

Home LifeStyle

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Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

The three Republican candidates for Sully District supervisor: From left are John Litzenger, Brian Schoeneman and John Guevara.



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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Facing the audience and preparing to debate are (from left) Brian Schoeneman, John Litzenberger and John Guevara.

Eyes on the Prize

Republican candidates for Sully District supervisor debate the issues.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

School Board member Kathy Smith will be the Democratic candidate hoping to replace the retiring Michael Frey (R) as Sully District supervisor. But the Republican candidate will be chosen April 25, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., at a Firehouse Primary at Westfield High.

That's because three Republicans — John Litzenberger, Brian Schoeneman and John Guevara — are vying for the job. So to help voters choose which one they'll vote for, the trio held a debate Monday night, April 6, at the Sully District Governmental Center.

Fairfax County Clerk of the Court John Frey moderated, asking questions provided by the audience of about 50 people.

Q: Will you hold the line on taxes?

Guevara: "I've knocked on over 1,200 doors; people tell me to roll back taxes, and businesses say, 'Get rid of the BPOL tax.' There's over 15 percent vacant office space in Fairfax County, and having the BPOL tax, too, doesn't help the economy. We can't raise taxes 'til we get our economic house in order and grow the businesses here in Sully."

Litzenberger: "You grow the economy and grow the tax base and keep the tax rate the same. Taxes are chasing businesses out of Fairfax County. And you've got to decrease the property-tax rate when home assessments go up."

Schoeneman: "If we reject the BPOL tax, we've got to find \$150 million in revenue to replace it — and [similarly] for the property-tax rate. So we need to

fund core government services, while cutting other spending and services. I'd increase the number of jobs to increase the tax base."

Litzenberger: "To get the Democrats on the Board of Supervisors to go along, you need good negotiating skills, and I've been able to do it. I also chair the CIP Budget Committee."

Guevara: "You can't negotiate with tax-and-spend liberals. We need new leadership to attack the problems attacking our businesses today. That's how the economy grows."

Schoeneman: "Republicans on the Board of Supervisors need to provide an alternative budget that funds our priorities and shows our ideas."

Q: Instead of using the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC), some [day] laborers still stand outside the library, waiting for jobs. In 2002, [some places passed] legislation making loitering illegal. Would you bring its enforcement to the supervisors for a vote?

Litzenberger: "Having them hang out on the corner is wrong. We need to pressure elected federal officials to make the borders secure. I'd bring it before the board and watch it get defeated [since the board's mainly Democratic]."

Schoeneman: "I'd bring it up for a vote and, if it failed, I'd find another way to get them out of there. The problem is that they're not doing anything against the law. People keep hiring them from in front of the library; they should go to the CLRC instead. And make sure the contractors [that people] hire don't hire from [the street]."

Guevara: "I commend Michael Frey for supporting the CLRC. People need to voice their opinions to their federal officials. If standing there were made illegal, I'd support it 100 percent."

Q: Residents are concerned about cell-

SEE EYES ON THE PRIZE. PAGE 4

Reducing Congestion, But Adding Students

Proposed plan amendment would allow homes at Stonecroft/Westfield boulevards.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Across Stonecroft Boulevard from the Sully District Governmental Center in Chantilly are 50 acres of undeveloped, vacant land. And an amendment to Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan for this site is now being reviewed.

The property's owned by Akridge, which hopes to build upscale townhouses and apartments there. But since the plan currently recommends office, hotel and industrial uses there, it would have to be amended to add high-density residential uses, too, before any homes could be constructed.

So Clara Johnson, with the Planning Division of the county's Department of Planning and Zoning, explained the details during the March 17 meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee. And a discussion of the pros and cons followed.

"Transit isn't programmed for this area, and there's no mechanism to transfer density from one area to another," she said. "A change in use to residential would reduce peak traffic congestion. But it would generate new students to Cub Run Elementary, Stone Middle and Westfield High. We estimate 78 elementary students; 21, middle school; and 39, high school."

Those numbers attracted At-Large Planning Commissioner Jim Hart's attention. "What's starting to concern me is that we need a 35-acre site for a high school," he said. And in the county's CIP (Capital Improvement Program), the anticipated cost for a new high school is \$120 million.

He further noted that the Trinity Centre in Centreville filed an application to switch from office use to apartments, and Timber Ridge (near Herndon) wants to change from mixed-use to apartments and townhouses.

"If we're looking at them all, at some point, there are impacts on schools, parks and libraries that we haven't anticipated," said Hart. "The cumulative effect may be much greater than we'd intended with office uses. So is [county] staff looking at the big picture?"



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Clara Johnson explains the proposal to the WFCCA Land-Use Committee.

"Yes," replied Johnson. "We met about it with school staff and identified the [possible school] sites for them. And I've asked for follow-up information on school capacity." But Hart stressed that, until a site for a high school is found, neither the county or school system will know exactly the area it'll serve.

Sully District Planning Commissioner John Litzenberger asked about the impact if senior-citizen housing, instead of townhomes, were built on the Akridge site. Johnson said it wouldn't generate as many students. And Litzenberger added that studies show seniors avoid rush-hour traffic, so that would also be a benefit.

"There's a 40-percent shortage of senior housing here," he said. "So we should consider the best use of this [land], considering all the parameters of schools, traffic, etc."

Johnson said the county also examined the amenities nearby for high-quality homes. "This property is separated from its surrounding office uses by Route 28 and Westfields and Stonecroft boulevards," she said. "So staff thinks there's an opportunity for a residential neighborhood to create its own identity — and that there are enough services and shopping areas nearby for it. And office use in this area could aggravate the already congested Westfields/Stonecroft intersection."

WFCCA's Carol Hawn asked

SEE ADDING HOMES?. PAGE 12

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Poodle Skirts and Rotary Phones

Liberty Middle presents the musical, "Bye Bye Birdie."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast of 60, the iconic musical, "Bye Bye Birdie" will burst upon the stage at Liberty Middle School. Show times are Thursday-Saturday, April 16, 17 and 18, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 during school lunches and at the door.

"The kids are doing a fabulous job," said Director Jody Scott. "They're supportive of one another and are so excited about all the dance numbers. Our soloists are outstanding and the actors have even been rehearsing in their spare time because they really want to do the best job possible."

The story takes place in both New York and Sweet Apple, Ohio, in 1958. Rock star Conrad Birdie is drafted into the Army, and his manager wants to make a last bit of money off him before he leaves. So he holds a random drawing to have Conrad get a farewell kiss from a female fan on TV's "Ed Sullivan Show."

Portraying the manager, Albert Peterson, is eighth-grader Patrick Kaczmarek. "Albert's a pushover and a mama's boy; he'll do anything to make her happy," said Patrick. "But his girlfriend of eight years wants him to marry her, already."

Patrick enjoys playing someone other than himself and says it's helped him "come out of my comfort zone. I was drawn to Peterson because he's such a nice guy. He makes everybody happy, and I like being that kind of person."

Patrick also likes his song, "Healthy, Normal, American Boy," because "it has an upbeat tempo and I dance to it. The music goes from a march to a sweet ode." He said the audience will like how the story ends and, he added, "There's a nice twist."

Classmate Meghan Molina plays Peterson's girlfriend, Rosie. "She's an inde-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Rehearsing a scene of the mayor presenting the key to the city to Birdie are (from left) Savannah Lagana, Maxwell Leitch, Ian Stewart, Patrick Kaczmarek, Meghan Molina, Melissa Friedrich, Mychal Eichenlaub, Caleb Renaud, Zoe Kaiser, Savannah Gregory and Hrishik Rangaraju.

pendent woman who knows what she wants," said Meghan. "And she wants Albert, who won't stand up to his mother. But Rosie wants Mama out of the picture so she and Albert can marry and he can become an English teacher."

"I love playing Rosie because she's strong and sassy and has a really good personality," said Meghan. "And I get to sing some great songs, including 'What Did I Ever See in Him?' It's fast-paced and, since Rosie's angry at Albert at the time, I have to show a lot of emotion while singing it."

Meghan says the audience will love the show because "it has lots of jokes and Miss Scott and Mr. [Gary] Verhagen [the assistant director] are just fantastic. And the cast is really funny and put a lot of work and

effort into making this play great."

Portraying Conrad Birdie is eighth-grader Ian Stewart. "He's an Elvis-like figure and a teen heartthrob," said Ian. "Everybody knows who he is. He goes along with the contest because he knows his manager knows what's best for him."

A Liberty chorus member, Ian likes his role because it's mostly singing, with several solos, and Conrad "does humorous things throughout the play." His favorite song is "A Lot of Living to Do" because "it has vivacious movement and music. And it describes what 1950s teenagers liked to do to have fun with their friends." As for the show, he said people will enjoy its quick pace, plots twists and turns, music and dances.

Classmate Savannah Gregory plays Kim

MacAfee, the 15-year-old contest winner who lives in a little, rural town in Ohio. "She thinks she's all grown up and has life all figured out," said Savannah. "She's perky and follows through on her ideas."

"So she's fun to play because she's spirited, happy and energetic," continued Savannah. "But she's also a dramatic teenager and can get really mad. She always stands out and thinks she's more mature than everyone."

Savannah especially likes her solo, 'How Lovely to be a Woman,' because "it's upbeat and cheerful. It's also ironic because Kim doesn't accept that she's a teenager." Overall, she said the audience will like the love story between Rosie and Albert, the group songs and dances, plus the '50s sets and costumes.

The cast has been rehearsing since November, and Scott's filled the stage with period props — many of which were foreign to her young thespians. For example, she said, "We're using real rotary phones, and they've had to learn to hold them close to their ears."

Regarding costumes, the boys will dress in button-down sport shirts and fedora hats. Girls will wear pedal pushers [short pants], poodle skirts, house dresses and vintage purses, hats and gloves. Scenes will take place on the New York streets and in Albert's office, train stations, Kim's house and a movie theater.

Scott said Choral Director Bryan Case has done "a wonderful job teaching all the songs," and Verhagen "is both my right- and left-hand person in making this show come to life." As for the audience, she said, "People will like how each actor reacts to what the others are saying and doing; and the audience will be taken back to 1958, a simpler time. And the singing is truly captivating and will draw the audience into the story."

ROUNDUPS

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, April 9, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Meeting about Leland Road

A meeting about the future of Leland Road in Centreville will be held Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Hosting it are Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) and the Fairfax County Department of

Transportation (FCDOT).

Currently, the county's Transportation Comprehensive Plan calls for the extension of Leland Road, known as the Leland Road connector. It would connect to Old Centreville Road at the present 90-degree turn with Braddock Road, traversing the edge of the Royal Oaks property.

However, Frey made a motion to consider removing the extension from the plan. FCDOT reviewed his request and has proposed an alternative for Leland Road. The purpose of the meeting is to present and discuss both plans and obtain community input on them.

Learn about Roundabout Plan

VDOT will hold a "Pardon Our Dust" informational meeting about the roundabout slated to be built at the Braddock/Pleasant Valley roads intersection. It's scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, from 6-8 p.m., at Stone Middle School, 5500 Sully Park Drive, in Centreville.

View more information on the project at

http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/braddock_and_pleasant_valley.asp.

Recycle Old, Unwanted Electronics

To recycle old electronics, come to the Sully District Police Station parking lot Wednesday, April 22, from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., to drop off unwanted electronics so they may be properly recycled. The station is at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

Acceptable items include: Computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, batteries (no liquid batteries allowed), scrap computer metal, mainframes, servers, racks, wires, cords, communication systems, televisions, digital cameras and cell phones. For more information, go to www.westfieldscorpcenter.com.

Long-Term Care Advocates

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Eyes on the Prize

FROM PAGE 2

phone towers in their neighborhoods. What's your position?

Schoeneman: "We need to balance the need for public safety with the rights of the residents. We'd need to do it on a case-by-case basis. The towers are ugly and detract from property values."

Litzenberger: "I've fought [some] battles over them. But people like their cell phones and tablets and want good service."

Guevara: "A tower also brings in money to the school allowing it. Yes, they're ugly, but they're getting better. Our needs for data and public safety drive the need for cell towers; and this public/private partnership with companies is essential to growing the economy."

Q: The community at large opposed the roundabout [at Pleasant Valley/Braddock roads]. Will you force the project's re-evaluation?

Guevara said he'd do it if that's what his constituents wanted. Litzenberger said he tried for a stoplight there, instead, to no avail. And Schoeneman said the decision's already been made, the project's going ahead and the Sully supervisor probably couldn't do anything about it by the time the winner takes office in January.

Q: What tax cuts would you reverse or make?

Schoeneman wants to reverse the library cuts. He'd review every core government service to see if it's needed, doing what it should and doing it efficiently. Guevara doesn't want SACC (School Age Child Care) funding cut. And he'd consider automating some jobs to eliminate some full-time county employees and save money.

Litzenberger would also restore library funding. "The school system is still driving \$11 million of bus seats around for kids who drive themselves to school," he said. "I'd cut that money and give \$7 million of it to the libraries."

Q: How would you vote on affordable housing projects?

"It depends how you define 'affordable,'" said Schoeneman. "We need to not subsidize people who can afford it, but the people struggling to get by."

Litzenberger is against subsidized housing, but for low-cost housing that helps grow the economy and is near new businesses. Guevara said affordable housing should have an incentive for economic growth. "But at WFCM, I've seen teachers come in for groceries and gas money," he added. "So it's important to have compassion and lend a hand."

Q: Do you support the supervisors' pay increase?

All three candidates were against it. Guevara said School Board members shouldn't receive raises, either, especially when the economy isn't growing. "It's a slap in the face to county residents," he said. Litzenberger called the raises bad for county employees' morale, and Schoeneman said he'd donate the extra \$20,000 to charity.

Q: What's the biggest problem facing the supervisors? How would you solve it?

Schoeneman said there's a "crisis in confidence" in government and supervisors should be more open and transparent so voters can trust that their elected officials are doing the right thing. Guevara said transparency takes courage and everything should be on the table when making budget cuts. Litzenberger said the main issue is the \$100 million budget shortfall and, if people are open and transparent, they'll develop new ideas to reduce spending.

Summing up

Guevara: "We need to keep Sully Republican. I've talked to people and gotten to know the issues affecting Sully District. You want to elect a supervisor who's lived here a long time, but also a fresh, new face that represents our party and reflects our conservative values to defeat Kathy Smith in November."

Litzenberger: "Based on my 12 years working for the county, I know how to get things done. And I've worked with both Democrats and Republicans on the Housing Authority and Planning Commission to accomplish things. You've got to talk with residents and business owners, and I've got the time to do it. Remember my name on April 25."

Schoeneman: "You've got three, solid candidates; but this race is about making the board do what we want to do and represent the citizens of Sully. So in the next 19 days, find out about us. Elections are about who you think is the best person for the job. I'm going to work for your ideas and dedication."

Raising Money for Police Unity Tour

All during April, Glory Days Grill in Centreville will donate 10 percent of all food and drink receipts to the upcoming Police Unity Tour, May 9-12. And area residents can contribute toward the cause. The Tour is a 230-mile bicycle ride that benefits the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund honoring federal, state and local law enforcement officers who've died in the line of duty. Locally, the ride goes from Richmond to Charlottesville, to Warrenton to Washington, D.C.

Centreville's Kevin Whalen, a former federal agent, will participate for his 10th year with the Tour's Chapter IV contingent, led by Fairfax County police. And Glory Days, at 13850 Braddock Road, in the Old Centreville Crossing Shopping Center, is helping with his fundraising for the event.

To lend a hand, Whalen will need people's original, detailed receipts from Glory Days. Email him at kevwhalens@gmail.com for his mailing address. Donations to the Tour may also be made at his fundraising page, www.tinyurl.com/kevwhalen.

— BONNIE HOBBS



Kevin Whalen

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



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Meet Republican Candidates for Sully Supervisor

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Backgrounds of the GOP contenders.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Three men are competing in the Republican primary to run in November for the Sully District supervisor seat being vacated by incumbent Michael Frey. They are John Guevara, Brian Schoeneman and John Litzenberger.

John Guevara

John Guevara has lived in Sully 15 years and in the area for 21 years. He has a wife and two sons and was a Signal Corps officer in the Army for 15 years. He's coached CYA sports, taught Sunday school, is a former homeowners association president and is the vice president on the WFCM (Western Fairfax Christian Ministries) board of directors. He's also an IT manager, a consultant who manages large projects for the federal government and commercial businesses.

"Since I've lived here, real-estate taxes have gone up 140 percent and the inflation rate has increased 47 percent," said Guevara. "Only 37 percent of Hispanics and



John Guevara



John Litzenberger



Brian Schoeneman

20 percent of black students in FCPS are ready for college. There's a \$2.6 billion school budget, but the results don't match up."

"I want an effective and sustainable leadership for Sully," he continued. "And I am that fresh vision and new leadership."

John Litzenberger

John Litzenberger is the Sully District planning commissioner and has been on the

county Planning Commission for eight years. He also served four years as Sully District housing commissioner. He and his wife have three children and have lived in Centreville 35 years. He's coached CYA and SYA sports and also coached at Centreville and Westfield high schools. He was an Air Force pilot for more than 30 years and founded an aviation-services company.

"I'm running for supervisor to defend the quality of life in the Sully District," said

Litzenberger. "If elected, I'd focus on improving the economy, increasing revenues and growing the tax base."

"I helped coordinate \$7 million worth of athletic fields and \$13 million in road improvements, without tax dollars," he said. "I know how to get community amenities from developers — and there's a three-to-four-year learning curve to learn all that. And I'm retired military, so I'd be a full-time supervisor."

Brian Schoeneman

He's lived in the county more than 10 years, and he and his wife have one son. He's a small-business owner and attorney, and he's been on the county's Economic Advisory Commission since 2011.

"I've learned that, no matter what our differences are, we all want good schools, roads and transit; a government that's responsive and listens; and representatives who'll step up and fight for people," said Schoeneman. "My vision is informed by my faith and shared Republican ideals."

"We need an environment where businesses can flourish without red tape and we can restore trust in government," he continued. "And we need elected officials who are open, honest and transparent. If elected, I'll work hard every day to make sure Sully's the best place to live, work and raise a family in America."

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OPINION

A Big Election Year in Virginia

Register, research, vote. And vote again.

Every year is an election year in Virginia. Here are a few examples that demonstrate that while elections are ubiquitous in Virginia, they are neither simple nor unimportant. Wade in, a lot depends on figuring this out and voting. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of candidates.

The choices begin April 23.

Almost every state and local elected office in Virginia will be in play. Democrats will choose their candidates in the primary on June 9. Republicans will choose candidates for individual offices at caucuses, firehouse primaries and conventions, beginning April 23 and finishing by June 9.

For example, the Republican candidate for Sully District supervisor will be chosen in a firehouse primary on Saturday, April 25 at Westfield High School, with three candidates seeking the nomination to replace retiring Michael Frey. The three candidates are Brian Schoeneman, John Guevara and John Litzenberger, and the winner will likely face Democrat Cathy Smith on Nov. 3. Smith is vacating her Sully District School Board seat to run for Sully District supervisor.

This year's elections begin May 5 with elections in the Town of Vienna with three candidates vying for three positions on the Vienna Town Council. For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>.

There are similar chains of musical chairs happening in the Mount Vernon district, with District Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D) retiring,

and Democrats Jack Dobbyn, Dan Storck, Candace Bennett and Tim Sargeant seeking the Democratic nomination to replace him. Democrats will choose their candidate in a primary June 9 at usual polling places; Republicans have scheduled a canvass on May 16 at Sherwood Regional Library.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, all 10 members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot including district members and the chairman. Also on the ballot: all members of the School Board including district members and three at-large members; Constitutional Officers Sheriff, Clerk of Court and Commonwealth's Attorney; and three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board Directors.

Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly will be on the ballot, including all State Senate and House of Delegates seats. With several key retirements, including Del. Rob Krupicka (D), Del. Tom Rust (R) and Sen. Toddy Puller (D), it's clear that there will be some change. Del. Scott Surovell (D) will give up his seat to run for Puller's Senate seat, so the musical chairs continue.

IN ARLINGTON, the General Election on Nov. 3. will include Virginia Senate (30th, 31st, and 32nd Districts), Virginia House of Delegates (45th, 47th, 48th, and 49th Districts), County Constitutional Offices (Clerk of Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, and Treasurer), County Board (two seats), and School Board. In Arlington, staggered terms on the County Board and School Board mean that there are two seats on the County Board and one on School Board up for election.

The Democratic party will select its nomi-

nees for County Board and House of Delegates, 45th District, on Tuesday, June 9.

Republicans will select their nominees for all offices at party meetings or caucuses, to be held at dates to be announced.

The Republican party has until June 9 to select nominees. Source: <http://vote.arlingtonva.us/elections/>

IN ALEXANDRIA, aside from the five Democratic candidates seeking the nomination to replace Krupicka, only one Democratic candidate qualified for the primary ballot for Virginia State Senate (30th and 35th Districts) and House of Delegates (46th District) and only six Democratic candidates qualified for the primary ballot for City Council, so no primaries for those offices will be held. In addition, only one Republican candidate qualified for Virginia State Senate (39th District) so no primary for that office will be held. Source: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections>

The Republican Party will be nominating its candidates for Mayor, City Council, Virginia House of Delegates (45th and 46th District) and State Senate (30th and 35th District) through a party canvass. Check with the Alexandria Republican City Committee for more information, www.alexgop.org.

The Democratic Party will be nominating its candidate for Virginia State Senate (39th District) by a method other than a primary. Check with the Alexandria Democratic Committee for more information, www.alexdem.org.

Don't miss any of this. Check that you are registered to vote at your current address by visiting <http://elections.virginia.gov/>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM

On the Banks of Bull Run 150 Years Ago

BY PAUL GILBERT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NOVA PARKS

One hundred and fifty years ago, on the same day General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Fairfax County witnessed the last gun battle of the war.

Just five months earlier, Confederate Col. John Mosby had been authorized to expand his force that had effectively harassed the Federal forces around Washington.

On Saturday, April 8, half of Mosby's force left Upperville on a mission to attack a train on its way to Alexandria. On Sunday, April 9, the same day Generals Lee and Grant were meeting to sign the Confederates' surrender,

the Southern Rangers were nearing Burke where they were going to attack the train station. At this time, the Federal forces at Fairfax Station heard of Mosby's forces and sent the 11th Illinois Cavalry under Captain Warner to intercept them.

For four or five miles, the two groups engaged in a galloping fight. Once they formed into battle lines against each other, but the rest of the time Union Cavalry chased Mosby's Rangers towards Bull Run, the stream that served as an informal dividing line between the Fairfax County that was under Federal control, and Prince William and Loudoun counties that were less secure from a Union perspective.

Mosby's forces crossed the stream at Wolf

Run Shoals in the Clifton area, and the Union forces did not chase them any farther.

The next day, two of Mosby's Rangers who had been involved in this fight were talking and Lt. James Wiltshire remarked, "Has it never struck you as being a notable fact that the first big fight of the war occurred on Bull Run and the last shots of the war in Virginia were fired on the banks of that same stream?" The bookends to the Civil War in Virginia that Wiltshire was referring to was the First Battle of Manassas, and this last fight in Fairfax County the day that Lee was surrendering 150 miles away.

Today NOVA Parks owns most of the Fairfax County side of the Bull Run and Occoquan rivers, an area rich in history.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Running For Morgan

To the Editor:

On April 20 of this year, I will be running my fourth Boston Marathon in honor of a beautiful little girl who is six years old and battling brain cancer from Center

Moriches, N.Y. (Suffolk County). Her name is Morgan Leary and she was suddenly and unexpectedly diagnosed with a PNET brain tumor (Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumor) on Aug. 15 of last year. Unfortunately, her tumor is aggressive and she has undergone several brain surgeries to remove as much of the tumor as possible. She

is also currently undergoing chemotherapy and radiation in the hopes of controlling her terrible disease. Like Morgan, 10 years ago I was diagnosed with a brain tumor in the spring of 2005. I was scared and thought my life would never be the same again. I had my first surgery in the spring of that year and was determined to not

let my illness limit what I could do in the future. I would fight to regain my abilities and to push my boundaries, if only to say I am still here and fighting. Having run several marathons before my diagnosis, I slowly learned to walk and run again and was able to complete the Marine Corp Marathon

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Chantilly CONNECTION

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D.C. Design House McLean showcase home opens to the public April 12.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Local interior design enthusiasts will have an opportunity to tour a much-anticipated unveiling this weekend when the 2015 Design House opens in McLean on Sunday, April 12 at noon, with ticket sales benefiting the Children's National Health System.

The 8,869-square-foot home was built by Artisan Builders and designed by Harrison Design to look like an old American farmhouse. Then, 24 local designers were chosen to design a room in the home — the eighth annual design house — using inspiration that ran the gamut from American art to the home's natural surroundings. Organizers hope the varied styles will make the home's design appear to have evolved over many years.

THE KITCHEN was designed by Paul Lobkovich and Emily Neifeld, of Lobkovich Kitchen Designs in Tysons Corner. Antique white walls accented by a custom hood in both black and stainless steel create a simple, but elegant gathering space.

If this kitchen is the hub of a home's activities, then the butler's pantry is where the preparation for those celebrations begins. That notion was the inspiration for Margery Wedderburn's design. "This butler's pantry is the celebration of a good life," said Wedderburn, of Margery Wedderburn Interiors, LLC in Vienna. "One enters the heart of the home, the kitchen and family room, through this butler's pantry, so the room is casually elegant, but doesn't take itself too seriously. It is happy, bright and fun."

"This home was designed to have a country farmhouse feeling, and we were inspired by the architecture plus the Virginia coun-

D.C. Design House

956 Mackall Farm Lane, McLean, will be open to the public starting Sunday, April 12, noon-5 p.m.

♦ **Regular Hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday evenings 5-8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. (Visitors must arrive one-half hour before closing time to take the tour.)

♦ **Last day:** Sunday, May 10, noon-5 p.m.
♦ **Admission:** \$30. Purchase tickets at www.dcdesignhouse.com or at the door.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER/D.C. DESIGN HOUSE

The 2015 D.C. Design House opens to the public on Sunday, April 12.

tryside," she said, explaining that nature was also a big inspiration. "We have the casual green leaf wallpaper, plus we designed a custom, faux-wallpaper on the ceiling which looks just like repurposed wood. We bring the outdoors in with the green and blue tones of the space, including the fun peacock color, which ties in with our peacock feathers in the umbrella stand."

Even the chandelier is peacock, and the Sisal rug features blue stenciling, while green and blue stripes on the back of the closet tie everything together. Meanwhile, accessories give the space a contemporary feel. "Because this area of McLean is so cosmopolitan, we wanted to give a nod with stylish, hip vases, barware and details that move the space forward into the next decade while complimenting the past," said Wedderburn.

Another active hub of the home is the back stair hallway, which connects all three floors. Although it's windowless, designer David Benton's goal was to create a warm, welcoming and stylish space. "Using furniture, lighting and accents, we visually divided the hall into two zones," said Benton

of RA Spaces, the interior division of Rill Architects in Potomac, Md. Benton even created a "virtual window" with a commissioned painting, "Old Dominion Sky."

The first-floor space is accented with a custom, tufted bench and unexpected pops of color to create a formal space between the butler's pantry and dining room. "The hall space that connects the garage, mudroom and kitchen is anchored by a console table and wool rug," said Benton.

Open shelving and a built-in desk offer additional display areas. Benton finished the space with a chandelier by Circa Lighting and photo art. Those accessories "deliver fresh takes on period furnishing," said Benton. "The classic Eames bright blue fiberglass shell chair introduces an unexpected Americana twist."

One of the design challenges Benton faced on the second floor was creating an aesthetically appealing area rather than a simple connection between two spaces. He decided to transform the walls into a dramatic backdrop using wallpaper by Cole and Son that features silhouetted stems of cow parsley against an etched background.

"Like the house, which feels like it has been added to over time, we wanted the interior to feel like an acquired collection of pieces," said Benton. "The useful storage bench and custom sweater rug give the space warmth and style. The fun and inexpensive swag light is another way we added flair and utility."

INSPIRED BY A SAILING TRIP through the fjords of New Zealand and by the bright oil-on-canvas painting, "Mountains and Sea," designer Lisa Tureson, of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill, created a powder room that she said resembles "a little art gallery."

Tureson hung a custom, hand-etched mirror and eight paintings in the space. "My goal was to create a pictorial space since I'm an artist and painter," she said. "The subtle sparkle on the walls ... adds pizzazz."

When designing the room known as the gentleman's retreat, Scott Cooke, of Scott Cooke Design in Alexandria, wanted to "honor the architecture of the house itself, with a room that's rustic in nature, and that feels in sync with the time period the house evokes," he said.

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Frey Hosts His Last Town Hall Budget Meeting

County, schools face lean times.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE CONNECTION

Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey oversaw his last Town Hall Budget meeting on March 25. The topic of the meeting were the Fiscal Year 2016 budget proposals for both Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools.

Both Fairfax County Chief Financial Officer Susan Datta and Fairfax County Public Schools Chief Operating Officer Susan Quinn expressed concern over their respective budgets, as revenue sources for the county have under-produced relative to previous years. Quinn said the only reason FCPS was able to start with a mandated balanced budget was because they took \$20.7 million from reserves.

In spite of the less than encouraging financial news, Frey addressed the attendees of the Town Hall Meeting with a heartfelt thanks for the many positive experiences he had in his 24 years of public service.

"For me it has been 24 years and this will be my last budget meeting," Frey said. "After 24 years, I will not seek re-election. It is time for me to move onto something else and for new leadership to come on. So thank you for the honor and privilege you have given me to represent you."

Frey also prefaced the budget presentations with a weary view of Washington.

"Being as close as we are to Washington D.C., that is really what drives our economy," he said. "We continue to see our economy staying and staying and of course at the same time we are seeing continued growth in needs demands and services of the school system. Language issues and special needs student populations are growing and they do a wonderful job in the schools. But it doesn't come cheap. It costs money. We continue to face challenges."

Fairfax County's Proposed Budget, totaling \$7.13 billion and presented by Datta, reflects the slow economic growth that Northern Virginia is seeing overall. The lo-



Sully Supervisor Michael Frey welcomes attendees to the annual Sully Budget Town hall meeting, to his right are Susan Datta, Director Fairfax County Department of Management and and School Board memebr Kathy Smith.

cal economy is underperforming compared the national economy, with only a 0.4 percent job growth in 2014.

"We are seeing effects of sequestration and the federal government's inability to pass a budget," Datta said. "There has been lackluster job growth. In 2014, we created about 5,000 jobs, which is opposed to more than double this in 2013. We are not going to see a change in revenues until this changes."

She said that 64 percent of all revenue comes from real estate taxes, while residential real estate values are growing slowly and commercial real estate values are falling.

"We are really in a stagnant situation," Datta said. "Not only are we not getting better, but we are getting a little worse. We are growing at a rate less than what we were last year. Residential values are growing at about half the rate of last year's and commercial values are actually declining. We are going to really have to make tough decisions as we go forward."

The county has about \$98 million of additional revenue to address the county's needs in 2016. Two-thirds of it will go to the school system for school operations and

debt services. The remainder will go to county programs.

Fairfax County is one of only 37 counties in the United States that has a triple A Bond rating, and the county will strive to preserve this. However, the rating agency has expressed concern over the state of Fairfax County's accounts. "We have a bank account of about five percent," Datta said. "The rating agency believes this is not sufficient. We really need to be cognizant that we have to put some money on those reserves."

The total reductions in the 2016 budget amount to \$26.9 million and affects mostly county agencies.

"This is not the first year we have made cuts in the county budget," Datta said. "We have done this since 2008. Our revenue growth is about 2.5 percent with the current real estate tax rate, and that is really small."

Budget cuts won't affect defibrillators throughout the county.

Trish Nyberg asked where the defibrillators fit into the county budget.

"We just had someone saved yesterday, at Lee District Park," Datta said. "So every county facility has one, every school has one. It is funded out of our self-insurance fund. We have heard such wonderful things. It worked, and we are thankful."

Due to concerns for the 2017 budget and beyond, the county is in the process of establishing Lines of Business reviews (LOBs) for the Board of Supervisors to determine what programs are nice to have but not essential. LOBs should be ready for the board to review by the beginning of the next calendar year.

There is a \$7.5 million difference in the FCPS proposed budget and the county's budget, said Quinn, who echoed Datta's concerns about the county's financial situation.

"We have proposed a very pragmatic budget for 2016," Quinn said. "Revenues aren't really keeping pace with the requirements and expenditure increases. There has been a cumulative budget reduction since 2008

of nearly \$435 million and more than 2,175 positions have been eliminated."

She said FCPS focused on keeping the classrooms intact, so most reductions were aimed at eliminating central support.

Trish Trosciancki of Virginia Run asked how ESOL success was tracked, given that it is a considerable part of the FCPS classroom budget.

"ESOL represents 17 percent of the budget, so \$117 million is for ESOL," Trosciancki said. "But no reports on proficiency levels over time. What is our return on the program?"

Quinn responded that specific statistic may not be readily available, but said, "Typically, if students start with Level One of the program, and it goes up to level 6, they typically do come out ahead within those 5 or 6 years," Quinn said. "When you compare their achievement to the other populations, their success rate is a bit higher so we know we are getting a great return on that investment."

IN RESPONSE to the Sully District Council member Jeff Parnes's question about tracking the ESOL students after leaving FCPS, Quinn said, "We are working on tracking our ESOL graduates beyond high school graduation."

Ted Trosciancki asked where revenue comes from for unfunded requirements from state and local governments.

"As shareholders, we need to go to the board of directors," Trosciancki said. "If they are forcing requirements on us, then we have to say 'show me the money.'"

Quinn replied that there are budget documents that will be released to show revenue sources.

Of the \$2.6 billion operating budget, Quinn said, "this is a very realistic budget."

Unfunded yet identified needs include lower class sizes, family and early childhood education programs, student technology and connectivity, innovation, preventative and major maintenance, and replacement equipment, buses and vehicles.

"We are woefully behind with replacement equipment, buses and vehicles," Quinn said.

While enrollment has continued to grow, and is projected to grow through 2020, the county is spending less per pupil than they did in 2009.

Salaries are becoming less competitive for FCPS employees as expenditures increase, which Quinn attributed to enrollment growth, full-day Mondays and elementary school class sizes.

With total savings of \$55.4 million, Quinn said the Board of Supervisors has not missed looking at any potential revenue source.

"We've looked under every rock within our budget," she said. "We had a shortfall in our beginning balance. In 2015, we had \$20.7 million more than we have for 2016. We have to be able to sustain. We have been balancing our budget based on reductions, and we are looking forward to a strong partnership with the county to come up with solutions for balancing our future budgets."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Chantilly Baseball To Host McLean

The Chantilly baseball team will host McLean at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8 in a rematch of last season's 6A North region championship game.

The Chargers captured the 2014 region title with a 12-0 victory.

The Chargers advanced to the state final, where they lost to Western Branch, 6-4.

Chantilly is off to a 5-2 start in 2015. Two days after facing McLean, the Chargers will host Centreville at 6:30 p.m. on Friday.

Westfield Girls' Lax Starts 3-1

The defending state champion Westfield girls' lacrosse team returns from spring break with a 3-1 record.

The Bulldogs defeated Hilton Head 19-1 on March 30. Westfield also has wins against Stone Bridge and Herndon.

Westfield lost to St. Anne's-Belfield, 20-7, on March 21.

The Bulldogs will travel to face Woodgrove at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 9 and will host Robinson on Thursday, April 16.

ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Sully Historic Site. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Enjoy guided tours of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first Congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/senior and child. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

Singing. 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires rehearse every Wednesday which includes training by an award-winning director. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for more.

"Creating Across the City." Through June at Dulles International Airport. Three organizations; Critical Exposure, The National Building Museum and ARTLAB+ have teamed up for "Creating Across the City: A Teen Art Showcase," which provides an outlet through art and design for creative local teens.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

2015 Summer Programs. Registration is now open for the following Fairfax County Public Schools summer camps. Students should register for programs based on the grade they are in during the current 2014-15 school year. Visit www.fcps.edu/is/summer/index.shtml for more.

❖ **Tech Adventure Camp** will be held July 20-31 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for students currently in grades 5-7. This camp allows students to explore careers and technology by rotating through eight areas including graphic design, automotive technology, culinary arts, television production, robotics, and computer technology.

❖ **STEM Camp.** Held in two sessions at Robinson Secondary School: July 6-10 and July 13-17 both from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., daily. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Camp is a one-week camp for students currently in grades 3-5 to explore careers and technology as they rotate through activities focused on science.

❖ **Elementary Institute for the Arts.** Held July 13-24 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 3-5, E-IFTA offers participants a total immersion in the arts as they rotate through classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art.

❖ **Institute for the Arts.** Held July 6-30 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 6-11, IFTA allows students to create, perform, experiment, and explore—all in various music, dance, visual art, and theatre venues.

❖ **Robinson Extended Day Adult and Community Education Enrichment.** Programs will be held July 6-31 at Robinson Secondary School and will begin after Tech Adventure Camp, STEM Camp, IFTA and E-IFTA end. These programs are for students currently in grades 1-11 and will provide a continuum of activities for students who want additional programs and activities. Programs will include the Foreign Language Experience Program (FLEX), Culinary Adventure Camp, Language Immersion Camp, Creative Writing, Computer Graphics, and Chess.

❖ **Credit Recovery Academy.** This program will be held at Fairfax High School for students seeking credit for high school level courses. Students will be able to take one course during each of the two sessions from June 29-July 16 and July 20-Aug. 4.

❖ **Online Campus.** For credit recovery, acceleration, and enrichment for middle school and high school students. Health, Physical Education, and Geometry Honors run June 29-Aug. 4; all other courses run July 6-Aug. 4.

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

Kid's Korner. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Preschool-aged kids will learn about Bluebells. Admission is \$5 per child. Call 703-631-0013.

Live Music. 10 p.m. at Bungalow Billiards, 13891 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. Percussion and electric banjo set by Megan Jean and the Klay Family Band. Free. Visit

www.headyentertainment.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

Wagon Ride and Campfire. 6:30 p.m. at Cabell's Mill, 5235 Walney Road, Centreville. Take a wagon ride, enjoy a campfire and make s'mores. There is a \$6 fee. Call 703-631-0013.

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Animal Search. 8-9 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Naturalist Jim Dewing will lead a trek to discover the animals that inhabit the park. The fee is \$5. Call 703-631-0013.

Historic Tour of Southern Maryland. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Walney Visitor Center, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Visit the homes of President Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth and his co-conspirators Mary Surrat and Dr. Samuel Mudd and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

"Eye in the Sky." 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Claude Moore Education Center, Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Smithsonian Techquest is an alternate reality game designed to test observation, problem-solving and decision-making skills. free. Visit www.airandspace.si.edu/events/techquest.

Build Your Own Birdhouse. 2-3 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn to build a nest box for your backyard. Kits are \$15 each. Bring your own hammer. Call 703-631-0013.

Beer Class. 3-5 p.m. at Total Wine & More, Greenbrier Town Center, 13055-C Lee Jackson Highway. Learn a lesson in Belgian beer. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.totalwine.com.

"A Civil War Portrait." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive. The Fairfax Symphony Pops Orchestra will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. Tickets are \$27-45. Visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

Pink Floyd Tribute. 9 p.m. at The Bungalow, 13891 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. Hear local musicians Nikhel Susm, Jon Brady, Brian Zupruk, Jeff Hunter and Brian Paubacher give a tribute to Pink Floyd. Free. Visit www.headyentertainment.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 12

A Touch of Japan. 3-5 p.m. at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Experience traditional Japanese teas, treats and trinkets. Tickets are \$27. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ or call 703-222-4664.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Nature Tots. 10:15-11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Toddlers may explore the park through sight, sound, smell and touch. Cost is \$4 per child. Call 703-631-0013.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

Tree Trek. 9:30-11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Jim Dewing will lead a tour of the biggest, oldest and rarest trees in the park. Tickets are \$6. Call 703-631-0013.

Earth Day. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn about the changing environment and how to recycle household items. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-631-0013.

Vinyasa in the Vineyard. 11 a.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. The Winery at Bull Run is offering a "Stretch & Sip." Tickets are \$15. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 19

Bluegrass & Barbecue. 11 a.m. The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Bluegrass bands will accompany barbecue provided by Bad to the Bone. Free. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

Washington Wedding Experience. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Find fashion shows, vendors, and workshops. \$10. Visit www.weddingexperience.com.

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. The Northern Virginia NTRAK Members will hold an N gauge model train show. Admission for museum members is free;

\$4 for adults 16 and up; \$2 for children. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

Annual 5K and Candlelight Vigil. 4:30 p.m. at 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax. Find a resource fair, live music, walk, and vigil in honor of crime victims. Free. Visit www.ovc.gov.

MONDAY/APRIL 20

Centreville Garden Club. 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Discover the influence of Scottish Gardeners on Mt. Vernon's horticulture. Free. Visit www.centrevillgardenclub.blogspot.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 24-25

"Shrek: The Musical." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10690 George Mason Circle. Pied Piper Theatre presents the familiar Shrek Tale set to music. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children. Visit www.hyltoncenter.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 24-26

Chantilly Library Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Large selection of fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children, plus DVDs, CDs and audio books. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

SATURDAY/APRIL 25

Centreville International Showcase. 6-9:30 p.m. at Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Find international food, music and dancing from around the world. Admission is free. Visit www.centrevilleinternationalshowcase.org.

USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore's fundraiser. 6 p.m. at Marriott Dulles Airport Hotel, 5020 Aviation Drive, Sterling. This annual event raises funds to support the USO Lounge which supports military families as they travel. Find a full course dinner, cash bar, silent auction, raffles, dancing and

more. Individual tickets are \$45, tables are \$400. Visit www.uso.org/WashingtonBaltimore.

"Curtains." 7:30 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 26

"Images of Rails." 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Visit a photo exhibit of Virginia railroad sites. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; children 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

"Shrek: The Musical." 3 p.m. at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10690 George Mason Circle. Pied Piper Theatre presents the familiar Shrek Tale set to music. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children. Visit www.hyltoncenter.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 30

Sushi Night at Bull Run. 6:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Learn to make your own sushi while drinking Bull Run Wine. Tickets are \$59. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1-2

"Curtains." 7:30 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

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The Fact Is Not Yet The Matter

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I don't know which is worse: the extra-special, extra-expensive, dental cleaning (the kind that requires Novocain and involves the actual dentist, not merely the hygienist) that I have scheduled for April 8th – or my next hopefully-not-do-or-die CT Scan, moved up a month from my usual three-month interval because of a suspicious formation seen on my most recent scan back in mid-February. Either way, the next two Wednesdays following by the fort-night Friday, April 24th appointment with my oncologist – to discuss the scan results from the 15th, should be noteworthy in the life of this cancer patient.

To think that my cancer-affected life is going to just roll along with nary a blip in assessment, treatment, protocol, scheduling, availability, etc., is both totally unrealistic and wishful thinking of the highest naiveté. And if anything can be said about yours truly, it is that I am well aware of, and reasonably well adjusted to, the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune with which I have been forced to live, live being the applicable word, these last-six-going-on-seven years.

Given that symptoms I've felt previously – or not felt previously – have, on varying occasions, been positive and negative, feeling or not feeling has never been a sure-fire indicator of anything. As an example, one time I felt a pain in my chest/lungs (where I know the biggest tumor is located); it turned out to be scar tissue growing over a shrinking tumor, a good result. Another time, the same pain/same area indicated the tumor was growing, a bad thing. In general, feeling something has sometimes meant nothing and feeling nothing has sometimes meant something – and vice versa. I wouldn't say I was damned if I did and damned if I didn't, but I would say – with apologies to Oliver Hardy: It's a damned fine mess in which I find myself so regularly entangled. And apparently, from what I understand, the only thing likely to change in the future is nothing. And as fortunate as I am, compared to so many others who have succumbed to this terrible disease, being present and discussing even a problematic future – six years post-diagnosis – is as good as it gets for a patient originally diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer. Still, it doesn't (and I mean never) minimize the stress.

Somehow, managing this process/experience has to include a methodology for managing expectations and minimizing that stress. Moreover, anything one can do to lighten the load emotionally, and build in some positive reinforcement and words-to-the-maybe-not-so wise, goes a long way toward accomplishing some level of relative peace and perhaps even a little quiet.

Of course, the process is Imperfect – with a capital "I." There are always bad days; you just want your share of good ones, too. Acknowledging what you can't control and being grateful for what you can helps to compartmentalize and find that balance between living in the present and dying in the future. Some days, doing "normal" things – like visiting the dentist, seem to help. Other days, it feels pointless. Oddly enough, it all sort of mirrors my symptom history: it matters, it matters not. I just hope that on April 24th, the matters don't hit the fan.

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

six months later. Since then, I have run many marathons, the Boston Marathon, and finished three Ironman Triathlons, including the 2012 Kona Ironman World Championships. Along the way, I have had two brain surgeries and multiple surgeries related to my bladder function including a bladder augmentation and a neurostimulator. I have also dedicated myself to help raise brain cancer awareness and toward finding a cure, especially for pediatric brain cancer, which is the second leading cause of death for children.

In September of 2014, I met Morgan Leary and her twin sister, Emma, and immediately fell in love with this wonderful family. Being a typical young girl, Morgan loves to take swimming lessons, play soccer, and especially to run, which she does according to her grandmother, "with her arms pumping and running with all her heart." Now she is confined to a wheelchair and spends all of her time inside the NYU Medical Center and has not been outside the hospital since August. Morgan should be attending 1st grade at Clayton Huey Elementary School in Center Moriches, N.Y.

As I push my physical boundaries and continue to run, I hope to use my abilities for those that are not able to walk or run, and to bring attention to the need for increased research funds to help cure brain cancer. To help raise awareness for herself and the many other children, Morgan has graciously and beautifully decorated my New Balance 880v4's, with which I will run the 119th Boston Marathon. It will be my honor to wear the shoes and when I push through the difficult sections of the run and climb Heart Break Hill, I will think of Morgan and the many other children and young adults I have met that struggle with this disease with a smile on their face and hope in their hearts.

BethAnn Telford /TEAM BT

For more information about BethAnn Telford or to contribute to her fundraising efforts, go to www.teambt.org.

Based on Character

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my support for John Guevara for Sully supervisor. John has been my neighbor for five years now. He is a great neighbor. He and his family are warm and caring people. John is known in our neighborhood as the guy to ask to borrow tools or ask for a favor. He and his sons are always there for me during winter to shovel snow.

John is an Army veteran. My son served, too. He was killed in action. I can't begin to explain the hurt. John and his family were there for me and my family during those tough days and I'll never forget that. His character really showed. When I was in bed after surgery, John and his wife watched over me. I am so grateful to have his friendship.

His policy positions are certainly appropriate and right for Fairfax County, but when I cast my vote on April 25 I will be voting for John Guevara based on his character. We need politicians who are selfless and caring, and that's the John Guevara I know.

Donna Green/Fairfax

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Route 657 (Walney Road) Bridge Replacement
VDOT Project 0657-029-396 (UPC 82214)

Bridge Detour To Begin April 13

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has begun work on the Walney Road Widening and Bridge Replacement project.

IMAGE FROM VDOT

The project will replace and widen the 85-foot-long Walney Road bridge over Flatlick Branch and widen Walney Road from two lanes to four lanes from the Walney Road/Westfields Boulevard intersection to Willard Road. To replace the Walney Road bridge, Walney Road will be closed from Westfields Boulevard to Mariah Court from April 13 to Sept. 1. This closure is required for relocation of existing utilities and for bridge replacement and construction. Access to all Mariah Court properties will be maintained throughout the duration of the project. All private and commercial entrances within the project area will remain open for the duration of the project.

Adding Homes?

FROM PAGE 2

whether the county is considering making the whole, Akridge site residential. But Johnson said it's just examining the option to add it as another approved use there.

"Some locally serving, support retail could be part of the mix, but it would be predominantly residential," she said. "It would still have the office option. We need to see if there are advantages to having homes there and if it's in the best interests of the Dulles Suburban Center [in which the land is located]."

"If, because of the sinking office market, everybody's going to want to do other things, we need to look at everything holistically," advised Hart.

And Litzenberger said the county's "already had inquiries about the Long & Foster parcel along Route 28 [in Centreville], and two parcels along Walney Road. But is this the best thing for Fairfax County?"

"We took great pains not to make this precedent-setting, but just about this site only," answered Johnson.

Still, said WFCCA's Mark McConn, "It worries me that, if you take large land groups out of the Route 28 Tax District, it would have a big impact on the district and the community as a whole. When the district was created in 1988, we wanted to reserve that corridor for commercial use."

Johnson said she believes the developer would compensate the county for future, lost revenue. But Litzenberger said that might be a question for Planning Commission consideration.

"We've known for decades that the roads can't support the maximum development potential for the Dulles Suburban Center," said Johnson. "So we need to encourage uses that produce less [vehicle] trips than office. The county strategy for years has been to balance employment areas with residential, and this plan is modest in terms of intensity."

The proposed Plan amendment is slated for a public hearing before the county Planning Commission next Wednesday, April 15, at 8:15 p.m. But Litzenberger said the hearing could be held, as scheduled, but decision deferred until after the WFCCA's next meeting, which is April 21.

That way, the WFCCA will have time to receive and read the final staff report on the matter and make its own recommendation to the Planning Commission before it renders its decision. The issue will then go to the county Board of Supervisors for a public hearing on Tuesday, June 2, at 4 p.m.

BULLETIN BOARD

THROUGH APRIL

Kindergarten Registration.

Greenbriar West Elementary School, 13300 Poplar Tree Road, Fairfax, is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Parents of students within Greenbriar West's boundaries, who will turn 5 years of age by Sept. 30, 2015, should call the school office at 703-633-6700.

TUESDAY/APRIL 14

Ladies' Book Club. 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Torah, 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. Call 703-217-8938 or visit www.BethTorah.net for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 16

Kindergarten Orientation. 3 p.m. at Colin Powell Elementary School cafeteria, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Newly registered kindergarten students and parents are invited to attend orientation. Parents will receive an overview of the curriculum. Call 571-522-6000.

THURSDAY/APRIL 16

Kindergarten Registration/Orientation. 2:30 p.m. at Greenbriar East Elementary School, 13006 Point Pleasant Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-633-6400.

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