

Democrat Ralph Northam won 54 percent of the vote against Republican Ed Gillespie in a hotly contested race for Virginia Governor.

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Fairfax County Leads Blue Wave

Democrats sweep statewide races, come close to taking over House of Delegates.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Democrats swept all three statewide seats this week and picked up so many seats in the House of Delegates that control of the chamber is now in doubt. Voters rejected Republican arguments about sanctuary cities and Confederate memorials, divisive issues that had moderate Republicans trying to win over the most extreme elements of President Donald Trump's coalition. It didn't work, and it may have signaled a new era in how Democrats can take on Republicans and win at the ballot box.

"The new Democratic Party is back," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez during a raucous Election Night party at George Mason University. "And we're back with a bang."

In Fairfax County, Democrats picked up at least two seats in the House of Delegates. In Fairfax County, Northam received 67.86 percent of the vote; in Arlington, he received 80.07 percent; in the City of Alexandria, 78.36 percent.

Democrat Ralph Northam won 54 percent of the vote against Republican Ed Gillespie, whose performance slipped a bit from his 2014 nail-biter against Democrat Mark Warner for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Back in 2014, Gillespie won 48 percent of the vote. This year he was only able to get 45 percent. Here in Fairfax County, Republican Ken Cuccinelli won about 10,000 more votes four years ago than Gillespie won this year. Now Republicans say they're ready to



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION
Democrat Ralph Northam declares victory in the hotly contested race for governor at George Mason University.



Northam



Fairfax



Herring

mount their own resistance.

"Our grassroots are now primed to hold Northam accountable during his time as governor, and we plan to do just that," said Americans for Prosperity-Virginia State Director J.C. Hernandez. "If the Northam administration tries to advance policies that

grow government and make life more costly, we stand ready, willing, and able to educate our neighbors on the issues."

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP was not on the ballot in Virginia this year, but he loomed over every part of this campaign.

The election cycle started when many Democrats were still in shock that the real-estate developer turned reality TV star was elected president. A historic women's march after Trump's inauguration led to an unprecedented number of female candidates taking on entrenched Republican elected officials this year, mostly men. The gamble paid off, and many of those defeated male incumbents are now preparing to leave office.

"Women are leading the resistance," said Emily's List president Stephanie Schriock. "A record number of women ran for office in Virginia, and now a record number of women will serve in the Virginia House of Delegates, fighting for improved public education, investment in infrastructure, economic growth, and access to health care."

Voters in key swing jurisdictions voted for Northam; he won 61 percent in Prince William County, 60 percent in Loudoun County, 60 percent in Henrico County and 52 percent in Virginia Beach. And although Gillespie performed well in traditional Republican strongholds like Rockingham and Pittsylvania, he struggled in the Richmond suburb of Chesterfield, which was basically tied between the two candidates. Party leaders on both sides of the aisle say voters were reacting to Trump and sending a message.

"Voters turned out in droves in a direct rebuke of state Republicans and the Trump administration," said Jessica Post, executive director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. "Americans from coast to coast sent a clear message that when faced with adversity, we will step up and defend our values, safeguard the progress we have made, and push onward."

JUSTIN FAIRFAX beat state Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27). Some Democrats feared that Vogel might end up being the lone Republican to win a statewide seat, potentially yielding a

SEE BLUE WAVE, PAGE 15

Unofficial Election Results 11-8-17

SOURCE: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS, RESULTS.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV
* Incumbent

GOVERNOR

Ralph S. Northam (D) 1,405,007, 53.87%
Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R) 1,172,533, 44.96%
Clifford D. Hyra (L) 29,303, 1.12%
In Fairfax County, Northam received 67.86%
In Arlington, Northam received 80.07%
In City of Alexandria, Northam received 78.36%

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Justin E. Fairfax (D) 1,361,316, 54.64%
Jill H. Vogel (R) 1,222,603, 47.27%

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mark R. Herring (D)* 1,379,162, 53.21%
John D. Adams (R) 1,210,398, 46.70%

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

34th District
Kathleen Murphy (D)* 20,496, 60.91%
Cheryl Buford (R) 13,136, 39.04%
35th District
Mark Keam (D)* unopposed 22,566, 93.04%
36th District
Ken Plum (D)* unopposed 21,107, 93.01%
37th District
David Bulova (D)* unopposed 18,856, 93.56%
38th District
Kay Kory (D)* 16,008, 73.51%
Paul Haring (R) 5,718, 26.26%
39th District
Vivian Watts (D)* unopposed 21,392, 92.62%

40th District

Donte Tanner (D) 14,988, 49.73%
Tim Hugo (R)* 15,003, 50.11%

41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D)* unopposed 22,959, 90.84%

42nd District

Kathy Tran (D) 18,725, 60.94%
Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R) 11,962, 38.93%

43rd District

Mark Sickles (D)* unopposed 22,084, 93.34%

44th District

Paul Krizek (D)* unopposed 18,330, 92.81%

45th District

Mark Levine (D)* unopposed 31,360, 95.09%

46th District

Charniele Herring (D)* unopposed 18,919, 96.40%

47th District

Patrick Hope (D)* unopposed 29,672, 96.20%

48th District

Rip Sullivan (D)* unopposed 27,625, 94.61%

49th District

Alfonso Lopez (D)* 19,295, 81.29%
Adam Roosevelt (R) 4,388, 18.49%

53rd District

Marcus Simon (D)* 19,216, 74.34%
Mike Casey (I) 6,336, 24.51%

67th District

Karrie Delaney (D) 17,017, 57.86%
Jim LeMunyon (R)* 12,350, 41.99%

86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D)* 17,213, 68.99%
Linda Schulz (R) 7,697, 30.85%

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOND, \$315 MILLION

YES 228,921, 73.40%
NO 82,941, 26.60%

Renting Out Homes Through the Net

Proposed zoning rules would allow residents to operate short-term lodging as an accessory use of a home.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Nick Ploutis developed his backup plan during tough economic times when fewer people contracted him to paint their houses.

"It has saved me," said Ploutis of Springfield, a father of four who rented out his Alexandria property through a short-term rental platform. "Airbnb has helped me to pay my bills."

Fairfax County Planning Commission held a workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 1 to address issues associated with allowing short-term rentals, such as who can operate lodging, the number of days permitted, whether homeowners or occupants must be present during the rental period, fees and necessary permitting for registering homes for short-term rentals, and if a log of overnight adults guests must be maintained and available to county staff.

"I think a lot of [short-term rentals] are flying under the radar," said Dranesville District Commissioner John Ulfelder. "Technically, they are illegal right now."

Currently, short-term lodging is not a permitted use under the existing Zoning Ordinance.

Laurie Arrants, of the Mason District, expressed comfort that the county will examine this new rental industry before rushing ahead: "Adding risk associated with lodging into the residential communities is a huge paradigm shift," when local zoning code has protected residential areas from commercial activity, she said.

Right now, the county is considering limiting the number of nights in a range of 30 to 180 days annually; planners said they want the rentals clearly defined to be an accessory use, that the property's primary use will still be somebody's domicile.

Gail Henry of Fairfax asked why there would be a limit to the number of days residents could rent out home spaces. "I imagine there are many positives," said Henry, referring to widowers, military members, people laid off or underemployed, or trying to remain in an expensive county.

She voiced concern over a negative undertone she sensed in the county's initial discussions on the topic.

But planning commissioners have not taken any stand, said Planning Commission Chairman and Springfield District Commissioner Peter Murphy.

"No one on the commission is calling balls and strikes right now, we are simply asking questions," said Murphy, during the public workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING parking, noise, and insurance liability dominated the queries from the planning commissioners



Julie Strandlie, Mason District Commissioner



Nick Ploutis, Springfield



James Hart, At-large Commissioner



Timothy Sargeant, At-large Commissioner



Don Hinman, Mount Vernon



Gail Henry, Fairfax

Proposed Standards

Related to Operation:

- Short-term lodging allowed as **accessory use** to the primary residential use
- ✓ Limited to overnight rentals of not more than **30-180 calendar days/year**
- ✓ Operator must be present during all rental period except for a maximum of **14-60 calendar days/year**
- ✓ Limited to one contract per night
- A log of all overnight adult guests must be maintained & must be available upon request by County Staff
- ✓ Indicates provision to be advertised with flexibility

FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING

This chart shows a range of proposals for the zoning ordinance regarding short-term rentals.

to Department of Planning and Zoning staff during the two-hour meeting.

Liability insurance must be addressed, said Don Hinman, of Mount Vernon District, who spoke on behalf of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. The federation advocates that homeowners (or residents) must be present when renting out

for short-term rental.

At-large Commissioner James Hart called the short-term rentals analogous to child care centers operating in people's homes.

He asked if inspections will be made, but county officials said they intend the responsibility to be placed on the homeowner or occupant hosting the short-term renter.

"It will be next to impossible for condo associations and HOAs to amend documents if theirs do not already prohibit [short term rentals]."

— Julie Strandlie, Mason District Planning Commissioner

Regulating, Permitting Short-Term Rentals

Fairfax County is moving forward with a process to permit and limit short-term lodging like Airbnb and other platforms. This would regulate who can operate short-term lodging, impose limits on the operation and develop a permit process for seeking approval of short-term lodging as an accessory use to the occupancy of a dwelling.

The county's Department of Zoning Ordinance process allows time to fine-tune additional language of short-term rentals; the county will advertise public hearings to give all residents an opportunity to voice opinion. The county conducted an online survey and have conducted several public meetings already, including last week's public workshop at the Planning Commission.

For more, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/short-term-rentals.htm and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/shorttermrentals/shorttermrentals-calendar.htm.

"If we're approving a registry of these, maybe there's some expectation in the public that somebody at some point has checked to make sure there's a working smoke detector and that there's a fire exit that meets code," said Hart. "I hope that there's not a false sense of security by us approving a registry for these, that yes, you can sleep overnight there ... and we don't know if it's a firetrap or not."

Lee District Commissioner James Migliaccio would like to see "a more draconian approach" taken with violators.

"I'm looking to protect the neighbors a bit more," said Ellen Hurley, Braddock District Commissioner.

THE STRONGEST request came from Mason District Commissioner Julie Strandlie. She implored the county to conduct a survey of HOAs and condo associations.

"I think it is imperative that we do a survey to find out what our communities existing HOA and condo language says," said Strandlie. "It will be next to impossible for condo associations and HOAs to amend documents if theirs do not already prohibit [short-term rentals]."

At-large Commissioner Tim Sargeant said he has concerns for small HOAs that might not have the resources to pursue legal costs should the need arise.

"We're not precluding any HOA in any way from saying no?" asked Commissioner Hart.

"That is correct," answered Lily Yegazi, senior assistant to the zoning administrator.

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LAMINATE
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12MM



MATTE WHITE
PORCELAIN MOSAIC
12" X 12"



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3/8" X 3 3/4"



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ENGINEERED HARDWOOD
3/8" X 5"



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MARBLE
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GLASS MOSAIC
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OPINION

Be Part of Children's Issue 2017

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

EDITORIAL

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever been given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 1. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2017.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD or flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

- ❖ For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

- ❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

See last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Churches Get Ready for Company

BY JOE FAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FACETS

The warm fall masks what's ahead: a cold winter that jeopardizes the lives of those who have no home. Despite the warmer than average temperatures, the annual community effort to protect and provide for Fairfax residents who are living in the woods, on the streets, in cars, and abandoned buildings is gearing up.

FACETS

Since 2003, FACETS' Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program has provided a safe place to sleep and nutritious meals to men and women who are experiencing homelessness. This program is operated across Fairfax and Falls Church in partnership with the Fairfax County government and approximately 40 faith communities.

Planning starts months before as our team at FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping those who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax, meets with faith community and county partners on the logistics needed to serve hundreds of guests. Throughout the winter, each faith community partner takes a week when they open their doors to provide shelter. In anticipation, churches and temples are preparing their facilities to wel-

come people in need during the cold months ahead — cleaning, getting supplies, and making fixes and upgrades. Other volunteers are planning menus and meals to serve.

Over the years, the program has evolved from solely offering a safe haven to also offering life-enhancing programs. The cold winter means demand for our services goes up. It also means we have the opportunity to address these needs in a very personal way as more people come in from the cold through our hypothermia prevention effort. We use these interactions to connect even more people with housing solutions and critical services.

Last year, we served nearly 300 guests through the hypothermia prevention program. In addition, our case managers worked with 125 of these guests to connect them with health, housing, and job placement services as well as veterans and Social Security benefits.

In addition, we connected some guests with market-rate apartments or houses in the community, where they received rental subsidies and/or services that were tailored to their specific needs, including a caseworker to help ease the transition. Last winter, 34 hy-



Joe Fay

pothemia prevention program guests found a home through the interaction.

Fairfax has the second largest population in the region experiencing homelessness, a surprise for many who live in this county with so much abundance. But we also

have a caring, strong community filled with volunteers willing to give of their time and talents to

make life better for all. These volunteers — who are cooking and cleaning to prepare for company that will arrive after Thanksgiving — are great hosts and an important part of our community's efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

To learn more or volunteer, visit us at www.FACETSCares.org.

Joe Fay is Executive Director of FACETS, a Fairfax-based nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Money Talks, on Guns Too

To the Editor:

I am weary of the diatribe that follows every mass shooting about how sorry gun proponents, politicians, etc. feel about these massacres. They offer their prayers and compassion each and every time.

What about helping these people? What about the NRA having a fund for victims of gun violence? What about taxing ammunition in order to provide funds for these vic-

tims? If a person is hit by a car he or she could get compensation from the insurance. If a person is affected by a hurricane, FEMA, churches and other groups step in to help. I see no sincere concern for the victims of gun violence, only rhetoric, and the inability of gun advocates to take any responsibility for gun ownership.

If this is a right, then it also bears a responsibility. Perhaps if there were financial consequences, there would be more resolve to deal with the prob-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

Burke CONNECTION

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

lem. Money talks.

Elaine Miletta
Fairfax Station

Refuse to Enroll

To the Editor:

Virginians shopping for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchange have other alternatives. Enrollment through the ACA exchange starts Nov. 1, but individuals can refuse to enroll.

Insurance premiums for 2018 are higher than ever, and choice of plans is shrinking. Only seven insurers are offering individual plans in Virginia, and the monthly premium increases range from 35-73 percent over 2017 plans. Many Virginians cannot afford "Obamacare" any longer. The ACA allows three legal opt-out options, including nine primary and 14 hardship exemptions. A simple-to-understand description of these exemptions is available from Citizens' Council for Health Freedom at cchfreedom.org.

While Congress falters on repealing the ACA, Virginians can

open the escape hatch and refuse to enroll. Once people understand that subsidies are dollars taken from taxpayers, and see that the exchange is a system for redistributing wages, they will discover that better choices are available — choices that protect their privacy, their pocketbooks, and their cherished freedom.

Nancy Piotter
Executive Director
Virginians for Quality
Healthcare
Fairfax Station

Not in God's Name

To the Editor:

On Oct. 31, a major tragedy happened in Manhattan, N.Y. A tragedy consisting of eight people killed and many more injured due to the ignorance and idiocy of a terrorist by the name of Sayfullo Saipov, as he yelled in the streets "Allahu Akbar." Do you know what that means?

"Allahu Akbar," one of the most frequently said phrases in the Muslim world, and the integral part of a Muslim's prayer, means

"Allah is the Greatest." Now, how can God, the Omnipotent, Merciful Being be great if in His name there are radicals killing people? Does that mean that since Muslims say this often, that all Muslims, or a majority of us, believe that it is OK to say the name of God to justify killing?

As a Muslim who tries to follow the teachings of the Holy Quran, the exact word of God Himself, I can assure all Americans that have a fear of the phrase "Allahu Akbar" that God truly is the Greatest, and that no true Muslim will justify the killing of a person, especially God forbid, with the name of God Himself.

Why? God gives the answer. He says in the Quran that the killing of one person is as if all of mankind was killed (5:33).

Now, I think, that does warrant "Allahu Akbar," and I hope that all my fellow Americans realize that the meaning behind this phrase is not of evil but rather of beauty and hope.

Haris Qamar
Clifton

The writer is a member of Muslim Writers Guild of America and is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology.

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Share your gratitude this holiday season

Lorton Community Action Center

You can help your neighbors by getting involved with one of LCAC's many programs and events.

- **Donate** to the food pantry
- **Shop** Lorton's Attic Thrift Store for our annual **Re-Gift, Re-Love Sale -- begins Nov 20th**

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100th Anniversary of the Night of Terror

Historian Lynne Garvey-Hodge talks about events that led to women's right to vote.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Local historian Lynne Garvey-Hodge of Clifton gave a lecture last Saturday on Forgotten Fairfax: 100th Anniversary of the Night of Terror at the Fairfax City Regional Library.

The talk centered on the 32 female protesters, known as "Silent Sentinels," who picketed the Woodrow Wilson White House on Nov. 14, 1917, for the right to vote and were then incarcerated, beaten, chained, and force-fed at the Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton.

"I am delighted that the Fairfax City Library is promoting these kinds of history talks because there is so much rich history that reflects the United States and this area right here in our own back yards, and if we don't come and listen to it and we don't participate in it, we will lose all of that," said Garvey-Hodge, who has served seven terms on the Fairfax County History Commission.

"We do these lectures to give the public more of an awareness of these forgotten or often overlooked or little-known topics of Fairfax County's history," said Chris Barbuschak, City of Fairfax librarian and archivist. While 50 people attended, he said this is the second-annual lecture series, which are talks on Virginia Room sponsors of the local history and genealogy part of the library.

While dressed as a society lady with parasol and fan, and re-enacting the role of Mrs. Robert Walker, Garvey-Hodge told the story of suffragists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns who coordinated a parade with 8,000 women championing the right to vote before the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson in Washington. She said most of the parade spectators were men who spit and threw eggs and tomatoes at them. They held another parade with 10,000 women a month later.

TO MAKE IT KNOWN that they would not be silent, the women began picketing in 1917 in front of the White House; they were an embarrassment to Wilson, so they were fined \$25 for obstructing traffic and taken to the Washington, D.C., jail for two days. After a mock trial, they were found guilty and sent to Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton, where the conditions were deplorable.

While in prison, Garvey-Hodge said their clothes, jewelry, and shoes were taken from them. They were given crude prison uniforms to wear and a blanket that smelled



Lynne Garvey-Hodge with Lauren Kirby of Centreville at the City of Fairfax Library.



Lynne Garvey-Hodge with Charlie Kraiger of Fairfax at the City of Fairfax Library.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



Lynne Garvey-Hodge speaks at the City of Fairfax Library.

of vomit and urine. Their cell beds were covered in bed bugs and for food, they were given soup infested with worms and dirty water to drink. In response, the women held hunger strikes, and were then put in strait-jackets and force-fed through tubes. In addition, the Negro girls in prison were ordered to beat up on the suffragists to keep an insurrection from happening.

In a slide show presentation, Garvey-Hodge shared stories of women suffragists including Lucy Burns, Dora Lewis, and Mary Nolan, who were taken to prison and given 6-90 days depending on their arrests. The

picketing began in January and the arrests started in June.

On Nov. 27-28, 1917, all the imprisoned suffragists were released from Occoquan Workhouse. Journalists put the prisoners' ill treatment on the front page of newspapers across the U.S., which was an embarrassment to Wilson. On Dec. 9, 1917, Garvey-Hodge said that some 4,000 suffragists gathered and celebrated their devotion to the cause.

But it would still take two more years for women to get the right to vote as Wilson turned the issue over to 36 states. So in

1919 and 1920, the suffragists went on parades and held demonstrations for the cause. On Aug. 18, 1920, the woman's right to vote came down to one individual — Harry Burn, a Senator from Tennessee. Garvey-Hodge said on the night before the vote, his mother sent him a letter urging him to do the right thing and vote for the 19th Amendment. With his vote, Alice Paul, who co-founded the Congressional Union and then formed the National Woman's party, sewed the 36th star that made the 19th Amendment the law of the land. Twelve states west of the Mississippi supported women's right to vote in the early days; the support from Eastern states came later.

GARVEY-HODGE ended her talk with these final thoughts: "I have a dream that someday, someday we'll have women Governors in this land, that half of Congress may be women, that we may some day have a woman in the White House. This land is about freedom for all, freedom for everyone. ... My hope for you is that never, any of you, should have to wake up some day and say to your daughter, your sister, your aunt, your grandmother, you should never have to say, Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?"

Garvey-Hodge also pointed out that the 19th Amendment wasn't accepted in Commonwealth of Virginia until the year 1952.

Home LifeStyle

Light Up the Season

Tastemakers create holiday trees, mantel-pieces, wreaths and a menorah for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Some local designers are collaborating with patients at Children's National Health Center to deck the hall for charity. The tastemakers are creating holiday trees, mantle pieces, wreaths and a menorah for a community fundraiser called "Light Up the Season." The Creative & Therapeutic Arts Services at Children's National worked with the Children's Health Board to pair designers with patients for inspiration.

"We were very excited to learn about Light Up the Season and be able to take part," said Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design. "Over the years we've been regular participants in the DC Design House, another charity event benefitting Children's National. However, with this event we got the chance to interact and collaborate with the children that these events benefit. It's been a much more hands on experience for us. And who doesn't love decorating holiday trees?"

Subaran, along with Megan Padilla and Kelly Emerson also of Aidan Design created a holiday tree design called "A 'Wimpy' Tree – A Tree in Cartoons," which was inspired by a patient named Wesley and his favorite book series, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

"Our tree will explore a black and white theme in keeping with the graphic novel genre," said Subaran.

The design team says that they used 2- and 3-D interpretations of classic Christmas décor combined with "striking graphic visuals, pops of color, and a good dose of wit, the tree will be both a throwback to a simpler time and on trend for young readers."

"A Guiding Light" is the name of the mantel design created by Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Proxmire, Inc.

and inspired by a patient named Cheyenne. In creating her mantel, the designer said that she, "tied in biblical references to light, which are shown throughout the display, and incorporated Cheyenne's favorite color: red for a red, white and silver-themed mantel."

Two sisters named Leilah and Ava were the inspiration for a tree design called, "A Colorful Family Christmas" by Annie Elliott and Christy Maguire of Annie Elliott Interiors. "When asked what they liked best about Christmas, the girls agreed that being together with their entire family was tops," said Elliott. "In that spirit, they inspired our theme, 'A Colorful Family Christmas.' Playing board games, reading stories, sitting around a fire and decorating the tree also are favorite family activities. You'll see all of these holiday traditions reflected in our



Christy Maguire (left) and Annie Elliott (right) of Annie Elliott Interiors, (pictured with Leilah and Ava) will collaborate on a holiday tree for Light Up The Season 2017.

tree's decorations."

"Leilah and Ava have many favorite colors, but a winner for both is teal," added Maguire. "Therefore, teal drives the tree's color palette, and other of the girls' favorites, purple, blue, and green, also are included."

Other area designers include Lena Kroupnik of Lena Kroupnik Interiors, Allie Mann and Alexandria Hubbard of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., Camille Saum of Camille Saum Interiors of Bethesda, Md.; Victoria Sanchez of Victoria at Home, Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron, Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley Flowers of Alexandria; Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors of Herndon; Josh Hildreth and Tara Price of Josh Hildreth Interiors of Reston and Lisa Tureson of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill.

The holiday designs will be on display during a family-friendly community fundraising event to benefit Children's National at Four Seasons in Georgetown, 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW – on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. There will be activities for all ages, such as holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, a visit from Santa and Children's National Dr. Bear mascot, musical performances and youth entertainers, silent auction, and light fare and libations. In addition, guests will be encouraged to write holiday cards for Children's National patients. Visit childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason for more.

PHOTO BY RYAN MEDIA LAB

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PHOTO BY PAM HARDIN

From left: Calvin Osorio, Jack Hopewell, Will Ivey in a W. T. Woodson High production of "Pippin."

Magic, Wonder and Adventure

W. T. Woodson's production of "Pippin."

BY MIRANDA HUFFER
WOODGROVE HIGH SCHOOL

"Lights, Camera, Action!" The blinding lights of a movie studio flood the stage as the sleazy, jazzy Leading Players saunter on, joined by an ensemble of 1930s movie stars, all telling the tale of the son of Charlemagne, Prince Pippin. With a unique spin on the world-famous musical, W. T. Woodson's movie studio-themed "Pippin" has quite a lot of "Magic to Do."

CAPPIES REVIEW Written by Stephen Schwartz, "Pippin" is one of the most unique and groundbreaking Broadway shows. Opening with mystery and intrigue, the Leading Players (typically one player, but in W. T. Woodson's "Pippin" the role is played by both Nick Dache and Sydney Cluff) draw the audience in, introducing the story of Pippin (Jack Hopewell), son of King Charles (Calvin Osorio). The show follows both the story of Prince Pippin and his unfulfilled life as well as the underlying plot of the players and actors themselves.

Typically performed in a circus theme, W. T. Woodson is breaking the mold with an unusual concept: movies. Centered around the 1930s and the golden age of film, this choice of theme transformed the leading players into movie directors, constantly observing and intervening. It also allowed for fascinating technical elements, such as movie cameras on stage, the usage of work lights to convey a stoppage in filming, and a studio box for the ensemble to sing in.

Central to both the plot and the strength of the performance was the title

character himself, Pippin. Capturing the essence of Pippin's boyish nature, Hopewell dazzled with both his clear-cut characterization and his enchanting vocals, to transport the audience to another world with his hopeful take on the number, "Corner of the Sky."

Lurking in the background, the Leading Players brought a hint of foreshadowing to every scene, manipulating and leading Pippin around with ease. The pair's dynamic made the choice to cast the part in two actors an excellent one. The intention of the Leading Players in the plot became clear in the finale, when Pippin denied their offer to perform in a trick that would cause his demise. Nick Dache, the male Leading Player, allowed his character's composure to crack, erupting at Pippin and the ensemble with a fury that caught all off-guard.

Perfectly capturing the duality of the show's nature, Karlee Skaggs, playing Catherine, displayed two well-rounded characters: the actual character Catherine, a widow who takes Pippin in, and the actress playing her, who has genuine feelings for him. Her diverse range of emotions and skillful vocals were shown off in her "unplanned" number, "I Guess I'll Miss the Man," in which the Leading Players attempt to stop her from expressing her true feelings.

Setting the scene was a humongous castle, well-crafted and tall, which moved around the stage with relative ease. While underutilized, the set piece was nonetheless impressive, and it added incredible impact in the finale, when it was removed to symbolize Pippin's loss of acting and illusions of grandeur. The lighting was also notable, with diverse colors to represent individual characters and emotions.

Full of magic, wonder, and adventure, W. T. Woodson's "Pippin" is a joy from start to finish. There is "No Time at All" to waste, so catch "Pippin" before it's gone!



Holiday Music

Here Vienna-Falls Chorus sings holiday favorites with Master Director Claire Gardiner at Vienna-Falls Guest Night. This year it is Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7-9 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A Capella Barbershop Style, women of all ages join us for the Vienna-Falls Chorus Guest Night. Free voice assessments, private voice lesson, and education. Visit www.viennafalls.org for more.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THURSDAY/NOV. 9

Art and Lunch. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Bring canvas and paints, meet with other painters. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net for more.

Civil War Family Story. 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "The Benson-Rice Story" – storytellers from the historic Sudley United Methodist Church in Manassas will tell the story of the relationship of a Union soldier and Confederate family during and after the Civil War. Free. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Call 703-591-0560 for more.

Artist Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Meet the featured artist and be a part of the local artist community. Free and open to the public. New members welcome. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

SATURDAY/NOV. 11

Veterans Day Celebration. 10:15 a.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Unveiling and dedication of a Virginia historical highway marker in honor of General William Brown on Richmond Highway outside Pohick Cemetery. General Brown served in the Continental Army under General Washington, was in charge of military hospitals between the Hudson and Potomac Rivers, and is buried in Pohick Cemetery. Free. Email 1066LMN@gmail.com or call 703-304-4152.

SUNDAY/NOV. 12

Fall Festival. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Virginia International University, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Attendees can park at the Waples location, 11200 Waples Mill Road. The university has partnered with the Student Veterans of America, and a quarter of the proceeds from this event will go to support this organization. Email aforbes@viu.edu for more.

Holiday Food and Toiletries Collection. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Britepaths is collecting food items needed: 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. Visit www.fairfax-station.org for more.

Patriotic Quilt Discussion. 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Textile historian and quilt maker Bunnie Jordan will discuss and display quilts featuring patriotic symbols from the World War I and World War II time periods. Free. Call 703-385-8414 for more.

Taste of Greater Springfield. 3-7 p.m. at the Waterford at Springfield, 6715 Commerce St. Features local restaurants providing samples of their favorite dishes – wines and craft beers also featured. Organized by the Rotary Club of West Springfield Foundation to support local scholarships. \$35. Visit www.rotaryofwestspringfield.org for more.

Fairfax Musician's Final Concert. 5 p.m. at National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. A Celebration to Honor Dr. Douglas Mears as artistic director of the Fairfax Choral Society. Call 703-642-3277 for more.

TUESDAY/NOV. 14

Vienna-Falls Guest Night. 7-9 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A Capella Barbershop Style, women of all ages join us for the Vienna-Falls Chorus Guest Night. Free voice assessments, private voice lesson, and education. Visit www.viennafalls.org for more.

NOV. 14-JAN. 9, 2018

Fall Art Lessons for Youth Classes. 5:15-6:15 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin drawing and watercolor. Visit www.czartlessons.com or call 703-250-6930 for more.

Fall Drawing Plus Color Class. 6:15 p.m.-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 or call 703-250-6930 for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 16

Spy Lecture. 7 p.m. at the Braddock District Supervisor's Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Retired FBI Agent Lydia Jechorek discusses her presentation "From Teaching Art to Chasing Spies." Free. Call 703-764-8061.

ENTERTAINMENT



The Nutcracker

Professional guest artists Cody Beaton and Mate Szentes from the Richmond Ballet dazzle as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier in the Fairfax Ballet's Nutcracker, on Nov. 25-26, at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427.

CALENDAR

NOV. 17-18

International Holiday Bazaar. 8:30 a.m. at Immanuel Baptist Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. Hosted by Bethany House of Northern Virginia. Friday from 4-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds go to Bethany House of Northern Virginia which provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.\$5. Visit www.bhmv.org for more.

St. Matthews Annual Craft Fair & Children's Show. Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. More than 40 vendors and children's author and entertainer Edward Allan Faine (a.k.a. "How-to Cowboy") will teach attendees how to whistle through their tongues, play hand trumpet, talk like Donald Duck and Darth Vader, and perform other tricks. Free. Visit www.stmatthewsumc.org/ for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax

Station. The NTRAK group with a display of running N Gauge model trains. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Crop Hunger Walk. 2 p.m. at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. 25th annual Burke/Fairfax CROP Hunger Walk to raise funds and awareness to combat hunger and provide disaster relief. Visit www.burkecropwalk.org for more.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner. 5-7 p.m. at the Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The 5th annual "pre-Thanksgiving" dinner with all the trimmings. The event is free and open to all. Visit www.franconiaumc.org for more.

NOV. 25-26

Fairfax Ballet Company's

Nutcracker. Nov. 25, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Nov. 26, 2 p.m. at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Fairfax Ballet Senior company member Ana Victoria Smith of Clifton, dances the role of Clara. Company members, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists. Email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427 for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Historic Clifton Holiday Homes Tour. 4-7 p.m. at Clifton Baptist Church, 7152 Main St., Clifton. \$25 adult; \$5 child; credit cards are more. Visit clifton-va.com for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Lunch with Santa. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

Holiday Ornament Craft Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

Frosty Follies Show. 6 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Metropolitan School of the Arts will present their annual Frosty Follies shows in the Springfield Town Center in the Main Court. Visit metropolitanarts.org/ for more.



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Helping Keep Homeless Warm this Winter

Hypothermia Prevention Program gearing up for 2017-2018 season.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The first semi-cold snap just hit the region, but it's just a taste of colder days and wintry weather yet to come. It's also a reminder that some of people will be braving the season without the ability to simply turn the temperature up on a heating unit. In a region that is consistently described as having one of the healthiest economies in the country, there are still hundreds who are homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

Fairfax County and surrounding communities operate shelters for individuals and families year-round and serve a large clientele with their efforts, but when winter arrives, it becomes apparent that there are many more homeless throughout the area, and without the Hypothermia Prevention Program their lives would be in danger.

During the 2016-2017 season, Abby Dunner from the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness reports that at least 1,057 people utilized one of the shelters for at least one night.

THE PROGRAM is an integral part of the county's commitment to prevent and end homelessness, offering shelter – and more – during the coldest months of the year. The non-profits New Hope Housing (NHH), FACETS, Cornerstones and Northern Virginia Family Services operate the program under contract with Fairfax County, dividing their efforts and offerings into five service areas, with the help of some 44 faith-based communities who have volunteered not only their congregants to assist, but also offered their facilities as shelter venues during the program's season.

New Hope Housing handles the task in the South County Route 1 area, the Central area, including Annandale and Seven Corners, as well as within the City of Falls Church, in partnership with Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter.

In South County, NHH goes into high gear starting Dec. 1 with their overnight shelter program through the Ventures in Community Hypothermia Outreach Program (VICHOP) at Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church in Alexandria. An army of volunteers, many from faith-based agencies, assist staff with meal preparation and service for dinner and a to-go breakfast. NHH also offers housing assistance and employment skills at both shelters.

The City of Falls Church program will kick off on Nov. 15 and run through March 31, 2018 at the Falls Church Homeless Shelter at 217 Gordon Road. from 6 p.m.-8 a.m. daily. Like the South County facilities, case management services will be available, in addition to hot meals and a warm and safe sleeping environment.



On a day like this, many appreciate that Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church in Alexandria offers their facilities to the homeless during the Hypothermia Prevention Program Season through their Ventures in Community Hypothermia Outreach Program, with New Hope Housing coordinating the services for the region.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY SHERRY EDELKAMP



Thousands of volunteers make the Hypothermia Prevention Program possible each year, offering a warm meal and a warm place to sleep. A cheerfully decorated lunch bag from some of the region's youngest citizens, can help warm the heart as well.

Contact Information

How to make contact in your area to receive assistance or to offer it:

- ❖ South County – www.newhopehousing.org.
- ❖ City of Falls Church – www.newhopehousing.org
- ❖ Central – www.newhopehousing.org
- ❖ North County – www.cornerstonesva.org. To donate or volunteer, contact ❖ Susan Alger at Susan.Alger@cornerstonesva.org.
- ❖ Western/Central – www.facetscares.org.

In the Central region, from Dec. 1 through March 31, 2018, NHH operates their seasonal program out of the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter (BCCS), starting at 4:30 p.m. Faith communities offer their facilities on a weekly rotation, enabling NHH to greatly expand the numbers they can assist. Clients can access meals, laundry, showers and cold-weather clothing and supplies at BCCS, before some are transported to a volunteering faith community for overnight accommodation in the care of NHH staff. Guests are then transported back to BCCS the following morning.

Cornerstones coordinates the efforts in the North County area, including Herndon and Reston, operating out of the Embury Rucker Community Shelter. The main Hypothermia Prevention Program opens at the North County Government Building on Dec. 1, where guests are directed after visiting the Embury Rucker facility. Case management, supplies, meals, showers, laundry, and even bus tokens are available to guests. During the 2015-2016 season, FACETS and their partners served 385 guests.

The Western and Central region, which includes Fairfax and Centreville, is operated by FACETS. Their prevention program begins on Nov. 26. Accommodations vary, as guests are hosted by various partnering faith communities. The first four weeks will be hosted at one site, then, beginning on Dec. 24, the program utilizes two community sites rotating each week. FACETS provides case management services at each location. FACETS also encourages community members to volunteer at a location, or to donate items like food and clothing. The organization offers volunteer and staff training sessions "with the goal of making sure everyone involved feels safe and confident in providing shelter to those experiencing homelessness this season."

IN ADDITION to offering accommodation and life skills services, the Hypothermia Prevention Program includes visits – at least once per week – to the venues by nurse practitioners from Fairfax County's Homeless Healthcare Program. Basic medical care can be offered onsite, and flu vaccines will be offered free of charge. Outreach personnel will also visit, helping to assist clients wishing to enroll into the Community Health Care Network's free clinics.

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Employment

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kiddiecountryschool@aol.com

Fax: 703-644-0073 **Phone:** 703-644-0066

Kiddie Country is accepting applications for a co-teaching position working with two year olds. Hours are 7:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M., Monday-Friday. Applicant must be degreed, preferably in Early Childhood Education. Team teachers will work together to appropriately conduct a planned semi-structured program supported by a curriculum specialist. Please apply if you are nurturing, accessible, enthusiastic, caring and committed to high quality education for the littlest of our learners. Please contact Kiddie Country for further information or an appointment. EOE

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CRIME

Child Exploitation Unit Stops Human Trafficking in Springfield

Detectives received a tip from the National Human Trafficking Hotline over the weekend regarding victims being held against their will at a local hotel. Using information collected from the tip, they were able to determine the victims' location.

When detectives arrived, they found one victim in the lobby of TownePlace Suites in the 6200 block of Brandon Avenue in Springfield. Two additional victims were found at the hotel - according to Fairfax County Police.

While at the location, the detectives also spotted the alleged trafficker and immediately took him into custody. Jamon Kaneer Murphy, 22, of Fredericksburg, was arrested and charged with two counts of commercial sex trafficking, two counts of abduction with a firearm, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon. He is being held at the Adult Detention Center without bond. Additional charges are possible.

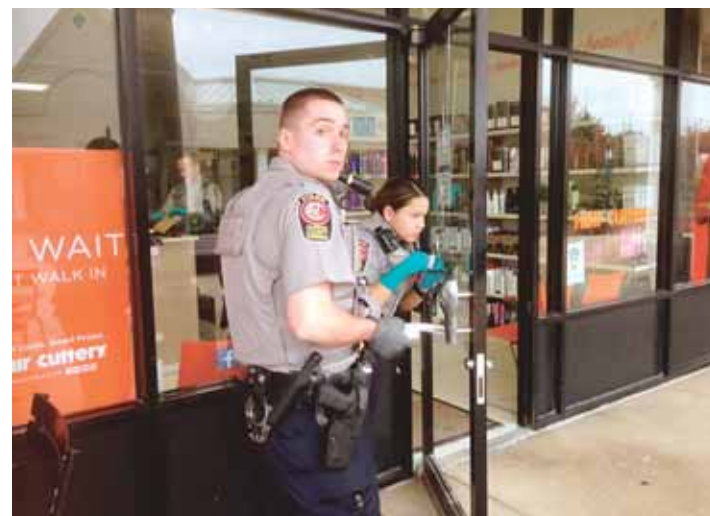
FCPD encourages anyone who may be a victim to contact them at 703-691-2131. They also ask anyone with information on this case or other incidents involving human trafficking to contact them as well. Call directly, or submit a tip anonymously through Crime Solvers by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus the message to CRIMES (274637). Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1000 if their information leads to an arrest.

Domestic Assault Ends with Suspect Taking Own Life

A Springfield man is dead after an investigation shows he assaulted his wife with a hatchet and took his own life using a chainsaw. Officers responded to the 7500 block of Springfield Hills Drive shortly before 3:30 this afternoon for an assault with weapon call stemming from a domestic dispute. They found the victim, a 76-year-old woman, with non-life-threatening injuries caused by the blunt side of a hatchet. According to Fairfax County Police Department, the suspect, her husband, was found in the home's garage with life-threatening injuries. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. He was 70 years old. Police are not releasing the name of the suspect to protect the identity of the victim.

A preliminary investigation determined an adult family member arrived at the home and was unable to open the front door. She pushed the door in and saw the suspect assaulting his wife in the foyer. She rescued the victim and the two of them exited the home. The suspect followed them outside where a struggle ensued over the weapon.

After 9-1-1 was called, the man returned to the home and shut the door. Officers were setting up a perimeter when one noticed the suspect on the floor of the garage with serious injuries. They entered the garage and immediately provided life-saving measures before the suspect was taken to the hospital.



Break-in in Kingstowne

In Kingstowne on Monday morning, Nov. 6, police investigate a break-in at the Hair Cuttery.

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News Blue Wave

FROM PAGE 3

key tie-breaking vote in the state Senate on issues like immigration or reproductive rights. But the former federal prosecutor sailed to victory with 53 percent of the vote.

“As just the second African-American to ever win statewide office in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Justin Fairfax has already made history just by winning this seat,” said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America. “For Democrats, he’s also made history by showing doubters in Richmond and Washington that progressives dedicated to an inclusive populist political agenda can win big in Virginia.”

Democrat Mark Herring was the only part of the statewide ticket running for reelection, so his campaign was largely a referendum on his time in office. On the campaign trail, Herring talked about his work tackling the opioid crisis and taking on the gun lobby. Voters agreed, and gave him 53 percent of the vote against lawyer John Adams.

“Attorney General Mark Herring came under attack from the gun lobby for doing exactly what he was elected to do: prioritizing the safety of Virginia families over gun lobby profits,” said former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in a written statement. “I am proud to stand by Attorney General Herring as a true champion for safer communities, and I am thrilled to see Virginia voters stand by him as well.”

THE NEXT YEAR in Virginia politics is likely to be one of the most tumultuous periods since Reconstruction. With Democrats poised to take some measure of control of the House, the composition of committees and their chairmen is bound to change. Those details have yet to be worked out. But one thing is clear: When members of the House of Delegates elect a new speaker of the House in January, they will be setting the stage for a session that will have more liberal members than ever before.

“Voters in Virginia soundly rejected the politics of division and bigotry and instead converted hate into political power,” said Julio Lainez, director of America’s Voice Virginia in a written statement. “This, however, is a first step, and it sends a clear message to candidates running in 2018: The Trump/Corey Stewart Political Playbook leads to political oblivion.”

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/NOV. 11

SALT Fall Advocacy Training Conference. 9-11 a.m. at the Virginia International University, Conference Room (VD-301), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Sister Simone Campbell, will be the keynote speaker on “21st Century Poverty: Needed Action.” Del. Ken Plum will address “Advocacy is moving to the state levels, Are you moving with it?” and Gay Gardner, with Interfaith Action for Human Rights will speak to “Making Solitary Confinement Truly a Last Resort.” Free. Visit the SALT web site at www.S-A-L-T.org.

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Infusion Schedule is all Fowled Up



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Previously, chemotherapy only had anecdotally-described memory loss: “chemo brain” as proof of a missing fragment. Recently however, clinical studies have confirmed the link. Yet, I still feel as if I haven’t forgotten that I don’t recall any prior infusions occurring on the day after Thanksgiving, as my next infusion is presently scheduled. If I remember correctly, and there are occasional disputes, this would be the first Friday after a holiday when I’ve needed to be local, and infused. And yes, the Infusion Centers are open for business on the weekdays following major holidays.

Having recently had my quarterly, post-scan, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist and survived the ordeal, we moved on from discussing the scan results to being examined to scheduling future appointments – including a brain MRI and CT Scan, and of course, my next infusion. And looking at the calendar, Nov. 24 is that next date. Generally speaking, per previous conversations with my oncologist, rescheduling my infusions by a week or two, here or there, had not been much of a problem (my oncologist is a strong proponent of quality of life), and pretty much up to me. However, as I’ve gotten older and presumably wiser – and well aware of my creatinine level/kidney issues, my current infusion schedule is what it is for a reason – protecting my kidneys. Moving the infusion up a week or back a week is not an arbitrary, Kenny-made decision any more, despite my holiday wish least. Sure enough when I asked my oncologist if he had any thoughts on my possibly rescheduling my next infusion to five weeks or seven weeks (vs. the current six weeks), he had a specific preference: five weeks. This would mean infusing the Friday before the following Thanksgiving Thursday (the effect of which would likely cause some eating challenges for yours truly – on my favorite meal of the year no less) rather than extending the infusion interval to seven weeks.

His thinking, as he explained it to us was: he didn’t want me to wait any longer for my infusion/medicine than was absolutely necessary. Not that I don’t realize how precarious my situation is but I am sort of going merrily along of late. His rebuke, so to characterize, to me about not extending my next interval to seven weeks reminded me yet again of the seriousness of my underlying diagnosis. The last thing one can do is take cancer’s inactivity for granted. Even though I’ve been stable for four years since I was last hospitalized in August 2013, I do have an incurable disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, and I was initially characterized as “terminal,” so hardly am I “N.E.D.”, no evidence of disease.

So my next infusion date is up to me, just not as ‘up’ as I thought it was/has been. Either I can keep my original six-week interval infusion appointment as currently scheduled or I can advance one week to five weeks (my previous regular interval). Extending it to seven weeks is not recommended. According to my oncologist, this is good news. Since my creatinine level/kidney function has not appreciably improved while extending the interval from five to six weeks, shortening the interval back to five weeks is not a concern to him which means my kidneys are up to the challenge, which is very reassuring since kidney damage is permanent.

And even though waiting a seventh week for my next infusion might allow my kidneys more time to filter the chemotherapy a bit longer, it might also give the cancer some time to activate – and we certainly don’t want that.

However, nothing lasts forever, and cancer cells in particular are pretty resourceful and often figure out what’s being done to them and start doing something else which leads to different treatment. At the moment, the drug I’m infusing, alimta, is working miracles. Perhaps the next drug will be as successful, perhaps not; and that of course is the problem, the unknown.

What I do know is this: a definite is better than a maybe. If I infuse the previous Friday, I definitely won’t feel like eating on Thursday. If I infuse on the Friday after Thanksgiving, maybe I won’t feel like driving. So what! A bird in hand ...

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



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