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Former Sully District Planning Commissioner John Litzenger (center) receives a certificate of appreciation from (from left) Pete Murphy and Michael Frey.

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PHOTO GALLERY!

“Me and My Mom”

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To send digital photos, go to: www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Chantilly Connection, “Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,”
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable. ~Reminder: Father's Day is June 19~

Dozens of Dead Birds Animal Control officers responded to a report of approximately two dozen dead birds in the area of Avion Parkway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway on Friday, April 8 around 10 a.m. Animal Control officers determined the birds were all of the same species, believed to be European starlings, and there was no apparent cause of death. Animal Control officers collected the birds to be sent for necropsy and laboratory testing. The Animal Services Division is coordinating with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to determine the cause of death. The investigation continues, pending results. Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text “TIP187” plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131 or the Animal Services Division at 703-324-0222.

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'A Wonderful Legacy He's Established'

Planning Commission, community, honors John Litzenberger.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

After Michael Frey retired as Sully District supervisor, Kathy Smith succeeded him and made her own appointments to various Fairfax County boards and commissions. So after serving eight years as Sully's planning commissioner, John Litzenberger was replaced by Karen Keys-Gamarra.

But all his involvement in the community for decades has not gone unnoticed. And Sunday evening, April 10, he was honored by his peers and colleagues at a special, appreciation dinner hosted by the county Planning Commission at The Waterford in Fair Oaks. "I've known John for almost 40 years," said Frey. "When I first met him, I was watching the NCAA [basketball] Tournament on a little, black-and-white TV in the Massey Building. He joined me and, right then, I knew we were going to get along." Litzenberger has a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Syracuse University and a master's degree in systems management from USC. He served 30 years in the Air Force and the Air National Guard and was a pilot in Vietnam before retiring as a colonel.

A husband, father and grandfather, the Virginia Run resident also served his community. He co-founded the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) and chaired its Land-Use Committee's education committee for 11 years.

And he's coached CYA and SYA sports, plus lacrosse at both Centreville and Westfield high schools.

Litzenberger also helped out during the

"He's someone who's willing to invest the time and make people understand the land-use process."

— Michael Frey, former Sully District Supervisor



From left: Pete Murphy reads the certificate while John Litzenberger and Michael Frey listen.

1982 Occoquan Downzoning in which the Board of Supervisors rezoned more than 41,000 acres in the Occoquan Watershed to protect the water quality of the Occoquan Reservoir — the source of the county's drinking water. This land was rezoned to one home per five acres, while parts of Centreville were zoned for higher density.

"The board initiated the Centreville Core Study to examine the downzoning, and John headed the study," said Frey. "And he had to explain to the Centreville citizens that higher-density townhouses and apartments would be in Centreville. But John was willing to do what it took and was part of all the land-use deliberations."

"The reason I put him on the Planning Commission is because John's a people per-

son who could deal with people, one on one," continued Frey. "He's someone who's willing to invest the time and make people understand the land-use process. And even if they don't like the ultimate decision, at least they'll know how we got there."

Frey said being a planning commissioner is "tough, and it takes a lot of patience. But John enjoyed the interaction and bringing together the landowners, developers and residents. And before then, he was a Housing Authority member." Over the years, said Frey, "We've built a beautiful community and a wonderful district. John's been a huge part of the Sully community, and I know he'll continue to be involved."

"It's a wonderful legacy he's established, and it's my honor and pleasure to have had him as a planning commissioner and as a dear friend for 40 years," said Frey. "John, you left your mark on the community, made it a wonderful place to live and you have a lot to be proud of."

Former Dranesville District Planning Commissioner Jay Donohue also noted the



John Litzenberger and wife Barbara listen to the speakers. Behind them are former Sully District Planning Commissioner Ron Koch (center) and his wife Lois.

qualities necessary to be a good planning commissioner. "It takes a great deal of congeniality to bring people from different sides together, plus a sense of humor," he said. "John also brings optimism and confidence, but under an umbrella of humility that makes people want to work with him. He says what he thinks and has an authenticity about him and a willingness to share."

Next, Frey and Planning Commission Chairman Pete Murphy, the evening's emcee, presented Litzenberger with a certificate of appreciation for his service on the Planning Commission. Then Litzenberger addressed the crowd.

He said that, in October 1980, former Sully District Planning Commissioner Ron Koch invited him to get involved in a land-use case, and "That was the beginning of the WFCCA." Litzenberger served as WFCCA president from 1986-88 and was a longtime member of its land-use committee.

Sunday night, he thanked his family members for their support, as well as his friends in both CYA and SYA. "I also want

to thank county staff for all their dedication and long hours of work, the Planning Commission members, the attorneys we work with, and my old friend Mike Frey," said Litzenberger. "It's been an honor to serve on the Fairfax County Planning Commission."

Afterward, he said, "I was really pleased to be honored."

And on May 17, Kathy Smith is going to give me and [longtime Sully District Park Authority representative] Hal Strickland an award for our many years of service to the county."



John Litzenberger was planning commissioner for eight years.



Michael Frey appointed John Litzenberger to the Planning Commission.



Pete Murphy is Planning Commission chairman.



Former Dranesville District Planning Commissioner Jay Donohue.

Comedy, Dancing and Gershwin Songs

Liberty Middle presents hit musical, "Crazy for You."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A high-energy comedy filled with mistaken identify, plot twists and song-and-dance numbers "Crazy for You" is Liberty Middle School's upcoming musical. Show times are Thursday-Saturday, April 21, 22 and 23, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door and during school lunches.

The triple Tony Award-winner garnered top honors in 1992 for Best Musical, Choreography and Costumes. It tells how love blossoms between a big-city playboy who longs to be a dancer and the small-town theater owner who captures his heart. Liberty's young performers' edition features a cast and crew of 66 who've been rehearsing since November.

"This is one of my favorite musicals, and we're the first middle school in FCPS to do this show," said Director Jody Scott. "We're blessed to have so many students who are such great singers and dancers. All the music is by George and Ira Gershwin, and the students bring out the emotion and enjoyment of the songs."

The story takes place in the 1930s in a Broadway theater in New York City and in the sleepy, mining town of Deadrock, Nev. Notable tunes include "I Got Rhythm," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Embraceable You" and "Someone to Watch over Me."

Scott said the actors are "doing an excellent job of immersing themselves in the time period. Their acting is nuanced, with the characters reacting to each other's lines. And the costumes are wonderful; the girls wear long gloves, dresses with bangles and velvet capes, and the boys are dressed as cowboys in jeans and flannel plaid shirts."

She also praised two teachers, Assistant Director Gary Verhagen and Laura Bellis, in charge of costumes and props. "They've both been tremendous helps," said Scott.



The follies dancers help bring the show's Gershwin tunes to life.

"There's a lot of comedy in this show, and the audience will enjoy the interaction among the characters and seeing the Gershwin songs come to life through the singing and dancing."

Eighth-grader Sarah Campbell plays Polly Baker. "When everyone else is unhappy, she's cheerful and optimistic," said Sarah. "She's also strong and a leader. Her theater is being foreclosed, and then Bobby Child arrives and wants to save it with her. But he was really sent there to foreclose on it; so to win her heart, he pretends to be someone he's not."

Sarah's having fun with her role because, she said, "Most of the time, I'm not that optimistic, so it's nice to portray someone else. And some of the lines are really funny, so it's hard to contain my laughter." All in all, she said people will like the show's humor, plot twists and music.

Playing Child is classmate Caleb Renaud. "Bobby tries to make other people happy," said Caleb. "But when he's around his fiancé, Irene, he's nervous and self-conscious. He loves to dance and wants to do that, instead of working in his mom's bank.



Caleb Renaud and Sarah Campbell play the leads in "Crazy for You."

He's trying to connect with Polly, even though he's pretending to be a different person."

"Playing him is amazing because he's like

me," continued Caleb. "I love singing, helping people and making them laugh. There's a lot to memorize because I'm in every scene; but it's worth it because of the musical numbers I'm in."

His favorite number is "Can't be Bothered Now," which he sings. "It shows what Bobby wants to do and who he wants to dance with, and dancers portray my dream," he said. As for the show, he said, "The audience will like all the jokes and the story's theme — Chase your dream and never give up."

Eighth-grader Kendall Claar portrays Child's fiancé, Irene Roth. "She's a New York socialite who's very controlling and demanding," said Kendall. "She always gets her way and expects people to respect her. She chases after Bobby when he goes to Deadrock; and when he breaks off their engagement, she abruptly asks someone else to marry her."

Kendall likes playing someone who always gets her way because "That's not always how life is. I also love her fashions, including a velvet cloak, long gloves and blinged-out jewelry; she's very stylish."

She said people enjoy this show because "The music is great — it makes you want to sing along — and the storyline is really funny and unique. It'll also be something different than many theatergoers have experienced before."

Playing Lank Hawkins, the man who marries Irene, is eighth-grader Hrishhik Rangaraju. "He owns the hotel in Deadrock and is very overworked. He's assertive and clever, but his mind is on other things because his priority is his job. He's also the man who actually gets things done in the town."

"Lank has really funny lines and I like making the audience laugh," continued Hrishhik. "And even though it doesn't look like he'll succeed, he manages to do so, as do the other characters."

Overall, he said, "The audience will love how enthusiastic the actors are and all the effort Ms. Scott, Mr. Verhagen and Ms. Bellis put into this play. Their dedication and sacrifice will show in the final product, which will leave the audience happy and entertained."

ROUNDUPS

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, April 14, 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 it, 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 to confirm dates and times.

How To Join Neighborhood Watch

Officers of the Sully District Police Station will be hosting the next Neighborhood Watch training on Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. Email Tara.Gerhard@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-814-7051 to R.S.V.P. for the training session.

Moving Equipment Is Sought for CLRC

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.

Clean Out Medicine Cabinets

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout returns on Saturday, April 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. Drop off unused or expired medications. Disposal is free.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bringing 'Peter Pan' to Stage

The Saint Timothy Catholic School Drama Club presented the off-Broadway musical "Peter Pan" to a standing-room-only crowd on Saturday, April 9. Peter Pan was played by Anna Moritz (6th grade), and Wendy was played Madison Perry (8th grade). The play was directed by teachers Jessica Kurtis, Jane Venafro, and Sarah Bielaski.

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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2016, are eligible to attend kindergarten. Find the correct neighborhood school by entering your address at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>. Complete a packet of registration forms found at www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf or in the school office. Gather supporting documents: proof of residence in the school boundary, a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school, but is not required for registration. Parents who choose to delay

enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent.

Greenbriar West Elementary School is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Parents of children who live within the school's boundaries should call the school office at 703-633-6700 as soon as possible.

Poplar Tree Elementary will hold its Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, April 14, 9:15-10:15 a.m. Call 703-633-7400 for more.

Greenbriar East Elementary School will have Kindergarten Orientation/Registration on Thursday, April 21, 2:30 p.m. Call the school office at 703-633-6400 with questions.

Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2016-17 school year. Call the registrar at 703-322-8500 or email sheri.brown@fcps.edu. Kindergarten Orientation takes place Friday, April 22, 9-10 a.m. Rising kindergarten students will have the opportunity to

visit a kindergarten classroom while parents attend an information session.

Centre Ridge Elementary School in Centreville is open for Kindergarten Registration for the school year 2016-17. Call 703-227-2600.

THROUGH APRIL 18

Cell Phones for Soldiers. Donate unwanted cell phones. Drop-off at Liberty Tax, 5622-G Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Call 703-323-5580 for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Potomac Watershed Cleanup. 9 a.m. Join in the annual regional watershed cleanup with more than 500 sites across the watershed. For details on cleanup sites, visit www.fergusonfoundation.org.

Living Well, Aging Well. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 11

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OPINION

Award-Winning Connection Newspapers

Still striving to be the Connection to your community.

Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards from the Virginia Press Association for work done in 2015. Award winners were announced on Saturday, April 9, at an awards banquet in Richmond.

While the papers won awards in many categories, the common underpinning was community journalism, accessibility of information, and reporting on critical issues like transparency in government.

Thematically, the papers won multiple awards for stories and sections that were informative and helped make communities, events and resources more accessible to our readers.

Examples included Ken Moore's reporting on Robert Simon's role in Reston, which included coverage of Simon's 101st birthday, Simon's ongoing influence, and his obituary. The series won first place.

Print newspaper obituaries play a vital role in local communities, reflected in Jeanne Theismann's first place award for three obituaries in the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Earl Lloyd was born into "the cradle of segregation" yet persevered to become the first African American to break the color barrier in the NBA. Dr. Robert Wineland, "Dr. Bob," was a WW II

veteran and survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. He was a beloved local doctor for more than 60 years. And Ferdinand Day was the first African American to be elected to chair a public school board in the state of Virginia.

We are lucky to have cartoonist Steve Artley to skewer and edify many issues, including his first place cartoon that suggests Alexandria could solve parking and housing problems by placing both on barges in the Potomac River.

Jean Card, Renee Ruggles and Laurence Foong have collaborated over several years on the Insider's Guide to the Parks, which won awards in Mount Vernon and Vienna/Oakton, capping several awards for informational graphics.

Our Newcomers and Community Guide to Arlington was described as "Informative, well written, with good use of graphics." Winners included Steven Mauren, Eden Brown, Vernon Miles, Shirley Ruhe, Laurence Foong.

Sarai Johnson, Hope Nelson, Shirley Ruhe, and Steve Hibbard won second place for entertainment pages in the Alexandria Gazette Packet, weekly coverage of arts, entertainment, food and things to do in Alexandria.

Reporting on elections, the environment, health and fitness, and organizations that are designed to help others also garnered awards.

Kenny Lourie won for his ongoing column writing about living with cancer. Lourie both lives and writes with humor and perspective. The judge said, "Though filled with heavy subject matter, the author hooks readers by using his first-person perspective, humor and emo-

tion to describe the events of his life. These columns grab your attention from the first paragraph."

Abigail Constantino's photo that shows the great aunt of Natasha McKenna at a protest of McKenna's death in custody, won second place for general news photo. Eudora Paul's sign displays McKenna's last words: "You promised you would not kill me."

Tim Peterson's coverage of McKenna's death won second place in In Depth/Investigative. Peterson garnered the most awards of any Connection staff member, winning seven.

Mary Kimm's editorials on lack of police transparency and local government accountability won second place for editorial writing.

Kemal Kurspahic's opinion pages in the Herndon Connection won third place.

Jeanne Theismann, whose profile includes that she "dreams of one day writing headlines for the New York Post," won second place for headline writing in the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Headlines: Some Like It Haute, - story about the 10-year anniversary of a boutique warehouse sale; Soul Providers, a story about volunteers recognized for service to seniors; Something to Wine About,- on the opening of a new wine cellar; Luck Be a Lady,- on the opening of a new bath apothecary called Ladyburg; To the Rescue, about- a nonprofit started by firefighters to collect toys for underprivileged children.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Awards

- ❖ Ken Moore, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, First Place – Feature writing portfolio included a trip to the farmers market, remembrance of Latin teacher Christine Sleeper and celebration of the one-year birthday of the Silver Line.
- ❖ Marilyn Campbell, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place – Health, science and environmental writing
- ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place – Column writing. Judge: "Though filled with heavy subject matter, the author hooks readers by using his first-person perspective, humor and emotion to describe the events of his life. These columns grab your attention from the first paragraph."
- ❖ Ken Moore, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place – General news writing for election coverage. "Excellent coverage. ... Balanced and thorough. Effective at conveying why this is relevant for readers."
- ❖ Jon Roetman, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, Second Place – Sports writing portfolio.
- ❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, Mary Kimm, Oak Hill/ Herndon Connection, Third Place – Editorial pages
- ❖ Ken Moore, Reston Connection, First Place – Feature series or continuing story, on Reston founder Robert Simon. Judge's comment: "This was an in-depth series, very informative and interesting to read." Moore covered several key moments, including celebration of Founder's Day 2015 and Simon's 101st birthday; later, Moore wrote Simon's obituary and covered the celebration of Simon's life.
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles, Vienna/Oakton Connection, Second Place – Informational graphics, Connection Insiders Guide to the Parks.
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Great Falls Connection, Second Place – Editorial writing for multiple editorials on police transparency. Judge: "Brings important pressure to bear on people in power."
- ❖ Ken Moore, Great Falls Connection, Second Place – Health, science and environmental writing; stories covering issues of deer, cleanup of groundwater contamination from gas station and tree preservation. Judge: "Excellent and informative."
- ❖ Laurence Foong, Great Falls Connection, Third Place – Informational graphics, Map of Property Assessments. Judge: "A very interesting concept."
- ❖ Ken Moore, McLean Connection, Third Place – Feature writing portfolio. Judge: "Great reads on interesting topics. Who knew there was such a thing as pinball championship, especially out of someone's basement? Pull out information added neat and tidy facts and/or information."
- ❖ Abigail Constantino, Fairfax Connection, Second Place – General news photo, Natasha McKenna's great aunt holds a sign: "You promised you would not kill me." Judge: "Good capture of emotionally charged event."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Springfield Connection, Second Place – Personal service writing, coverage of three worthy causes. Judge: "This submission quickly makes the reader care about the causes championed in the stories. ... There was good detail presented in

such a way as to make the reader want to donate to each of these causes by the end of the story — I was ready to get my checkbook out after reading each one."

- ❖ Tim Peterson, Springfield Connection, Third Place – Government writing, coverage on aftermath of police shooting of John Geer, Virginia General Assembly. Judge: "A very comprehensive look at the Geer case was well-thought out and I was very impressed with the state legislature package."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Springfield Connection, Third Place – Public safety writing, stories on sex trafficking, police and fire department training and National Night Out. Judge: "Each of the stories in this submission is comprehensive in its handling of the topic, as well as engaging for the reader. The information offered is very good, and the presentation attractive. There was adequate space given to each story, which was then complemented by excellent artwork."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Burke Connection, Second Place – Education writing. Stories on School Board action on gender identity, graduation of triplets, and renovation of a local school. Judge: "All three stories had outstanding ledes. Quality writing and reporting."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Burke Connection, Third Place – Breaking news writing, about escape of prisoner from hospital and his recapture. Judge: "Excellent art, good storytelling."
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection, Second Place – Business and financial writing. Stories on Goat Landscaping, sustainable farm, and a handcrafted

greeting card company. Judge: "Good business stories with a great features twist. Very enjoyable stories."

- ❖ Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet, First Place – Illustration. Cartoon: "Alert the council, we've managed to solve the parking problem and the public housing issue in one swoop." Judge's comment: "Excellent image to poke fun at a growing problem. Excellently delivered in a single image."
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet, First Place – Personal service writing. Three obituaries: Earl Lloyd, Dr. Robert Wineland –and Ferdinand Day. Judge's comment: "... an outstanding job ... She provides a wonderful context to the lives of people who may be overlooked in the typical press. Her insights into these individuals reflects her research into the subject and her analysis of the character of that individual. When I go, I hope she writes about me."
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet, Second Place – Headlines. Judge: "Clever yet informative."
- ❖ John Bordner, Alexandria Gazette Packet, Third Place – Feature photo, Fireworks light up the sky July 11, 2015 as musicians from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra to celebrate the 266th birthday of the City of Alexandria.
- ❖ Marilyn Campbell, Alexandria Gazette Packet, Third Place – Personal service writing, stories on fitness.
- ❖ Sarai Johnson, Hope Nelson, Shirley Ruhe, Steve Hibbard, Alexandria Gazette Packet, Second Place – Entertainment pages

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Historic Garden Week in Virginia

Homes and gardens in Old Town, Arlington and Falls Church will be open to the public.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Some of the most spectacular gardens will be in bloom and on display during the 83rd annual Historic Garden Week in Virginia. The statewide event will include 30 different tours of more than 200 homes and gardens. Old Town Alexandria and Arlington, Falls Church and Fairfax County are participating in the Northern Virginia tours.

"These houses are historic and they all reflect the homeowners' personalities and interests," said Catherine Thompson of the Hunting Creek Garden Club in Alexandria. "Some are owned by young families. Some have small gardens and some have large gardens."

The Hunting Creek Garden Club teamed up with The Garden Club of Alexandria to organize the Old Town tour, a walking tour which includes five row houses with courtyard gardens. In addition to the private homes, which were all built during the 1700s and 1800s and still retain many original architectural features, tour goers will have access to the Carlyle House Historic Park, Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, George Mason's Gunston Hall and George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens.

"They are all really wonderful and beautiful homes and gardens and we feel very lucky to have them on the tour," said Thompson. "The homes are within two to three blocks of each other, so unlike some other [areas], we run a walking tour."

From large oak trees planted shortly after the Civil War and gardens bursting with colorful blooms from hydrangeas, camellias, rhododendron, crepe myrtles and wisteria to homes with views of the Potomac River and clematis flowing over a pergola, visitors will be treated to vivid spring displays as five Old Town residents open both their homes and gardens.

"People don't expect to have these amazing gardens behind these homes that can appear tiny from



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

On the Arlington-Falls Church tour is this garden, which consists of six "rooms" each with their own name: Thyme for Roses, the Evergreen Path, the Children's Garden, Herbs & Birds, Garden Work and Rest patio, the Sunken Lawn, the Floral Berms.

outside," said Amy Bertles of the Hunting Creek Garden Club. "One home has two gardens with amazing sculptures that were done by the home owner who is an artist. She decorated her garden with a few of her sculptures."

In Arlington and Falls Church, Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, Arts and Crafts and Victorian architecture await visitors who take the tour hosted by the Garden club of Fairfax. The gardens include four 100-year old holly trees, an herb garden and a garden of Victorian-era plants. Two of the homes are on the National Register of Historic Places and are Virginia Historic Landmarks. The tour also includes visits to Mason Neck State Park, Gulf Branch Nature Center and The Falls Church.

Properties are chosen for the tour by local garden clubs. "They're looking for properties that they know the public will enjoy," said Karen Miller Ellsworth of the Garden Club of Virginia and director of Historic Garden Week. "They're looking for beautiful interiors, an interesting history and a really nice garden."

In addition to its aesthetic appeal, Historic Garden Week, which 3,300 Garden Club of Virginia members spend more than a year planning, has a significant economic impact. "[Visitors] travel from 30 states and foreign countries and 25 percent ... spend the night and average \$1,207 on their [Historic Garden Week] trip," said Miller Ellsworth. "As a group, they spend \$2 million in Virginia each spring. The cumulative economic impact over the last 45 years is an impressive \$425 million."

Historic Garden Week began in 1927 when the Garden Club of Virginia organized a flower show and raised \$7,000 to save trees planted by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Money raised from the Historic Garden Week tours fund the restoration and preservation of nearly 50 of the Commonwealth's significant historic public gardens as well as a new initiative with Virginia's state parks.

Historic Garden Week

83rd Annual House and Garden Tour
Visit www.vagardenweek.org

Old Town Alexandria
Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Hosted by The Hunting Creek Garden Club and The Garden Club of Alexandria
Email oldtownalexandria@vagardenweek.org
Old Town tour tickets are \$45. Group tours for 10 or more people are \$40 per person. Single-site tickets are \$25. Tickets may be purchased on tour day at any of the homes and at the Alexandria Visitors Center. Advance tickets are available for \$40 per person at www.vagardenweek.org and at the Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St., Alexandria.

Falls Church-Arlington
Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax
Visit gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com/
Arlington-Falls Church tickets can be purchased online by credit card until April 24 by visiting gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com/ or www.vagardenweek.org/main/tickets. www.vagardenweek.org/

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ONGOING

Tai Chi for Beginners. Through May 17, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-11 a.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Learn slow, fluid movements to promote relaxation, balance, strength, and flexibility. Workshop fee is \$115. Visit www.inova.org/creg for more.

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 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 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 to reserve a spot.

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 15

Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary. 10:30 a.m. at Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Attend the 36th annual Fashion and Fundraiser. Fashions to be provided by Lord & Taylor. Tickets are \$50. Call 703-250-5809 or email angelaganey@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Erin Peterson Fund Celebration of Life Concert. 6 p.m. at the Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road., Centreville. Saturday, April 16, will mark the eighth anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre, which took the lives of 32 victims, including Erin Peterson of Centreville. Erin's family, friends and the community will gather at the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville to celebrate her life and legacy during a concert featuring Patrick Lundy and the Ministers of Music and The Racy Brothers. Free. Call 818-5220-8178 or visit www.erinpetersonfund.org for more.

MONDAY/APRIL 18

Lecture: "Human Trafficking in Northern Virginia." 7-8 p.m. at Cale Community Center, 4615

Stringfellow Road. The GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club (WFCWC) will host a presentation on "Human Trafficking in Northern Virginia" given by Deepa Patel, the Executive Director of Trauma and Hope, LLC. Free. Visit www.wfcwc.org or call Mary Jane at 703-378-4250.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

"Honoring Those Who Served During the Civil War." 7:30 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Mary Lipsey, a docent for the American History Museum of the Smithsonian and for the National Archives and former president of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, will present the forum, "Honoring Those Who Served During the Civil War." Free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

Writing Conference. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at NOVA Manassas, 6901 Sudley Road, Manassas. Timothy Denevi, assistant professor of creative writing at George Mason University, will present a session called "Writing Narratives, Memoirs and Nonfiction." Prince William County Poet Laureate Robert Scott will discuss poetry. After lunch, Dackeyia Q. Sterling will talk about publishing and marketing techniques as well as how to write what publishers want. Free. Visit www.novamawriting-conference2016.eventbrite.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 22-24

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Find a selection of fiction and nonfiction books, DVDs, CDs and audiobooks. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chantilly Regional Library to fund special programs, renovation projects, landscaping and equipment for the library. Call the library at 703-502-3883 or Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Celebration of Women Who Impact Our Community. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon. Women Impact Now will be hosting the 2nd Annual "Celebration of Women Who Impact Our Community." Tickets are \$30. Visit www.womenimpactnow.com for more.

Rose Bush Sale. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 14300 Green Trails, Manor Gate Clubhouse, Centreville. Thirty varieties available. Admission available with purchase of \$15 membership. Call 703-371-9351.

Step Out with the USO. 6-11 p.m. at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott, 45020 Aviation Drive, Dulles. The annual Step Out event is the primary source of funding for the USO Dulles Lounge which assists over 30,000 servicemen and women and their loved ones each year. Tickets are \$45 and include a raffle ticket. Visit www.usometro.org/events for more.

Artful Living. 7-10 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Fairfax-based non-profit Our Daily Bread invites the public to attend Artful Living, a juried art show and

community event in association with the Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival. Attendees will enjoy a juried art show featuring works by local artists that will be available for sale, vote for their favorite work, enjoy live music by local Latin-jazz band Batida Diferente, appetizers from Dolce Vita, wine from Pearmund Cellars, and a craft beer tasting featuring the Washington Post Food Section's 2016 Beer Madness "Final Four" beers. Art work will be offered for sale. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door. Visit www.ODB Fairfax.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Film Screening: "Healing Voices." 3 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 N. St., Fairfax. Screening of a new documentary, "Healing Voices" that explores real-life stories of individuals working to overcome the extreme effects of their illness and integrate their experiences into their lives in meaningful ways. Free. Call 703-324-7006.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 29-30

"The Man Who Came to Dinner." 7 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. This spring, the Chantilly Drama Department will present Kaufman and Hart's "The Man Who Came to Dinner," a comedy set in the late 1930s. Famous radioman, Sheridan Whiteside, slips outside the house of the well-to-do factory owner, Ernest Stanley and his family. Whiteside is confined to the Stanley's house until he recovers. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Visit www.chantillydrama.com.



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PHOTOS BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

Centreville senior William Unterkofler, with plaque, is recognized for winning the dunk contest at the Nova Challenge on April 10.



Westfield's Blake Francis, left, and Centreville's William Unterkofler, second from left, sit on the bench during the Nova Classic on April 10 at Marshall High School.

Francis, Unterkofler Shine at Nova Challenge

Westfield guard named MVP, C'Ville senior wins dunk contest.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Surrounded by some of the most talented senior basketball players in Northern Virginia, Westfield's Blake Francis and Centreville's William Unterkofler made their mark during the dmvstream.com Nova Challenge — an event that included a pair of all-star games, a 3-point shootout and a dunk contest.

Francis and Unterkofler played for the Fairfax North All-Stars, which concluded the event with a 108-101 victory over the Loudoun County All-Stars on April 10 at Marshall High School. Francis, a second-team all-state selection, earned MVP honors for Fairfax North, finishing with 23 points, six rebounds and five assists. He

knocked down a 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer, cutting the Fairfax North deficit to 64-50. Fairfax North outscored Loudoun County 58-37 in the second half.

Francis, who shot 8-for-17 from the floor and 5-for-12 from 3-point range, is still weighing his college options.

"It's good experience," Francis said, "going against the top talent in the Northern Virginia area."

Unterkofler scored 12 points and grabbed four rebounds. He also won the dunk contest, earning a perfect score of 30 on his final attempt, when he jumped, brought the ball between his legs and threw it down

with his right hand.

Unterkofler will attend Virginia Tech but doesn't plan to play basketball. He said he could first dunk a basketball in the ninth grade.

"It was pretty cool," said the 6-foot-5 Unterkofler. "I've wanted to be in a dunk contest for a long time because I practice dunking all the time and I never get to show it, so it's really exciting to get to come out and do it."

Hank Johnson, Francis' teammate at Westfield, scored four points and grabbed nine rebounds.

"Hank, we're going to be good friends for a long time," Francis said. "It's just good playing with him."

Langle senior and Fairfax North All-Star Nate Shafer, a 6-foot-5 shot-blocking force, admitted he prefers structured basketball over the run-and-gun style of an all-star game, but that didn't

stop the defensive standout from excelling on Sunday.

Shafer scored 10 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked seven shots. While all-star games are known for offense, Shafer, the 2016 6A North region Defensive Player of the Year, made life difficult for Loudoun County players who tried to score in the paint.

"I can still apply some tactics that we use [during structured basketball] to an all-star game," Shafer said. "I typically find a guy that can't shoot as well so I can camp in the paint and that gives me more blocks and more contested shots and more rebounds,

so that sort of pads my stats in an all-star game like this, which is fun."

Shafer, who will play at Swarthmore College, said he enjoyed making defensive plays in an offensive environment. During one possession, Shafer swatted multiple Loudoun County shots.

"Those kinds of plays get the gym on their feet," he said, "so I like to do that."

Fairfax High's Alex McNaughton, who will play at Salisbury, scored 17 points and shot 6-for-9 from the floor, including 3-for-4 from behind the arc.

Madison teammates Taiga Walker and Daniel Ungerleider finished with four and three points, respectively.

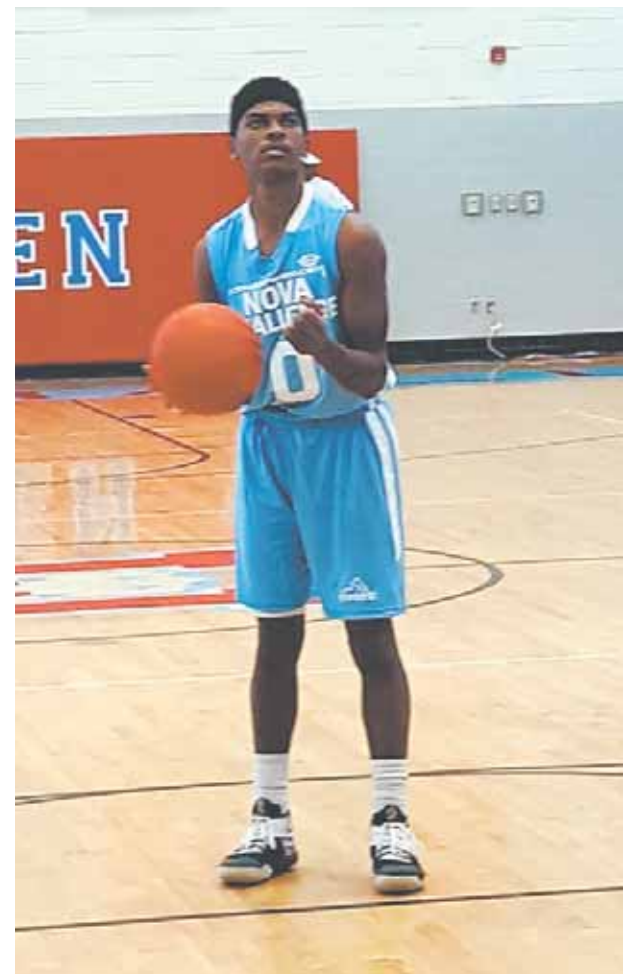
"It feels pretty good," Ungerleider said about getting the victory. "Mostly, we're just out here having a good time, but [I] always want to win."

Ungerleider, who will attend the University of Virginia but doesn't plan to play basketball, reached the finals of the 3-point shootout.

"It was pretty scary," Ungerleider said, referring to media attention during the competition. "I had to get in a little zone and zone out everything around and just shoot."

Earlier in the day, the Prince William All-Stars defeated the Fairfax South All-Stars 110-107.

West Springfield's Lewis Djonkam earned team MVP honors for Fairfax South. The 6-foot-9 post player scored 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.



Westfield senior and Fairfax North All-Star Blake Francis was named team MVP at the dmvstream.com Nova Challenge on April 10 at Marshall High School.

Deng Nhial (Wakefield) and Jordan Jones (T.C. Williams) each had 16 points for Fairfax South, Tavaris James (T.C. Williams) finished with 14 and Spencer Askew (West Springfield) added 11.

"It was great," Djonkam said about competing in the event. "Every kid on the court I love. I grew up with half the kids on the court. ... [It was] my last time playing with the kids. It was great. I loved it."

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Wading is the Hardest Part



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And so it begins, the storm after the calm. Ten weeks or so of relative peace – and some quiet, since my last diagnostic scan. But now, five days ahead of my next scan, scheduled for April 13, I am emotionally behind. Why (aside from the obvious)? Because even though the scan will occur this Wednesday, I/we won't know the results until the following Thursday, April 21, eight days later, when we see the oncologist for a face-to-face appointment. Eight days of waiting, eight days of talking yourself in and out scenarios both good and bad, eight days of dealing with the devil – and hopefully not coming to any agreement; and finally, eight days of rationalizing your prior behavior, justifying your current behavior and wondering whether any future behavior will reflect the past, present or territory as yet uncharted.

And of course, it's the "territory as yet uncharted" (I don't have to explain what I mean, do I?) that worries and scares me the most. Not having been down this road before makes anticipating one's behavior-to-be/ reaction challenging. Oh, I suppose if I thought about it long enough I could develop some sort of action plan. But it's thinking about such a negative eventuality that seems and feels counterproductive. It's almost as if my thinking about such realities can somehow contribute to their actual occurrence, so, if I don't think about it, it won't happen. How's that for intelligent thinking? If I don't then it won't. If only it were that simple.

As the old saying goes: "Denial is more than just a river in Egypt." For a person originally characterized as "terminal" – in February, 2009, with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, now living into my eighth year post-diagnosis, life is a bit of a double-edged sword – that cuts both ways: it's a miracle that I'm still alive and given the amazing set of totally unexpected circumstances, it's equally perplexing why I've survived this long. Moreover, how is it possible that I've beaten my original life-expectancy odds so soundly? I mean: am I further from the beginning or closer to the end? Presumably, I was given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis for a reason. Do I simply ignore the underlying facts which led my oncologist to make that statement/prediction? I can't, and that's always my problem during the final few weeks leading up to my quarterly scan and the subsequent follow-up appointment with my oncologist. This can't go on forever, can it?

As much as I'd like to blur my reality, my nature prevents me from doing so. And though I may not dwell on it or allow it to dominate my conversation or become depressed or morose about any of it, I do acknowledge its affect; mostly with humor and off-putting redirection. Figuratively speaking, how does one live with both the weight of the world on your shoulders and the sword of Damocles hanging over your head without ignoring certain facts and figures and making light somehow of an extremely heavy burden?

Generally, I can manage, as you regular readers know. And as friends and family will attest, when there are fissures in my emotional underpinnings, it is during this two-week period – which occurs every 13 weeks, leading up to and then waiting for scan results when I am the most uncomfortable. And though it is all very familiar to me – after seven-plus years, it still doesn't totally minimize my reaction. Let's be honest: my life is at stake here, so how can I possibly act normally? Soon I'll know, but not soon enough. Unfortunately, there's nothing I can do about it in the interim. I just have to wait. Hopefully, the results will be worth the wait.

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

OPINION

Awards

FROM PAGE 6

- ❖ Vernon Miles, Alexandria Gazette Packet, Third Place – Government writing
- ❖ Tim Peterson, Mount Vernon Gazette, Second Place – In-depth or investigative reporting on the death of Natasha McKenna, a 37-year-old woman with a history of mental who died while in custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Judge: "Painstaking, persuasive reconstruction of events leading to the death of a troubled woman. ... This careful, thorough reporting is welcome."
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles, Mount Vernon Gazette, Third Place – Informational graphics, Connection Insiders Guide to the Parks
- ❖ Jean Card, Sarai Johnson, Steven Mauren, Arlington Connection, Second Place – Special edition, Children's Connection. Judge: "Clean, crisp, appealing. The design flowed throughout this section."
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Eden Brown, Vernon Miles, Shirley Ruhe, Laurence Foong, Arlington Connection, Third Place – Special edition, Newcomers and Community Guide. Judge: "Informative, well written, good use of graphics."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Parkway, Fairfax. Attend the Living Well, Aging Well Summit 2016 to learn about the latest in transportation, technology, health and wellness resources in our community. Workshops will cover topics such as healthy habits, keeping medical records secure, navigating the Medicaid maze, the new age of telehealth and telemedicine, social media and more. Free. Visit www.livingwellfairfax.org/ or call 703-324-7647, TTY 711. Registration will also be available the morning of the event.

Democratic Caucuses. Noon-2 p.m. The Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FDC) will hold unasssembled Caucuses in each of the nine Magisterial Districts (a.k.a. Supervisor Districts) in Fairfax County in the locations listed at www.FairfaxDemocrats.org/caucus2016 for the purpose of electing 300 delegates and 75 alternates, allocated to presidential candidates in proportion to the results of the March 1 Presidential Primary, as determined by the Democratic Party of Virginia. Candidates must file as either a Delegate or an Alternate, who shall be elected separately by the caucus. Free.

MONDAY/APRIL 18

Garden Club Meeting. 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Centreville Garden Club presents "Enchanting Garden Paths" by Billie Trump. Visitors welcome. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com or email centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com.

"Human Trafficking in Northern Virginia." 7-8 p.m. at the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. The GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club (WFCWC) will host a presentation on "Human Trafficking in Northern Virginia" given by Deepa Patel, who has over the past 11 years, developed an expertise in treating non-voluntary clients, specifically juvenile and adult gang members and sex offenders. Visit www.wfcwc.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Teen Job Fair. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Supervisor Pat Herrity will co-host the Western Fairfax Teen Job Fair and Resume Building Workshop. The event will focus on students and younger job seekers looking for full time employment, after-school employment, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, or volunteer experiences. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm to register.

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26 Antiques

Computer
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