

THE CONNECTION

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Vae Victis, Team # 1418, from Meridian HS in Falls Church, Mya Taheri, Will Kroboth, Nina Miller, Brandon Werber, Thomas Gallaway, Argyle Lindsay, on deck for their next run

Gearing Up for FIRST Robotics

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Breaking Ground On Rt. 29 Fix

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Neighbors Not Keen on Rose Hill Redevelopment

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Awards for Peacemakers

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OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 20 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 22

MARCH 22-28, 2023

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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Students walk into the Teen Job Fair, kicking off the series at West Springfield High School.



Supervisor Pat Herry greets a student at the Teen Job Fair.

2023 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Workshops

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Teen Job Fairs are being held again by the office of Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield). The third and final teen job fair in the series is at Chantilly High School on Saturday, March 25. It runs from 1-3 p.m., with the final workshops concluding at 3:30 p.m.

The fairs provide for teenagers to meet with local employers and for employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill

open positions. Students can seek full-time, part-time, after-school, seasonal, internship, and volunteer opportunities. Chamber of Commerce partners will host resume and career-building workshops during the fairs.

“The Teen Job Fairs are one of my favorite events to put on each year and have provided thousands of teenagers the opportunity to get in front of employers and for our employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill their position,” Herry said. “These fairs provide an invaluable opportunity for students to engage with employers and for local businesses to fill staffing

needs.”

Registration is free and open to all Fairfax County teenagers looking for work, volunteer opportunities, or resume help. Free table space is provided to registered businesses and organizations to advertise open positions.

The fairs have been very popular. Over 2,000 students and approximately 100 businesses participated in the events last year. Fairfax County Public Schools, School Board Member Laura Jane Cohen, Connection Newspapers, local businesses, the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, and

the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce are supporting this year’s series of three fairs.

The first Fairfax County Teen Job Fair kicked off the series at West Springfield High School. The second was held on Saturday, March 18, from 1-3 p.m. at South County High School.

Student Registration and Business/Employer Registration is required. For more information on the fairs, visit the Teen Job Fair Series webpage <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs> or email Herry’s office at springfieldbos@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Any business present at the Teen Job Fair had to have job or internship openings for students.



It’s a big welcome for all by Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) (left) and Pat Malone at the Student Job Fair. Malone of Alexandria helped hatch the idea for the fair with Herry.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR PAT HERRY.



Tossing shovelful of dirt into the air are (from left) Tom Biesiadny, Kathy Smith, Pat Herry, Bill Cuttler and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority CEO Monica Backmon.



Kathy Smith and Pat Herry listen while Bill Cuttler addresses the crowd.

VDOT Leader: Let's Go Shovel Some Dirt

Route 29 widening project in Centreville breaks ground.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Anyone who's ever tried driving from Fairfax to Centreville on Route 29 between 3 and 7 p.m. knows how slow and irritating it can be. Vehicles are bumper to bumper, with a sea of red taillights, as far as the eye can see.

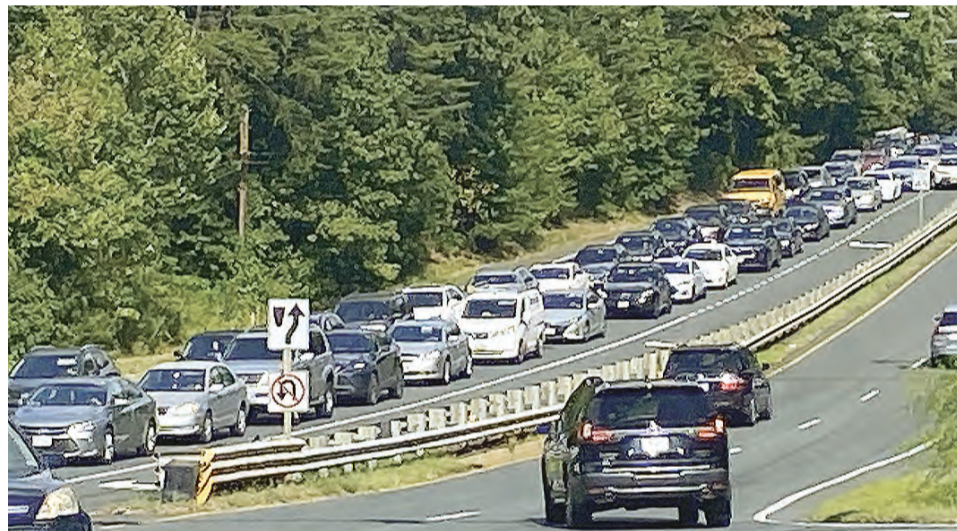
There's also gridlock there during the morning rush, with long backups at the intersection of Clifton and Stringfellow roads. But at long last, relief is on the way.

For years, VDOT has planned to widen this 1.5-mile stretch between Buckleys Gate Drive and Union Mill Road from four to six lanes. And on March 8, it finally broke ground on this project. The ceremonial tossing of shovels full of dirt took place on the Route 29 service road in front of the Brightview Fair Oaks senior-living facility.

"What a wonderful day for a groundbreaking," said VDOT's Northern Virginia Deputy District Engineer Bill Cuttler. And with the wind chill plunging temperatures into the 20s that morning, he wasn't talking about the weather – but the fact that this project is now on its way to becoming a reality.

"VDOT is pleased to deliver important, multimodal transportation projects that enhance living and working in this great community," he continued. "We appreciate users' patience and attention to safety as we work toward our performance goals. And we're very proud to have great partners here in Fairfax County; these partnerships have been critical to our success."

Since Route 29 averages 30,000 vehicles a day on this section of road, this \$97 million project not only aims to reduce congestion, but to also improve safety, operations and access, including for bicyclists and pedestrians. Therefore, the road's vertical alignment will be corrected to improve sight distance.



The widening of Route 29 can't come soon enough for these commuters approaching the Clifton/Stringfellow roads intersection in Centreville during the afternoon rush.



Shirley Contracting representatives and Bill Cuttler (fourth from left) break ground for the road widening.

The project will also add and improve 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths along both sides of Route 29 to provide better bicycle and pedestrian access to the trails at the Fairfax County Parkway/West Ox Road Interchange. Planned, as well, are crosswalk improvements at major intersections, with modified signals to accommodate them.

In addition, there'll be intersection improvements at Centreville Farms and Union Mill roads, Clifton and Stringfellow roads,

Meadow Estates Drive and Hampton Forest Way, and Buckleys Gate and Summit drives. Estimated completion time for all this work is spring 2026.

Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield), whose home is in Little Rocky Run, off Route 29 and Union Mill Road, knows firsthand how challenging it can be to get to places on time when Route 29 is jammed with traffic. "Living in this area, I've spent too much time on this road – especially coming home

at night in all that congestion," he told the groundbreaking attendees.

"But this improvement will get residents where they need to be, instead of sitting in traffic, and will really improve their quality of life," he said. "The beneficiaries will also be the people in the neighborhoods off Route 29 who have had to put up with cut-through traffic from I-66 for many years. This project will finish the last section of this road outside of Fairfax City, and I'm looking forward to the ribbon cutting in 2026."

Herry also thanked county Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny, who's retiring soon, for all his hard work on this widening project. He acknowledged, as well, the county and VDOT staff members who worked with a nearby garden center and a towing company to deal with their particular concerns, since both are located along Route 29.

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully), called the event a "great way to start the day," adding that most of this project is in the Springfield District, but part is in Sully. "This will create a more stable travel experience and especially improve the p.m.-peak traffic for Sully District commuters," she said. "And I'm glad it's a design-build project, which enables us to get it done sooner."

In such projects, the designer and contractor work together as a team and project phases happen simultaneously. Cuttler stressed that VDOT was "an innovative leader" in adopting design-builds as work methods. He then thanked the Route 29 widening project's builder, Shirley Contracting Co., and its designer, Dewberry, plus many individuals who've played vital roles in bringing it to this point.

"Projects like this take people with a lot of different expertise," said Cuttler.

This one is financed with federal, state (including Smart Scale) and local funding, plus I-66 concessionaire money. Comprising its \$97 million total are: Preliminary engineering, \$5.5 million; right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation, \$9.7 million; and construction, \$81.8 million.

Cuttler thanked all those who helped fund this project, including U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) on the federal level. Then, smiling broadly, he said, "Let's go shovel some dirt."

ROUNDUPS

Inova Blood Drive in Chantilly

G&C Tire and Auto Service is hosting the Inova Blood Donor Services bloodmobile, this Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 14008 Willard Road in Chantilly. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/giveblood-savelife>. Besides helping to save lives, every donor will receive a lottery scratch-off card.

Sexting & Sextortion Webinar

Fairfax County police recently held a Teen Sexting & Sextortion educational webinar, during which experts gave information to parents to alert them about these crimes and what to do about them. And for anyone who missed it, the presentation is available online at <https://bit.ly/sextortionwebinar012523>.

Parents can learn about sexting, sextortion, tactics used on minors, who to call, resources, and what action to take if their teen becomes a financial-sextortion victim. Panelists included FBI Supervisory Special Agent Barbara Smith, Fairfax County Police Child Exploitation Detective Justin Urbaniak, and National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's Director of Survivor Services Kathryn Rifenkark.

WFCM Food Pantry Items Needed

With so many hungry families and individuals in Fairfax County, it often falls upon local nonprofits to provide them with food and other necessities. But Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) needs the community to donate these items so it may continue to help.

Currently most in need are: Canned fruit cocktail and mandarin oranges (no sugar preferred), canned mixed vegetables (low salt preferred), vegetable oil, hot cereal (oatmeal, grits), canned stewed tomatoes (low salt preferred), Maseca flour, sugar, pancake mix, canned pasta, canned beans (kidney, garbanzo, great northern), and ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise (family sizes).

Toiletries needed are shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, baby wipes, diapers (sizes 5 & 6), and Pull-Ups (toddler sizes 4T & 5T).

Donations may be dropped off at WFCM's pantry at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite H annex, in Chantilly, Monday-Friday, 8-10 a.m., or the second Saturday of each month, 9-11 a.m. Drive to the back door.

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Redevelopment of Rose Hill Shopping Center Meets Opposition

There is even a coalition against it.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County plan for the current shopping center at Rose Hill follows an age-old plan: out with the old, in with the new, and many residents of Rose Hill are opposed to it.

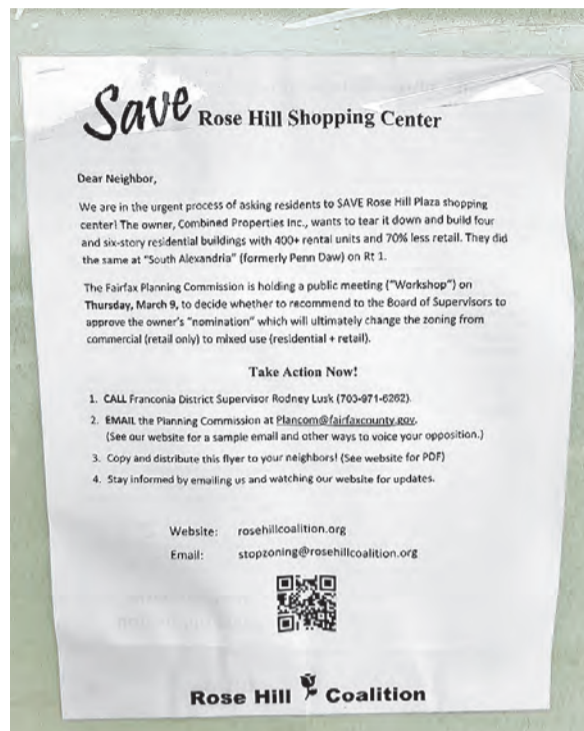
This winter, Combined Properties, the property owners, proposed a plan for the Rose Hill Shopping Center that entails residential over retail, four to six story buildings, a parking garage, a separate grocery store and up to 400 condominiums.

"The plan that was presented is out of character for our area," said Liz Townsend, who lives within walking distance to the shopping center. She took part in the virtual presentation on Channel 16 that Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) had earlier this month, and noted that the Rose Hill portion of the presentation ended up very late in the call, after 10 p.m. Was that on purpose?, she questioned.

Townsend's children attend Rose Hill Elementary School and Mark Twain Intermediate, and additional students would be too much, she said. "Twain is bursting at the seams," she said. The only people on the call that were for the project did not live in the immediate area, she said, and noted the multi-cultural environment is already present in Rose Hill.

Tom and Gloria O'Neill live about 100 yards from the shopping center and feel the size and proposed four stories of condominiums will be too much. "Those in the planned four-to-six story buildings will have a bird's eye view into our single story windows and yards," Tom said.

The Rose Hill Civic Association conducted a survey and in total, the survey results showed that a majority of the members oppose the proposal. Most liked the convenience of the current shopping center and disliked the outdated appearance. For the proposed development, a large percentage liked "nothing," about it and disliked the traffic it could attract and the increased density.



A letter taped to many business windows in the shopping center.

Jerry Collegeman worked at the barber shop in 1965 and walks to the shopping center on a regular basis and likes the closeness of it. "It's real convenient for everybody around here," he said.

Glenn Chappell saw the plans on his computer. "We use this pharmacy," he said.

The coalition took a stance: "The Rose Hill VA Coalition was formed in response to the October 2022 application to change the zoning for the Rose Hill Shopping Center in Alexandria, VA, from strictly commercial to mixed-use residential," it stated on the website. The goals of the Coalition are to:

- ❖ Stop the approval of Combined Properties SSPA application.
- ❖ Support the 50+ businesses in Rose Hill Plaza that serve the community.
- ❖ Ensure the success of Rose Hill Plaza as a commercial center for community-oriented retail.
- ❖ Work with Combined Properties to make Rose Hill Plaza an asset (not a blight) for all stakeholders.

Combined Properties Own It

While the shopping center is part of the community and used by just about everybody in Rose Hill, Virginia Hills and Franconia, it is owned by Combined Properties, a private property owner, and they have followed the procedure the county has in place to seek approval for development like this proposal, the Site-Specific Plan Amend-



Rose Hill Shopping Center has been meeting the community's needs since the 1960s.



This picture from the Rose Hill Rambler newsletter shows a packed house at one of the meetings about the new proposal.

ment (SSPA) Process <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/plan-amendments/sspa>

"The nominator is the property owner, Combined Properties. The proposal was submitted through the SSPA process and it is being reviewed for whether or not it should be included on the Comprehensive Plan amendment work program. The Planning Commission is scheduled to make a final recommendation on the Work Program on March 29, and the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on the work program on April 11," said Leanna Hush O'Donnell, Director, Planning Division, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk

The Rose Hill Civic Association survey said:

- ❖ 59% shop there on a weekly basis
- ❖ The grocery store is the most visited
- ❖ They disliked the store selection and rundown/outdated appearance
- ❖ A majority did not like anything about the proposed development
- ❖ Traffic/congestion/parking was the number one reason to dislike the proposal

(D-Franconia) recently had a meeting with homeowners to discuss it. A similar situation arose last year when the owners of another piece of land wanted to redevelop that as well, and many people spoke up and in the end, the original proposal was changed. "In acknowledgement of the number of concerns that my office received from the community, I felt it was necessary for Combined Properties to go back and continue discussions with residents in the communities surrounding the Rose Hill

Shopping Center in order to better understand their concerns and make adjustments to the nomination based on that feedback," Lusk said in a statement.

"We look forward to working with the surrounding communities to reach a similar outcome for the Rose Hill Shopping Center," Lusk added.

After the Board of Supervisors vote on April 11, there will be a number of public information meetings and a public hearing before the project proposal can move forward.

NEWS

Ramadan Events in the Libraries

CELEBRATING RAMADAN

Welcome the month of Ramadan with crafts and a live reading of "The White Nights of Ramadan" by the author. All Ages. Saturday, March 25, 2023 11 am - 3 pm Chantilly Meeting Room, Chantilly Regional Library

RAMADAN CELEBRATION RESTON REGIONAL LIBRARY

Come join the ICNA (the Islamic Circle of North America) for a Ramadan celebration at Reston Regional Library. There will be an array of beautiful decor, books, henna, Arabic calligraphy and kids storytime. All ages. Sunday, April 16, 2023; 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.; Reston Regional Library

RAMADAN & EID CELEBRATION

Ramadan is observed once a year for one month. It takes place during the ninth month of the twelve-month Islamic calendar, which follows the phases of the moon. Learn more about Ramadan and Eid in our fun filled event. Activities will include making Eid cards, kids storytime, bingo game, and henna. Sunday, April 16, 2023; 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library.

New York Theater Company Comes To CenterStage

Reston Community Center and local theater artist Tuyết Thị Phạm partner with Ping Chong and Company's associate director



Ping Chong

Sara Zatz, to create an unforgettable teen performance, Generation Rise: Reston. It is Sat., March 25, at 8 p.m. at CenterStage, 310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

The performing arts event depicts the experiences of five young Reston residents growing up during the pandemic: Robin Feldman, Carmah Owen, Rosa Simon, Semret Workut, and Natsu Zavala. The cast is not composed of professional actors, but Zatz and Pham have worked closely with the young locals to craft their portrayals of struggle and triumph. Tickets are \$10 Reston/ \$15 Non-Reston.

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER 2023 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION



Absentee Voting

Now through Wednesday, May 17

Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A are encouraged to vote for members of the MCC Governing Board.

TWO WAYS TO VOTE: 1. in person (fill out a ballot at McLean Community Center) or 2. by mail. If you prefer to vote by mail, simply phone or send an e-mail to request ballots for members of your household. The requested ballots will be mailed to your home.

DEADLINE: Completed Absentee Voting ballots must be received in the ballot box at MCC by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17.

TO REQUEST A BALLOT:

CALL: 703-790-0123, TTY: 711

E-MAIL: elections@mcleancenter.org

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RESTON ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

Join Zoom Meeting: **April 11, 2023, 7 p.m.**

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Learn about the state of the association and what lies ahead for RA. The 2023 Board of Director Election results will be announced.



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OPINION

Another Virginia Woman Makes History

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Last week I had the honor of attending the unveiling of the official portrait of Virginia's first ever in its 404 years of history woman Speaker of the House, the Honorable Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn. In addition to being the first woman Speaker of the House of Delegates, having served from 2020 to 2022, she was the first person of Jewish faith to be sworn in as Speaker.

As is the tradition in the House of Delegates, a person who serves as Speaker has an official portrait painted and hung in the House Chamber. The portraits of the two most recent Speakers hang in the front of the Chamber, and the portraits of the dozen or so of their successors hang on the other walls of the Chamber.

The Speaker is elected from the majority party members of the House and serves while still elected to the House with the support of the majority party. In my 44 years in the House of Delegates I served under eight different Speakers, four Democrats and four Republicans counting the current Speaker.

In being chosen the first woman Speaker of the House of Delegates and the first person of the Jewish faith, it is my opinion and I believe the opinion of others who follow Virginia history and government that she provided critical leadership to the Commonwealth during its most consequential time. More progress was made under her speakership in two years than under any of her predecessors who served for longer periods of time. Virginia made more progress on vital issues than at any time in its history, moving from being backward on many issues to a leader among the states.

During her tenure, the House made record investments in public education and transportation, made communities safer from gun vio-



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn, Virginia's first ever woman Speaker of the House, and also first person of Jewish faith to serve as Speaker.

lence, supported working families, expanded reproductive freedom, ended discrimination in many forms, secured voting rights that can serve as an example for other states, protected the environment, kept Virginia the top state for business in the nation, appointed the first Black women to be committee chairs in the House, and much more. She set a model that future Speakers should attempt to follow.

Former Speaker Filler-Corn's official portrait was painted by internationally acclaimed realist artist Kathy Morris whose work has been featured throughout the world. Deaf from an early age, the artist attributes her hearing loss

with her increased visual perception, sensitivity, and insights that are obvious in her paintings.

In her remarks at the unveiling of her portrait, the former Speaker said words that will be repeated many times at Women's History Month and on many other occasions:

"This portrait represents the thousands of women and others who were told they didn't look the part or have the right background, faith, skin color, gender identity or sexual orientation to be where they deserve to be. Today in the Virginia House of Delegates, we say you belong. My portrait might be the first, but I know there will be many more to follow."

Uncertainties in the Spring Air

JOHN LOVAAS **INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE**

I'm usually pretty optimistic at this time of year. It's Spring! Things are turning green outside and I'm thinking of the coming farmers market season. Insofar as those things go, we are on track as usual in 2023. But I'm also very much interested in the political environment and the current one is filled with uncertainty.

We've had a mild shock to our system with the surprise retirement of a 43-year institution, Delegate Ken Plum. Suddenly, we've got a scramble among a variety of at least five mostly untested Democratic candidates for Delegate. Two have run once for office and lost; another has served on the County School Board. John Farrell, a member of the Reston Association Board of Directors, is a first-time candidate for political office. And, we've yet to hear from the Re-

publican Party, which to my knowledge locally has not taken on the alt right character of the national Republicans.

Meanwhile, our incumbent Democratic Hunter Mill District Supervisor, Walter Alcorn, has no competition in the Party. Nor has any surfaced to date on the Republican side. It appears that he may indeed cruise to re-election. What's curious about this scenario is that Supervisor Alcorn has yet to deliver on his major campaign promises and has managed to stir up some hornets among what are usually friendly constituencies.

While it does appear that his top priority, the new Reston Comprehensive Plan for the next generation of Reston's growth, will likely finally get to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval before

the election, it may be close. Alcorn was true to his word, creating a genuinely community task group to draft the plan. But, it has taken over two years to cobble it together and the product, as innovative

as it is, has proven a challenge to County planning staff which must assure consistency with Virginia and County rules.

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 9

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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OPINION



725 Elden Street in the early 1900s; the horse-drawn funeral carriage shown in the photo is still stored in the historic carriage house today.

Demolishing History?

To the Editor,

Thank you for publishing your story, “Residents Oppose Demolishing 113-year old Buildings” in your March 8th issue. I would like to make a couple of clarifications.

The house at 725 Elden Street is 135 years old, not 113 years old. It is the second oldest home in downtown Herndon. This house is considered a historic/contributing structure and has protected status. Before such a structure can be demolished the applicants are supposed to show that the house is not structurally sound, or cannot be relocated, modified or sold, which the applicants have not demonstrated. Although the house is a residential building,

the applicant has only made little effort to sell it as a commercial property, at a very high price, without commissions offered to real estate agents.

The 465-square foot building that the applicant’s representative described as a “storage shed” is actually a historic carriage house that dates with the home. It is also considered a historic/contributing structure.

Attached is a photo that shows the home in the early 1900s. The horse-drawn funeral carriage shown in the photo is still stored in the historic carriage house today.

Barbara Glakas
Herndon, VA

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 8

Thanks to a private developer stepping up to lead a major public-private initiative, it appeared that Alcorn’s commitment to affordable housing would be addressed. A 400-unit project near his office would have served beneficiaries in the average middle-income range, not the lowest-income needy, but a start. Then, the developer walked, claiming they couldn’t afford to participate. It remains to be seen if the Supervisor can bring home a proposal by a coalition of nonprofits that would serve genuinely low-income people. Otherwise, he’ll have no progress on this top priority commitment.

Supervisor Alcorn also attempted to address revitalization at Lake Anne Village Center. His first step was to have the County pay for a consultant to do a quickie, admittedly superficial, assessment of Lake Anne infrastructure. Then, he entered into conversations with

different groups in the Condominium Association, indicating a willingness to explore County financial assistance in exchange for a piece of the Center property, specifically a parking lot, and reorganization of the Association. While a new Board of Directors of the Condo association has made impressive strides stabilizing its finances and improving the physical appearance of the Center, their relations with the Supervisor have cooled. He is seen by many as having overly involved himself in the group’s internal affairs. His latest action is another consultant contract to do a “visioning” of Lake Anne’s commercial future. A survey carried out by the consultant has generated more controversy and will be the subject of a community meeting on April 10. That is going to be exciting!

Next time we’ll get into the major business of Spring, e.g., when will the Reston Farmers Market open for 2023 and what changes can we expect?

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SENIOR LIVING

Successfully Aging on Their Own Terms

Fairfax Village in the City helps residents stay in their homes.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

As Fairfax City residents age, they often want to remain in their homes, in the community they love, for as long as possible. They like being near friends, services and familiar places. But if family members don't live nearby, they may need help with everyday chores and transportation to doctors' appointments, or just someone to call and check on them.

And that's where Fairfax Village in the City comes in. "It's for City residents, age 55 and up, as well as adults with disabilities," said Village Coordinator Jason Scadron. "The goal is to support healthy aging with free services performed



Fairfax Village logo



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON SCADRON

Jason Scadron and Carolyn Sutterfield at the Fairfax Village's information table at the City's Fall Festival.

by volunteers to help them stay independent. And all volunteers are vetted in advance to make sure they're trustworthy."

This City-supported program also focuses on building personal connections among neighbors, giving seniors useful information and providing them with opportunities for social interaction. The Village doesn't replace existing supports and services available to them via Fairfax County and local nonprofits; and, indeed, it can help them access these resources.

And with one-fourth of Fairfax City's residents – nearly 6,000 people – already 65 or older, it's something needed here. According to the 2021 census, 14.8 percent of Fairfax's almost 24,000 total residents are in their mid to late 60s, 6.5 percent are in their 70s, and 3.7 percent are in their 80s and above.

Furthermore, said Scadron, "The pandemic placed a spotlight on the negative emotional and social impacts of isolation, particularly on older adults." But even before then, longtime Fairfax resident Carolyn Sutterfield – who represented the City on the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging – knew the City's older residents wanting to stay in their homes would need help as they aged.

So she contacted former City Council member Janice Miller about starting a Village here. Miller then connected Sutterfield with Human Services Director Lesley Abashian to help create a steering committee including Fairfax City stakeholders and staff.

Home for Life Expo: March 31 at Sherwood Center

Fairfax Village in the City will hold a Home for Life 2023 Expo on Friday, March 31, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. It's at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd. in Fairfax. Free and open to the public, it's hosted by the Village's Advisory Board, and Mayor Catherine Read will make opening remarks.

"People will leave with lots of resources to help them plan to age in place," said Village Coordinator Jason Scadron. "They'll also discover different opportunities and resources they weren't aware of."

Various speakers will discuss, for example, how to stay strong and healthy, preventing falls, safety, home repairs, using technology and connecting with volunteers to obtain transportation. In addition, more than 20 exhibitors will present information on subjects such as estate planning, nutrition, lifetime learning, long-term care, medical house calls, memory care, and handyman help.

The idea is to enable people to safely remain in their "home for life." During this event, attendees will be encouraged to evaluate the challenges and advantages of their current living situation. At the same time, they'll learn how to adapt for successful aging and will meet local agencies and providers who can help them do it – or, if necessary, find desirable alternatives.

Registration is not required.

All in all, he added, "The expo encompasses the various aspects of taking care of ourselves as we get older. We want to empower people to make the best decisions for themselves, and this is an opportunity to provide them with the tools and information to help make those decisions."

To see the speakers and exhibitors, go to <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/Home/Components/News/News/12292/18>.

— BONNIE HOBBS

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SEE SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 14



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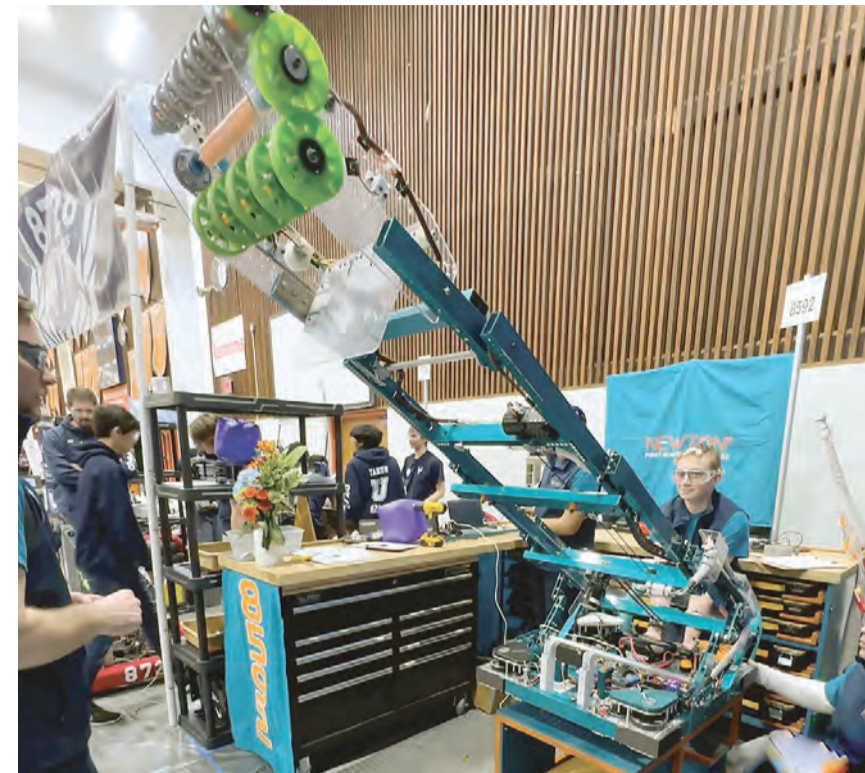
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MASTER BUILDERS



Local robotics teams throughout the metro area competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition Challenge, CHARGED UP, March 18 & 19th at Hayfield High School



Newton2 of Fairfax team member Reba-Grace Lee operates the robots arm in the pit in preparation for the next competition run.



Newton2, Team #8592, a community sponsored team from Fairfax, fields a large fan group in the stands during the competition, along with running their "Newton Mk3" robot



Vae Victis, Team # 1418, from Meridian HS in Falls Church, Mya Taheri, Will Kroboth, Nina Miller, Brandon Werber, Thomas Galloway, Argyle Lindsay, on deck for their next run

Robotics Teams CHARGED UP to Compete

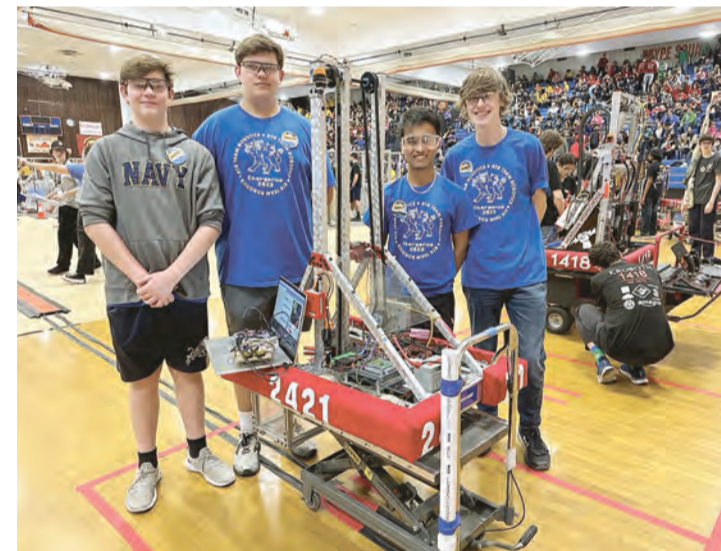
Event invokes STEM excitement among local teams.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

They have team names like Bovine Intervention, Jabots, Dogs of Steel, Ursa Major and Vae Victis. They come from high schools in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia or represent their family and communities like Burke, Fairfax, Woodbridge, VA and Churchville MD. They share an inspiration to create usable science. That's why 40 robotics teams met at Hayfield Secondary School for two days of regional competition on March 18 and 19th. As teams advance through this regional and others around the country, their goal is to compete for the international FIRST Championship in Houston Texas April 19-22.

Described as a sport for the mind, FIRST Robotics combines the fun and thrill of competition with the need for the mental dexterity of science and technology. Hayfield's gymnasium was packed with cheering families and friends in matching team colors that would rival European soccer or a top ten American college football team event. FIRST, a non-profit organization, seeks to help young people discover and develop a passion for STEM: science, technology, engineering, and math. It seems to be working if the number of teams and their fan base is any indication.

This year, more than 110 high school teams in the FIRST Chesapeake district are expected to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition Challenge, CHARGED UP. Local events and district championships are supported by thousands of volunteers and local, district, and national sponsors. The Hayfield event was sponsored by the Gene Haas Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. The competitions seek to build tomorrow's technology leaders while fostering a future technical workforce.



RTR Robotics, Team # 2421, a community team from Burke, prepares to compete in the red alliance with members, Andrew and Jonathan Evans, Keshav Goyal, Ryan Stephen

ported by thousands of volunteers and local, district, and national sponsors. The Hayfield event was sponsored by the Gene Haas Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. The competitions seek to build tomorrow's technology leaders while fostering a future technical workforce.

It's not a sport for shallow pockets. A robot with all its components can cost about \$5,000. Competition entrance fees and travel to regional competitions add to the expense. The world championship level entrance fee can be as much as \$4,000. Many high schools fund their robotics teams. Corporate sponsors, such as Amazon, Andworx and Booz Allen Hamilton, NASA, local businesses, and individual sponsors and parent groups, as well as student fundraisers, help offset the costs of participation. A team that goes all the way to the championship can expect to invest about \$30,000 for equipment

and a year of events.

Matches throughout the two day CHARGED UP event pitted six teams per run in red and blue 'alliances' of three teams. Robots start the run with preloaded maneuvering instructions, without a human driver. For the first 15 seconds the robots act on their own, attempting to score points by moving cones or cubes onto a receiving framework. For the rest of the two minute run, drivers control their robots, continuing to collect pieces from the run area and delivering them to their 'community.' Robots also earn points by aligning with their allies on the team charge stations. A referee monitors the action and may issue penalties. Fans in the stands cheer successful game piece captures, creating a high level of excitement.

As the action played out, Falls Church Meridian High School's team, Vae Victis, entered the pit area with enthusiasm but



Fans of Chantilly Academy, of Fairfax, Chantilly Robotics, Team #612, cheer on the blue alliance

suffered an early setback when their robot tipped on its side, effectively sidelining them for that run. Team member Mya Taheri explained the tip was caused by a combination of raising the robot arm at speed with an abrupt stop. Their allied team robots for the match did not have sufficient battery power to aid, nor was it worth risking damage to two robots in an attempt at recovery. Life learning moments often are found in sport, and Taheri recognized, "It was one match. We have many more to go." She was correct, as the team would reach the semi-finals and be recognized with the "Gracious Professionalism Award." With points earned at the event the team ranks 64th of 139 teams in the Chesapeake District.

A community team from Burke, RTR Robotics, includes brothers Andrew and Jonathan Evans whose older brother got them started in robotics. RTR pulls team members



Fairfax-based Newton Squared team members step through the match area to accept their event win award from event judges. The team is now ranked fourth out of 139 Chesapeake Division teams.

from several area schools and their local church. Springfield Car Care sponsors them, alongside Boeing and DoD stem, plus their parent group. It gives the team a hometown heroes feel. The team has won 12 awards in 16 seasons and won four events. At this event they advanced to the final round and shared the winning "red alliance" with the event winner. Their points for this season place them 29th of 139 in the Chesapeake District ranking.

Ryan Schaum, a junior on Newton2, a community team from Nova Labs, said his interest in participating came from a fascination with robots. His siblings liked engineering and he followed their involvement and developed his own curiosity. He sees himself going into engineering, as they did. Teammate Nathan Stuart shares that fascination and finds great promise for robots in medicine and in space exploration. He also

appreciates the dog-size robots that help firefighters and police. Newton2 team member, Reba-Grace Lee talked of the popularity of local robotic programs and camps for youth, citing the new Nova Labs community makerspace that debuted with their grand opening the same weekend as this Chesapeake District event. Fun versions of STEM learning begin there for ages 6 to 12 years old with LEGO Leagues and advance to robotics for youth ages 12 - 18 years old. Nova Labs is a Newton2 team sponsor.

The final event of the match pitted blue alliance teams Bovine Intervention of Thurmont, Md., SuperNOVA of Woodbridge, and Ragnarok of Ellicott City Md., against red alliance teams Rex of Timonium Md., RTR of Burke, and Newton2 of Fairfax. At the end of the excitement, and a commanding red alliance lead which included the favored three robot charging station position alignment, in



Final match aligns Newton2, Rex and RTR in the Red Alliance

the final seconds, Newton2 scored the most points within their winning red alliance to earn the event win.

The Fairfax community team now stands high in the District ranking, at 4th of 139 teams. Along with their March event win, they also won the Quality Award, and the Excellence in Engineering Award earlier this season.

The first use of robots was by General Motors in 1961. Today with advances in software, sensors and electronics, robots often perform in unpredictable or hazardous settings, searching for gas leaks or doing bomb disposal; filling pharmaceutical prescriptions and preparing IVs; performing complex medical surgeries; and piloting military drones. They may greet guests in hotels in Japan or entertain, such as the recently introduced Judy Hopps robot by Disney. Judy is a character from the movie "Zootopia" who somersaulted out of her box on rollerblades and made ginger moves common to a new skater at her introduction at a recent technology conference.

FIRST Chesapeake operates under the umbrella of VirginiaFIRST, with programs directly impacting 7,000+ middle and high school students. Each year, 60,000+ individuals attend 20+ robotics competitions in the FIRST Chesapeake District.

For more information on upcoming robotic competition events, including the Chesapeake District Championship at George Mason's Eagle Bank Arena April 6-8, see <https://frc-events.firstinspires.org/2023/CHCMP>

SENIOR LIVING



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON SCADRON

Village Volunteer Kathleen Rushlow rakes leaves for a member.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON SCADRON

Volunteer Karl Tamaro raking leaves outside a Village member's home.

Successfully Aging on Their Own Terms

FROM PAGE 10

Eventually, the Village was formally created in April 2022 and started accepting applications for members and volunteers the next month. Scadron coordinates the services offered, promotes and markets the Village at City events and works with its advisory board – including Council representative Tom Ross – which guides the Village's work.

City residents sign up to participate, and then volunteers do a multitude of tasks for them. They provide transportation to doctors' appointments and social events, the grocery store and pharmacy. They also perform simple, handyman jobs around the house – everything from raking leaves to light gardening, shoveling snow, clearing branches after a storm, changing light bulbs in a ceiling fixture, moving furniture, hanging pictures and holiday decorations, and doing minor home repairs.

"If it takes a group effort – such as installing a ramp, grab bars or handrails – we hope Rebuilding Together could work with us on it," said Scadron. "In addition, volunteers provide technology support for computer and iPhone connectivity problems, and they also make friendly visits and/or phone calls to the members, once a week.

"They'll even do emergency pet care, if a person needs someone to look after their pet while they're gone for a short while. Our volunteers are of different age ranges and skills and do what they do to give back and pay it forward. And if a member needs a service we can't help with, I can point them to other resources provided by the county or nonprofits."

Scadron said most villages in the U.S. are nonprofit, with members paying a fee. "But the City supports us financially under its Human Services Department, so all the services are free to the members," he ex-

plained. "Also, some villages are neighborhood-based, but ours is the whole City."

The Fairfax Village partners with the City's Fire Department, and Lt. David Arrington is its community paramedic. "After a 911 call, for example, he conducts follow-up, medical-care appointments with a member," said Scadron. "He also does home-safety surveys, making members aware of any tripping hazards, and will check their smoke alarms, too."

When residents join the Village, they're asked in their application if they have any health or mobility issues. "We want to know what kind of support, such as grab bars, they have in their home, and if they receive help from a health aide or family members," said Scadron. "We also ask for an emergency contact."

The Village began offering services in October and currently has more than 40 members and some 30 volunteers, including GMU students. Members receive a handbook about the services offered and there's a volunteer orientation.

"It's working really well," said Scadron. "It's rewarding to connect a member to a volunteer, and I get feedback from members afterward about how it went. It's great to know the member was happy and that the volunteer got a great sense of satisfaction from helping them."

He said members tend to be in their 70s, 80s and early 90s, and some are both members and volunteers. For example, they can still drive, but can't climb ladders. Most of all, said Scadron, the Village lets them control where and how they live.

"Studies found that nearly 90 percent of adults want to stay in their homes and communities as they age," he said. "The Village helps them stay connected to their city and successfully age on their own terms. They realize they can ask for and receive help

from people wanting to give it, and they feel worthwhile that they can remain independent."

Village member Agnes Rassam knew about such villages and was "delighted the City started one. I have a wonderful shopping volunteer and am amazed how well our match is working."

Member Annette Kane was also excited Fairfax established a village because "they provide assistance that makes it easy and cost-effective to manage your home. I've received help with an overhead light and gardening. I can't kneel to remove the invasive ivy growing underneath my air-conditioning unit, but a Village volunteer did it for me." Because of the Village, she said, "I can maintain and stay in my home and not have to move into a facility."

Volunteer Manisha Maskay is an advocate for "older people with disabilities who are vulnerable for multiple reasons. I connect with homebound people or their caregivers who haven't been able to leave and connect with anyone outside. So I call them weekly and we chat about the weather, books, electronic games and the City.

"Since I'm relatively new to Fairfax, they've given me info about it, and it makes them feel happy to be helpful. I believe you learn and grow from every interaction with others, and connecting with them makes me feel good inside and makes them feel like someone cares about them."

Another volunteer, Karl Tamaro, has mainly done yard work – raking leaves and clearing overgrown areas. And he's happy to do it. "I believe it's in our human makeup to want to help others in need, and volunteering is a civic duty, to some degree," he said. "I'm retired and now have more flexibility to volunteer."

"I especially like the concept of volunteering in the community where you live, as it strengthens the community bonds," he continued. "I volunteer to hopefully make a small difference in someone's day, but I also get something in return – reduced stress and a 'helper's high' feeling. It's pretty powerful when you can help others while also deriving a benefit."

For more information about Fairfax Village in the City, go to <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/human-services/fairfax-village-in-the-city-advisory-board> or call 703-385-5738.

FAIRFAX AREA VILLAGE PROGRAMS

Fairfax Village in the City

Herndon Village Network <https://herndonvillagenetwork.org/>

Lake Barcroft Village <https://www.lakebarcroftvillage.org/>

Mount Vernon at Home Village <http://www.mountvernonathome.org/>

Reston for a Lifetime <https://www.restonforalifetime.org/>

Reston Useful Services Exchange <https://restonuse.org/>

Village Drive Village

More information on Fairfax Villages: To learn more about organizing a village or to have someone come and speak to your group, email villages@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-246-8962, TTY 711.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/villages>

At Home in Alexandria, City of Alexandria <https://athomeinalexandria.org/about-us/>

Arlington Neighborhood Village <https://anvarlington.org/>



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) are Capt. Rachel Levy, Sully District Station commander; PFC Zachary Bargeron and 2nd Lt. Scott Reynolds, Bargeron's supervisor.

Bargeron, Sully Police Officer of the Year

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

PFC Zachary Bargeron is the Sully District Police Station's Office of the Year for 2022. He was honored at the Feb. 8 meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

Nominating him was Sgt. Dave Popik, who noted that Bargeron has "spearheaded the St. Germain Drive IPAC (Integrating Police and Community) area for the Midnight Patrol Shift. He makes arrests almost nightly steaming from this zone."

Popik said Bargeron has identified the frequent offenders there and "actively targets them. From his arrests, he's developed information that he's shared with the station Neighborhood Patrol Unit [NPU] involving narcotics distribution in the area."

As a result, wrote Popik, "In conjunction with NPU, Bargeron and the narcotics unit have made several arrests and are currently attempting to identify the dealers. Due to PFC Bargeron's teamwork philosophy and investigative abilities, he was selected to be transferred to the Neighborhood Patrol Unit."

According to Popik, Bargeron is also a Field Training Instructor and an informal leader on the squad. He works with younger officers to help them develop and grow professionally. And, wrote Popik, "He sets an example and motivates his squad mates to be proactive."

Besides his latest honor, Bargeron was recognized as the officer of the month in June 2022 because of a robbery case he worked on. The victim was trying to sell shoes worth \$1,000 when, instead, the prospective "buyer" stole them.

"Bargeron was able to develop a suspect and charge them with the theft, as well as retrieve the stolen property and return it to the victim," said Popik. "The family of the victim was so happy over the service Bargeron provided, they posted it on the local social-media boards, resulting in a positive response from the community."

All in all, wrote Popik, "Bargeron has been a huge asset to the squad. I'm happy to see him transferred to NPU, where he will be a huge asset for them, too. He's worked hard and is very deserving of the position. Selfishly, I'm sad to lose him but want to recognize his efforts before he leaves."

Sully District Police Station Update

Capt. Rachel Levy, commander of the Sully District Police Station, gave a station update during the March 8 meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee. She noted the current crime trends, while reassuring local residents that they're in good hands.

She said thefts of catalytic converters continue to be a problem – especially from work vehicles parked in dark areas. "Some of these vehicles have two on them, so that makes them more valuable," explained Levy.

There was a rash of airbags stolen from cars here, in late 2022 and early this year, but not so much recently, she said. However, she added, "The theft of motor-vehicle parts is our number-one crime in the Sully District right now. Next are thefts from cars."

Levy said there were some commercial burglaries, mainly along the Route 50 corridor in Chantilly, but police arrested the person they believe is responsible for them. She said two more happened that morning, and detectives were investigating both incidents. In ad-

dition, assaults – mostly domestic – are up slightly.

However, said Levy, "Our DWI arrests are up 48 percent – so the officers are out there trying to keep this area safe. Traffic safety is one of our top priorities, and arrests are also up for other crimes. Our officers are being proactive; they're doing a great job and working really hard. Sully District is, by and far, probably the safest district in Fairfax County, and we're very proud of that."

- BONNIE HOBBS

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PEACE AWARDS

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION



The winners of the 2023 Fairfax Student Peace Awards are honored at the March 19 reception for the work they do to sow the seeds of peace, resolve conflict, and promote understanding among the diverse people of Fairfax County, in their schools, communities, and globally.



Amelia Kegan, guest speaker, and associate general secretary for policy and advocacy with the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

2023 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County

Twenty-seven individuals and groups work for peace.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The 2023 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County go to twenty-seven individuals and groups selected from public and private high schools county-wide. On March 19, families and friends of the awardees, event sponsors, and dignitaries gathered at Fairfax's Stacey C. Sherwood Community Center to meet the students, honor them, and learn about their peacemaking achievements. Guests included U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11); Del. Ken Plum (D-36); School Board Chair Rachna Sizemore Heizer (at-Large); school board members Dr. Ricardy Anderson (Mason) and Elaine Tholen (Dranesville); as well as guest speaker Amelia Kegan, associate general secretary for policy and advocacy with the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Margaret Fisher, program co-founder (2006) and organizer with Herndon Friends Meeting, said the schools chose their awardees because they promoted peace, "and that is defined very broadly."

"It's really up to the schools to decide." Service and work can promote peace as well as prevent causes of violence: poverty, discrimination, and injustice.

Awardee Matthew Sullivan, a junior at Madison High School, planned and ran a fun run to raise money for the Stroke Comeback Center in Vienna, which helps people recover from strokes. "We had over 25 runners and raised more than \$10,000.," Matthew said. "In addition to the fun run, I also held my Eagle Scout project with the center.

For my project, I created a small library. I dedicated it to the center's recently retired founder, Darlene [Williamson]," he added.

Amelia Kegan, Friends Committee on National Legislation, said being a peacemaker is a long journey and "a lot of work." A peacemaker's progress is made "piece by piece."

"Often, it is not covered by the news, but those glimmers of light shine through, and I get to witness and work with communities of people across the country, pushing for peace," Kegan said.

Among the work of the 2023 award recipients is the establishment of student-led organizations for making shoes for children in Uganda, led by Estelle Ostland, a senior at Chantilly High School.

Ella Duncan-High, a senior at Edison High School, is the outreach director for Generation Ratify's Virginia chapters. It is a movement led by young people that advocates for Black maternal rights, abortion access, and LGBTQ rights.

The violent crime death of her brother inspired Aaliyah Garnett, a junior at Mountain View High School, to educate herself about racial injustice, the history of racism, and white supremacy. She marched for Black Lives Matter, and, believing in the power of the pen, wrote an article for the Mountain View Mirror advocating for peace and equity.

The Social Change Club at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology developed a curriculum for an ethnic studies elective. They anticipate it will be piloted in the summer of 2023 and made available to TJ students in 2023-2024. Club members hope that it will be available throughout the county.

Fairfax County School Board member Elaine Tholen (Dranesville) said she was proud of their students who work in our

2023 Student Peace Awards Recipients

- Annandale HS – Filimon Meaza
- Centreville HS – Debora Horng
- Chantilly HS – Ella Ostlund
- Edison HS – Ella K. Duncan-High
- Fairfax HS – Adan Eftekhari
- Falls Church HS – Lucia Patino Iporre
- Hayfield SS – Ash Bulmer
- Herndon HS – Amanda Green
- Justice HS – Girl Up
- King Abdullah Academy – Nadine Elost
- Lake Braddock SS – Jessica Nicole Sim
- Langley HS – Bureen Yagana
- Lewis HS – Mohamed Karim El-Gaili
- Madison HS – Matthew Sullivan
- Marshall HS – No Place for Hate
- McLean HS – Saehee Perez
- Mount Vernon HS – Amare D'Agostino
- Mountain View HS – Aaliyah Green-Garnett
- Quander Road School – Frank Marquez
- Robinson SS – Jaeda Lawton
- South County HS – John Claude Shaffer
- South Lakes HS – Urooj Khattak
- Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Technology – Social Change Club
- West Potomac HS – Sarah Salama
- West Springfield HS – Muqtader Zahid
- Westfield HS – Cameron Kasper
- Woodson HS – Woodson UNICEF

The Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County were begun in 2006, with one high school, Herndon High, and one sponsor, Herndon Friends Meeting. Its purpose was to encourage people to think more about peace as both a means and an end and to recognize young people who work as peacemakers. It is organized by volunteers and funded by donations. Every year, high schools in Fairfax County are asked to select one junior or senior or a group of students by early December whose work has promoted peace.

communities "to promote kindness and peace for all of us."

"I'm honored to be here because our students are our future," said Sizemore Heizer. "Watching these students do incredible work

in their community to make their community better and have students work for peace and kindness in the world is meaningful."

SEE PEACE AWARDS, PAGE 17
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PEACE AWARDS

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)



School Board chair Rachna Sizemore Heizer (at-Large)



School Board Chair Rachna Sizemore Heizer congratulates students who are members of Girls Up at Justice High School.

Work For Peace

FROM PAGE 16

Peacemaking is a vital process. Bree Yanger, a junior at Langley High School, expressed other feelings motivating her, such as inspiration and drive. Yanger helps refugees by facilitating Zoom sessions to assist with homework, college preparation, and cultural assimilation. In addition, she gathered more than 100 coats and founded an English-language program for young Afghan women.

“Seeing all the refugees be so thankful and really having the desire and motivation to keep going and keep learning was inspiring for me to keep teaching them. They’ve been through so much more than I have. ... I never felt uninspired or tired because they kept me going,” said Bree.

Students who work for peace, according to Fisher, should be encouraged. The recipients will receive \$250 in the 2022-2023 school year, plus an additional \$100 to be donated to any nonprofit organization of their choice that operates consistent with the Peace Award’s spirit.

Herndon Friends Meeting informed the students of their awards as soon as possible so that they could include it in their resumes. Certificates will be presented to them at their respective schools, typically at end-of-year awards ceremonies.

Del. Plum (D-36) thanked the students for being willing to be involved in activism for peace. “We set our values oftentimes when we are young, and those values come forth in the future. Peace will be realized, not when some dictator dictates it. ... Peace will come about when people develop an approach, an attitude toward resolving issues among people, and working towards peace.”

Connolly said, “Peace is a fragile thing. Peace has to be fought for, but peace has to be more than the absence of violence. Peace



Nadine Elost, senior at King Abdullah Academy in Herndon, stands beside School Board Chair Rachna Sizemore Heizer. Nadine is recognized for her work in medical missions to Jamaica, fundraising for breast cancer, student awareness of mental health, and assisting new refugees from Ethiopia.

has to be about empowerment. Peace has to be about society building where people are free to live up to their full potential irrespective of where they come from, their ethnic background, their religious background, their social background, their sexual orientation, their gender.

“Everyone — every human being — ought to be able to live up to his or her full potential. That ought to be the goal of any free society, and that creates peace,” Connolly said.

To view the student profiles by school visit, Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County.

SPONSORS

Each sponsor, all not-for-profits, contribute a minimum of \$200 yearly to defray the costs of the cash awards, certificates, and



Margaret Fisher of Herndon Friends Meeting tells about the Social Change Club at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

the March reception for awardees and their families.

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, Burke; Alexandria Friends Meeting; Alexandria South Rotary Club; All Dulles Area Muslim Society, Sterling; Cornerstones, Reston; Daniels Run Peace Church, Fairfax; First Church of Christ, Scientist, Fairfax; George Mason University; Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolu-

tion; Herndon Friends Meeting; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon;; Langley Hill Friends Meeting, McLean; Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, Reston; Rotary Club of Annandale; Rotary Club of Herndon-Reston; St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Reston; St. Mark Catholic Church, Vienna; Stewart R. Mott Foundation, Washington, D.C.

United Christian Parish of Reston



Co-owner Brandi Forte holding Unicorn Breath Cupcakes.



Owners Brandi Forte and Noel Warner with the scissors.

Cereal Is Not Just for Breakfast

New food place in the Springfield Town Center is all about cereal.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

A new kid on the block snack-wise is the Day & Night Cereal Bar, in the Springfield Town Center, featuring cereals, milkshakes, and other sweet treats. Unicorn Breath Cupcakes were on display opening day. “They are made with butter cream and Fruity Pebbles,” said co-owner Brandi Forte.

She’s running the place with Noel Warner, the other co-owner, and this bar is focusing on the sweet cereals

that seemed to hit the market back in the 1970s. “The whole concept is “cereal for lunch, cereal for dinner,” Forte said.

“It’s innovative, never heard about anything like this before,” added Warner, “it’s fun.” Maybe that’s what the area needs these days, something that’s fun, and it might just be at the Day & Night Cereal Bar.

The shop is a walk-up fast food place on the north end of the town center near Target. There are about 25 boxes of cereal up on the wall, and anything goes as far as mixing flavors. There are bowls of cereal (\$8), shakes (\$10) and cereal bars (\$6) available.

Day & Night Cereal Bar is a corporate food establishment and other locations in this area include a location at 1100 S Hayes Street in Arlington, as well as locations in Los Angeles, Charlotte, NC, Clarksburg, Md. and Rock Hill, SC. Karmon Dupree Jr. is one of the founders and came in to train the staff at the Springfield Town Center location.



Fruity Pebbles donuts at the Day & Night Cereal Bar at Springfield Town Center.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 22

MCC Governing Board holds a public hearing on FY2025 programs. Board Asks Dranesville Small District 1-A residents to “Fill Us In” on Classes, Events & Performances. The McLean Community Center (MCC) Governing Board is asking residents of Dranesville Small District 1-A, who pay a real estate tax surcharge to support the center, to “Fill Us In” on programs and services they would like to see offered and/or improved upon in the planning for the FY2025 fiscal year. The Public Hearing on FY2025 Programs will be held in person at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, at the center. All meetings of the board are open to the public. MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The public hearing is the first step in planning for the FY2025

budget cycle, which begins July 1, 2024, and ends June 30, 2025. MCC’s program areas include the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and The Old Firehouse Center. Tax district residents who wish to provide feedback about FY2025 Programs may do so in the following methods:

1. Plan to attend the hearing and speak verbal comment. Please call MCC at 703-744-9348, TTY: 711, to have your name placed on the speakers’ list; however, speakers are not required to sign up in advance in order to speak. If speakers’ comments exceed three minutes, they will be asked to provide their feedback in writing. Speakers’ residency will be verified before their comments are recorded.
2. Plan to attend the meeting and submit your comment in writing there. It will become part of the official record.

3. Submit a comment in writing without attending the meeting: by mail, email (feedback@mcleancenter.org) or delivered in person to MCC (both before the meeting and up to seven days afterward).
 4. Submit comments via an online survey that will be available for patrons who cannot attend the hearing.
- For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: www.mcleancenter.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 23

Shape of the Region Conference. 8:30-11:30 a.m. At NVCC Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Sponsored by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. Aging in Northern Virginia. Hosted by Northern Virginia Community College. Featuring keynote speakers Melissa Andrews, president and CEO LeadingAge Virginia;

and Rita Choula, director, Caregiving AARP Public Policy Institute.

15 RESIDENTS OF DRANESVILLE DISTRICT 1A HAVE QUALIFIED FOR THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER GOVERNING BOARD

McLean Community Center (MCC) has certified 15 Dranesville Small District 1A residents, five adults and 10 teens, to run for seats on the McLean Community Center Governing Board. The all-volunteer board sets goals and aligns strategies for MCC programs and facilities, including the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Teen Center. MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave. Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A are eligible to vote during the election. Voting for Governing Board members will be held from

10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at the McLean Day 2023 festival at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd. Residents also may vote during Absentee Voting from Wednesday, March 15, through Wednesday, May 17. Absentee Voting ends at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, and all absentee ballots must be received at MCC by the deadline to be counted.

Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. The adult candidates who receive the three-highest vote counts will serve three-year (3) terms. Youth candidates, one from the McLean High School boundary area and one from the Langley High School boundary area, will serve one-year (1) terms. Youth candidates do not have to attend these schools to serve on the board.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 23

‘Celebrate Spring and Support a Good Cause’

Fundraiser planned for Syrian earthquake rescue workers.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's one thing to hear about a tragedy in a county on the other side of the world – and another thing to provide help. Yet that's exactly what Mode on Main by Mara is doing. This Sunday, March 26, from noon-4 p.m., this clothing/lifestyle boutique in Old Town Fairfax City is holding a fundraiser for the White Helmets – the rescue workers helping the Syrian people devastated by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake on Feb. 6.

“It's our second Spring It On fundraiser,” said boutique director Danielle Wade. “In March 2022, we raised \$13,000 for Ukrainians in need. This year, we've chosen the White Helmets for their relief efforts in Syria. It breaks our hearts to see our fellow humans go through so much loss of home and life; and through our fundraiser, we hope to help support the White Helmets' lifesaving work.”

The White Helmets (<https://www.whitehelmets.org/en/>) are also known as the Syria Civil Defense. In a place where public services no longer function, these humanitarian volunteers risk their lives to help people in need, regardless of their religion or politics. Known for their distinctive white headwear, the rescue workers operate in one of the most dangerous places on earth and have saved more than 100,000 lives over the past five years.

Former bakers, tailors, engineers, pharmacists, painters, carpenters, students, etc., they're volunteers from all walks of life. The White Helmets saved nearly 3,000 people after the earthquake's destruction and are now doing recovery and rehabilitation work, plus providing support to the survivors.

That's why Wade, and Mode on Main by Mara owner Jana Klavina, hope the upcoming fundraiser will be a big success. Attendees will check in at the store's front door at 10417 Main St.; the event is in its backyard. The fun includes a deejay, food, beer, magic and balloon art for children, local vendors, live art in an Artist Alley, and a look at Mode on Main's new, spring arrivals.

Buy tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-it-on-a-small-business-market-in-aid-of-syria-tickets-543254507857>. Children under 12 enter free. People may also donate to the cause directly via the donation button when they click on “tickets.”

As for the day's entertainment, deejay Mike Rodriguez will provide the music and Eddie Kurland will bring smiles to children with his magic tricks and whimsical balloon animals. Coyote Grille will offer its popular Southwest cuisine, and High Side will bring its modern craft beer.

Vendors are as follows:

Mode on Main by Mara: Women's clothing and accessories, gifts and home goods; Lucy Loves: Home



PHOTO COURTESY OF SETAREH SABTI

From left are Mode on Main by Mara's Boutique Director Danielle Wade and owner Jana Klavina in front of their store.

furnishings, clothing, jewelry and artisan goods; Withered Fig: Specially curated and crafted menswear and lifestyle goods; Earth Essentials by Erica: Natural and organic skincare and health products; Baked Goods by Stephanie Leedom: Homemade treats; Touch by Prince: Nontoxic, natural, small-batch soaps; Adaptive Movement: Adaptive personal trainer and nutrition coach for children and teens; and Beth Robson Art: Custom, funky jewelry and planters.

Besides the event tickets, sales of raffle tickets will also raise funds for the White Helmets. Either purchase raffle tickets in person at the event or buy them in advance online at: <https://www.modeonmainby-mara.com/products/raffle-tickets-for-white-helmets-in-aid-of-syria>.

“We'll have huge, community raffle baskets of prizes and gift cards from local merchants,” said Wade. “They're valued at more than \$3,000 total, and people may try to win them by donating to the charity.”

Prizes range from hair-styling sessions to haircuts and highlights, skincare products, Pilates sessions, candles, restaurant meals, chocolates, massages and manicures.

“When you buy a raffle ticket online, we'll write out a physical raffle ticket in your name and put it in our raffle box,” said Wade. “Make sure to include your phone number in your information when checking out, as winners will be contacted via phone call/text. Winners will be announced that day and do not have to be present to claim their prizes.”

Looking forward to the event, she said, “It'll be fun for the entire family. We want people to arrive hungry, thirsty and ready to shake it all off on the dance floor. They can celebrate the beginning of spring and support small, local businesses in Fairfax City while coming together for a good cause.”

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

MAR 23

Presented by The Alden

Performing Arts Movie
Thursday, March 23, 1 p.m.

Free admission



Presented by The Alden

Trick of the Light Theatre:
“The Griegol”
Saturday, March 25, 4 p.m.

\$15/\$10 MCC district residents
\$12 seniors and students

MAR 25

Special Events

Fiesta Del Sol:
Latin American & Caribbean Festival
Saturday, March 25, 5-9 p.m.

MAR 25

Free admission.
Tickets for food and beverages
will be sold onsite.

Presented by MCC

Spring 2023 Artist Residency
BLCKSMITH
Monday, March 27
-Saturday, April 1

MAR 27-APR 1



APR 1

Presented by The Alden

The Good Humor Men
Saturday, April 1, 7 p.m.

\$30/\$20 MCC district residents
\$25 seniors and students



The McLean
Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

Home of The Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123

@mcleanvacenter
@mcleancenterva



CALENDAR

NOW THRU APRIL 30

Score: Mixed Media Art. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Score explores 20 years of the work of Virginia-based mixed media artist, Joan Dreyer. While developing her MFA thesis at Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, PA, Joan began taking tools, techniques and imagery that have been historically considered “women’s work” and transforming them into innovative, contemporary art that is responsive to the tone and tensions of our times. Created by combining fiber techniques with unexpected materials like X-rays, her work is a subtle art that asks questions about life, loss, symbolism, and the impact of war instead of providing one size fits all answers. The artist’s work provides a space for the contemplation of life stages that we all encounter. The result is a body of work that allows for meaningful but also multiple interpretations by the viewer. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/score-mixed-media>

ONGOING

Earthquake Relief Collection. Elected leaders from Northern Virginia announced the launch of a fundraising effort to collect money to purchase food packages for those impacted by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. NVRC hopes to collect \$25,000 for this effort. To donate, visit www.helpearthquakevictims.org.

NOW THRU MAY 31

Candytopia Opens. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Candytopia, in partnership with Tysons Corner Center announces the arrival of its sweet interactive concept to the center. It will feature 16,000 square feet with 14 different interactive environments, Instagram-worthy photo opportunities, and delectable tastes of your favorite sweet treats. There is a candy art gallery, a state-of-the-art candy confetti room, complete with confetti-farting pigs, a marshmallow pit filled with a quarter-million marshmallows, as well as DMV-inspired elements throughout the experience. The journey includes candy samples throughout the experience. Visit www.candytopia.com.

NOW THRU MARCH 26

(EXTENDED)

“How the Light Gets In.” Presented by 1st Stage of Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. From the co-writer of the breakout hit Duck Harbor comes an uplifting story of connection and healing. Set against the backdrop of a peaceful Japanese garden, this beautifully touching story centers around four very different people who build a community of love and hope. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

NOW THRU APRIL 16

Texture Photography Exhibit. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Falls Church Arts Gallery, 700-B West Broad Street, Falls Church. Sixty photographic images from 37 photographers will be featured in “Texture, A Photogra-

phy Show” on view at Falls Church Arts Gallery. The submissions vary widely and range from country and city scenes to bodies of water, botanicals, and geographical formations, among others. Visit the website: www.fallschurcharts.org.

NOW OPEN

Day & Night Exotic Cereal Bar. At Springfield Town Center at the Lower Level near Target and Nordstrom Rack, Springfield. Day & Night Exotic Cereal Bar Specializes in Custom Made Cereal Products, including cereal milkshakes, waffles, cereal bars, and the classic bowl of cereal. Visit <https://www.dayandnightcereal.com/>

NOW THRU APRIL 2

Art Exhibition. 1-6 p.m. At Mosaic Arts Gallery, 2931-B Eskridge Road, Fairfax. An art exhibition titled “Focus on Faces” will be presented by the mosaicArts Gallery. The exhibition will feature encaustic portraits of young adults painted by Alexandria artist, Linda Lowery. Opening reception March 11 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Visit the website: mosaicarts.site

ONGOING

Riverbend Park Plant Sale. At 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. The Annual Plant Sale is now open! Go to www.forbepark.org, then click on “2023 Native Plant Sale” to order your plants by April 1st. Pickup is on April 29th.

NOW THRU APRIL 8

Easter Bunny Photos at Tysons Corner Center. The Easter Bunny is back at Tysons Corner Center starting on March 17. Individuals, kids and families can visit the Bunny in Fashion Court-Lower Level Nordstrom Wing, and for the easiest experience, pre-book photo sessions for your littles by visiting the link: <https://www.tysonscornercenter.com/BunnyPhotos>

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 22

Toast of Oakton Toastmasters Open House. 7-8:30 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Toast of Oakton Toastmasters meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Oakton Library on Lynnhaven Place off Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, Virginia. For more information about this event and the club, visit <https://too.toastmastersclubs.org>.

THURSDAY/MARCH 23

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 7 p.m. At Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. BHS member Patrick O’Neill will speak about the fascinating history of the 14th Street bridges into Washington. Today’s bridges are only the latest versions of various spans.

FRIDAY/MARCH 24

Oil Painting Demo. 11 a.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Art Society is honored to welcome J. Jordan Bruns to give a demonstration of figure oil painting in the style of “Alla Prima.” As an artist with a diverse range in his body of works, he’s demonstrated his mastery of abstract works, works on paper, assemblage paintings and the “Alla Prima” style he will be illustrating. Also known as “color spot painting,” Mr. Bruns uses decisive



The Fiesta Del Sol: Latin American & Caribbean Festival takes place Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

brush strokes to capture the mood and background of his model while leaving the viewer to imagine the rest.

MARCH 24-25

Mason Dance Company Gala Concert. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Featuring four thrilling and technically demanding works choreographed by some of the biggest names in dance: Robert Battle (Awakening), Rafael Bonachela (Variation 10), Doug Varone (Double Octet), and Manuel Vignouille (Black and White). \$28 General Public; \$15 students, faculty/staff, and seniors

MARCH 24-26

Women’s Storytelling Festival. At Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Showcasing a wide range of storytelling styles, the 2023 festival features 15 storytellers performing in-person, 5 storytellers performing in a virtual-only showcase, and 7 storytellers competing in the People’s Choice Storytelling Contest, in-person and online. All ticket holders, whether in-person or virtual, will be able to watch the festival videos for one month after the festival concludes. For schedules, other details, and tickets, visit <https://www.bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival/>.

MARCH 24-26

Capital Art & Craft Festival. At Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. The Capital Art & Craft Festival will feature 230 juried artisans in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood. Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, March 26: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Senior discount available; children under 12 free. Ticket information: www.CapitalArtAndCraftFestivals.com

SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Trick of the Light Theatre: “The Griegol.” 4 p.m. at The Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, McLean. New Zealand’s Trick of the Light Theatre shares an eerie, elegant wordless tale about death, love, grief and monsters. After a child’s granny passes away, she starts to suspect she is being pursued by the smoke demon shapeshifter from the old woman’s

stories. In the tradition of “Spirited Away” and “Coraline,” “The Griegol” is a mythic, gorgeously rendered dark fantasy for lovers of theater that conjures magic and laughter out of silhouettes, puppetry, live music and animation.

SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Boxers and Briefs 5K Race. 9 a.m. at House 6 Brewing Company, 44427 Atwater Drive, Ashburn. The 5K course will be open for 60 minutes and take runners through the neighborhood streets of Ashburn and back to House 6 Brewing Company. Registration is \$35 and includes a pair of custom race boxers and the official Boxers & Briefs 5k finisher medal. Participants 21 and older can add a specialty beer from House 6 Brewing Company to their registration. Registration increases to \$40 on February 20, 2023. A virtual race option is also available. Visit www.boxersandbriefs5k.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Magic of John Williams. 7:30 p.m. At Fairfax High School, 3501 Lion Run, Fairfax. The “Magic of John Williams” comes in many musical moods: excitement, adventure, fear, sadness, melancholy, suspense, energy, mystery, etc. When John Williams composed, apparently the “Force” was with him. Take this opportunity to relax and re-live your memories of these favorite movies during this journey through his music: “Star Wars,” “Superman,” “Harry Potter,” “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” and more. Visit the website: <https://fairfaxband.wpengine.com/>

SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Fiesta Del Sol: Latin American & Caribbean Festival. 5-9 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Enjoy the taste and sound of Latin America and the Caribbean right here in McLean! This event offers quality exhibitors, live music, delicious tapas and rum and tequila bars. Learn how to dance the salsa or merengue from the best of instructors. Tickets for food and drinks will be sold onsite. Must be 21 to purchase alcohol.

SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Winterguard Drumline & Competition. At South County High School, Lorton. South County High School will host The Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA) Winterguard and

Drumline Championships. The winterguard incorporates flags, sabers, mock rifles with dance. The drumline is composed of several types of drums divided into the pit, battery and front ensemble with cymbals, xylophones, snare drums, and base drums rounding out the sound. Winterguard and drumline ensembles are ready to compete at AIA, so come on down to see a great show. There are volunteer opportunities as well. For more information, go to www.schsbands.org.

NOW THRU MARCH 25

Tech Recycling Days. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays; Saturday 9 to 3 p.m. At Fateka, 585 Grove Street, Suite G-10 (back of building), Herndon. Your house may be sparkling after spring cleaning, but what about that box of useless cords still hanging around? From March 20-March 25, drive up and drop off any old electronics cluttering your home at our Herndon store, and we’ll recycle them for free.

SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Teen Job Fair. 1-3 p.m. (Final workshops ending at 3:30 p.m.) At Chantilly High School, Chantilly. Hosted by Supervisor Herry’s office. Fair focuses on students and young job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions. The fairs have provided thousands of teenagers the opportunity to get in front of employers and for our employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill their positions. Students can register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZFG3RC2>

SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Fiesta del Sol Latin American and Caribbean Festival. 4:45 p.m. Ribbon Cutting. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. During the hours of the festival, from 5-9 p.m., patrons and neighboring communities will experience a welcoming and festive atmosphere with flavors of Latin American and Caribbean Island cultures through live music, art and craft exhibitors, dance lessons/demonstrations and great food. The festival is being produced by

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR



BLCKSMTH in Spring Residency will be held March 27 to April 1, 2023 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

FROM PAGE 20

V.I.P. Impressions Event Planning. For more information, call MCC at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit mcleancenter.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 26

The Pajama Glam Event. 2-5 p.m. At the Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center, 7901 Tysons One Place, McLean. Local breast cancer non-profit, The Tigerlily Foundation is pleased to present its Pajama Glam Party, which invites women and girls of all ages to dress in their favorite pajamas and celebrate their “fabulousness”, while learning about breast health, wellness, and prevention. Guests will enjoy a glamorous lineup of activities including music, sneak preview movie screening, fun crafts, sweet treat stations, wellness activities, and much more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 26

Ides of Bark. 1-4 p.m. At Grist Mill Park, 4320 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Every dog has its day! The Ides of Bark – the ultimate celebration of Fairfax County’s four-footed friends. There is no registration or fee required to attend the event! <https://bit.ly/3y458K0>

SUNDAY/MARCH 26

Cupid & Psyche Play Reading. 4:30 p.m. At Traveling Players Studio. Cupid & Psyche will be premiering this summer at Traveling Players in Tysons Corner Center. While the show won’t begin rehearsals until June, audiences can get an early taste of what’s to come at Traveling Players Studio. Commissioned by Traveling Players for their Mythology Ensemble – a two-week sleepaway acting camp for kids in grades 4-6 – the story follows the beautiful and bespeckled Psyche as she is thrust into a world filled with treacherous gods, perilous journeys, and true love. To find out more about Traveling Players Ensemble, visit <http://traveling-players.org>.

SUNDAY/MARCH 26

The Adventures of Harold and the Purple Crayon. 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. “One evening, after thinking it over for some time, Harold decided to go for a walk in the moonlight.” So begins The Adventures of Harold and the Purple Crayon, which follows the zany adventures of an inventive young boy. Resourceful and brave, Harold creates the world he wants to explore, using nothing more than a big purple crayon and his sky’s-the-limit imagination. Enchantment Theatre Company’s production takes you on a wild ride as Harold jets to Mars, joins a circus (he tames a lion!), and rescues a princess in an enchanted castle. Combining life-size puppets, pantomime, dance, magic, and original music, The Adventures of Harold and the Purple Crayon will delight and amaze its audiences, from children to grandparents—anyone, in fact, whose heart is young and adventurous. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

MARCH 27 TO APRIL 1

BLCKSMTH in Spring Residency. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. BLCKSMTH is the handle of Michael James Schneider, a writer and artist living in Portland, Oregon, who creates quirky and thought-provoking content. His Instagram account reaches over 600K followers and has had numerous viral posts. During his residency at MCC, Schneider will engage diverse groups in conversations about what brings the community together, how to lift one another up and how to creatively express oneself. These workshops are free and open to the public and registration is not required.

Schedule
BLCKSMTH X Community Leaders Workshop
Monday, March 27, 7-8:30 p.m. at MCC

BLCKSMTH X Families Workshop
Tuesday, March 28, 6:30-8 p.m. at MCC

BLCKSMTH X Millennials and Young Professionals Workshop
Wednesday, March 29, 8-9:30 a.m. at MCC

BLCKSMTH X Teen Workshop
Thursday, March 30, 3:30-4:30 p.m. at OFC

BLCKSMTH X McLean Community Center Gallery Pop Up
Thursday, March 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at MCC

BLCKSMTH X Retirees Workshop
Friday, March 31, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at MCC

BLCKSMTH X Veterans Workshop
Friday, March 31, 4-5:30 p.m. at MCC

THURSDAY/MARCH 30

Visiting Filmmakers Series. 5-8 p.m. At George Mason University’s Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Join them for a free screening of the acclaimed new Netflix documentary, “Descendant,” followed by a live Q&A with the filmmakers! Register here: <https://cglink.me/2d7/r1960176>

FRIDAY/MARCH 31

Anirudh Live! Tour. 8-10 p.m. At EagleBank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Don’t miss out on the most anticipated tour of 2023! Announcing the “Once Upon A Time” Tour featuring Anirudh Ravichander, the youngest and fastest-rising film composer in the World. Proudly presented by Shri Balaji Entertainment and powered by Kash Patel Productions. From sold-out dates across the globe, including recently sold-out shows at the OVO, London’s most iconic music venue, Accor Arena in Paris, and giant live stream appearances hosted by Disney and Hotstar, Anirudh is a rockstar whose viral tunes have taken the film industry by storm! Visit the website: <https://tickets.kashpatelproductions.com/e-anirudh-washington-dc-2023>

MARCH 31-APRIL 1

Cirque FLIP Fabrique. Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. In this all-new, high-energy production, the seven acrobats of FLIP Fabrique don high heels, then football shoulder pads to dazzle audiences of all ages. Muse playfully pirouettes around and tackles the perennially complicated questions of gender archetypes—circus-style.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1

Spring Festival. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Spring has long served as a symbol of renewal and hope. Being outside at Gunston Hall made George Mason happy, and we think it will make you happy, too. Come celebrate the season with us at Gunston Hall. From toddlers to seniors, everyone will enjoy the crafts, garden activities, kite-flying, and food. Don’t miss the plant sale! Guests are welcome to bring their own kites or to purchase one in the Gunston Hall museum shop. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/events/spring-festival-2/>

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

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Obituary

Obituary



Russel “Britt” Lenz of Lewes, DE, born November 23, 1944, in Belleville, IL, passed away on Thursday, March 2, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents Ann and Russell C. Lenz of Belleville, IL, his beloved daughter, Rochelle Lyn McCall of Shady Side, MD., and his best friend for over 60 years, Carl Poehler of Northampton, PA. He leaves behind his precious wife of 56 years, Janet, his loving son, Brad (Jennifer) Lenz of Chesterfield, VA, his five devoted grandchildren, Madison Grace Lenz, Mallory Anne Lenz, Jack Kellan McCall, Britt Connor McCall, and Maryn Elisabeth Lenz, all of Chesterfield, VA, his sister, Beverly Wittlich (Jay) of Ft. Myers, and his furry companion, Roxie. In addition to his immediate family, Britt also has nieces and cousins in Illinois as well as friends and colleagues from his homes in Geneva, IL and Oakton, VA. Britt earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Southern Illinois University and was a member of Sigma Pi Fraternity where he made many lifelong friends. Britt was a devoted family man and found joy spending time with his family at the beach, fishing or coaching his son’s baseball teams. He was admired and loved by many of his former players. Britt also garnered much respect from his work colleagues as Director of Proceedings for the Commodity Futures Training Commission for 33 years. Upon retirement he entered another career in real estate with the Weichert and Lingo firms. From family and friends to colleagues and neighbors, Britt would give you the shirt off his back. He was a fierce protector of his family, but he was also fun-loving and full of life. He could often be found at the horseracing track with his father, his best friend, Carl and his son, Brad. He loved to play cards, go fishing and woodwork. He could often be heard or seen admiring the love of his life, Janet, who was a dedicated and doting caregiver in these last few years of illness. Those who knew Britt would describe him as a loyal friend, a caring husband and father, and an all-around great man. He will be greatly missed but those left behind find comfort in knowing he was greeted on the other side by his daughter, Rochelle, with a beautiful smile and great big hug. The family will host a Celebration of Life at a later date. Memorials to honor Britt made be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for the research on Parkinson’s. Please visit Britt’s Life Memorial Webpage and sign his virtual guestbook at www.parsellfuneralhomes.com.

Legals

Legals

NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
FILM NUMBER:

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NUMBER: 22 CVD 4523

NICOLE FENLEY,
Plaintiff

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**

vs.

JOHN FENLEY, II,
Defendant

TO: JOHN FENLEY, II

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought in this action is absolute divorce. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 12th day of May, 2023, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to this Court for the relief sought.

This the 22nd day of March, 2023.

BLACKWELL & EDWARDS, P.A.

TIMOTHY D. EDWARDS
Attorney for Plaintiff
300 Dick Street
Post Office Box 469
Fayetteville, NC 28302
Telephone: (910) 483-5176

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PLAY BALL VIRGINIA BURKE, LLC, trading as Glory Days Grill, 9526 OLD KEENE MILL ROAD, BURKE, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22015-4270. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jesse Steven McPherson, Managing Member. Date notice posted at establishment: March 22, 2023. 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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PLAY BALL VIRGINIA RESTON, LLC trading as Glory Days Grill, 1400 NORTH POINT VILLAGE CENTER, RESTON, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 20171-2527. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jesse Steven McPherson, Managing Member. Date notice posted at establishment: March 22, 2023. 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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NEWS

New York Theater Company Comes to CenterStage

FROM PAGE 7

“The work his company and our local team have created...surface the compelling stories of how we navigated these last traumatic years,” RCC board chair Bev Cosham said. It is the final performing arts event of the Ping Chong/Tuyet Pham artist residency.

Chong began his career as a theatre prac-

itioner fifty years ago. “I am now in the process of retiring,” Chong said. “I am delighted to share this moment of transition here in Reston.”

To learn more, call RCC at 703-476-4500, TTY 711, or go to www.restoncommunity-center.com.

— MERCIA HOBSON

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 21

SATURDAY/APRIL 1

14th Annual Monopoly Tournament. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Moose Lodge, 9612 Fernedge Lane, Lorton. Ron Kowalski Real Estate Group's Monopoly Tournament. They'll play 3 timed rounds of Monopoly - those with the most assets advance. Players of any / all skill levels are encouraged to play. Top Prizes: 1st Place \$500; 2nd Place \$250; 3rd Place \$100. Trophies for 4th-6th place. Many door prizes too! Once again, a fantastic continental breakfast will be provided by South County Cares Church and lunch will be provided for all players and guests who make a small donation. The registration fee is only \$25 if you pay in advance/online; \$35 at the door. Ages 8+. All proceeds go to Lorton Action Community Center, a 501(c)3 organization. For more information go to: MonopolyLorton.com or LortonAction.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1

8th Annual O'Donovan Humanities Lecture. At Oakcrest School. Dr. Taryn Okuma, Associate Professor at The Catholic University of America, will be the keynote speaker at the 8th Annual O'Donovan Humanities Lecture at Oakcrest School on April 1, 2023. The topic will be “Why Read Memoir?” Learn more at Oakcrest.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1

Beatbox with Christylez Bacon. 2 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Family Fun is just around the corner with OnStage's Beatbox with Christylez Bacon concert! Christylez Bacon (pronounced: chris-styles) is a GRAMMY Nominated Progressive Hip-Hop artist and multi-instrumentalist from Southeast, Washington, DC. This interactive concert will engage families in singing and beatboxing activities while merging the rhythms with classical music. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/beatbox-with-christylez-bacon>

APRIL 1-2

SPRINGPEX 2023. At John R. Lewis High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. SPRINGPEX is the Washington, D.C. area's largest club-sponsored stamp show. Admission to the show is free. All local stamp collectors and interested public are invited to attend. The show features interesting competitive and non-competitive philatelic exhibits, and 20+ stamp and cover dealers from throughout the Eastern U.S., and the Washington metropolitan area. Show hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, (April 1), and 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday (April 2). Free parking is available in the school lot. For additional information on SPRINGPEX 2023, visit the website at www.springfieldstampclub.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 18

SHEPHERD'S CENTER SEEKS ADDITIONAL DRIVERS

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church (SCMAFC), an all-volunteer organization, is seeking additional volunteers to support its mission of providing free transportation to seniors for medical and dental appointments or run errands to grocery stores and pharmacies.

The Center is an all-volunteer non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] that has been operating since 2006.

There were 2,362 rides provided in 2022, which was close to pre-pandemic numbers. “Of the rides provided last year, 63% were medically related, 18% grocery, and 12% was for physical therapy.”

noted Board Chair Tom Callanen. The Center added 41 new riders last year so there's a continued need for more volunteers to join the current team of some 100 drivers.

A nice feature is that there is no set quota, volunteers are free to choose when and how often they drive. The best part is not only do drivers help those in need, they get to meet wonderful folks, often with very interesting backgrounds.

For further information or to apply, go to <https://scmafc.org/volunteer> or call (703) 506-2199 and leave a message.

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TOWN SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON ANNEX PROPERTY

Vienna residents will soon get a chance to help the Town government identify what comes next for the three-acre Annex property located at 301 Center St., S. The Town purchased the former Faith Baptist Church property (now referred to as the Annex) in the fall of 2020, and it served as a temporary police headquarters while the new Vienna Police Department building was being constructed next door. Now that the police have moved into the new building, a land feasibility and community needs assessment is being conducted to determine long-term plans for the Annex.

Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts at a community workshop on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Vienna Police Department Community Room, 215 Center St. S. Residents are also encouraged to respond to an online community perspectives questionnaire, which will be open through May 1, 2023: <https://bit.ly/viennaannex>.

Before the Town began the community engagement process, it conducted a study to determine the cost to improve the building for public recreation activities. The cost of making improvements was assessed at \$1 million.

To learn more about the Annex project and future community feedback sessions, visit www.viennava.gov/AnnexStudy.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers.

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The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper-local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

Each newspaper has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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It Seemed Innocent Enough, At First



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

My wife, Dina opened our upstairs' bathroom vanity and saw the eight-count bars of soap I had purchased earlier that day. Not that she would ever use the soap that I do. Nevertheless, she felt compelled to ask me a quantity-really question which was: “Why did you get so many bars of soap? You don't shower that much.”

Let me deviate for a second and briefly explain my consuming ways: non-perishables in bulk, especially when said items are on sale, is how I manage cash outflow. Occasionally, over the years, I may have over-purchased an item or two only to see its expiration date come and go and in effect, waste money. As such, I've learned a lesson or two along the way. And I've even considered not buying in bulk and/or only buying said products when there's an actual need, regardless of whether the product is on sale or not. Moreover, I might even buy smaller sizes to spend money more judiciously and risk future financial loss by not padding our inventory when the opportunity presents itself just to keep the peace and minimize the wise cracks..

Now that you understand the context, let me explain how this simple exchange between a husband and a wife might lead to unintended consequences. As you regular readers know, I'm a cancer patient/survivor. A patient who 14-plus years ago was given a single-digit percentage chance of living beyond two years. When we originally asked the oncologist about the possibility I could survive beyond two years, he replied: “Could you be the one? Sure.” He was not particularly enthusiastic, nor did he use the number one lightly. Though I've survived way beyond any expectations, I am nowhere near to being out of the woods. I am always grateful, perhaps even a bit surprised when I wake up every morning. I understand none of this was promised, and I may in fact be living on borrowed time.

Against that backdrop of yours truly not anticipating living too long back then (“13 month to two years” prognosis in 2009), I'm still trying (and have always tried) to live a relatively normal life and not to consider too much my rather tenuous hold on that normalcy. After all, I am not in remission. I'm still undergoing treatment and are scanned regularly. I take a daily pill - with very manageable side effects. However, the pill's predicted effectiveness window, of two to three years, is fast approaching. As of Oct. I will really be living on borrowed time by continuing a medicine past its presumed effective date. Actually, the window may have closed already as I'm two and a half years into this medicine. But does this effect my consuming ways? If I did buy bananas, the old advisory not to buy green bananas might be prudent; and to relate it to this column, who am I kidding by buying eight bars of soap. As my wife so lovingly said, I don't shower that much. Somehow, some way, I must muddle through this roller-coaster of time left.

But I want to think that I'm going to live for a while yet. When my wife asks me if my purchase of multiples of a particular product is really necessary; I hear, are you sure you're going to live long enough to use it? And in my head, I elaborate: does it make sense/cents for someone in my rather precarious position to buy so much of anything? Dina may seem well when she questions the numbers of what I buy. It may be as much a budget question as any, actually. Regardless I hear life expectancy and you (meaning me) doesn't have a normal one. And the last thing a cancer patient ever needs to hear is negativity - in any shape or form. Negativity/toxicity is a killer.

Any patient who has received similar life-changing/heart-stopping/mind-blowing diagnosis as I have will forever be changed by it. Your perspective on so many things, from “A” to “Z” changes without your permission and you become super-sensitive and hyper alert to any mention directly or indirectly of the future, a future that you might not have. And what's worse? You have no control over any of it. Cancer has a mind of its own and it's not listening to you.

I've found that having cancer is a 24/7 test. It's difficult enough knowing most of the answers to the test - euphemistically speaking. Survival can be a learning experience for sure. But sometimes, it's the questions that upset you the most.

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



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