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Above And Beyond, In Danger

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Silver Medal of Honor recipient Technician Sean O'Neill of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue with his family at the 45th Annual Fairfax County Valor Awards.

Tangible Benefits At Career Fair

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Trash or Treasure In Storage Auctions?

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Grieving Mother Echoes Son's Last Words: 'Hurry, Hurry'

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON / CONNECTION

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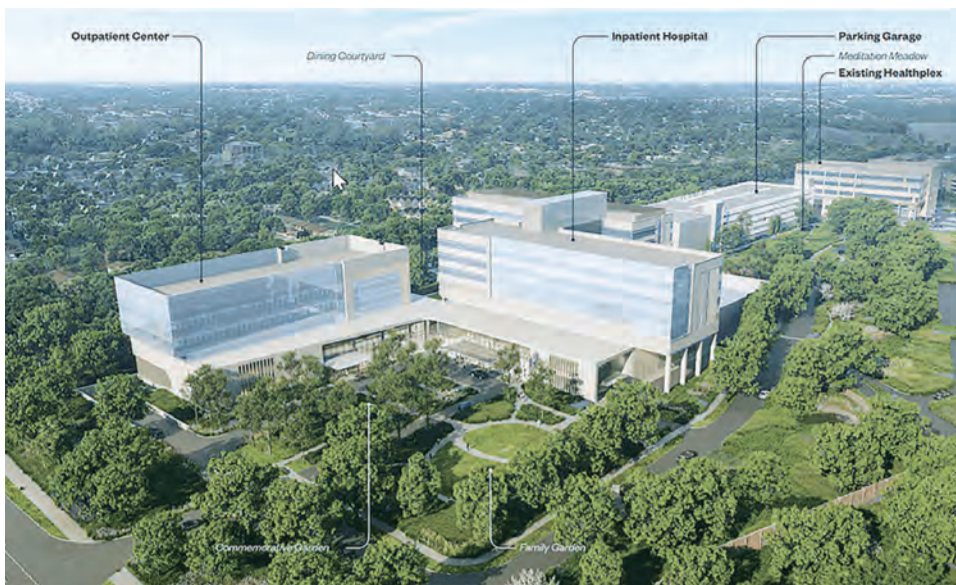
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An artist rendering of the new hospital.

Campus Site Plan and Pedestrian Access



This Inova diagram was from a slide show that was presented in May 2022.

Franconia Hospital Project Moves Forward

It's the second addition planned at this intersection in the Franconia District.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Franconia Inova hospital project moved forward recently when the Virginia Department of Health approved its Certificate of Public Need (COPN) application to build a new hospital in the Franconia community of southern Fairfax County.

The patch of land where the new hospital will be built is adjacent to Inova's existing Franconia-Springfield HealthPlex and within walking distance of the Franconia-Springfield Metro and Virginia Railway Express stations.

The location is in the Franconia District across the Beulah Street-Franconia-Springfield Parkway intersection from a parcel of land being cleared for the new government

center and library that officials broke ground on earlier in March.

"I am delighted by this latest step to advance the Inova Franconia-Springfield Hospital," said Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk, (D- Franconia). "Inova has been our community's trusted health partner at this location for many years, and this expansion of that collaboration will improve the health and economic vitality of our community for generations to come."

The land is right at a busy intersection so traffic will be an issue, but there are several traffic improvements coming with the new hospital, Inova officials said. Currently there is an emergency-only access from the parkway but with the new hospital, officials have proposed new dual left turns and light from eastbound Franconia-Springfield Parkway to Walker Lane pending approval by VDOT.

Other transportation improvements include:

- ❖ A new roundabout on Walker Lane at the Metro Park and HealthPlex entrances to improve the flow of traffic
- ❖ Dual left turn lanes from northbound Beulah Road to westbound Metro Park Drive toward the hospital
- ❖ Additional eastbound lanes on Metro Park Drive toward Beulah Road
- ❖ A new southbound right turn off Beulah Road into the hospital

The site is close to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, so they are looking to enhance shuttle service to Metro and coordination with the existing TAGS bus service.

Technology Abounds Inside

The initial phase of the Franconia-Springfield project will include a modern inpatient facility with 110 beds spread across two patient towers. The hospital will include private rooms, an expanded emergency room, diagnostic imaging, and multiple procedural

rooms. An adjacent building will offer a variety of outpatient services, including ambulatory surgery, physician offices, and procedural rooms, Inova information said.

Outside, the space will include several environmental sustainability additions including nearly two acres of urban park space with walking trails and benches available for public use, Inova said. In maintaining 30 percent open space on the property, Inova has designed the campus to maximize preservation of mature trees along the north side of the property and near the intersection of the Franconia-Springfield Parkway and Beulah Street. They will be seeking a LEED Silver certification when completed.

In the meantime, patients will continue to use the Franconia-Springfield HealthPlex for Emergency Room, physical therapy, physician offices, and other clinical operations. The planning and design phase is underway, with construction slated to begin in 2024 and anticipated completion in 2028, Inova said.

'Deserving of this Recognition'

Miller and Malesky: Fairfax City Women of Influence.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In 2020, the Fairfax City Commission for Women established the Women of Influence Award to celebrate outstanding women who live in the City and have made a significant difference in the lives of its residents. Last Tuesday, March 28, at Fairfax City Hall, it honored longtime School Board and City Council member Janice Miller and A Place to Eat Director Katy Malesky as the 2023 Women of Influence.

"Awardees are nominated for their inspiring leadership, active and ongoing community engagement and level of positive impact within our City," said awards-committee member Filomena Crawford. "They're chosen from

nominations submitted by the community."

Janice Miller

During the ceremony, Commission Vice Chair Lisa Whetzel briefly listed some of Miller's many accomplishments in her more than 50 years as a Fairfax resident. "As a School Board member for 29 years, she helped with the efforts to offer full-day kindergarten, supported the renovation of the four City schools and helped create the Fairfax Academy at Fairfax High," said Whetzel. "She was also a representative on the Parks and Rec Advisory Board."

In her 10 years on City Council, Miller advocated for redeveloping the Willard Health Center and the Sherwood Center into one destination for health, fitness, children's programs and arts. She also pushed for dedicated pickleball courts at the City's senior center and improvements to Van Dyck Park.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX CITY GOVERNMENT

From left are Janice Miller and Katy Malesky with their awards.



From left, Melissa Johnson, the mother of Timothy Johnson and Michelle Leete, president of the Fairfax County NAACP



Carl Crews, Johnson family attorney



Rev. George Gilbert Jr. of the D.C. Center for Racial Equity & Justice

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION



Joel Pulliam, Fairfax NAACP Youth Activist

NAACP Rally for Justice

Demanding inclusive and equitable police practices.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

She stood for two hours at the NAACP Justice Rally outside the Fairfax County Government Center on Saturday morning, April 1. Because her skin is black, she said, she has experienced the social injustices, discrimination, and biases that occur. She stood centered among the 60 or so people huddled together against the lashing rains and winds under the small tent. At one point, she walked over to a man standing outside the tent and offered her umbrella to him.

Melissa Johnson, mother of Timothy (“Timmy”) Johnson, the unarmed, 37-year-old Black man Fairfax County Police say was suspected of shoplifting two pairs of sunglasses from Nordstrom at Tyson Corner Center on the evening of Feb. 22. Johnson was chased by two FCPD officers of its Tysons Urban Team, Sgt. Wesley Shifflett and James Sadler, through the parking lot and into the woods. The officers discharged their firearms. One of the three gunshots struck Johnson in the chest, killing him. Shifflett fired the fatal shot.

Before the rally started, Johnson said, “Though I have a smile on my face, my heart is broken ... I volunteered to add my voice to help this go a little bigger and broader. Yes, this is about Timothy, but this is a justice rally for us to petition the leaders of this county here to do the right thing, for the right reason. So I’m glad that I am able to just stand here courageous and bold and to lend my voice.”

On March 23, within the 30-day requirement since the shooting, Chief Kevin Davis released and played the officer’s bodycam video and the store surveillance video at 4 ♦ THE CONNECTION ♦ APRIL 5-11, 2023



Melissa Johnson, mother of Timothy Johnson: “Though I have a smile on my face, my heart is broken.”

a press conference. Sgt. Wesley Shifflett was fired that day. Officer James Sadler remained on modified, restricted duty as the investigation continues.

During the rally, twelve speakers, including Michele Leete, president of the Fairfax NAACP; Carl Crews, the Johnson family attorney; Diane E. Burkley Alejandro of ACLU People Power; Reverend George Gilbert Jr. of the D.C. Center for Racial Equality and Justice; and Melissa Johnson, among them. There was no marching and no chanting.

Leete said that today’s mode of policing in the U.S. can be traced back hundreds of years and provides an understanding of why, in 2023, “a Black person is three times as likely as a white person to be killed by police.” According to Leete, the primary goal of the first publicly funded police department,



From left, London Lawrence and Debra Daniels

which began in Boston around 1838, was “protecting property.”

“Timothy Johnson was chased from a department store for stealing sunglasses, a chase that ended with his death at the hands of police. Yes, the difference between 1838 and 2023 all of a sudden doesn’t seem so far apart,” Leete said. “We’re here today to ensure that our elected officials understand that we won’t forget Timothy Johnson, nor the increase in officer-involved shootings over the last year.” Leete urged all to contact their U.S. Senators and press them to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021.

Crews drew attention to the police video camera footage right after Shifflett said, get on the ground; get on the ground. “At one minute, 37 seconds, you will hear a gunshot. Then at one minute, 39 seconds, you will hear another gunshot, and you will hear Shifflett say, stop reaching.” Crews said.

“The gunshot clearly occurred before the stop-reaching comment,” Crews said.



Diane Burkley Alejandro of ACLU group People Power Fairfax

“If I were to give Davis a grade, it would be incomplete ... [The second officer who discharged his gun] is still employed. Those procedures apply to him as well,” Crews said.

According to Crews, the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office said they need a few weeks to decide whether to bring charges. “Mr. Commonwealth, I would say this: We are waiting for justice for Timothy Johnson.... Justice delayed is justice denied.”

Steve Descano is the elected Commonwealth’s Attorney for Fairfax County.

Reverend Gilbert Jr. said, “It is clear that this was murder. ... We need this officer arrested. This is not a Black issue; this is an American issue. ... If you won’t stand for justice, just get out of the way.” Looking over the crowd, Gilbert said, “It’s people who want change, who are looking for change, who are demanding change.”



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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left, Ian Huang of Withered Fig menswear chats with customer Chris Ziedonis.



Manning the raffle table are (from left) Bre Balzano and Joha Pasam.



Sabrina Kidwai checks out a deviled-egg platter for sale.

Fundraiser for Rescue Workers is Big Success

Mode on Main by Mara held a fundraiser, March 26, in its Fairfax City back yard, raising more than \$4,000 for the White Helmets – the rescue workers helping Syrians devastated by the Feb. 6 earthquake.



Margaret Murnane of Asher Hill Farm sells art made from wine bottles and bed-springs, plus oxygen-tank windchimes.



Chatting by some Lucy Loves merchandise are (from left) Sharon Buttram and Darlene Fisher.



Prince Ahmad, owner of Touch by Prince, selling handcrafted all-natural soaps.



Stephanie Leedom, of The Swedest Things, with some of her baked goods for sale.

Women of Influence

FROM PAGE 3

“One of the components of our award is instilling equity within Fairfax City, and Janice helped initiate Fairfax City for All, which spearheaded changing the City seal and some of the monuments and street names,” said Whetzel. “She also supported affordable-housing development, the purchase of open space and expansion of the Economic Development Office to both retain and attract City businesses.”

In presenting Miller the award, Mayor Catherine Read noted, “There are so many things she’s done that’ll never make a list. Janice has been a part of so

many people’s lives – generations with fond memories of things she’s done for them, personally, as well as what she’s done for this City. So she’s every bit deserving of this recognition as a Woman of Influence.”

Thanking everyone, Miller said how honored she was to receive this award. She said that, when an opening came up on the School Board in April 1977, a friend said she should apply for appointment to it. “I had four small children then and wanted them to have the best educational opportunities,” explained Miller. “I also wanted to improve our school buildings and our community to

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.

SHEPHERD’S CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Adventures in Learning Spring 2023 Classes
Thursdays April 20 – June 8, 2023
Registration day: April 13, 2023
Register online or by phone: April 3-18, 2023
703-281-0538 or www.scnova.org
All Classes will be held on Zoom and in person at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Shepherd’s Center of Northern Virginia (SCNOVA) continues its Adventures In Learning (AIL) lineup of classes

with their Spring 2023 semester schedule that includes 40+ classes with a wide range of subjects - from Health and Wellness to National and World Affairs. The following are a few of the classes to choose from:

- April 20th- “Power Braining – Fitness for Brain and Body” – Mike Harrigan
- May 18th- “What is the Earth X Project?” – Paul Wormeli
- June 1st- “African American Trailblazers Exhibit/Liberty Amendments” –Gloria Runyon/Sylvia/DeeDee

Students may attend one or all of the AIL spring classes for a \$55 fee and are encouraged to create their own schedules. You have the option to attend classes all day or attend only one class depending on what your schedule allows. For a complete listing of classes or to register, visit the AIL page on the SCNOVA website at SCNOVA Adventures in Learning Spring 2023 or call the office at 703-281-0538.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 17

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TJ Team: NASA TechRise Winners

Proposed experiment to launch into stratosphere.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Four seniors at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ) have until May 5, 2023, to build an experiment with NASA after being named one of 60 winning teams nationwide for NASA's second TechRise Student Challenge. On January 12, winners Hayne Aung, Michael Liang, Nikhil Vallikat, and Aryamann Singh could begin building their scientific experiment on radiation for a NASA-sponsored suborbital balloon flight scheduled for June 2023 by AeroStar in South Dakota.

The students call their experiment "Radiation Shielding of Compositions of Polyethylene, Tantalum, and Molybdenum Disulfide." The team's experiment will be connected to the balloon's power and data before being mounted on the gondola and launched into the sky. The students are in TJ's Chemical Analysis and Astronomy labs, led by Dr. Brian Kennedy and Kelsey Stuart, respectively.

The TechRise Student Challenge is led by NASA's Flight Opportunities program and administered by Future Engineers, program administrators said in a statement.

"NASA's missions of tomorrow are sparked by the accomplishments of the Artemis Generation today in classrooms across America," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

Radiation challenges astronauts, according to Liang. People on Earth are safe from radiation as most solar particles are deflected by Earth's protective magnetic bubble, known as the magnetosphere. Any particles that do make it through are also suppressed by the atmosphere. Astronauts are not protected. "Radiation shields are probably the simplest way to do



SCREENSHOT

From left: Hayne Aung, Michael Liang, Nikhil Vallikat, and Aryamann Singh.

that," Liang explained.

Aung said they will measure the radiation that the Geiger counter takes in to compare the effectiveness of the different materials, polyethylene, aluminum, and carbon steel.

Experiments will collect data on the day of the flight as the balloons ascend to the target altitude of approximately 70,000 feet and float for at least four hours. While in flight, they will be exposed to the thermal and atmospheric environment, providing conditions for student experiments that cannot be replicated in ground-based tests. After four hours at float altitude, power will be cut to the experiments, the balloon will detach from the gondola, a parachute will deploy, and the experiments will descend. During landing and recovery, the location of the experiments is tracked, and every effort is made to recover them and return them to the team.

The team had already worked together on other projects, so they knew what they wanted to do going into the challenge. Liang said that

NASA awarded the school \$1,500 to construct their experiment, a 3-D flight box in which to assemble it (4 x 4 x 8 inches), and a spot on a NASA-sponsored balloon flight to test their experiment.

According to NASA, experiments will be mounted on the gondola frame that hangs from the balloon and rises to 70,000 feet.

Singh said they planned to order materials like sensors and Geiger boards from third-party vendors. "Regarding the coding and all the technical parts of the project, we'll be doing that ourselves with the help of NASA's mentors and Future Engineers," Singh said.

Liang acknowledged that the project is time-constrained. "But I think what we're really focusing more on here is not the scientific gain, but the educational aspect of it... a learning experience," said Liang.

A complete list of winning teams and more information on the challenge is available on the TechRise website. <https://www.futureengineers.org/nasatechrise>

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TJ Team Makes Finals of MathWorks

For 14 straight hours in early March, a small group of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) students came together to participate in an international online math modeling competition. A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a spot in the finals for the team, whose submission was selected as one of the best solutions to questions around the predicted growth of e-bike use and its impact on society.

The students – Rishabh Chhabra of Herndon, Om Gole of Fairfax, Rishabh Prabhu of Vienna, Jerry Sheng of Fairfax, and Laura Zhang of Vienna, who attend TJHSST – are being recognized as one of the six overall finalist teams and one of the three finalist teams for the Technical Computing Scholarship Award in MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge (M3 Challenge). The competition drew nearly 3,000 11th and 12th graders in the U.S. and sixth form students in the U.K. this year.

The TJ team, whose work underwent intense scrutiny by judges in the first two rounds of assessment, has one last hurdle on April 24, when they present their findings to a panel of professional mathematicians for final validation.

Using mathematical modeling, students had to come up with solutions to real-world questions: How many e-bikes will be sold in the next two years? Of the many factors that contribute to e-bike use and sales growth, which are most significant? For a given country or region, can we quantify the impact that e-bike use has on carbon emissions, traffic congestion, or other key factors?

A total of 650 teams submitted papers detailing their recommendations. Roughly 45% of those submissions included technical computing to support and enhance their solutions, and those coding skills make them eligible for additional scholarship prizes.

Now in its 18th year, M3 Chal-



Thomas Jefferson team, from left: Laura Zhang of Vienna; Om Gole of Fairfax; Jerry Sheng of Fairfax; Rishabh Prabhu of Vienna; and Rishabh Chhabra of Herndon. Math teacher Quinn McFee on right

lenge is a program of Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and is sponsored by MathWorks.

"These students worked so hard through their own independent research and applying background knowledge from courses at our school," says TJHSST teacher-coach Quinn McFee. "They have really expanded their statistical tool belts throughout this whole year of preparation."

Team member Jerry Sheng found M3 Challenge to be a foundational math experience that advanced his understanding of society. "My friend and I attempted M3 Challenge together for the first time last year. Going in with little experience in the field of mathematical modeling, we were immediately exposed to techniques and concepts crucial to analyzing any problem. This year, our team dedicated much time to preparing for

the Challenge. ... Math modeling gives us invaluable skills not only in math, but in how you tackle any question life may throw at you. Plus, this year's problem has persuaded me to buy an e-bike in the future."

To access this year's challenge problem, visit <https://m3challenge.siam.org/practice-problems/2023-problem-ride-wind-without-getting-winded-growth-e-bike-use>.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLYNDA MAYO HALL

Members of the Northern Virginia Business and Professional Women's Club.

Women's Club Holds Best Friends Luncheon

The Northern Virginia Business and Professional Women's Club hosted a Best Friends Luncheon, March 18, at Crystal View Events in Fair Oaks. The theme was "Women Providing Healing – Promoting Hope."

"The luncheon recognized the history of true friendship and the bond between friends," said club spokeswoman Glynda Mayo Hall. "A woman's best friend, male or female, positively contributes to her mental and emotional health."

The festivities included entertainment, shopping, line dancing and a fashion show. Proceeds from this three-hour event support scholarship, schools, women's shelters and other nonprofit organizations in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties. Based in Centreville, this club is part of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc.

-BONNIE HOBBS



From left are Sharon Prince, president, National Council of Negro Women, Loudoun County; Sherelle Carper, president, National Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc.; and Janet Ford, president, Northern Virginia Business and Professional Women's Club Inc.

CALENDAR

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Bull Run Post Office Road Proposed Through Truck Restriction Fairfax County and Loudoun County

Notice is hereby given that the Virginia Department of Transportation is accepting comments through May 8, 2023 regarding the approximately 5.7-mile proposed restriction of through truck traffic on Bull Run Post Office Road (Route 621) from Route 29 (Lee Highway) in Fairfax County to Braddock Road (Route 620) in Loudoun County.

The proposed alternate route for trucks is 15.7 miles via Route 29, Route 28 (Sully Road), Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Highway), Loudoun County Parkway (Route 606) and Braddock Road.

Submit your written comments to Mr. Thomas K. Folsie, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Bull Run Post Office Road Proposed Through Truck Restriction" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

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45th Annual Fairfax County Valor Awards

Celebrates nearly 200 first responders who went above and beyond.

By **MERCIA HOBSON**
THE CONNECTION

A select group of 193 public safety responders answered the call to serve, protect, and save lives in 2022, going above and beyond the call of duty in Fairfax County. On March 30, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce (GRCC) hosted the 2023 Fairfax County Valor Awards luncheon. Held at the Hyatt Regency in Reston, the event celebrated those brave responders of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, and Sheriff's Office, as well as the Vienna Police and Herndon Police departments and the Virginia State Police.

Before the ceremony started in the grand ballroom, award recipients, like Silver Medal of Honor Technician Sean O'Neill of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and Gold Medal of Valor recipients Master Police Officer Lance Guckenberger and



The Gold Medal recipients of the 45th Annual Fairfax County Valor Awards: (left) Police Officer First Class Matthew C. Grubb and (right) Master Police Officer Lance T. Guckenberger of the Fairfax County Police Department are joined by (center) Philip Assante of the Reston Chamber of Commerce.



Award.

Police Officer First Class Matthew Grubb of the Fairfax County Police, mingled with loved ones, colleagues, and others.

O'Neill said he and fellow Fire and Rescue personnel would receive awards because they "entered a structure without their protection of a hose line under heavy fire conditions."

"We have a saying, 'Risk a lot to save a lot,'" O'Neill said. "And if we know there are possible citizens to be saved, we will risk our lives to save them."



Chief Kevin Davis of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid and Fire Chief John S. Butler of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

O'Neill and members of his unit were dispatched for a fire call around two o'clock in the morning with reports of people trapped inside. "When we showed up, the personnel on my crew on Tower 8 conducted an interior search under heavy fire conditions and heavy smoke to try to locate the victims and provide access around the exterior of the house and ventilation operations on the roof. The search ended through our coordinated effort with multiple companies (within the county's Fire & Rescue Department). We located the victims."

A 9-year-old girl and her grandmother died due to the fire at the single-family home in the Falls Church area.

A steering committee composed of law enforcement agencies, representatives, the Sheriff's Office,

Greater Reston Chamber, stood nearby and listened to O'Neill's account. Kapur told O'Neill that he'd been responsible for writing a brief of every medal story to be heard during the ceremony. "Officer O'Neill has just given a very harrowing recap. When you get it directly from the person there, you are taken to the scene," Kapur said.

A 9-year-old girl and her grandmother died due to the fire at the single-family home in the Falls Church area.

A steering committee composed of law enforcement agencies, representatives, the Sheriff's Office,



Mingling and good times at the 45th Annual Fairfax County Valor Awards.



The national anthem at the 45th Annual Fairfax County Valor Awards- (second-row from left) Fire Chief John S. Butler of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department; Chief Kevin Davis of the Fairfax County Police Department; (first row from left) Thomas Arnold, Deputy County Executive for Safety and Security, and Mayor Sheila Olem of the Town of Herndon.

event sponsors such as Inova Hospital and Visit Fairfax, and members of the Fairfax County community selected the recipients, guided by specific criteria per category. Responders "would not otherwise seek such public acclaim," Kapur said.

There were five award categories: the Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, the Bronze Medal of Honor, the Silver Medal of Honor, and the Gold Medal of Valor, said Barry Biggar, head of Fairfax County Conventions & Visitors Corporation (Visit Fairfax).

"The Gold Medal is awarded to people whose lives were in immediate danger, and the incident required service way above and beyond what would normally be required," Biggar said. "Either weapons are involved, or their lives as first responders could be threatened."

A recipient of silver, like a recipient of gold, must go above and beyond the call of duty and what is expected. "Generally, it (silver) doesn't necessarily involve weaponry, but their lives are certainly in danger or threatened," Biggar said.

Chief Kevin Davis of Fairfax County Police and Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid attended the ceremony. Davis said, "Not only is this group elite, but I think every deputy sheriff and police officer who served in Fairfax County is part of an elite group. These particular officers, over the course of the last year, exhibited courage, bravery, and exceptional performances that led them to this moment of recognition today."

Kincaid added that the county's

Valor Awards are an opportunity to give deputy sheriffs, police officers, and first responders the recognition they deserve. "We're proud to be here. We're proud to share in what we do and how we do business, and more importantly, that we're able to celebrate our staff,"



The color guard representing all agencies honoring public safety heroes in our community kicks off the 45th Annual Fairfax County Valor Awards hosted by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce.

Kincaid said.

She stressed the importance of the family unit to her deputies, the

police officers, and firefighters. "It's so critical. To have the support of your family is something that you

need," Kincaid said.

GOLD MEDAL recipients Master Police Officer Lance T. Guckenberger and Police Officer First Class Matthew C. Grubb described what happened when they responded to an incident in McLean after a victim called to report that his roommate had shot him in the face. The victim had locked himself in a bedroom, but his assailant was attempting to break in and do more harm.

"The hostage at that point was injured. Given the circumstances, we knew we'd have to go in and rescue (him)," said Grubb. "Training kicks in, and it was like just another repetition for us."

After the smoke cleared, Guckenberger asked Grubb if he was sure he hadn't been hit. "Lo and behold, I was struck in the arm," Grubb said.

Officers safely extracted the hostage, then deployed a robot to locate the suspect. They talked him into surrendering without further incident.

According to Guckenberger and Grubb, when they returned to the scene later and walked through it, they saw where the bullet holes came through the wall while affecting the hostage rescue. "Intervention, for sure. Act of God definitely looking over us not to have gotten hit at that moment," Guckenberger said.



Valor Awards: Town of Herndon Police Department: Silver Medal of Honor-Lt. Mark Dale, SPO Henry Ruffin; Bronze Medal of Valor-Sgt. Damien Austin, Sgt. Joe Furman; and Certificate of Valor-PFC Bryce Cooper, with Captain Steven T. Pihonak, Chief Maggie DeBoard, and Mayor Sheila Olem of the Town of Herndon. "It was clear from the details of the valor awards bestowed on many today throughout Fairfax County that everyday officers risk their lives, without hesitation, to protect and save people they have never met. ... There is no nobler a profession," posted DeBoard on Instagram.

PHOTO VIA INSTAGRAM HERNDON POLICE



Silver Medal of Honor recipient Technician Sean O'Neill of the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department with his daughter.



Gold Medal of Honor recipient Police Officer First Class Matthew C. Grubb of the Fairfax County Police Department with his daughter Makayla, 16, and wife Cindy.

Chantilly House Fire Causes \$185,000 Damage

Fire officials say improperly discarded smoking materials caused a house fire, March 21, in Chantilly. The blaze displaced three occupants and did an estimated \$185,000 damage.

Firefighters were dispatched at 5:45 p.m. to the 13800 block of Leighfield St. First-arriving units discovered a two-story, single-family home there with fire and heavy smoke showing. Crews found an exterior fire in the back of the house had extended to the interior and the attic.

According to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, a passerby noticed smoke coming from the house and tried to notify anyone inside it. Getting no response, the passerby then called 9-1-1. None of the occupants were home at the time, but a dog with no apparent injuries was rescued.

Firefighters quickly got the flames under control and extinguished them. The house had working smoke alarms which activated. Fire investigators determined the fire was



Firefighters from West Centreville Station 38 helped quell this house fire in Chantilly.

accidental and started outside the home. During March, there have been two significant house fires caused by improperly discarded smoking materials, started on the

outside of the home. In addition, there have been a few relatively minor fires caused by improperly discarded smoking materials. The Fire Department reminds residents to “sink it or soak it” to help eliminate “this totally preventable cause of fire and keep Fairfax County safe. If you smoke, or know someone who does, please take a moment to learn how to prevent starting a fire outside. Residents are advised to:

- ❖ Never dispose of cigarette butts in potted planting soil. When it gets too dry, this soil can become highly flammable.
- ❖ Never flick cigarettes into mulch or shrubbery. Dispose of them in a suitable ashtray or bucket with sand.
- ❖ Ensure that designated, outside smoking areas have an appropriate fireproof container, ashtray or bucket.
- ❖ Completely douse butts and ashes with water before throwing them away, as they can smolder and cause a fire.

– BONNIE HOBBS

Sully Police Arrest Serial Burglary Suspect

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Basically, say Sully District police, “Proactive policing and knowledgeable cops help keep our community safe.” That’s because their prior knowledge of a local resident’s criminal history helped them apprehend the person they believe is responsible for several commercial burglaries.

On Sunday, March 26, an officer from the Sully District Police Station was conducting morning business checks when he saw a shattered front door at Megabytes Eatery, 14100 Sullyfield Circle in Chantilly. Police determined the burglar responsible for it had already left the scene and that cash was likely taken from the store.

Through surveillance footage, officers recognized the suspect, identified him as Talal

Date	Business	Address	Charges
3/14/22	Domino's	14120 Lee Hwy., Chantilly	Burglary, possession of burglary tools, and felony destruction of property
2/16/23	Dave's Seafood and Subs	4008 Walney Road, Chantilly	Burglary and felony destruction of property
3/7/23	Burger Shack	13661 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., Chantilly	Burglary, felony destruction of property, and grand larceny
3/8/23	La Confianza Supermarket	13665 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., Chantilly	Burglary, petit larceny, and misdemeanor destruction of property
3/26/23	Megabytes Eatery	14100 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly	Burglary and felony destruction of property

Hasan, 19, of Chantilly, and discovered he had outstanding burglary warrants. They then went to his home and took him into custody.

Hasan was charged with 13 crimes altogether – including five counts each of burglary and destruction of property. He was also served with several other warrants for burglaries that happened over the past two months – plus one incident from a year ago. (See chart). He was arraigned March 27 and is scheduled for a May 23 preliminary hearing.

Anyone with information about these events or others is asked to call the detectives at the Sully District Police Station at 703-814-7000. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

ROUNDUPS

Car Seat Inspections, April 6

Parents may get their children’s car seats inspected on Thursday, April 6, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It’s at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants should install the child safety seat themselves, so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for April 20, at the same place and time.

2023 Girls Fire and Rescue Academy

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue has set dates for the 2023 Girls Fire and Rescue Academy summer camp. There will be two separate camps, June 20 – 23 and June 27 – 30. The academy is open to rising 7th through 12th grade female students for the upcoming 2023 – 2024 school year. Participants for the free camps should be Fairfax County residents.

Learn more: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/girls-academy>

New Fire and Rescue Recruits Graduate

It was graduation day for 26 members of Recruit School 156 on Friday, March 24. The newest members are spread across FCFRD’s three shifts. Many of these “probies” begin working in a fire station over the weekend on A and B shifts. The remaining Probationary Firefighters are starting today on C-Shift.

Read and Feed at Libraries

Since moving to a fine-free model last year, Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) has replaced its popular annual “Food for Fines” drive with “Read and Feed.” This April, simply drop off food items at any branch to contribute. Donations will go to Food for Others for distribution throughout Fairfax County.

Experts say donations are needed now more than ever. Inflation means a double-hit for organizations like Food for Others, said Anna Slaten, Food for Others’s director of development & outreach. Last summer, donations were down 30% from summer 2021. “With inflation, not just our clients are feeling the effects, but our donors are also,” she

said.


At the same time, demand is increasing. With pandemic-era SNAP benefits ending, organizations are trying to be as prepared as possible, Staten said.

Food for Others provides for about 3,000 families each week and that number is rising, Slaten said. Food for Others is serving 44 Fairfax County Public Schools by providing Power Packs, weekend meals for students in need. A total of 3,500 students a week currently receive Power Packs, and another 13 schools are on the waitlist for similar help.

This January, FFO opened its Choice Marketplace, which allows its clients to select their food items in a grocery store setting. When the marketplace opened on Jan. 23, 330 families came through.

Throughout the month of April, community members can drop off unexpired, commercially produced food items to any FCPL branch during regular hours. Most needed items include: Oil, Cereal, Canned tomato products (crushed, peeled, diced, etc.), 4 oz. – 1 lb., Canned meat (chicken, turkey, or seafood), 2 oz. – 15 oz., Rice, 16 oz. packages, Spaghetti sauce, 14 oz. – 1 lb. (ideally in cans instead of glass), Canned fruit (packed in fruit juice instead of syrup) 11 oz. – 20 oz., Dried or canned beans (black, kidney, pinto, etc.), Pasta, Fruit juice (100% juice) 32 oz. – 64 oz., New or clean reusable grocery bags, Can openers.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: USE OF FORCE	NUMBER: 540
	EFFECTIVE DATE: August 12, 2022	REVIEW: August 2025
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY		
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:	CALEA 1.2.2, 1.2.10, 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.2.2, 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.4, 4.1.2.4	<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised: 03-1-21
	VLEPSC ADM.05.01, ADM.05.02, ADM.05.03, ADM.05.04, ADM.06.01	

SCREENSHOT VIA FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV

Fairfax County Use of Force Policy - General Order 540, particularly Section 6 B, #s 1,2, and 3.

OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING SUMMARIES BY YEAR										
STATION/YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
FAIR OAKS										
FRANCONIA	1	1		1						2
MASON										2
MCLEAN						1		2		1
MT VERNON	1									
RESTON					1					
SULLY		1								1
WEST SPRINGFIELD	1						1		1	
TOTAL	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	6

SCREENSHOT VIA FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV

Officer-involved shooting summaries 2013-2022

NAACP Rally for Justice: Police Reform Now; Accountability Now

FROM PAGE 4

Fairfax NAACP youth advocate Joel Pulliam said there would be no compromising or begging. “I want history to remember this day that Fairfax didn’t let this one slide. And to Chief Davis, understand you won’t be able to wait for the public’s anger to subside because we won’t let up. See, we’re stubborn, and we’ll see you rain or shine until either you change or you leave,” Pulliam said.

Kelly Hebron, chair of the Fairfax Democratic Black Caucus, said that each elected supervisor would be asked to meet with the Black Caucus to discuss a plan of action.

Diane Burkley Alejandro, the lead advocate for ACLU People Power Fairfax, said the Fairfax County Civilian Review Panel is a “good organization,” yet, “it has no teeth.” She argued that needs to change.

A statute passed in Virginia, SB 5035, Law-enforcement civilian oversight bodies, effective July 1, 2021, allows a civilian review board to have independent investigatory authority and the right to impose discipline.

“Fairfax, that views itself as a leader in civilian review, has fallen way behind. Alexandria has real teeth in their civilian review panel, (as do) Arlington, Richmond, Virginia Beach,” Alejandro said. Fairfax County’s Police Civilian Review Panel was established years before this statute was passed, but the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has the authority to increase its powers. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/>

Michelle Johnson stepped up to the podium. Referring to Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis, Chairman Jeffrey McKay (D), and Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano (D), she said, “I humbly acknowledge last week’s remarks and statements ... following the release of the camera footage... To each of them, I say, I am here. A grieving, strong,



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ CONNECTION

Fairfax County Government Center

and courageous Black mother, proud of her son, not having to defend his character or anything about his personal or judicial history, but to say he was my son. He was our son, and he was loved.”

Johnson said that we need police reform and the implementation of police procedures for the safety of our citizens, community, and those who serve. “This is not us against them. We value and need our beloved men and women who serve in uniform,” Johnson said. “The actions of one or two persons does not take away the good that law enforcement provides, and they risked their life to do each and every day. This is not that. This is one incident where we need the leadership of Fairfax County Police Department to hold those two officers responsible for violating their own policies.”

What was most difficult for Johnson, she said, was that, as a mother, she watched that camera footage. “I witnessed my son’s testimony as he lay there after being shot. Timothy yelled out, ‘I don’t have anything in my hand.’” Another officer could sense the impending danger to Timothy’s life. The officer called out three times for an ambulance, according to Johnson.

“Remembering my son’s last words, before he took his last breath, he said to that officer, ‘Hurry, hurry.’ I say that to you ... Chief, ‘Justice.’ I say that to you, Supervisor McKay; I say that to you, Commonwealth’s Attorney Descano. Hurry, hurry. Justice is calling. Hurry. ... This is why I am here. ... Timothy’s right to due process was taken away from him when both officers, ... not under any danger, imminent or otherwise,

willfully made a decision to pursue him, unholster their guns and fired their weapons.”

To learn more about the Fairfax County Police Department General Order governing the use of force, review General Order 540. https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/sites/police/files/assets/images/chief/generalorders/go_540.pdf

Some of Those Dead or Injured

Diane Burkley Alejandro lifted up a few of the names of community members shot, killed, or injured by Fairfax County Police and the Sheriff’s Office. “Virtually all of these are preventable,” Alejandro said. “We need police reform now. We need accountability.”

Timothy Johnson, 37, an unarmed Black man suspected of shoplifting, was shot and killed in 2023.

Christian Parker, 37, was shot and killed in 2022 after he did not drop a gun when police repeated the commands.

Jasper Lynch, 26, a transgender man shot and killed in 2022 while wielding a wine bottle at three officers.

Jiyoung Lee, 30, was shot in 2021 while living in a group home. “She had a knife, your officers were a lot bigger and could have used a Taser,” said Alejandro.

La Monta Gladney, 38, an unarmed Black man, was tased while speaking incoherently and walking around in circles on a street in 2020.

Amran Djama, 12 years old, in 2018, when a police chase of a truck ended with the truck crashing into a minivan, launching Amran through a window and leaving her brain damaged.

Natasha McKenna, 37, African-American woman with mental illness, was killed in 2015 after being tased by officers inside the Fairfax County Jail.

John Geer, 46, unarmed, after displaying a gun in a holster, was shot and killed in 2013.



Employer Aaron Urivez (at far right) talks about working at Nando's Peri-Peri Chicken restaurant while students sign up for more information.



Joellen Broubalow, director of Horizon Day Camp, watches happily as a student fills out a job application.



Misha Horbunov of High Sierra Pools talks to a student about becoming a lifeguard.

Teens Eager to Gain Experience

Students, employers enjoy career fair at Chantilly High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When sophomore Joshua “Shua” Michel left Chantilly High recently, he had a better idea of his summer plans than he did before entering the building. That’s because he got to speak with several employers there during a job fair.

Held March 25, the event was sponsored by Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), in partnership with the Connection Newspapers and Fairfax County Public Schools. The available jobs included full time, after-school, seasonal and volunteer positions, as well as opportunities for internships.

“I want to get a job this summer, but didn’t know what I wanted to do,” said Michel “I was a lifeguard last summer, but I want something different.” The two employers that stood out to him were Merrifield Garden Center and Horizon Day Camp.

“At Merrifield, I’d either work with plants, be a cashier or do loading – for example, putting mulch into customers’ cars,” he said. “And at Horizon Day Camp, I’d work with younger children as a counselor. It’s for kids with cancer, and their siblings, and my uncle recently passed away from cancer.”

In addition, since computer science is Michel’s field of interest, a County Park Authority representative told him they might be able to find an internship for him in that area. Happy that he attended the job fair, he said, “Kids don’t have much of an idea what the job possibilities are, so this opens their eyes to some of their choices.”

Meanwhile, Aaron Urivez of Nando’s Peri-Peri Chicken talked with students about available jobs at the restaurant’s Mosaic District, Reston, Springfield and Alexandria locations. Pleased with the strong turnout, he said 30-40 people came to his table within the first hour alone during the 2-1/2-hour event.

“We’re hiring for both front and back-of-the-house positions,” said Urivez. “So we’re



Joshua “Shua” Michel with some brochures from the job fair.

looking for food runners, cashiers and greeters in the front and people to do food prep and cooking in the back. We’ll train anyone to cook, as long as they’re willing to learn. We want to potentially help people change their lives and grow with us as well.”

Also there was Taunya Roberts, the restaurant’s senior manager. “We’re open to first-time job candidates and we’re excited about youth who want to start their career in the food and beverage industry,” she said. “We brought lots of brochures, explaining how they can explore with us.”

At another table was Joellen Broubalow, director of Horizon Day Camp at the Pozez Jewish Community Center on Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Delighted to participate in the job fair, she said, “I’m a teacher and I’ve enjoyed meeting kids passionate about our mission and motivated. It’s a really fun experience.”

Horizon provides one staff member for every four campers. So, said Broubalow, “I’m looking for people interested in working with kids and bringing the joys of childhood to them and their siblings with cancer. And since we’re a free camp, we’re also passing out information about our walkathon and our programs to help spread the word so we can continue to make this camp happen.”

Junior Zoe Jones came to the job fair looking for an internship she could do during her senior year. She was especially interested

in “writing jobs, things having to do with books, nature or horticulture, or analyzing data for the government.” So the jobs available at Merrifield Garden Center caught her eye. She said the job fair was “a good idea because it lets students know what jobs are out there and helps them get in touch with employers easier.”

As for freshman Shasin Timalsina, he came “to see what I should take in school for my potential career. I’m leaning toward the medical field, but I visited the Marines and Navy representatives and went exploring everywhere. It’s good to have this because, in school, you’re not connected to the real world. But here, you can see real-life jobs, plus stuff you can do around your community.”

Junior Ananya T. is an engineering student in the Chantilly Academy, so she “wanted to see if there were any internship opportunities in software engineering.” And Gateway fit the bill.

“It has a summer internship where you can get work experience,” said Ananya. “You need to know a bit of Java [computer-programming language] and would apply it there.” She, too, liked the job fair because “some of us don’t know how to transition from going to school to being in the workforce, so it was nice to see all the opportunities.”

Gateway co-founder MaiLinh Ho said it’s an educational company providing “upskilling and internship matching. Upskilling is training high-school and college students to improve on their professionalism and all the skills that make them employable and successful in their internships and beyond. We help set them up for success early, and we match them with healthcare, tech and business companies to work in digital media, research products, software engineering and medicine.”

Calling the job fair “amazing,” she said Chantilly’s was “particularly great” because students as young as middle school came. “They’re young minds eager to gain experience, and their parents were here supporting them,” said Ho. “We love to help students improve their local economy and empower them to find internship opportunities in their own backyards.”

Another employer, Misha Horbunov of



From left, sisters MaiLinh and HanhLinh Ho are Gateway’s co-founders.

High Sierra Pools, talked to students about becoming lifeguards. “We manage several pools in this area and need to hire as many lifeguards as possible,” he said. “Our business is growing, and we have multiple places with pools needing lifeguards. They must be at least 15 years old and have swimming experience, and we’ll train them in pool skills, CPR and using an AED [Automated External Defibrillator].”

“It was great to have this [event] today so we could tell people who we are and what we do and could give them information about our flexible schedules,” he continued. “This let people know we exist.”

There, too, was Kwon’s Champion School from Centreville. “We offer training in several different martial arts,” said teacher Alex Lalos. “And we’re looking for teens, age 15 and up, to help with our summer camps and after-school care positions. At summer camp, they’d help supervise kids during games and crafts and help with field trips to, for example, Chuckie Cheese, laser-tag and rock-climbing places. After school, they’d help kids with their homework when they’re not in their martial-arts classes.”

Also thrilled with the job fair, Lalos said, “We got more people visiting our table today than last year and got some good candidates. I was very impressed.”

Supervisor Herrity was also pleased with the turnout. “We had more than 50 vendors and at least 600 kids,” he said. “There’s nothing more rewarding than helping someone get their first job, and this gives our students an opportunity to interact with employers in a low-pressure environment, surrounded by their peers.”

ENTERTAINMENT

BLUEBELLS AND SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Lace up your hiking shoes, grab your camera and enjoy the ephemeral wildflowers that bloom in our parks. Ephemeral flowers are those that bloom temporarily. Their short-lived beauty allows them to grow and reproduce quickly before the canopy of the forest comes alive. Take advantage of the opportunity to get out, during this limited time, to see many of our native ephemeral blooms including bluebells, toad lilies, spring beauties, may apples and more!

Spring Wildflowers Programs

April 6 (9 to 11 a.m.): Spring Wildflowers at Scotts Run, Scotts Run Nature Preserve, \$10

April 13 (4 to 5 p.m.): Wonderful Wildflowers, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, \$7

April 14 (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.): Waterfalls and Wildflowers Hike, Scotts Run Nature Preserve, \$10

April 16 (10 to 11 a.m.): Wildflowers Walk and Craft, Burke Lake Park, \$8

April 30 (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.): Managing for Native Wildflowers, Riverbend Park, \$10

May 6 (Noon to 1 p.m.): Wildflowers Walk and Craft, Burke Lake Park, \$8

May 7 (3 to 4 p.m.): Wonderful Wildflowers, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, \$7

Bluebells Wildflower Programs & Events

April 8 (10 a.m. to noon and noon to 2 p.m.): Bluebells at the Bend, Riverbend Park, \$10 /\$12

April 16 (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.): Bluebells and Bloodroots, Riverbend Park, \$9

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 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 Photography Show"



An Epic Easter Egg Hunt will take place Saturday, April 8, 2023 at Christ Church in Fairfax Station.

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 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>

APRIL 6-9

King of Kings Lutheran Church - Holy Week Worship Schedule
Maundy Thursday, April 6 - 7 p.m.
Good Friday, April 7 - Noon and 7 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 9 - 8am and 10 a.m.
All Are Welcome! King of Kings Lutheran Church is located at 4025 Kings Way - Fairfax. For more information visit www.kofk.org or contact the church office 703-378-7272.

APRIL 4 TO JULY 27

Senior Slow-Pitch Softball Seasons. 9 a.m. to noon. At Braddock, Wakefield, and Nottaway Softball Fields. Join NoVa Senior Softball, men 50+, women 40+, average age 66. Skill-level assessment. 24 teams, three levels of play.
Tuesday/Thursday morning double-headers. Begin Spring Training now.
703-663-7881. Visit the website: www.nvss.org

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 5

Birds Urban Hazards. 10-11:30 a.m. At Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Anne Lewis, president of "City Life" will talk about hazards (e.g. buildings) to birds in urban areas who become disoriented during their migration season. Website: <http://narfe.org/chapter1159>

THURSDAY/APRIL 6

Visiting Filmmakers Series. 6-7 p.m. Online. Filmmaker Rebeca Huntt and Film at Mason Professor May Santiago will discuss Huntt's acclaimed new film, Beba, during this one-hour virtual Q&A. To register: https://gmu.zoom.us/join/register/WN_OEBDwob-9S1yMZnTj5f7JvA

NOW THRU JUNE 3

"Urinetown." 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero

Capital One Tower Road, in Tysons. Presents a one-act version of The Sleeping Beauty – Aurora's Wedding and George Balanchine's Theme and Variations. The Sleeping Beauty is a fairy tale story of true love and the power of good over evil. Set to the enchanting musical score by Tchaikovsky and the choreography of Marius Petipa the ballet still resonates as a beloved classic. Visit the website washingtonballet.org

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

McLean Earth Day Celebration. NOVA Natives Table @ Spring Fest. 10 a.m.-Noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Visit the Plant NOVA Natives table to learn about why native plants and trees are important to our ecosystem and human wellbeing! Match host plants to butterflies on a display board, view pictures of native plants and color and identify the native plants on the coloring banner. Free native plant seed giveaway and games.

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

Epic Egg Hunt. 1-3 p.m. At Christ Church, 7600 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Have an egg-stravagant time in one of our six age-specific egg hunts, while also enjoying games, dancing, crafts, hot dogs, Kona Ice (extra cost) and the Easter Bunny! Visit the website: <https://link-tr.ee/egg huntccva>

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Calling all cool cats to head to the Center for the Arts for a swinging evening of jazz with Northern Virginia's own Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, featuring keyboardist/organist Bobby Floyd on the Hammond organ and led by Founder, Artistic Director, and virtuoso saxophonist Jim Carroll.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

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NEWS

Natalia Kazaryan, piano



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PHOTO COURTESY OF JANICE DIXON

Attendees pose by Fairfax County's Vietnam War Memorial in Fairfax City.

Remembering the Vietnam War's Fallen and Missing

The Fairfax County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), held a 50th-anniversary commemoration ceremony last Wednesday, March 29, in honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day. It was held at Fairfax County's Vietnam War Memorial on the lawn of the Historic Courthouse in Fairfax City.

The DAR honored all Vietnam veterans who died or were listed Missing in Action and individually ac-

reading their names and placing a flower in a wreath at the memorial.

The more than 60 people attending included members of American Legion Post 177, VFW Post 8469 and the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), as well as family members of the fallen, plus residents also wanting to remember someone who served in that war.

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CALENDAR



“Urinetown” will be presented at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton now through June 3, 2023.

FROM PAGE 15

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

Easter Egg Hunts. Between 11 a. m.-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Cost \$8. Event full online registration required

EASTER AT LEWINSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lewinsville Presbyterian Church invites all in our community to come to our Easter Egg Hunts on Saturday, April 8th.

- ❖ Hunt #1 will be for pre-school children ages 2 through Kindergarten age 5 from 9:30 to 10:15 am.
- ❖ Hunt #2 will be for grades 1-3 at 11:00 to 11:45 am.
- ❖ And Hunt #3 will be for children grades 4-5 held at 12:30 – 1:15 pm.

Each hunt will begin in the Pavilion (the garden area to the north-east of the main parking lot) with activities and games. Egg hunts will follow in the garden surrounding the Pavilion.

Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday Services

Celebrate the joy of Easter with us at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church! They will have three services of worship:

The sunrise service will be held at 6:30 a.m. in our cemetery and will be led by the Rev. Layne Brubaker. This will be a small, informal worship setting in the location which has provided a final resting place for members of the Tysons-McLean community for more than 175 years.

The 9:00 a.m. Service of worship will be a traditional Easter service in the sanctuary. A brass quintet, tympani, the Lewinsville Chancel Choir, Choristers, and Handbell Choirs will provide glorious music of the season.

The 11:00 a.m. Service of worship will celebrate Christ’s resurrection with a joy-filled celebration featuring a Dixieland Jazz Band, drums,

and Lewinsville’s Chancel Choir, Choristers, and Handbell choirs. This service will also be in the sanctuary.

The Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey will preach at the 9 and 11 a.m. services on Raised with Christ, reflecting on Colossians 3:1-4 and Matthew 28:1-10. The 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services will also be live streamed on the website and on our YouTube channel.

Lewinsville Church is located at the corner of Chain Bridge Road and Great Falls Street in McLean.

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

Easter at The Perch. 9:30 a.m. At The Watermark Hotel, 1825 Capital One Drive South, Tysons. Egg hunt starting at 10 a.m. The fun continues into the afternoon with a slew of activities on the Great Lawn including yard games, a petting zoo with alpacas and bunnies, temporary tattoos, photos with The Easter Bunny, selfie stations, sack races, prizes and more.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

GREENDROP AT KING’S PARK SHOPPING CENTER

GreenDrop hosted a grand opening ribbon cutting last Thursday at Kings Park Shopping Center, 8970 Burke Lake Road, Springfield. Community members are invited to drop off gently used clothing and household items at GreenDrop’s donation center. All donations are converted into critical funds benefiting GreenDrop’s nonprofit partner, the American Red Cross. Items donated are not distributed to or by the Red Cross, but sold in bulk to raise funds for its charitable purposes.

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.

LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women’s softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org.

Here’s What’s Happening at MCC!

McLean Earth Day Celebration

NOVA Natives Table @ Spring Fest
Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m.-Noon

Free admission.
Registration is not required.

APR
8

McLean Earth Day Celebration

Native Trees of McLean and
How to Plant Them
Monday, April 10, 6 p.m.

Free and open to the public

APR
10

Old Firehouse Center Teacher Workday Trip

Indoor Waterpark
Friday, April 14, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

\$60/\$50 MCC district residents

APR
14

Give the Gift of Life

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday, April 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

For an appointment,
visit www.redcrossblood.org.

APR
14

Presented by The Alden

David Dorfman Dance:
(A)Way Out of My Body
Friday, April 14, 7 p.m.

\$25/\$20 seniors, students
\$15 MCC district residents

APR
14

APR
15

Special Events

Spring Community Parking Lot Sale
Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Free admission

Presented by The Alden

Chamber Music Series
The Borisevich Duo
Sunday, April 16, 2 p.m.

APR
16

McLean Earth Day Celebration

Personal Climate Action Planning
Tuesday, April 18, 1-2 p.m.

Free and open to the public

APR
18



The McLean
Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

Home of The Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

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Trash or Treasure?

Dealing with abandoned storage goods.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

The adage “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” has been repeated for centuries. It certainly could be the tagline for a number of popular new online services operating in Virginia and across the country which help self storage companies dispose of abandoned storage unit contents. When people who rent storage units don’t pay their bill, after a state regulated process, the contents of the unit go up for bid.

Online self-storage auctions are becoming increasingly popular. Perhaps it’s the opportunity to acquire merchandise at a bargain, the mystery of unknown contents, the thrill of betting on good fortune, or the prospect of potentially making a profit through resales, driving auction popularity. Auction services, such as CubeSmart, Lockerfox, and Storage Treasures provide regular on-line bidding auctions. Online auction services tout the opportunity “to bid in online storage auctions on a computer or other mobile device without having to step foot at a live auction.” Other moving and storage companies, such as Interstate Moving Relocation Logistics, a long distance moving company which operates a warehouse in Springfield, hold less frequent on-site auction offerings.

If you bid successfully, will you be the new owner of trash or treasure? It seems that’s where the mystery and chance come in. Potential online bidders are provided photos of the unit. The photograph may show some individual items or only jumbled cartons and boxes. Content comments provide only vague descriptions, such as “assorted boxes, furniture, household goods,” along with the storage unit size or weight. Bidding may start at \$10 online. Successful bidders typically pay a ten percent buyer’s fee immediately and have only a limited time to completely clear out and clean the unit. So while online technology provides the ability to participate in auctions in distant locations, bidders are wise to consider the logistics of reaching their bid treasures.

At InterState’s recent on-site auction, their first in recent years,

SEE TRASH, PAGE 19

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Legals

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TKC-1, LLC trading as Joon & The Kitchen Collective, 8045 Leesburg Pike, Store Nos. T3-120 and T3-L-160, Vienna, Fairfax County, Virginia 22182-2737. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant with Caterer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ben Farahani, Member of Member Ahani, LLC. Date notice posted at establishment: March 23, 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

Legals

ABC LICENSE

SGL Entertainment, Inc. trading as No 1 Golf Lounge, 5938 Centreville Crest Lane, Centreville, Fairfax County, VA 20121-2344 The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed beverage restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Boo Lee, President. 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.

Legals

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY
FILM NUMBER:
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NUMBER: 22 CVD 4523

NICOLE FENLEY,
Plaintiff)
vs.)
JOHN FENLEY, II,
Defendant)

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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.

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PHOTOS FROM STORAGEFEELRESOURCES.COM

Only on rare occasions will unit contents be obvious treasure, such these abandoned collector's items, final bid \$460.



Abandoned self storage unit content - is it trash or treasure? Final bid \$310.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Interstate's Kenneth Morrisette Jr conducts auctions as needed in the administrative process of dealing with abandoned goods.

Trash or Treasure?

FROM PAGE 18

three unit contents were on offer. Bidding started at, for the first, \$47,000 for eight containers weighing 11,420 pounds; for the second, \$9,950 for two containers weighing 3,700 pounds; and for the third, \$2,640 for three containers weighing 2,060 pounds. Do the high dollar values indicate a boom of treasure awaiting the successful bidder? The on-site auction conducted in the company's lobby provided no greater ability to know the contents than a reading of items, including books, clothing, furniture, speakers, garage equipment, ironing board, knick-knacks, bookcases, patio chairs, sectional furniture, etc.

The high dollar amounts associated with the units reflect the amount of unpaid rent, not the value of the contents.

There were no bidders at the InterState auction other than InterState itself. Under Virginia's administrative code processes for warehouse, the company's bid allowed it to claim legal ownership of the abandoned goods and dispose of them. InterState's vice

president, Kenneth Morrisette Jr., described the handling as "a very administrative process." He indicated the disposal is the final step and comes only after speaking with the owners, in some cases for many years, attempting to work with them on delinquent payments, posting a legal notice of intent in the local newspaper, and holding the objects, once regarded as their treasures, at any time in the process. A similar process provides relief for self storage business owners under Virginia Code §55.1-2900.

Self storage unit renters are considered delinquent after 60 days of unpaid rent. The owners lose their treasurers but typically the business writes the past due rental off as a loss rather than pursue a lengthy court process for recovery of lost payments.

What's next for these contents? It seems the treasures, though once coveted, protected and secured in paid rental space for months or years, could find a new place either in bidders' homes or through resale. Often they are destined to be re-designated as trash with a permanent home in the county's landfill.

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CENTRE VIEW

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.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

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.

The pandemic 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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Wading Into New Territory



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have been CT-scanned regularly/quarterly for 14 years. Occasionally, given my relatively "stable" existence, my oncologist has suggested increasing my scan intervals to four or even five months, up from the current three months. We have always resisted, especially Dina (being afraid the delay would allow a tumor to grow unchecked or to even get noticed in the first place). This suggestion by my oncologist was not made lightly. Given how well I've done, diagnosis-to-date, and how slowly the tumors in my lungs are growing, adding a month or two to the interval is not going to appreciatively tip the scales against me, according to my doctor. And lessening the amount of radiation, albeit comparatively low, that I'm/have been exposed to over these many years, is a side benefit, in addition to making my life less cancer centric (fewer appointments in hospitals). This suggestion is consistent with what my oncologist has regularly said over the years: that my quality of life was paramount. This new variable seems to have given us (Team Lourie) additional insight into the overall health risks possibly affecting someone who's been scanned as often as I have. (One of the side effects of exposure to radiation is, you guessed it: cancer. And since I already have enough cancer, Team Lourie, more so Dina, has consented to this change in scan frequency.) And in real time, now actually, I'll be getting my first scan after this new, longer interval.

To say I'm anticipating trouble is a bit of an overstatement. To say I'm worried about the consequences of waiting (scanning) an extra month or two longer than usual/normal, to see what's going on inside my lungs - where my papillary thyroid cancer has set up shop (and it's a big shop, apparently), is more accurate. Though the thinking/strategy for extending the scan interval still seems reasonable, faced now with the reality of it, is leading to some sleepless nights and stressful days. If I had it to decide over, I'd make the same decision. Still, this first go-around is a bit more challenging than I anticipated. It's hardly just another day in paradise, is it (as the Brits so often end their sentences with a question mark)? But as long as I'm still in the game, I'll never complain. And even though I've been scanned upwards of 75 times since my initial diagnosis in Feb. 2009, I don't ever take any results for granted. I take them as they come and try to take them in stride.

Still, after 14 years; introducing a new variable to my equation, this very familiar process seems sort of new again. It's as if I'm being scanned for the first time and trying not to think that my life hangs in the balance. Over time, especially considering the number of years I've been a cancer patient undergoing treatment, you develop a sense of rhythm in your life; you learn to navigate and schedule all the cancer-related activities/requirements/appointments so that it becomes routine. And in this routine, you're able (at least I was) live a relatively normal life where the cancer is not totally in control (of course the cancer is in control, but you're able to manage it, sort of, so your life isn't completely cancer centric). Unfortunately, increasing the interval between scans is not an indication that I'm in remission. Though it is an indication that I'm less terminal (if there's such a characterization), but as far as being out of the woods? I'm nowhere near the woods, let alone be out of them.

Though there's a new interval, the process by which I, as the patient learn about the results of the scan, has not changed. By an automatic 'process' scan results are emailed to me by the radiologist, perhaps even before my oncologist has even had a chance to review and even comment on them. What the patient receives is right out of the radiologist's pen. All medical jargon. After a few years of reading these documents, I know where to look for answers. There are two obvious lay-person-type sections. One is called "Impressions." The other is called "Findings." It is under these two headings where, sprinkled amongst the medical jargon, you'll find most of what passes as familiar English. I read it and re-read it trying desperately to discover its meaning. And though I wouldn't want to bet my life on my interpretation of the report, that's exactly what I'm forced to do, since I receive it before my oncologist, and I have spoken about/discussed the results. Granted, it's not perfect, but the release of this information is almost immediate, sometimes even the same day as the actual scan. So even though I'm now waiting an extra month or two for the regular scan than I have been having for years, I am not waiting any longer than usual to receive the report from the radiologist. Thank God! I've spent more than enough time already waiting for results over these last 14 years.

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



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