

Hamming it up at the Say Cheese Photo Booth are Rich Peterson, Yolanda Atkins, Chris Peterson and Robert Atkins during the 2017 Library Jubilee held at Pohick Library in Burke on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017.

# Burke CONNECTION

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OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 1, 2017

ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)





George Mason University students from Mason Music Productions perform at the Library Jubilee.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Jessica Hudson, Director of Fairfax County Library, Sharon Bulova, Board Chairman of Fairfax County Supervisors, and John Clements, a Friend of the Library.

## Library Jubilee at Pohick Library

250 people help raise \$120,000 in fundraiser for Fairfax County Library.

With the theme, “The Library Goes Hollywood,” about 250 people attended the 2017 Library Jubilee Gala Fundraiser at the newly remodeled Pohick Regional Library in Burke on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017. This being the largest fundraiser of the year, the goal was to raise \$120,000 for the Fairfax County Library system.

“What we’re hoping to accomplish is that we will raise community support for Fairfax County Public Library for programs and services that provide enrichments to the programs beyond the county support for the library,” said Susan Harman, Executive Director of the Fairfax Library Foundation.

Added Brian Engler, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Fairfax Library Foundation. “The Library Jubilee is our major annual event for fundraising for the Fairfax Library Foundation. We raise funds all year, of course, but this is the one where we really focus on getting a lot of people together who love the library, having a silent auction, raising money through ticket sales and through sponsorships.”

The money goes toward programs and services for the library, which includes scholarships, special presentations like Summer Reading and the Book Club Conference, as well as some 30,000 picture books for under-served preschoolers at the library branches. Other programs include Changing Lives Through Literature, giving first-time juvenile offenders an alternative to formal court action, and Ready to Read Early Literacy Outreach, which brings interactive reading experiences to preschoolers. The newest funding area is the New American Initiative, which raises funds for English Language Learning materials. The night brought together Foundation and Library leadership and staff,



Rene Edwards, Keynote Speaker, Early Literacy Services.



Sabrina Byrum a.k.a. Marilyn Monroe.



elected officials, published authors, business leaders, and library supporters who enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a silent auction, and a jazz trio from Mason Music Productions. Shirley's Catering and Peterson's Ice Cream provided the food and sweets.

At the silent auction, guests could bid on winery visits, hotel packages, and passes to Disney World, which were all donated by local businesses to support the library. There was also a photo booth and a visit from Marilyn Monroe.

— STEVE HIBBARD

**Guests sample hors d'oeuvres at the 2017 Library Jubilee at Pohick Library in Burke.**



# Shifting Political Battlefield for General Assembly

Solid blue urban areas separated by political beltway from solid red exurbs.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**N**orthern Virginia has more competitive seats than any other part of the commonwealth, a ring of districts that forms a beltway of sorts separating the inner solid blue in Arlington and Alexandria from the solid red in rural and exurban seats in Loudoun and Prince William. That puts Fairfax County squarely in the driver's seat this November, when Democrats hope to pick up seats in an election that has balanced local issues like schools and roads with the ongoing reaction to President Donald Trump. That battle will be won or lost in suburban Northern Virginia, where the Washington suburbs are sprawling into areas that used to be farmland and orchards.

"We have a transportation beltway around D.C. in Northern Virginia, and we also have a competitive political beltway," said Quentin Kidd at Christopher Newport University. "It's the fault line between old Virginia and new Virginia, and it's the trenches of our current political battlefield."

The region has many incumbent delegates who are running unopposed, all Democrats: Mark Keam (D-35), Ken Plum (D-36); David Bulova (D-37); Vivian Watts (D-39); Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41); Mark Sickles (D-43); Paul Krizek (D-44); Mark Levine (D-45); Charniele Herring (D-46); Patrick Hope (D-47); and Rip Sullivan (D-48).

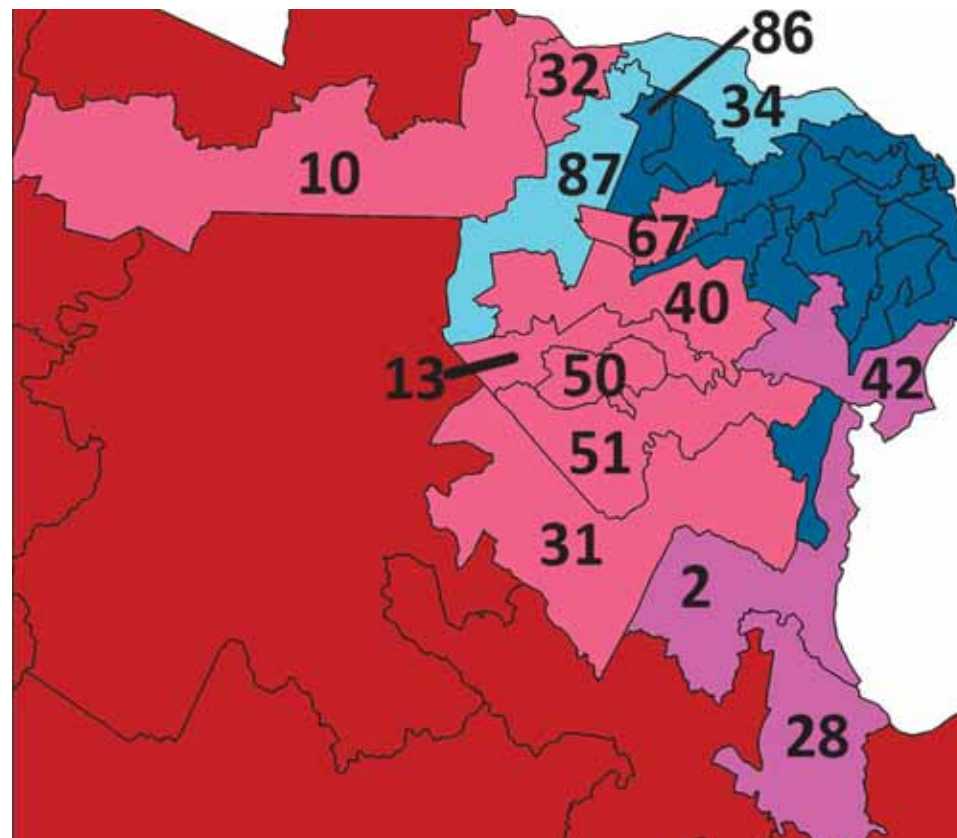
The decision of longtime Del. David Albo (R-42) to step down from public life after more than 20 years in office has created a vacuum that Democrats are eager to fill. Former Labor Department deputy administrator Kathy Tran emerged from a primary back in June, and she's been running hard against Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak ever since. Democrats have called attention to Mancheno-Smoak's early support of Donald Trump, whose candidacy she supported back in 2015 shortly after he declared his candidacy by calling Mexican immigrants rapists.

"Sometimes in order to generate change, in order to get new energy to actually feel passionate about a new beginning you need positive disruption," said Mancheno-Smoak in an interview with Connection Newspapers. "I see Trump as a positive disruptor."

Democrats pounced on that remark, issuing a press release in reaction.

"It's no surprise that she would call Donald Trump a positive disruptor as the most recent version of Trumpcare would disrupt access to affordable health care for 32 million people," said Virginia House Caucus spokeswoman Katie Baker in a written statement. "For Kathy Tran, on the other hand, health care is a moral issue."

**ASIDE FROM HAVING** three of the four open seats on the ballot this year, the region has more Republicans incumbents facing hotly contested races than any other part



## House districts of interest

### Category:

- Potentially competitive open seats
- Potentially competitive seats with D inc
- Potentially competitive seats with R inc
- Safe D seats
- Safe R seats

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA CENTER FOR POLITICS



**Kathy Tran (D)**



**Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R)**

of the state. The Center for Politics at the University of Virginia identified eight Republicans facing competitive challenges and two Democrats. The incumbent who seems to be facing the strongest challenge is Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67), who sent out mailers emphasizing his work with Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"This is probably the best chance Democrats have of taking out a GOP incumbent," said Geoff Skelley, media relations coordinator at the Center for Politics. "Jim LeMunyon occupies the most Democratic seat held by a Republican in the House of Delegates." He is opposed by Karrie Delaney.

Another Republican incumbent facing a

competitive race this year is Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), who serves as the Republican caucus chairman. He's facing Democrat Donte Tanner, who raised more than \$350,000 to take on the popular Republican incumbent. That's a huge chunk of change, especially for a first-time candidate running against a longtime incumbent. But it's about half of what Hugo was

able to raise. That's only part of the value of incumbency. Hugo, who calls himself the "pothole delegate" for his support of constituent issues, has spent the last decade building goodwill among voters in the district.

"Folks like Tim Hugo have established a name brand and an identity in their districts, and voters generally have a favorable view toward them," said Mark Rozell, at George Mason University. "Democrats are energized, and they are counting on a big anti-Trump vote. But I think you can count on some split ticket voting, and perhaps many of those voters who are going to vote against the Republican at the top of the ticket will still vote for their local guy in the House of Delegates."

**REPUBLICAN INCUMBENTS** aren't the only General Assembly members facing challenges, though. Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) is one of two Democratic incumbents facing a challenge the Center for Politics has ranked as competitive. The seat was held for more than 40 years by Republican Vince Callahan, although it has been held by Re-

## House District 40

Republican Tim Hugo: \$660,000  
 ♦ \$26,000 from CommonSense VA  
 ♦ \$15,000 from Check into Cash of Va  
 ♦ \$15,000 from Dominion Energy  
 ♦ \$12,500 from LoanMax  
 ♦ \$12,500 from Va Beer Wholesalers Association  
 Democrat Donte Tanner: \$355,000  
 ♦ \$15,000 from Future Now  
 ♦ \$15,000 from Only If You Run  
 ♦ \$12,000 from stockbroker Edward Hart Rice of Vienna  
 ♦ \$10,000 from Congressman Don Beyer's PAC  
 ♦ \$10,000 from Donte Tanner

## House District 42

Democrat Kathy Tran: \$418,000  
 ♦ \$15,000 from Flippable Va PAC  
 ♦ \$10,000 from Congressman Don Beyer's PAC  
 ♦ \$8,000 from Future Now  
 ♦ \$5,000 from Mary Wilkie Ebrahimi of Corpus Christi, Texas  
 ♦ \$4,500 from the Fairfax County Democratic Committee  
 Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak: \$74,000  
 ♦ \$15,500 from Dominion Leadership Trust  
 ♦ \$3,000 from House Republican Campaign Committee  
 ♦ \$1,400 from Clifton Republican Women's Club  
 ♦ \$1,250 from Geraldine Davie  
 ♦ \$1,200 from Cruz Mancheno of Fairfax Station

publicans and Democrats since he retired a decade ago. The Republican in the race is Cheryl Buford, who struggled to answer questions about her own campaign platform in an interview with Connection Newspapers. She says she wants to reduce regulations, for example, but she couldn't name any specific ones she would spike. She also says she wants to tackle the opioid crisis, although she couldn't name any specific proposals on that either.

"While it will be tough for the GOP to win any seats currently held by Democrats in 2017, this is one of the few such seats with a recent track record of competitiveness," says Skelley. "So I don't think we can entirely count out Buford."

One race that is contested but not necessarily competitive is House District 86, where incumbent freshman Democrat Jennifer Boysko is defending the seat against Republican challenger Linda Schulz.

Two years ago, Democrats were able to flip the seat after the retirement of longtime Republican Del. Tom Rust (R-86), a former mayor of Herndon. Since that time, Boysko has become one of the most outspoken critics of the Republican House leadership, even staging a press conference to denounce how bills with little chance of passing the Courts of Justice were being killed without so much as a hearing. Despite the fact that the seat was held by a Republican for decades, though, the Center for Politics did not race this as a competitive race.

"Tom Rust was a moderate Republican who managed to hold that seat even as it became bluer and bluer," says Geoff Skelley at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "But now Jennifer Boysko controls it, and there's little reason to think she's in danger."

MAP COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA CENTER FOR POLITICS



# Who Will Help Dreamers and Refugees?

Individuals, religious groups and other organizations share same goal.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**T**he supporters all agree on one thing. As Imam Ali Siddiqui said, “Nobody asked these kids whether they wanted to come to America. They go to school, they work hard, build a career. It will be a loss to send them back.” Figures distributed by The Commonwealth Institute in October 2017 show that if all Virginians who are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) became citizens, state and local tax contributions by young Virginians would rise from the current \$35 million to \$52.9 million a year.

As President Trump’s executive order released Sept. 5 threatens 800,000 DACA recipients with deportation, communities of supporters rally to their defense.

Individuals and groups converge from all directions to provide sanctuary, educational assistance, moral support, employment counseling and sometimes “in your face” advocacy for immigrant assistance. Each group has a plan and a niche but they are all working for the same goal — passage of the Dream Act, which will offer the opportunity for a long, but legal, path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Norma Kacen is part of the Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees, an Arlington-based group, which she co-founded with Wendy Chan in the fall of 2016. “I grew up on Federal Hill in Providence, Rhode Island, an ethnic ghetto. It was a closed world with circles of ghettos — Portuguese, Italian, French, German, Polish,” she said, drawing circles with her finger on the table.

Kacen has recently been up on Capitol Hill as a volunteer lobbyist with the American Association of University Women visiting key senators to urge passage of the Dream Act. “All of the comments were ‘we couldn’t afford it,’ but,” she says, pulling out a talking sheet, “ending DACA and kicking recipients out of the labor force would cost the United States \$433.4 billion in GDP and decrease Social Security and Medicare contributions by \$24.6 billion over the next decade.” This is according to the Center for American Progress, a self-described progressive independent nonpartisan policy institute.

As of November 2016, 645,000 DACA recipients nationwide are employed, and they pay taxes. Kacen said, “My challenge to the senators was yes, we pay for their education like anyone else who pays taxes.” But most of the senators were unmoved by the arguments. Kacen says it is

also important to acknowledge a breakdown of DACA by Congressional districts because “some our representatives only listen to their own constituents.”

Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees was established to combat the anti-Muslim rhetoric and to be a welcoming friend to all refugees. “We didn’t want to duplicate the efforts of others so we partner with other organizations,” she said.

**RECENTLY THE GROUP** held three advocacy workshops for people supportive of refugees. About 50 people attended one of the workshops at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church in Arlington and a Muslim site in Fairfax. These workshops are non-partisan with the purpose to teach the skills necessary for effective advocacy.

“I was really delighted and it was extremely heartening that millennials attended. Every organization is trying to figure out what they can do to attract the disengaged millennials,” Kacen said.

The second event, which was held in the spring, brought American professionals together with the often highly skilled immigrants to help the immigrants navigate the workplace. “So we connect the immigrants together with American professionals in their own field to allow the professionals to talk.” Many of the refugees were doctors, architects, engineers and entrepreneurs in their countries and now have low-level jobs in America. The purpose of these life skills programs is to increase connections to help the immigrants reach their potential.

The third focus for this year is a large community event planned for the spring. It would be intended to show the resilience of the immigrants by “focusing on the incredible skills in the cultural arts such as music, arts and fashion. It is to show the capacity to overcome, the triumph of the human spirit,” she said.

Are they making progress? Kacen paused, “It’s hard to say. But ... there are so many people engaged.”

Monica Sarmiento is executive director of Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Right (VACIR), a coalition that began in 2013 with eight organizations, now grown to 16. She says their organization is focused on how to have more comprehensive immigrant reform in Virginia. “Many organizations have their niches demographically or ethnically but we tend to be looking at what we’re doing statewide and collaboratively. The most important empha-



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**Remembering her youth in Rhode Island, Norma Kacen of Arlington traces circles on the table as she describes neighborhood ghettos of people segregated by ethnicity.**



**Sumi Yi**



**Monica Sarmiento**



**The Rev. Laura Martin**

sis is to push different community representatives at the table — African, Korean, Muslim.”

Sarmiento says since VACIR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization they don’t directly lobby but have encouraged people to call their members of Congress, and the 16 organizations who are part of the coalition often engage in advocacy. For instance the Commonwealth Institute has prepared a fact sheet outlining how DREAMers grow our economy with 61 percent opening a bank account, 64.5 percent buying their first car, 97 percent becoming employed or enrolled in school. It adds that young people with DACA status contribute nearly \$711 million to Virginia’s economy annually including nearly \$35 million in state and local taxes. The conclusion is that ending DACA could reduce Virginia state and local tax revenue by almost \$13 million a year.

Members of VACIR include such groups as Legal Aid Justice Center, SEEC, VOCOLAO, NAKASEC, The Commonwealth Institute and Virginia New Majority. These groups have focused on the constituents of two U.S. representatives in Virginia, Scott Taylor (R-2) and Barbara Comstock (R-10), who they are trying to convince “to do the right thing and support a clean Dream Act.”

Sarmiento says the VACIR board had decided for the first time to endorse a clean Dream Act, the first time they had endorsed

any legislation. “A clean Dream Act would not have such provisions as mandatory verification (death by 1,000 papers), an increase in ICE agents, increased money for deportation, funding for the border wall, inability to sponsor family members, no pathway to citizenship.”

She says there needs to be a much larger conversation to spotlight the injustices happening now with undocumented immigrants who have already lost their DACA status due to President Trump’s executive order or who will lose their Temporary Protective Status (TPS) if it is not renewed. These people could be deported any day. She says 300,000 of these are from Latin America; 200,000 of these are Salvadoran. Sarmiento was raised in Northern Virginia but her parents emigrated from El Salvador fleeing war. “They were fortunate my grandmother lived here and got her legal status through the Reagan amnesty act so my father got legal status.”

Sumi Yi, Virginia community organizer for National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), a community-based progressive Asian American and Pacific Islander organization, says their mission is to organize Korean and Asian Americans to achieve social, racial, and economic justice. She points out that out of the cur-

SEE DREAMERS, PAGE 7





## Becoming an Eagle Scout

Jose Reyes of North Springfield, a student at Annandale High School, was approved by an Eagle Scout Board of Review for Eagle Scout. Jose is a member of Boy Scout Troop 1131, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Burke. He is pictured with his father Rick Tackaberry, also an Eagle Scout, as is Jose's brother Elias. A ceremony will follow at a later date to award the Eagle Scout Badge and Certificate.

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G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III

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# OPINION

## Don't Stay Home

Your vote counts this round;  
nation is watching.

Every year is election year in Virginia. Virginia offers multiple examples that prove every vote counts.

This year, each Virginia voter will vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and their member of the House of Delegates. Virginia is one of two Governor's races, and many are watching the Virginia race to as a harbinger of what to expect in 2018.

No matter how you vote, polling shows that the Governor's race could be very close.

**EDITORIAL** While there are quite a few uncontested races for members of the House of Delegates, several races could also be close, with the outcome likely to depend on turnout.

There is every reason to get out and vote.

### Absentee Voting in Person

Voting early if you qualify is a good choice. There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including the possibility that you will be working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: [elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html](http://elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html)

There are two ways to vote absentee: in-person and by mail. To vote by mail, you will need to apply for an absentee ballot; if you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location.

See your locality's elections website for more.

### Bring Photo ID, There Are Alternatives

Virginia has voter identification requirements; plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether absentee or on Election Day.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification

## General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

To find a registration office where you can obtain photo ID, even on the day of an election, visit: [vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup).

### Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without Identification

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo

identification, don't panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to suffice the identification requirement.

## On the Ballot

### Governor

Ralph S. Northam (D)  
Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R)  
Clifford D. Hyra (L)

### Lieutenant Governor

Justin E. Fairfax (D)  
Jill H. Vogel (R)

### Attorney General

Mark R. Herring (D) incumbent  
John D. Adams (R)

### House of Delegates

#### 34th District

Kathleen Murphy (D) incumbent  
Cheryl Buford (R)

#### 35th District

Mark Keam (D) incumbent, unopposed

#### 36th District

Ken Plum (D) incumbent, unopposed

#### 37th District

David Bulova (D) incumbent, unopposed

#### 38th District

Kay Kory (D) incumbent  
Paul Haring (R)

#### 39th District

Vivian Watts (D) incumbent, unopposed

#### 40th District

Donte Tanner (D)  
Tim Hugo (R) incumbent

#### 41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D) incumbent, unopposed

#### 42nd District

Kathy Tran (D)  
Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R)

#### 43rd District

Mark Sickles (D) incumbent, unopposed

### 44th District

Paul Krizek (D) incumbent, unopposed

### 45th District

Mark Levine (D) incumbent, unopposed

### 53rd District

Marcus Simon (D) incumbent  
Mike Casey (I)

### 67th District

Karrie Delaney (D)  
Jim LeMunyon (R) incumbent

### 86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D) incumbent  
Linda Schulz (R)

### Fairfax County School Bonds

Voters will vote yes or no on a \$315 million public school bond referendum on the Nov. 7 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the Fairfax County Public Schools' current plans to use this bond money are to plan and/or construct two new elementary schools, one in Fairfax/Oakton area and another in the northwest county area; relocate one modular building; plan additions at three existing high schools to add capacity at Madison, Stuart and West Potomac; plan and/or construct renovations of 10 elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools. See [www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/2017-school-bond-referendum](http://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/2017-school-bond-referendum).

### Fairfax County Office of Elections

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections)  
Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711  
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Email: [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735, TTY 711

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN

**Free Sober Rides.** Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 29, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code DCHALLOWEEN in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe

ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

**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  
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

Burke  
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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

**Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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# Dreamers

FROM PAGE 4

rent 800,000 DACA 135,000 are Asian-Americans.

The current efforts focus on DACA with phone banks, vigils and visits to Virginia legislators urging them to support of the Dream Act. “Representatives Barbara Comstock and Scott Taylor are on the fence about whether to co-sponsor the legislation,” said Yi. NAKASEC is planning a day soon when they will join with other organizations and knock on every door they can find. “Come on; we can do this,” she said.

Yi says that Korea is a land of opportunity with a great educational system. “I can go there now and make a lot of money but what keeps us rooted here is liberty and freedom. In Korea,” she said, “You have to think a certain way. Culturally and value-wise, I’m American.”

Yi takes a moment to reflect on their recent 30-day vigil in front of the White House.

She said they slept on benches, talked to people, got signatures and even did the “DACA dance.”

“The Secret Service told us we were the weirdest demonstrators they had ever seen at the White House; we even had a karaoke night. But we raised a lot of money,” Yi said. “Some people were supportive but others were being really mean. We had kids with us and I could see they were so hurt. I don’t know what’s going to happen but we’re stronger together. We have to do something.”

She declares they’re going to get education and driver’s licenses for everyone in Virginia. “This moment is bigger than all of us.”

**SIXTY FOUR PLACES** of worship joined together after the election with the announcement of upcoming anti-immigration legislation. Imam Ali Saddiqui, who is part of a transitional leadership team for the group, says Sanctuary DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) includes a number of Protestant churches as well as several synagogues, Catholic churches and his Muslim Institute. One of their actions has been organizing rallies in support of DACA and immigrant rights. “I was just there last week at the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in D.C. and at the mayor’s office.” Since there was just a raid where ICE went after 500 undocumented immigrants and 14 were arrested, the group was asking for their release and for the mayor not to cooperate with ICE officials.

In addition, they have been visiting congressional offices in support of the Dream Act and phoning members of Congress. “Actually this is on a party line. Democrats are very supportive and Republicans not.”

He says you hear the argument that immigrants cost the government money and don’t pay taxes. “Let me tell you my own story. I came here from Pakistan on March 23, 1969 originally as an asylee. I looked for a job and started working and paying taxes March 24 and have paid ever since.”

The Rev. Laura Martin, associate pastor for at Rock Spring UCC in Arlington and also a member of DMV Sanctuary, says there are a number of unresolved issues about the concept of offering sanctuary to an immigrant in a church building. “We are trying to come up with a wider definition of sanctuary such as offering solidarity or support for immigrants when they have an order for deportation. So in the spring another member of the congregation and I picked up a woman living in D.C. with her two children in a



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**Imam Ali Saddiqui, transitional leader for Sanctuary DMV, demonstrates outside of ICE office in D.C.**

small apartment with 13 people. We were there to support her for her deportation hearing. The woman had fled El Salvador, which is the murder capital of the world. We took her to Rosslyn to immigration court. All of us had to go through a metal detector including the children, and they took away the food in her purse.”

Martin says 80 different cases were all given the same 11 a.m. time for consideration. “It wasn’t a grand court — it was an institutional setting with low ceilings, bright light and so crowded that people, even with babies, couldn’t sit down. It was very procedural and you heard the same thing dozens of times. They took cases with attorneys first so we had to wait for a long time.”

Martin says somewhere along the way the woman’s heavy ankle bracelet started beeping because the battery was low. “There was nowhere to recharge it so it just kept beeping until we got to Subway for lunch in the late afternoon and she could plug it in.” When it came her turn the bilingual judge asked if the immigrant needed time to get an attorney and postponed her case until August.

Then they had to go to Vienna for a regular ankle bracelet check-in. “They could track where she was.”

Martin said the Sanctuary DMV group is not involved in case management so she doesn’t know what happened at the August court date. “The courts can’t keep up. They are rescheduling out to the end of 2018.”

An excerpt from a poem sent by Martin to the congregation concludes:

“I have known the grandmothers who  
Smile even though they have left  
Their country of spices and markets,  
Have left their open windows with blue curtains  
Have left the tramping of war,  
Have left their songs and language,  
And believed America when we said,  
“This is the land of the free.””

*This is the third article in a series focusing on DACA.*

## DACA by Congressional District

U.S. Rep.	DACA Recipients
Beyer (D-8)	2,000
Comstock (R-10)	1,600
Connelly (D-11)	2,400

DACA Eligible
5,400
3,700
5,300

DATA PROVIDED BY NAKASEC

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## SENIOR LIVING



**Suzanne "Suzi" Fowler Neal in her former bedroom in the restored Silas Burke House.**



**Suzi, Terry, and Edward Neal looking out of one of Sunrise's unit.**

PHOTOS BY HANAN DAQQA/THE CONNECTION

# Top O' the Hill House Restored **Silas Burke House to open for public.**

BY HANAN DAQQA  
THE CONNECTION

**G**ood news for baby boomers: Sunrise, a senior care facility, has completed the full preservation and restoration of Burke's beloved 193-year-old landmark – the Silas Burke House, also known as Top O' the Hill. The house had been owned by Terry Neal and his wife Suzanne "Suzi" Fowler Neal. When Suzi was asked why this house is so important to her, she said, "This is my life, I grew up in Burke, mother loves Burke, mother was born in Burke, Burke is what I know, Burke is what I love, Burke changed a lot."

Terry Neal added, "Burke, as quaint as it is today, you would never know it, but back then it was kind of a resort town for all the big-name people. Like, the politicians would come out of D.C., come over here and they spend the weekend."

The house was passed from the Copperthite family. Suzi's grandfather [William H. Simpson] bought the house in 1925 if I remember the way history is. It has been in her family ever since then. Her family loved it and cared for it and basically opened it up to the community for parties



**The color scheme of the house was based on this original rug from Suzi.**

and get-togethers and anniversaries, weddings, whatever the celebration was, they would open the house up. Her parents were married here in 1930; Suzi and I were married here in 2003."

"The passion for the house was strong and so what we've committed to from the beginning with the county was: preserving this house, and not just preserving it but keeping it prominent. So you will notice that

Sunrise is building a traditional Sunrise [senior care community] behind the Silas Burke House.

That is intentional to keep it behind. So when you drive up and down Burke Lake Road, what you see as a prominent feature is Burke House. That was so important. In the end, I think what you will have is that the Silas Burke House stays the prominent feature forever in Burke, and you will have

this beautiful Sunrise caring for Burke's seniors for the next hundred years," said Sunrise's chief financial officer, Edward Burnett.

A tour through the house started in the kitchen. "This is my mother's favorite room. Grandma always cooked for us. There were 15 of us all here," said Suzi.

During the tour, Andrea Owensby, Sunrise's senior director of interior design, talked about the special interior design considerations, such as keeping certain pieces of furniture and artifacts. "For example, we had refinished the fireplace, it was not functional and in the restoration, we didn't repaint."

We kept all the original paint on the bricks and just cleaned that up, so the mantel and door frames had the character that an old house naturally would. We did not smooth all that out. It would not be the same house if we did."

According to Burnett, the house will be open for the public to enjoy. "It will be a place for our residents who will be living across to come over and have tea, enjoy an activity and share its history."

Sunrise's new senior living community, located behind the historic home, is set to be completed early next year.



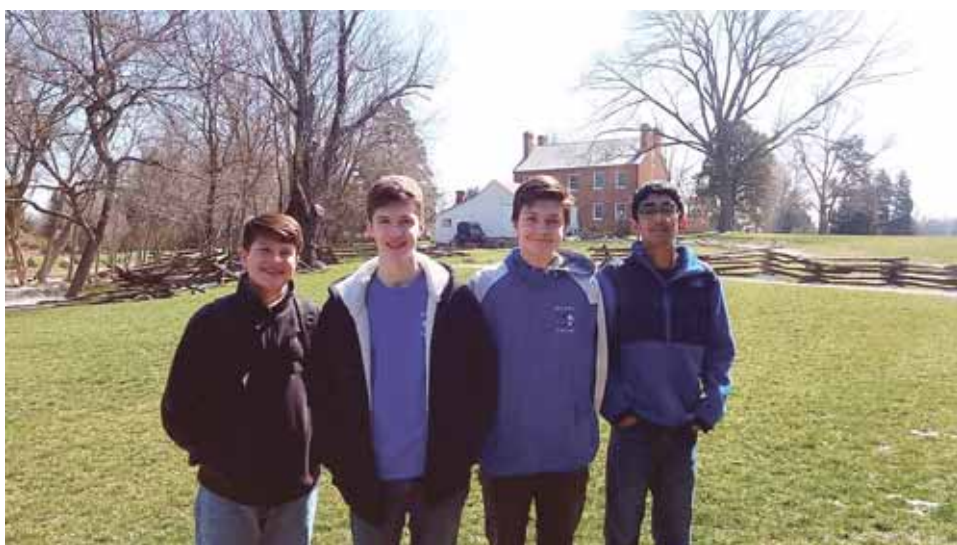
**Grandma's stove, still functional, bought from Montgomery Ward.**



**Simpson's pew bench made in the late 1940s, from the Burke Church.**



# NEWS



## Eagle Scout Project Blends Technology and History

On Saturday, Oct. 8, Fairfax High School student Alex Harrison (left) completed a year-long Eagle Scout project that resulted in historic preservation through technology for Historic Blenheim in Fairfax City. The scout produced 360 degree digital images of Civil War graffiti in the farm house attic which is not accessible to the public. The project included a fundraiser to buy a kiosk where the interactive images can now be viewed in the visitor center. Scouts from BSA Troop 577 pictured outside the farmhouse where the video was filmed at Blenheim Historic site, from left: Michael Rath, Alex Harrison (Eagle Project owner), Matthew Lee, and Arnav Chandra.



## FAITH NOTES

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

**Beth El Hebrew Congregation**, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, has services on Fridays, 7:30 p.m. with a pre-service wine and cheese social at 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. with a pre-service Torah study at 9 a.m. Religious school is on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Adult learning opportunities take place throughout the year. Tot Shabbat is on the first and third Saturdays at 11 a.m. Kolot Shabbat, a musical service, is the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. 703-370-9400 or [www.bethelhebrew.org](http://www.bethelhebrew.org).

**The Cranford United Methodist Church**, located at 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton, hosts prayer and healing services on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Worship service is at 11 a.m., and fellowship is at 12:30 p.m.

**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or [www.fbtministries.org](http://www.fbtministries.org).

**Grace Presbyterian Church** offers Sunday school for all ages at 9:15, and a blended worship service 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morn-

ing. Coffee and fellowship follows worship. Nursery care is provided from 9-11:45 a.m. 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. 703-451-2900 or [www.gracepresby.org](http://www.gracepresby.org).

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or [www.fbcspgfield.org](http://www.fbcspgfield.org).

**The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center**, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit [www.guhyasamaja.org](http://www.guhyasamaja.org).

**Lord of Life Lutheran** offers services at two locations, 5114 Twinbrook Road in Fairfax, and 13421 Twin Lakes Drive in Clifton. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:50 and 10:50 a.m. 703-323-9500 or [www.Lordoflifeva.org](http://www.Lordoflifeva.org).

**Clifton Presbyterian Church**, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Cup of Fellowship at 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.



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Burke residents Anne and Dave Leeson, left, and Amy and Joseph Baldi, right, fill a plastic bag Oct. 21 with a vitamin pack, a scoop of soy flour, a tablespoon of dehydrated vegetables and a scoop of rice in the cafeteria at Terra Centre Elementary School on Burke Centre Parkway for hunger-relief charity Rise Against Hunger.



PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Joe Gautier, assistant manager of community engagement for Rise Against Hunger, seals the deal at 11:33 a.m. and gets thousands of packaged meals ready for shipment Saturday outside the Terra Centre Elementary School at 6000 Burke Centre Parkway.

# Burke Gives Back to Help Fight Hunger

Volunteers prepare 25,000 fortified meals.

BY MARTI MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t 10:24 a.m. Saturday, nearly 50 people in a Burke Elementary School cafeteria are jamming to a 2008 hit song by Beyoncé Knowles.

“Now put your hands up ....”

This is no bouquet-toss ceremony for all the “Single Ladies” at a morning wedding reception. No one is swept off their feet. All the volunteers are caught-up in the fast beat of this award-winning 2010 Grammy Song of the Year as they attempt to prepare 4,000 meals according to the exacting measures of a particular recipe.

In just one hour.

“Oh, oh, oh ....”

All the volunteers are committed wholeheartedly to feeding hungry school children in Third World countries — and the United States of America — which boasts an average 14.3 percent of households at risk of hunger in each state, according to numbers crunched by faith-based charity Bread for the World. This Washington, D.C., advocacy claims higher percentages in 10 states from Ohio to Texas, with 22 percent of households in Mississippi facing a hunger crisis.

“Oh, oh, oh ....”

A 2014 study conducted by Feeding America found 1 in 9 people in the Commonwealth of Virginia — or 935,480 residents — struggle with hunger. According to Fairfax County Public Schools, nearly 28 percent of students qualify for free and reduced-price meals.

“In the U.S., hunger is not caused by a scarcity of food, but rather the continued prevalence of poverty,” cites Bread for the World.



Maggie Waldron of Burke gives a 26-ounce can of chicken noodle soup Saturday to Cloe Charlesworth, 12, and her brother Spencer, 14, in front of the Giant Food grocery store at 6011 Burke Centre Parkway. The Lake Braddock Secondary School students are part of the “Burke Gives Back: Changing the World” team positioned at four local grocery stores to collect cash donations and non perishable food for three food banks in Fairfax County.

**GENEROUS DONORS** are quick to open their hearts and wallets. They gave millions of dollars last month to humanitarian aid causes in direct response to catastrophic hurricanes and earthquakes.

More disposable cash has been burned in the past three weeks by another crisis out west, where fast-moving wildfires have devastated much of California. According to the Oct. 24 Statewide Fire Summary, 21 major wildfires burned more than 250,000 acres, forced 100,000 California residents to

evacuate, destroyed nearly 8,400 structures, “and sadly, took the lives of 42 people.”

In just three short weeks.

Local charities are bracing for tighter operating budgets soon due to storm fatigue. Jane Wilson, director of outreach missions at Burke United Methodist Church, said last month she saw this coming.

Her church responded to one of those critical needs with “Burke Gives Back: Changing the World” — a food drive Oct. 21 at the Terra Centre Elementary School.



Savannah Rhodes, 10, is happy to help feed other students around the world. This fifth grader at Terra Centre Elementary School in Burke will be 23 years old when that goal is achieved.

Wilson moved this annual church activity to a local school cafeteria this year in order to get the Burke community actively engaged in a global hunger-relief effort. Its mission is simple: package 25,000 dehydrated meals.

In just four short hours.

“I have 48 people signed up for each shift,” Wilson said. The assembly line had five tables with four volunteers filling each plastic bag with a vitamin pack, a scoop of

SEE BURKE, PAGE 11



# NEWS

## Burke Helps Fight Hunger

FROM PAGE 10

soy flour, a tablespoon of dehydrated vegetables and a scoop of rice.

**AT ANOTHER ROW** of five tables, volunteers precisely weighed each 13.58-ounce bag then sealed the rice-soy fortified meal. Those bags were collected by another team that prepared them for shipment. Boxes were stacked then transferred onto shipping pallets and put on a truck.

Joe Gautier, assistant manager of community engagement for Rise Against Hunger, motivated his team of volunteers with a musical playlist of energetic songs that appealed to a multi-generational crowd.

At 10:45 a.m., he announces to the 10-11 a.m. shift they just completed 4,000 meals. This is no time to quit. Participants continue packaging more meals to 1977 hit song "Dancing Queen" by Abba.

"Watch that scene."

At a typical Rise Against Hunger event, 40-to-50 volunteers can assemble 10,152 meals in nearly two hours. This Raleigh, N.C., non-profit is determined to end hunger around the world by 2030. Its

primary focus is school children in developing nations because education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. "That gives parents an incentive to send their kids to school," said Gautier. "Education helps them help themselves." He said 10 percent of the meals they package are used for disaster relief. Each meal costs 29 cents. "The budget for this was \$9,200," Wilson said. Funds were raised by members at Burke United Methodist Church. Local businesses contributed nearly \$2,000. The ingredients alone for this project cost \$6,700. Wilson had another team of volunteers spread out at four local grocery stores collecting cash donations and non perishable food for three area pantries: Fairfax food banks FACETS at 10640 Page Ave. and Food for Others at 2938 Prosperity Ave., as well as Springfield charity ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road.

She hopes this "Burke Gives Back: Changing the World" project will serve as template for future community outreach activities and makes one thing clear: "This is not about our church, this is about our community."

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**Burke/Longwood Knolls \$649,950**

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Photo Exhibition.** Through Oct. 28, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African-Americans in Civil War Medicine" looks at the men and women who served as surgeons and nurses during the Civil War and how their service challenged the prescribed notions of race and gender. Free. Call 703-591-0560 for more.

**Senior Line Dancing.** Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8-week session. Email [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) or call 703-524-3739.

**Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation.** An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org) for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at [www.fpow.org/volunteer](http://www.fpow.org/volunteer). [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org), 703-324-5424 or [dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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

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

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



**Ghoultime Scarols will be the sound on Saturday, Oct. 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Music of the "Ghoultime Season," with music by Bach, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Camille Saint-Saens and guests featured in Thomas Pavlechko's Ghoultime Scarols. Visit [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org) for more.**

### Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).

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

### Smoke Free Bingo.

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

### English Conversation Groups

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

**Funday Monday** 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will

be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

### Kingstowne Farmers Market.

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

## 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](mailto:office@stgumc.org) or call 703-385-4550.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 26

**Annual Trick or Treat Party.** 5-7 p.m. at the Mosaic District, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Pet costume contest and Hotel Transylvania screening at 6:30 in Strawberry Park. Visit [mosaicdistrict.com/](http://mosaicdistrict.com/) 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](http://www.fairfaxcityeda.org) for more.

**Bonita Lestina Performance.** 8-10

## HALLOWEEN FUN

### THURSDAY/OCT. 26

**Annual Trick or Treat Party.** 5-7 p.m. at the Mosaic District, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Pet costume contest and Hotel Transylvania screening at 6:30 in Strawberry Park. Visit [mosaicdistrict.com/](http://mosaicdistrict.com/) for more.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**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](http://springfieldtowncenter.com) for more.

**Ghoultime Scarols.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Music of the "Ghoultime Season," with music by Bach, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Camille Saint-Saens and guests featured in Thomas Pavlechko's Ghoultime Scarols. Visit [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org) for more.

### MONDAY/OCT. 30

**Trick-or-Treating at City of Fairfax Buildings.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Children are invited to come safely trick-or-treat at any of the following City of Fairfax buildings:

- ❖ City Hall – 10455 Armstrong St.
- ❖ Green Acres – 4401 Sideburn Road
- \* Sherwood Center – 3740 Old Lee Highway
- \* Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center – 10209 Main St.

Email [information@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:information@fairfaxva.gov) or call 703-385-7855

### Halloween Celebration and Costume Parade.

10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment, costumes encouraged for parade. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts) or call 703-385-7858.

p.m. at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Russkie Musikanti: "A Night for Romance," Balalaika Ensemble. Call 703-273-6097 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](mailto: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](http://springfieldtowncenter.com) for more.

**Ghoultime Scarols.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Music of the "Ghoultime Season," with music by Bach, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Camille Saint-Saens and guests featured in Thomas Pavlechko's Ghoultime Scarols. Visit [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org) 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](http://www.whitehall.farm) for more.

### MONDAY/OCT. 30

**Trick-or-Treating at City of Fairfax Buildings.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Children are invited to come safely trick-or-treat at any of the following City of Fairfax buildings:

- ❖ City Hall – 10455 Armstrong St.
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Email [information@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:information@fairfaxva.gov) or call 703-385-7855 for more.

### Halloween Celebration and

**Costume Parade.** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment, costumes encouraged for parade. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts) or call 703-385-7858.

### TUESDAY/OCT. 31

#### Story Times at Old Town Square.

10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Staff from City of Fairfax Regional Library will bring over books to read with children in an informal setting. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts) for more.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 2

#### Decorative Arts Symposium.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Topic: "Women's Work: Women as Global Actors in the 18th Century" with guest speakers. Call 703-550-9220 ext. 240 or email [mkraver@gunstonhall.org](mailto:mkraver@gunstonhall.org).

#### GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series.

4:30 p.m. at Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Film is "Whose Streets?" by Sabaah Folyan, a look at how the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown inspired a community to fight back and sparked a global movement. Call 703-993-2768.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 3

#### Business Holiday Celebration.

8 a.m.-2 p.m. at American Legion Post # 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Exhibitors and speakers including the keynote speaker, Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Visit [ulbizexpo.com](http://ulbizexpo.com) for more.

#### Film Festival for the Arts.

8 p.m. at Sherwood Center, 3740 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. "Imagine: John Lennon" (1988). Doors open at 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 4

#### Suffragist Lecture.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Lecture titled "Forgotten Fairfax: 100th Anniversary of the Night of Terror and the Occoquan Suffragists." Fairfax County History Commission member, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, speaks about the Night of Terror, when 33 female protesters picketing the White House for the right to vote were incarcerated at the Occoquan Workhouse and tortured. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/) or call 703-293-6227.

#### Northern Virginia Chorale.

8 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Chorale will also perform "We Remember Them" from Donald McCullough's Holocaust Cantata, as well as spirituals and other choral selections to commemorate All Saints Day. \$25 for Adults; \$10 for students; under 12 free. Visit [www.northernvirginiachorale.org](http://www.northernvirginiachorale.org) or by phone at 703-239-2180.

### NOV. 4-JAN. 13, 2018

#### Fall Art Lessons for Youth Classes.

9:15-10:30 a.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin drawing and watercolor. Visit [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930 for more.

#### Fall Art Workshop for Teens/

Adults. 10:30a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing, watercolor, Chinese brush and portfolio development. Visit [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930 for more.



## Art Classes

**Fall Drawing Plus Color Classes starting Nov. 4, 6:15-7 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing and watercolor. Ages 5-8. Visit [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930.**



## SCHOOLS



The students experienced an hour-long interactive conversation, practicing their Korean speaking and listening skills.

### Fairfax Academy's Korean Class 'Visits' Seoul

Technology brought together students from Fairfax Academy's Korean class in Fairfax County Public Schools, Hylton High School's Korean class in Prince William County Schools, and students on scholarship studying abroad in various locations in Seoul, Korea. The students experienced an hour-long interactive conversation, practice their Korean speaking and listening skills while discussing the NSLI-Y (National Security Language Initiative for Youth) scholarship program in its entirety.

The virtual conference allowed the three students staying (in three different locations) near Seoul, Korea to give first-hand advice and knowledge to students who are applying for the NSLI-Y scholarship so that, like them, they could also have the opportunity to stay with a host family in Korea and immerse themselves in the culture while enhancing their Korean language abilities while learning about a culture they love.

Advice from the students abroad ranged from explaining the challenges and rewards of the program, while also just comparing and contrasting the typical school day and social/family life for them as students in Korea. They explained they have gradually spoken less English each day and truly immersed themselves in Korean culture, while making lifelong friends. Those same students also gave advice to our students regarding how this experience helps to "recognize and contain your fear" when learning to communicate in a language that is not your native language.



Technology brought together students from Fairfax Academy's Korean class in FCPS, Hylton High School's Korean class in PWCS, and students on scholarship studying abroad in various locations in Seoul.

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# LETTERS

## Dishonest and Misinformed

To the Editor:

The appalling absence of fact-checking in "Dire and Urgent" (Opinion, Mary Kimm, September 8-October 4, 2017) reveals ignorance that should be an embarrassment to a "newspaper" and its reporters.

The subtitle alone reveals a lack of knowledge about the subject matter. Even worse, the two United States Senators from Virginia, who were interviewed for the article, demonstrated their own unfamiliarity with the proposed legislation they eagerly condemned. Had they actually read the bill?

In particular, the "Graham-

Cassidy" Senate bill retains almost all the Affordable Care Act taxes "on the wealthiest" in order to fund Medicaid reform. Sen. Kaine asks, "Why go after Medicaid?" Do the Senators fail to understand that "Medicaid as we know it" is unsustainable? Where is their cost analysis of that program? In Virginia alone, the precipitous growth of the state's Medicaid spending is crowding out funding for public safety and infrastructure. State legislative leaders in Richmond recognize that reform is necessary.

The co-called "threats" to quality of coverage listed in Ms.

Kimm's final paragraph are simply untrue and misleading. Read the bill. The perverse rhetoric these two Senators use to obstruct the truth should be challenged by intellectually honest and rational reporters.

Until that happens, their remarks contribute nothing constructive to the important discussion on the truly "dire and urgent" need for healthcare reform. Virginians do know the facts, and do comprehend that exigency.

**Nancy Piotter**

Fairfax Station

*The writer is the Executive Director, Virginians for Quality Healthcare.*

## We Should All Kneel

To the Editor:

Let me remind football fans, that their game day traditions are not religious rituals. The National Anthem does not carry the same significance as a crucifix, Quran, or menorah. Choosing to honor your country at the beginning of your sports entertainment is perhaps a commendable choice but nonetheless arbitrary.

No area of life is exempt from the freedoms engendered in the Bill of Rights. Protest and dissent are fundamental to the health of our government.

It ensures our representation as citizens and expresses our values transversely to other members of

the society.

No person is under the obligation to stand, gesture, or poise themselves a certain way to have their protest taken seriously. Kneeling during the National Anthem is a way to transmit a sentiment in a highly public manner. The kneelers are no less citizens for acting this way. In fact, their exercise of their rights to free speech, protest, and dissent are the very first amendment to America's most important document.

Furthermore, the absurd suggestion that service members have ownership rights over an arbitrary starting ritual to a sports game belies an expression of one of

America's most heinous hobbies: the glorification of war. Why should service members be offended at the expression of the rights they say they fought for? I say, again, that it is absurd.

As citizens it would be healthy to engage in actual discourse, instead of censoring the manner in which our opponents are able to express their ideas. The day that Republicans would like to stand still during a Beyonce song as an act of protest for state's rights, I will welcome it. I ask the same courtesy of them.

**Mhairi Cameron**

Great Falls

## Don't Give Your Power Away: Vote

To the Editor:

We know from the 2016 election what happens when people don't vote. We are now living through a dystopian presidency with our American values under siege. But this November, Virginia voters have a chance to start righting the ship in statewide elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and House of Delegates.

While campaigning in Virginia and New Jersey this week, former President Obama reminded us that if we don't vote, we give away the power that our Constitution guarantees us. And while the nature

(and pace) of our current political discourse can be a source of frustration and fatigue, we can't afford to be complacent when it comes to elections.

Electing Ralph Northam as Governor is important as a balance against Virginia's Republican held legislature. The results of the 100 races for Virginia House of Delegates also have the potential to make a significant impact. If Democratic candidates can win in open seats and in some of the 50 other districts where they are challenging incumbents, it could portend a turning of the tide in statehouses across the country, where

recent Republican takeovers have resulted in terrible public policy, from school crippling tax cuts to election gerrymandering to union bashing.

Let's support the Democratic challengers and re-elect incumbents, like delegates Kathleen Murphy in District 34 and Mark Keam in District 35, who have successful track records. We have an opportunity by way of the ballot box to fight for our values and elect officials who share them.

Vote on November 7.

**Kristin Battista-Frazer**

McLean

## Northam, a Steady Hand for Governor

To the Editor:

Lt. Governor Ralph Northam is the experienced progressive candidate we need to serve as our next Governor to keep moving Virginia forward. He has worked tirelessly alongside Gov. Terry McAuliffe to support veterans, to expand healthcare, to protect civil rights, and to bring jobs to Virginia. McAuliffe and Northam have de-

creased Virginia's unemployment rate and have increased Virginia's per capita personal income.

Northam is able to reach across the aisle – a skill that is sorely needed – while also holding firm to his values. Most importantly, Northam will act as a last line of defense against the very conservative bills that the Republican-led House of Delegates and state Sen-

ate often bring to the floor.

In the last legislative session Gov. McAuliffe vetoed 18 proposed bills that included efforts to cut support to Planned Parenthood, impose more requirements on voter registration, restrict absentee voting and expand access to handguns. It was only due to the Governor's veto pen that we were

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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## AREA ROUNDUPS

# Collecting Food and Toiletries for Britepaths

Food items and needed toiletries for Britepaths, formerly known as Our Daily Bread, will be collected at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Sunday, Nov. 5 and 12 during open hours 1-4 p.m. For more than 30 years, Britepaths, has been a dedicated leader in developing sustainable solutions that stabilize low-income working families, build resilience through financial literacy and mentoring, and provide seasonal supports. Food items needed include: cereal, oil, canned chicken, rice, snack foods such as granola bars and pretzels, peanut butter and jelly. Toiletries include diapers size 6 and pull-ups any size. \$10 to \$20 food gift cards would also be welcome for families to purchase milk and meats. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2, 16 and older, \$4. Learn more at [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or 703-425-9225.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6  
includes:

- ❖ **Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.:** Burke Lake intersection – Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke
  - ❖ **Thursday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.:** Ravensworth Road intersection – Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale
  - ❖ **Monday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.:** 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. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/braddockroadmmstudy/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/braddockroadmmstudy/).

### 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/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/) or [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html) for more.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

saved from having these bills become law. Virginia does not need to go down that road again of vaginal ultrasound bills or bathroom bills, laws that would make Virginia a laughing stock and harm efforts to improve our economic development.

Northam is a steady and tested legislator who understands Virginia and who – along with Justin Fairfax and Mark Herring – deserves our vote on November 7.

**Barbara Glakas**  
Herndon

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# Weakened Wherewithal



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Say that three times quickly. Heck, say it one-time slowly. And then welcome to my whirled: the world of cancer treatment and survival. A 'whirled' in which, eight years and nearly eight months post diagnosis, I continue to live, breathe and write.

Occasionally it happens, as it is happening now, that some of the most excruciating demands of being a cancer patient, occur simultaneously – or a reasonable facsimile there of. For me that means 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, chemotherapy infusion, CT Scan and then the appointment with my oncologist to discuss all the results; occurring over 13 days – with intermittent days off for good behavior.

Typically; meaning every minute, every hour, every day, every week, etc., maybe not every second, I am thinking about cancer; though I wouldn't say I'm preoccupied (others might). And of course, it's certainly understandable and reasonable to do so when every day over a fortnight, you are waiting – as we say in the sales world – "for the other shoe to drop."

Having endured this cycle over the last eight and a half years with varying regularity, I can honestly say that whatever symptoms have manifested themselves – or not – have never provided any consistent assurance that my life/life expectancy had not changed for the worse. It's not until the appointment with my oncologist occurs – or sooner if he emails me the scan results, that I learn the facts of my case.

All of that being said, as my friend Frank has often said to me: "You're in pretty good shape for the shape you're in." Don't I know it.

However, yes there's always a 'however' in the cancer-patient-surviving-against-all-odds 'whirled,' there are no guarantees. In fact, there are only two guarantees: death and taxes. The former is way too close for comfort and the latter, I'm already taxed to the hilt, emotionally. Somehow, I have to get through because "the alternative is gloomy" to quote Dr. Mobley, the doctor in Miles City who treated Augustus McCray in the epic miniseries, "Lonesome Dove." And so I try not to be gloomy.

However, there's that word again, circumstances/schedules randomly bring down the weight – and wait of my 'whirled.' These 13 days can never pass quickly enough. But that presumes a good result, which one would want to know as soon as possible. But what of a bad result, leading to an exponential increase in anxiety – and fear, ultimately leading to a treatment unknown. That I might not want to know so soon. Not that not knowing serves any point or helps coordinate the next treatment plan, I'm more afraid of hearing something I haven't heard much of since February 2009. To quote my late mother quoting somebody: "No one gets out of this life alive."

That of course is the point of this column, and the effect of having all this cancer stuff happen at the same time. I can take it, generally; as my late father used to say: "KB, I have confidence in you. You have broad shoulders." Nevertheless, I worry about the figurative straw breaking my emotional back. Cancer can do that. It did it to my mother-in-law, Peggy, where over a few days the situation went from bad to worse to finally, the worst.

Somehow, I have to compartmentalize all this negative energy and focus on the positive. And that positive turns out to be an early email from my oncologist basically saying that my lung cancer remains stable. Now we can go to my appointment on Monday "unencumbered," to once gain quote my late father. The pressure is semi off. Talk about relief.

Now maybe I can relax and try not to think about my next infusion, my next scan and my next appointment with the oncologist. There's no harm in trying, right?

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



11

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