



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County Commission for Women honorees were joined by Supervisors Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and John Cook (R-Braddock) prior to the Board of Supervisors regular business meeting.

## Honoring Outstanding Women

... in Fairfax County government.

BY TIM PETERSON  
 CENTRE VIEW

**E**dwyna Wingo of the Chantilly area began her career with Fairfax County as a nurse in the Health Department on Sept. 1, 1965 and worked her last full day Oct. 1, 2011. Wingo graduated from the University of Virginia nursing school in 1964 and decided she didn't much care for rotating and night shifts. Looking for a more regular schedule, she found work in "Home Health," providing health services for individuals outside the hospital. "The bug of public health really stuck," she said. "And I was on the cutting edge of public health back then. Home visits, community clinics, I did it all. And I never gave up on my love of patient care."

Wingo now works as part-time on special projects

**"I've benefitted from years of wonderful leadership of women in Fairfax County."**

— Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova

for the Fairfax County Health Department, including a car seat program for families whose income is low enough to make them eligible. She started with the project four years ago and said to date thousands of car seats have been given out.

Wingo is the longest-tenured of 12 women honored by the Fairfax County Commission for Women on March 1, Super Tuesday, at the Government Center prior to the Board of Supervisors regular meeting.

"I was absolutely floored when I got the email," Wingo said. "Fairfax County has been very dear to me. I've had opportunities in Fairfax County with the Health Department."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova spoke to the group before moving into the Board's auditorium to begin the regular business meeting.

The chairman opened with her response when people ask her what the obstacles were to her achieving her success in public elected office.

"I've benefitted from years of wonderful leadership of women in Fairfax County," Bulova said, referencing the late Jean Packard, the first woman to serve as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Audrey Moore and Kate Hanley.

"They've paved the way for me," Bulova continued. Then transitioning and acknowledging the 12 women being recognized by the commission, she thanked them each for "your knowledge, and the way you served Fairfax County."

Eleven women, each having spent 40 years or more with Fairfax County government, represented a total 433 years of service.

The 12th, Deputy County Executive for Human Services Pat Harrison, was scheduled to speak on behalf of the Commission for Women during a proclamation ceremony with the Board of Supervisors



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addresses the Fairfax County Commission for Women recognition program.

## It Takes a Village

Campaign designed to end homelessness in Fairfax County.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
 CENTRE VIEW

**W**hen speaking with Kathy Albarado, one might not guess that she'd experienced periods of homelessness as an adolescent. Her success, confidence and ability to inspire others are readily apparent. However, her childhood experiences have given her insight into the magnitude of the problem with homelessness in Fairfax County.

"I was in and out of transitional housing," said Albarado, who is now president and CEO of Helios HR, a Reston-based human capital management consulting and talent acquisition firm. "Transitional housing bridges the gap. It helps [homeless people] get back on their feet."

It is that first-hand knowledge that led Albarado and Helios HR to the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness "Build a Village Campaign," a collaboration of local chambers of commerce, businesses, faith groups, non-profit organizations and individuals dedicated to raising awareness and funds to benefit the county's homeless community.

"As my husband says, 'the fall is not that far.' Some people are one paycheck or one illness away from being homeless and we've got the resources in this county to change that," said Albarado. "Fairfax County is one of the most affluent counties in the country. Even if we have one homeless person, it's one too many."

One hundred percent of the funds raised for the Build a Village Campaign will be directed to help end veteran homelessness and house homeless individuals being served through the county's Hypo-

thermia Prevention Program, which provides shelter during freezing temperatures. The hypothermia shelters operate from November through March and have a policy of not turning away anyone in need during freezing temperatures.

"We have been out trying to identify veterans as quickly as possible and house them within 90 days from when we identify

them," said Dean Klein, director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "The money we raise will provide case management, housing assistance and medical or dental resources."

SEE IT TAKES, PAGE 5

**"We're trying to reduce as quickly as possible the number of people who are homeless and prevent more people from becoming homeless."**

— Dean Klein, Director, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.

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# Three Authors Create One Political Thriller

Centreville's James Rosen tasked with "harmonizing the novel into one voice."

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
CENTRE VIEW

It's not often that an award-winning journalist, a world-renowned scientist and a retired senior government official come together to write a spy thriller.

James Rosen, Centreville resident and the McClatchy News Group's Pentagon and Washington correspondent, along with Curtis Harris, and Jim Ellenberger, wrote "High Hand," a novel that highlights the dangerous situations that journalists find themselves when covering foreign issues.

Published last month by Copper Peak Press, "High Hand" is about a political conspiracy, shedding light on the frequent and complex relationship between international journalists and spies. It has already sold several hundreds of thousands of copies.

Rosen, a Fairfax County resident for more than 22 years, said that while he has wanted to write a novel for years, his own journalism career was not the inspiration for "High Hand."

"The book's inspiration came from Curt Harris, a co-author who in his day job as a world-renowned cancer researcher travels the globe giving lectures and collaborating with other scientists," Rosen said. "Curt and I met in 1995 playing squash at our club in McLean. Over the next decade or so, he listened to me complain that my challenging job as a journalist left me no time to write the book I so wanted to write. One night over beers at the club, after a spirited squash match, Curt handed me a three-page, single-space sketch and said, 'Here's your book.' In short order, we pulled in our third squash partner, Jim Ellenberger, and launched an amazing joint creative journey that produced 'High Hands'."

While each of the three squash buddies had been published several times for their respective "day jobs," they got together to write their first fictional novel. With three different areas of expertise, they made Rosen the lead editor and split the book into thirds.

"We each wrote about one-third of the book, and I served as lead editor with the task of fusing our different styles into a single voice," Rosen said. "Our friends and colleagues have told us that it reads as if a single author wrote it, which is quite satisfying. Each of us naturally ended up identifying more with one or more characters. Since Frank Adams, who is one of the main characters, is a journalist, I naturally gravitated toward him. Like me, he had been a Moscow correspondent, and we also have



From left are Curtis Harris, James Rosen and Jim Ellenberger.

PHOTO  
CONTRIBUTED

both covered major political events and presidential politics. So a lot of my professional experience is reflected in him, although, of course, he is a completely fictional character and there is much about his past and present lives that diverge sharply from my own."

Even though the book took years to write, Harris found the process of writing with his fellow authors to be a valuable, bringing so much more to the novel than if any of the authors had individually penned it.

"Each member of this collaboration brings their unique skills, talent, skills and experiences that are complementary to each other to make this combination synergistic," Harris said. "Jim Rosen was also used to writing non-fiction in the style of a reporter. This experience and expertise gave Frank Adams, one of our fictional characters, authenticity. Jim's posting in Moscow and being fluent in Russian also provided authenticity to venues in Russia and the former Soviet Union. Also, all three of us are international travelers and had visited and knew all of the venues in 'High Hand'."

Harris said that finding a writer's lair for a group getaway was crucial. Initially a screenplay, the co-authors found that immersing themselves in their project together, and away from the distractions of home, was imperative in getting their brainchild in development.

"We realized that three co-authors writing a novel would be challenging," Harris said. "We decided to spend three days in a mountain cabin to storyboard a screenplay. We generated 50 scenes. After writing the screenplay, we divided up the scenes and each wrote the initial chapters of 'High Hand.' After rounds of revision, Jim Rosen was given the essential task of harmonizing the novel into one voice. Afterward, we hired an editor to provide guidance for yet

another round of revisions. My scientific background contributed to the tradecraft of spies."

To promote the book as a truly cohesive novel, they published the book with the author's name being a pseudonym.

"We were advised by our publisher and other book professionals that having three authors listed for a single book was quite rare, especially in fiction," Rosen said. "So we decided to use a pseudonym. It is an amalgam of our three names — Curtis, James and James [Ellenberger]."

Rosen started his writing career as a teenager, writing Op-Eds to his local newspapers in Detroit, writing about problems at his school amidst the Vietnam War-related protests that plagued cities across the country. Even then, he said, calling local legislators and other politicians didn't intimidate him in his quest for answers. His journalistic journey took him all the way from Michigan, to college at University of California — Berkeley, and finally to Columbia University, where he received his Master's Degree in Journalism in 1986.

"Since then, I've been a Moscow correspondent, covered state government in Michigan and the federal government in Washington as a political and national security reporter," he said. "It has been a great

ride."

Aside from reading his prose in "High Hand," people can find his news stories both in print and online for McClatchy newspapers — including the Miami Herald, the Kansas City Star and the Sacramento Bee. His experience with McClatchy has brought him head-on with more than a few dangerous international assignments.

"I am one of a couple dozen reporters based in the Washington Bureau of McClatchy," he said. "It owns 29 daily newspapers nationwide. Before starting my new beat for the Miami Herald, I was McClatchy's Pentagon correspondent for two-plus years. When I began that assignment, my editors and I thought that I would be covering a downturn in Pentagon spending and activity after two wars — in Iraq and Afghanistan — spread over a dozen years. But some nine months into the beat, the Islamic State declared a caliphate and began a bloody terrorist march across broad swaths of Iraq and Syria. The rest of my time covering the Pentagon was dominated by reporting on the U.S. and allied effort to combat the Islamic State."

And, that position just produced some of the many heart-pounding professional situations he's found himself in. His experience with Russian politics was an asset for the writing of "High Hand."

"Now many more people are following the Kremlin's adventures abroad, and we believe they will be drawn by the almost eerily lifelike events in 'High Hand,' many of them based in Moscow, other Russian locales or exotic sites in nearby lands," Rosen said. "Finally, many of the book's interpersonal relationships among journalists, politicians, spies, oilmen, oligarchs and high-tech businessmen do reflect the personal experiences not only of myself, but also of Curt and Jim [Ellenberger]. All three of us have traveled widely throughout the world and come to know a broad range of senior folks from the diplomatic, military, intelligence, corporate, labor and scientific world. These relationships inform a good deal of the book's interactions, although again in the end it is entirely a work of fiction."



## Honoring Women

FROM PAGE 1

recognizing March as Women's History Month.

Laura Sizemore, a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School and in her second year as the student representative to the Fairfax County Commission for Women, was in the audience for the recognition ceremony.

"I bring the perspective of teenagers to the commission," Sizemore said, "I

know the school side of issues like dress code and sexual harassment."

To see the 12 women honored for their vast careers with Fairfax County, Sizemore said it inspires her to work hard and do what she wants with her life, "not what people want me to do," she said.

The junior said computer science is a big passion and she plans to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or government.



# Meet Westfield Principal Anthony Copeland

**Decades of leadership prepared him for the job.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**W**estfield High Principal Anthony Copeland has a wealth of experience as a leader, both in schools and in the military. Before taking over the reins at Westfield in September 2015, he was an assistant principal at Lake Braddock Secondary and North Stafford High and an Army field artillery officer who served 20 years in the military.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Ga., he was in JROTC in high school and, afterward, got accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point's prep school. "My mom couldn't afford to send me to college," he said. "But I knew, if I went into the Army, West Point could be my college."

"I met great folks who exposed me to so many things and prominent people I couldn't have known in Georgia," continued Copeland, 55. "So the Academy gave me a different perspective on my life and the whole world."

During his active duty, one of his jobs was as an instructor at Field Artillery School. "I really enjoyed it and the interactions with the other officers," he said. "So I signed up for the federal Troops to Teachers program — two years at ODU — and, in 1999, got my master's in education science while still in the Army."

Copeland retired as a major in 2002 and, within a month, he got a job teaching math at North Stafford, which he did for three



**Westfield High Principal Anthony Copeland at his desk.**

PHOTO BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

years. "I loved teaching, but I was learning how to teach adolescents instead of adults, plus getting used to a new career," he said. "And every year afterward got better and better." He also enjoyed getting two months' vacation in the summer, but taught summer school to get more experience.

He was also looking ahead. While still in the Army, a colleague of Copeland's told him he'd be a good leader and suggested he consider someday becoming a school administrator. So in 2002, before retiring, he started working on his Ph.D. to get his doctorate and administrative endorsement.

Then in 2005, he became an assistant principal at North Stafford. "I had good experiences and forged good relationships with the kids," he said. "I also helped at-risk students get scholarships to college or go into the military, and I saw that [educators] can make a difference."

After six years there, Copeland joined FCPS, moving to Lake Braddock in 2011 as

an assistant principal there. He calls it "a good primer" for his duties at Westfield because Lake Braddock had almost 400 faculty and staff members, including 14 administrators.

"So there was a lot of natural working together and bouncing ideas off others, plus compromising and fighting for your time," he said. And although Westfield's not a secondary school, it has more than 300 faculty members and seven administrators under Copeland, including five subschool principals.

At Lake Braddock, he learned how FCPS functions and who to call for whatever assistance he needed. "I also met great colleagues," he said. "People have always been very willing to help, so that made this county a really good place to work."

Meanwhile, Westfield's former principal, Tim Thomas, left to take the helm at Annandale High, and Copeland applied for his job. He was interviewed for it last Au-

gust and, on Sept. 2, learned he got it. Eight days later, he started work at Westfield.

"I felt like, all of a sudden, a lot of responsibility had been placed on my shoulders, but I really wanted to be here," he said. "But I also knew I'd spent four years at the premier leadership school in the nation, West Point. I'd spent 20 years leading adults and had been in education 13 years, so I knew I could do this — I'd been prepared."

At Westfield, Copeland received an "incredibly welcoming" reception. "The families, kids, teachers and the whole community are always willing to step up and land a hand," he said. "This is who they are — they really care about the school, teachers and students. There's a strong mix of cultures that gets along, and that's a beautiful thing, so it's a special place."

He said the students and teachers have "a lot of pride and wanted to know what I thought of everything here." And he takes the job seriously. Copeland was one of six children and his father died when he was 12.

"So when I see the opportunity to provide kids with exposure to someone who's been successful, overcome something or has words of wisdom to offer them, I want to do that," he said. "As principal, I consider myself the ultimate helper, and I have a responsibility to the parents and children to run the best school possible."

Noting that Westfield has 100 fewer students this year than last year, Copeland wants to increase enrollment from the current 2,600 students to possibly 2,800. "I want to show them this is truly a great school with great teachers, kids, faculty and staff," he said. "We also have wonderful programs, both academic and extra-curricular."

SEE COPELAND. PAGE 7

## Baldassari Is Named Sully District Officer of Month

**A**cknowledged for his expertise, enthusiasm and professional demeanor, PFC Kevin Baldassari is the Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Month for January. He was honored during the Feb. 10 meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee.

Before presenting the officer with his award, Capt. Bob Blakley, the station commander, spoke about Baldassari, who works the evening shift.

"He truly is a leader out there, every single day," said Blakley. "As a patrol officer, he has the cool, calm and collected [frame of mind] to do the job well. He's also the field training instructor for new and auxiliary officers and is probably the best one we have. Guys like him risk their lives every day, and it's heroes like this who keep us safe."

In nominating him for the award, Baldassari's supervisor, Lt. Jonathan Stern, detailed the officer's many attributes. "PFC Baldassari has been selected as Officer of the Month based on his exemplary performance," wrote Stern. "He's been with the Fairfax County Police Department for 18 years and assigned to the Sully District Station for the past nine years."

Stern also noted that Baldassari "has proven himself to be the epitome of a well-rounded patrol officer. He sets the example for what a police officer should be — completely knowledgeable about his profession, enthusiastic about the work, maintaining an expert knowledge of his community, and being a great communicator."

"Baldassari recognizes his strengths and uses his positive attributes efficiently," continued Stern. "Kevin is a modern example of the old-time beat cop — fair, knowledgeable, respectable, reasonable and, most importantly, effective. Because of these abilities, he's been a field training instructor for many years. During 2015, he trained three new officers and one auxiliary officer."

Furthermore, wrote Stern, "Kevin is an invaluable asset to his squad and supervisors, as well. He's reliable and competent in his day-to-day job performance and goes way beyond the norm in order to ensure a safe and educated police force is on the job at the Sully District Station. PFC Baldassari is a dedicated and reliable employee and most deserving of this recognition."

— BONNIE HOBBS



**PFC Kevin Baldassari (left) receives his certificate from Capt. Bob Blakley.**

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Team X-BOTS is a community team unlike many other teams that are school-based. The team consists of (from left): Thejus Unnivalan (TJHSST, 11th grade), Srinidhi Krishnan (TJHSST, 10th grade), Satish Venkatesan (Chantilly HS, 10th grade), Anoushka Chintada (RRMS, 8th grade), Nikhil Chintada (TJHSST, 11th grade), Shreya Menon (Robinson SS, 10th grade), Eric Link (TJHSST, 10th grade), Pooja-Aria Gupta (John Champe HS, 10th grade), Edward Sun (TJHSST, 10th grade), Charlie Wu (Longfellow MS, 7th grade), and Kieran Beaumont (TJHSST, 10th grade).**

## Heading to Eastern Super Regionals

**F**TC team 6700, the X-BOTS, a Robotics team of high-school and middle-school students from Northern Virginia, is heading to the FTC Eastern Super-Regional championships in Scranton, Pa., following a successful performance at Virginia State Championship on Feb 13 where they were awarded Inspire Award (3rd place), Won Kamen Division, were Championship finalists, and Nikhil Chintada won Dean's List finalist award to represent Virginia at World Championships.

X-BOTS will be one of 12 teams from Virginia out of 176 heading to Super Regional. X-BOTS will be

competing with 72 teams from Maine to Virginia in the FTC East Super-Regionals during March 18-20 for an opportunity to advance to the FTC World Championship in St. Louis, Mo.

On the way to Super Regional, X-BOTS won 19 awards this season, and 41 overall in the four years they have competed.

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) is a program created by F.I.R.S.T (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a not-for-profit organization founded by Dean Kamen, that promotes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) for students in grades 7-12.

ROUNDUPS

### WFCCA Land-Use Committee

The West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee will meet Tuesday, March 15, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly. On the agenda are proposed changes to the Chantilly Crossing Shopping Center, including a Lidl grocery store.

### Dialogue on Teen Drug Use

Westfield High School PTSA invites parents to an evening of dialogue on Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m. in the school's lecture hall with a panel of high school seniors about drugs and alcohol use, teen parties, parent supervision and enabling, social media and communication with parents. Facilitating will be Jennifer Lewis-Cooper of the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County. This is a parents-only event open to the community.

### Expect Delays at Intersection

Drivers can expect 10- to 15-minute delays at the intersection of Braddock and Pleasant Valley roads for cable relocation:

- ❖ Monday, March 7 to Thursday, March 10: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ❖ Friday, March 11: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, March 12: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Motorists are advised to use alternate routes.

This project replaces the existing four-way stop with a one-lane roundabout in western Fairfax, to improve operations and enhance safety. The \$5.8 million project is being administered in cooperation with Fairfax County and is expected to be complete in May.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 17, 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.

### Time to Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m. So before going to bed Saturday night, make sure to turn all clocks, watches and the time on electronic devices forward one hour.

### Leland House Receives Grant

UMFS' Leland House in Centerville, which works with high-risk youth in crisis situations, received a \$10,000 grant from the CarMax Foundation.

Leland House staff will use the money to provide therapeutic services, Spanish-speaking interpreters and the purchase of special workbooks, as well as other tools and toys used in therapy sessions.

UMFS is a nonprofit social service organization with locations throughout Virginia. Visit [www.umfs.org](http://www.umfs.org)

### Moving Equipment Is Sought

The Centerville 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@centervillelrc.org](mailto:director@centervillelrc.org).



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

### Police Honor Chick-Fil-A

**Chick-Fil-A's Peter Kim (left) receives a plaque from police 1st Lt. Matt Owens. The restaurant was honored during the Feb. 10 meeting of the Sully District Station's Citizens Advisory Committee. Owens, the assistant station commander, said Chick-Fil-A donated food to the police officers working on New Year's Eve and has partnered with the station on various community projects. The plaque recognized Chick-Fil-A for its "continued, outstanding support and dedication to the men and women of the Sully District Police Station."**

### CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Sully District Police Station.

**BURGLARY:** 6100 block of Jenlar Dr. March 5, 1:04 a.m. A resident reported that someone entered the residence and took property.

**BURGLARY:** 5700 block of Osprey Ct. March 4, 8:04 p.m. A resident reported that someone entered the residence and took property.

**BURGLARY,** 13800 block of Braddock Springs Road, Feb. 26, 9:35 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

**DUI / REFUSAL OF BREATH TEST:** New Braddock Road/Union Mill Road, Feb. 26, 8:41 p.m. Officers responded to a car accident at this location. One of the drivers was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol. A 39-year-old Centerville man was charged with driving under the influence, obstruction of justice, refusal of breath test, and driving on a suspended license.

**TRESPASSING:** 4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Feb. 17. A former student was found to be trespassing at Westfields High School. On Feb. 20, A 18-year-old man from Centerville was charged with trespassing.



# It Takes a Village

FROM PAGE 1

The campaign was launched in December 2015 and Klein says they hope to reach their goal of \$100,000 by the end of March. "We're trying to reduce as quickly as possible the number of people who are homeless and prevent more people from becoming homeless," said Klein. "This campaign will help us to reach our goals and engage as many people and companies as possible to make this happen."

The way the program works is that local chambers of commerce, businesses, faith groups, non-profit organizations and individuals from Fairfax-Falls Church build virtual houses one brick at a time. Giving levels range from \$25 for a single brick to \$500 for a virtual door to \$5,000 for a virtual house. The Build a Village campaign will run through March 2016.

"It is an issue that the business community feels offers an important opportunity to assist," said Jim Corcoran, president and CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

The county is on a trajectory to reach the reach the goal by the end of the month. "We've had very good response since our launch," said Glynda Mayo Hall, Partnership Development manager of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "Our governing board has also stepped up to their leadership."

Albarado's staff at Helios HR in Reston has volunteered with non-profits that offer support to the homeless like the Reston-based Embry Rucker Community Shelter, which provides emergency housing for families and single men and women. Among the volunteer efforts designed to help the homeless in

Fairfax County, Helios employees assembled and delivered bagged lunches to the shelter's residents.

Making a personal connection with those in need is a benefit that Albarado believes will resonate with her staff and one that she hopes other volunteers will experience. "It made us feel good to see and meet the people we were helping," she said. "It's important to build awareness, because when people are aware they are more likely to get engaged and get involved."

In addition to donating money, personal involvement with non-profit organizations like Cornerstones, Inc. in Reston which provides support for those in need of human services such as food, shelter and childcare, helps create an awareness of the extent of homelessness in the community and breaks stereotypes about homeless people.

Meeting people who were helped by the donations and volunteer efforts has had a profound effect on Natalie O'Laughlin, communications manager at Helios HR. "We've been able to meet the individuals who have benefited from the programs and hear their stories, which are heartwarming, and give you a better idea of who is affected," she said.

In addition to donating to the Build a Village Campaign, Albarado hopes that community members will give of their time, which in turn, she believes, will encourage others to make financial contributions. "Volunteering with these non-profits is more effective than reading stats because people don't connect with statistics," she said. "But when you meet the people who are impacted by your work, it's really powerful."



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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MARCH

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3. no longer owned or known



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# OPINION

## Bringing Back the Electric Chair

In a word: **Barbaric.**

No doubt Virginia and Texas will be the last two states to continue with the death penalty until, inevitably, evolving standards of decency lead the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that the death penalty is unconstitutional.

But fear of loss has motivated the Virginia General Assembly to amend a law that allows prisoners facing execution to choose between lethal injection and the electric chair so that the electric chair is used if drugs for lethal injection are not available.

It's barbaric, and execution debacles with electrocution and unproven drugs for lethal injection could speed overall rejection of the death penalty.

Most representatives from our area voted against, but in the House of Delegates, which voted 62-33 for the electric chair, Dave Albo, Jim LeMunyon and Vivian Watts voted in favor; Tim Hugo didn't vote but registered that he intended to vote yes. (Voting no were Jennifer Boysko, David Bulova, Eileen Filler-Corn, Charniele Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam,

Paul Krizek, Mark Levine, Alfonso Lopez, Bob Marshall, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Marcus Simon and Rip Sullivan. Kathleen Murphy didn't vote but registered that she intended to vote no.)

The Virginia Senate voted for the electric chair 22-17. From our area, only Dick Saslaw voted in favor of the electric chair. Voting no were George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Janet Howell, Dave Marden, Chap Petersen, Scott Surovell and Jennifer Wexton.

Residents of the 35th Senate District could rightfully question whether they are getting the representation they expect from Senator Saslaw (D), who without doubt will continue to be reelected until he chooses to retire.

Saslaw voted for mandatory use of the electric chair if lethal injection drugs are not available, worked to kill legislation that would protect consumers from predatory lending and interest rates of more than 200 percent, and was chief patron of the notorious proffer bill, which, if signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe as passed, will result in localities losing the ability to temper costs of development and likely property tax increases.

EDITORIAL

## Making Good Choices On Saint Patrick's Day

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), will offer the 2016 St. Patty's Day SoberRide program, providing free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area next Thursday, March 17.

SoberRide will be available for 12 hours starting 4 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day and continuing until 4 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

Make your own plans to celebrate safely by having a designated driver, celebrating where you can take public transportation or spend the night. But if those plans go awry, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) for a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. For more information, visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## General Assembly Agrees on Budget

BY JIM LEMUNYON  
STATE DELEGATE (R-67)

The past week has been a busy one in the General Assembly as the House of Delegates passed the 2016-2018 biennial state budget. The Senate also passed a similar budget. During the next two weeks, differences between these two budgets, which are relatively minor, will be negotiated to form a consensus budget that will be forwarded to the governor. The new budget will take effect July 1.

Unlike the deficit spending and political acrimony in Washington D.C., the Virginia House passed a balanced budget on a bipartisan basis. The budget has no new taxes

or fees. The House budget bill, HB 30, passed the House on a vote of 98-2. I voted yes. I'd like to highlight funding for K-12 education, public university education, mental health, and transportation that is included in the House-passed budget.

K-12 education funding from the state will increase from \$7.1 to \$7.7 billion between 2016 and 2018. Education funding from the state for Fairfax County schools is \$614 million for the current school year. For the next two school years, the figures are \$632 million and \$671 million respectively. Higher education funding includes funding for increased access for in-state undergraduate students and

affordability.

General fund spending for higher education in the House-passed budget is \$1.77 billion in 2017 and \$1.82 billion in 2018. This compares to \$1.59 billion in the current year. These increases are aimed at holding tuition increases at in-state universities to no more than three percent per year, although each university board and not the General Assembly, makes this decision.

Funding for mental health treatment centers throughout the state is \$746 million for the 2016-18 period, an increase of 10 percent from 2014-2016.

Transportation funding statewide for 2016-2018 is \$13.4 bil-

COMMENTARY

lion, a 12 percent increase in funding from 2014-16. Part of the transportation funding includes \$140 million for widening I-66 eastbound inside the Beltway, with additional money available for I-66 improvements outside the Beltway.

These two related projects are expected to reduce congestion in Northern Virginia in a way that adds approximately 100,000 hours of time back into the lives of Northern Virginians each business day. These I-66 projects are expected to be completed by 2020 or 2021.

I may be reached at [deljlemunyon@gmail.com](mailto:deljlemunyon@gmail.com) or 703-264-1432. Your call will forward to the Richmond office.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community will be holding a program to introduce the True Islam and the Extremists campaign in the Virginia area on Friday, March 11, at 6:30-8 p.m. at the Mubarak Mosque, 4555 Ahmadiyya Drive, Chantilly.

Inconsistent messages from Muslim leadership have created increased risk of extremism and radicalization. The True Islam ([trueislam.com](http://trueislam.com)) campaign aims to provide all Americans a clear way to distinguish true Islam from extremism and to unify Muslim

Americans on the correct understanding of Islam that Prophet Muhammad taught. To this end, the following 11 points

have been selected as key tenets of True Islam that differentiate it from extremism.

1. True Islam wholly rejects all forms of terrorism
2. True Islam believes in non violent Jihad of the self and of the pen
3. True Islam believes in the equality, education, and empowerment of women
4. True Islam advocates freedom of conscience, religion, and speech

5. True Islam advocates for the separation of mosque and state

6. True Islam believes in loyalty to your country of residence

7. True Islam encompasses the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

8. True Islam believes in all verses of the Qur'an and forbids lying

9. True Islam recognizes that no religion can monopolize salvation

10. True Islam believes in the need for unified Muslim leadership

11. True Islam rejects the concept of a bloody Messiah

# CENTREVIEW

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A Connection Newspaper



**Rizwan Khan**  
Chantilly



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Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@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.

## SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

**Free Cab Rides.** Thursday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Friday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and receive a free (up to a \$30 fare) safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service. Visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

## NOW REGISTERING

**Kindergarten Registration.** Greenbriar West Elementary School is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Parents of children who live within the school's boundaries and who will turn 5 years of age by Sept. 30, 2016, should call the school office at 703-633-6700 as soon as possible.

## THROUGH APRIL 18

**Cell Phones for Soldiers.** Donate unwanted cell phones to help active duty military and vets call loved ones. Drop-off at Liberty Tax, 5622-G Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Call 703-323-5580 for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 12

**"LAX for a Cause."** Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) and, Chantilly Youth Association (CYA) are joining forces to host the third annual "LAX for a Cause" day of lacrosse. The eight-hour lacrosse event features dozens of lacrosse games at Centreville High School to raise \$20,000 to benefit the nation's veterans through Fisher House Foundation. Visit [syasports.org/lacrosse/Laxforacause](http://syasports.org/lacrosse/Laxforacause) to donate.

**Open House.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. All Minnieland Academy locations in Centreville will have an

open House to unveil their Summer Camp EdVenture themes and activities. Parents and children are welcome to stop by any of the Centreville Square or Sully Station locations to learn about the summer theme, "Time Travelers," enjoy refreshments and reserve a place for their child. Visit [www.minnieland.com/](http://www.minnieland.com/) for more.

**Real Food For Kids Culinary Challenge.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Learn about food writing and photography, family meal planning, school gardening and school food. Watch 11 student teams compete to create a delicious school breakfast, lunch or snack. Visit [www.realfoodforkids.org](http://www.realfoodforkids.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 17

**"Saturday Night in the Suburbs."** 7 p.m. at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. The program is open to adults in the community and features a panel of high school seniors who talk openly about alcohol and drug use, teen parties, social media, parent supervision and enabling, and communication with parents. Middle school and high school parents are encouraged to attend. Visit [www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org) or [www.facebook.com/unifiedpreventioncoalition](http://www.facebook.com/unifiedpreventioncoalition).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 20

**Easter Event.** 3:30 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. King of Kings Lutheran Church is having its annual Easter event for Families and Easter Egg Hunt — Rise Up With Jesus. Activities for children up to grade 6 include: picture with the Easter bunny, egg hunts for different ages and special needs, and decorating Easter trees. \$5 per child. All are invited. Contact Judi Cooper at [jhangen@kofk.org](mailto:jhangen@kofk.org) or 703-378-7272, ext. 225 or visit [www.kofk.org](http://www.kofk.org).

## MONDAY/MARCH 21

**Garden Club Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Sully

Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Centreville Garden Club presents "All about Sedums" with Donna Kuroda, past president of the Cacti & Succulent Club of Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome. Learn more at [centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com](http://centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com), email [centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com) or call 703-266-9233.

**Woman's Club Meeting.** 7 p.m. at the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. The GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club will host Joanna Walker who will relate the story of a difficult time when her son, diagnosed with bipolar disorder, was spiraling out of control.

Walker will discuss how she came to join the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Northern Virginia five years ago, and its role in providing support, education, and hope to individuals and families whose lives have been affected by mental illness. Guests are welcome and admission is free. Visit [www.wfcwc.org](http://www.wfcwc.org) or call Mary Jane at 703-378-4250 for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 26

**Financial Planner Consultations.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, Chantilly Conference Room, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly.

Certified Financial Planners from Quantis Wealth Management will give 20-minute one-on-one consultations at no cost and with no obligation as a public service. Contact Melinda Soulisak at [melinda@quantism.com](mailto:melinda@quantism.com) or 703-462-9643 to schedule an appointment.

## MONDAY/MARCH 28

**Kindergarten Registration.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Colin Powell Elementary School in Centreville will conduct their kindergarten registration in the school cafeteria. Forms and other information are available at [www.fcps.edu/it/forms/bundles.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/bundles.shtml). Due to time constraints, parents are asked not to bring children along.

# Copeland

FROM PAGE 3

"I want to establish a stronger connection between the school and the community to make Westfield a focal point where graduates will come back and enjoy and appreciate the things we do here," he continued. "We want people to want to be here because they know we have a quality program with teachers who provide great instruction and great opportunities for kids to learn."

Copeland said his focus is on helping both students and teachers be the best they can. Leadership, he explained, is "the art of enabling others to do their very best, giving them confidence and putting them in the situations they need to be successful."

He expects the hardest part of his job will be leaving it someday because "there'll be no other experience like this."

We're graduating 97 percent of the kids out here, and the administrative team is incredibly experienced and competent at what it does."

The best part, said Copeland, will be seeing the graduates in June. "That's the end game — knowing that they're well-prepared for life, we've given them the tools to be successful and they had a great education here." And to the community, he said, "I appreciate the opportunity to be principal of this great school, and my faculty and staff are here to serve you and your kids."

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County Region

## 3rd Annual Casino Night

Saturday, March 12, 2016  
7:00 - 11:00 pm  
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**Tickets**  
\$100 per person  
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Enjoy:

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# Westfield Boys' Basketball Returns to Winning Ways

**Bulldogs beat C.D. Hylton in 6A state quarterfinals.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
CENTRE VIEW

**T** Tyler Scanlon said the Westfield boys' basketball team needed to do some soul searching after the Bulldogs lost to Battlefield in the 6A North region final on Feb. 27.

They must have found something useful. Westfield led by at least eight points throughout the second half and defeated C.D. Hylton 67-49 in the state quarterfinals

**“Battlefield destroyed us on the boards. It was hard to watch. You almost had to put your hands over your eyes. They just killed us on the boards. We had to learn from that. I think we did a better job of that tonight — we can still improve.”**

— Westfield senior Tyler Scanlon

on Friday at Robinson Secondary School.

The Bulldogs advanced to the semifinals, where they faced 6A South champion Woodside on Tuesday at VCU, after The Connection's deadline.

Westfield entered the region final riding a 22-game win streak, but lost to Battlefield 77-72. After the game, Scanlon said the Bobcats were tougher, worked harder



**Westfield senior Hank Johnson finished with a double-double, scoring 20 points and grabbing 11 rebounds, during the Bulldogs' win over C.D. Hylton on Friday in the state quarterfinals at Robinson Secondary School.**

and rebounded better than the Bulldogs, who had won the region title and finished state runner-up the previous season.

Six days later, Westfield took care of business against Hylton and earned a return trip to the state final four.

“It was a brutal week,” Scanlon said. “We watched film [from] that Battlefield game. Me and Coach [Doug] Ewell went at it for about 30 minutes [about] defense and schemes. That really helped us. ... Battlefield destroyed us on the boards. It was hard to watch. You almost had to put your hands over your eyes. They just killed us on the boards. We had to learn from that. I think we did a better job of that tonight — we can still improve.”

“We focused on defense and boxing out this week, that's really all it was.”

Ewell said the loss to Battlefield might have been beneficial for Westfield, forcing the Bulldogs to evaluate their shortcomings and make adjustments. Change, however, didn't come immediately.

“To be honest with you, on Monday I thought we were done,” Ewell said. “If you would have asked me Monday or Tuesday, I thought our kids waved the white flag ... so it was really good for us to grow throughout the week. If we had played on Tuesday or Wednesday, we would have been in a lot of trouble. But I think growing, communicating, maybe humbling yourself a little bit, was probably a really good thing for us. I'm really proud of the way they played.”

“They played probably their best team game in a long time.”

Senior guard Blake Francis led Westfield with 21 points and Scanlon finished with 15. Junior guard Kory Jones scored eight points.

While Scanlon and Francis have been Westfield's top offensive threats for the last two seasons, Hank Johnson has stepped up to help carry the load. The 6-foot-4 senior



**Westfield senior Tyler Scanlon scored 15 points against C.D. Hylton in the state quarterfinals on Friday.**

produced a double-double Friday, finishing with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

“Hank is playing amazing,” Ewell said. “He's being really consistent. It's great to have a consistent third. He's a big, he can step out and shoot it, he can score at the rim, he makes free throws and so that's a huge plus.”

Johnson scored nine points in the third quarter, including a 3-pointer that gave Westfield a 46-32 lead with 1:43 remaining.

“Monday was really a big day for us,” Johnson said. “Coach Ewell kind of said be all in or just go home. We're still in this. Our goal is still ahead of us. We just kept working. We had a really good week of practice. Coach Ewell pushed us really hard and it showed tonight.”

Westfield advanced to Richmond for the state semifinals. Last year, the Bulldogs lost to Colonial Forge, 47-46, in the state final.

“We want it all,” Johnson said. “We're not going down there just to say we made it to VCU. We're going down to win it all and we're very intent on doing that.”

## SPORTS BRIEF

### Senior Softball League Seeks Players

The Northern Virginia Senior Softball League is looking for players for the 2016 spring/summer and fall seasons starting April 5 and ending in late October.

Women age 40 and up and men age 50 and up are eligible to play. Games are played on Tuesday and Thursday mornings starting at 9:30 a.m. at various playing fields in Fairfax County. The league has more than 500 members and fields teams at three sepa-

rate competitive levels of play so there is a place for players regardless of skill level, of age, when last played, or if one never played.

The league holds skill assessments to determine competitive level placement.

The league has many players in their 70s and 80s. See [www.facebook.com/NorthernVirginiaSeniorSoftball](http://www.facebook.com/NorthernVirginiaSeniorSoftball) and [www.nvss.org](http://www.nvss.org) for more.



**Blake Francis led Westfield with 21 points during the Bulldogs' victory over C.D. Hylton on Friday.**



## Buying or Selling?

A primer for doing either and avoiding pitfalls.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
CENTRE VIEW

**H**ere we are, once again right on the edge of the Spring/Summer real estate season when it seems like “For Sale” signs become the most common lawn ornament or condo window decoration.

With help from some knowledgeable sources like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and some respected local experts, here’s a bit of a primer on buying or selling a property. We’re going for the basics here with a few comments about our local market.

**Let’s start with our sellers**, since for the most part, they have the most work to do to get the job done.

Let’s assume that you are working with an agent. Hopefully, you asked all the right questions before signing an agreement to sell. Don’t be shy. It’s okay to “interview” several agents and ask for references. Ask to make contact with their last two or three clients – not just the ones that they offer up as testimonials.

**Be realistic about your asking price.** “Don’t be too aggressive,” cautioned real estate agent Jennifer Boyce of Long and Foster in Burke.

Anita Lasansky, CRB, managing brokerage president Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon, agrees with that advice, and adds that sellers around the Wiehle Metro station in Reston shouldn’t expect a big bump in sales price just because of Metro’s arrival. Lasansky has seen sellers factor in 5-10 percent increases on that basis, but “it just hasn’t had that effect,” she said.

**Think about getting a pre-sale home inspection.** This could cost a bit. Think at least \$500, depending on the size and age of the property. Being proactive could help locate potential problems that might stall, or even end a sale. Even if you don’t go for the professional inspection, take a look around and get on with those repairs or more affordable upgrades you’ve been meaning to tackle. While you’re at it, locate those warranties and manuals - something that really impresses those buyers, while last-minute searches could pose a problem at closing.

**Clean and get organized.** Here’s where you need that thick skin. Your agent isn’t casting aspersions on your personal taste or “dissing” your kids, pets, hobbies, etc. when she tells you to neutralize as much as possible, put away the toys and pet paraphernalia, and all the other stuff that is part of our comfortable living. Your agent is merely looking out for you, and making your home appealing to the widest pool of potential buyers. Pay special attention to closets and bathrooms, and no, don’t use the spare bedroom as the storage catch-all. If there isn’t space inside the house, con-



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

**What’s wrong with this picture? It’s a gorgeous kitchen, but real estate agents will tell you that the green plastic cup, the dishwashing soap and the drainboard should all vanish from the selling photos of your house, and certainly during any showings.**

sider the smallest space at a storage facility for the the extra boxes, furniture, gadgets and whatnots while your property is on the market.

**First impressions.** That means check out curb appeal, from the condition of lawn and landscape to the front entryway. Trim those bushes. Edge that grass. Put down some new mulch, and clean up those oil spots on the driveway.

**Photos.** Let the professionals handle this one. Most buyers today do their scouting online. Lots of quality photos attract the most visitors.

**YOUR REAL ESTATE AGENT** can give you a more comprehensive checklist and do a walk-through before an Open House or to prepare for showings, but here are some of the “musts” as advised by some of our area experts:

- ❖ Double check for clutter, and clean, clean, clean. A thorough cleaning by a professional service is much recommended. Don’t forget the windows and the carpets.

- ❖ Do the “**Sniff Test.**” This one is critical for homes with pets or smokers. Again, put on your thick skin armour. Refrigerators, garbage disposals, trash cans and carpets can be odoriferous stumbling blocks to a good showing. Give your home a thorough airing out before show time, especially in the kitchen.

- ❖ Double check for sticking doors, burned out light bulbs, loose knobs.

- ❖ **Stage it** – Consider a professional “stager” or at least give each space a neutral, de-cluttered living “story” that helps buyers visualize themselves right at home.

To highlight upgrades or bring attention to items/features in a room, you might add an attractive picture frame with a few well written and formatted sentences on classy writing paper. Of course, a little light music and a plate of yummy cookies make everyone feel welcome.

- ❖ Put away small valuables, jewelry and medications.

- ❖ **Don’t hang around** – and take Fido or Fifi with you if possible. If not, confine pets to crates or one room and be sure to warn agents in advance. Be sure you have left contact information in case of questions or issues.

- ❖ **Make your property accessible** – If potential buyers can only see your property from 10 a.m. until noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, prepare for a long wait before a successful closing. Selling a home is often a numbers game. As disruptive as it can be, the more people who look, the better chance of a sale.

**FOR BUYERS.** Just as with the sellers, buyers should shop around for a trusted real estate partner. Again, ask those questions, get those referrals and be sure that your agent understands your needs and expectations and that you understand the process as they describe it.

**Buyers** don’t have to do all that physical prep work until it’s time to get ready for their actual move, but there are a lot of considerations to deal with on this side of the real estate fence, as well. The best starting place is making sure that you know what you are looking for. Single family house with an enormous backyard or a “zero lot?” A condo in an urban setting with Metro ac-

cess, or a more resort feel with access to walking/biking trails or other amenities? The National Association of Realtors suggests developing a “Home/Neighborhood Wish List,” prioritizing from “must have” to “it would be nice if ...” and reviewing the list after a few viewings to see if your thoughts have changed.

Some of the basics as advised by the NVAR and NAR and some of their area experts:

- ❖ **Get pre-qualified.** Better yet, get pre-approved by a lender before you start looking. That way you will know what you can afford, be ready to make an offer and be a more attractive buyer since the seller knows you can make good on that offer. In many markets within Northern Virginia, buyers still outnumber inventory, so pre-approval can help set your offer apart. Megan Bailey of Bailey Fine Properties says “Buyers must be pre-approved before going out to look at homes with me. It’s important to know that they feel comfortable ... by having the lender provide them with a “Good Faith Estimate” to break down the costs and to make sure the lender can finance the home. Taking someone to look at homes out of their price range ... sets the client up for disappointment.”

- ❖ **Be ready to move** – sounds simple, but buyers have lost out on deals because they weren’t ready. Worse yet, they may put their “Earnest Money Deposit” at risk if they can’t go through with a sale as contracted.

- ❖ **Think about resale.** This may sound counter intuitive at this point, but especially for first-time buyers with an average of 10 years in the home, it’s good to think ahead and consider what the area and the home might be like when it’s time to move on.

- ❖ **Keep repair, maintenance and running costs in mind.** Even a brand-new home may require some work or customizing to suit your lifestyle, so consider those costs. You may have the approval for that attractive “McMansion” but are you prepared for the electric bills, mowing that acre, and the property taxes on top of the monthly mortgage? Ask the seller for details on utility costs and other maintenance that the property requires, i.e. pool upkeep.

- ❖ **Don’t go “house-blind.”** When you are so taken with the house that you might ignore factors that will ultimately make for a poor buying decision. Visit the property several times, inside and out, at various times of the day and on different days of the week to get a real feel for the neighborhood.

- ❖ **Research.** Your agent can direct you to resources where you can check out local schools. Even if you don’t have school-aged children, it’s something to think about for re-sale down the road or any kids you may be adding to the family.

For those buyers considering a condo or property with an HOA (Home Owners Association) there are even more questions to ask and things to be considered. These can get pretty specific and detailed, so your best bet is to ask that agent.



# And It's Just So Happening Now



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

The day after my seven-year anniversary. And not that I want to stop recounting the years since February 27, 2009 – years for which I am most proud to have survived – and thrived even, I must look forward because it's the future that lies ahead, not the past. Medicine, science and nutrition are particularly evolving disciplines with revelations, discoveries and life-changing/life-saving/life-affirming research in the offing. Nevertheless, having beaten my original, extremely discouraging, life-expectancy odds/prognosis: "13 months to two years," (received at age 54 and a half no less), doesn't mean that I can rest on my unexpected and certainly unpredicted survival. I wish the past was indeed prologue but we're discussing cancer here; I'm more afraid the past may simply be a prelude and that my epilogue may suffer the consequences.

But not to worry. I'm not weakening in my resolve, just being realistic and honest. Cancer is not the preferred diagnosis when one is planning one's future. Even so, rates of survival seem to rise every day now, and research studies, clinical trials (and tribulations) and non-Western alternatives, assure that presently, if not in the very near future, great promise exists that many more of us afflicted with this terrible disease can begin/return to live relatively normal lives, making cancer more of a chronic, treatable/manageable-type condition rather than what it is now, in many cases (not all, of course): a terminal one, or at least one with an abbreviated life expectancy.

Still, I'm not counting on any magic pill to cure what ails me. This whole cancer thing is my responsibility. I must do all I can to keep my own house in order. Relying, depending or anticipating even that some opportunity will present itself to rid me of my cancer cannot be my plan "A." Plan "C" maybe? As such, in the interim, I must steady on and stay the course and try to remain open to new and different strategies, all the while attempting to find calm in the midst of a very distressing set of circumstances.

And diagnosis-to-date, I think I've done a pretty good job of bearing the unbearable. Not that I had any training or experience in such endeavors (I had a relatively easy childhood in a middle-class home, with two loving parents, and minimal sickness and/or loss with which to contend). Nevertheless, through DNA or a nurturing environment or thousands of years of evolution, it turns out I'm made of sterner stuff than I might have imagined. As an effect, or so it seems, I have endured my challenges with aplomb and good humor; and if ever there were a situation that called for it, receiving a terminal diagnosis at age 54-plus would certainly qualify.

But just like, at a fairly young age, crying over spilled milk doesn't change the facts, neither does bemoaning the facts of a malignant diagnosis – in whatever alternative state you get to: denial and/or drink or disillusion, change anything. It may blur your reality, but the reality is: this particular problem is likely not going away, and the sooner you buck up and gain control, the sooner you can get on with your life.

Granted, you have to allow for the shock of the diagnosis/prognosis to permeate your brain, almost like osmosis, and it definitely won't happen overnight, that's for sure. Probably it will happen when you experience your first chemotherapy infusion/radiation treatment. That's when you'll know you're not in Kansas anymore – unless you're actually in Kansas. And when symptoms and hair loss occur, you'll be one-hundred-percent convinced that you've officially entered your own "twilight zone."

And that's what this anniversary part two column has been about: moving forward somehow. Whether staying the course or changing protocols/treatment, maintaining a positive attitude in this constant cycle of wondering if you can still live long and prosper, the future likely holds out more hope than the past.

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

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Senior Software Engineer (Tech09) with Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Engineering(any), Technology or related and 5 yrs. of experience to work on design, development, implementation and support of software components that enhance or extend to reach our client software development initiatives. Contributes to the development, delivery and maintenance of technology based business solutions. He/she must be skilled in designing, coding, testing, and implementing configuration changes to software applications to meet both functional and technical requirements.

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Sr. SAP HCM Analyst (Tech12) with Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Commerce, Technology or related and 5 yrs. of experience to gather functional requirements, Design, develop, test, configure and implement Business Applications, Perform unit, regression, integration, user acceptance and quality assurance testing in SAP Human Capital Management. Responsible for the overall planning, delivering, managing of complex SAP HCM implementation and integrations with other SAP Module using ALE BI, PI, ABAP programming.

Sr. Software Engineer/Java (Tech13) with Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Engineering (any), Technology or related and 5 yrs. of experience to analyze, design, develop, test and document computer programs by applying knowledge of programming techniques and computer systems. Deploy enterprise and web-based applications using Java, J2EE, JSP, JavaScript technologies. Store, retrieve and manipulate data for analysis of system capabilities and requirements.

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Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@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

### Photos with the Easter Bunny.

Through March 26, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Fair Oaks Mall - Grand Court, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. The Easter Bunny will greet visitors in Bunnyville—a three-dimensional town for children to explore. Located on the lower level in Grand Court, Bunnyville features many places to visit including Hoppin' Fresh Bakery, Hare Salon and 24 Carrot Bank. The last stop along the adventure is an opportunity to visit with the Easter Bunny and have photos taken. Free. Visit [www.shopfairoaksmall.com](http://www.shopfairoaksmall.com).

**Carolina Shag Dance.** Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit [www.nvshag.org](http://www.nvshag.org) for more.

**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.fairfaxjubilaire.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilaire.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/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](http://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](http://www.childsci.org).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 10

**Authors Panel.** 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Art Taylor, Agatha Award winner and author of "On the Road with Del & Louise," leads a panel of novelists and short story writers whose work treads between literary fiction and crime writing. Authors include Tara Laskowski, Laura Ellen Scott, and Steve Weddle. Call 703-830-2223.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 11

**Sipping & Painting.** 6:30 p.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Instructors give step-by-step instructions to create a painting of a sunset. \$40 for club

members, \$45 for non-members. Visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 12

**Feeding Day.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Join a naturalist and youth volunteers at the park who will demonstrate how site display animals are fed, and give them a hand with feeding time. Make a birdfeeder to take home. Tickets are \$6. Call 703-631-0013.

### Author Talk: "George

#### Washington's Mulatto Man:

**Who Was Billy Lee.** 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Author Jim Thompson will talk about tracing the tragic yet fascinating life of Billy Lee, George Washington's personal servant. Copies of his new book will be for sale. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce) or call 703-830-2223.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 11-13

**National Capital Boat Show.** 12-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at Dulles EXPO & Conference Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Dealers from Virginia and Maryland will showcase jon boats, yachts, etc. Marinas, electronics, water sports and safety equipment will be on display. Meet experts on insurance, financing, repair, maintenance and boating safety. Tickets are \$10, free for children 16 and under. Visit [www.dullesexpo.com](http://www.dullesexpo.com).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 12

**Family Day: Women in Aviation and Space.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at

Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. At this family day, learn about the significant contributions women have made despite the many challenges they faced. The day will feature presentations by women in the field, hands-on activities, and stories. Free. Call 703-572-4118 or visit [airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy](http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy).

**Irish Community Dance.** 6:30-10 p.m. at Frying pan Park Visitors Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Marilyn Moore calls an Irish Ceili and Set Dance. Tickets are \$15, \$35 maximum for families. Visit [www.ccepotomamc.org](http://www.ccepotomamc.org) for more.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 12-13

**Sipping & Painting II.** 11:30 a.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Instructors give step-by-step instructions to create a painting of a sunset. \$40 for club members, \$45 for non-members. Visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com) for more.

**Barrel Tasting Weekend.** 12-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Guests will enter the barrel room in a small group and proceed through three different stops to taste nine different wines directly from barrel. Also, find food pairings along the way. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for members. Call 703-830-9463.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 13

**Lecture.** 2 p.m. at Total Wine, 13055-C Lee Highway, Fairfax. Adele Barnett, WSWDC founder and Wedgwood specialist presents "Shell-Shock: Centuries of Wedgwood's Shell Fancing," followed by a wine-tasting. Free. Visit [www.wedgwoodcapital.org](http://www.wedgwoodcapital.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 18

**Friday Night Flights: Library.** 7 p.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. "Library Wines" will be featured in this event led by Dean Gruenburg and accompanied by light bites. Tickets are \$35-45. Visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com) for more.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-19

**Chantilly Invitational Jazz Festival.** 4:30 p.m.-10 p.m. on Friday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Watch as jazz bands and combos from area middle schools and high schools compete. Featured artists this year include the U.S. Air Force Band Airmen of Note and National Jazz Workshop All Star Jazz Orchestra. Exhibition performances by Chantilly High School's own Workshop Jazz and Chantilly Jazz groups. Free. Visit [www.chantillyband.org](http://www.chantillyband.org) for more.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 18-20

**Super Pet Expo.** 3-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at Dulles EXPO & Conference Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Find education and shopping opportunities. Also, pets are invited to play, and pets will be available for adoption. Weekend passes are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and day passes are \$13 for adults and \$8 for children. Children 3 and under are admitted for free. Visit [www.dullesexpo.com](http://www.dullesexpo.com).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 19-20

**Barrel Tasting Weekend.** 12-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Guests will enter the barrel room in a small group and proceed through three different stops to taste nine different wines directly from barrel. Also, find food pairings along the way. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for members. Call 703-830-9463.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 20

**N Gauge Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK group will have a display and running N Gauge Model Trains. Tickets for museum members and children 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and older, \$4. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

## TUESDAY/MARCH 22

**Lecture: "A Woman's Story of Life in Virginia After the War."** 7:30 p.m. at Cabell's Mill, 5235 Walney Road, Centreville. Cornelia Peake McDonald will share her family's struggles in a devastated Virginia in the years following the Civil War. Portions of Mrs. McDonald's Civil War diary have been published as "A Woman's Civil War." Free. Call 703-830-5407.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 31

**Lecture: Building Stars, Planets, and the Ingredients for Life in Space.** 8 p.m. at Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Ewine F. van Dishoeck, professor of molecular astrophysics at the Leiden Observatory at Leiden University in the Netherlands and winner of the 2015 Albert Einstein World Award of Science will discuss the discovery of planets around stars other than our Sun at this year's John N. Bahcall Lecture. Tickets are free, but require registration. Call 703-572-4118.

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