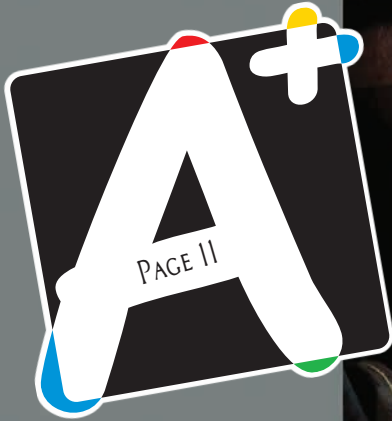


Fairfax Station **CONNECTION** Clifton & Lorton



The Shah family of Lorton — Rabia, Rehaan, and Ayan — “ride” inside a fire truck during the Open House at Lorton Volunteer Fire Department Company #19 on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017.

Lorton Fire Station Holds Open House

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Bonds Not Guilty

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Bunnyman Demystified

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Firefighter Paramedic Jason Dolan shows how IV therapy works inside an ambulance.

Lorton Fire Station Holds Open House

191 people visit Company # 19 at Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

Some 191 visitors attended the Open House at the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department Company #19 on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017. Children and parents could talk with firefighters and EMS personnel, pose for photos, and take tours at the station on Armistead Road in Lorton.

According to Mark Altabano, Volunteer Emergency Medical Technician, "Fairfax County has an Open House where the volunteer stations and the career stations put together a community outreach event where we open up the fire house to kids' picture opportunities."

He added, "We give away free hats; we also do opportunities for our volunteer stations' recruitment. We also explain the EMS side, which is the emergency medical services side, as well as the fire service side and how they help each other out within the community."

— STEVE HIBBARD



The Shah family of Lorton — Rabia, Rehaan, and Ayan — "ride" inside a fire truck during the Open House at Lorton Volunteer Fire Department Company #19 on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017.



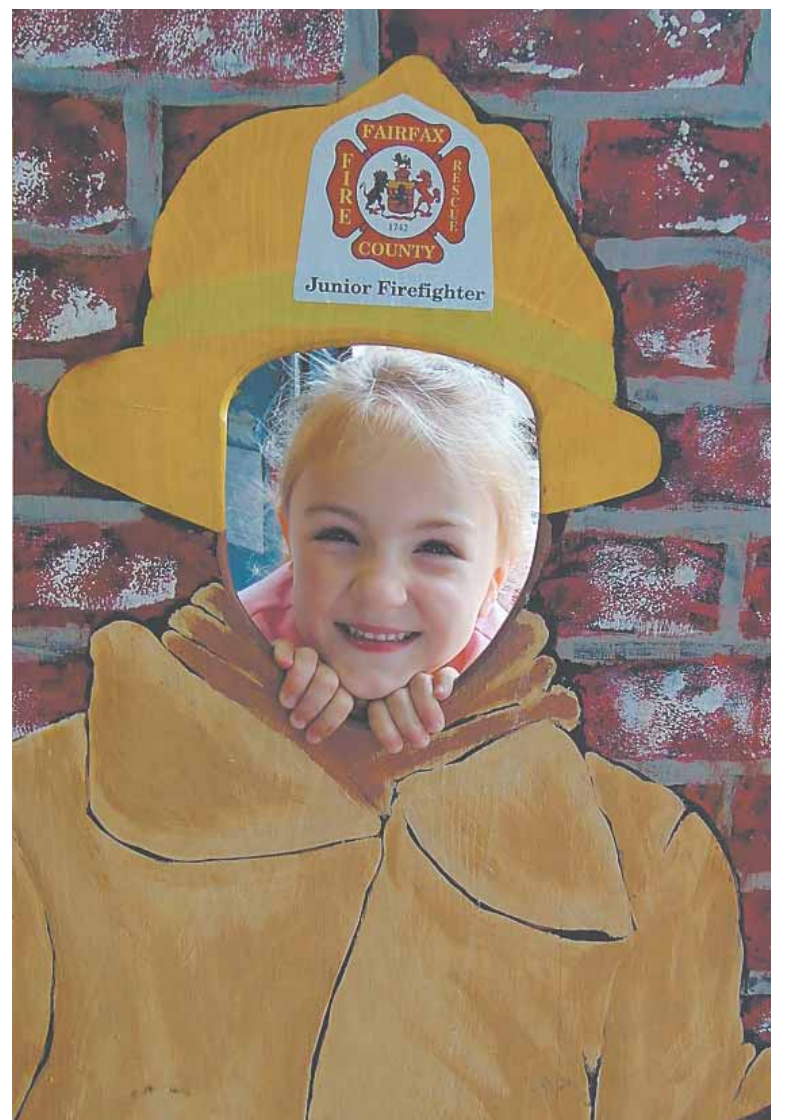
Ainsley Poole of Lorton "drives" the fire truck.



Jeremy Lopez Salazar of Lorton shoots the fire hose.



A.J. Long and Alesandria Fryar of Lorton practice CPR on an inflatable mannequin.



Paetynn Vaughn of Woodbridge poses inside the Junior Firefighter cut-out.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

After Second Trial, Bonds Not Guilty

Teen was charged with murder at Cabell's Mill.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



Kempton Bonds

When Clifton resident Kempton Bonds was first tried for murder, this summer, the jurors were unable to reach a unanimous verdict and a mistrial was declared. The second time around, with a new jury, he was found not guilty.

A 2015 Robinson Secondary School graduate, Bonds was a seasonal employee of the Fairfax County Park Authority when the offense occurred, Aug. 6, 2016, at Cabell's Mill in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. The victim was Tyonne Johns, 35, of Washington, D.C., and she had just catered a wedding there when Bonds fatally stabbed her.

However, the facts of the case aren't that cut and dried, as the jury learned during the week-long trial that began Sept. 25 in Circuit Court. Bonds was just 19 when the wedding occurred, but he was there to protect the historic building and he took his job seriously. According to the wedding party, he was such a stickler for the rules that he and they clashed throughout the evening.

Bonds took down decorations not allowed to be taped to the walls of the historic building and removed fake rose petals from the grounds outside because they weren't biodegradable. He also turned off the music at 9 p.m. when, according to the contract, it had to stop — an hour before the event ended at 10 p.m.

HE AND JOHNS never argued until it was cleanup time and her folding chairs were being separated from those provided by the Park Authority. But during the course of the wedding, Bonds felt so threatened by the wedding party that he started taping them on his phone. He even called his supervisor for advice, as well as the police, saying he feared for his wellbeing. And at one point, he had the police come to the site and talk to the others.

Bonds also videotaped the eight minutes before and after the stabbing, and the court watched that tape several times and heard what was said by everyone — including the personal threats and cursing of the wedding party and Johns toward Bonds.

The tensions ultimately boiled over when, on the patio, someone asked how many chairs the Park Authority provided and Bonds said, "80." Johns reacted by walking swiftly toward Bonds and telling him to "Shut the f*#k up." Bonds testified that Johns had him backed up against a railing, grabbed him around the neck and began choking him.

In his pocket was a folding knife he regularly used on the job to open boxes and, at home, to cut open bales of hay for his family's horses.

It was also special to him because it was made by his late father, who was a custom knife-maker. He said he only stabbed Johns with it to get her away from him and save his life.

Right before then, said Bonds, "People were yelling at me about how awful I was and how I'd ruined the evening." Noting that the bride and groom had been the most verbally abusive toward him all night, he said it surprised him when the 60-pound-heavier Johns suddenly joined in and walked quickly toward him saying, "Boy, I'm

gonna knock you out."

"I was confused — it wasn't her wedding," said Bonds. "And as a caterer, she knew what it was like to deal with a bad wedding party. Her hands go up around my throat, she's pushed me and I can't breathe, I can't move. I could feel her thumb digging into my neck. I open the knife in my pocket and stab her to get her off me. I scream for the police and yell for the others to stay away from me."

BONDS SHOUTED for the police to come help him because, when they were there earlier, they assured him they'd stay on the scene, just out of sight, in case he needed them again. But unbeknownst to him, they'd been called to an auto accident and had left.

Considering himself the victim of an assault, he then called 911 to say he'd been attacked and asked police to come quickly. Bonds said he hadn't realized he'd wounded Johns fatally until he heard it over the police radio in the squad car following his arrest.

Before the whole incident happened and derailed his plans, Bonds was looking forward to starting college last fall at VCU. And once the jury returned its "not guilty" verdict on Oct. 4, not only did it mean that the young man was exonerated, but also that he's free to go on with his life.

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NEWS

Fatal Crash in Lorton Investigated

Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives are investigating a fatal crash in Lorton over the weekend involving a motorcycle and a pickup truck.

It happened on Richmond Highway near Mims Street around 12:30 Saturday afternoon.

According to police, the 2008 Kawasaki ZX-6 motorcycle was travelling northbound on Richmond Highway when it crested a hill and collided with a 1998 Ford F-150.

The truck was making a left turn from southbound Richmond Highway when the motorcycle hit the passenger side. The motorcyclist, 38-year-old Nathan Lamont Reed of Lorton, was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The driver of the pickup truck was not injured.

It is unknown if speed or alcohol were factors at this time.

The crash remains under investigation.



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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 replacing 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/>

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)



COMMENTARY

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.

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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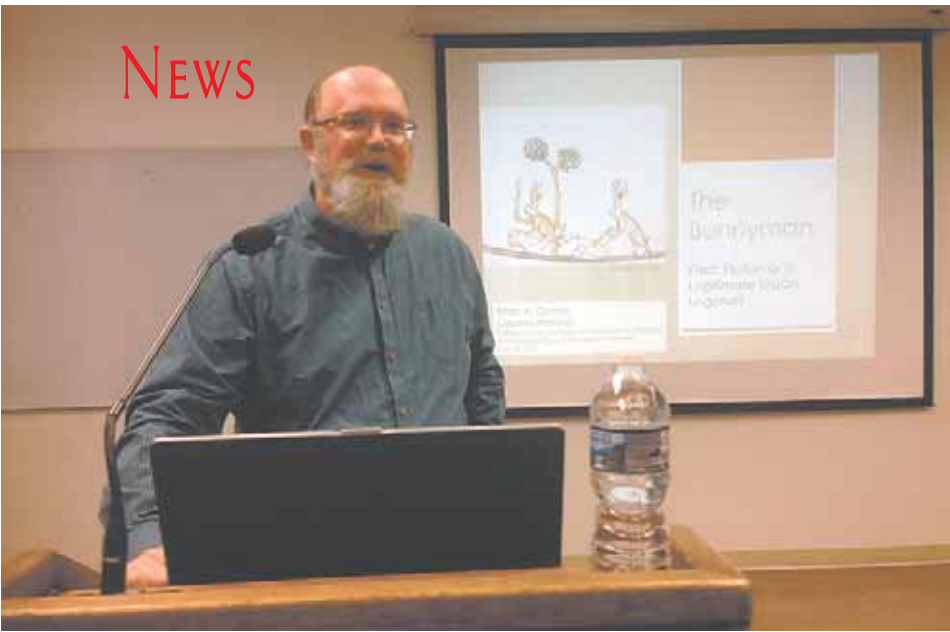
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Fairfax historian Brian Conley has looked into the legend of the bunnyman bridge extensively.

The Elusive Trail of the Bunnyman Urban Myth

Fairfax County Library investigator:
“This Guy Doesn’t Exist.”

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The overpass that carries railroad tracks over Colchester Road in Fairfax Station has earned a reputation through the years from a story involving dead rabbits, an insane asylum, escaped prisoners, and unexplained deaths. The story, which dates back to 1904, is as roving as the single lane roads that lead to the bridge, but doesn’t have any verifiable facts to stand on, said Fairfax County archivist Brian Conley, who has made the legend of Bunnyman Bridge a focus in recent times.

“First time I heard of it was as a teenager,” he said in a recent “Forgotten Fairfax,” presentation at the City of Fairfax Regional Library on Saturday, Oct. 14.

Conley’s presentation had a timeline that started in 1903 at an asylum in Clifton, and rambles to 1904 when escaped convicts were on the run and “they found one of the inmates dead, hanging from the bridge,” the

rumor mill reported. In 1905 there was a group of teenagers killed in the area, a murder in 1976 near the bridge, and another in 1987. These reports were all summarized by Timothy J. Forbes, but according to Conley, “this guy doesn’t exist.” The dates and incidents were reportedly from the archives of the Clifton Town Library, which does not exist either, and the “names never check out,” his investigation concluded. It was the magic of the urban legend, helped by the internet that made the legend bigger.

IN CONLEY’S INVESTIGATION, there were a few unsolved murders in the Burke-Fairfax Station area, which added to the intrigue, which included the Holober murders involving the Green Forest Nudist Colony in February 1949, the Ridgeway murders in 1927 where a man named Louis Boersig was executed for killing his wife and daughter, and then the murder of Eva Roy in

SEE BUNNYMAN, PAGE 10

One of Brian Conley’s slides shows one of the first real references to a bunnyman in a 1970 headline.



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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 impor-

tant, 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."

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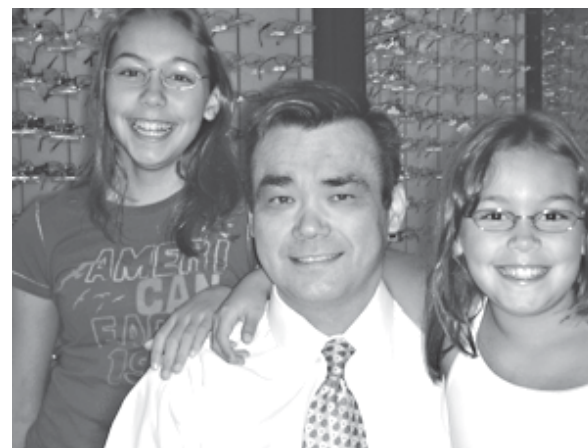
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THROUGH OCTOBER

Fall Festival and Pumpkin

Playground. Various times at Burke Nursery & Garden Centre, 9401 Burke Road, Burke. Weekdays is \$10 per person and the weekend price is \$14 per person. Call 703-323-1188 for more.

Pumpkin Patch. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. Buy fall pumpkins and decorative gourds grown by Native American farmers to support jobs in a high unemployment area in Arizona. Email office@stgumc.org or call 703-385-4550.

OCT. 16-19

Halloween Costume Exchange.

Drop off various times at Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Pick up new costume on Friday, Oct. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Drop off gently used and clean Halloween costumes Monday through Thursday, and come pick up a great second hand costume for this year on Friday. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-385-7858.

THURSDAY/OCT. 19

Cabaret Performance. 7 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Live musical entertainment by featured actors and singers from the City of Fairfax Theatre Company. Visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 20

Pathway to Wellness Conference. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Keynote Speaker will be Jennifer Marshall, founder of "This is My Brave," and other presenters will talk about how creativity, poetry, music and dance can be part of recovery. \$30. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb or email wwwcsb@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Cocktails by Candlelight. 6:30 p.m. at at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Sip on period cocktails as you learn to how to make 18th-century mixed drinks and snacks in the hearth kitchen. \$35, \$25 for Friends of Gunston Hall. Call 703-550-9220 ext. 240 or email mkcraver@gunstonhall.org for more.

OCT. 20-21

Fairfax City Ghost Tours. 7-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415

North St., Fairfax. Stories of the spirited individuals who may still roam Old Town Fairfax. Comfortable walking shoes advised. Cider and treats provided. \$15. Ages 12 and up. Call 703-385-7858 or email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

2nd Annual Shelane's 5K Run/Walk. 7:30 a.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free kids activities: rock wall, moon bounce, face painting, arts and crafts and more. Come run/walk to help raise awareness and resources for postpartum mood disorders in memory of Shelane Dawn Gaydos. \$30 for 5K, kids fun run, \$10. Visit shelanesrun.org/ or call 571-332-9026 for more.

Help The Homeless 5K Walk 2017. 8:30 a.m. At Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. A 5K through the neighborhoods of Fairfax City or the 1.5 mile short course. \$32. Visit www.PathwayHomes.org or call 703-876-0390.

Forge Brew Works Anniversary. noon-10 p.m. at Forge's Taproom, 8532 Terminal Road, Lorton. Forge Brew Works celebrates our year anniversary with live music, food, games for all, kids' activities, and, of course, beer – some of which will be served out of Forge's restored vintage 1953 GMC Beer Truck. Visit www.forgebrewworks.com for more.

Trick or Treating. 1-3 p.m. at The Colonnade, Braddock and Union Mills Road, Clifton. Rain or shine. Visit www.rappaportco.com or call 571-382-1200 for more.

2017 Library Jubilee Gala Fundraiser. 5:30-8 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "The Library Goes Hollywood" with food, ice cream, auction and photo booth with VIP Hollywood guest, Marilyn Monroe. \$75. Call 703-324-8300 or email Jubilee@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org for more.

Trunk or Treat. 6-8 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church (FUMC), 6037 Franconia Road. Games, snacks, hot cider in the church parking lot. Visit www.franconiaumc.org/ or call 703-971-5151 for more.

Campfire Stargazing. 8-10 p.m. at Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Astronomical naturalist identifies the stars, constellations and other night-sky features, and make S'mores. \$10. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/ for more.

OCT. 21-22

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester

Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit www.whitehall.farm for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 22

Baby2Tot Fest. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The day will include a vendor showcase, professionally-led parenting workshops, Preschool Alley featuring area preschools, Little Planets' natural play area, "Ask a Professional" Corner Café, onsite demos, kid-friendly crafts and entertainment, door prizes, and giveaways. Visit jccnv.org/baby2totfest or call 703-323-0880 for more information.

Clifton's Ivakota Farm History. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Lynne Garvey-Hodge, a Fairfax County History Commissioner, lectures on Clifton's Ivakota Farm, which from 1915 to 1925 served as a school and home for unwed mothers and their children. Call 703-324-8300 or email Jubilee@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 27

Final 2017 Rock the Block Concert. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North Street Fairfax. Vinyl Invention performs. Visit www.fairfaxcityeda.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Vendor Fair Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Liberty Middle School, 6801 Union Mill Road, Clifton. School fundraiser and raffle. Email lularoekellylisa@gmail.com for more.

Halloween Fest. 3-5 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. Featuring entertainment by magician, Carnegie Master of Mystery, face painting and craft activities. Children can stop by Guest services to get their trick or treat bag. Visit springfieldtowncenter.com for more.

OCT. 28-29

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit www.whitehall.farm for more.



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NEWS

Bunnyman Demystified

FROM PAGE 7

Burke, where she was strangled and tied to a tree but it was never solved. "To this day, they have no idea what happened to this woman," Conley said. None involved the bridge though.

In October 1970, there was a story in the Washington Post, with a headline "Man in Bunny Suit Sought in Fairfax," where a guy with a hatchet attacked a couple in a car on Guinea Road. According to another Post entry "he did appear about a week later right on Guinea Road," Conley said about a guy with a white thing over his head. That seems to be where the "bunnyman," part of the legend started. "I can find no evidence that the story was ever told before 1970," Conley said.

But folks have heard it. Ivy Mitchell, a teenage resident of Clifton, heard it from her babysitter. "An escaped man, he was hiding in the woods eating rabbits, he started to kill people," she said.

Springfield resident Barbara Evans, who attended Conley's presentation, heard it from her two sons years ago. "We actually went out to find the bridge," she said.

There was a story in the Fairfax Globe, dated Oct. 29, 1970, about the police report from the couple on Guinea Road. "I'm convinced this was the genesis of the story," said Conley. In the Globe story, the man had a white covering on his head, which could have been a pillowcase or a Klu Klux Klan hood, which was mentioned in one of the reports Conley looked at, but "they didn't say it was a bunny suit, somebody else added that to the story," Conley said.

IN THAT REPORT, the action was close to a house owned by Lloyd Aylestock, and the house is still there, and someone named Bennet has a wall hanging with the actual hatchet mounted to it. One of the slides had a picture of the actual hatchet mounted on someone's plaque that was used to break the car's windows.

Conley did track down two of the Aylestock children, who are now adults, and "they backed up the newspaper account," Conley said. But this was in Burke, and miles away from the bridge. Conley examined 1970's era photos of the bridge area and there were only three houses remotely close to the bridge at that time and not much else. One of the houses had ties to a motorcycle gang back then.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The railroad underpass on Colchester Road is the site of the urban myth known as Bunnyman Bridge.

Next in 'Forgotten Fairfax' — 'Night of Terror'

The Next "Forgotten Fairfax," lecture is on Saturday, Nov. 4, 11 a.m., when Lynne Garvey-Hodge speaks about the "Night of Terror," when 33 female protesters were incarcerated and tortured at the Occoquan Workhouse for picketing the White House for the right to vote. The lecture is at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room A/B, 10360 North St., Fairfax.

In recent times though, there have been a few books written about the bridge, four "low budget horror films," made about a bunnyman, a rock opera and a bunnyman quilt available on an art website, continuing the urban myth.

"It will not die," Conley said of the story.

Bahá'ís Mark 200th Anniversary of Founder's Birth

Bahá'ís across Fairfax County are preparing to mark the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, on Oct. 22, 2017.

Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892) was a spiritual teacher who announced in 1863 that he was the Bearer of a new revelation from God. His teachings have spread around the world, forming the basis of a process of social transformation and community building which is unique in its global scope and the diversity of participants.

Bahá'ís regard Bahá'u'lláh's

vision of the oneness of humanity as an antidote to the racial prejudice, violence and materialism that are corroding human societies. At the grassroots level in Fairfax County and all around the country, Bahá'ís invite their neighbors, colleagues and friends of all backgrounds to participate in a series of community-building activities which reinforce Bahá'u'lláh's vision of the oneness of humanity and empower participants to contribute.

The Bahá'í community and its friends will celebrate the transformative impact of Bahá'u'lláh's

teachings on the lives of families, neighborhoods and communities around the country and the world. Plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary around Fairfax County will incorporate drama, music, art exhibits, storytelling, service projects, prayer and devotional programs, including a screening of a film about the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh, to be held at George Mason University on Oct. 22.

To learn more, contact 571-320-5274 or email fairfaxsw@gmail.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold four in-person forums and three televised forums for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.org. In-person forums: * **Wednesday, Oct. 25** at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

BRADDOCK ROAD STUDY

Community Meetings. Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a series of community meetings focused on specific sections of Braddock Road this fall. The schedule includes:

- ❖ **Wednesday, Oct. 25:** Burke Lake intersection – Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke
- ❖ **Thursday, Nov. 16:** Ravensworth Road intersection – Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale
- ❖ **Monday, Dec. 11:** Burke Lake intersection, second meeting – Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke

The goal of the Braddock Road Multimodal Study is to develop commuting improvements for the corridor from Guinea Road to I-495 to Ravensworth Road. For meeting times, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/braddockroadmmstudy/.

THURSDAY/OCT. 23

CarFit for Senior Drivers. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Police Station, 3730 Old Lee Highway. CarFit's trained professionals take older drivers through a 12-point checklist with their vehicles and recommend minor adjustments that help make their cars "fit" better for comfort and safety. Visit www.fairfaxcityeda.org.

Community Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fairfax County DOT has scheduled a series of public meetings for the community to learn more about the projects proposed for funding. Each of the meetings will begin with an open house followed by a formal presentation and a Q&A session. There will be map display boards for residents to view of the unfunded projects as well as transportation projects currently underway. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tpp2017.htm.

TUESDAY/OCT. 24

Postsecondary Education Planning. 9-10:30 a.m. at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1-Room 100. A Coffee and Conversation session for parents of students with disabilities. Staff from FCPS Career and Transition Services will discuss disclosure, accessing accommodations, and disability support services as you plan for postsecondary education for your child with special needs. Visit www.fcps.edu for more.

OCT. 24-DEC. 19

Journaling for Stepmothers Class. 10 a.m.-noon at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Use a journal as a tool for self-discovery to become more resilient, empowered, and clear in the role. \$195. Email lisa@marketstreetwriters.com or call 703-281-1767.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fair Oaks District Station, 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, Franconia District Station, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria or West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield.. 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.

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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 Loosey' 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.



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OPEN
SUNDAY

Fairfax - \$659,000

Don't miss this opportunity! Largest model on a cul de sac in sought-after Kings Park West community! So many features throughout the 3 finished levels! Welcome Home!



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OPEN
SUN 1-4

Springfield - \$619,900

7402 Shady Palm Dr. Move in ready home with so many updates! New roof, stainless kitchen w/ quartz counters, renov master bath. Multi level deck, fenced back yard. Very private 0.3 acre, backs to woods!



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SOLD
Fairfax Station
\$719,000
BACKS TO WOODED COMMON GROUND!
Beautiful 2 story Colonial with full finished basement in sought-after Crosspointe! 4 bedrms, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage, large eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, and many extras! This home is SOLD now, but call now to tour other similar properties. Interest rates are still very low...don't miss this opportunity to buy your Dream Home NOW!!! CALL STEVE CHILDRESS 703-981-3277



Sheila Adams

703-503-1895
Life Member, NVAR Multi Million Dollar Sales Club
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Fairfax \$636,900
Gorgeous 4 BR Colonial in beautiful Middlebridge. Home offers year round sunroom, deck with hot tub, trees line back yard providing privacy for perfect entertaining. Garage holds three cars (perfect for boat or antique car lover).
Call Sheila 703-503-1895.



Jim Fox

703.503.1800
jim.fox@LNF.com
L&F "Top 20" 2012-2014
Washingtonian Magazine's "Top Team" 2015
NVAR Lifetime Top Producer



JUST LISTED
Fairfax Station
\$899,900
Expansive Rambler
One-of-a-kind. Expanded ramble w/6000+ sqft. 7BR/5.5BA. Gorgeous, secluded setting on ~2 acres. Expansive MBR w/dual walk-ins, lux bath & lg sitting rm. Cath ceiling in big LR, Formal DR. Eat-in KT w/access to screened porch & deck. Massive fam rm off KT w/frpl & built-ins. Lower lvl boasts walkout rec rm. 4BR/3BA & storage galore. Delightful pool. Long list of improvements.



Judy McGuire

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Alexandria
Must see this lovely 4 level TH w/elevator in Landmark Mews. Over 4000 sq ft, on premium lot with slate patio, professionally landscaped, exterior brick privacy wall, plenty of parking. Last bus stop to Pentagon metro. Call Judy McGuire at 703-581-7679.

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Gainesville Heritage Hunt 55+ COMING SOON
Beautifully updated 1-level home. 2 BR, 2 BA, Grnt Kit, new granite, new SS appls, new HDWD, new paint, Liv, Din, Sunroom, new lights, 2 car Gar. New roof. Backs to trees. Please call for info.



Gainesville Heritage Hunt 55+ \$584,900
PRIVATE RETREAT. Backs to woods - front porch water view! 3 lvl "Tigerlily"; 3 BR, 3 BA; Den, grnt Kit w island, SS Appl, credit for granite, new BA lights & Faucets, Liv, Din, Summr, Gas Fpl, HDWDs, Fans, Loft, Walkout LL, Screen porch, 2 car Gar, Irrigation sys. NEW ROOF!

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UNDER CONTRACT

Fairfax - \$459,900

Meticulously Maintained 3 Level Brick Front Townhouse Has 3 Bedrooms, 3 Full, 1 Half Bath. New Carpet and Paint. Recently Replaced Kitchen Appliances. Hardwoods Throughout. Main Level. Kitchen Walks Out to Spacious Deck. Overlooking Manicured Common Area. Lower Level has Den, Full Bath, and Large Rec Room. New Lighting Fixtures & Blinds. All Windows Replaced.



SOLD

Burke \$645,000

Lovely Burke Home. 5 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, 2 Car Gar. Kitchen remodeled with corian counters, SS appliances, ceramic tile flooring & tile backsplash. Stone walkway and matching front porch. New Windows in 2014. New blinds 2016. 2 Zone Heating. Baths remodeled 2014. Hardwood floors main level. Fin Basement w/ new carpeting & full bath. Lovely Signal Hill neighborhood. Call for addtl details & pricing.

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UNDER CONTRACT

Springfield \$395,000

Beautifully updated 3BR, 3.5BA TH in popular Shannon Station! Hardwood floors on ML. Updated Kitchen w/ granite, SS appliances, and decorator backsplash. Fenced yard backs to wooded common area.



ELLIE WESTER

703-503-1880

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ellie.wester@longandfooster.com



SOLD

Fairfax Station - \$699,000

Beautifully maintained and improved home in the desirable Fairfax Station neighborhood. Over 2800 finished space with updated baths and kitchen, 4 bedrooms, main level library as well as replacement windows. Half acre with common area on three sides. Neighborhood swim club and tennis.



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