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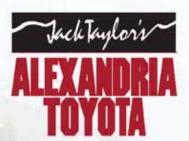
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'Small-Town Feel; Big-City Services'

Economic Development Director Chris Bruno's vision for Fairfax.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

fter nearly a year as the City of Fairfax's economic development director, Chris Bruno is optimis tic about the future. Praising the city's many assets, he said what it needs to do now is capitalize on them.

"One of my favorite parts of this job is people's willingness to tell me what they want here in this community and help us put the pieces together," he said. "We want Fairfax to be a destination - and it naturally is, because we're in the middle of ev-

Born in New York, Bruno and his parents moved to Virginia when he was a middleschooler, settling in Mosby Woods, where they still live. Bruno graduated from Paul VI High in 2002 and spent his freshman year of college at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania.

He transferred to New York's Fordham University for his last three years, receiving a bachelor's degree in history and, in 2007, a master's in political science. Then he worked as a paralegal in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, including participating in financial-fraud investigations at the New York Mercantile Exchange.

While there, Bruno realized he wanted to attend law school, so he enrolled in the New York Law School in Tribeca, focusing on intellectual-properties cases and obtaining his law degree. He then became director of Avenue NYC, a unit of the New York City Department of Small Business Services, where he was involved in the commercial revitalization of the city.

"I started the week before Hurricane Sandy; so almost immediately, we were tasked with rebuilding the business communities in the hardest-hit neighborhoods in New York," he said. "They included Rockaway Beach, Queens and the South Street Seaport in Manhattan."

AFTER ABOUT A YEAR, Bruno became the agency counsel for the Department of Small Business Services, working with City Hall and other departments within the city - including New York City's 73 businessimprovement districts. And, he said, "A lot



Chris Bruno standing at the inter-

section of Main Street and University Drive.

of the ideas I have for Fairfax come from my experience there."

So why leave New York for a much smaller jurisdiction? "I'd visit my parents in Fairfax and see what was going on, and I liked it,"

said Bruno. "I was attracted to then-Mayor Silverthorne's vision for the city and started talking with City Manager Bob Sisson."

"I realized there's so much opportunity here, plus a lot of enthusiasm for projects and support on the City Council and within city government," he continued. "Fairfax is also dedicated to maintaining an insanely high level of city services. And I think the city manager and city government have done an incredibly wonderful job, over the years, operating the government efficiently and maintaining the quality of life our citizens have come to expect.'

And regardless of whatever challenges have come its way, said Bruno, the city has always functioned at a "respectively high level. It's visible, and it's why I want to work here - because this city cares deeply about its residents and businesses. There's also an added level of flexibility and an eagerness to work with people that you don't necessarily find in larger jurisdictions."

He became Fairfax's economic development director in May 2016. "Overall, my job is to create excitement surrounding the business opportunities that exist here in the city," he said. "And we've done a number of

SEE CITY, PAGE 7

Eating Pancakes Helps Children with Cancer

Fundraiser for Ellie's Hats is this Saturday, May 20.

By Bonnie Hobbs THE CONNECTION

n 2013, teacher Jay Coakley started Ellie's Hats to cheer up one of his students, a then-5-year-old named Ellie, who'd been diagnosed with leukemia. When she lost her hair from her treatments, she wore hats to school every day, so Coakley organized a hat drive to get her more.

Realizing he could bring similar joy to other young, cancer patients — and also raise awareness about the disease - he founded the nonprofit Ellie's Hats. And this Saturday, May 20, from 8-11 a.m., the second annual Ellie's Hats Pancake Breakfast fundraiser will be held at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St. in the City of Fairfax.

An extensive breakfast-buffet menu will be offered, including a pancake bar with toppings such as whipped cream, chocolate chips, blueberries and strawberries. Attendees may also chow down on eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, French toast, fruit, juice and coffee. Cost is \$15, adults; \$5, children; \$35, family. Tickets are going fast, but still may be pur-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The Prentice siblings (from left) Luke, Emma and Connor, enjoy themselves at last year's pancake breakfast.

chased at ellieshats.org.

because "This is an important cause. Pediatric-cancer research is underfunded, and we're doing what we can on a local basis to alleviate the stress on families of children

The proceeds will enable Ellie's Hats to

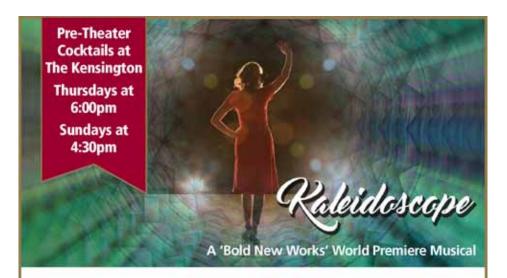
continue collecting and donating hats to One of the event's organizers, Brian children with cancer, as well as help finan-Drummond, is hoping for a good turnout cially support their families and the hospitals, such as Inova Children's Hospital, that treat pediatric cancer patients. Besides contributing money to that hospital for their treatment, Ellie's Hats provides newly admitted, young cancer patients there with Hero Bags including: A tote bag, sweatshirt

blanket, card games, crayons, markers, hand lotion, socks, tissues, sketch books, and note cards and envelopes.

The Sons of the American Legion are donating their time and efforts to prepare Saturday's breakfast. The event will also feature a silent auction and raffle with a variety of items, such as restaurant gift cards, sports memorabilia and certificates for jewelry and car

Attendees may also vie to win: A family fun day at Rebounderz trampoline park; Stella & Dot necklaces; day passes to any Fairfax County Rec Center; gift cards from Big Bad Pit BBQ, Captain Pell's, IHOP, Massage Envy, Shear Joy Hair Design and Rescue Me cleaning; a Beachbody fitness basket; one-hour passes to Mommy Co. time out; NFL gear; a princess basket; girl's dress and leggings from Lularue; autographed, Washington Capitals hockey pucks and hats; a "Survivor"-themed basket; Washington Redskins items; Nerium skin-care products; Hadley & Hudson wooden signs; an Ellie's Hat set for a girl and her doll: and artwork by Ellie, herself.

This year's main sponsors are Mystek Systems, Jim McKay Chevrolet, All State Agency Owners, and Mike and Christine Angles. For more information about Ellie's Hats, go to ellieshats.org.



Please join The Kensington Falls Church for enlightening post-show discussions at select performances of Kaleidoscope

Pre-theater cocktails & hors d'oeuvres at The Kensington and post-show discussions at Creative Cauldron

he Kensington Falls Church is a proud sponsor of post-show discussions about Kaleidoscope, a heartwarming musical introduced this May by Creative Cauldron. Kaleidoscope showcases the life of a legendary Broadway performer who premieres her comeback one-woman show. As her humorous yet poignant performance unfolds, she touches hearts when it becomes clear that she is experiencing the early stages of Alzheimer's.

After each Thursday and Sunday performance, a dementia expert will join the artists to share insights and information that deepen the audience experience, We'd love for you to be part of the conversation.



Sunday, May 21st 2pm show Christi Clark, Director of Education & Support Services, Insight Memory Care Center



Sunday, May 21st 7pm show Nancy Scott, Alzheimer's Advocate



Thursday, May 25th 8pm show Diane Vance, Program & Services Manager, Alzheimer's Association



Sunday, May 28th 2pm show Robert 'Bobby' Maxwell, Genesis Rehab

RSVP for cocktails to ConciergeFS@KensingtonSL.com Get show tickets at www.CreativeCauldron.org





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Week in Fairfax

Farmers Markets Are Open

The Downtown Fairfax Coalition Community Farmers Market will be held Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., now through Oct. 28. The Sunday Farmers Market will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., now through Oct. 29. Both markets are at 10500 Page Ave., at the corner of West and Main streets in the City of Fairfax. Information: www.fairfaxsaturdaymarket.com or call 703-430-6164.

Enjoy Antique Car Show May 20

View antique cars — and see a Ford Model-T rebuilt in 15 minutes — at the Antique Car Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20 at 10455 Armstrong Street (in front of City Hall). The show is presented by Northern Virginia Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club and the city. Information: 703-273-6097 or www.nvrg.org.

Plan Van Dyck Park's Future at May 18 Workshop

The Parks and Recreation Department has launched the Van Dyck Park Master Plan to help plan the future of this park. Attend a

workshop at 7:30 p.m. May 18 at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Look for outreach sessions conducted at city special events, or attend a session organized by civic associations. Information: 703-385-7858 at www.fairfaxva.gov/VanDyck50.

Bike to Work Day May 19; Pit Stop in Old Town Square

Bike to work on May 19 — and stop by the city's pit stop in Old Town Square, which will be open from 6-9 a.m. that day. Information: 703-385-7805. Pre-register to be eligible for a free t-shirt and raffles: www.biketoworkmetrodc.org.

Rock the Block Starts May 26

Rock the Block returns to the City of Fairfax on Friday, May 26, with musical entertainment by The Darby Brothers. The event goes from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, and includes this live band, a beer garden, the splash pad and city restaurant vendor booths. Bring smlawn chairs. Rock the Block will happen on the fourth Friday of the month through October.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 13









Saturday May 20th, at 1:00 PM
Don't Miss this Extraordinary Demonstration!

What's Next in Elections?

Sasnett delivers keynote address at the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area annual meeting.

he League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area held its annual meet ing on April 23 in Fairfax. Cameron Sasnett, General Registrar, Fairfax County's Office of Elections, gave the keynote speech titled "What's Next in Elections? Bridging 21st Century Technology with Democratic Principles."

His office is working on making improvements to the voter registration process by the use of technology, so all citizens can participate in voting during elections. The office serves all residents including senior citizens, baby boomers, and millennials. There are 74.4 million millennials and 75.9 million baby boomers.

While many have grown up using paper registration forms and ballots, the millennials have grown up using technology. In 2020 for the first time, millennials will be eligible to run for President of the country. The new generation of voters can be reached through Facebook, Twitter, and

Snapchat. Although voters can use an account-based login to manage and update his or her information, Sasnett predicts that it will take several decades before the country will move to a completely virtual, online voting system. In the meantime, photo identifications from the Department of Motor Vehicles are keeping the lines moving during elections because they can be scanned. His office is also working to scan important paper records because these types of records currently occupy a space that is the size of two ballrooms.

In addition to listening to the keynote address, the attendees elected the following as officers for 2017 -2019: Judy Helein, co-president, and Betty Ellerbee, secretary. The following were elected as directors: Peggy Knight (at large); Carol Bursik, membership; Adarsh Trehan, public relations; Sidney Johnson, voter services coordinator; and Bob Meredith, voter registration coordinator. Wendy Fox-Grage will serve as copresident. If interested in reading more about The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) or joining, visit: www.lwv-fairfax.org. The LWVFA is a nonpartisan political organization, that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. It does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.



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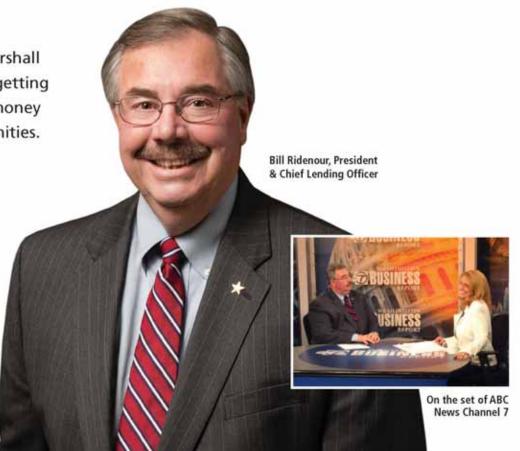
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OPINION

The Ugliness of Prejudice

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

ast week without provo cation a woman in the check-out line at a local grocery store told another customer — a Muslim woman — "I wish they didn't let you in the country." In the exchange that was recorded on a camera phone, the woman to whom the remark was directed ex-

plained that she had been born in the United States. Rather than leave it at that, the first woman went on saying, "Obama's not in office anymore; you don't have a Muslim in there anymore. He's gone — he may be in jail in the future."

I realize that there are more people than I would like to acknowledge that have strong prejudices against others because of their race, religion, ethnicity or other reason. It continues to shock me when I see the ugliness of the expression of such prejudices as the recording of this event provided. As the woman to whom



COMMENTARY

the remarks were directed pointed out, it's abnormal to start a conversation like that with someone you do not know. There really is something wrong with people who are so blinded by their prejudices that they feel compelled to lash out at a person who has done them no wrong. The comments reflect a deep-seated hatred that comes out for reasons only a mental health

expert could help discover.

What is particularly troubling these days is the blurring of the line between political convictions and prejudice toward individuals. In our deeply divided political landscape, too often political views become opportunities to demonize people who hold different views. Unfortunately talk radio, social media and some cable news shows tend to invite this destructive phenomenon.

In addition to the repulsiveness I feel about the hateful comments, I was also saddened that social media and news accounts described the

scene as a store in Reston, Va. I know from a lot of personal experience the amount of effort that so many people have made over the years to ensure that Reston is an open, welcoming and inclusive community. While I understand why the store did nothing to address the situation, I wish somehow there had been a disclaimer on the video: The woman speaking does not represent the views of the people of Reston.

The situation reminds us that building community is not a one-time occurrence, a workshop, or a feel-good session. Building a community of respect and love is an ongoing process that we work at a little every day. We greet those we meet; we hug each other; we attend each other's houses of worship; we show respect to others; we speak out against hate and prejudices; we listen to each other. We use appropriate channels to discuss political views, and whether in person or online we stick to the issues and don't resort to personal attacks.

A display of hateful and ugly prejudice as we have just witnessed must bring us together in mutual support and respect as we want Reston and every other community to display.

■ Fairfax

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FCPS to Propose Increases in Class Sizes

By Mollie Regan

he lead-in for the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Proposed FY 2018 Budget states the following: "The FCPS FY 2018 (2017-18 school year) budget reflects the school system's priorities. It's also a communications tool that informs parents, staff members, students, and community members about our values and goals."

If that is true, then why is FCPS proposing to balance its FY18 budget by increasing class sizes by 0.5 students in all elementary, middle and high schools?

Large class sizes have a negative impact on students' ability to learn and succeed, and on teachers' ability to teach. Large classes burn out good teachers and affect teacher decisions about whether to continue working at a school. Every time a good teacher leaves the employ of FCPS, we forfeit our investment in hiring and training

In many recent meetings about teacher compensation, the School Board has expressed concerns about teacher attrition. In FCPS, we lose about 40 percent of our teachers in their first five years of employment, and we lose many more teachers after their fifth year. Class size is cited — both in FCPS and in a national study — as a top factor in teachers' decisions to leave the school district.

COMMENTARY

At this critical time when we already suffer from teacher shortages and large class sizes, FCPS should not be considering additional class size increases as a means to save \$14.7 million. There are alternatives that could better address the FY18 budget gap. Some alternatives actually reduce expenses. Others just change budget assumptions.

For example, the School Board could cut \$15 million of other expenses with the understanding that in July, it would use the "found money" from the year-end FY 2017 budget review to restore those programs. This is exactly what the board did about six years ago, when Jack Dale was the FCPS superintendent.

Alternatively, FCPS could find \$14.7 million by using more realistic assumptions about employee attrition. Every year, FCPS prepares its budget using unrealistically low attrition assumptions, which in turn consistently produce about \$30 million/year of "found money" from higher-than-projected teacher attrition during the budget reviews.

Of course, if FCPS made a sustained commitment to reasonable class sizes, it could arguably avoid increasing the costs associated with that teacher attrition. Imagine the cost savings from retaining our teachers. What additional

innovations could be used to reduce the expense of endlessly restaffing our classrooms and training a new workforce?

The FCPS Strategic Plan, "Ignite," affirms its commitment to student success and a caring culture. Seeing "Ignite" in action would mean that our School Board representatives resolve the FCPS financial shortfall without again balancing its budget on the backs of our teachers and students.

Class Size Counts created an

Board not to increase elementary, middle and high school class sizes by 0.5 students across the board as part of the FY 2018 budget. Please sign the petition at https:/ /www.change.org/p/fairfaxcounty-public-schools-join-classsize-counts-to-oppose-the-coreacademic-class-sizes-in-fcps and join in the advocacy.

online petition asking the School

Mollie Regan is Vienna resident and a Class Size Matters advocate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Press Needed More Than Ever

To the Editor:

Dear Members of the Press: We need you now more than ever. Republican Congressmen Jason Chaffetz and Devin Nunes quit their positions as chairmen of Congressional committees rather than have to investigate General Flynn, the Russian interference with our national elections, and the Russian involvement with the Trump ad-

President Trump has fired New Attorney General Sally Yates and FBI Director James Comey, when they each turned up their investigatory heat. The American public is being given various explanations by various members of the Trump administration as to what's going on. We

need you now more than ever.

Vice President Pence advocates for all of President Trump's ac-

Attorney General Sessions refuses to recuse himself. The prospect for an Independent prosecutor is tenuous. I hope the Senate Intelligence Committee stays strong. But we need you now more

The President may call you names. He may call you "fake York's U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, news" or "the enemy of the people." But he can't fire you. Thank goodness for the First Amendment. We need you now more than ever. Don't let us down.

> Barbara Glakas Herndon

COMMENTARY

Wishing Everyone a Happy, Fun, and Safe Summer

By John C. Cook Supervisor (R-Braddock District)

ummer is almost here, and we see our kids growing up, graduating grade levels, and perhaps moving on to college for the next chapter of their lives. We should also use these summer months as an opportunity to gather with friends and family and foster a greater sense of community. Memorial Day weekend, the Fourth of July, and pretty much any other summer weekend are synonymous with grilling, fireworks, and family and neighborhood fun. As someone who loves a nice steak or burger on a summer evening, I know just how important these activities are. Along with the increased heat, however, comes an increased risk of accidental fires. As chair of the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety Committee, I urge you to take appropriate precautions when grilling or using approved fireworks. Doing so can prevent serious injury, and even save a life.

Make sure to place your grill at least 15 feet away from any home, building, or other combustibles to ensure adequate air circulation and contained flames. Propane bottles should be kept away from the house (in a shed if you have one), as even empty tanks present a risk of fire. If you have a balcony on your apartment or condo, don't use a gas or charcoal grill on it. Doing so is against the law. Most importantly, do not place hot ashes in paper or plastic containers. Even if you do not see any embers, they could still

be lurking within a pile of ash.

While summer just wouldn't be the same without fireworks, make sure you follow the law when using them, and adhere to important safety tips. Remember, any firework which explodes, emits a flame or sparks higher than 12 feet, or acts as a projectile, is prohibited by Fairfax County. Keep in mind that many people in the county are injured every year due to fireworks, and some are so seriously injured they are left with permanent damage. When using legal fireworks, place them on a flat surface, clear of any combustible material and clear of all buildings. Be sure to keep all bystanders at least 25 feet away from the fireworks, and read the directions provided. Do not permit young children to handle or light fireworks. Light them one at a time, and do not throw them.

Sparklers account for the majority of firework-related injuries. Young children should not use them as they can attain a temperature as high as 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. Finally, ensure fireworks are stored in a cool, dry place. Remember, there are many public fireworks displays that are often very enjoyable and safe.

Having fun during the summer is important, but so is safety. As your neighbor and Braddock District supervisor, I ask you not to allow your holiday weekend or other enjoyable event turn into a tragedy. Take the time to follow proper safety precautions when both grilling and using fireworks, and you can help prevent an unwanted visit from the County's Fire & Rescue Department.



City Going the Extra Mile

From Page 3

things to bring a fresh energy toward moving the city forward."

Bruno stressed, however, that Fairfax wasn't in a bad position when he arrived. "It just needed a new perspective," he said. Some of the changes he's making are cosmetic to make the downtown buildings more attractive. For example, the property owner of De Clieu Coffee & Sandwiches is getting a façade-improvement grant to spruce up the exterior.

And the end of March, in Old Town Hall, the city's Economic Development Office and Economic Development Authority jointly hosted Piranha Tank. Similar to the TV show, "Shark Tank," it connected innovators and entrepreneurs with investors and access to capital to potentially fund new business ventures.

"Events like that show there's a desire for a vibrant business community, and these are the elements we need to continue to highlight," said Bruno. "The longrange goal is that property owners, real-estate brokers and small-business owners will see these things and realize Fairfax really is a great place to open a business and to live."

Basically, he said, "We have the second-lowest, residential tax rate in the region and a low tax rate in general — and we have to shine a light on it. We really are the center of this region; we just have to capitalize on it. We offer a small-town feel with bigcity services and a real sense of unique, neighborhood connectivity."

"There's a real epicenter of community, commerce and activity in the city," continued Bruno. "And we're going to highlight our economic-development component during the city's events, such as Rock the Block. For example, we'll have Rock the Block after

Dark. Businesses will stay open later and provide discounts and tours, and restaurants will offer meals at a discount. Or a business might offer its parking lot for outdoor movies. All these things are ways of showing people there's value to spending time here and enjoying themselves, instead of driving to [Washington,] D.C."

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, he said, is retaining an architect to conceptualize what underutilized properties could potentially become. "It's an incentive for business and property owners," said Bruno. "It's the city going the extra mile to say, 'We care about your success and we're going to do what we can to help you.' Right now, we're looking at 10426 Main St., next to Victoria's Cakery."

GMU also figures significantly in the city's future development plans. "GMU is our strongest partner," said Bruno. "It's enthusiastic and willing to engage with us, and we're making a priority of attracting the kinds of businesses that will make the students come here for good, clean fun. And we want them to live here, as well. We're a college town and we need to start identifying ourselves as such."

Any business owners or property developers interested in setting up shop in Fairfax may reach him at christopher.bruno@fairfaxva.gov and he said he'll be happy to speak with them. Current city residents and business owners are also welcome to tell him their suggestions or complaints or just have a conversation.

"I want to be the most accessible person in my office," said Bruno. "And if I don't know the answer to someone's question, I'll put them in touch with the person who does."



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News



Monique Milucky, left, Campbell Keyser and Nicky Johnson were instrumental on RED Day.

RED Team Comes to the Rescue in Fairfax

Home repair effort was part giving back, part teamwork for a local group.

> BY MIKE SALMON The Connection

airfax resident Angel Meza is 71 years old, has three jobs, and needs to repair his Fairfax house so his 25-yearold daughter and her four children will have a healthy and safe place to live. His house, purchased 41 years ago for \$89,000, was in need of major repairs before this can happen, so in stepped the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Keller Williams Tysons Teams and local volunteers to get the job done.

"All my kids grew up here, that's why I want to stay here," Meza said. "I didn't ask for help, they came to me," he said.

Keller Williams agent Monique Milucky led her team they called the Keller Williams Culture Committee on their company RED Day, May 11, Renewing-Energizing and Donating. According to the company, RED Day, introduced in 2009, takes place on the second Thursday of every May, where associates celebrate Keller Williams Realty's Vice Chairman of the Board Mo Anderson's birthday by spending the day away from their businesses serving worthy organizations and causes in their communities. "We also

SEE HELPING, PAGE 9



Masks were worn because of potential mold in the house.



The rain wasn't helping.

Helping in Fairfax

FROM PAGE 8 do fundraising events, some are donating time and supplies," she said.

THE TEAM ripped out the carpet upstairs, fixed water damage downstairs, rebuilt the bathrooms, walls and kitchen to help Meza out. It was pouring down rain when she left her house in the morning, but the mission outweighed everything. "I just knew we had to keep going, I was thankful most people showed up despite the rain," she said.

Nicky Johnson is an agent from Keller Williams and one of the people that brought this house to the county's attention. Upstairs, Johnson was making sure they didn't miss anything. "The biggest project is the basement, we need to clean the bathroom and laundry room," she told the group.

Downstairs, Meza's house had major water damage from a pipe that broke near the hot water heater, and water sat on the floor downstairs and seeped into the woodwork and wall board. Eventually he had to move out because the conditions were so bad and he could not fix it. At one point "squatters" broke in and spray painted obscenities on the wall too.

Mike Coyne, president of Coyne's Home Improvement, showed up to help and analyzed the water damage with Arlene Mains, another Keller Williams agent. "I feel like we should cut that out," Coyne said, pointing to the moldy wall board.

Upstairs, crews were ripping out the carpet, taking out the bathroom fixtures and preparing the walls for painting. Art Barletta was with Michael & Sons, a local bathroom and kitchen reconstruction company that donated some of the materials and manpower that included a special needs toilet for one of Meza's grandchildren that is physically challenged. "We're here to move and install the toilets and vanities, and lend an extra hand," he said. There were also

New bathroom cabinets donated by Michael & Sons were part of the reconstruction.

contributions and volunteers from Movement Mortgage, Universal Title, Property Management Advisors, 123 Junk, Pest Now, Colonial Flooring, Triple B and Reliable Hauling.

THE COUNTY become aware of Meza's situation as they helped his daughter and children move towards becoming self-sufficient, said Krissa Slone, the Fairfax County director of Volunteer and Partner Services.

The county Volunteer and Partner Services Program engages volunteers and builds partnerships to support families with children who are at risk of abuse, neglect or placed in foster care or with relatives. The program builds volunteer capacity in the division, implements programs, and directs activities that promote positive relationships within the community. The carpet went in the next day, and by Saturday, several family members moved back into the house. Termite damage was discovered, so that is being worked on so the remaining family members can move in before Memorial Day.





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Ashley Chavez, Providence Elementary, grade 2



Oliver Chapin, Daniels Run Elementary, grade 4

Earth Day Art Show in Fairfax

The 7th annual Earth Day Art Show was held April 25 in the Fairfax City Hall Annex.



Sofia Hersi, Daniels Run, grade 4



Piper Rodgers, Daniels Run, grade 6



Jonathan Choque, Daniels Run, grade 4



Ann Marie Seybold, Providence, grade 610 ***** FAIRFAX CONNECTION ***** MAY 18-24, 2017



Nathan Doan, Lanier Middle, grade 7



Kourtney Pratt, Daniels Run, grade 4



Safety in the Water Water Safety Month designed to educate public in advance of summer swimming.

Water Safety Month designed to educate

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

uring the month of May, National Water Safety Month, water safety educators are waging a month-long campaign to educate the public about responsible water practices before the start of summer. The campaign is designed to help prevent drowning and water-related illness and injuries.

"The most important tip from swim experts [is] to have your child in perpetual swim lessons," said Gina Bewersdorf, who owns Goldfish Swim School in Reston. "Situations will always arise in which we or our children are around water, [like] at a friend's pool party, vacation near a lake, or a boating trip, so learning the necessary skills to stay safe is vital. It only takes a second for a child or adult to unsuspectingly fall into a body of water."

Constant adult supervision is the first and best way to prevent accidents in and around water, says Lisa S. Grepps, director, Marketing & Communications, The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals in Alexandria. She also recommends additional safeguards to help prevent children from gaining unsupervised access to a pool or spa or to warn of a child's presence. "But don't get lulled



Learn to swim no matter the age. This is one of the best ways to be safer in and around the water.

HOTO COURTESY OF Goldfish Swim School

into a false sense of security with barriers and other devices as they are just backups to the primary means of accident prevention which is constant adult supervision,"

Keeping a cell phone nearby to make a call to 911 in case of an emergency and avoiding swimming at the first sign of bad weather are two tips that Ann Thompson of Ann's Aquatics in Bethesda offers to her students and their parents. "I tell parents that certain flotation devices are great, but they are in no way a replacement for responsible adult supervision," she said. "And the supervision should be undistracted.

Don't get lost in a conversation or a phone call and divert attention away from your children, not even for a second. If you leave the pool area, no matter how brief the period of time, take the children with you."

In addition to learning to swim, Bewersdorf recommends making sure that children are taught water safety skills as well as how to perform CPR on both adults and children. "We recommend a child enroll in swim lessons as early as possible [and] year round, not just during the warmer months. Persistent swim lessons are proven to be incredibly beneficial in order to keep these life-saving skills sharp" she

said. "We offer classes as young as four months old in which the parents are constantly with their infants. This gets the child used to simply being in and around water and they learn simple safety skills."

When choosing a pool, check for an onduty lifeguard. In cases where a lifeguard is not available, look for accessible safety equipment such as a rescue ring or pole.

"We want people to have a safe and fun time swimming and that's why [we] issue permits to all public pool facilities and routinely inspect them to ensure they are being operated in a safe and healthy manner, in accordance with Fairfax County Code," said Martin A. Thompson, Environmental Health supervisor for Fairfax County. "It's also important that swimmers take steps to maximize the health benefits of swimming while minimizing the risk of injury or illness to themselves and others."

Thompson advises adhering to other safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which include looking to see if the drain at the bottom of the deep end is visible, staying out of the pool if you have diarrhea, covering any open wounds with waterproof bandages, showering before entering the pool and only using flotation devices that are Coast Guard approved.

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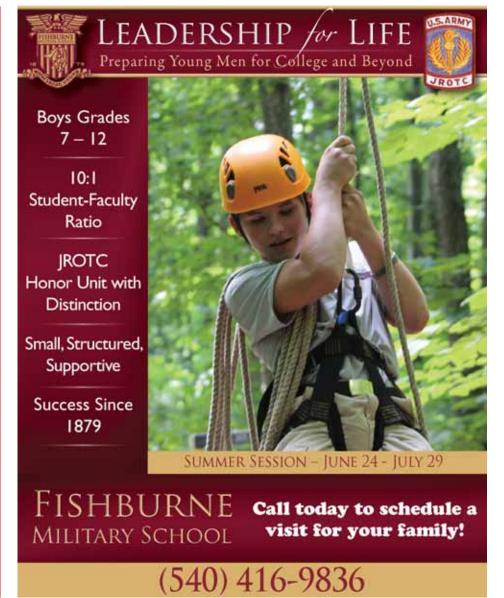
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CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

ONGOING

Storytime in the Park. Tuesdays through May 30, 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square. Fairfax. Visit fairfaxva.gov/parksrec or call 703-385-7858.

Senior Line Dancing 1-2 p.m. Little RIver Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8 week session. barbriba@hotmail.com 703-524-3739

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation First Wednesday of each month. 7:30-9 p.m. 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at www.fpow.org/volunteer. Please do NOT bring pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. www.fpow.org, 703-324-5424 or dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

Exercise Program Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).

Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo. 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

English Conversation Groups
weekly at George Mason, Burke
Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice
and improve your English. Day and
start times vary. Visit:
va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/
eventcalendar.asp

Stories From Strawberry Park 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic, Strawberry Park, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Visit www.fxva.com/ listing/mosaic-district/2326/.

Funday Monday 10:30 a.m., every
Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999
University Drive, Fairfax. There will
be music, movement, storytelling,
performances, crafts, and more. It is
open to children of all ages, however
especially for those who haven't yet
started school. Programs are free and
open to the public, donations are
gratefully appreciated. There is
ample free parking in the downtown
area, and stroller access at the rear of
Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-3857858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts
Kingstowne Farmers Market

opens. 4-7 p.m. every Friday through Oct. 27, at Kingstowne Giant Parking Lot, 5870 Kingstowne Genter, Alexandria. Freshly picked, producer-only vegetables and fruit, from-scratch bread (including gluten free), baked goods, kettle corn, salsa, hummus, cake pops, fruit popsicles, and ice cream. Email Chelsea.roseberry@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-642-0128 for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 18

Clifton Homes Tour. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane. Clifton Community Woman's Club presents annual tour of homes in Clifton and Fairfax Station. Silent Auction and Marketplace at Clifton Presbyterian Church. Proceeds donated to local scholarships and charities. \$25 in advance, \$30 day of tour, free to silent auction. Visit www.cliftoncwc.org for more.

Fashion Show and Luncheon. noon-

2 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Proceeds to support support the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. \$30. Visit www.scfbva.org for more.

Burke Historical Society. 7 p.m. at the Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. The evening will feature Cindy Bennett speaking on "Camp Alger and a Local Epidemic." In 1898, Camp Alger's poor sanitation led to typhoid and a disastrous relocation march. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/ or call 703-256-3800.

The Fabulous Hubcaps. 7:30-11 p.m. at the ELKS 2188 Lodge, 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax. Oldies rock band. \$45 in advance (or \$50 at the door). Visit www.thehubcaps.com or www.elks2188.org for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 19

Bike to Work Day 2017. Registration
— now open — is free and open to
anyone who commutes in the region,
from first timers to daily cyclists. All
registrants will be entered in a
regional bicycle raffle, and the first
16,000 to register and attend will
receive a free t-shirt at one of more
than 85 pit-stops throughout
Northern Virginia. Participants can
register online at
www.biketoworkmetrodc.org. Email
Megan Goodman at
mgoodman@mwcog.org, or call 202-

962-3209 for more.

Family Movie and Dinner Night. 6-8 p.m. at the Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Hawaiian luau and watch the Disney film "Moana." Free. Call 703-451-8223 or visit sydenstrickerumc.org/movienight.

SATURDAY/MAY 20

Antique Car Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. The show is presented by Northern Virginia Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club and the city. Call 703-273-6097 or visit nvrg.org for more.

Hope and Health Festival. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lorton Park, 9518 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Free health screenings, food, inflatables, children's games and activities will be available to all in attendance. Visit www.lortonaction.org for more.

Map and Compass Reading. 11
a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Park, 7315
Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Mark
Chapin, the founder of the
Mountaineer Wilderness outdoor
program in Virginia and West
Virginia, an Air Force veteran and
graduate of the Wilderness Survival
School and Sea Survival School will
be sharing his knowledge with teens
and adults. \$10. Call 703-323-6600
or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
parks/burkelakepark/ for more.



McKenna Karnes and Beth Whelan after their classes at Aldea SOS Orphanage in Panama City. Six students from George Mason will be providing dance workshops for the students at this orphanage at the end of this month.

Serving through Dance this Summer

George Mason University Students provide accessible dance education to underserved populations at home and abroad.

hile most students will be heading home or on vacation to celebrate the end of the school year, six students from George Mason University will be volunteering their time to give back to the world through dance. In collaboration with Movement Exchange, an organization that unites dance and service globally, these individuals will be attending their longawaited trip to Panama this May 28 through June 4.

This is George Mason University's second time to Panama with Movement Exchange and during this international dance exchange, participants will be taking and teaching classes with dance majors at the University of Panama, taking a variety of classes from professional Panamanian dancers, and providing free dance education to children at Aldea SOS Orphanage in Panama City and Malambo Orphanage in Arraijain.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM Sunday School 10:10 AM Sun. Evening – Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM Family Night – Wednesday 7:15 PM Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult Ministries, and Living Free Support Groups Visit our Website: www.jccag.org 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170 To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418







The Virginia Chamber of Commerce awarded Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), the Excellence in Education & **Workforce Development Award.**

Filler-Corn Receives Excellence in Education & Workforce Development Award

Chamber of Commerce awarded Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), the Excellence in Education & Workforce Development Award for her efforts to improve workforce development. Filler-Corn was one of three Democratic members of the House of Delegates to be honored by the largest pro-business advocacy organization, Thursday night in Richmond at the Chamber's 93rd Annual Dinner and 2017 Legislative Awards Reception.

"Del. Eileen Filler-Corn sponsored bipartisan legislation that will help address Virginia's most critical workforce-readiness needs," said Barry DuVal, president and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. "We are pleased to recognize her with the Excellence in Education and Workforce Development Award for her leadership in improving career and technical education in Virginia high schools."

Filler-Corn has both introduced or co-patroned key bipartisan legislation focused on improving workforce development for many years and this year was no different. She introduced bipartisan leg-

n May 11, The Virginia islation this session (backed by the Chamber of Commerce) that would have changed the way the Commonwealth looks at accreditation by including industry career technical education credits. She also introduced a resolution that would have studied experiential learning and workforce development opportunities for high school students in high-demand fields.

"I am grateful to Virginia Chamber of Commerce for honoring me with the Excellence in Education and Workforce Development Award," said Filler-Corn. "Education and workforce development are always key priorities for me. I was proud to introduce legislation this year that focuses on workforce development, specifically preparing our high school students for the workforce. This is an area I care deeply about as I also serve as Chair of Jobs for Virginia Graduates, a statewide program which helps Virginia's at-risk students graduate high school and transition from school to work," she added. Filler-Corn hopes to continue to work on legislation that fully prepares Virginia students for the workforce in the coming 2018 session.

- Week in Fairfax

From Page 4

Memorial Day Ceremony May 29

The public is invited to a Memorial Day ceremony, Monday, May 29, at 10:30 a.m. at the City Hall portico, 10455 Armstrong St. The event is hosted by American Legion Post 177 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8469.

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News





Photos courtesy of Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

Bill Collier, SAR Public Safety Committee Chair, presents awards to Master Technician Joel Kobersteen and Technician Eric Provow.

Sons of The American Revolution Honor Firefighters

he Sons of The American Revolution (SAR), Colonel William Grayson Chapter, recently presented their Public Safety Commendation awards to two members of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue.

Bill Collier, SAR Public Safety Committee Chair, vices Award.

stopped by Fire Station 40, Fairfax Center, to present Master Technician Joel Kobersteen (Fire Station 40/ B-Shift) with the Fire Safety Commendation. He also presented Technician Eric Provow (Fire Station 21, Fair Oaks, B-Shift) with the Emergency Medical Ser-

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Announcements

Announcements

PHILLIPS PROGRAMS

Notice of Request for Proposals for Food Service

PHILLIPS Programs invites contractors to submit sealed bids for providing food service for its sites that participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Specifications and proposals may be obtained at the address below beginning on May 22, 2017 from 8:30 am until June 05, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Proposals presented in duplicate will be received by PHILLIPS Programs, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale VA 22003, Attn: Julie Lien until June 23, 2017 at 4:00 pm for the period of August 15, 2017 through August 14, 2018 inclusive.

Proposals from those bidders meeting qualifications criteria will be opened on June 26, 2017 at 9:00 am with award to be made on or about July 3, 2017 at 9:00 am. PHILLIPS Programs reserves the right to check all outside references. PHILLIPS Programs reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in proposals received. All awards are made pending Maryland State Department of Education review for USDA regulatory compliance.

> An expert is someone made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

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who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50 and older who no longer drive. Volunteer drivers are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. **Office workers** are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call

TUESDAY/MAY 9

Dementia Caregivers Support Group. noon-1:30 p.m. at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. The group is for those caring for someone with dementia or interested in learning more about providing caregiving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 11

Fairfax 50+ Employment Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fair Oaks Marriott Hotel, 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Jewish Council for the Aging, Fairfax County and AARP are sponsoring the event. The event is free and no registration is necessary. Go to www.accessjca.org/programs/senioremployment/.

SATURDAY/MAY 13

Yard Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. All proceeds will support Youth Missions. Call

MONDAY/MAY 15

Homework and Study Strategies. 11 a.m.noon at PEATC, 8003 Forbes Place, Suite 310, Springfield. In person and webinar options. Topics to be covered include how to help children get organized and manage time and various strategies to be used for specific homework difficulties. Register to attend: www.eventbrite.com/e/peatc-parent-coffee-andpresentation-with-remotewebinar-viewing-tickets-31717825871. Webinar: zoom.us/ webinar/register/ 80b22ca516ff533366858a512be5123a.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 17

Legal Considerations for Caregiving. 1 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. An elder law attorney will lead this discussion on legal needs to be taken care of such as powers of attorney, wills and estates, guardianships, and trusts. Contact Christi Clark, christi.clark@insightmcc.org, or call 703-204-4664 for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 18

Van Dyck Park Workshop. 7:30 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. The Parks and Recreation Department has launched the Van Dyck Park Master Plan to help plan the future of this park. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/ for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 20

Hodge Podge Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Highway, Lorton. On sale will be furniture, collectibles, household goods, books, clothing and much, much more. All proceeds will benefit the many ministries of Pohick Church, which serves the southern Fairfax and northern Prince William County areas. Call 703-339-6572, or visit www.pohick.org.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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-Thomas Fuller

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New To Some, **Old News To Others**



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you unfamiliar with my column: in Burke, Springfield, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Mount Vernon and Alexandria, welcome aboard the Kenny train. I have been writing a weekly column for Connection Newspapers since December 1997 appearing primarily in our "Tuesday papers," as we call them: Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon, Arlington, Chantilly, Centre View and Potomac. The question has persisted among friends and family: Ken he continue to, as my older brother Richard jokes, "churn out this dribble?" Apparently so, if the last 19 and half years are any indication.

Back in the day when I first had to characterize my column for various local yearly Press Association editorial contests (of which I have won nearly a dozen awards), I would write "Everything in general about nothing in particular." A great friend of mine, Edward Faine, himself an accomplished author — of children's and jazz books, and a small press publisher as well, has described my columns as "Thoughtful humor and insightful commentary." Perhaps between these two quotes you'll get a sense of what you're likely to get from my weekly wondering.

And so it continued until June 2009. That's when I published my first column about a diagnostic process which had been ongoing since New Years Day which ultimately lead to a lung cancer diagnosis delivered to "Team Lourie" on Feb. 27, 2009 (you bet you remember the date). That column, entitled "Dying to Find Out, Sort Of," chronicled the process, excruciating as it was/is that one often endures attempting to determine the cause of a medical problem; in my case, a pain in my left-side rib cage which a day or so later, migrated to my right-side and eventually took my breath away — almost literally, especially when inhaling and/or bending over. This difficulty forced me off the couch and into my car for a drive over to the Emergency Room. Once the diagnosis was confirmed, I wrote another column entitled "Dying to Tell You, Sort Of" which detailed the findings of the nearly eight weeks the process took to specify my diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Out of the blue, I had become "terminal," as my oncologist described me, and given a "13 month to twoyear" prognosis to boot. Surreal, which is a common description offered by many in similar situations, is how one feels after receiving news of this kind, and only begins to tell the tale of the change and evolution in the individual's life living forward into treatment and subsequently beyond into the great unknown.

This $\check{'}g$ reat unknown' is mostly what I have written about and published ever since; "cancer columns" (original I know) is what I call them. Occasionally, I will write a non-cancer column, one a month or so, depending on my experiences. These columns will address non-cancer issues of the day, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. Most recently topics have included the movie "The Exorcist:" "Exercising a Demon," paying for things with a credit card: "Credit the Card," reacting to advertising for grass seed and riding mowers: "And So It Begins," and buying in bulk: "Bulky Boy," but never/well, almost never do I write about my wife, Dina; I have been

Though the recurring theme of these columns is cancer, the content is rarely morbid or dare I say, self-indulgent, believe it or not. I try to make fun a very "unfun" set of circumstances. I'm still writing about life; now however, it's life in the cancer lane, a road unlike any I had ever traveled before. Nevertheless, I've gotten through eight years and nearly three months of it relatively incident free, save for a week in the hospital three and a half years ago. And yes, I am still undergoing treatment.

I hope you readers will be semi amused at the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune upon which my columns are based. Please know: the significance of their content is not that it is me writing them, it is that cancer is being written about.

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

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