Great Falls

2nd Lt. Anthony Lampe of the Fairfax County Police Department's Reston District Station speaks about the work the Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) does for the families of officers who have been killed while on the job. The organization received the proceeds from the fundraising dinner in Great Falls.

Honoring Fallen Police Officers

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News



Police were still on the scene in McLean on Sunday, Jan. 29. The investigation is ongoing.

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC 703-778-9414 or greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com



By Sunday, Jan. 29, flowers started to pile up in front of the family's McLean home on Windy Hill Road.

Family Tragedy Hits McLean Langley High students pay tribute to slain classmate who sings no more.

By Fallon Forbush The Connection

he sudden death of sophomore James Wenjie Chen, 16, and his parents ripped through Langley High School and the McLean community on Friday, Jan. 27.

"I was shocked and I didn't know how to feel," says Bryanna Washington, 15. She has been a classmate of Chen's since they were both in fourth grade and were both sophomores at Langley High School.

"So full of sorrow, rest easy James," she posted in a tweet on Saturday, Jan. 28. In that post, she included a video tribute to her friend of her singing "Not About Angels" by the artist Birdy, which is on "The Fault In Our Stars" movie soundtrack.

"We rode the bus together and we would always be singing," she says.

The lyrics she sang were:

"We know full well there's just time, so is it wrong to dance this line,

If your heart was full of love, could you give it up?

'Coz what about, what about angels, they

will come, they will go make us special." "He loved to sing and I also love to sing, so I just thought that I should just do what I love in tribute to him," she says.

LANGLEY SOPHOMORE Mark Bosset, 15, also knew Chen since they were both in fourth grade and went to the same elementary, middle and high schools together.

"We had a lot of common interests," he says. "Him and I— from fifth grade to eighth grade- were both in choir. He loved to sing."

He was sitting down with his girlfriend on a staircase at the school when he was given the news of his friend's death via text.

"It was so weird ... it was unbelievable," he said. "I stood up, I went down a couple of steps and I just dropped my phone and sat down on a step and was just breathing. It was shock. I couldn't process it."

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"Him and I— from fifth grade to eighth grade—

nounced dead at the scene.

Fairfax County Police Department homicide detectives have preliminarily determined the deaths to be a domestic-related double murder-suicide and said Hong Chen fatally shot his wife and son before killing himself.

An investigation is ongoing and autopsies will determine the exact cause and manner of death, according to police.

That evening, the community began bringing dozens and dozens of flower bouquets, which are piled together in front of the mailbox of the home as police detectives continue their work.

While Bosset and his friends still wonder what caused the tragedy, they pulled together to remember their friend the following day.

A LARGE GROUP of people attended a vigil for James Chen at the high school. Chen's sister, who is a student at the University of Virginia, attended, says Bosset.

Bosset spoke to the crowd, who were experiencing a mixture of emotions that made them cry and smile as they reflected on memories of their friend, he says.

A story he told was a recent memory he had from their freshmen year. They both attended a choir concert at their old middle school, Longfellow Middle in Falls Church.

Chen's mother was supposed to pick them up afterwards, but there was a miscommunication. They were left waiting outside at night in the rain because no one showed up to drive them home.

"We just started singing all of our old choir songs in the rain," he says. "Afterwards, we both got sick but he didn't care. That's what he was all about. Even though it was raining, he just kept singing."

He says that's a motto that he will remember his friend by: "Even though it's raining, keep singing."

"All of us miss him and will never forget singing along with him," he says.

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were both in choir. He loved to sing." -Langley High **Sophomore Mark Bosset**

Photo courtesy of Mark Bosset

Friends Mark Bosset, left, and James Chen, right, sang together in middle school and were classmates at Langley High School. The day this photo was taken, Chen sang a solo to Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl," which Bosset says will always remind him of his friend because it was done so well. "All of us miss him and will never forget singing along with him," he says.

The news sank in hours later. "One of my best friends is gone," he says. "I broke down."

Around 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27, a relative of the Chen family called 911 and

told police that a body could be seen through a window at the family's McLean home at 1339 Windy Hill Road. When police arrived, Chen and his parents— Shirley Shou, 48, and Hong Chen, 52 —were pro-

News



Photo by Fallon Forbush/The Connection

2nd Lt. Anthony Lampe of the Fairfax County Police Department's Reston District Station tells the audience about the work the Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) does for the families of officers who have been killed while on the job.

New Monthly Dinner Raises Money And Support For Police Officers

By Fallon Forbush The Connection

group in Great Falls raised over \$5,000 for the organization Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) that supports the families of officers who have been killed on the job.

For the last eight years, Bob Nelson, a realtor with Keller Williams Realty in Great Falls, has been organizing Military Appreciation Monday. The monthly fundraisers benefit military support organizations and groups. This latest fundraising effort was part of his new Law Appreciation Wednesday events, which will raise money for police officer support organizations and groups.

Brix American Bistro on Seneca Road hosted the dinner on Wednesday, Jan. 25. As the host, the restaurant donates a portion of the evening's sales during the event's seatings. Raffle tickets are also sold for donated items.

"One of the hardest jobs is being a cop," says Ashwani Ahluwalia, the restaurant's

owner. "They put their lives on the line ... big sacrifice."

The seating for the service was full. As people ate, an officer who patrols Great Falls spoke to the crowd.

"I'm very proud to represent FCPD and the Reston Station in thanking this group for their support," says 2nd Lt. Anthony Lampe of the FCPD's Reston District Station. "Whenever a brush with life comes close, support means that much more."

Officer Lampe was referring to the shooting of one of his colleague's marked police cars just three days before on Sunday, Jan. 22. The car was struck several times by gunfire in Great Falls, but fortunately the officer was not hit.

This is the second of Nelson's Law Appreciation Wednesday events. In December, the group raised \$4,000 for HEROES, Inc. The organization assists the families of police officers within the D.C. region who have been killed on duty.

"The hardest part about organizing this is finding groups that support cops," Nelson says.

Viewpoints

What motivated you to come and support the dinner?

— Fallon Forbush



Chris Forward of Herndon "I'm always happy to support the community, especially given recent events (police cruiser recently shot at in Great Falls)."



Kim Buseman of Centerville "In light of how things are in the country, police need all the support they can get. They've been unappreciated for a long time."



Carol Welsh of Reston

"We admire and respect our police. We go to our jobs and we come home. That's not guaranteed for them. There's always a possibility they won't come back to their families."

Nita Hoernig of Great Falls "I want to salute them for their service. I was taught that when you're in trouble, you go to a police officer. Media and events have eroded that trust, but it is still true. If one officer is not perfect, it doesn't mean they're all bad."



Debra Casey of Reston "We're very blessed in Fairfax County. Everybody should do a ride along and see what our police officers do. They're awesome."



Photos by Fallon Forbush/The Connection

Tex-Mex Coming Back To Great Falls Center

By Fallon Forbush The Connection

riny's Tex-Mex Grill at Great Falls Center recently closed, but another will take its place. El Tio Tex-Mex Grill will open its fifth restaurant at the location.

Though Triny's went out of business, Armondo Mejia says he thinks El Tio will do well in the same spot.

"I am very positive we can do it," he says. Mejia opened his first El Tio restaurant in Gainesville in 2004, Falls Church in 2009;

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McLean in 2013; and Washington, D.C. in 2014. His newest location will be hiring new employees once it opens.

"We will put a sign on the door and will see people in person," he says.

Mejia, who immigrated to the U.S. from El Salvador to Texas in 1983, says his restaurant's most popular dishes are the fajitas and fish tacos. It was in Texas where he picked up his Tex-Mex recipes, which he says is "less spicy and less fried" than traditional Mexican food.

"We also sell a lot of margaritas," he says. He made it clear that his restaurant has



Photo by Fallon Forbush/The Connection **Triny's Tex-Mex Grill is closed, but renovations are underway inside.**

its own recipes for margaritas, which differ from Triny's recipes. According to Mejia, his margaritas have a good balance of sour and sweet and use a lot of tequila. Before the owner of Triny's opened his own restaurant, he worked as a manager at one of the El Tio restaurants, Mejia says. The two men are also cousins who have some bad blood.

Mejia's cousin, Porfino Mejia, could not be reached for comment.

Right now, workers are painting and reflooring his cousin's old restaurant and will be updating the bar. There are plans to revamp the outdoor patio as well.

Mejia expects the restaurant will be ready for business in late March.

Faith Notes

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday at noon.

The S.P.O.T for Youth Wednesday's at 7 p.m. A place where youth can come together and pray, ask questions about the faith and receive mentorship. The spot is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Vienna located at 450 Orchard Street, NW Vienna.

First Baptist Church of Vienna located at 450 Orchard Street, NW Vienna. Sunday services are held at 7:45 and 10 a.m. weekly. Wednesday Night with the Family service is held at 6 p.m. followed by corporate singing at 7 p.m. Bible studies take place Tuesday's at noon.

Wesley United Methodist Church located at 711 Spring Street SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180, at the corner of Spring Street and Moore Avenue. 10:30 a.m. –Fellowship time in the *fellowship hall*, 11 a.m. Traditional family worship in sanctuary. If you are seeking a church home which encourages: caring and supportive fellowship, an active and devoted prayer life and study of scripture, support for local and world missions, an open, responsive awareness to the presence and power of God's Holy Spirit.

Youth Activities at Wesley United Methodist Church Activities are open to all 6th-12th graders. Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10:00am in the Upper room.

Youth Bible Study will meet every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. off-site. Following SEE FAITH, PAGE 7 G. STEPHEN DULANEY State Farm Insurance IN GREAT FALLS StateFarm AUTO • HOME LIFE • HEALTH FINANCIAL SERVICES Like A Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There.* www.gstephendulaney.com

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OPINION So Much Happening, Don't Blink

Demonstrations at Dulles in reaction to travel ban; fast moving General Assembly lacks transparency; other key issues.

Locally, the effects of a travel ban at odds with American values played out at Dulles International Airport, but stimulated a heartening response, with volunteer attorneys offering help, local, state and federal elected officials demanding accountability and peaceful demonstrators protesting the un-American assault on

travel from particular Muslim-majority Editorial countries.

"I was just amazed at the number of people, the energy, the spirit, the spontaneity," said Del. Marcus Simon, who used FaceBook Live to share the scene over several days. "In some ways, it was heartening, to see so many Northern Virginians reacting.'

See reporter Tim Peterson's story in this paper.

CROSSOVER is Feb. 7; that's when only bills that have passed either the House of Delegates or the Virginia Senate can move forward.

As this date approaches, the General Assembly has a serious transparency issue, as it continues to kill most proposed legislation with unrecorded voice votes in subcommittee, with no accountability or record of how members voted.

This was raised to new heights earlier this week, when a House of Delegates subcommittee killed proposed constitutional amendments including non-partisan redistricting and restoring voting rights of felons, along with more than 20 proposed amendments, in a single vote.

John Horejsi of Vienna, who heads the organization Social Action Linking Together, notes that his organization is unable to track what

Letters to the Editor Time to

Speak Up

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to applaud area lawyers and to question why the elected representative of this area, Barbara Comstock, has chosen to stay silent in the face of grave threats to our nation.

For those of us who care about America's future and about America not repeating the mistakes of the past, this has been a very bad week. Events this week highlight the importance of character and voice.

For example, why hasn't Barbara Comstock spoken out against a nominee for Secretary of Education who is so dangerous to the public school system nationwide fered to give legal advice, others to

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here is so much going on this week: happens to legislation they support. This headline, which ran last week on www.roanoke.com, says it all: "Bill to require recorded votes dies on an unrecorded vote, again."

> State Sen. Creigh Deeds continues important work on mental health reform, citing three priorities this year, requiring most of Commu-

nity Services Boards around the state to provide same-day service and certain outpatient services; to assess and

provide care for inmates who have mental health needs; and long-term supportive housing to help avoid repeated mental health crises.

About 200,000 people in Virginia have had their motor vehicle licenses suspended for a legal infraction that has nothing to do with a driving offense. And 650,000 people in Virginia have a suspended license for failing to pay court costs. This is an obstacle to holding a job and being able to meet other obligations, and legislation to stop this counter-productive practice is still alive in the Virginia Senate.

The sale of high-proof grain alcohol in Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control stores passed the House of Delegates earlier in the session, and is just foolish.

EFFORTS by state Sen. Adam P. Ebbin and others, supporting repeal of the Virginia constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2006 forbidding gay marriage should move forward. The 2006 amendment is no longer valid because the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015 legalized same-sex marriage.

State Sen. Chap Petersen introduced a doomed bill to ban contributions from public utilities. "Monopolies like Dominion or Appa-

year, my children are greeted on

their first day at Great Falls Elemen-

tary by a member of her support

team and when I have voted in the

past at local schools I have been

greeted by members of the

Comstock family, but those gestures

are meaningless relative to her si-

lence on Betsy DeVos this past week.

dent Trump signed an Executive

Order banning migration from

seven Muslim countries, the Dulles

parking lot filled with the cars of

lawyers who felt compelled to be

the voice for those detained. All

sorts of lawyers answered the

call-yes, legal aid lawyers and

public interest lawyers but also law-

yers from some of the most power-

ful white shoe law firms. Some of-

Similarly, the night after Presi-

lachian Power have an undue influence on the political process. That leads to legislation which has a direct cost to Virginia consumers, both residents and small businesses," Petersen said.

It looks like the felony threshold will increase to \$500 from \$200, an important distinction championed by Petersen and state Sen. Scott Surovell.

While the constitutional amendment to address voting rights for felons who have served their sentences died in the above action, Gov. Terry McAuliffe should be commended for restoring the civic rights of more than 128,000 Virginians, and his plans to restore rights for any remaining Virginia citizens who lost their rights. This has been a laborious and worthy process, adapted as needed to meet legal challenges and court rulings.

> - MARY KIMM MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Submit Photos to **Pet Connection**

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 15.

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To the Editor:

Thank you Nancy.

Evil and Selfish

Re: "Protesting Vote Suppres-

sion", Letter to the Editor, Jan. 25-

31. Congratulations to Nancy

Blethen, for her accurate descrip-

tion, concerning the fallacies, of

Gerrymandering. The process is

evil and selfish, primarily for per-

sonal gain, and should be illegal.

Gerry Rosenthal

Great Falls

and here in her District? At the bring copies of intake forms. They beginning of every school

were acting to defend the country from an action that struck against the nation's ideals of non-discrimination and rejection of religious persecution. As much as a group of lawyers acting together can be, it was beautiful. But who was silent-even when some Republican representatives were not-and through her silence failed her constituents: Barbara Comstock.

> **Ezra Rosser** Great Falls

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor The Connection 1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444. By e-mail: greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com



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News

Comstock: Green Card Holders Are Legal Residents

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) issued the following statement through her Twitter account on Jan. 29:

"As I consistently have said, I don't believe it is constitutional to ban people from our country on the basis of religion. However, I do support - and the House of Representatives has supported on a bipartisan basis increased vetting based on national security concerns. The President's Executive Order issued yesterday went beyond the increased vetting actions that Congress has supported

Faith Notes

From Page 5

bible study we will ride together over to the church for youth group. Email the Youth Ministry Staff for the address if interested!

The Anchor meets every Sunday from 6pm-8pm in the fellowship hall. Join us for dinner, games, worship, and diving deeper into the Word!

During the summer, Youth Sunday School meets most Sundays at 9:00am in the Upper room. To receive the newsletter or for more information contact youth@wesleyvienna.org.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook Roads in McLean, just a mile west of Tysons, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Look for our Pumpkin Patch this October, and check www.stthomasmcleanva.org for Special Events and **Comstock** on a bipartisan basis and inexplicably applied to green card holders, people who are legally within our country who have followed the rules. Green card holders go through detailed legal process and are vetted. They are required to register with the selective service - and many serve in the military. They pay taxes. I find it hard to believe that green card holders - legal permanent residents - were intended to be included in this Executive Order. This should be addressed and corrected expeditiously."

Services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel.. The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. Questions? Please contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holycomforter.com.

Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held Saturdays, 3–4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap if you have them. Questions? Please contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

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with experts each month. Guest facilitators will offer information, advice and support in a welcoming,

private setting. Topics to be covered include: How to Visit; Accepting Loss; and Enjoying the Remaining Strengths of Your Loved One. Aleksandra (Anya) Parpura, MD, PhD, an expert in aging and dementia, will lead our Caregiver Connect program. Dr. Parpura is the president of Aging Perspectives, Inc., the Scientific Review Officer with CSRA International, an adjunct professor at The Catholic University of America, and a faculty member at the Washington School of Psychiatry. Dr. Parpura brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

Be sure to save the date each month. Join us at our community, located at 700 West Broad Street. RSVP by calling 703-992-9868.







Gov. Terry McAuliffe appeared and spoke at the airport Saturday. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (right) visited the ongoing demonstration Monday afternoon.

Photos contributed



Right, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was able to get one pair of detainees released Saturday evening with the help of immigration attorneys: Fairfax County resident and green card holder Ahmed Mohedian, 71, who had been held with his wife after returning from Iran.

Anti-Immigration Ban Rallies Held at Dulles

Demonstrators, volunteer attorneys and elected officials welcome travelers, extend help detainees.

> By Tim Peterson The Connection

Left, PFC Post and (right) PFC Gibson from the

recent attacks against Muslims and mosques.

Fairfax County Police Department visit the Al Fatih

Academy in Reston, as a show of support following

el. Marcus Simon (D-53) brought his two children, 13 and 11, to Dulles International Airport Jan. 28, not to fly, but to witness and learn.

Demonstrations sprang up at airports around the United States over the weekend, following an Executive Order by President Donald Trump that blocks travelers from seven largely Muslim countries — Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia — in the interests of more significant vetting and preventing would-be terrorists from entering the country.

Simon's wasn't the only family in attendance. Many had brought their children to the demonstration.

"You show them this is what you do, how you protest, be patriotic," Simon said, "when the government does something you don't agree with. You expose them to something positive."

THE BAN was announced Friday and

officials at airports began enforcing it immediately. Travelers from the seven countries are blocked from entering the U.S. for 90 days, and new refugee admissions from the same nations blocked for 120 days. Syrian refugees are blocked indefinitely, according to the ban.

Some individuals who hold valid visas were impacted by the ban, and others with legal status and green cards have been detained at airports. A federal judge in Brooklyn passed a ruling over the weekend that blocked part of Trump's action, and Judge Leonie M. Brinkema of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia issued a temporary restraining order Saturday night specifically for those detained at Dulles.

Brinkema ordered airport authorities to grant lawyers access to detainees who are permanent legal residents, and that permanent residents not be removed for seven days.

Simon was at Dulles Saturday and Sunday, as well as state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33), U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), asking that some of the more than 20 lawyers present be given that opportunity to meet with the detainees.

The scenes were intense and a little chaotic, Simon said, but the demonstrators were nonviolent and positive.

"I was just amazed at the number of people, the energy, the spirit, the spontaneity," said Simon. "In some ways, it was heartening, to see so many Northern Virginians reacting to [the ban]."

Gov. Terry McAuliffe appeared and spoke at the airport Saturday. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) visited the ongoing demonstration Monday afternoon.

Connolly was able to get one pair of detainees released Saturday evening with the help of immigration attorneys: Fairfax County resident and green card holder Ahmed Mohedian, 71, who had been held with his wife after returning from Iran. He was in that country receiving medical treatment, Connolly's office said.

"America has always stood for being a beacon of hope," Connolly said in a statement reacting to the ban. "Donald Trump would paint over Emma Lazarus's words on the Statue of Liberty. There are millions of us willing to stand with immigrants coming into our country. There are millions of us willing to insist that America's doors remain open to those

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Arrest Made in Shooting at Police Car in Great Falls

Suspect first apprehended in Herndon for waiving a gun.

> By Tim Peterson The Connection

ust before midnight on Jan. 22, several shots were fired at a marked police cruiser from another vehicle in the Great Falls area, Fairfax County police said. The other driver and at least one passenger who bailed out while police were in pursuit managed to escape capture at the time.

In a press conference the following day, Fairfax County Police chief Edwin Roessler asked the community for help in locating the suspects.

"If they're willing to kill a police officer, they're willing to kill anyone to escape justice," Roessler said. "I can't beg enough for the help of the community."

Hardly 24 hours later, Roessler was in front of cameras again, announcing that a suspect had been arrested and charged with attempted capital murder and using a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Brian Neftali Landaverde, 21, of Herndon was first apprehended by Town of Herndon police officers for an incident unrelated to the Fairfax County shooting. Herndon Police Chief Maggie A. DeBoard said officers responded to a complaint of a man flashing a gun around in a parking lot on Elden Street.

When officers approached Landaverde, the man matching the description from the complaint, he took off running but was soon caught.

Statements were made during the arrest, DeBoard said, that led officers to believe their suspect might be connected to the shooting in Great Falls. Fairfax County detectives and the investigation continued from there.

"It was good police work all the way around," DeBoard continued. "Our departments have had a long history of working very cooperatively and effectively together."

THE SEQUENCE on Jan. 22 began with what police describe as a white older model sedan running a red light on Georgetown Pike. An officer out of the Reston police district station attempted a traffic stop nearby at the 600 block of Rossmore Court. At that point a passenger got out of the suspect's car and ran off.

Two juvenile suspects believed to be in the car with Landaverde have been taken into custody and are being interviewed.

"The driver of the car then sped away from the cruiser, making a U-turn in the culde-sac," police said in a statement, "then traveled back toward the officer and opened

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PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE The scene began with what police describe as a white older model sedan running a red light on Georgetown Pike. An officer out of the Reston police district station attempted a traffic stop nearby at the 600 block of Rossmore Court. At that point a passenger got out of the suspect's car and ran off.



In a Jan. 23 press conference, Fairfax County Police chief Edwin Roessler begged the community to help bring suspects to justice who ran from a routine traffic stop and then allegedly fired.

"If they're willing to kill a police officer, they're willing to kill anyone to escape justice. I can't beg enough for the help of the community."

— Fairfax County Police chief Edwin Roessler

fire, striking the cruiser at least twice." The police car was hit on the hood, feet

from the vehicle's interior, and again on the passenger side rear quarter panel.

The officer then called in the shooting to dispatch, Roessler said, and resumed pursuit of the suspect's vehicle. But the suspect eluded the officer heading westbound on Georgetown Pike.

It was determined the shots were fired from inside the vehicle, through the

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

windshield.

The officer did not return fire, the chief said, as the suspect's car came at the cruiser at a high rate of speed.

The officer was not injured and the name is being withheld while a risk assessment is completed.

"This was hopefully not a targeted ambush situation," said Roessler. "We need to vet through that process."

THE LAST TIME an officer was fired upon was during a jewelry store heist in Spring-field last spring, Roessler added.

"The community provided us with leads, Herndon police officers were proactive, not just doing their job, but going above and beyond," he said, also praising the work of Fairfax County detectives, "and were able to connect a person of interest in the Town of Herndon to this crime."

The investigation of the Great Falls shooting is still underway, while Landaverde is incarcerated at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.



Announcing Group Interviews for The Kensington Falls Church Interview with Us at

700 West Broad Street in Falls Church Thursdays from January 19-March 2 at 11am & 4pm Saturdays from January 21-March 4 at 11am

A ve you been searching for an organization with heart? Where you can make a difference in many lives? Where you can grow professionally and personally? Kensington Senior Living has been built upon two key values: a Love for Seniors and a Spirit to Serve. We are looking for individuals who share these values and would like to join our team in Falls Church, where we will love and care for our residents as we do our own families.

Now hiring qualified full-time (starting at 30 hours/week) and part-time team members

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THE KENSINGTON An Assisted Living Community

FALLS CHURCH 703.992.9868 www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com 700 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046

For immediate consideration or more details, email FallsChurchCareers@KensingtonSL.com or call 703-992-9868.

Great Falls Connection 💠 February 1-7, 2017 💠 9

WELLBEING To Move Or Not To Move

Local family moves mother into newly opened Kensington Falls Church.

By Marilyn Campbell The Connection

ne of the most heart-wrenching decisions that Denise Schossler, her two siblings and her 95-year-old mother had to make was whether or not to move her into an assisted living facility, leaving the home where she's lived since 1954. Physical limitations and a need for social interaction drove the decision to relocate to the newly opened Kensington Falls Church.

"My mother has managed to stay in her home all this time with the help of an aide who comes every day, but she realized that it just couldn't continue. One of the main things is the isolation and the loneliness," said Schossler. "She needs more social interaction than she gets alone in her home. She's someone who's had an active social life, but now it's just television and books."

A dearth of social interaction is one of the factors that can lead seniors into assisted living facilities. In fact, a recent study published in the Journal of Gerontology shows that seniors living in assisted living facilities have fewer unmet needs such as companionship, help with cooking, bathing and doing laundry than those who live independently. However, the survey of more than 4,000 people over the age of 65 shows that even in such retirement communities, unmet needs still exist. To address this challenge, local gerontology experts say that families must determine whether a loved one's needs meet the criteria for assisted living candidacy and once placed, work to ensure that those needs are being met.

"In counseling families making this difficult decision, I focus on safety factors for the patient and other family members," said Maureen Moriarty, D.N.P., assistant professor of nursing at Marymount University in Arlington. "Often cognitive impairment is the reason for assisted living. Perhaps memory is affected so the patient can no longer safely drive or remember the steps in carrying out activities of daily living such



Photos courtesy of Kensington at Falls Church



Denise Schossler's 95-year-old mother will move into the newly opened Kensington Falls Church assisted living facility later this month.

as cooking, bathing or management of finances."

In making this decision, an evaluation by an objective gerontology expert can be necessary, says Patrice Winter, DPT, assistant professor at George Mason University in the Department of Global and Community Health. "They come out and evaluate the house and the person as well," she said. "You have an objective, unemotional person instead of an adult child going, 'Mom you can't live here anymore.' and the mom saying, 'Stay out of my business."

Such an evaluation will show that there are times when a lifestyle adjustment is all that is needed. "Sometimes they can offer simple solutions that can make huge changes," said Winter. "Could it be that they need their eyesight and hearing checked? Or the washing machine moved upstairs" so they can do laundry more frequently?

When seeking an evaluation, Winter recommends local social service agencies such as the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging. "The issue may not be cognitive, but the need for a living environment with more

"She needs more social interaction than she gets alone in her home. She's someone who's had an active social life, but now it's just television and books." — Denise Schossler

support may be triggered by physical limitations," added Moriarty. "Perhaps a chronic degenerative illness such as Parkinson's Disease has left the patient with physical care needs beyond the scope of family members."

Safety can become an issue when family members' physical limitations restrict the quality of care they are able to offer. "This opens issues not only to patient safety but also the family member may be frail or have their own physical limitations that limit their capacity to assist someone who, for instance, has balance loss," said Moriarty.

a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) -Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838 jtarr5@verizon.net.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone

empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more

Local Resources

 Alexandria Area Agency on Aging https://www.alexandriava.gov/Aging
 Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ olderadultservices/

Arlington Aging and Disability Services Division https://aging-disability.arlingtonva.us/
Kensington Falls Church Open House Feb. 1, 5 and 22, 4:30 to 7 p.m.
700 West Broad St., Falls Church

"The key assessment as a clinician for me is that the family no longer has the resources to care safely for this individual in a home environment."

"If there is any question at all, the person should have a medical evaluation," added Winter. "There could be an imbalance in the system that could cause changes so a really good physical by a geriatric internist would be paramount before any drastic actions are taken."

Once a senior has moved into an assisted living facility, they often need someone to advocate on their behalf. Regular visits and telephone calls to both the family member and the staff are necessary. "You need to make sure you know what's going on," said Thompson, who recently moved her own mother into an assisted living facility. "It's OK to be a pest. I communicate with the staff at my mother's facility. She complains to me about things that she won't complain to the staff about so I have to complain on her behalf."

Even in the best of facilities, a person's needs can be inadvertently overlooked, says Thompson, so a family member's presence is necessary. "Walk around, pay attention to how other residents seem," she said. "Are they happy and engaged or are there signs of neglect?"

"Establish a relationship with those providers who will be involved in the care of your family member," added Moriarty. "Become part of the team by attending regular team meetings. Make them aware of your loved one's special needs. For example, if your family member always had tea in the morning, request that this continues."

Schossler says that her proximity to the Kensington Falls Church will allow her to be in regular contact with both her mother and the staff.

"My mother has grandchildren and greatgrandchildren and we can visit her because the Kensington is just a few minutes away from where I live," she said. "My mother has already made connections with three people who will be there, so she's looking forward to moving. We happened to find the right fit at the right time."

-Wellbeing Notes-

THROUGHOUT MARCH 2017

Free Public Service Seminars. March 1, 8, 15, 21, 29, at 7 p.m. on Selling Your Home, Aging in Place, Downsizing, Retirement Communities Seminars. Free public service seminars on "Selling Your Home" (March 1, McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Rd., McLean), "Working With Builders" (March 8, Falls Church HS, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church), "Financing Your Retirement" (March 15, Marshall HS, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church), "Tax & Estate Planning" (March 21, Madison HS, 2500 James Madison Dr., Vienna), and "Decluttering & Organizing" (March 29, Oakton HS, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna). For more information and seminar registration go to RetireeRealEstate.org, or call 703-772-3033.

ONGOING

Are You A Caregiver? Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group takes place first & third Thursday of each month. Feb. 2nd and 16th, 2017 from 10 assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email

Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/.

and apply: https://prsinc.org/carering-

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer

advocates for residents in nursing homes and

volunteering/. Questions? Email

lpadgett@prsinc.org.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THURSDAY/FEB. 2

Penny University Event 7 - 8 p.m. Caffe Amouri 107 Church St. NE, Vienna. Free event! "Why Are We Here?" A community discussion led by experienced moderator and leader of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society Randy Best. To RSVP email nicki@caffeamouri.com. www.caffeamouri.com

FRIDAY/FEB. 3

Daddy-Daughter Valentine Dance 6 - 8:30 p.m. Marshall Road Elementary School 730 Marshall Road SW, Vienna. Girls (ages 3—6th grade) and dads dress to impress. Girls celebrate Valentine's Day with your dads, grandads, big brothers godfathers and family members. There will be lots of dancing, prizes, good food and a special guest! This is a fundraiser hosted by the Vienna Woman's Club and tickets must be purchased in advance. cost: \$30 per couple, \$10 for additional daughter. carmodygaba@aol.com https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-daddydaughter-valentine-dance-tickets-28914732744

SATURDAY/FEB. 4

Faith & Public Policy Breakfast 8:30 - 11 a.m. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. In the aftermath of a particularly acrimonious political campaign season, the Faith and Public Policy Committee has invited the Chaplin of the US House of Representatives to address the prospects of faith guiding public policy discussion, debate, and formulation in the near future. bettie@mcelroyassoc.com 703-237-0358 http://www.lewinsville.org/ event-items/6207/

Survival with Author Tim MacWelch 2 - 3:30 Patrick Henry Library 101 Maple Ave, E, Vienna. Learn "How to Survive Anything" with New York Times best-selling author and survival expert Tim MacWelch, founder of Advanced Survival Training school in Fauquier County. Books available for sale and signing. 703-938-0405 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

Penny University Event 7 - 8 p.m. Caffe Amouri 107 Church St. NE, Vienna. "Why Are We Here?" "Heart-Opening Meditation" with Mental

See Calendar, Page 13

Getting to Know Winter Veggies At the Great Falls Farmers Market

By Lisa Colburn Stewart FamilyandForks.com

The Great Falls Farmers Market has a campaign going to celebrate the winter harvest with a "Veggie Pack" and accompanying recipe – offered at a substantial discount to encourage local families to get to know the local winter crop offerings. The Pack includes all the certified organic veggies from local farms that you will need to make a home-cooked meal from the recipe provided.

According to Farmers Market Manager, Kathleen Murphy, "A visit to the farmers market can be intimidating if you don't know how to prepare winter vegetables. No matter how beautiful their colors and shapes, if you don't know some easy ways to transform your vegetables into a tasty meal, it can be really frustrating. We hope to make it easy for people to cook vegetables in new ways each week, building their confidence."

This week's recipe was "Dutch Stamppot," a classic dish from the Netherlands that is easy to prepare. Ingredients in the bag included organic russet potatoes, carrots, collard greens (in place of kale), and a large onion as well as a recipe. Stamppot can be prepared as a vegan dish with vegetable broth, as a vegetarian dish with milk, and as a "meat and potato dish" it combines well with sausage, which can also be found each week at the Farmers Market's Liberty Hill Farms and/ or High View Farms.

The "Veggie Pack" offers outstanding value. This week's bag of organic vegetables cost only \$6. "Not only are our 'Veggie Packs' convenient, they are also a tre-

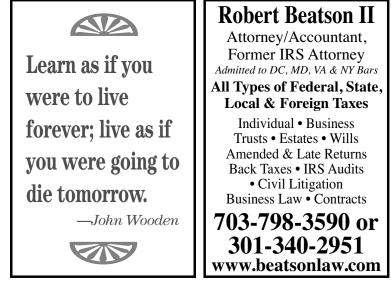


Dutch Stamppot recipe prepared by Lisa Stewart of Great Falls. This classic Dutch dish involved smashing boiled potatoes, carrots and onions together, leaving them chunky, then mixing in some greens - collard greens in this dish. Sausage is added on top to add another layer of flavor and texture, if desired.

mendous bargain," says Murphy. "We are offering a discount on our already low prices for organic vegetables. If you were to purchase these ingredients at any grocery store or online meal service, you would easily pay at least double that or more. We offer these discounts to encourage people to learn how much better it is to eat fresh and local."

This Saturday, the community welcomed TD Bank at the farmers market. Each shopper received a free grocery tote bag. Thanks to TD Bank's sponsorship, the farmers market will be opening spaces for fledgling artisans and crafts people to come share their talents and show their abilities at the Grange. Visit www.GreatFallsFarmersMarket.org for more details.

The winter Great Falls Farmers Market takes place indoors through March 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, located at 9818 Georgetown Pike.





386 Maple Avenue East, Suite 200, Vienna, VA 22180 www.washingtonjewelryservices.com • 703-868-5370

MCC is on the MOVE!

Due to the scheduled renovation of the Ingleside facility, on April 3, 2017, the McLean Community Center will temporarily relocate to the McLean Square Shopping Center.

Home of the \$6,850 Bathroom Remodel From Now to WOW in 5 Days Guarantee **TWO POOR TEACHERS** Select your 10% down 1 products from nothing until the job Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling our Mobile is complete for the past 17 years Showroom and Design Center TI SILOUS & BATH DI SIGN CENTER Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999 3-969-1179 SEPA **Free Estimates** 703-999-2928 Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com



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CALENDAR

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Health Counselor and Professor Cathy Trenary. Space is limited. To RSVP email nicki@caffeamouri.com. Cost: Free. www.caffeamouri.com

THURSDAY/FEB. 9

"Adjust the Heat" 10:30 a.m. Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna. Nationally acclaimed watercolorist Catherine Hillis will explain the importance of observation in art and, particularly, the need to develop the warm and cool colors in a painting. Hillis will demonstrate how artists can bring their paintings to a new level by creating color temperature in their work. Cost: Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971 www.ViennaArtsSociety.org

FRIDAY/FEB. 10

Valentine's Day Arts & Crafts Hour 11 - noon Once Upon A Dream, 527 Maple Ave E #200, Vienna.There will be arts & crafts to celebrate Valentine's Day. Additional \$5 per child.

Plan Ahead Great Falls

TUESDAY/FEB. 21

Discussing C&O Canal Companion. Guest speaker at the The Great Falls Senior Center event, author Mike High, has cycled in many places around the world but the trail along the C&O Canal is his favorite. His

See Calendar, Page 13



Bridge, by Donna Mosely.

Artists on the Green Display Art at the Great Falls Library

The creative talents of the members of Artists on the Green is on display in the Great Falls Public Library Large Conference Room during February. The exhibit highlights landscape and still life oil paintings that are the artists' favorites. An opening reception is planned for Feb. 2, 6 - 9 p.m. in the library's Large Conference Room. The public is invited to attend.

ist cooperative that provides a studio workspace and gallery for ten artists. Each artist has a unique style and diverse choice of subject matter. The studio is located in the Great Falls Village Centre, 776B Walker Road. Examples of the members' work be viewed can at www.artistsonthegreen.net . The Great Falls Public Library is located at 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call 703-757-8560 for hours of operation.

Artists on the Green is an art-



Publishes: Feb 22, 2017 · Ads close: Wed, Feb 16, 2017

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets. Reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention.

The Pet Connection will publish on February 22, 2017, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

Find more information about submissions online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

For advertising information, call 703.778.9431 or Email SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM for more specials, digital advertising options and pricing.

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From Page 12

C&O Canal Companion takes readers on a mile-by-mile tour of the 184mile Potomac River and towpath that stretches from Washington, DC, to Cumberland, Maryland, and the Alleghany Mountains. The event will be held at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren 11500 Leesburg Pike from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and includes lunch. Reservations are a must. Contact Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net or call 703-759-4345. Visit gfseniors.org.

ONGOING

FRIDAYS-SUNDAYS/FEB. 3-19

McLean Community Players "Company." 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. A 1970 musical comedy based on a book by George Furth with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The original production was nominated for a record-setting fourteen Tony Awards and won seven. \$25/\$23 MCC tax district residents. Visit http://

www.mcleanplayers.org/. Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2hr max). Valid driver's license required. Our rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for persons 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ riverbend-park/

The Daraja Ensemble will perform at Saint Francis Episcopal Church located at 9220 Georgetown Pike Great Falls on Sunday Feb. 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. This fellowship woodwind quintet from the University of Maryland takes its name from the Swahili word for "bridge." Coming together from around the country and abroad, their wideranging performances include ongoing outreach to Tanzania. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit: http://amadeusconcerts.com/

- Colvin Run Mill open 11 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Winter Hours: January & February, 11am-4pm, last tour 3pm. Admission to park is FREE except for some special events.
- "Thrifty Thursdays" Basic Budgeting Classes in Annandale, Chantilly and Alexandria 7-9 p.m. Heritage Building 7611 Little River Turnpike, East Wing 1st Floor Conference Room D Annandale. Thursday, January 19, 2017 & Thursday, April 20, 2017. South County Government Center 7-9 p.m. 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Thursday, February 16,
- 2017 (Room 220) & Thursday, May 18, 2017 (Room 220) Chantilly High School 7-9 p.m. 4201 Stringfellow

Road, Chantilly. Thursday, March 16, 2017 (Room 253) & Thursday, June 15, 2017 (Room 253) For All Sessions, RSVP to: Carole Rogers at crogers@britepaths.org or 703-273

Great Falls Plan Ahead

SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Concert: The Daraja Ensemble 4 -6 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church 9220 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. This fellowship woodwind quintet from the University of Maryland takes its name from the Swahili word for "bridge." Coming together from around the country and abroad, their wide-ranging performances include ongoing outreach to Tanzania. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit: http://amadeusconcerts.com/

McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS **Stephen Sondheim's Ground-Breaking Musical! Opens Friday, Feb 3!**



- Book by **George Furth**
- Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Originally produced and directed on Broadway by Harold Prince Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick **Directed by Sharon Veselic**

Produced by Jerry Gideon and Claire Tse Alden Theatre • McLean Community Center

February 3-19

Friday and Saturday, 8:00 p.m. Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: 866.811.4111 OR www.McLeanPlayers.org

The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

See The Accessibility page at www.McLeanPlayers.org for dates of Audio-described and ASL-interpreted performances Suitable for ages17 and older

COMPANY is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatro International (MIT). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MIT. www.MITShows.com

CONNECT WITH MCP: FACEBOOK.COM/MCLEANPLAYERS



Here's What's Happening at MCC

James C. Macdonald

Fine Arts Scholarship Competition

For young performing artists who reside or attend school in the MCC tax district Application Deadline has been extended to Monday, Feb. 6



Just in Time for Valentine's Day! Better Than Bling **Jewelry & Fashion**

Accessories Show

Saturday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$5; Free, military (with I.D.) and children age 12 or younger

Onstage @ The Alden The Amazing Max

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2 p.m. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents





Old Firehouse School Break Trips

Ski & Snowboard

Monday, Feb. 6, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. \$140/\$120 MCC district residents

Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips

Washington Wizards vs Indiana Pacers

Friday, Feb. 10, 4:30-11:30 p.m. \$50/\$40 MCC district residents





a Day Away! 2017 Philadelphia

Flower Show Wednesday, March 15

6:45 a.m.-8 p.m.

\$136 per person/\$131 MCC district residents



And So It Begins — Again

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Thank God! Another three months, (13 weeks actually) of wedded-type bliss until my next scan scheduled for mid April. Save for four weeks of pre- and post-chemotherapy-infusion non-bliss in the interim when the effects of the before, during, after treatment will make me feel less like the person I will otherwise be — for the nine or so other weeks, I am indeed lucky to be "stable" and looking forward.

However, I will be off to a bit of a bumpy start as a result of the timing of my most recent chemotherapy infusion and its negative side effects coming so soon on the heels of the previous week's positive scan news. Not that the negative overwhelms the positive in the slightest, it's more that it slows down my progression from feeling abnormal to feeling normal; well, as much as one diagnosed and living with a "terminal" disease, non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, can. Which, as you regular readers know, I'm generally able to do, except when there a blips, and for the next week, I'll be "blipped." Having considered the inevitable taste and eating issues I typically face post infusion, I spoke with a nutritionist this past week to see if I've been missing a boat somewhere. Unfortunately, other than remaining well-hydrated, it seems there's very little I can do other than to endure the post-chemotherapy weak.

But of course, it's the big picture (no tumor progression, no fluid build up) that matters most, not the small picture (the pre- and postscan anxiety and the post-chemotherapy eating issues). And of course, it's nothing new. I've been through variations of this routine going on nearly eight years now, since the diagnostic process began on Jan. 1, 2009, when I first visited the Emergency Room. Pain in my rib cage had migrated from one side to the other and simultaneously I was having difficulty catching my breath. Then, even I knew, I needed some medical attention. Two and a half months later after the usual schedule of tests, interpretations and more tests, I received my diagnosis with which you are all so familiar.

Amazingly, life has gone on and fallen into a sort of routine. The most recent one, going back approximately three and a half years, began with my first and only hospitalization followed up a month or so later with the beginning of my Alimta infusion. For the most part, the infusion/experience has been quite manageable, and according to my oncologist, "great." So "great," in fact, that we have been extending the interval of my infusions from three weeks originally to four weeks to four/five weeks to now infusing forward, every five weeks. This will give my body more time to recuperate between chemotherapy and give me more quality-weeks of life (always a concern of my oncologist); minimizing eating and anxiety issues.

For the moment, we're keeping the scan schedule to every three months. As to our concern about trying to limit the exposure to radiation — per scan; as my oncologist sort of joked, it's the toxins from the chemotherapy that are more harmful (it's akin to the line from the movie "Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid" when Paul Newman snickered at Robert Redford's concern about not being able to swim — should they in fact jump off the cliff into the raging river below, to escape Joe Lefors and the Indian tracker, Lord Baltimore: "Swim? Are you crazy? The fall will probably kill you.")

So by the time you all are reading this column, Thursday-ish, I'll be mostly back to eating normally — well, normal for me. It's a routine I've become accustomed to and one with which I can live, live being the operable word. Certainly not a life without some hardships and difficulties, but still a life worth living; with some weeks harder than others; this week certainly being one of them. It won't be pretty but soon enough it will have passed with clear sailing ahead for the next four weeks until youknow-what.

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





www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

News Rallies at Dulles

From Page 8

fleeing injury, violence or persecution. This order was not thought through and must be rescinded. We will fight this illegal Executive Order."

Simon said airport security officials and border control told them they weren't allowed to say anything. One of the concerns, he said the legislators had heard, was that individuals arriving from the ban-affected countries were being met once they got off the plane and asked to sign a document that essentially forfeited their green card.

"If that's what's going to happen," Simon said, "it shouldn't be."

If he had just landed in a foreign country and was met by men with guns when getting off the plane, said Simon, "I'd sign anything that was stuck in front of me." That's why it was important for the lawyers to meet with these people and explain their rights to them, he added.

Another issue Simon raised was the apparent lack of information and clarity on the details of the ban — airport officials seemed unprepared for enforcing it.

"The rank and file employees, they were stuck between a rock and a hard place, a really difficult position," Simon said. Typically with a ban like this, he continued, "you'd expect there to be some more coordination with agencies, planning, and information."

In the press conference Saturday, Beyer referenced his Freedom of Religion Act he introduced in 2016, which stated that no one would be denied entry to the United States based on their religion.

"It's so ironic that President Trump came out and said that we're going to give special preference to Christians who are refugees because so many of them are being killed," Beyer said. "Well I'm a Christian, but I respect that there are many more Muslims being killed right now, many more who are refugees."

IN A STATEMENT released through her Twitter account on Jan. 29, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) said she supports increased vetting based on national security concerns. However, Comstock said she has consistently asserted: "I don't believe it is constitutional to ban people from our country on the basis of religion."

"The President's Executive Order issued yesterday went beyond the increased vetting actions that Congress has supported on a bipartisan basis and inexplicably applied to green card holders," Comstock continued, "people who are legally within our country who have followed the rules."

Other Local leaders Weigh In

On her Facebook page Monday, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said:

"The Executive Order issued on Friday is offensive and counter to what defines this country. We are a nation of immigrants committed to religious freedom. I am committed to keeping Fairfax County a safe and welcoming place. When I was sworn in as chairman, I swore to support the Constitution. I believe this ban on travel is unconstitutional and I urge the judiciary to continue to exercise its role in preventing further damage to our country's values and our reputation around the world."

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D), released a statement Friday, the same day as the Executive Order was announced. Warner is vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence:

"The Trump Administration Executive Order that indefinitely suspends the Syrian refugee program and pauses visas from Muslim countries runs counter to our American values. While I have always been open to a pause on our refugee program to ensure appropriate time for intelligence and law enforcement experts to ensure we protect our national security, these actions by the President presume the solution before the review is complete. It is a policy targeting Muslims that national security experts have testified would harm, not help, our national security interests. I join the interfaith community in Virginia and around the country in objecting to these moves, and I will work in Congress to block an effort which trades dubious increases in U.S. security for certain alienation of partners with whom we must cooperate to address terrorism."

The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, released a statement as well, expressing solidarity with refugees:

"In his statement on the Executive Order halting refugee admissions, Bishop Joe Vasquez, chair of the Committee of Migration and Bishop of the Diocese of Austin, highlighted our nation's long and proud tradition of welcoming newcomers and refugees in a humane manner, even as we have pursued a strong vetting system to ensure our safety and security. Together with Bishop Vasquez and my brother bishops, I encourage Catholics to contact our elected officials to make our voices heard: Our communities have been and will continue to be hospitable to refugees, in keeping with our legacy of welcoming the stranger. Together, we also pray for comprehensive immigration reform and for peace, safety and harmony within our nation and throughout the world."

The full text of the Jan. 27 Executive Order is available online here:

https://www.whitehouse.gov/thepress-office/2017/01/27/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terroristentry-united-states.





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