imagine ever hearing anything worse. Then one day, hearing your oncologist say "no sign of cancer" to you. To quote my late mother: "It's too much for anybody's nerves." And it's almost too much to ever consider. Your reality is that you have a very serious medical condition/disease, and once again, to quote my late mother: "No one gets out of this life alive." Thinking, even contemplating a miracle cure is a tease most unhelpful, to invoke the syntax of Hercule Poirot. Somehow one must learn to live with their disease or else you'll die having been unable to lock it away in your vault, so to speak. Somehow having cancer can't be the predominant consideration in your life. Yet, when every waking moment is nearly consumed by your less-than-ideal circumstances, it's an emotional battle, most royal. If you win your share of skirmishes, you'll likely be rewarded with more life to live. However, nothing is guaranteed, except you know what: death and taxes."

"Any way you slice it, it's still ham," as my father used to say. Meaning that cancer is a serious business and no amount of joking or obfuscation is going to change that fact. Nevertheless, if one doesn't try and gives in to the disease psychologically, the internal damage may be compounded. Not that I've denied my diagnosis or ever taken it lightly, but I have tried to embrace it and become friends with it; not wanting to be controlled by it anymore than I already am. Given that I'll likely never be free of my cancer, either I learn to live with it or die trying. And I'd rather go down fighting than go down quietly. My situation has not changed or gotten worse. Still my disease is a major part of me and integrating into my program is the best way I know to try and make a molehill out of a mountain. I have been there and have done that. Hopefully, I'm not done being there.

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

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NEWS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIM KLAIN



Chatting after a ball are (from left) John Jennings, Tori Miller, Ruth McCoy Miles, Emma Dunlop and Sammy Hayes.

Fairfax High Presents 'Little Women, the Musical'

FROM PAGE 2

And that's really important when we've all been separated from our friends and family - and now, everyone's coming together."

Portraying Professor Bhaer, who gives German lessons to the sisters, is senior William Choi. "He's logical and uptight," said Choi. "But toward the end, he lets go of that persona and becomes more vulnerable to Jo, whom he loves. He's a nice guy, and smart, but sometimes oblivious to social clues."

Choi enjoys this role because of his character's arc, "going from serious and simply a teacher to tearing down the walls and becoming more of himself and more sociable around Jo, his polar opposite. Jo sends him a letter asking how he is, and that surprises him."

And in the song, "How I Am," said Choi, "Bhaer's talking to himself and slowly recognizes that his normal life was boring. It became more exciting when Jo came into it and showed him different points of view he never saw. And that's when he realizes he actually might be in love with her."

Choi said audiences will like the show's songs and the different range of emotions they produce - from excited to melancholy, adventurous, angry, happy and joyful. Said Choi: "This show is a rollercoaster of emotions and is never boring."

Senior Ruth McCoy Miles plays Meg, the oldest and most romantic of the four sisters. "She appreciates fine dresses and high society and is girly and feminine," said Miles. "She's kind and soft and plays mother when their mom isn't there. And she dreams of becoming an actress."

"I love this role because I identify the most with her personality," continued Miles. "And I like being close with the other sisters and sharing the special, bonding moments with them. It's just a classic, family story. Before the ball, her sisters reassure her that things will go fine, and it's nice being supported



Sharing an umbrella are Tori Miller (Jo) and William Choi (Professor Bhaer) in Fairfax High's "Little Women, the Musical."

that way."

MILES'S FAVORITE SONG is "Five Forever," in which the sisters and Laurie vow to stay together forever. "It's a big celebration of their friendship and a really fun number," she said.

"Although the story takes place during the Civil War, its themes of friendship, love and growing up with strong family and friends are still relevant now," said Miles. "Each sister has different values, styles and aspirations, but they always support each other and get along beautifully. And in general, it's still important for people to be supportive, respectful and accepting of one another."

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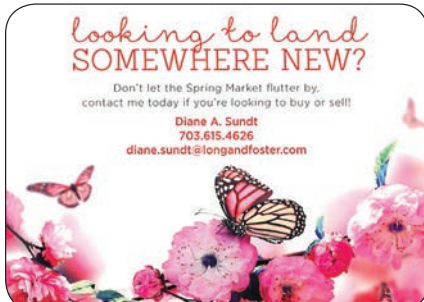
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