

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

HomeLifeStyle

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Tom and Shelley Fink by the quilt that Shelley made after they found the old fire clothing in a long lost box in the attic of his uncle William Schurtz. Annual Franconia History Day was held on Sunday, Nov. 5

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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%

Tran Takes Open Seat

First-time candidate swamps Republican to take seat held by longtime Del. Dave Albo (R-42).

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Virginia's first Asian-American female delegate will be representing a part of Northern Virginia that has seen a radical transformation during the time since its incumbent took office more than two decades ago. Democrat Kathy Tran swamped Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak with a runaway victory, 61 percent to 39 percent. She ended up with 7,000 more votes than the Republican in the GOP-held seat. Mancheno-Smoak's appeal was limited to two precincts with \$5 million homes.

"As the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, Kathy's record of excellent leadership and advocacy is a powerful testament to the American Dream," said Democratic Caucus Chairwoman Charniele Herring. "Kathy Tran has proven her commitment to Virginia's working families in her work with both the Department of Labor and the National Immigration Forum."

Tran says she was prompted to run by the election of President Donald Trump, and she was one of the 11 women who unseated Republican incumbents this year. Her opponent, Mancheno-Smoak, was an early

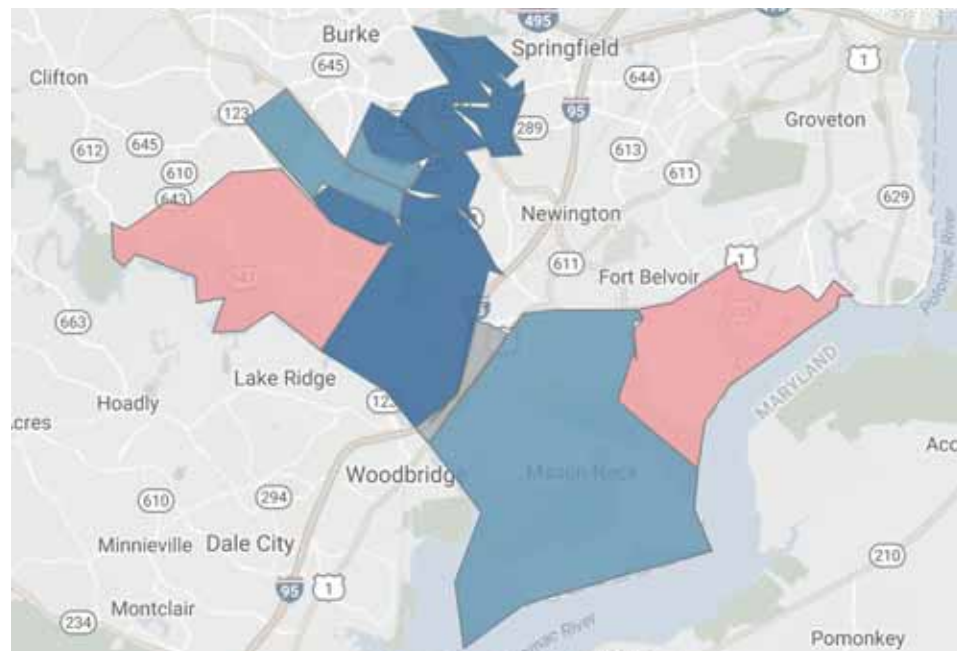
supporter of Trump. During the campaign, Mancheno-Smoak embraced the controversial president, calling him a "positive disruptor." Voters in the 42nd District overwhelmingly rejected Trump and Trumpism.

"The strength of the resistance is at tidal wave proportions," said Stephanie Taylor, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "In legislative races, inspiring people to run for office as their act of resistance and ran on issues like expanding Medicaid and increasing investment in jobs and public education."

Tran is blazing a new trail through Virginia history, becoming the first Asian-American woman to be elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. That reflects the steadily growing international flavor of the district, where 58 percent of the foreign-born population is from Asia. She joins Del. Mark Keam (D-35) as members of an Asian-American community in Northern Virginia that is organized and focused.



Kathy Tran



VIRGINIA PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT

Republican Lolita-Mancheno Smoak won only two precincts, one of which was the home precinct of Ed Gillespie. Democrat Kathy Tran ran up huge numbers in the rest of the district, especially in the Orange Precinct and the Silverbrook Precinct.

"There is no room for intolerance and racism in Virginia," said Hyun Lee, AAPI Victory Fund activist. "The AAPI Victory

Fund will continue to support candidates across America that understand and stand up for our community."

Hugo Leads Tanner by Less Than One-Half Percent

Narrow margin in District 40 could result in a recount.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) was behind Donte Tanner (D) by 68 votes on Election Night. Then as canvassing continued at the elections offices the day after, Tanner was behind by 115 votes. All the results were unofficial as The Connection sent pages to press on Wednesday at 2 p.m.

If Tanner were to win, it would provide one of the more surprising victories of the night, showing the reach of the wave Democrats were riding this year.

The canvas will be complete in the two counties (District 40 spans Fairfax and Prince William counties) on Monday, Nov. 13, and results sent to Richmond for certification, said Steve Hunt, an election official in Fairfax.

The race would be eligible for recount if the difference between the two candidates was one percent or less, or about 300 votes in this case, but the apparent losing candidate would have to request and pay for the recount. If the difference is less than one-half of a percent, or about 150 votes in this case, the recount could



Tim Hugo



Donte Tanner

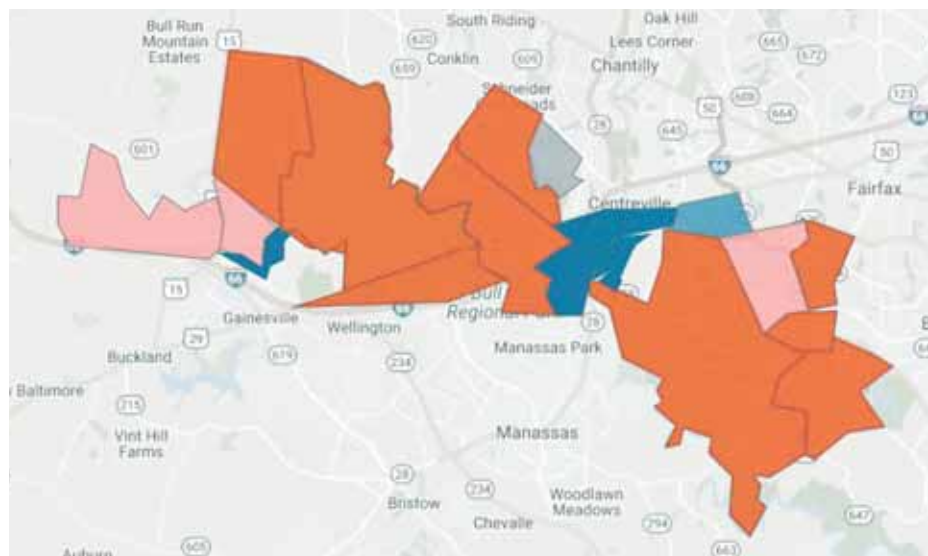
continue without the candidate who was behind having to pay for it. Any recount must be requested before certification.

First-time candidate Tanner campaigned on a platform of expanding Medicaid and creating an independent redistricting commission — a message that resonated in deep blue Northern Virginia.

Hugo won the parts of the district that are in Prince William County. But Tanner put together large margins in the Fairfax County part of the district.

"As both a small business owner and Air Force veteran, Donte Tanner has made his dedication to community and country clear," said Virginia House Democratic Caucus Leader David Toscano and Caucus Chairwoman Charniele Herring in a written statement. "Donte has proven to be a fighter for the needs of all Virginians."

Tanner surprised many Democrats with his skill on the campaign trail and his ability to raise money. He took in more than \$600,000 over the course of the campaign, an impressive haul for a first-time candi-



VIRGINIA PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT

Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) won more precincts than Democrat Donte Tanner. But his margins in places like the Reagan Precinct were slim. Tanner won fewer precincts overall, but he was able to turn out large numbers in places like the Centreville Precinct.

date. But he was going up against the chairman of the House Republican caucus — a delegate since 2003. Hugo raised a quarter of a million dollars this election cycle.

Tanner, 37, is a native of Washington, D.C. He has a bachelor of science in foreign-area studies from the Air Force Academy with a concentration in the Middle East. Tanner was in the Air Force from 2001 to 2005, specializing in acquisitions and communications. After separating from the Air Force, he became a defense contractor and even-

tually started his own firm, Forward Innovation Group. He has lived in the district since March 2015, attracted by the Fairfax County public school system.

"Both of my parents are police officers, and based on our family of service what we're trying to do is give back to the community. That's why I decided to join the Air Force," said Tanner. "One of the core values we talk about in the Air Force is 'Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do.'"

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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 victims? 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 problem. 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

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ❖ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Reporter
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Editorial Assistant
south@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://www.facebook.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://www.facebook.com/TheismannMedia)

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



COMMENTARY

Let's Grow Early Voting

By SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



The 2017 Virginia elections once again demonstrated that Virginians are choosing to vote early in larger numbers each election.

As compared with 2013, early voting in Prince William County was up over 210 percent, 170 percent in Fairfax County, and 146 percent in Stafford County. In 2016, over 120,000 or one in five Fairfax County voters cast their votes early while nearly 44 percent of Prince William County voters voted early.

Voting early allows voters to avoid precinct lines, unpredictable weather, job, family or health problems. Voting by mail gives voters more time to complete their ballot in the privacy of their home. Most importantly, it provides the flexibility to allow more people to participate in our democracy.

Given its popularity, there are more things our government can do to facilitate early voting.

First, I support no excuse early voting. However, my Republican colleagues kill it every year. Short of that, we need to use existing authority to make our current more user friendly.

Second, local registrars could choose to provide postage prepaid envelopes for voters to return their ballots. Many younger voters do not purchase stamps or transact business by mail. Prepaid envelopes would cost our localities a fraction of their budget.

Third, the Fairfax County Registrar has identified a company that manufacturers a recreational vehicle that functions as a Mobile Voting Precinct. This mobile precinct could be placed at locations with large numbers of eligible

absentee voters such as Metro Stations, Virginia Railway Express Stations, or commuter lots. It costs only \$100,000 per van plus operating costs.

Fourth, in 2015, the Republican Speaker of the House of Delegates, Bill Howell, persuaded the State Board of Elections to allow electronic absentee ballot applications. I collaborated with software engineers to create my own application, and later that year the State Board of Elections created its own online application. This year, Win Virginia PAC and the House Republican Caucus created their own online absentee ballot applications.

There is nothing preventing each county from having its own on their county website other than appropriating some money. Voters no longer need paper applications that must be downloaded, printed and returned. The county should create an electronic application.

All of these simple and cost-effective steps would go a long way to promote participation in our elections and facilitate early voting.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. Please email me at scott@scottsuovell.org if you have any feedback.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6
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

Write

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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.

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



PHOTO BY RYAN MEDIA LAB

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.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

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





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PEOPLE

Ashley Birkmaier in her classroom at Laurel Hill Elementary School in Lorton.



PHOTO BY HANAN DAQQA/THE CONNECTION

Laurel Hill Art Teacher Recognized

Ashley Birkmaier's art selected for Artist Teacher Exhibition.

BY HANAN DAQQA
THE CONNECTION

Fifty-two Fairfax County art teachers submitted their original works into the Annual Artist Teacher Exhibition, and only 29 were accepted. Ashley Birkmaier was one of them. Birkmaier is one of the art teachers at Laurel Hill Elementary School in Lorton.

"I submitted two animal pictures: little piglets and little horses. The horses got in, the piglets did not, which I found shocking. But they picked one over the other." She added that she expected to get in this year, "but you never know; I submitted three last year and they were really good pieces but did not get selected. It depends on who the jury is and what their taste is," she said.

According to the Fairfax County Public Schools' website, Justin Sutters, director of the George Mason University graduation art education program, was the art juror.

The 10th annual Artist Teacher Exhibition is one way that Fairfax County recognizes its art teachers in collaboration with the Workhouse Arts Center,



COURTESY OF ASHLEY BIRKMAIER

Ashley Birkmaier at the McGuire Woods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center next to her artwork made with Prismacolor pencils.

where it was exhibited from Sept. 27 to Oct. 28 in the McGuire Woods Gallery.

The picture of the horses was a gift for Birkmaier's boyfriend. "I submitted without him knowing; I had to steal it from his family room. It was not created for the show but you can submit artwork that you've done in the past two years. It has to be current artwork," Birkmaier took some feedback from her students at Laurel Hill Elementary School before she finished her art work: "I brought it in and I told them I was debating where to sign it, because it is

important to put your signature but you don't want to take away from the artwork, and one of the little boys told me to sign it on the fence and make it look like it was carved into the fence and that is what I did! I thought it is was a good idea!"

Birkmaier thinks that Fairfax County has a strong art program. "Many counties come to Fairfax to look at our curriculum; we have a nice budget; we have a South County Art Show with the elementary, middle and high schools at the Workhouse Arts Center every year," said Birkmaier. "I feel lucky to work here but you can always hope for more. My greatest wish is that the kids will be able to have art twice a week, like physical education and music." Three other teachers from Lorton were recognized: Justyne Fischer and Scott Saylor of South County High School and Anne Gorham of Gunston Elementary School.



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Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay shares Franconia lore with Rosemary Kley.



The Mount Calvary Singers from Mount Calvary Community Church on Beulah Street.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Telling a Franconia Story

16th Annual Franconia History Day held on Sunday, Nov. 5

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

“Everyone has a story to tell...” is a saying over at the Franconia Museum, and the stories came out at the 16th Annual Franconia History Day, on Sunday, Nov. 5 in the fire station that was once the center of the community.

“Events like this tend to bring a lot of the old people together, everyone seems to know everyone,” said Tom Fink, who met his wife Shelley in Franconia. His uncle, William Edgar Schurtz was a founder of the fire station. “It’s very appropriate to have it here in the firehouse, it was the center of the community,” Fink said.

THE CELEBRATION was set up in the Franconia Fire Station on Beulah Street, with music by The Mount Calvary Singers from the Mount Calvary Church a few blocks away. The tables at the foot of the stage were full of locals, and in the back of the room were the artifacts that many saved through the years, including a quilt made of old fire jackets and uniforms.

When Schurtz died a few years ago, “we were cleaning out the house and found boxes of uniforms up in the attic, we came up with the idea to make a quilt out of them,” said Fink. Along with the quilt were old fire hats, medals and pictures from Schurtz memorabilia that he found.

On the other tables were items from the area, such as Civil War artifacts, signs, pictures and books that various people wrote to record what went on in the Franconia area in the 1700s and 1800s.

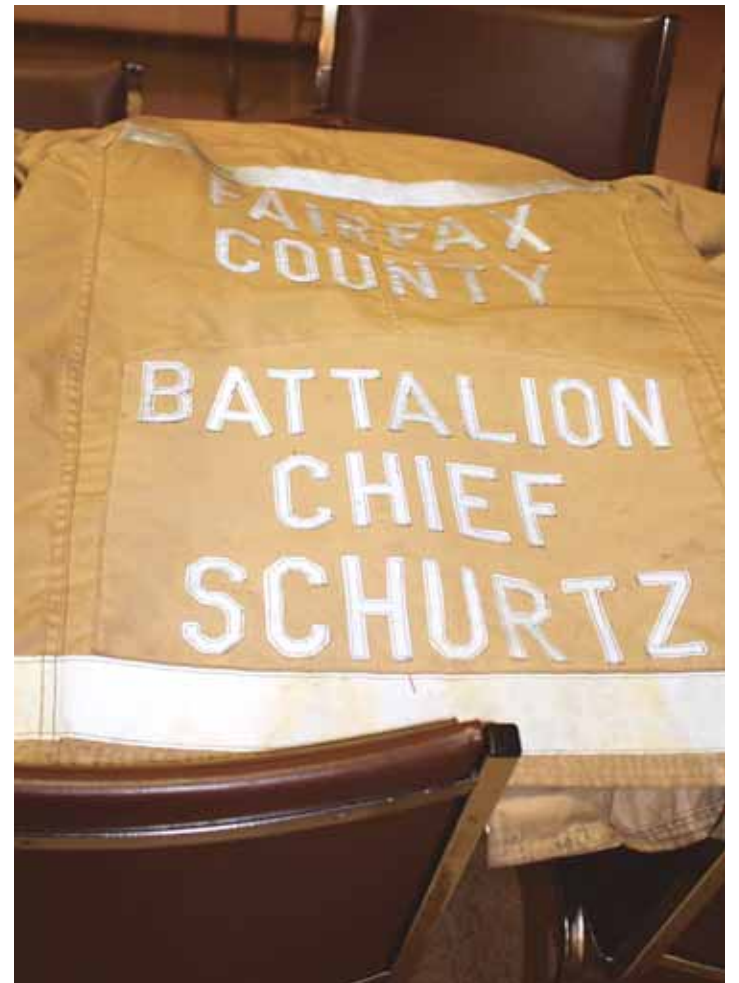
Nathaniel Lee is a researcher at the Franconia Museum which is around the corner from the fire station in the county district building. He was recently awarded the Fairfax County Heritage Award Nan Heatherton Prize from the county historic commission for a book he wrote based on the stories he’s been told. “I try to get them



One of William Edgar Schurtz’s fire hats.

on paper before they [story tellers] pass away,” he said.

One item he uncovered was about the railroad that was opened in 1872, and the old wood from the original Long Bridge across the Potomac River was used to keep the tracks from slipping around on the marine clay that makes up much of the soil in Franconia. Another story was from the Civil War, and had Mosby chasing Union troops into the City of Alexandria. “The family in Oak Grove hid in the basement,” Lee said to a group at his table.



One of William Edgar Schurtz’s fire coats.

SUPERVISOR Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) were among the crowd, sharing stories and their knowledge of the local history. McKay was addressing a group of students a few days before, explaining “that if it weren’t for locals behind a museum like this, we could have lost a whole generation,” he said. On a bigger scale, “we need 100 of these museums to keep the history going, to make sure we know where we came from,” Sickles added.

Times are changing though, and that was apparent from the old items on display. One

item from a table in the back was an original posting of the 1963-64 Franconia Dress Code from a nearby school. “The wearing of shorts is forbidden except for athletic participation or special activities,” one rule stated. During one of the Mount Calvary Singers songs, a shout came out of the crowd. “Let’s hear it for Beulah Road,” someone said. The road used to be called Beulah Road and was renamed Beulah Street because of another road in the county that had the same name. Old timers still know it as Beulah Road though.

11

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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.

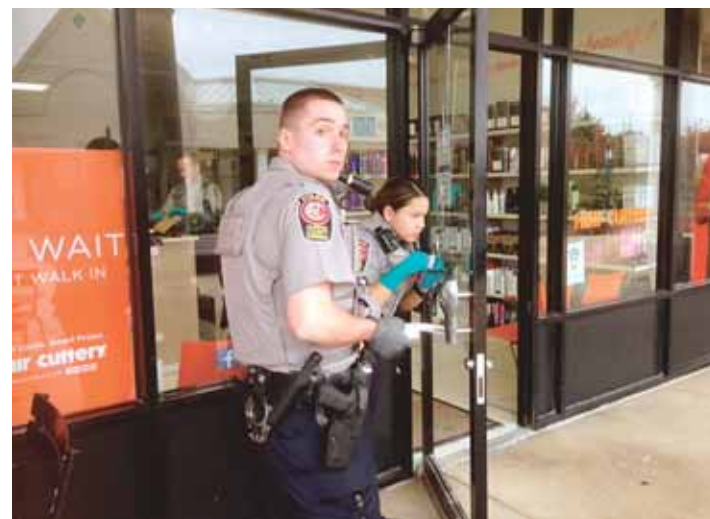
FCPD encourages anyone who may be a victim to contact them at 703-691-2131. They also ask anyone with information on this case or other incidents involving human trafficking to contact them as well. Call directly, or submit a tip anonymously through Crime Solvers by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, 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

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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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