



'To Kill a Mockingbird' At Westfield High

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From left: Eni Oyeleye (as the defendant) with Zachary Szmerekovsky (his attorney, Atticus Finch) and Kaley Haller and Andrew Sharpe (Finch's children) in Westfield's "To Kill a Mockingbird."

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Wildcats vs. Cancer club members with some of the hats they collected for young cancer patients.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VALERIE NGUYEN

Wrapping gifts with CYA for the holiday party for pediatric oncology patients are (back row, from left) Nathan Pedro, Diana Rodriguez Rosales, Jacinda Huynh, Melody Sepehrar and Rithika Kormath Anand; (front row, from left) Dayana Bustillos, Valerie Nguyen, Shanon Lyons, Gianna Cooper and Crystal Kim.

Joining Together to Help, Support Others

Meet Centreville High's Wildcats vs. Cancer club.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Centreville High sophomore Valerie Nguyen founded the Wildcats vs. Cancer club at her school to help others. But for her, the battle against this disease is also personal.

"I'm the sister of a sibling battling cancer and I was inspired by a one-week, residential camp I attended for brothers and sisters of cancer patients," she said. "I was a counselor-in-training there, working with other siblings like me. And I realized that, no matter the age, we all faced the same struggles daily. So I wanted to give back to other families in the same situation."

The result was Wildcats vs. Cancer, which club president Nguyen started with her best friend, junior Shannon Lyons, the vice president. It began in October 2015 and now has 42 members.

"At the same time Valerie's sibling was diagnosed, I had a friend battling cancer," said Lyons. "So I scheduled and participated in Pajama Day for him. Kids come to school in pajamas on a Friday and each donates \$1 or more for childhood-cancer research."

The club meets once a month and usually holds monthly events. In January, it teamed up with DC Candlelighters and Pediatric Specialists of Virginia (PSV) — a group of Inova hospital doctors who treat children with cancer. Nguyen spoke to them about the club and also told parents how teens can become involved in it.

"And while she was speaking, our club



Wildcats vs. Cancer club members volunteering at a pediatric oncology Halloween party. Back row, from left, are Jean Lee, Sarah Yum, Nick Weidmann, Madeline Garcia, Mikayla Alberico and Catherine Peretti, and, front row, from left, are Valerie Nguyen, Dana El-Zoobi, Emma Odom and Julie Vo.

members did activities with their children at the Life with Cancer facility in Fairfax," said Lyons. And in mid-December, the students also helped with Life with Cancer's holiday party for children. They also hosted and sponsored a toy collection and gift-wrapping event with CYA (the Chantilly Youth Association) for that party.

"It was so nice to see the kids sit on Santa's lap and open their presents," said Lyons. "And we also volunteered at the DC Candlelighters Halloween party."

"We played games, told fortunes, gave out candy and did face-painting," added Nguyen. "And we had a photo booth and did crafts, like decorating pumpkins."

In November, Ellie's Hats talked to the club members about its hat collection for

pediatric cancer patients. "And then, with the help of the Centreville High Key Club, we collected 150 hats for children fighting cancer," said Nguyen.

"We got to see them pick up the hats we'd collected at the Christmas event," said Lyons. "And it was exciting to see them with their hats on. I brought one with a Superman cape on the back, and a little boy was running around trying to make it fly."

"There was also a Build-a Bear station, and it was fun to see the children's faces lighting up with joy while stuffing their bears," said Nguyen.

At the club's Jan. 20 meeting, the members put together goodie bags for cancer patients and their siblings at Inova Fairfax Hospital and the PSV clinic in Falls Church.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

Valerie Nguyen (left) and Shannon Lyons

They contained craft kits and small games for Valentine's Day.

"We'll also participate in the Relay for Life in June with students from our school, plus Chantilly and Westfield high schools," said Lyons. "And in the spring, I've planned a carnival for the pediatric oncology patients at their new building connected to Inova Fairfax Hospital."

She said she and Nguyen "didn't expect as many kids to have the same feelings about the club as we do and to be excited about helping at our events. So it's good to know how many people care."

"And it's great to see people who've also been touched by cancer — or know someone who has — give back," said Nguyen. "And seeing the children's joy at, for example, the holiday party, we realize that — although people may have cancer — they still laugh and enjoy the same things every human being does. And it spurs people's compassion."

"It also opens their eyes to see patients in different stages of their cancer journey," added Lyons.

"And it was really touching to see the strength of families and how a terrible dis

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‘Seeing What’s Changed And What Has Not’

Westfield High
presents “To Kill
a Mockingbird.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A volatile courtroom drama in 1930s Alabama comes to life in Westfield High’s production of the Harper Lee classic, “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, Feb. 19-20, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. Seating is reserved. Tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 via www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com and with a student ID.

“This show takes the audience back to one of the most pivotal times in American history,” said Director Susie Pike. “It tells the story of Scout and Jem Finch and their journey to figure out who people really are. When their attorney father, Atticus, defends a black man accused of raping a white girl, they struggle to see the best in other people. At the same time, they’re busy trying to get the mysterious Boo Radley to come out of his house.”

Senior Zachary Szmerekovsky portrays Atticus Finch. “He’s a gentle, reserved, wise man, passionate about his family and justice,” said Szmerekovsky. “He’s moral, stands up for the truth and strives to teach his children the importance of courage, empathy and honesty. He’s the moral center of the town of Maycomb and the townspeople look up to him. Atticus also values education and teaches his children his beliefs and values.”

Playing such a strong and moral man, said Szmerekovsky, “I focus on my core beliefs of justice and morality to help guide me. He’s very deep, and I like bringing to life the famous character people have come to love from the book and play. We all tried our best to keep our characters as real as they are in the book, so this play will be iconic, nostalgic and memorable for the audience.”

Junior Kaley Haller plays Scout, 6. “She’s an outgoing tomboy who matures as the story progresses and she deals with the struggles of a divided town,” said Haller. “She gains insight about the world around her as the trial forces her to understand racism and bigotry. Her father raised her to stand her ground and not be afraid to speak



Back row, from left, are Gabby Moses, Eni Oyeleye, Zach Szmerekovsky and Alexa Tucker; and (front row, from left) are Andrew Sharpe, Kaley Haller and David Johnson.

PHOTO BY
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

her mind.”

“I’m excited to play this character because of her complexity,” continued Haller. “Scout has a fearlessness and special awareness about her that I really admire. I’ve grown up with the story and relate to the messages Scout conveys. She brings a sweet innocence to the show’s heavy plot. This is honestly my dream role, and I’m thrilled for everyone to see it. ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ is such a classic story, and the message kind of still applies to today’s society, so I think the audience will take something away from it.”

Portraying the defendant, Tom Robinson, is senior Eni Oyeleye, who’s also assistant directing. “Robinson is unfairly targeted for a crime he didn’t commit and is found guilty simply because he’s black and his accuser is white,” said Oyeleye. “In the 1930s deep South, that’s all that’s needed to ensure his conviction. Atticus Finch is determined to make sure justice is served. But unfortunately, his passionate plea for equality under the law is no match for the prevailing social currents of the time.”

As assistant director, said Oyeleye, “It’s been incredibly exciting to help shape our production of one of the 20th century’s most beloved and iconic stories. I feel a sense of duty to tell this story well because the issues it talks about are important, not only from a historical perspective, but also from a modern one. Much progress has undisputedly been made since the days of

Jim Crow laws; but sadly, much of the volatility and tension present in the 1930s doesn’t seem to have abated.”

Noting that an actor’s job is to tell an “honest and compelling story,” Oyeleye says this cast is doing just that. “The audience will be moved and impressed by the ability of the actors to display immense, emotional depth and to play their roles as real characters, rather than caricatures,” he said. “And I believe the audience will leave the auditorium as hopeful and joyous as they are touched and sad.”

Senior Andrew Sharpe plays Jem. “He’s a mature 10-year-old who lives an imaginative life with his sister, creating stories about their so-called crazy neighbor, Boo Radley,” said Sharpe. “He becomes disenfranchised with the justice system when he discovers the inequality that exists in the world and in his own town. But he admires his father’s efforts to defend Robinson despite the hopelessness of a fair trial.”

Sharpe’s “thrilled to play this role” because he believes Jem has the greatest character arc in the play. “His loss of innocence is something truly tragic,” said Sharpe. “I love this story and how it will never become irrelevant in the world. With so much inequality still existing in America, I hope everyone can once again learn the timeless lesson of loving one another.” Besides that, he added, “Our beautiful set and wonderful cast will really appeal to the audience.”

Playing Scout and Jem’s friend Dill is se-

nior David Johnson. “Dill accompanies them on many adventures,” said Johnson. “He has an oddball personality — imaginative and fun-loving while wise beyond his years — which makes him fun to play.”

“The audience will like the show because it has a lot of depth,” continued Johnson. “It tackles the serious topic of race, but there are light moments along the way. And our immensely talented cast and crew are putting their all into this play. The audience will laugh, maybe even cry, but will definitely leave the theater with food for thought and fuel for discussion. That’s what makes this show extra-special.”

Narrating and playing the Finches’ neighbor Maudie Atkinson is senior Alexa Tucker. “She’s sensible and wise, but has a sharp wit and some sass,” said Tucker. “She’s protective over Jem and Scout, but knows when to let them fight their own battles.”

“Miss Maudie feels strongly that Robinson deserves a fair trial, yet she knows the deeply ingrained racism of the townspeople won’t allow justice to be served. But she remains optimistic for the future. I like portraying her wisdom, sensibility and kindness — qualities I hope to emulate both on and offstage.”

Tucker believes audiences will enjoy seeing this “classic novel brought to life. The issues in the play are as relevant today as they were in 1935, and I think people will appreciate the chance to observe what has changed — and what has stayed the same.”

ROUNDUPS

WFCWC Hosts CPR Demonstration

The GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman’s Club (WFCWC) will host a CPR demonstration at the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, at 7 p.m., Feb. 16, presented by Rebecca P

Kelly, Captain II, EMS supervisor, with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Captain Kelly, a paramedic for 23 years and a CPR instructor for 24 years, will discuss the science of “compressions only” CPR.

This method focuses on saving a life by doing only compressions when those offering assistance are not comfortable doing mouth to mouth ventilations.

Kelly will demonstrate both conventional CPR and compressions only CPR. She will also discuss the importance of calling 911 and of using an Automated External Defibrillator if one is available. Guests are welcome and admission is free.

For more information, visit www.wfcwc.org or call Mary Jane at 703-378-4250.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Feb. 18, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station,

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ROUNDUPS

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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.

Garza's 2016 Listening Tours

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen K. Garza will hold five listening tours in 2016, and invites students, parents, employees, and community members to participate. The local session will be held at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 29 at Centreville High School.

Garza, accompanied by the regional assistant superintendents, will provide an update on the budget, Strategic Plan, classroom initiatives, and other happenings in FCPS and listen to ideas, comments, and questions from the audience. Those planning to attend are asked to register in advance online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016ListeningTour6YZ7PCY and indicate if an interpreter is needed.

Moving Equipment Is Sought

The Centreville Labor Resource Center is in need of moving equipment to add to its tool supplies. Requested items are back braces, lift belts, sliders and straps that are used for moving jobs.

This equipment can be checked out by workers and brought back when they complete jobs. It will ensure that they're able to complete moving jobs more safely. In addition, the CLRC is seeking Spanish-speaking people to fill a number of volunteer positions. Contact Molly Maddra-Santiago at director@centrevillelrc.org.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of 1-2 pound bags of rice, canned fruit (all types), canned pastas, canned meats (tuna, ham, chicken), cold and hot cereals, spaghetti and sauces, peanut butter, canned vegetables (including spinach, collar greens, beets) and cooking oil.

Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include facial tissues, toothpaste, shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM's food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcma.org.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

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 September. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Drive Seniors to Appointments

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

NEWS

Joining Together to Help

FROM PAGE 2

ease brought them together," said Nguyen. "It makes them treasure and value every, single moment together."

Lyons said they learned that, "Whenever we talk to cancer patients, we never say, 'Goodbye,' but 'See you later.' It makes me more grateful about the regular activities I can do that others may not be able to."

"And it makes me see how important family is and that they'll always be there for you," said Nguyen. "And, at the end of the day, they'll always love you. Having cancer touch my family definitely brought us closer together and gave us a better, mutual understanding of each other."

Lyons said the club members make friends with each other and bond by sharing their personal experiences. And members who've had cancer in their family "feel good about being able to give back in ways they couldn't to their own loved ones," said Nguyen. "I like being able to help others like me because no one should ever have to fight cancer alone. When one person in a family has it, the whole family goes through it together. And it makes you appreciate what you have."

Club sponsor is P.E. and health teacher Katherin Strobl. "There's simply nothing that stops Valerie from reaching a goal," she said. "Last year, she initiated a tutoring club for athletes. She saw a need and acted on it. Wildcats vs. Cancer has been no different."

"The members have volunteered at Halloween and Christmas events, made crafts, donated hats and given up a lot of their time to help with this club," continued Strobl. "That can be rare at this age. Kids are traditionally egocentric and have little time to dedicate themselves to anything outside of sports, academics, family and friends. It's been refreshing to see kids involved in something so important and meaningful. It restores a teacher's faith in teenagers sometimes."

Although Strobl's the club sponsor, she says Nguyen and Lyons have done all the work. "These girls and the club members are so special," said Strobl. "They've accomplished so much in a short time. I'm hard to impress, and they've done it." Lyons hopes someone will take on the club after she and Nguyen graduate. "We hope to leave a legacy for others to give back to their community and advocate for awareness of how cancer affects patients and their families," said Nguyen. "And I can hon-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VALERIE NGUYEN

Jay Coakley CEO/founder of Ellie's Hats, discusses Centreville High's hat drive for pediatric oncology patients. From left are Shannon Lyons, Coakley and Valerie Nguyen.



Valerie Nguyen showing the front and back of the club's T-shirt.

estly say this is one of my proudest achievements. I was able to not let something that happened to me define me, but to use it to help others in similar circumstances."

For more information about the Wildcats vs. Cancer club or to join, email her at valerieunguyen@gmail.com. "You don't have to be touched by cancer to join," said Nguyen. "Anyone's welcome."

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com.

DONATIONS

The **student Auto Sales Program** operating from Centreville High School works in conjunction with the CVHS automotive technology classes to bring in donated automobiles, boats and motorcycles for students to work on. Some refurbished vehicles are sold, with 75 percent of the proceeds going back to the auto tech program. The program is in need of cars, trucks or motorcycles, which are fully tax deductible, for student

training. Contact Lyman Rose at 703-802-5588 or by e-mail lyman.rose@fcps.edu for more.

Cell Phones for Soldiers is accepting donations of old cellphones so that troops can call home. Patrons may drop off donations at 14215E Centreville Square, Centreville.

SUPPORT GROUP

Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month. This telephone support group is designed to help caregivers of older adults share experiences,

gain support and get important information without having to travel. These are one-hour free sessions. Find out more and register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group. **Fair Oaks Parkinson's Support Group** for people living with Parkinson's disease, caregivers and family, meets on the fourth Saturday monthly, 10 a.m.-noon at Sunrise at Fair Oaks, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-378-7221 or visit www.fairoaksparkinsons.com for more.

Proffers in Danger?

State seeks to rein in county's power.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Richmond caught the attention of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors this week specifically with House Bill 770 (Gilbert) and Senate B 549 (Obenshain), bills Sharon Bulova says will place “significant restrictions” on development, specifically citing “unreasonable proffers.”

The Board of Supervisors drafted an emergency letter during its board meeting Feb. 2 to the Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly opposing the two bills.

“Please oppose HB 770/SB 549, or seek amendments to safeguard Fairfax County’s proffer authority,” according to the letter.

“Virtually all development in the county is infill development. In these types of cases, proffers are critical in meeting infrastructure and compatibility needs of surrounding areas. If enacted, these bills may require us to rewrite entire sections of our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance,” wrote Sharon Bulova, chairman of the board.

The board detailed the way the county works with developers to balance the impact of new development with “added demand for county services and public facilities that result from that development.”

“We do that through the proffer system, which provides an opportunity for developers to work with the county to address community concerns related to the increased density of such development,” according to the Board of Supervisors. “In Fairfax County, our collaboration with our partners in the development community has led to successful, innovative plans such as the redesign of Tysons, construction of the Mosaic District, and the revitalization of Springfield.”

The board approved drafting the letter during its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 2.

The House of Delegates passed the bill later that day, 68-27. Local delegates voting in favor of the bill restricting local proffer authority included Dave Albo (R-42), Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), Charniele Herring (D-46), Patrick Hope (D-47), Tim Hugo (R-40), Paul Krizek (D-44), Mark Levine (D-45), Ken Plum (D-36) and Vivian Watts (D-39).

Local delegates who voted against the bill included Jennifer Boysko (D-86), David Bulova (D-37), Mark Keam (D-35), Kaye Kory (D-38), Jim LeMunyon (R-67), Alfonso Lopez (D-49), Kathleen Murphy (D-34), Mark Sickles (D-43), and Marcus Simon (D-53).

Lobbying continued on the Senate version of the bill but it was expected to pass in the Senate on Tuesday, Feb. 9. The Senate version would exempt development around current or planned Metro stations.

Simon said he voted against the bill because it wasn’t ready. “Fairfax uses proffer system as it currently exists to be creative in developing areas like Tysons and the Mosaic District,” he said.

“We have to communicate how bad this bill is,” said Dranesville Supervisor John Foust. “It flies in the face of everything we are trying to do for the economic success of Fairfax County.”

“The more I thought about this bill, the worse it seems to get,” said Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth, warning of profound effects on in-fill development. “We will no longer get proffer features on design issues.” Later version of the bill in the Senate appear to allow architectural and design proffers.

“If enacted it may require us to rewrite our entire Comprehensive Plan. We will have to rewrite our entire ordinance,” said

Tying County Hands in Development?

HB 770 Conditional zoning; provisions applicable to all proffers.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Conditional zoning. Provides that no locality shall (i) request or accept any unreasonable proffer in connection with a rezoning or a proffer condition amendment as a condition of approval of a new residential development or new residential use or (ii) deny any rezoning application, including an application for amendment to an existing proffer, for a new residential development or new residential use where such denial is based on an applicant’s failure or refusal to submit, or remain subject to, an unreasonable proffer. A proffer shall be deemed unreasonable unless it addresses an impact that is specifically and uniquely attributable to a proposed new residential development or other new residential use applied for. An off-site proffer shall be deemed unreasonable pursuant to the above unless it addresses an impact to an off-site public facility, such that, (a) the new residential development or new residential use creates a need, or an identifiable portion of a need,

for one or more public facility improvements in excess of existing public facility capacity at the time of the rezoning or proffer condition amendment, and (b) each such new residential development or new residential use applied for receives a direct and material benefit from a proffer made with respect to any such public facility improvements. In any action in which a locality has denied a rezoning or an amendment to an existing proffer and the aggrieved applicant proves by a preponderance of the evidence that it refused or failed to submit, or remain subject to, an unreasonable proffer that it has proven was suggested, requested, or required, formally or informally, by the locality, the court shall presume, absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary, that such refusal or failure was the controlling basis for the denial. The bill also provides that certain conditional rezoning proffers related to building materials, finishes, methods of construction, or design features on a new residential development are prohibited.

Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay.

“This is major in terms of the repercussions we will face here in Fairfax County,” said Smyth. “This will be huge, it will be time consuming, and it will be expensive to us.”

Smyth and other supervisors discussed the ability of developers to work with the community during the proffer process.

“There may be a unique opportunity, a community that may need a stream restored, and all that will be gone, and we will have to rewrite our residential zoning,” said Smyth.

“Our development community does not support this. What they are seeing is something set up in other parts of the state that will undermine what we are doing here,” she said. “We have a very responsible development community.”

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity voted against the letter.

“I think we have gone too far with proffers,” he said. “This will lower the cost of

housing in Fairfax County.”

“I agree with Supervisor Herrity that we have to be careful about the requirements we put on builders. It is expensive to build in this county,” said Braddock Supervisor John Cook.

“The answer to this problem is not asking Richmond to fix this problem for us,” Cook said. “Going to Richmond for the answer is a bad, bad, bad idea.”

But legislators in Richmond who support the bill said localities have gone too far with proffers, using them in ways that were never intended.

“What businesses have repeatedly told me about being able to work with the government, whether it’s zoning, procurement, public-private partnerships, etc., is that they need to have fairness, predictability, and systems that work,” said state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). “Otherwise, they don’t want to put the time into trying to get to the end zone. Right now the litigation check

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Emergency Letter

The Board of Supervisors wrote the Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation Members on Tuesday, Feb. 2, to oppose HB 770 (Gilbert) and SB 549 (Obenshain), or “seek amendments to shield Fairfax County from the significant restrictions these bills would place on development.”

Verbatim:

“As you know, Fairfax County works closely with our development community to balance the impacts of new development with the added demand for County services and public facilities that result from that development. We do that through the proffer system, which provides an

opportunity for developers to work with the County to address community concerns related to the increased density of such development.

“In Fairfax County, our collaboration with our partners in the development

community has led to successful, innovative plans such as the redesign of Tysons, construction of the Mosaic District, and the revitalization of Springfield, among others.

“Though the bills apply only to residential development, that also includes the residential components of mixed use developments, as well as multi-family residential development. “Proffers for such development could only include public facility improvements for schools, transportation, and public safety (under the current House version parks would also be included).

“However, developers often tell us that they prefer flexibility to negotiate a wider range of items — this bill would limit that flexibility by prohibiting them from including libraries, workforce housing, and other public facilities in those negotiations.

“Passage of this legislation would severely hinder our ability to work with developers to address the concerns of our shared constituents. In addition, developers will be

negatively impacted if they no longer have the flexibility to negotiate a wider range of proffered improvements, because they may be precluded by this legislation from qualifying for density bonuses or similar higher density redevelopment options in the County’s Comprehensive Plan.

“As you may know, the County has worked closely with industry and community stakeholders to amend our Comprehensive Plan, as we continue to prepare for exceptional, innovative growth in the coming years. We have already seen success in the transformation of Tysons, which is the most publicized new development in the County; the House bill addresses concerns about that area by exempting it from the legislation.

“However, Tysons is only one part of the County. We also continue to make progress in planning communities through transit-oriented development, by enhancing the growth and success of our newer developments while revitalizing our older commer-

cial areas, ensuring active and vibrant districts throughout Fairfax County.

“Virtually all development in the County is infill development. In these types of cases, proffers are critical in meeting infrastructure and compatibility needs of surrounding areas. If enacted, these bills may require us to rewrite entire sections of our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

“We know that these new developments will augment the strong business climate we have already created — a business climate that helps us attract and retain both Fortune 500 companies and entrepreneurial start-ups every year, benefitting the entire Commonwealth. “Retaining our land use authority is essential to that effort, and we need your help to make that happen — please oppose HB 770/SB 549, or seek amendments to safeguard Fairfax County’s proffer authority.”

OPINION

Limiting Local Authority

Assembly rushes bill limiting proffers without addressing who will pay for infrastructure.

In Virginia, a Dillon Rule state, local governments have only the powers explicitly granted by the General Assembly. And what the assembly gives, the assembly can take away.

It's the reason, for example, that localities have limited means of raising revenue and limited taxing authority. And those limited means are one reason localities have turned to proffers, payments and improvements to infrastructure agreed to by builders as part of approval and zoning changes for new development.

Members of the General Assembly, including many who represent only Fairfax County districts, agree with builders that in many places, the way local governments are using proffers is unfair, even out of control.

Many point to Loudoun County, where builders pay substantial cash proffers, as an example. And to other counties where large, off site intersection improvements were required.

Everyone seems to agree that the "abuses" are not taking place in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria. But the restrictions apply to these areas as well.

How are local governments supposed to pay for the costs of growth? Should the lion's share be paid by existing residents through increase

property taxes?

This is a complex question, not one that should be rushed.

But right now, the General Assembly is rushing to restrict proffers and to give developers and builders substantial clout in legal challenges to local government action. And they are doing this without any consideration to how localities will replace the resources they will lose.

It's time to slow this process down, and for a reasoned consideration. What exactly are the abuses that require action? Look at specific examples and address the specifics.

Local delegates voting in favor of the bill restricting local proffer authority included Dave Albo (R-42), Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), Charniele Herring (D-46), Patrick Hope (D-47), Tim Hugo (R-40), Paul Krizek (D-44), Mark Levine (D-45), Ken Plum (D-36) and Vivian Watts (D-39).

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The Virginia Senate was expected to vote for

an amended version of the bill on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Reasonable action will fall to the conferees in reconciling the House and Senate versions, and to the governor, who would be able to amend the bill before signing or veto.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Pet Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on Feb. 24, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name). Email to north@connectionnewspapers.com or online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

For advertising information, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

EDITORIAL

BULLETIN BOARD

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

weeks before event.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11
Sully Democratic Showdown. 8 p.m. at The Bungalow, 13891

Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. Watch the last Democratic debate before the Iowa caucuses, conduct a Sully straw poll of the candidates, meet new Democratic friends and enjoy free appetizers. The event is open to anyone who wants to participate. RSVP to sullydems.org/showdown or email to events@sullydemocrats.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 13
Concerto Competition. 2 p.m. at John Philip Sousa Band Hall, 1053 7th Street, SE, Washington, D.C. Centreville-native oboe player Olivia Johann, a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology, will compete this Saturday as a finalist in "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band's Concerto Competition for High School Musicians. She is one of seven finalists, out of a pool of 80, vying for a \$2,500 scholarship from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the opportunity to perform as a soloist with the Marine Band. The Concerto Competition final recital will stream live at www.marineband.marines.mil and www.youtube.com/usmarineband.

Tax Considerations for Military Families and Veterans. 4-5 p.m. at Liberty Tax Service, 5622-G Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Liberty Tax Preparers provide tax-saving tips and answer questions from military families, veterans, public. Free. Pre-register by Feb. 12 at 703-323-5580 or fairfaxstn@libertytax.com.

MONDAY/FEB. 15
Garden Club. 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Horticulturist and landscape designer, Joanne

Shumpert, of Treefrog Nursery, presents "Designing with Eco-friendly and Native Plants." Visitors are welcome. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com. Email centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com or call 703-266-9233.

TUESDAY/FEB. 16
CPR Demonstration. 7 p.m. at Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. The GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club will host a CPR demonstration presented by Rebecca P. Kelly, Captain II, EMS supervisor, with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Kelly will demonstrate both conventional CPR and compressions only CPR. She will also discuss the importance of calling 911 and of using an Automated External Defibrillator if one is available. Guests are welcome and admission is free. Visit www.wfwc.org or call Mary Jane at 703-378-4250.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17
Tax Considerations for Military Families and Veterans. Noon-1p.m. at Liberty Tax Service, 5622-G Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Liberty Tax Preparers provide tax-saving tips and answer questions from military families, veterans, public. Free. Pre-register by Feb. 16 at 703-323-5580 or fairfaxstn@libertytax.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 18
Scholarship Application Deadline. The Joyce-Gillespie-Harrington Educational and Charitable Foundation, Inc., invites applicants for its 36th Annual Jewel Scholarship award. Visit www.JGHFDN.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Triumphant
Chantilly High School's Charger Dancers made a clean sweep in every category Saturday, Feb. 6 at the Gar-field High School "Sweet-heart Invitational" Cheer and Dance Competition. Officers placed 1st with a lyrical performance and the team earned first place in both the Large Varsity Jazz and the Small Varsity Pom categories.

Above, from left, are, first row, Officers Emily Ready, Sano Nagai, Tatiana Elizarova, Iva Shuping; second row, Jessica Liu, Claire Craig, Alayna Lee, Erika Roach; third row, Anna Dolen, Katie Gallagher, Emily Huo. Not pictured: Jordan Greenlee, Mallory Bedford, Milei Krantz, Alice Wang, Melanie Hillelsohn, Jordan Beeker and Anna Homan. Charger Dancers is coached by Melissa Weber.

Chantilly CONNECTION

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ONGOING

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilairs.org for more.

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

English Conversation Group. Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

English Conversation Group. Saturdays, 3 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223.

ESL Book Club. Every other Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.

Lego Block Party. Every other Tuesday, 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

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.fairfaxjubilairs.org for more.

MONDAYS/THROUGH MARCH 7

Castles & Catapults Workshops. 1-2 p.m. or 4:45-5:45 p.m. at Children's Science Center, 11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fair Oaks. Children will learn about science and engineering principles, like gravity, buoyancy, and simple machines, presented in

the context of medieval times. Activities include building towers, boats, draw-bridges, and catapults as well as designing medieval coats of arms and jewelry. The earlier session can be customized for homeschooled children ages 7-12, the second session is for grades 4-6. The price per participant is \$160. Visit www.childsci.org for more.

Science Solutions Workshops.

2:15-3:15 p.m. at Children's Science Center, 11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fair Oaks. Children will apply science, math and engineering solutions to help the owners of the "E.Z. Science Journal." They will create sand clocks, design an experiment, build a stronger egg carton, solve knot puzzles, design journal cover art, sketch and construct a new invention, and develop more efficient delivery routes. The price per participant is \$160. Visit www.childsci.org for more.

WEDNESDAYS/THROUGH MARCH 9

Science Solutions Workshops.

4:45-5:45 p.m. at Children's Science Center, 11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fair Oaks. Children will apply science, math and engineering solutions to help the owners of the "E.Z. Science Journal." They will create sand clocks, design an experiment, build a stronger egg carton, solve knot puzzles, design journal cover art, sketch and construct a new invention, and develop more efficient delivery routes. This session is for grades 1-3. The price per participant is \$160. Visit www.childsci.org.

SATURDAYS/THROUGH MARCH 12

Castles & Catapults Workshops.

10-11 a.m. at Children's Science

Center, 11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fair Oaks. Children will learn about science and engineering principles, like gravity, buoyancy, and simple machines, presented in the context of medieval times. Activities include building towers, boats, draw-bridges, and catapults as well as designing medieval coats of arms and jewelry. This session is for grades 1-3. The price per participant is \$160. Visit www.childsci.org for more.

Science Solutions Workshops.

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Children's Science Center, 11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fair Oaks. Children will apply science, math and engineering solutions to help the owners of the "E.Z. Science Journal." They will create sand clocks, design an experiment, build a stronger egg carton, solve knot puzzles, design journal cover art, sketch and construct a new invention, and develop more efficient delivery routes. The price per participant is \$160. Visit www.childsci.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11

Civil War Lecture. 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Kevin Knapp will give a presentation titled, "The Use of Balloons by Union and Confederate Armies During the Civil War." Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce.

FRIDAY/FEB. 12

Friday Night Flights: Chocolate. 7 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Find Bull Run wines paired. with Abby Rose Chocolates. Tickets are \$20-30. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 13-14

Presidential Trivia. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Brush up on your knowledge of the Declaration of Independence, discover what kinds of animals the presidents had for pets, and test knowledge with early American presidential and political trivia games, such as the Preamble Scramble. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, and \$5 for seniors and children. Call 703-437-1794.

SUNDAY/FEB. 14

Valentine's Day Tea. 2:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Listen to poetry and drink tea at the Machen Farm with your favorite sweetheart. A costumed interpreter will share a Walney mystery love poem, then invite participants to write and share verses with the group. Leave with a poem framed in Valentine-card style. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Valentine Wine Pairing Dinner.

6:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Find a four-course wine pairing dinner with Bull Run wines. Tickets are \$115 for members, \$130 for nonmembers. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

Valentine's Day Wine Dinner. 8 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Find a four-course dinner paired with Paradise Springs wine. VIP tickets are \$149, \$129 for wine club members. General admission tickets are \$129, \$119 for wine club members. Call 703-830-9463 for reservations.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17

Relay for Life Kick-Off Meeting.

7:30-9 p.m. at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Come and learn about this local Relay (coming to Westfield High School on June 11) and the American Cancer Society. Free. Visit relayforlife.org/chantillyva for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 19-21

"To Kill a Mockingbird." 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Watch a stage adaptation of the classic novel. Tickets are \$10 in advance, or with student ID, \$12 at the door. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

Heritage Family Day: African American Pioneers in Aviation and Space. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Learn more about the accomplishment of African Americans in the fields of aviation and space exploration. Free. Call 703-572-4118 or visit airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy.

"The Work of Their Hands." 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Many of the technologies that help predict the weather, cook, process material and thread into clothing, and help cure ills, were founded in earlier centuries. Learn what new and interesting 18th century items Richard Bland Lee had in his house that reflected the current scientific technologies. Learn how they were used and make some of them to take home and use. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

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Westfield Boys Win Three Straight

Bulldogs beat Chantilly, Robinson, Herndon.

BY WILL PALENSCAR
THE CONNECTION

The Westfield boys' basketball team took to the hardwood three times last week. Two of the three games were games originally scheduled as home games. However, a leaking roof at Westfield, the result of melting snow from the January winter storm forced the games location to be changed.

In the first game, Westfield traveled to crosstown rival Chantilly on Feb. 2 and defeated the Chargers 69-57.

Westfield would start a little slow in the first quarter as Chantilly jumped to an early 17-15 advantage. In the second quarter, things changed as Westfield would register three consecutive quarters registering 18 points, while holding the Chargers to eight points. In the third quarter, Chantilly also added 18 points. Trailing 51-43 to start the fourth, Westfield would outscore the Chargers 18-14, and Westfield completed the first of three consecutive road wins.

Tyler Scanlon led Westfield with 20 points and Blake Francis finished with 19. Chantilly was led by Zach Crenshaw's 16 points and Daniel Carmichael's 13.

The following evening, Westfield headed to Fairfax to take on Robinson, a team they defeated on the road less than one month earlier, 70-51. Again, Westfield was able to jump out to a quick advantage in this game as they did in the first meeting and eventually won 67-58.

This time, Westfield started with a 20-8 first quarter lead. In the second quarter, Robinson would cut the lead, outscoring the Bulldogs 17-14 and going to halftime down



Hank Johnson and the Westfield boys' basketball team defeated Herndon on Feb. 5.

34-25.

In the third, each team would score 12 points and 21 points in the fourth quarter. Francis and Scanlon scored 18 points apiece, and Hank Johnson added 15. Robinson was led by Markos Eyob's 18 points and Danny Krug added 13.

On Feb. 5, Westfield traveled to Herndon, for the second matchup between the two

conference foes, Westfield winning the first 74-65. The Bulldogs won the rematch, as well, 84-80.

Herndon early seemed to ignite the Herndon crowd as they would take an early 49-40 advantage to halftime. The Bulldogs fought back even after having trailed by double digits. Scanlon scored a game high 32 and teammate Kory Jones added

16. Hank Johnson added 14 and Blake Francis 12.

Herndon was led by James Lees 22 points while teammates Michael Griffin and Colby Gardner each added 16 apiece. Herndon falls to (9-5) while Westfield improved to (14-2) and (6-0) in Conference 5. Westfield will take on Chantilly at home on Feb. 9 for senior night.



Westfield guard Blake Francis shoots a jumper against Herndon.

Westfield Girls Drop 2 of 3

The Westfield girls' basketball team laced them up three times last week, all of which were played on the road.

On Feb. 2, Westfield took on crosstown rival Chantilly. After being outscored 30-17 in the first three quarters, the Lady Bulldogs had a valiant comeback come up just short, falling to the Lady Chargers 35-33.

Westfield was led by Nikki McNamara's 11 points and Mia Savoy's seven points. Chantilly was led by Mary Clougherty's 13 points and Grace Rauch's eight points.

On Feb. 3, the Lady Bulldogs traveled to play another conference game at Robinson. This time, Westfield came away with a 52-46 win. After one quarter, Westfield led 10-7. In the second quarter, Westfield scored 20 points while holding the Lady Rams to 10 points. In the third quarter, both teams

would add 10 more points. In the fourth, Robinson outscored Westfield 19-12.

Danielle Little led Westfield with 16 points and McNamara added 14. Robinson was led by Tyler Seay's 21 points and Jalyn Seale's 13. The two combined for seven of the team's nine three pointers. Although Westfield did not connect from long range, they managed to go 20-for-27 from the charity stripe and nine Lady Bulldogs scored in the game.

Finally, on Feb. 5, Westfield traveled to Herndon to play the Hornets. Westfield jumped out to a 26-24 advantage at halftime. However, the Lady Hornets duo of Janiece Loney and Indeya Sanders combined for five 3-pointers. Sanders would end up with a game-high 24 points, while Loney would end up with 15 as Herndon won 63-51.

Westfield's Mia Savoy would score a team-



Westfield's Tory Martin drives to the basket.

high 16 points and McNamara would add 13.

Westfield (7-8) will host Chantilly (14-5) on Feb. 9 for senior night.



Westfield's Nikki McNamara goes up for a shot against Herndon.

HomeLifeStyle

Stylish Valentine's Day Table Settings

Flowers and candles
create romantic designs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Fresh flowers and candles are an easy way to add elegance and romance to a Valentine's Day table. From dramatic to understated, local tastemakers offer suggestions for setting the mood for a memorable dinner.

"Candles are key to set a romantic atmosphere," said Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda, Md. "Soft lighting is flattering to all of us and creates a sense of intimacy for conversations."

The ambience is enhanced, says Meyer, when the candlelight glints off of metallic accessories like candlestick holders. "You can use silver, mercury, glass or even gold or brass to help move the light," she said.

In fact, gold accents are a current trend, says Angela Phelps of Le Village Marche in Arlington. "They pair well with pinks, reds, and fuchsias," she said. "So, as you're planning a romantic dinner at home, think about incorporating china, vases, candle votives, trays, and glassware with a gold trim for a stunning table."

Metallics combined with a few pops of a soft color help create an elegant setting. "White and silver tables can be very romantic — for example, a white tablecloth, mirrored or silver placemats, silver flatware and crystal stemware," said Fay Johnson, an interior designer with J.T. Interiors in Potomac, Md. "The centerpiece [could be] a silver ice bucket with white and blush colored roses and a array of assorted size candles and votives."

For a more traditional table, Johnson stated that "a black, white and red table can be very dramatically romantic. A black and white tablecloth [such as] a houndstooth or herringbone ... pattern with red, glass stemware, white dinner plate, a ruby-red glass salad plate and silver flatware."

Johnson suggests completing the look with a crystal or silver vase filled with red roses and accented with few red glass votive candles.

Johnson believes that not all centerpieces need to be flowers. She suggests filling three compote dishes, graduating in size, with chocolates and red and pink rose petals for table design with a touch of whimsy.

A vase can add a powerful style impact. "A vase is like a frame for a picture," said Linda Wilson-Vertin,



Floral arrangements can offer a powerful style impact.

PHOTO COURTESY
OF MERRIFIELD
GARDEN CENTER

floral designer with Merrifield Garden Center in Fair Oaks. "A clear vase is like not having a frame on the picture."

Instead, choose a vase that has visual interest or one that is meaningful on a personal level. "I like using things that are special to the individual," said Wilson-Vertin. "I ask clients to bring in a container that they like so that I can create an arrangement that works with it."

While red is often the go-to floral color for Valentine's Day, Wilson-Vertin says that shades of pink, peach and purple can offer elegance and romance. "Go with what works for you and what works in your home," she said. "For example, red doesn't work in my home, so I use watermelon and apricot."

Consistency adds an unexpected touch of enchantment. A monochromatic palette conveys more romance than contrasting colors," said Wilson-Vertin. She recommends using "red roses with deep burgundy mini carnations to vary the size of the flower head and texture. Mini carnations have ruffled texture."

For the ultimate in texture and color variety, "think English garden, like roses, hydrangeas, lisianthus and snapdragons," said Wilson-Vertin. "Add berries and eucalyptus" to complete this elegant floral arrangement."

Linen napkins offer a finishing touch to an elegant table setting, says Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design in Bethesda, Md.

"Use pretty salt and pepper shakers, festive napkin rings, and if you have fancy water or wine glasses, now is the time to use them," she said. "And don't forget the champagne bucket nearby for cooling white wine or champagne."

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2/24/2016.....Pet Connection

MARCH

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3/9/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout

3/16/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

3/23/2016....Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

FCPS Spring Break 3/21-3/25

APRIL

4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout

Easter Sunday is March 27

4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

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Not Snow Fast



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As an originally diagnosed-as-terminal, lung cancer patient, I try not to panic or worry unnecessarily or be a harbinger of doom or a purveyor of gloom. Unfortunately, the providers of the news/weather reports of "accumulating" (that seems to be the popular phrase of late) snow in the forecast currently and in general, apparently are of the opposite opinion. Rather than make light of the inches predicted, the common (as if they're all reading from the same script) presentation is typically fraught with inferences of impending disaster and/or catastrophic loss. Not only is the message tiresome, its redundancy is downright distressing, as if the goal is to strike such fear into the local population that toilet paper, bread, water, and batteries aside; it's the media that will be the most important must-have.

Do you know what my most important "must-have" is? Sanity, and calm in the face of adversity; logical and rational behavior in the midst of over-the-top reporting of events (maker that snow/weather predictions) destined to change lives – of the media, for the most part. Granted, there's lots of valuable information that must be disseminated when a storm of generational proportions smother the area. Nevertheless, don't burden us with emotional baggage in the interim. The weight of the snow, especially for us manual shovelers, will do more than enough to keep us "sheltered in place." Sometimes, the message is lost in the hyperbole, or in the "emergency" programming as seen on the non-stop, 'round the clock reporting. The sheer volume of it diminishes its impact. Quite frankly, less is more, and more manageable, too.

What us viewers and listeners endure in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Area, or what it has increasingly become known as: "The D.M.V.;" (yet another media creation forced upon us residents) is above and beyond the call of citizen duty. Being called as a juror appeals to me more than being subjected to the media maelstrom that precedes (and of course, follows), these "weather events."

Yet here I sit and write, approximately two weeks after the "Blizzard of 2016," trying to filter out fact from fiction concerning next week's "snowcast." And even though the two-plus feet of snow is mostly long gone (but not forgotten), I fear its effect on our preparations and predictions will inhibit us for years: fueled in no small way by the media's fascination with itself and its presumptive place in the world as well as its presumptive place in the lives of thousands of local residents for whom they feel uniquely responsible.

Not that I totally understand many of the ulterior motives behind the means and methods of communication when snow is in the atmosphere, but the pattern seems familiar: create the fear, report the fear, and then cover the effects of the fear; and then in another occasional adjunct: the after-the-fact self-analysis of the fear that was created, the reporting of that fear, and then a post-mortem on all the fear and its consequences.

I have to tell you; as a cancer patient, I can't live my life this way. Every day, I have to buck up and not look for trouble – and not make any trouble, either; not exactly the mission of the media. Ergo, I don't need to make matters any worse than they might otherwise be, nor can I presume and anticipate the worst, or create consequences in advance of them being consequential. Since I'm a great believer in context, having an incurable form of cancer (NSCLC, stage IV) may make me less tolerant of the snow coverage by the media. Then again, maybe I'm just a victim of circumstance, tired of being made to feel like the victim.

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

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21 Announcements

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OBITUARY



Helen C. (Gomulka) Longworth, 83, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 2 in Fairfax, VA.

Born in Glen Lyon on Apr. 21, 1932, she was the daughter of the late John & Angela (Chlepal) Gomulka.

Helen was a graduate of Newport Twp. High School. She was employed as a nurse by the Retreat State Hospital, Hunlock Creek, and as a LPN at Sacred Heart Hospital, Chester. She served many with a smile at Yom's Deli, Swarthmore and Burger King, Springfield.

She was a member of Holy Spirit Parish/St. Adalbert's Church, Glen Lyon.

Helen performed with the Notre Dame de Lourdes Players Club & the Bell Choir, Swarthmore. In Virginia, she helped outreach to active military via the Little River Glen Senior Center. Helen sang to staff and other participants of the PACE Inova Cares for Seniors program. She enjoyed bingo at Sunrise George Mason, Fairfax.

She was preceded in death by her husband; George A. Longworth; her step-brother, Joseph Korshalla and his wife Lillian.

Surviving is her loving family, daughter, Roberta A. Longworth, granddaughter, Michelle L. Opdahl (Thomas R. Bowser), great-grandchildren, Elise O. Bowser and Thomas G. Bowser and brother, Edward J. Gomulka.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday at 10 am in Holy Spirit Parish/St. Adalbert's Church, with Rev. Louis Kaminski officiating. Interment will follow in St. Adalbert's Cemetery, Glen Lyon. There are no public calling hours. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Helen to Little River Glen Senior Ctr. Advisory Council (4001 Barker Ct., Fairfax, VA 22032) or Family Services Assn. of NE PA, (31 West Market St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706).

Arrangements are by the George A. Strish, Inc. Funeral Home.

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Food3group LLC trading as The Spice Route, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Unit J-141, Fairfax, VA 22033. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Gopal Kapoor, member.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

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FROM PAGE 5

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NEWS

on [proffers] is totally tilted towards the
localities. That can't continue."

State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) admit-
ted that one reason localities turned to prof-
fers was because of severely limited tax
authority. But he supports the bill, with
amendments, in part because the costs of
proffers add to the cost of housing, making
houses less affordable. Proffers should also
serve the area around the new develop-
ment, not the other side of the county, he
said.

"I did feel like something needed to be
done on behalf of the builders," Marsden
said. "It's a depressed industry."

Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) voted
against the House bill, but added it is a work
in progress. "The abuses that have driven
this bill are not centered on NOVA," she
said. "We are working with supervisors and
the business community to make sure this
is done right because it is so important to
economic development."

Reporting contributed by Mary Kimm

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Email announcements to [chantilly@connection
newspapers.com](mailto:chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com)

**The Northern Virginia Long Term Care
Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer
advocates for residents in nursing homes and
assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at
703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email
Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

**The Shepherd's Center of Western Fairfax
County (SCWFC)** needs volunteer drivers for
medical/foodbank appointments. SCWFC serves
age 50+ residents in Chantilly, Centreville,
Clifton, and western Fairfax/Fairfax Station
helping them remain independent and age in
place at home. Visit www.scwfc.org or contact
703-266-3548 or scwfc.office@gmail.com.

Homeless Animals Rescue Team is looking for
volunteers to hold dogs at adoption events,
Saturdays noon-3 p.m. Volunteers must be 18 or
older. Events will be held at Petsmart, 13866
Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. Call 703-691-HART
or visit www.hart90.org for more.

Sully Historic Site needs volunteers to help plan
and present programs. Volunteers who enjoy
gardening, working with children, learning new
recipes and cooking methods, or just like to be
around interesting people are needed both
weekdays and weekends. Sully is a historic
house museum owned and operated by the
Fairfax County Park Authority. Volunteer at
Sully can choose an aspect of historic
interpretation, event support or any other area
to make a difference for visitors. Call 703-437-
1794 for an interview. Visit
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site
for more.

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs
volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-
4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them
about the exhibits, the Museum and the its
railroad and Civil War history. Docents should
possess good people skills. Opportunity for those
interested in railroads, the Civil War and
Northern Virginia history. Training and
orientation provided. Other volunteer
opportunities are gardening, publicity and
exhibit planning. The Museum is located at
11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station.
Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more
information, or visit Fairfaxstation.org

Northern Virginia Family Service is seeking
volunteers to organize collection drives of
toiletries products for clients in need. Requested
items include shampoo, soap, lotion, deodorant,
hand sanitizer, toothbrushes and toothpaste.
Learn more about Northern Virginia Family
Service at www.nvfs.org and contact Colleen
Ross cross@nvfs.org if interested.



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