

Community Demands 'Justice for Nabra'

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Sawsah Gazzar (center), Nabra Hassanen's mother, is consoled by community members outside of the courthouse after an emotional day in court.

Lighting the Night in Reston

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Friday night, Reston Town Center was full of people holding red lanterns in solidarity for the 1.2 million Americans who battle blood cancer. Between the red lanterns were white ones held by cancer survivors. Through sponsors and private donations, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society sought to raise \$3.5 million for fighting cancer with the walk.

As of Friday afternoon, lightthenight.org had raised over \$614,000 toward the cause.

Alex Ivlev, 18, of South Riding and a freshman at George Mason University was one of the survivors in attendance at Light the Night. "The fact that we are raising a lot of money is important. Every dollar counts," said Ivlev.

He survived leukemia and held a white lantern with a light blue survivor shirt draped across his shoulders. "I have a personal connection and it's what I want, getting rid of a disease that's terrible to go through," he said.

Other cancer survivors were also encouraged to join a survivor's circle before the walk began.

David Macurdy, of Reston, a kidney cancer survivor was also at the walk with his wife, Donna Macurdy. "Leukemia is a nasty disease," said David Macurdy.



A crowded street in Reston Town Center for the Light the Night walk to sponsor a cure for Leukemia Friday night.

"We have a friend who is still suffering from Acute Myelocytic Leukemia. So we are running for him. He was just diagnosed,"

Light the Night walk in Reston to raise \$3.5 million for leukemia research.



Carol Kasson (right) and her friend Paula Kone, a Burke resident, carried a banner that said, "Carol's Crew," at the Light the Night walk. Kasson is a cancer survivor.

Donna Macurdy said.

People who had lost family members or friends came to the walk or to support those walking for their corporate sponsors who had helped fund the event.

Natasha Molina, of Ashburn, who works for the Department of Labor was at the walk with her 2-year-old son Killian Hale. "I walk for a cure, and so we can celebrate more birthdays and less funerals. I walk so that one day good-bye is

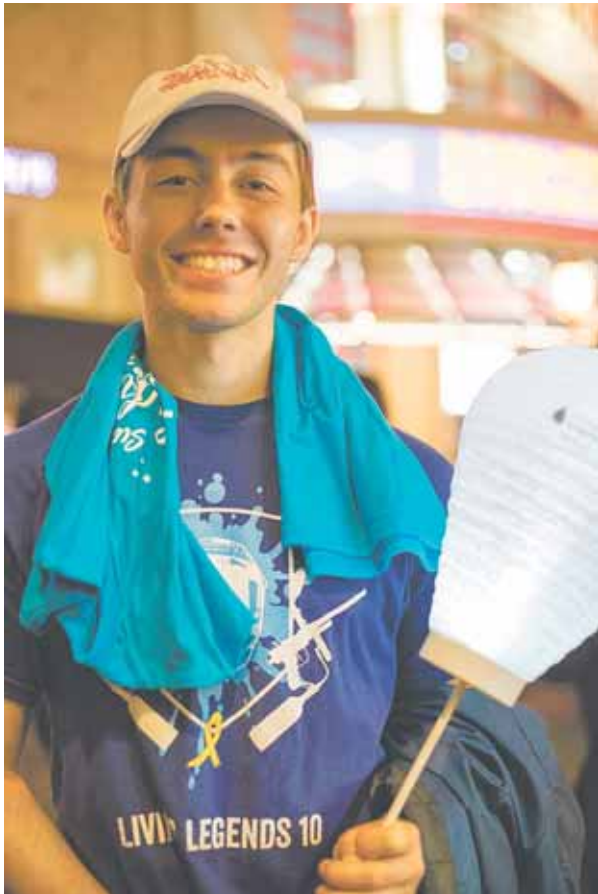
a little further away," said Molina. She prepared this speech to fundraise for the event and joined the day of the walk.

"I raised over a hundred dollars in one day," she said.

Carol Kasson and her friend Paula Kone, a Burke resident, carried a banner that said, "Carol's Crew." Kasson had Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and is still alive today because of a stem cell transplant.

"It's sad and uplifting at the same time and it touches all of us," said Kasson.

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION



Alex Ivlev, 18, of South Riding holds a white lantern at the Light the Night walk for Leukemia Friday night in Reston Town Center. He is a cancer survivor.



David Macurdy, of Reston, a kidney cancer survivor, was at the Light the Night walk with his wife, Donna Macurdy Friday night in Reston Town Center.



From left: Jennifer and her sister Elise Doe of Oakton cheer on walkers in the Reston Town Center for the Light the Night walk to sponsor a cure for Leukemia Friday night.

Nabra's Parents Come Face-To-Face with the Accused

**Fairfax County grand jury indicts;
County Commonwealth's Attorney
plans to pursue death penalty.**

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

"You killed my daughter!" the father of a Reston teen who was murdered this summer cried out in a packed courtroom, right before the victim's mother flung a shoe at the defendant.

This was an overwhelming experience for the family and those who knew Nabra Hassanen, whose life was violently taken from her at age 17.

The commotion rippled through the crowd just as the Commonwealth's Attorney's criminal case against the charged suspect, Darwin Martinez Torres, was about to begin at the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court in Fairfax on Friday, Oct. 13.

It was the first time Torres, entering the courtroom in a green jumpsuit, was in the same room as Nabra's parents — father Mohmoud Hassanen and mother Sawsan Gazzar.

THE HIGH-PROFILE HEARING was originally scheduled for a smaller room, but was moved to a larger space that could hold up to 250 people. Fairfax County Police Department Spokesperson Julie Parker, whose police officers and detectives — along with Loudoun County — were involved in the search for the victim when she went missing and the investigation, sat in the first row that was reserved for witnesses and those involved in trying the case.

Family and community members filled the rest of the room to capacity, most wearing white T-shirts adorned with the victim's smiling face with the words, "Justice for Nabra" and "We will never forget." This left some people outside unable to enter. Standing room was not allowed by the 10 or so officers from the Sheriff's Office who were patrolling the room.

After Torres entered through a door at the front of the room, his defense team huddled around him. Sniffles and soft crying could be heard; women pulled tissues from their purses to wipe away tears; and the victim's father sat cradling his mouth and nose with his left hand in what appeared to be a gesture of disbelief.

The 22-year-old defendant, a citizen of El Salvador, was living in Sterling without legal permission and held without bond at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

Presiding Judge Kimberly Daniel then entered the room. The audience was asked to rise from their seats and were quickly asked to be seated once again. That's when the emotions became too much for the parents, who were seeing the accused face-to-face for the first time.



Mohmoud Hassanen, the murder victim's father, and community members wore white T-shirts with Nabra's photo, which circulated around the world in media reports after she was reported missing. The shirt said, "Justice for Nabra" and "We will never forget."



Zahwa Ezzelden, 19, a cousin of the murder victim, led a group of young demonstrators to "take a knee for Nabra." "This crooked system kicked us out," she said.

"You killed my daughter!" Hassanen yelled as family members around him tried to pull him back from lunging toward the defendant.

Torres and the judge were quickly whisked away to safety, but not before Gazzar hurled a shoe from across the room, coming close to striking him. "I kill you, [expletive]," she yelled.



Omer Gorashi, whose "sisters were good friends with Nabra Hassanen," led a group of young demonstrators in chants outside of the courthouse after the hearing was closed to the public: "Everything for Nabra" and "Justice for Nabra." He also led them in a repetitive Q-and-A chant: "What do we want?" he asked. "Justice," they responded. "For who?" "Nabra." "When do we want it?" "Now."



Sawsan Gazzar (center), Nabra Hassanen's mother, walks away from the courthouse in tears.

The father was hauled away by officers, while the mother was left in her seat, after being pulled back down by those around her.

Unsettled audience members' crying became louder, some began wailing. Officers tried to restore peace, yelling at people to sit down.

"What the [expletive] are you going to do about it?" a young man who had tears running down both cheeks angrily asked an officer who was trying to restore order.

Those around him begged him to be quiet. "[Expletive] you. Rot in hell," he said to officers as they escorted him out of the courtroom.

Due to the outbursts, the judge decided to close the hearing to the public and officers instructed audience members who were not family to leave the courtroom. Members of the media were escorted to another room, where they were permitted to watch the hearing via live stream. The hearing was also moved to another, smaller courtroom.

"I am not going to stuff the courtroom like we did the other one," Daniel said, instructing the officers to allow the parents of the victim to enter, but only permitting them to sit in the back row of the opposite side of the courtroom from the defendant.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS began organizing outside of the courthouse as the hearing resumed — an hour later with only attorneys, the defendant and

Nabra's family members present.

It ended almost as soon as it began, with Torres waiving his right to a preliminary hearing, which would determine probable cause, or reasonable grounds for presuming guilt in someone charged with a crime, which is needed to move forward with a criminal trial.

The prosecution was not expecting this move from the defense.

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 5

OPINION

What To Do Against the ‘Nightmare Scenario’?

BY STEPHEN R. RUTH
SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT
PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

We should fear Artificial Intelligence. Not in the future but now. Ask Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook. She announced that her company, with its over 2 billion users, built software it cannot fully control. “We never intended or anticipated this functionality being used this way,” Sandberg said, “— and that is on us.” Facebook’s operating systems had allowed Russian operatives to create accounts and ads aimed at influencing the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The gigantic network seems to have created systems that are ungovernable.

Facebook’s problem hints at the extreme dangers lurking within Artificial Intelligence as it grows throughout the world. AI Experts are already talking about a “nightmare scenario,” where nations’ AI systems could ignite real-time conflicts. Consider, hair-trigger AI systems could eventually control several nations’ military responses’ and some error in any one algorithm could possibly lead to a nuclear catastrophe.

Between the Facebook case and the nightmare scenario is the immediate problem of millions of people losing jobs. Around the globe, programmable machines — including robots, cars and factory robots — are replac-

ing humans in the workplace. Automation threatens 80 percent of today’s 3.7 million transportation jobs, one U.S. government report estimated, including truck and school bus drivers, taxi drivers and Uber and Lyft drivers. Another report indicates AI is threatening aspects of the many different jobs, including call center operators, surgeons, farmers, security guards, retail assistants, fast food workers and journalists. A 2015 study of robots in 17 countries found that they accounted for over 10 percent of the countries’ gross domestic product growth between 1993 and 2007. Consider, a major supplier for Apple and Samsung cell phones and computers, China’s Foxconn Technology Group, is planning to automate 60,000 factory jobs with robots, replacing its existing employees. Meanwhile, Ford’s factory in Cologne, Germany, not only replaced human workers with robots but also on some jobs stations position robots beside human workers — they are called cobots.

But these employment issues, as troubling as they are, cannot compare to the dangers envisioned by Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking. They are among the dozens of thought leaders who signed a letter harshly condemning governments’ increasing reliance on AI for military use. Their chief concern is autonomous weapons, another example of AI. The U.S. military is already developing armaments that do not require humans to operate them. These weapons are being created to offer battlefield support for human troops. Autonomous arms

are dramatically easier to develop and mass-produce than nuclear weapons. They will likely to soon appear on black markets around the world, certain to be favored by terrorist groups. To quote from the open letter, the new autonomous weapons would be ideal for dark actions including “assassinations, destabilizing nations, subduing populations and selectively killing a particular ethnic group.”

There are some economic optimists like MIT’s Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, who feel that AI will eventually bring long term prosperity to the world, but even they admit that finding common ground among, economists, technologists and politicians is daunting. Obviously, it will be very difficult to craft legislation about AI without more agreement about its potential effects.

We should definitely be fearful of artificial intelligence, not just because it is clearly destined to affect the number of available jobs, including those in middle and even upper middle class domains, but because its potential military use can lead to a perilous future, if not controlled. As the open letter signed by Musk and Hawking concluded, “Starting a military AI arms race is a bad idea, and should be prevented by a ban on offensive autonomous weapons beyond meaningful human control.”

The author is director of the International Center for Applied Studies in Information Technology (ICASIT) <http://policy-icasit.gmu.edu/>

COMMENTARY

Shades of the Old South It is always important to vote, but it is more important than ever this year.

BY KENNETH R. “KEN” PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Just when you think things are changing you can be shocked to realize just how much they stay the same. Politics in Virginia are a prime example.

For more than a century after the Civil War the consistent factor in politics was race baiting. The then-called Democrats in the South, who later became known as Dixiecrats and today are the conservative wing of the Republican Party, were successful with a variety of laws that disenfranchised African Americans.

Even with the few African Americans who could get through the labyrinth of laws that included blank sheet registration forms, literacy tests and poll taxes the scare tactic employed by too many candidates was to suggest that their opponent was a lover of black people — but using a derogatory term. That fear of black people has its roots back to the centuries where black people were enslaved and brutal enforcement and fear were used to keep them that way.

The Civil War did not resolve the feeling between blacks and whites, and slave codes were replaced with Jim Crow laws that whites could use to assert supremacy over black people.



COMMENTARY

For a candidate to take a position that could be interpreted as being favorable to African Americans would mean almost certain defeat at the polls. Only Supreme Court decisions and federal laws like the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act created a more level political playing field between the races. Continued efforts

to suppress the votes of minorities and to unnecessarily complicate the voting process are still employed by some trying to maintain a structured society of white supremacy.

More recently those who want to keep or expand their political power have swept immigrants — whatever their status — into the realm of those who are to be feared and suppressed from participating in the democratic process.

Many strive to gain maximum political advantage through whatever means while at the same time wanting to keep the appearance of respect and patriotism. The recent television ad with scary images and references to fear and the MS 13 gang intends to scare voters into rejecting a compassionate medical doctor with an ad that fact checkers have found to be untruthful.

Another concern from the current campaign

is the suggestion from a white female candidate for lieutenant governor that her black male opponent does not understand the issues well enough to discuss them “intelligently.” Disregarding the excellent academic credentials of her opponent, her comments had the tone of the past that one observer said seemed more appropriate for 1957 than 2017.

At the national level, there are daily statements and actions that hearken back to the racial climate of the Old South. This year in Virginia, we have a unique opportunity on Nov. 7 to make a statement with our votes that we reject the discrimination of the past. It is always important to vote, but it is more important than ever this year. Despite efforts to romanticize the Old South and the Confederacy, we need to learn the truth and understand why we need to move on.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Call 703-917-6444
editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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Community Seeks 'Justice for Nabra'

FROM PAGE 3

"I thought we were going to have a hearing," Raymond Morrogh, the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney, said. "We had our witnesses lined up and we had been preparing this week."

With the waiver, the case was sent to a county grand jury, which would decide whether to indict Torres on a charge of first-degree murder, which is the willful, deliberate and premeditated killing of any person or, in this case, the killing of a person in the act of rape, object sexual penetration or abduction.

Morrogh spoke on behalf of the victim's parents after the hearing.

"I think we can all understand the emotions here," he said. "It's very hard on the family, especially when they see the accused for the first time."

He sympathized with them and described his personal reaction to their outbursts.

"I was just sad," he said. "I feel for those people ... they're suffering ... I know they meant no disrespect to the judge or the process, but it's a difficult process and we're going to try and work with our victim witness assistants to hope that it doesn't happen

again, and take every step we can to make sure everybody is as comfortable as they can be under these tragic circumstances."

Grand Jury Indicts Defendant

It did not take long for a decision.

On Monday, Oct. 16, a Fairfax County grand jury indicted Torres on eight separate counts of capital murder, rape, sexual assault and abduction.

Torres "did feloniously, willfully, deliberately and with premeditation kill and murder Nabra Hassenen," the indictment said.

"The penalties on the four capital murder charges are either life or death," Morrogh told the Connection via email. "The penalties on the other charges are as follows: rape is from five years to life; abduction with the intent to defile is from 20 years to life; and on each of the two counts of animate object penetration the penalty is five years to life."

The next hearing for the case will be at the Fairfax County General District Court in Fairfax this Thursday at 9 a.m. A trial date will be decided at this hearing, according to Morrogh.

"I intend to pursue the death penalty in this case," Morrogh said.



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The view across Lake Anne to the Plaza from the tour stop on Orchard Lane.



The house on Bromley Village Lane may be nested in the trees, but there's plenty of light and space in the 1984 contemporary home.

Reston Home Tour Offers 'A New Perspective'

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

“A New Perspective” was the theme of the 16th edition of the annual Reston Home Tour, presented by the Reston Historic Trust, and benefiting the organization’s continuing mission to “preserve the past, inform the present, and influence the future of Reston.” It was an apt descriptor for the six private residences, the new apartment options at Aperture at Reston Station, and even for the remodelled and re-purposed Lake House on Lake Newport that were on display for the self-guided tour.

For many of the homeowners who agreed to allow hundreds of curious visitors to wander through their abodes on Saturday, Oct. 14, their homes did, in fact, represent new perspectives for their own lives and lifestyles – and some fabulous views. For quite a few of them, their digs were their “next phase” living choice, like Leslie Siegmund and Jack Mathias, empty nesters who in 2015 made the move from Oakton colonial (their home for 20 years) to mid-century modern on South Shore Road, sitting right alongside Lake Anne.

Since their move-in, Siegmund and Mathias have been pretty much in constant renovation mode, starting with the kitchen, then a hall closet converted to a full bath, a remodelled master bath, and a backyard renovation that provides a series of terraces and patios that lead down to the lake. Plans are afoot to further expand the garden and hardscape, ultimately adding a dock to offer a floating shortcut to the amenities of Lake Anne’s offerings.



Ready for a family gathering – the kitchen and dining area at the Zalles home on Spyglass Cove Lane.

TWO MINUTES BY WATER, and maybe five by car, the home of Karen Parnicky and Stephen Weber on Orchard Lane stays true to the new perspective theme. Down-sizers from a single-family home in North Reston, the couple had originally planned to move into a condominium complex, but despite the need for significant modernizing renovation, the possibilities and the lake views kept calling them back to the townhouse designed by Chloethiel Woodward Smith, architect of many Washington D.C. projects, as well as Reston’s Waterview Cluster, and built in 1965.

The entire home has been transformed. Walls came down everywhere, turning the compact, rather maze-like accommodations



Inviting visitors down to the waters of Lake Anne – just one of the views on offer at Siegmund/Mathias house on South Shore Road.

into an open floor plan living space with light and views galore, but despite the impressive results that were achieved on the inside, the roomy deck overlooking Lake Anne was still where the “tourists” all seemed to congregate, including Reston Home Tour Chairperson Marnie Schaar, who said she would have cheerfully stayed on that deck for the rest of the day if her duties didn’t demand that she keep moving along the tour stops.

This is Schaar’s first time as the chair of the event, taking over from veteran Bonnie Haukness, who had been at the helm since 2007. Schaar came to Reston as a child in

1978. Adding her 15 years of real estate experience in the local market to her long-time residency made her a perfect choice to help highlight the joys of Reston living.

More water views and renovations brought the crowds to the Lake House on Lake Newport. Purchased in the spring of 2015 by Reston Association from Tetra Partners, the building, with its decks that hang out over the water, re-opened last year and is available for rental for corporate and special events. It also houses after-school sports and learning programs for local elementary and middle school students. For the tour, the Lake House was a perfect spot to regroup and sample some refreshments while enjoying the works of several local artists on display for the occasion, like Dana Scheurer, the artist who created the “Midtown Mural” that decorates a large section along New Dominion Parkway in Reston Town Center. Scheurer also designed the signature logo of the Reston Home Tour.

Judging from the lakeside homes on the tour, there’s a lot to be said for putting down roots

along one of Reston’s many waterways, but the tour organizers didn’t forget to offer stops among the leafy green spaces for which the area is most known.

Carolyn Flitcroft’s 1984 contemporary off North Village Road enjoys the peacefulness of its wooded surroundings, but still manages to feel bright and airy with well-placed windows. A cozy alcove off the kitchen invites a bit of downtime with a book or some digital recreation, or just a chat with a friend, like tour-goers Cindy Vance and Susan Gulick who took a moment to enjoy the

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'Middle-Class Joe' Campaigns for Northam

Democratic gubernatorial campaign touts free community college.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

There are only three weeks left until Election Day and the race for the commonwealth's next governor is heating up. Candidates are bringing out the big guns of their political parties.

While Vice President Mike Pence campaigned at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Abingdon on Saturday, Oct. 14, to urge coal-country voters to turn out for Republican gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie, former Vice President Joe Biden was campaigning in Reston for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam.

The pair were touting the candidate's "G3: Get Skilled – Get a Job – Give Back" workforce development campaign proposal, which would provide free community college educations to Virginians.

"The 21st century jobs, as you know, are much different from when I was growing up," Northam said during the roundtable. "Even at the high school level, we could put a lot more emphasis on vocational and technical training," he added.



Northam

THROUGH THE G3 PROGRAM, commonwealth funding would be used to cover tuition and fees for any Virginian who would like to pursue a workforce training credential or an associate degree from the commonwealth's community college system in a targeted, "new-collar" job area, including cybersecurity, computer programming, clean energy, healthcare and other "high-need" areas. In return, students would be required to commit to one year of paid public service for program beneficiaries after their studies are complete.

"It allows them to do that without incurring any debt with the understanding that once they have become certified that they will give back a year of public service with pay," Northam said to applause. "It allows everybody really to achieve the American dream," he added.

Biden was "excited" to lend his middle-



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

"This is a guy who understands what my dad always taught me, for real ... 'Everyone, everyone, everyone in the world is entitled to be treated with dignity,'" former Vice President Joe Biden (left) said of Democratic gubernatorial candidate and Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (right).

class moniker to the campaign.

"I know they call me 'Middle-Class Joe,'" Biden said during the roundtable. "In Washington, that's not a compliment. And I know what it means; it means you're not sophisticated."

Biden said Northam's authenticity is what earned his seal of approval.

"This is a guy who understands what my dad always taught me, for real ... 'Everyone, everyone, everyone in the world is

entitled to be treated with dignity,'" Biden said.

He didn't want to speak ill of Gillespie, but he generalized.

"The difference between the Republicans generally ... is that they don't think ordinary people can do extraordinary things," he said.

"Ordinary" people can meet the skill gaps

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ONGOING

Artist Exhibit. Through Nov. 18 at Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Artist Sue Wrbican, bringing her most recent photographic series inspired by the landscape paintings of American Surrealist Kay Sage (1898-1963). Free. Visit restonarts.org.

Reston Farm Market, Saturdays, through Dec. 9, 8 a.m. - Noon, Lake Anne Village Center, 11401 North Shore Drive, SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program. (CLOSED for Multicultural Festival Sept. 23)

Herndon Farm Market, Thursdays through Nov. 9, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., by the Red Caboose. SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program.

Jazz in the City Exhibit. Various times at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Kristine Keller and Robert Gilbert paint with an interest in New York. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com.

OCT. 21-NOV. 11

"Aida" the Musical. various times at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods Village Center at 2310 Colts Neck Road. Reston Players presents "Aida" with music by pop legend Sir Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice. Visit restonplayers.org/show1/.

SUNDAY/OCT. 22

Vulture Lecture. 3-5 p.m. at National Wildlife Federation Building, 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston.

Presentation will focus on the life and times of the noble turkey vulture, including its feeding, nesting, and roosting habits, migratory behaviors, and common misconceptions. Visit www.nwf.org/.

Mary Kay Lash Bash. 2-6 p.m. at Molly's Boutique, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Try some false lashes for your everyday look or for your Halloween costume. Free. Visit restontowncenter.scoutandmollys.com.

MONDAY/OCT. 23

Open Venturing Meeting. 7-8 p.m. at Reston YMCA, 12196 Sunset Hills Road, Reston. Learn about Venturing, a Scouting program for boys and girls ages 14-20. Venturing includes high adventure activities, leadership development, personal growth, and service. Call 571-289-1551 or visit www.scouting.org.

TUESDAY/OCT. 24

INOVA Blood Drive. noon-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Free. Call 1-866-256-6372 or visit inova.org/donateblood.

Design and Wine. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Beaded Charms with Deborah Gudelsky. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org/.

THURSDAY/OCT. 26

Meet the Artists. 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza N. Meet the artists behind the The Art of Community exhibit which showcases the legacy of public art in Reston and the planned community's collection of outdoor sculptures and



public artworks. Call 703-709-7700 or email restonmuseum@gmail.com.

OCT. 26-29

Washington West Film Festival. Various times at Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Variety of independent films. Visit wwfilmfest.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Reston Movie Series. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 1967 suspense film where a recently blinded woman is terrorized by a trio of thugs while they search for a valuable doll they believe is in her apartment. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Photo Transfer Workshop. 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. \$45/\$55. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

Art of Community

On Thursday, Oct. 26, meet the artists behind the "The Art of Community," exhibit which showcases the legacy of public art in Reston and the planned community's collection of outdoor sculptures and public artworks. Artists will be on hand 5:30-7 p.m. at Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza N. 703-709-7700 or restonmuseum@gmail.com.

Meet the Musician. 7 p.m. at Bow Tie Cinema, 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Clive Davis is the subject of film that will screen at Washington West Film Festival entitled "Clive Davis: The Soundtrack of Our Lives," which profiles the five-decade career of a music producer. This is part of Washington West Film Festival which runs Oct. 25-30. Visit wwfilmfest.com/.

Trick or Treat at Reston Town Center. noon-4 p.m. at 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Costumed children can celebrate Halloween with visits to participating retailers and the Information Center for treats and goodies. Visit restontowncenter.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Superhero Among Us. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center 11862 Market St. Be Your Own Superhero Day, partnering with ArtInsights and hosting superhero-

themed events all day long. Email info@scrawlbooks.com, call 703-966-2111, or visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

MONDAY/OCT. 30

Spice Up Your Life Lecture. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join nutritionist Natalie Kannan to learn about the health benefits of common culinary spices. This seminar includes an interactive tasting experience that will awaken the senses. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

Storytime with the Author. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center 11862 Market St. Storytime with children's author Megan Wagner Lloyd. Email info@scrawlbooks.com, call 703-966-2111, or visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. at American Tap Room in Reston, 1811 Library Street. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced adults. \$32 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. Visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 6

Franchise Fair. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive. Experts, lenders and a dozen franchisors from various industries will discuss the franchise process. \$35; \$49 at the door. Register at www.capitalfranchiseshow.com. Contact Heather Rosen at 703-291-0939 or hrosen@frannet.com.

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

NEWS

Biden Comes to Reston

FROM PAGE 7

and employment vacancies in information technology, nursing and other “new collar” industries as long as they’re given the chance, Biden said.

But it won’t be cheap.

“As we say out there; there’s no free lunch,” said Northam, Army veteran, doctor and medical practice owner.

The plan would take a large investment from the commonwealth’s coffers, which has already budgeted more than \$36 billion for education in its fiscal year 2017 and 2018 biennium budget.

“There will be an initial investment,” Northam said. “We have estimated that to be \$37 million. But after five years, it actually pays for itself because we have more, better, high-paying jobs in the commonwealth and that revenue comes back to the state. So, it’s a program that allows individuals to go without incurring any debt and that at the end of the day, will bring money actually back to the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

The Virginia unemployment rate is low at 3.8 percent with most jobs in government and the professional and business services industry, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Reston, however, was likely not the target audience for Northam’s message.

This is because the median household income in Reston is greater than \$110,000 and more than 66 percent of the population 25 years and over possess a bachelor’s, graduate or professional degrees, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The roundtable event at Refraction, a coworking and shared office space in Reston Town Center, was closed to the general public. It attracted group of supportive Democratic activists, business leaders and politicians, including delegates Kathleen Murphy (D-

Voting Information

According to the Fairfax County Office of Elections, 2,901 absentee ballots have already been submitted for the upcoming general election. As of Oct. 5, 1,170 were submitted by mail and 1,731 in person at the county’s 10 absentee voting locations.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Absentee ballots must be delivered to the Office of Elections by Election Day, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m.

Absentee in-person voting is available 3:30-7 p.m. on weekdays until Nov. 3. They are also open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 21, 28 and Nov. 4. Polls will be open for in-person voting from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7.

The deadline to register to vote or update an existing registration for the upcoming election (Monday, Oct. 16) has already passed. Virginia voters can access their voter record and locate their designated polling place through the Virginia Department of Elections Citizen Portal at www.Elections.Virginia.gov/Citizen-Portal.

34), and Ken Plum (D-36), and Lieutenant Governor candidate Justin Fairfax.

“It was just great to have [Biden] come in here and really get people enthusiastic,” Northam said. “As you know, we have an election on Nov. 7, but at the same time, we need to be prepared after that date to move Virginia’s economy forward and we do that through preparing our workforce for 21st century jobs.”

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton won the commonwealth last year with 49.7 percent of the votes, or over 1.9 million votes to President Donald Trump’s more than 1.7 million votes, or 44.4 percent of the votes, according to the Virginia Department of Elections.

The Northam campaign is hoping voters lean blue once again for the commonwealth’s highest office. So far, polls are promising: Northam leads Gillespie 51-41 percent, according to the latest Quinnipiac University poll released on Sept. 19. Libertarian candidate Cliff Hyra gets 3 percent.

Lake Anne Hosts Boo & Brews

Lake Anne Plaza will host Boo & Brews - A Lake Anne Halloween Event on Saturday, Oct. 28. It’s that time again to get your spook and trick on. There will be fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Pumpkin painting; pet treats; goody bags and restaurant beer gardens. Dress to scare, spook or trick. Free. Schedule:

- ❖ 12:30-3:30 p.m. Live DJ
 - ❖ 12:30-1:30 p.m. Pet Costume Registration
 - ❖ 1:30-3 p.m. Pet Costume Contest
 - ❖ 4-6 p.m. Live Music — Holly Montgomery Band
 - ❖ 6 p.m. Band performances at Lake Anne Brew House, Kalypso’s Sports Tavern, and Lake Anne Coffee House & Wine Bar.
- Visit www.lakeanneplaza.com.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Reston Association will hold two public hearings on its proposed 2018 Budget and Assessment Rate on:

Oct. 26, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 30, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Both hearings will take place at RA Headquarters, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston.

RA Members are invited to attend and provide comments. Copies of the current draft budget can be found on www.reston.org in the Budget section under About Reston Association > Management & Finance.



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NEWS

Home Tour Highlights ‘New Perspective’

FROM PAGE 6

welcoming spot.

The Zalles family decided that they needed to expand their perspectives, when they moved to a larger home on Spyglass Cove Lane to accommodate their family of four, the furry family members, and the extended family that they love to gather with. The property is a Certified Wildlife Habitat, overlooks the Walker Nature Center and has easy access to one of Reston’s woodland walking trails.

To capture the natural wonders just outside their back doors, the Zalles added an independent heating source to a glassed-in three season room, making it an ideal study or just a comfortable place to sit, relax, and watch nature do her thing.

THE TREES in front and in the back of the transitional-style townhome on Hemingway Drive are what attracted Terry and June McGurn to the property, as well as the “London Square” look of the oval the property faces. The McGurns could tell you a thing or two about having perspective. Only three weeks after completing a kitchen and master bath renovation on the home they purchased in 2012, a fire that started on the deck destroyed the back of the house and did considerable damage to the rest of the dwelling.

“They handled the whole thing amazingly well,” said Mina Fies, founder of Reston-based Synergy Design and Construction. She and her partner, husband Mark Fies, were on hand to illustrate the before and afters to the fire-damaged house that Synergy rebuilt for the McGurns.

While Reston may be most famous for its clusters and village-style homes, there’s no denying that apartment and condo living has added a much bigger footprint to the area in recent years, and the amount of development in progress promises even more high-density living options. To offer the tour-goers that different perspective on Reston living, Karen and Alan Reynolds shared their view of Reston Town Center from their 14th floor digs in the Stratford House Place complex.

The folks at just-opened Aperture apartments at Reston Station, directly across from the Metro complex, spotlighted the newest living option in the area. The spacious and modern common area, adjacent to the pool and outdoor amenities was the venue for refreshments, while two different floor plans were available for inspection.

As always, tour ticket prices benefitted the Reston Historic Trust, and the Wine Cabinet at Northpoint



Most Restonians will recognize these works being exhibited by local artist Dana Scheurer. On the left is Scheurer’s commission of the Reston Home Tour’s logo and to the right is a much smaller version of the Midtown Mural that brightens a stretch of New Dominion Parkway.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER



Mark Fies of Synergy Design and Construction shows Restonians Margaret Cotroneo and Norm Reich some of the plans from the re-build done after fire destroyed significant portions of the McGurns home on Hemingway Drive. Fies, and his wife Mina, the founder of Synergy, were on hand at the stop to highlight before and after photos of the kitchen remodel.



Might be hard to get your work done with this view from the three-season room at the Spyglass Cove Lane tour stop. Walk out the doors and you are practically on the trail through the Walker Nature Center.

Village continued their tradition of offering wine tastings to tour attendees, and contributing 10 percent of any sales from the day to the Trust.

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 18

FCPS Community Conversations. 6:30-8 p.m. at Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston, Lecture Hall (Region 1). Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will host Community Conversations to hear what students, parents, employees, and members of the community are thinking about and what issues are important to them. Citizens needing a translator can make a request for services online. Visit www.fcps.edu/news/superintendent-brabrand-schedules-five-community-conversations-fall.

Women's Health Lecture. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dr. Bridget Oppong, from Reston Breast Care Specialists, will answer questions. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 23

Hot Topics Discussion. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The topic for this month is "News Blues and How To Defuse." Practice using respectful and positive communication techniques when discussing hot button issues. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 24

INOVA Blood Drive. noon-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Free. Call 1-866-256-6372 or visit inova.org/donateblood.

ID Theft Lecture. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. "Protect Yourself From Fraud and ID Theft," is the topic that trained speakers from AARP Fraud Watch Network will discuss. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

Candidate Forum. 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold an in-person forum for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates. The public and press are encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 26

Business Lecture. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dollars and Sense discussion focuses on businesses. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Reston District Station, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Drop off unused or expired medications at a Fairfax County Police district station. Pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles. Safe disposal of unused or expired medications prevents drug abuse and misuse, accidental poisoning, and protects the environment. Disposal is free, convenient, confidential, and safe. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/ or www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html for more.

NOV. 16-17

Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive. To support this year's Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive, confirm your donation commitment by Oct. 31 at www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives. Call 571-323-9569 or nate.king@cornerstonesva.org.

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"Righty Tightly, Lefty Loosey"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

So I've been told mnemonically for years. But when you're home and automotive-repair challenged as I am, everything is much easier said than done, especially when the mnemonic device is easier to handle/figure out than whatever tool and/or schematic is necessary/advisable for the at-home/in-driveway repair. (We don't have a garage, or much of a basement for that matter. It's more of a cellar, actually. In fact, I call it "the dug out," so lack of spatial accommodations can exacerbate the problem).

And that's sort of how I feel whenever I attempt a home/car-owner-type repair. Soon after I organize whatever thoughts and tools I guess I might need: within minutes of the initial effort, I will have likely complicated the repair and will be forced to dig myself out, sometimes literally. I'll spare you the details, but suffice to say, I am a man of my word and that word is disaster. To invoke the great and often-quoted Dirty Harry: "A man's got to know his limitations," (Magnum Force, 1973), and believe me, I do.

Granted, replacing bulbs in my house, as written in the final paragraph of last week's column: "What To 'Ware,'" ranks pretty low on the home owner's list of honey-can-you-do?. Nevertheless, challenges do present themselves, especially when height and a ladder – or a step stool, with no spotter, are involved. And when I'm looking up with arms outstretched attacking the problem: light fixture from multiple angles, sometimes, when I place my hand on the bulb, I begin to lose my orientation and am unsure where's 'Righty and where's 'Lefty.' And even though I always remember 'Tightly and 'Loosey,' when 'Righty Tightly, Lefty Loosely' doesn't immediately bring results, I tend to lose patience – and confidence, and slowly retreat to lower ground to reassess.

Unfortunately, there's no one to call. I mean, when you fail at the most basic and fundamental responsibility a home/car owner has, it's difficult, even for someone with as little ego as me, to admit abject failure. Repairing a toilet, installing light fixtures and/or ceiling fans; sawing, sanding, measuring, leveling and drilling; lifting, balancing and carrying; and anything else involving plumbing, electrifying; and even hammering and screwing in general, are tasks I don't mind asking and/or paying for. Having been down this road many times before, I know it's a path that won't lead to my redemption.

So not wanting to make a bad situation worse, or create a problem where one or two previously didn't exist, I have to employ the simplest of solutions. And what's simpler than "a pithy observation that contains a general truth:" an aphorism (Dictionary. com), an aid to one's lack of memory and ability to perform even the most basic of tasks, particularly as it pertains to a home owner: bulb replacement.

Not that this inability is at all defensible. It's not. It's totally indefensible and one whose defense is not all explainable by the most offensive of terms: cancer. Which as you regular readers know has been the bane of my existence going back to late February 2009. That's when my Internal Medicine doctor called me at work to share the results of my previous week's surgical biopsy. His suggestion was that we meet in his office to discuss the results. I shook my head in disbelief. If he wants to meet me in person, the results must be bad, I thought. Otherwise, he'd just tell me, right? I asked him to hold on as I found a private office for us to talk (me to react) and braced myself. He told me the growth was malignant and suggested I see an oncologist as soon as possible. An appointment was set for the following Thursday.

Much has changed in my life ever since that fateful day, but not as it concerns this home/car owner's inability to handle the most mundane tasks. Might haven actually gotten worse. As for "the cancer," as "Forrest, Forrest Gump" described the cause of his mother's death, not so bad. I am alive and reasonably well, eight years and nearly two months out, six years plus past the end date of my original "13 month to two year" prognosis. Of that I'm proud. As for the home and car repair deficiencies, I couldn't care less. I have to admit though, it is laughable – and pathetic.

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

Boosting a Child's Self-Esteem

A positive self image is a lifelong gift.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the greatest gifts that a parent can give a child is a healthy self-esteem. Positive feelings about oneself can lead to success in a gamut of situations ranging from school to social circles, say child development experts.

"Self-esteem plays an important role at all stages of our lives," said psychologist Stacie B. Isenberg, Psy.D. "As adults, it can affect how one approaches situations and interacts with other people. When self-esteem is low, it may, for example, affect work performance or one's ability to recognize and enjoy accomplishments."

Parents play an essential part in the development of their child's self-esteem, advises Cheryl Giacomelli, who teaches psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "Parents foster self-esteem in many ways including leading by example, being emotionally available, engaging with their children, and providing a loving and supportive environment that allows children to succeed and fail," she said.

Parents can model this behavior in everyday tasks. "For example, while helping a child with a math assignment and not understanding the math problem, the parent

who says 'I can't believe I don't understand this, I was always terrible at math' is sending a different message than the parent who says, 'I'm not sure about this one. Let's ask your teacher to explain it to us in a different way,'" said Isenberg. "Parents can benefit themselves and their children by learning to describe situations according to the specific circumstances and resisting putting a generalized label on the situation or their behavior."

Since children learn by observation, modeling healthy relationships and habits is a vital component of developing a healthy self-esteem, suggests Giacomelli. "Choose an activity once a day in which you are fully engaged with your child," she said. "This may sound like common sense, however in today's busy world, it's sometimes difficult to devote all of your attention to one task. This means playing a game or reading a book and ensuring your cell phone is nowhere in sight."

"Experiences that may negatively impact the development of a strong sense of self occur when we do not fully engage with our children, when we do not allow our children to fail, and when we do not acknowledge our own faults," continued Giacomelli

Avoid harsh criticisms and display expressions of love, warmth and affection, advises Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, LCPC, professor of psychology at Montgomery College-Germantown.

"Children's self-esteem develops based on how well their parents love them," she said. "The best thing parents can do is to openly and unconditionally love and accept their child. Parents ... can do so verbally, by telling their children often that they love them and by being openly affectionate, with hugs, for example. Parents can also communicate warmth through their tone of voice, and eye contact."

PRAISING CHILDREN is important, but it must be sincere. Even setbacks can offer opportunities for developing a healthy self-esteem, suggests Isenberg. "Children feel good about themselves when they have received genuine, positive reinforcement from people and situations," she said. "Praising a child's efforts is one of the best things parents can reinforce, because a child can control his effort, whereas outcome isn't always within one's control."

One example that Isenberg offers is saying something like, "I'm so proud of how hard you studied for that science test. You

spent a lot of time reviewing the material and were really dedicated to being prepared."

Allowing children to learn to do things on their own and even experience a setback within a supportive environment may increase feelings of confidence and competence, says Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University.

"Parents may do too much for children or protect them from failure so that children do not learn to cope with difficult situations and soothe themselves," he said. "Children should believe that they have worth for being a unique person."

Fostering opportunities for positive social interaction with their peers can lead to a healthy self-esteem, says Short. "Children who have close friendships and reciprocal sharing with friends tend to have higher self-esteem," he said. "Children's successful accomplishment of goals also boosts self-esteem."

Establishing boundaries and setting limits with children can instill a sense of safety and security, advises Short. "Authoritative parenting that is high in support and high in structure and expectations contributes to children's positive sense of self," he said.



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