



Springfield CONNECTION

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Participants walk the path around Lake Accotink in Springfield during the fifth-annual, two-mile Fall Walk, which raised about \$32,000 for the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area (HACA) on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017.

Fall Walk for Hemophilia Association

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Fire Trucks and Firefighters Came Out for the Open House

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Penn Daw Village Stands Tall As Redevelopment Inches Closer

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FAITH

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

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 6 p.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, offers Early Morning Service at 8 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Bible Study at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and

Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

Faith Communities in Action meets the first Wednesday of every other month from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The Bahá'í Community of Fairfax County Southwest offers

Interfaith Devotions, Children's Classes, Junior Youth Groups and Study Circles, which are open to all. For more information on these or to know more about the Bahá'í Faith, go to www.bahai.us or 571-320-5274.

St. Leo the Great in Fairfax hosts "Night of Praise" the first Saturday of each month, featuring praise music and Eucharist adoration at 7 p.m. Located at 3704 Old Lee Highway in Fairfax.

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, offers a traditional service on Sundays at 8:15 and 11:15 a.m. and a contemporary service on Sundays at 9:45

a.m. www.stmatthewsumc.org or 703-978-3500.

The Immanuel Bible Church MOPS group meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. MOPS is for pregnant or parenting mothers of children from infancy to kindergarten. 703-922-4295 or www.MOPS.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield, 7300 Gary St., Springfield, has traditional and contemporary Sunday services at 10:30 a.m., Sunday school at 9:15 a.m. Special worldwide services offered at special times throughout the year in English, Spanish and Ethiopian.

The pastors are Jim Weaver and Jason Mitchell. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

The following is a list of events at **Mount Calvary Baptist Church,** 4325 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax:

- ❖ Adult Bible Study every Wednesday starting at 7 p.m., Youth Bible Study at 7:15 p.m.
- ❖ Full Praise and Baptism Service at 7 p.m., the last Wednesday of every month
- ❖ Sunday morning service at 10 a.m., the 4th Sunday of every month
- ❖ Men's Ministry Bible Class, the Saturday before the 4th Sunday of every month

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The Fairfax County Fire Department sponsored an open house day for all to talk with the firefighters and see the equipment.



Fireman Kevin Nishiyama discusses the truck with Cecilia Caceras and Valeria Vargas, both from Alexandria.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Fire Trucks and Firefighters Came Out for the Open House

BY MIKE SALMON
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Zack Harvey, 5, sat behind the wheel of a fire truck at West Springfield Station at their open house on Saturday, Oct. 14 and pondered his future as a fireman. “I’m still thinking about it,” the youngster said, so he grabbed the wheel, pushed a few buttons and climbed down to the waiting arms of his mother.

It went like that all day, as firefighters were out front for the Fire Department open house, an event “to meet your

firefighters, see the fire trucks, join in the activities and learn about fire safety,” according to information released from the fire department.

Firefighter Kevin Nishiyama looks at the event as an opportunity for “engaging with the community,” he said.

Meredith Voss was there for the second year in a row with husband Reid and sons Luke and Chase. “We love it,” she said, “they have fire truck toys at home,” and are learning about the trucks in preschool.

By the afternoon at West Springfield, there was about 200 visitors to the department’s annual event.



Alyssa Mizuki and daughter Arrianna sported a fire hat they got at the event.



Cecilia Caceras and her friend’s son, Pablos Vargas toured the trucks.

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 re-



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

PHOTO BY
MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

ported. 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 in-

vestigation 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 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.

SEE BUNNYMAN, PAGE 5



Peter Larson of Annandale spins wheel for prizes along with Robbie and Elias Larson-Singer.



Manning the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area (HACA) registration table are Stephanie Burns, Brenda Bordelon, and Beverly Woods.

Fall Walk for Hemophilia Association

\$82,000 raised during walk around Lake Accotink Park in Springfield on Saturday.

The fifth-annual, two-mile Fall Walk at Lake Accotink in Springfield raised about \$82,000 for the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area (HACA), a nonprofit organization based in Springfield, on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017. About 150 people took part in the walk around the lake. HACA has served people in the metro D.C. area who are affected by bleeding disorders such as

hemophilia and von Willebrand disease since 1964.

“The purpose of the annual Hemophilia Walk is to raise funds to support the bleeding disorders community in the metro D.C. area, and it’s also to bring awareness about bleeding disorders to people who may not be living with a bleeding disorder but who are participating in our event,” said Brenda Bordelon, Executive Director of the Hemo-

philia Association of the Capital Area.

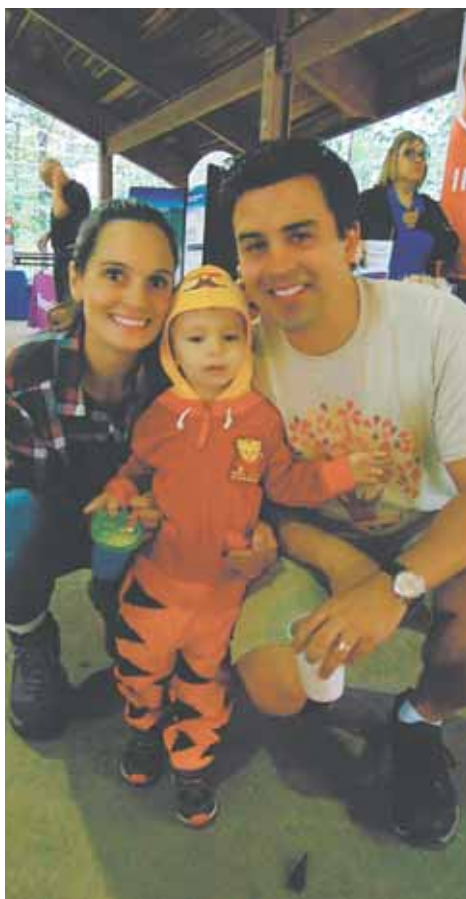
The top individual HACA fund-raiser was Kate Greene, who raised \$2,950; and the top team fund-raiser was Team William the Conqueror, which raised \$11,000.

Funds raised through the walk will support programs and services of HACA, which include summer camp for children with bleeding disorders; patient assistance to help with the cost of health care bills and

emergency expenses; chapter scholarship programs; and more.

Medals and goodie bags were given to walkers, and a carnival and picnic was held after the race, which used to be held at the Reflecting Pool of the National Mall; this is the first time it was held in Springfield. For more information on HACA, go to www.hacacares.org.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Robin, Jack, and Phil Monin of Springfield before the walk.



Brenda Bordelon, Executive Director of the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area, addresses the crowd.



Blane Endale with Elias, Brook, and Bereket Anteneh of Burke before the race.



Members of Chi Psi Fraternity at George Mason University have been helping with the walk for about eight years.

Bunnyman Demystified

FROM PAGE 3

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.



MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION
Charlie Kraiger is at the Fairfax lecture with some old news clippings of his own.

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.

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.

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.

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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
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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)

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:

Letters to the Editor, The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
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editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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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 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.

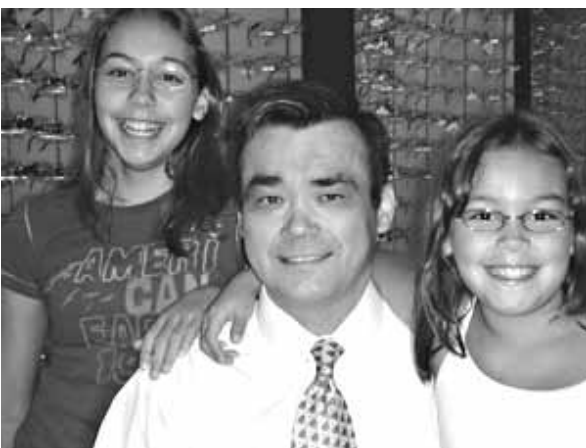
"Parents may do too much for children or protect them from failure so that children do not learn to cope with difficult situations and soothe themselves," he said. "Children should believe that they have worth for being a unique person."

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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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

Charlie Parsons has local roots and has been at Southern Tattoo for 18 years.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION



Penn Daw Village Stands Tall as Redevelopment Inches Closer

Chin's Kitchen, Southern Tattoo and other small businesses hang together.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

The Fried Rice Combo is Fifi Atta-otoo's favorite dish at Chin's Kitchen, a favorite in the Penn Daw area, and a mainstay in the Penn Daw Village shopping center that is squeezed between the new Shelby Apartments and the Calvary Presbyterian Church on North Kings Highway.

Inside the carry-out, the no frills atmosphere is what the customers have grown to expect, as well as the low prices, fresh vegetables and the assortment of dishes with menu pictures on the wall. "This is an old store, we have lots of customers returning," said the woman behind the counter.

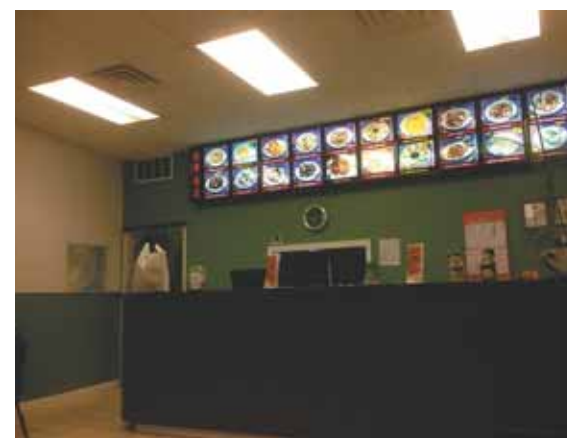
For Suzette Vasquez at Zips Dry Cleaning, Chin's orange chicken dish is her favorite. "We order there a lot," she said, "we still need those small stores in this area," she added.

At Southern Tattoo next door, Charlie Parsons, a tattoo artist, has seen three generations working at Chin's. His favorites are the veggie fried rice or the General Tso's Chicken. "I'd do anything for these people," he said. "That's good food, I've seen cars come here from Fredericksburg and Petersburg for Chin's," he said.

The dated shopping center a few doors down on North Kings Highway has already been reduced to rubble, but Penn Daw Village seems to be holding its own. Gone are the Shopper's Food Warehouse, a big box drug store and the Alexandria Bowling Lanes, which was in the basement of the drug store. Its bowling lanes sign is the only thing that remains.

At Penn Daw Village there are several different ethnic groups represented, including Central Americans with the Machu Pollo chicken carry-out, an African Grocery store, Southern Tattoo, a beauty supply store and Lovely Nail Art. "We got a nice little mix of people here, it's all family," added Parsons.

Although the village is a block off Richmond Highway, it is in Lee District, not the Mount Vernon District as it would seem. Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) has talked to the owner and has been involved with the new development a block away which is



From the inside, Chin's Kitchen has a nondescript, carry-out look that has endured the test of time.

known as "NOVUS Kings Crossing," in a presentation given to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in June. "During the replanning of Penn Daw, my office had extensive conversations with the property owners surrounding the new mixed-use developments. The owner of this particular shopping center did not want to sell and the county cannot – and should not – force anyone to sell their property. In light of that, we did work with the developer of Penn Daw and the strip center owner to update the façade to better match the new Penn Daw building," said McKay in an email.

"I love small businesses, the backbone of our local economy. Those of us who grew up along Richmond Highway such as myself know the importance these type of businesses play and do all we can to support and promote them every day, including ensuring a balance between new development and preservation," McKay said.

Penn Daw Village is under the umbrella of a larger project known as Embark Richmond Highway, which Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck has supported over the last year. In the June presentation at the Board of Supervisors, "Penn Daw is envisioned as an Urban Village," one of the bullet points read.

Atta-otoo grew up in Mount Vernon, graduated from West Potomac High School, and has seen the surrounding development through the years, although he wasn't too familiar with the future of this stretch of North King's Highway.

"I'm sure they won't be cheap," he said. He's right — on a sign recently posted out front of the site said the residences will be priced in the \$700,000 range.

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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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
BACKSTO 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

703-581-7679
NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Club
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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, Grmt 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, grmt Kit w island, SS Appl, credit for granite, new BA lights & Faucets, Liv, Din, Sunrm, Gas Fpl, HDWDS, Farn, Loft, Walkout LL, Screen porch. 2 car Gar, Irrigation sys. NEW ROOF!

www.HeritageHuntHomes.com



David Levent

703-338-1388 davidshomes@lfn.com

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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

L&F Founder's Club
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Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club
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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