



Fairfax Station

CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

HomeLifeStyle

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The white stones in the Fairfax Station Ekoji Buddhist Temple garden represent water.

Buddhist Temple To Host Festival

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Democrats, Republicans Elect State Finalists

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Albo Retirement Prompts Hotly Contested House Race

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PHOTO BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH/THE CONNECTION

JUNE 15-21, 2017

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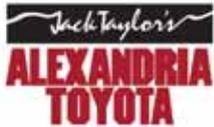
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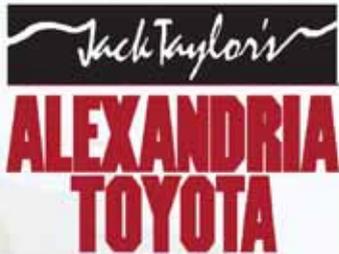
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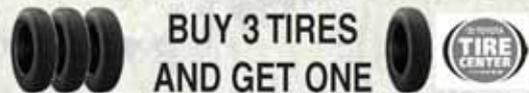
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Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam declares victory during a victory party at Highline RxR in Crystal City.



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner joins the Democrats' primary night celebration.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Democrats Play the Long Game

Voters choose candidates who have been planning their campaign for years rather than upstarts newly energized against Trump.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Slow and steady wins the day. That's the message Democrats sent this week at the polls, selecting two candidates who have essentially been running four-year campaigns for their ticket in November.

Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam has been planning a run for the Executive Mansion for years, lining up almost every elected official in the state before anyone else even thought about entering the race.

And Justin Fairfax, a former federal prosecutor, has been steadily planning a campaign for lieutenant governor since 2013, when he lost the Democratic primary for attorney general to Mark Herring. Now Northam and Fairfax are ready to barnstorm the state and take on the Republican ticket. Attorney General Mark Herring had no opposition in the Democratic primary.

"I'm a fighter," declared Northam at his victory party, which packed a sweltering Highline RxR in Crystal City. "I'm ready to lead the fight. Are you ready to join me? Let's get it done!"

Northam won a decisive victory, taking 56 percent of the vote. He swept Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads in addition to places like Winchester, Fredericksburg and Williamsburg. Former U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello secured 44 percent of the vote with a strong showing in college towns, including Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Harrisonburg and Blacksburg. But it was no match for the lieutenant governor, who spent more than \$2.5 million flooding the airwaves with commercials portraying the lieutenant governor as a hard-working doctor who stood up to Big Tobacco to implement a smoking ban in restaurants.

"Talk about a centrist Democrat, Ralph is exactly where our party should be," said Senate Minority Leader Dick Saslaw, who



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer addresses the crowd at the Democrats' victory party.

represents Fairfax County. "On social issues, he's where he should be. And on business issues he's where he should be."

PERRIELLO'S CAMPAIGN tried to challenge Northam from the left, pushing a platform that would raise taxes on the wealthy to pay for free community college. On the campaign trail, he was critical of taking money from Dominion, the utility that wants to build two controversial pipelines through Virginia. Perriello opposed the pipelines, but Northam repeatedly dodged taking a position on the issue. Campaign finance records show Northam has received more than \$100,000 from Dominion and its executives during his political career.

"We need to wean ourselves away from fossil fuels. We'll do that," said Northam as pipeline opponents conducted a raucous protest outside the victory party. "We'll continue to work with renewable energy. We've made great progress with solar and wind."

Northam supporters portrayed Perriello was an opportunist, someone who carved

out a moderate record in Congress by voting against federal funding for abortions and receiving the endorsement of the National Rifle Association. His campaign for Congress was the polar opposite, moving all the way to the left and receiving support from U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Many of Northam's supporters held deep suspicion about Perriello's dramatic shift across the political spectrum.

"I think his record in Congress did hurt him, especially with the women's health groups and the gun safety groups," said Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86), one of the more liberal members of the House Democratic caucus who represents Herndon. "But also he hasn't really been active in Virginia until he showed up running for governor. I think that's probably what hurt him more than anything."

FAIRFAX spent more than \$250,000 in a campaign against two opponents, a long-time political operative Susan Platt and a

Democratic Primary for Governor

- ❖ Ralph Northam: 300,000 votes, 56 percent
- ❖ Tom Perriello: 240,000 votes, 44 percent

Democratic Primary for Lieutenant Governor

- ❖ Justin Fairfax: 250,000 votes, 49 percent
- ❖ Susan Platt: 200,000 votes, 39 percent
- ❖ Gene Rossi: 60,000 votes, 12 percent

seasoned federal prosecutor Gene Rossi, who once mentored Fairfax at the federal courthouse in Alexandria. Since losing to Herring in 2013, Fairfax set out on a campaign to help raise money and support for candidates across the state, building up a steady stream of endorsements along the way. By the time his rivals announced their candidacies after Donald Trump won the White House, Fairfax had already lined up an overwhelming list of endorsements from elected officials across the state.

"In the last year, we've driven over 40,000 miles with our message of economic security and opportunity," said Fairfax in a written statement following his victory. "We've met thousands of passionate Virginians who agree with our message and want our future for Virginia."

The Democratic campaign for lieutenant governor struggled for attention, crowded out by the hotly contested race at the top of the ticket as well as the soap opera quality that dominated the Republican primary for lieutenant governor. On the campaign trail, the three candidates stuck to the issues and conducted a relatively issues-based debate about how to handle the opioid crisis and how to expand access to higher education in Virginia. All three of the Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor opposed Dominion's plans to build to pipelines in Virginia.

"We must unite as Democrats for victory in November," said Platt in a written statement conceding the race to Fairfax. "We cannot allow Virginia Republicans to roll back rights for women and spread Donald Trump's hateful and dangerous agenda across the commonwealth."

Republicans Play Establishment Card

Close primary campaigns for governor and lieutenant governor send GOP candidates to November ballot.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION



Ed Gillespie



Jill Vogel



John Adams

Republicans chose their party's two frontrunners in two hotly contested primary fights for governor and lieutenant governor, but their candidates emerged from the June election with battle scars and depleted campaign accounts. Former Republican National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie entered the campaign a frontrunner. But he spent more than \$2 million fighting back an unexpectedly strong challenge from Prince William County Board of Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart, who came within 5,000 votes of scoring an upset victory that would have upended Republican politics in Virginia. State Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27) beat back two challengers, one of whom accused her of engineering a false claim of infidelity against a rival. Lawyer John Adams was unopposed for attorney general.

"I can't wait to lead a unified ticket to victory in November and wage a campaign that makes us all proud," said Gillespie in a written statement following the election results. "We will not only elect a Republican governor, but lieutenant governor and attorney general."

Stewart served as chairman of the Donald Trump campaign in Virginia until he was fired from the campaign for participating in a protest at the headquarters of the Republican National Committee in Washington, a rally organized by Trump supporters who were concerned the party's support for the reality TV star would be lukewarm. His campaign hit many of the same themes as the Trump campaign, including Stewart's outspoken opposition to undocumented immigrants and unyielding support for Confederate memorials. In the end, the chairman of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors came less than a percentage point away from securing the nomination.

"There's one word you'll never hear from me, and that's unity," said Stewart during a defiant speech in Woodbridge. "Whether it is the political establishment on the right with the Republicans or the political establishment on the left with the Democrats, in fact establishment Republicans and establishment Democrats are one in the same thing."

STEWART'S CAMPAIGN was built on the reputation he built in Prince William County, where he became a national firebrand against undocumented immigrants and sanctuary cities. Although he never had the name recognition that Trump enjoyed from his decades in the spotlight, Stewart

Republican Primary for Governor

- ◆ Ed Gillespie: 160,000 votes, 44 percent
- ◆ Corey Stewart: 156,000 votes, 43 percent
- ◆ Frank Wagner: 50,000 votes, 14 percent

Republican Primary for Lieutenant Governor

- ◆ Jill Vogel: 150,000 votes, 43 percent
- ◆ Bryce Reeves: 140,000 votes, 40 percent
- ◆ Glenn Davis: 60,000 votes, 17 percent

appealed to many of the same interest groups — white nationalists who oppose immigrants and support Confederate monuments. Gillespie spent much of the primary avoiding answering questions about his views about the Trump administration. Now he has to move past his narrow victory in the primary and leverage his ability to fundraise in a battle against a Democratic Party united against Trump.

"The primaries left our campaign with a very strong cash on hand figure and a robust ground game that made more than 800,000 contacts during the primary powered by over 6,000 volunteers," wrote Chris Leavitt, Gillespie's campaign manager in a post-primary memo. "The primaries also placed Ed Gillespie squarely in the center-right of Virginia politics. On the Democratic side, the long, expensive and bitter primary forced Ralph Northam to spend over \$4 million, reducing his cash on hand to half of ours, and, more importantly, pushing him far to the left politically."

For the most part Gillespie tried to ignore Stewart and another Republican primary rival, state Sen. Frank Wagner (R-7). He agreed to only one televised debate, and declined to answer questions about Trump. The centerpiece of his campaign is a tax cut that would reduce the income tax rate from 5.75 percent to 5.15 percent. On the campaign trail, Wagner said that was an irresponsible move that would threaten to undermine the cash-strapped state budget. But Gillespie and his supporters view tax cuts as a clear way to frame the Republican case for taking the Executive Mansion from Democrats.

"Virginia needs a new direction, and with Ed Gillespie at the helm, the commonwealth will get back on the right track," said Republican Governors Association Chairman Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin. "Ed has a substantive vision for Virginia's future, in-

cluding a commitment to cut taxes, raise take-home pay, reform state government, improve education and encourage business growth and job creation."

VOGEL emerged from a primary fight that often seemed more like a soap opera than a political campaign. Rival candidate state Sen. Bryce Reeves (R-17) accused her of a plot to accuse him of infidelity, a claim Vogel strongly denied. Late in the campaign, Reeves sent a controversial piece of direct mail criticizing Vogel for voting in favor of appointing a gay judge in Fairfax County. Ultimately, she was successful in persuading voters to support a moderate candidate, someone who often sounded like she was already running a general election strategy of appealing to Democrats even though she wasn't yet through the Republican primary.

"The biggest issues of our day should not be partisan issues," said Vogel in a written statement after primary. "As this campaign continues building momentum, I eagerly look forward to earning the support of independents and Democrats who also wish to put principle over party and focus on solving our problems."

McGuireWoods lawyer John Adams was unchallenged in the primary, which means he spent the last few months building a campaign war chest to take on incumbent Democratic Attorney General Mark Herring,

"The primaries left our campaign with a very strong cash on hand figure and a robust ground game that made more than 800,000 contacts during the primary powered by over 6,000 volunteers."

— Chris Leavitt,
campaign manager for Ed Gillespie

who was also unchallenged in the primary. For Adams, it was a case of being in the right place at the right time. Del. Rob Bell (R-58) was considered the frontrunner in the race, but then he decided to withdraw from the race and focus on his reelection campaign to the House of Delegates, where he is expected to become chairman of a key committee next year. Virginia Beach lawyer Chuck Smith was also planning to run, but he failed to submit the required number of signatures. That left Adams unchallenged in the primary.

"I am confident that Virginians want an attorney general that will enforce and defend the laws of our commonwealth, not pursue a political agenda," said Adams in a written statement after the primary. "There's a clear difference between me and Mark Herring, and I look forward to sharing that with every voter over the next five months."

Brabrand Confirmed as Superintendent

The Fairfax County School Board has voted to confirm Scott S. Brabrand as division superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) for the period July 10, 2017, to June 30, 2021.

Brabrand returns to FCPS after spending five years as superintendent of Lynchburg City Schools. This year, he was named Region V Superintendent of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents.

Brabrand began his career in FCPS as a social studies teacher in 1994, a career changer who was inspired by doing volunteer work in the schools. During his five years teaching at Herndon High School, he founded a Model United Nations Club at the school, mentored new teachers and proposed a new teacher education initiative, and redesigned the county's U.S. and Virginia government



Brabrand

Program of Studies to align with new state and national standards. He served as an assistant principal at Herndon High and an associate principal at Lake Braddock Secondary School before being named principal at Fairfax High School in 2005.

Brabrand is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where he earned a bachelor of science. He earned a master's degree in education from George Washington University, and an education specialist certification from Virginia Tech. Brabrand completed his doctorate in educational administration as part of Virginia Tech's Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Program.

Albo Retirement Prompts Hotly Contested House Race

Democrat Kathy Tran to face Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION



Kathy Tran



Lolita Mancheno-Smoak

On paper, the 42nd District in the House of Delegates is a solidly Democratic district. Terry McAuliffe won the district in 2013 with 50 percent of the vote for governor. Mark Warner won the district in 2014 with 50 percent of the vote for the U.S. Senate. And Hillary Clinton swamped Donald Trump in the district last year, securing 57 percent of the vote. But Republicans have held the district for decades because of the popular longtime incumbent, Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who fashioned himself as a “Northern Virginia Republican.”

But Albo’s last-minute decision against seeking re-election in May has now opened up the seat, which is at the top of the list for Democrats seeking to pick up Republican-held seats in districts that Clinton won last year.

This week, Democrats selected Kathy Tran as their candidate for the general election. Tran, who immigrated as a refugee from Vietnam with her family as a child, spent years working in a variety of positions in the federal government.

She beat longtime social worker Tillie Blanding, who came out of retirement to run for the House of Delegates. Tran joins an unprecedented number of first-time candidates running as Democratic candidates for the House of Delegates, a political landscape largely shaped by the controversial election of Trump last year.

“They are farmers and teachers, law enforcement officers and stay-at-home parents, veterans and small

Democratic Primary for House of Delegates District 42

- ❖ Kathy Tran, 4,000 votes, 54 percent
- ❖ Tilly Blanding, 3,400 votes, 46 percent

business owners,” said House Democratic Leader David Toscano and Caucus Chairwoman Charniele Herring after the primary. “More than half are women, about a quarter are people of color, and at least six are members of the LGBTQ community.”

The Republicans decided to select their candidate in a caucus rather than a primary, choosing engineer Lolita Mancheno-Smoak over two other candidates. Mancheno-Smoak won with 45 percent of the vote against two challengers, Steve Adragna and Michael Drobnis. She’s a familiar face to voters in Fairfax County because she waged an unsuccessful campaign for the School Board in 2011.

“Lolita has been an active member of our party and more importantly an active member of the community for many years,” said Republican House Speaker Bill Howell after the caucus. “She’s been an advocate for education and business, and will be a worthy successor to Del. Dave Albo.”

AREA ROUNDUPS

Greater Springfield Chamber Awards Scholarship to Robinson Senior

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has awarded Kurien Thomas of Fairfax Station, a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. Kurien is a senior at Robinson Secondary School, a member of Future Business Leaders of America, a volunteer at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center and co-founder of Bloom Foundation – a local non-profit organization that aims to increase career exploration opportunities for middle school students in Fairfax County.

Kurien graduates from Robinson Secondary School on Thursday, June 15. This fall he plans to begin pursuit of a B.S. in commerce with a specialization in marketing at the University of Virginia.

This is the 12th year the Chamber’s Foundation has awarded scholarships to deserving students in the Greater Springfield area. Criteria for the scholarship include maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher, residency in the Greater Springfield area and plans to pursue a business related major while in college.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

The following students graduated from James Madison University:

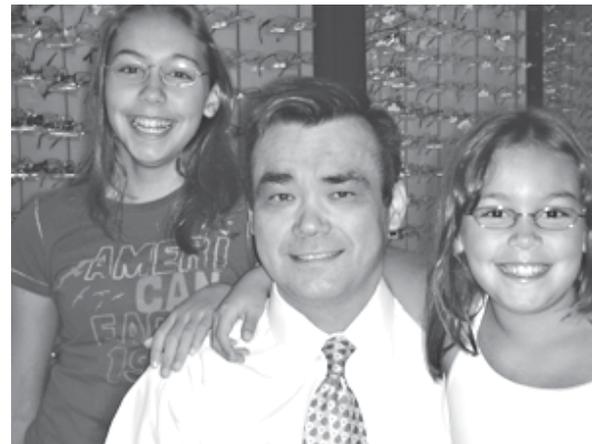
- ❖ **Miranda Poloncak**, of Lorton, earned a degree in education, 5th year format (MAT).
- ❖ **Taylor Mutchler**, of Fairfax Station, earned a degree in education, 5th

year format (MAT).

❖ **Megan Bell**, of Clifton, earned a degree in education, 5th year format (MAT).

❖ **Kristen Campbell**, of Fairfax Station, earned a degree in psychological sciences (MA).

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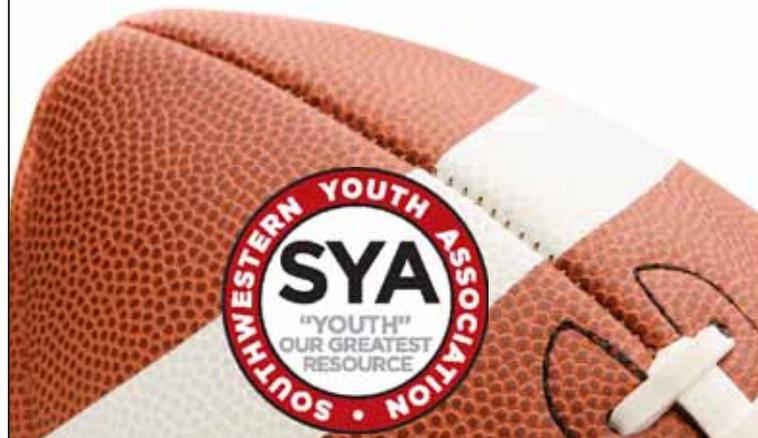


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Fundamental Freedom to Choose to Marry

Virginia is historically slow in extending rights.

In 1967, Virginia was one of 16 states that banned interracial marriage and had criminal penalties for violators.

Mildred Jeter, an African-American woman, and Richard Loving, a white man, were married in 1958, were convicted and banished from living in Virginia for 25 years to avoid serving a one-year prison sentence. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, overturned the convictions of Mildred and Richard Loving, declaring the ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the opinion: "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival. ... To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment, is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State."

This week, Gov. Terry McAuliffe celebrated Loving Day, June 12, with a new state histori-

cal marker to commemorate the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the landmark case. The dedication marked the 50th anniversary of the 1967 ruling that overturned all state laws restricting interracial marriage. The ceremony was held at the former site of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, where the case was heard before it reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The Lovings' story is told in a movie of the same name.

On Valentine's Day, 2014, Judge Arenda Wright Allen, ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. In the opening of her order, Allen quotes Mildred Loving in a statement she made in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*:

"We made a commitment to each other in our love and lives, and now had the legal commitment, called marriage, to match. Isn't that what marriage is? ... Today's young people realize that if someone loves someone they have a right to marry. Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don't think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the 'wrong kind of person' for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same

freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people's religious beliefs over others. ... I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about."

Judge Allen's written decision begins: "A spirited and controversial debate is underway regarding who may enjoy the right to marry in the United States of America. America has pursued a journey to make and keep our citizens free. This journey has never been easy, and at times has been painful and poignant. The ultimate exercise of our freedom is choice. Our Declaration of Independence recognizes that 'all men' are created equal. Surely this means all of us. While ever-vigilant for the wisdom that can come from the voices of our voting public, our courts have never long tolerated the perpetuation of laws rooted in unlawful prejudice. One of the judiciary's noblest endeavors is to scrutinize laws that emerge from such roots.

"Plaintiffs assert that the restriction on their freedom to choose to marry the person they love infringes on the rights to due process and equal protection guaranteed to them under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. These challenges are well-taken. ...

"The Court is compelled to conclude that Virginia's Marriage Laws unconstitutionally deny Virginia's gay and lesbian citizens the fundamental freedom to choose to marry."

Adapted from an editorial published by Connection Newspapers in February 2014.

Fairfax County Celebrates its 275th Anniversary

BY JOHN C. COOK
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK)



It seems no matter where you go in Fairfax County, you can't go more than a few hundred yards without finding something of historic or cultural significance. Fairfax County is rich in nearly all historic eras — be it colonial, civil war, or 20th century, and played a significant role in each. As the supervisor for the Braddock District, I want to make sure all of my constituents — and all county residents — take full advantage of this. This year marks the county's 275th Anniversary, and on June 17, Fairfax County will hold a commemorative celebration honoring just how far the county has come.

On June 17, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the area surrounding the Historic Fairfax Courthouse located in central Fairfax (4000 Chain Bridge Road), Fairfax County's 275th Anniversary Celebration and Historic Fair will take place. The celebration will include historically themed family-friendly activities and demonstrations, live musical performances, and more than 80 historical organizations and attractions showcasing their sites and neighborhoods. The county's Fire and Rescue Department will display antique vehicles, and attendees can enjoy other historical displays covering events such as the Revolutionary War as well as World War I and II. Kids can enjoy a petting zoo and other fun, interactive activities.

As a special treat, the actual Lord and Lady Fairfax will be attending the celebration as our honored guests all the way from England. The Lord and Lady Fairfax will also personally present the annual Lord and Lady Fairfax Awards to their 2017 recipients. The Lord and Lady Fairfax Awards recognize community members for their volunteer work and civic engagement.

Two residents are chosen from each magisterial district by each supervisor.

In addition to this visit from abroad, attendees can enjoy meals from a variety of on-site food trucks, and the event will feature speeches from county officials and guests throughout the day. Parking is available at the Historical Festival on the Safety Complex; Parking Garage B

(10550 Page Ave, Fairfax). There is no rain date for this event. This is a rare, and sure to be special, event so please consider taking part in the festivities. For more information about this celebration, and to register for other events observing the county's 275th Anniversary Celebration, you can go online to www.fxva.com/275/.

I hope you will attend the County's 275th Anniversary Celebration this Saturday, and help fill your summer with not only ways to explore the county you call home, but also gather with friends and neighbors for activities that are culturally enriching. You are sure to find something about your county that you didn't know before.

Most importantly, I hope you enjoy a safe and happy summer with all of your friends and neighbors.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., Latin mass at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Additional mass offered Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Clifton Baptist Church, 7152 Main St. Clifton, is a small Bible-believing church offering worship service on Sunday at 11 a.m., with Bible Study on Wednesday

at 12:30 p.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.popl.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Tim Peterson
Community Reporter
703-314-0789
tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com

Kyle Kincaid
Editorial Assistant
south@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Fairfax County Retired Educators Award Scholarships

Aspiring educators from County high schools receive awards.

Fairfax County Retired Educators held its annual Scholarship Luncheon on June 8 to celebrate eight high school scholarship award recipients. Fairfax County Retired Educators (FCRE) annually award qualified high school students, who wish to pursue a career in education, with \$2,000 scholarships. This year, a record number of eight students received scholarships from the FCRE. "In this day and age when educators struggle to do the job they love, we need these bright stars to go into our profession. If such qualified young people continue to go into our chosen profession, the future of education is in good hands," Director of Ford Scholarships Phyllis Rittman said according to the FCRE press release. Genevieve Brent, a graduate of Hayfield High School, is the recipient of the Mary O. Amber Trust Scholarship and will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the

fall. Brent has maintained over a 4.0 grade point average in high school and has worked as an active leader in Capital Area Peer Tutoring Association (CAPTA), a non profit that works to develop peer driven writing and learning centers in the Washington, D.C., area. Ashreil (Ash) Dennis, a graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School, has been accepted into the Maryland Institute College of Art and was awarded one of three W. Harold Ford Scholarships. Anshu Sharma, a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School (TJHSST), also received a W. Harold Ford Scholarship. The final recipient of the W. Harold Ford Scholarship was Kathryn Tatum who graduated Oakton High School with over a 4.3 grade point average and will attend Villanova University. As a senior, Tatum was editor-in-chief of the Oakton High School newspaper and was a consistent advocate of peer tutoring. The recipients of the Bobbi Vest Scholarship were Jenny Jang, graduate of



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left: Jenny Jang, Centreville High; Emily Ready, Chantilly High; Jordan Perlsh, Herndon High; Dr. Steven Lockard, deputy superintendent; Anshu Sharma, TJHSST; Kathryn Tatum, Oakton High; and Ashreil Dennis, Lake Braddock Secondary.

Centreville High School, and Jordan Perlsh, graduate of Herndon High School. Jang has not decided where she will be attending in the fall, but she will be the first in her family to attend college. Perlsh will be attending James Madison University in the fall. Emily Ready received the Fairfax

County Retired Educators Scholarship and graduated Chantilly High School with over a 4.3 grade point average. She will attend the College of William and Mary in the fall. She was the captain of the Chantilly Dance Team and a National Honor Society officer. Paul Naanou is a three-time win-

ner of the Apple Federal Credit Union Herbert Grady Carpenter Scholarship. Naanou is a 2013 graduate of Thomas Jefferson (TJHSST), and is currently attending the College of William and Mary studying French and Advanced Math.

— ERIN MURPHY

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Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova described the grand-opening of the “workforce housing” Residences at Government Center as a great step forward in meeting the county’s affordable housing challenges. “And at no additional cost to our taxpayers.”



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

A ribbon-cutting marked the opening of the Residences at Government Center, 270 units of affordable housing options, built in partnership between the county, SCG Development and the Jefferson Apartment Group.

Opening the Door To Affordable Housing

Ribbon cutting celebrates the opening of the Residences at Government Center.

BY ANDREA WORKER
AND BASMA HUMADI
THE CONNECTION

Over the years, Bernice Dolberry has lived in a number of apartments around Fairfax County. Not all of them have been located in the most desirable of neighborhoods. Some were not particularly well maintained by the management company. But as a cancer care technician, and then as a retiree on a fixed income, Bernice has often had to make do to live as close as possible to work and to family.

In December of last year, Dolberry became the first occupant of the Residences at Government Center, located on Monument Drive near the county’s government headquarters. She said, “Nothing will get me to move from here. It’s beautiful, meets all of my needs, and the people here are polite, professional and so caring.” Dolberry had been most recently living in an apartment that didn’t accommodate her wheeled mobility walker. She heard about the Residences and learned that there were some units that were handicapped accessible. “This is a dream come true.” Since moving in, Dolberry has “recruited” her granddaughter with her two great-grandchildren, as well as a good friend, to become her neighbors in the complex.

Dolberry was present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony that took place on Monday, June 5, with a host of officials and stakeholders on hand to celebrate what Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova described in her remarks to the crowd as

“the result of a truly unique, creative public-private partnership that did not cost our taxpayers a single cent.”

AFFORDABLE HOUSING — or the lack of it — continues to be a major concern in Fairfax County. As Bulova noted, the issue is not only one of basic human services, but also an obstacle to the economic welfare of the county, if the workers needed to support local employers cannot live within its boundaries because of the cost of “market-priced” housing.

County officials have long recognized the problem. The Residences has been on the drawing board for years, but things like “a little recession” kept stalling progress, said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who was one of the speakers at the event. Connolly praised the perseverance of those involved. “This project is a real statement about our values in this community,” he said.

“This represents the heart of our board, a real commitment,” echoed Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). Hudgins also suggested that the success of the Residences should act as the impetus to quickly review other creative redevelopment possibilities. “Let’s look at other land we have, at empty buildings that could be re-purposed.”

Speaker John Cook, the Braddock District supervisor, applauded partners Stratford



Bernice Dolberry was the first resident to move into the new affordable housing complex, located on county land near Government Center – and she got to meet her congressman, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, at the official grand-opening. Dolberry said living at the Residences is truly “coming home.”

Capital Group Development (SCG), the Jefferson Apartment Group, and the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority for never giving up on the project. “Fairfax County could never have built this for ourselves. It would have been outside our reach,” said Cook.

Stephen Wilson, president of SCG, and Gregory Lamb, executive vice president and managing partner of Jefferson Apartment Group explained to the audience just how the partnership managed to pull off construction of a 270-unit property with a hidden parking garage and containing many “market-priced” amenities like a fitness cen-

ter, a community room, a TV lounge and a pool — all without cost to the taxpayer, still affordable for residents, and without it being a major loss on their own financial books.

Basically, the profitability portion comes from the fact that the land is owned by the county. “That was the county’s share in the project,” said Wilson. The rest was the result of SCG and collaborators’ use of tax credits to get the complex across the line.

Partnership and perseverance have resulted in a living community that fits into the surrounding residential neighborhood and is close to public transportation and a wealth of amenities. “I can actually ride my scooter to Wegmans,” said Dolberry. “Safely on a sidewalk, alongside a path of trees.”

THE RESIDENCES, as Bulova and Hudgins noted, is a diverse community, reflecting the population of the county. Young professionals, retirees, and residents on lower incomes share the hallways, common areas and amenities. Bulova pointed out that there are about 20 county employees among the residents, like Dawn Sherman, a mental health coordinator who moved in six weeks earlier, “straight from my parents’ house.” Sherman was delighted to show off her studio apartment. “It’s perfect and it’s all mine.”

“It’s been a long, long, long time coming,” said Hudgins, “but well worth the wait.” Dolberry agreed. “That’s the truth. I have finally found home.”

FAITH

Buddhist Temple to Host Festival

Fairfax Station temple set to host annual Obon Festival in July.

BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH
THE CONNECTION

What some Fairfax County residents may not know is that there is a Buddhist temple right in their neighborhood. Founded in 1981, the Ekoji Buddhist Temple is located in Fairfax Station and all their services are English-speaking.

As the fourth-largest religion in the world, Buddhism focuses on the practice of taking refuge in the Buddha, renunciation of craving and attachment, observance of moral principles and more.

As a non-monastic Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple, Ekoji follows what is often called Shin Buddhism. That means they follow three primary texts of the tradition: the Longer Sukh vat+vykha Sktra (Infinite Life Sutra), the Shorter Sukh vat+vykha Sktra (Amitabha Sutra) and the Amitayurdhyana Sutra (Contemplation Sutra). These together are called the "Three Pure Land Sutras." Ó

SERVICES AT EKOJI occur every Sunday at 11 a.m. as well as children's Dharma school. In addition, a Meditation Night is hosted every Thursday at 8 p.m.

In the last year, Ekoji has been led by Reverend Nariaki R. Hayashi. The minister, often called "Sensei" or just by his first name, was born in Hawaii, but hails from Kyoto, Japan. Hayashi made the journey to America with his wife, who is Japanese through and through.

"[The move] for me wasn't that awkward," said Hayashi. "For my wife, it was a big adventure."

Although Hayashi mentioned that in Japan, students take English classes throughout their school years, the move was still a bit of a culture shock. For example, driving in Japan occurs on the left side of the road and the driving wheel is on the right side of the car. The process of visiting a gas station is a different experience from America as well.

The minister touched on what a Buddhist service entailed. The call to service is called Kansho and then attendees start with a very basic meditation. Following the opening meditation is a recitation of the Vandana Ti Sarana.

Then, sutra chanting occurs trailed by the Dharma message. The Dharma message typically offers understandings about Buddhism and its importance to our lives.

"We teach that our original lives are our own," said Hayashi.

Bodhisattva vows, singing of a Gatha and Dana are other parts of the service that take place. Dana is a monetary collection in expression of gratitude.

The end of a typical service finishes with a closing meditation, Oshoko (burning of incense), a time for unofficial announcements and a final recitation of the Nembutsu.



Ekoji's Obon Festival expects around 800 visitors this year.

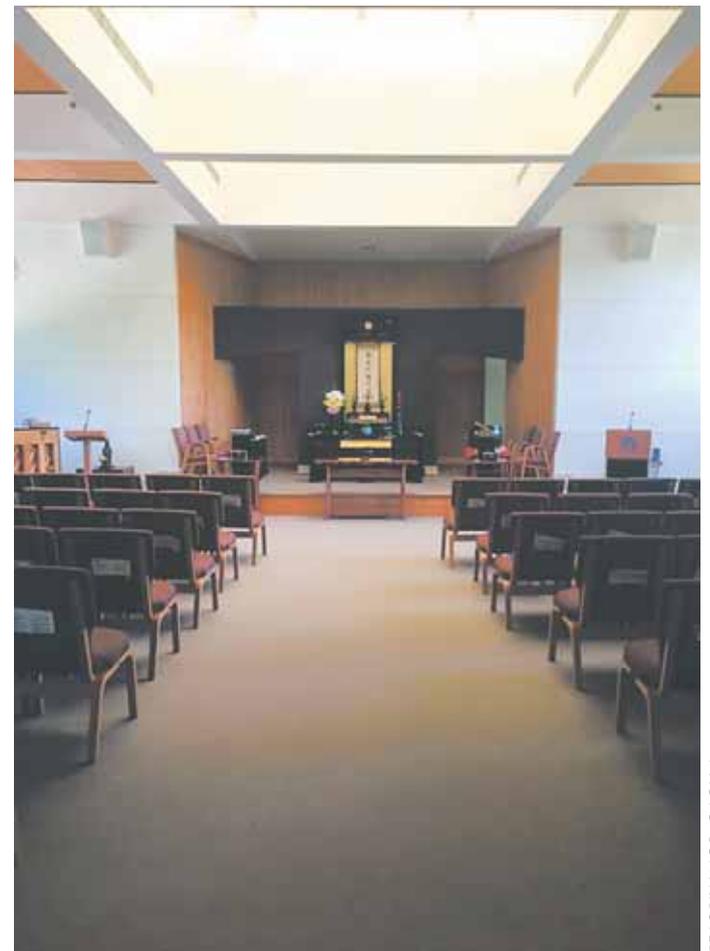


Rev. Nariaki R. Hayashi puts a pair of Japanese beads, called Nenju, around his hands. The beads represent blind passions like selfishness, prejudice and hatred which tie us up.

Although the service follows the same kind of pattern as a typical Christian church, practicing Dharma focuses on different aspects of life. A particular lesson teaches followers about the three poisons in life: anger, greed and ignorance.

Vickey Churchman, a member of the temple for the past two years, praised the Buddhism's teachings on listening. She is fond of the kind of empathy the religion tries to spread.

"It gives you such direction and support on how to extend your compassion to people," said Churchman.



The temple conducts its services in English to accommodate its diverse sangha.

ON SATURDAY, JULY 8, Ekoji will be hosting their annual Obon Festival at 5:30 p.m. The free celebration involves Japanese folk dancing, food, taiko drumming and much more.

"During our Obon Festival, we place candles out in our garden and light them in memory of our loved ones who have passed on before us," Hayashi said. "It's not so much that we light the candle for our loved ones who have passed on as it is that they who have given us this opportunity to light the candle that makes us realize the dark-

ness in which we live."

Ekoji's Japanese garden is one of the only authentic gardens in northern Virginia. Located just next to the temple, it is open to the public the same hours as the temple.

Just off Lakehaven Lane is where residents can find the temple and its garden. People are always welcome to visit and are encouraged to talk with other members of the sangha (community).

For more information about the temple, visit www.ekoji.org. For more information about the festival, visit www.ekojiobonfestival.weebly.com.

Remodeling a Home in Stages

David Foster helps clients design in phases, and at their own pace.

BY JOHN BYRD

Kevin and Priscilla Kelleher have occupied their 5,200-square-foot Springfield home since 1992 when they bought it new. At the time, the builder provided an array of finish work choices. The couple selected the Corian kitchen counter surfaces, a food preparation island of their preferred size and style. The flooring, cabinet-facings, window styles were all a testament to personal taste.

Situated on nearly an acre that backs into the woods, this is the spacious home where the couple raised two daughters who have subsequently fled the nest.

Great memories.

But 18 years is a long time to be regularly re-assessing the same floor plan, contemplating the same unyielding look.

"It was when the appliances started fail-



PHOTO BY LARRY COLFER

The 5-foot-9-inch x 36-inch food prep island includes a microwave drawer and custom storage. Kitchen surfaces are Cambria Berwin quartz finished with an OGE edge.

ing that we thought seriously about remodeling our kitchen," said Kevin Kelleher who retired from the Army several years ago and now works in government. "My wife eventually decided she really didn't like the Corian countertops. There was a wasted

space and dead corners; yet not enough storage. We also wanted more natural light, and better views of our pretty wooded setting."

Of course, such observations typically describe the beginning of a process that

entails much research, a regime of decisions. But, more importantly: where do you turn for ideas that will give definition and focus to a collage of emerging preferences, images and wish-lists?

It was easy for the Kellehers, who turned to David Foster.

Foster, president of Foster Remodeling Solutions in Lorton, had finished the Kellehers' 1,500-square-foot basement in 2003. The positive experience had left the couple with the sense that they had found their "go to" guy for home improvements; better yet, Foster's process had actually gotten easier to implement in the intervening years.

"Fifteen years ago, we were offered sketches of designs for the lower level," Kelleher said. "Today, Foster's designers model three dimensional space on CADD system software. This allows you to instantly assess different views of the room you're remodeling so you can clearly visualize how each perspective will affect the whole. It's a great tool for space planning."

Which — combined with a wholly new interior design scheme — was exactly the kind of the improvements the Kellehers were seeking.

In fact, the footprint of the kitchen, breakfast nook, family room, foyer and, even, the grand stairs at the entrance retain their existing measurements down to the centimeter. It's only the positioning of key components, their design, their storage capacity



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Home LifeStyle

and their aesthetics that have changed — and dramatically.

“Inches really count when you’re renovating a kitchen floorplan,” said Dory Clemens, the Foster architect who designed the project. “This was largely about making better use of existing space while introducing a whole new interior design style.”

For instance:

- ❖ Removing a mostly unused desk built in an interior wall elevation and shortening the wall by 9 inches freed-up 32 square feet of floor space, allowing designers to nearly double the size of the kitchen’s food prep island and dining counter.

- ❖ Space-wasting counter surfaces on two walls were replaced with a curvilinear design that emphasizes the easy-flowing circulation of the new plan. Wider, taller (42-inch) cabinets increased storage capacity by 40 percent.

- ❖ A seldom-open casement window was replaced with a 4.5-foot-by-4.5-foot divided light picture window that dramatically improves available light while offering spot-on views of the leafy backyard.

GRADUALLY, THE KITCHEN’S INTERIOR design evolved into a transitional-style scheme emphasizing contrasting lights and darks.

To create greater visual cohesion to first level living spaces, the wood flooring in the foyer and the white mosaic tiles in the

Details

Foster Remodeling Solutions is a full-service remodeler and maintains a 3,270-square-foot design and selection showroom at its headquarters in Lorton. On Oct. 4, Dory Clemens will be leading a seminar in “Kitchen and Bath Design.” Call 703-550-1371 or visit www.fosterremodeling.com.

kitchen were replaced with a wood grain porcelain tiling imported from Italy.

A comparatively new flooring material, the wood pattern is ink-jetted into the tile, offering the warmth of wood — but with much greater durability.

Meanwhile, ceilings and cabinet facings are bright white; the wall — a color that West Pointer Kelleher describes as “Cadet Grey.” Throughout the play of lights and darks is further developed — like a three-dimensional checkerboard.

The island base is a resonant walnut-color; the quartz surfaces are vanilla-hued Cambria Berwin finished with an OGE edge.

Clemens designed a quintessenza backsplash that combines gray (genesei) with white (bianco). The traditional raised-panel cabinet facings, in turn, lend a crisp linearity amid muted tones.

In the foyer the game of contrast continues. The staircase balustrade and all risers and treads are bright white, but there are now black iron spindles in place of their wooden predecessors.

Since the staircase and living room rise two levels, the Kellehers wanted to reduce



PHOTO BY LARRY COLFER

Dory Clemens at Foster Remodeling Solutions executed a kitchen upgrade in an 18-year-old Springfield home while staying within the footprint of the existing production house plan. To create light and visual continuum, a small casement window was replaced with a divided-light picture window. The food prep island and two-seat dining counter is positioned to support work triangles in three directions.

the monotonous crush of white walls disappearing up into a distant ceiling.

“We wanted more definition around the stairway, and in what one generally sees looking up in a big room.”

To this request, Clemens introduced a shadow box effect by adding white picture frame molding to walls that have been repainted grey.

“It draws your eyes up,” said Kevin Kelleher, which makes the space feel more proportional and balanced.” He added: “Foster’s lead carpenter, Brian, is really a master at this kind of detailing. It’s hard to see how anyone else could have done as well.”

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

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ONGOING

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.

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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. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts
Kingstowne Farmers Market opens. 4-7 p.m. every Friday through Oct. 27, at Kingstowne Giant Parking Lot, 5870 Kingstowne Center, 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.

CAMPS & CLASSES

Art Camp. Various times July 3-7, July 24-28, and July 31-Aug. 4 at the Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke or the second location is Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Lessons by Carol Zeitlin. Call 703-250-6930 or visit www.czartlessons.com for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 15

Historic Interpretation. 7-9:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Event topic is "Nicholas Fairfax, 14th Lord Fairfax of Cameron." Email Fairfax275@gmail.com or visit Fairfax275.org for more.

Havana Lyceum Woodwind Quintet. 7 p.m. at Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Fairfax Symphony presents Simone Dinnerstein with the Havana Lyceum Orchestra. \$35 or \$25. visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org or call 888-945-2468 for more.

JUNE 15-16

Iced Coffee Benefit. All day at participating Dunkin' Donuts. \$1 from all large iced coffees sold at participating Dunkin' Donuts restaurants in the Washington, D.C. region will be donated to Children's National. Visit www.dunkindonuts.com for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 16

Music on the Plaza. 7 p.m. at the Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Music and dance performances. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 17

Fairfax County's 275th Anniversary. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. Family friendly activities, live entertainment, history exhibits, living history, historical organization booths and displays. Email Fairfax275@gmail.com or visit Fairfax275.org for more.

Father's Day Golf Tournament. 8 a.m. at Burke Lake Golf Course, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Compete in closest-to-the-pin-contests, and prizes will be awarded for the top three places in all three divisions. \$65 per team. Call 703-323-1641 for more.

Kidz Korner Children's Event. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment. Free Visit www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-



PHOTO BY QUENTIN PORTER

In March, 1950, Scouts from Troop 182 show off their Electric Lie Detector; Copper Electroplating and Minnie the Magnet.

Celebrate County's 275th Anniversary

This coming weekend, Fairfax County will mark its 275th anniversary with events celebrating the history of the county. The signature celebration of the anniversary will take place on June 17, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the area surrounding the Historic Fairfax Courthouse located in central Fairfax. And for this special day, Nicholas Fairfax (14th Lord Fairfax of Cameron), and his wife Annabel will be attending the celebration as honored guests all the way from

385-7858 for more.

Navy Sea Chanters Concert. 6-7 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Performing music from sea chanteys to Broadway tunes. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance for more.

Father and Daughter Dance. 6-9 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Girls celebrate Father's Day with dads, granddads, big brothers, godfathers and family members, dancing, games, prizes and food. \$30. Call 703-385-7978 or email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov for more.

Tap and Jazz Review. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Centreville High School, Clifton. The Fairfax Ballet Company presents "Decades on Shuffle: A Jazz, Tap and Modern Revue." Call 703-439-9788 for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 18

Yoga on the Square. 10 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring a yoga mat, a water bottle, and yourself. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

Father's Day Jazz Brunch. noon-1:30 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn Fairfax, 3950 Fair Ridge Drive. By Fairfax NAACP. Visit fairfaxnaacp.org.

Havana Lyceum Orchestra. 5 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theatre, Fairfax. Fairfax Symphony presents Simone Dinnerstein with the Havana Lyceum Orchestra. \$45, \$38, \$30. visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org or call 888-945-2468 for more.

JUNE 21-JULY 18

Snoopy and Belle in Fashion. Various times in Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. A celebration of Washington D.C.'s political style, dolls will feature presidential outfits. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 23

Rock the Block Concert. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Rockets in concert, alongside beer garden, and city restaurant vendor booths. No Pets allowed except service



PHOTO BY GEORGE STEIGER

At a campsite near the Potomac River above Great Falls, two men are sitting by a campfire.

England.

Throughout the event, there will be historically themed family-friendly activities and demonstrations, live musical performances, over 80 historical organizations and attractions showcasing their sites and neighborhoods, reenactors and living history demonstrations, talks on a variety of topics in the Historic Fairfax Courthouse, Revolutionary War memorial plaque dedication ceremony at 11 a.m.

animals. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 24

Mosby Spring Bus Tour. 8 a.m. at the Truro Rectory, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Local Civil War historic tour. Call 703-971-4984 or email dhakenson@verizon.net.

Art and Lunch. noon-3 p.m. at the Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League will be hosting an Art and Lunch event, lunch not provided. Free. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County, Part I. 2-4 p.m. at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Preservationist, historian, and author Edward T. Wenzel will discuss notable incidents from the first two years of war in Fairfax County. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 25

Burke Historical Society. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road. Susan Gray, curator of the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, will give a talk called, "Get on Board for a Quick Ride Through Fairfax History." Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org for more.

Posipalooza: Positive Music Festival. 7 p.m. at the Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Sloan Wainwright, Roger Tomhave, Sue Riley, and Glen Roethel will perform in a round-robin format, engaging in banter, sharing how songs were written, and creating impromptu arrangements. \$20. Visit www.UnityOffFairfax.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Music on the Plaza. 7 p.m. at the Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Music and dance performances. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Kidz Korner. 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Old

Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Summer in the City shows, every Saturday into September, weather permitting. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

Independence Day Celebration. 5-9:30 p.m. at Lorton Workhouse, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Community, family friendly, music. Call 703-584-2900 or visit workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 2

Yoga on the Square. 10 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring a yoga mat and water bottle. Weather permitting. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7858 for more.

MONDAY/JULY 3

Funday Monday for Children. 10:30 a.m. in Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Mr. Skip: fun and songs. Weather permitting. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855 for more.

JULY 3-7

Drawing Plus Color and Craft Fun Camp. 9:30-11:45 a.m. at Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin. Ages 5-8. Visit www.czartlessons.com or call 703-250-6930 for more.

Drawing Camp. 12:30-3:15 p.m. at Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin. Ages 8 and up. Visit www.czartlessons.com or call 703-250-6930 for more.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Independence Day Parade. 10 a.m. On Main Street in downtown Fairfax. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855 for more.

Holiday Crafts Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Crafts will highlight the holiday and the railroads. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

SCHOOLS

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

The following students graduated from James Madison University:

❖ **Miranda Poloncak**, of Lorton, earned a degree in education, 5th year format (MAT).

❖ **Taylor Mutchler**, of Fairfax Station, earned a degree in education, 5th year format (MAT).

❖ **Megan Bell**, of Clifton, earned a degree in education, 5th year format (MAT).

❖ **Kristen Campbell**, of Fairfax Station, earned a degree in psychological sciences (MA).

University of Virginia School of Law graduate **Katie Barber**, class of 2015, will clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the 2018 term.

Olivia Mytty, of Alexandria, qualified for the spring 2017 dean's list at Belmont University (Nashville, Tenn.).

Allison Love, of Alexandria, graduated cum laude from SUNY Potsdam with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology.

Robert Holbrook, of Alexandria, VA 22310 graduated from Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) with a B.S. in computer information systems.

Martin VanderHoeven, the son of Marianne Marsolais and Edward VanderHoeven of Springfield, was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Earlham College (Richmond, Ind.). VanderHoeven majored in international

studies at Earlham and received College Honors.

Jody Briggs, of Springfield, majoring in game art and animation was named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) dean's list for the spring 2017 semester.

Brooke Barwick, of Alexandria, majoring in public relations was named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) dean's list for the spring 2017 semester.

John Holbrook, of Alexandria, was recognized at the ROTC President's Review held at McDaniel College (Westminster, Md.). Holbrook, a sophomore at McDaniel College, received the Military Order of the World Wars Award.

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class **Samuel J. Baker** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Baker is the son of Lisa and Richard Baker of Alexandria. He graduated in 2004 from Thomas Edison High School and earned a bachelor's degree in 2011 from Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, Va.).

Yolanda Sanchez Malone, of Alexandria, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Sanchez Malone was initiated at University of Southern California.

Genevieve C. Francis, of Alexandria, earned a Master of Science degree in occupational therapy from The University of Scranton (Scranton, Pa.).

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ME & MY DAD

A gallery of submissions by readers.

Kevin Saba of Fairfax Station and son Reed Saba, 2, are laughing and having a great time after a "collision" of dad's nose and son's head. Reed immediately ran to get daddy a band-aid and picked the coolest and best kind for his father. Needless to say, it's a one of the very precious moments that the family will cherish forever.



"When I am with my dad, there is always time to enjoy fireworks." Jose and Joaquin of Springfield, celebrating Springfield Days.

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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 703-323-4788.

THURSDAY/JUNE 15

American Association of University Women. 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Army Navy Country Club of Fairfax, 3315 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Guest speaker will be Judge Jane Marum Roush, a dinner meeting with an Italian buffet. \$38. Call 703-764-8061 for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 17

Wellness Workshop: MemoryBanc. 9:30 a.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Learn about the documents, accounts, and assets that should be organized as a caregiver and leave with a step-by-step guide to get it done. Contact Christi Clark, at christi.clark@insightmcc.org or 703-204-4664, or visit InsightMCC.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 20

Lunch N' Life. noon-2 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. The guest presenter will be Elizabeth Gray, Esq. to speaking on legal issues for older adults. \$10. Sponsored by Shepherd's Center. Call 703-273-5730 or see www.scfbva.org for more.
Mount Vernon Lee Chamber Scholarships. 6-7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road. Meet the local high school seniors selected to receive business scholarships from Mount Vernon Lee Chamber. Call 703-971-8900 for more.

MONDAY/JUNE 21

Financial Considerations for Caregiving. 1 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. The financial costs of long term care and long term caregiving are enormous. Explore options for this important aspect of caregiving. Contact Christi Clark, at christi.clark@insightmcc.org or 703-204-4664, or visit InsightMCC.org.

ONGOING

Positive Parenting Strategies Course. At PHILLIPS, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale. A series of classes and in home consultations taught by PHILLIPS' counselors. Open to all local families. Call Stacy Stryjewski at 703-658-9054.

Thermal Camera Loan Program. Learn where the energy is leaking out of the home with a special attachment for the iPhone or Android. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy or call 703-324-5955 for more.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

NARFE Monthly Meeting Every Second Tuesday 11:30 a.m. American Legion Post 177 located at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. NARFE Fairfax 737 monthly luncheon meeting. Enjoy lunch accompanied by a special program. Lunch at noon. Cost: \$11 Speaker/Program-12:45PM. rrharney2@cox.net 703-501-0020

Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths offers free Financial Education Classes Sessions at various locations in the Fairfax County area to low- and middle-income adults who reside throughout Northern Virginia. The offerings are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. <https://britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year>

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Spontaneous Confusion



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since I have some alone-time; just me and the cats, I thought I'd try to write my next column a few weeks ahead and take a bit of the time-sensitive deadline pressure off. Not that meeting my weekly commitment has been too much of a problem over the years (nearly 20 in fact), still, I thought I'd put pen to paper, literally, and see what comes out.

So far what has come out is that I'm having creative difficulty writing something that's to be published two weeks hence. It seems/feels that writing in the present about something to be published in the future is awkward, sort of. It's somewhere between wishful thinking and a prediction. Neither of which is characteristic of who I am or how I think. I guess my writing nature is that I like to react to reality and then address it in print, rather than anticipate it and then respond to it. Typically I prefer to be current in my thinking and honest in my prose. Apparently, I have nothing else to share so trying to explain that void is the semi point of this column.

And I suppose, without being too self-indulgent, that if a stage IV cancer patient — yours truly, who shares everything with you regular readers; highs, lows and in-betweens, has nothing of particular interest to share, perhaps it's because I'm experiencing a comparatively easy fortnight between 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, every-five-week infusions, and quarterly scans followed by my quarterly face-to-face appointment with my oncologist, so I have minimal cancer-related business to preoccupy my life. It's almost as if I'm unencumbered by my underlying problem: non-small cell lung cancer. And I have to admit, it's a heck of a feeling to not have my conscious and unconscious minding my business and reminding me that I have an incurable form of cancer. Which of course I never need reminding of; as opposed to ending a sentence with a preposition which obviously I do need to be reminded of.

Getting back to the substance — if you can even call it that, of this column: my difficulty writing weeks ahead of publication. What's puzzling about this difficulty is how uncharacteristic of my personality it is. I am not spontaneous. I rarely do anything spur of the moment other than getting off the couch, changing the channel on the television, switching radio stations in the car, deciding what to wear, eating/drinking/going to the bathroom and/or miscellaneous other household-type duties and responsibilities. Yet the problem I'm experiencing now — related to my June 14 column, is that since I'm not being spontaneous, I'm unable to create?

How can that be a problem? That's who I am all the time. I do everything in advance — of consequence, that is. Maybe I'm making too much out of nothing? (Oh, really.) Maybe I'm simply stuck in my head and need to get out of my own way. Not that I make mountains out of mole hills but sometimes, and I've told by my oncologist that I can blame my having cancer for everything, I might not think so clearly and get bogged down emotionally. Ergo, I will lay the blame for this column and it's lack of substance, on having "terminal" cancer.

Cancer doesn't work in mysterious ways (well, perhaps it does to researchers), it works in destructive ways: physically, mentally and spiritually. Logical becomes illogical — and vice versa; rational becomes irrational — and vice versa; and manageable becomes unmanageable — and vice versa. For cancer patients/survivors, expecting that one's life will go merrily along is totally unrealistic. Expecting the unexpected is the path of least resistance.

This week's column/dilemma is simply another example/reminder of how cancer intrudes and deludes and affects those of us who naively thought we would be unaffected.

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



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