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CENTREVIEW

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JANUARY 24-30, 2018

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

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News

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Sally Smallwood is the Safe Routes to School coordinator for the Fairfax County Public Schools. Smallwood brought the FABB members up to speed on school-related bicycling events and activities and encouraged people to nominate a School Crossing Guard of the Year by the Jan. 26 deadline.



From left: PFC Christina Gaizick and PFC Sheila Ayers of Traffic Safety Services, Fairfax County Police Department, were the guests at the January meeting of Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, held at the Patrick Henry Public Library in Vienna.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Promoting Safe Bicycling

Cycling advocacy group hosts county law enforcement reps at monthly meeting.

BY ANDREA WORKER

At its first monthly meeting of the New Year, the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) got right to work, inviting two Fairfax County Traffic Safety Police Officers to attend and expand the dialogue between law enforcement and cyclists in the county.

FABB member Charlie Bobbish introduced Officers PFC Sheila Ayers, and PFC Christina Gaizick and began the conversation by asking them to comment on the “state of traffic safety” in Fairfax County.

Safety of all county residents is a priority, according to Ayers, be they drivers, cyclists or pedestrians, but the officer added that she and her colleague were particularly pleased to be invited to the FABB meeting to gain a better understanding of the concerns of the pedal-powered citizenry and to have an opportunity to discuss safe cycling practices and education.

According to Ayers, statistics show a decrease in cycling-related incidents, with only one fatality recently reported in 2015.

Early figures for 2017 indicate 72 reportable bicycle incidents, although the fact that there are no clearly defined categories for bicycle accidents in the statewide reporting system TREDs (Traffic Records Electronic Data System) and that “reportable” incidents must meet a \$1,500 damage or a reportable injury threshold in order to be included in the TREDs data, left some attendees somewhat in doubt as to the accuracy or usefulness of the information.

Jeff Anderson, president of FABB, Steve Ward, the organization’s secretary, and board member Bruce Wright all indicated that advocating for more specific reporting tools might be on the FABB work menu in the future.

SEVERAL QUESTIONS were posed to the officers regarding how to stay safe as a cyclist on the road, and what to do when witnessing or experiencing in-

teraction with aggressive drivers.

Although the answers did not provide the cyclists with many solutions, Ayers and Gaizick both stressed that the first thing to do was “get out of the way and be safe.”

Even when the incident is not deemed “reportable,” the officers still encouraged the riders to “be the best witness you can be and call it in.” Calling in and providing as much detail about the alleged offender is still helpful, and could cause the police to issue a “look out” for the vehicle.

In addition to the presentation and conversation with Ayers and Gaizick, a report by Sally Smallwood, Safe Routes to School coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools was on the agenda. Smallwood brought the members up to speed on educational events scheduled for Fairfax County schools, a significant donation that would allow for a number of shareable bicycles to be purchased for several elementary and middle schools, and preparation for this year’s “Bike to School Day” scheduled for May 18.

Smallwood also wanted to spread the word that nominations for Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year for 2017 were still wanted, with the deadline being Jan. 26 for the Feb. 14 announcement of the honorees on Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. Anyone can nominate a crossing guard by going to the Virginia Department of Transportation website at www.virginiadot.org and searching Safe Routes to School.

FAAB encourages all cycling enthusiasts of all levels of ability and cycling usage to join their organization to stay informed, to be better educated on cycling safety, and to participate in social rides and other FABB activities.

FABB is on the web at www.fabb-bikes.org and has a Facebook page, as well. Its next meeting is Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Public Library in Vienna.

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What's on Horizon for Sully District?

Supervisor Kathy Smith talks land use and transportation.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Transportation, land use, drugs and budgets were among the topics discussed last Monday, Jan. 15, when Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) addressed the quarterly meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA).

She began with the I-66/Route 28 Interchange improvements which will be constructed as part of the overall I-66 Outside the Beltway project being done by VDOT.

For better traffic flow, she said, four traffic lights on Route 28 — including the ones leading to I-66 east and west — will be removed by mid-2020. The entire project is expected to be completed by 2022.

Smith also noted that Fairfax County staff is working on the design to widen Route 28 from Route 29 to the Prince William County line. Public meetings on the project will be held this spring.

She said Loudoun County supervisors recently had a study done of Route 50, in an effort to make traffic on it move faster. But if they got their way, she said, Fairfax



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

Townhouse construction is underway at the Preserve at Westfields.

County drivers “couldn’t make left turns at Stonecroft [Boulevard], and Avion Parkway would be a right in, right out [only].” Smith told the WFCCA that Loudoun currently doesn’t have the funding to make these changes happen, but “In December, they asked their staff to check and see what’s feasible.”

The WFCCA members were not pleased with these proposals and pushed back against them. “Some mornings, the backup on Pleasant Valley Road to get onto Route 50 goes all the way back to Lafayette [Center Drive],” said At-Large Planning Commissioner Jim Hart, who lives in Virginia Run, off Pleasant Valley Road. “I think [the Loudoun supervisors] should stay with what’s on the Loudoun side of the line and let us worry about what’s over here.”

On another subject, Smith said that new County Executive Bryan Hill — previously

the county administrator of James City County — officially began his job here, Jan. 2. He’s slated to present his first budget for this county on Feb. 20. Smith said the FCPS proposed budget was released Jan. 11 and focuses on compensation for school-system employees.

Regarding the opioid epidemic that affects people here, as it does nationwide, she said the county Board of Supervisors put some money into treatment for county residents. “We want to reduce opioid deaths by prevention and treatment and also gather information and data [about this problem],” said Smith.

“Right now, we have drug take-backs twice a year, and people bring in bags and bags of drugs to their local police departments,” she said. “So we’re trying to come forward with a plan to get these drugs out of people’s houses.”

Noting that about 91 Americans die each day from opioid overdoses, Smith said, “Overdose deaths in Fairfax County are less than the rest of the U.S. But they’ve increased significantly in the past, few years. It hits every family, every year, in every walk of life. And it really is a disease, so we’re trying to see what we can do and what makes a difference.”

She said the board also gave more resources toward fighting the gang problem, adding that “The police are doing a good job.”

As for land-use, Smith was pleased that the new, Wegmans grocery store is scheduled to open June 3 in Chantilly. It’s being built inside the Newbrook Drive loop road off Westfields Boulevard and will be part of the Field at Commonwealth retail complex which will include shops and a restaurant.

Still under construction, the 120,000-square-foot Wegmans will be similar to the one in Fair Oaks and contain the same amenities, but will have surface parking, instead of a parking garage. It will also be the first Wegmans in Virginia to feature The Burger Bar, a family-friendly, casual restaurant serving hamburgers, salads, sandwiches, soup, side dishes and specialty milkshakes.

Besides Wegmans, Smith said the shopping center’s 32,500 square feet of retail shops, plus 10,500-square-foot sit-down, full-service restaurant will include Chipotle, Cava Pizza, Mellow Mushroom, Habit Burger Grill, My Eye Doctor and Pacific Dental Services.

Furthermore, being built nearby on some 50 acres of formerly-vacant land along Route 28 and Stonecroft and Westfields boulevards in Chantilly is The Preserve at Westfields. This site will eventually contain

SEE LAND USE, PAGE 7

Hit-Run Driver Is Jailed after Plea

Nguyen convicted of crash killing woman, 37.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Tired after his long shift at work, Khoa Do Dang Nguyen was driving home on I-66 west when he fell asleep at the wheel. He was jarred awake when his car hit something; but instead of stopping, he continued on.

What his vehicle struck was a 37-year-old mother of four, who died as a result. And last Tuesday, Jan. 16, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, Nguyen, now 24, of Centreville, pleaded guilty to felony hit-and-run.

“Do you understand that the maximum amount of incarceration you could receive for this charge is 10 years?” Judge Robert Smith asked the young man after

he entered his plea. Nguyen replied yes. Smith also made sure Nguyen was aware that no plea agreement has been made in regard to his sentence.

Then Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Kathleen Bilton explained what the prosecution’s evidence would have been, had this matter gone to trial. The incident occurred more than a year ago, on Oct. 8, 2016, about 2:10 a.m. The victim had a black Toyota Solara convertible, and Nguyen drove a Toyota Corolla.

“Yessenia Esmeralda Funes was driving on I-66 west, around mile-marker 56, when she pulled her vehicle over to the right shoulder and stopped,” said Bilton. “She then got out and retrieved a water bottle from the trunk. As she was approaching her driver’s-

side door, she was struck by the defendant’s vehicle.” Funes had a female passenger who was not hurt in the crash.

Bilton said Nguyen went to the Virginia State Police, two days later, and gave them a written statement. “He wrote that he’d fallen asleep at the wheel and knew he hit something,” said the prosecutor. “His windshield, bumper and side mirror were damaged.”

“He wrote that he’d left work at a restaurant around 12:30 a.m. and went to eat at the Silver Diner in Merrifield, leaving there around 2 a.m.” continued Bilton. “He said he didn’t know what he’d hit; he thought it might have been a car because his vehicle had bounced off something. But he was tired, so he kept driving home.”

Bilton said Nguyen later discovered that



Nguyen

his side mirror and part of his bumper were gone. “He talked about it with his parents, who encouraged him to tell the police what had happened,” she said. “In addition, debris at the scene matched that of the 2015

Toyota Corolla he was driving, and DNA profiles of Funes were found on his car.”

Defense attorney Peter Greenspun said his client worked “40-50 hours a week — long shifts” as a server at a Mosaic District restaurant. And he noted that Nguyen was not intoxicated at the time of the crash, just tired.

“He woke up to the sound of an accident,” said Greenspun. “He didn’t expect that he’d hit a person. Her car was side

SEE GUILTY PLEA, PAGE 7

OPINION

What's Wrong with This Picture?

Male, 60 percent; female 40 percent; less than 2 percent poor; less than 2 percent African American; less than 2 percent Latino.

If these are the demographics to something, you know it needs to be fixed, no matter what "it" is. Especially something paid for with public dollars. Male, 60 percent; female 40 percent. Less than 2 percent poor. Less than 2 percent African American. Less than 2 percent Latino.

These are the demographics of this year's freshman class at our Governor's school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, known as TJ.

We also know that there are geographic disparities (some middle schools have many more students admitted than others; some have none).

State Sen. Scott Surovell represents a part of the county that tends to be under represented at Thomas Jefferson, and he is kicking off what no doubt will be a lively discussion by introducing SB787, Governor's Schools; enrollment, which would use both economics

and geography to change the admissions dynamics at Jefferson.

Summary:

"Requires any academic school Governor's School that has a focus on math, science, and technology and that has an overall enrollment of over 1,000 students to accept for enrollment (i) a sufficient number of students eligible to receive free or reduced price meals such that the total of such students is at least 50 percent of the weighted average of the participating divisions' percentage of such students in the previous school year and (ii) at least five students but no more than 15 students from each middle school in each school division eligible to matriculate students to such Governor's school who have completed at least two full years at such middle school."

The school divisions currently participating in TJHSST are: Arlington County, Fairfax County (includes City of Fairfax), Falls Church City, Loudoun County, Prince William County.

We've said this before, because these demo-

graphics have been trending in this direction for more than a decade.

Fairfax County Public Schools has a single elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson, and TJ is frequently referred to as the top high school in the country. Dramatic disparity in the makeup of admissions at TJ is an indicator of disparity in early identification of students as gifted and talented, of access to advanced classes and enrichment, and in the basic education that the Fairfax County Public school system offers to all of its students.

School leadership can't continue to act like there are things they can't do anything about. Surovell deserves credit for giving an incentive to get started. Learn about the referral and screening and selection process for full-time (Level IV) and school-based (Levels II-III) Advanced Academic Programs at www.fcps.edu/registration/advanced-academics-identification-and-placement.

— MARY KIMM

KIMM.MARY@GMAIL.COM

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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools.

Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

POETRY AND ART

Sights and Sounds of a Snow Day

By Anita R Mohan

Twirling, whirling snowflakes
Laughing, giggling snow angels,
Grinning, beaming snowmen

Glowing, freezing sunlight
Shining, sparkling icicles
Swaying, leaning branches

Baking, tasting cookies
Roasting, toasting marshmallows
Warming, steaming hot chocolate

Crackling, flickering fireplaces
Snuggling, cuddling children
Reading, sharing stories

Copyright © Anita R Mohan, Dec. 30, 2017

FY 2019 SCHOOLS BUDGET

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand presented the **2018-19 school year (FY 2019) Proposed Budget** at the School Board meeting on Jan. 11, at Jackson Middle School. The School Board plans to hold a public hearing on the Proposed Budget on Jan. 29, with additional hearings on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31, if needed. Get more information on the FCPS budget at www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019.

FRIDAY/JAN. 26

Nomination Deadline. Nominations are being accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation for Virginia's 2017 Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year. Parents, students, and teachers are welcome to submit a nomination and photo online. Visit www.fcps.edu/news/nominations.

open-2017-virginia-outstanding-crossing-guard for more.

SATURDAY/JAN. 27

Stuff the Bus. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Clifton Giant Food, 5740 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Support Western Fairfax Christian Ministries annual Stuff the Bus Food Drive at Giant Food. All food donations will assist the neediest in our community and will help WFCM keep their shelves full during the winter months. Contact Jennie Bush, Community Outreach Manager, at jbush@wfcma.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Award Nomination Deadline. 5 p.m. Nominate a volunteer or volunteer group that has made a positive impact on the Fairfax County community at www.volunteerfairfax.org. The

Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards is a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. For a complete list of categories and guidelines, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call Kristen Moore at Volunteer Fairfax at 703-246-3531.

Comment Period Closes. The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board either at the meeting, via correspondence or by email. Information outlining all proposed fee changes is now available for review online, at the Park Authority's main office in the Herrity Building and at staffed park facilities, including RECenters, golf courses, nature centers and historic sites. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting for more.

Registration Opens: Two-way and Immersion Programs. Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) online registration for the county-wide lottery. Current prekindergarten students may apply for the kindergarten immersion program and current kindergarten students may apply for the first grade immersion programs for the 2018-19 school year. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, for the first grade immersion program and by 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, for the kindergarten immersion program. Visit www.fcps.edu/registration/world-language-immersion-programs-registration.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Job Fair. FCPS is searching for educators with a strong academic background and a passion for making a difference. To meet increased hiring needs FCPS is hosting an invitation only job fair during which they will be interviewing candidates in all instructional areas. The fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, with a snow makeup date of Feb. 24. To learn how to be considered for an invitation, visit www.fcps.edu.



Illustration by Kiran Umashankar, 8.

CENTREVIEW

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A Connection Newspaper

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Children's Science Center at Fair Oaks Mall. Stop by the Experiment Bar in January and check out Lava Tubes! Learn about density and polarity in this small tube. And back by popular demand, DIY Snow is here for another month to celebrate winter. Visit childsci.org.

Fitness for 50+. Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email lynnelott@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-322-4475 for more.

History Volunteers Needed. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email volunteers@fairfax-station.org or call 703-945-7483 to explore opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaire.org for more.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full schedule.

Mondays are Family Night. 5-7 p.m. at Villagio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030 for more.

LIBRARY FUN

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Lego Block Party. Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other

Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

SATURDAY/FEB. 4

Outdoor Kids at E.C. Lawrence. 2 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, children ages 4-6 explore different habitats, trails, wild animals and wild places. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 7

History Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, youngsters ages 1-3 will explore history through sight, sound, taste and touch. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

Ping Pong Tournament. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. In-door activity in the middle of winter that includes cookies from Clifton's own Sweet Annaline's. Free. Visit clifton-va.com for more.

History Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 10 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, youngsters ages 1-3 will explore history through sight, sound, taste and touch. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Embrace the New Year with Meditation. 3:30-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library 14200 St Germain Drive, Centreville. Join Gerry Gorman to learn effective techniques that can reduce stress, enhance relaxation and promote inner growth. Also learn how meditation can improve physical, mental and spiritual health. Teens and adults. Free, no registration required. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 11

Table Top N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

Nature Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, youngsters ages 1-3 a chance to explore the great outdoors. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call



703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SUNDAY/FEB. 18

NTRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Admission, Museum members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2 and 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Outdoor Kids at E.C. Lawrence. 2

p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, children ages 4-6 explore different habitats, trails, wild animals and wild places. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

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Model Train Show

Table Top N Gauge Model Train Show is on Sunday, Feb. 11, 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

History Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 10 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, youngsters ages 1-3 will explore history through sight, sound, taste and touch. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 14

Nature Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, youngsters ages 1-3 a chance to explore the great outdoors. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Let us know about an upcoming event
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Announcements

SPORTS

52-51 Victory for Chantilly



Jon Tamarro #34 scored 10 points in Chantilly's 52-51 win over Centreville.

Centreville's Jordan Porter #23 scored 10 points in his team's loss to Chantilly on Jan. 19.

The Chantilly Chargers continued their winning ways on Jan. 19 with a 52-51 win over Centreville. Chantilly scored 21 1st quarter points and opened up a 6 point cushion in the 1st quarter. Centreville would then hold Chantilly to just 9 points in the 2nd quarter while scoring 10.

Again, in the 3rd quarter, Centreville would hold the Chargers to just 9 points while scoring 12 points.

Down 2 points, 39-37 with 8 minutes to play in the game, Centreville and Chantilly would trade blows. Centreville would pull within a point 46-45, with 2:12 to play. Centreville then had a chance to win in the closing seconds after Chantilly failed to get the ball in bounds, giving the ball to the Wildcats with 3.6 seconds under their basket and down 52-51.

With the win Chantilly improves to (10-7) sweeping Centreville after defeating them on Dec. 28. Centreville falls to (6-9). Chantilly was led by Kendall McHugh's 11 points. Bryce Douglas led all scorers with 17 points and teammate Caleb Emeogo and Jordan Porter each had 10.



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

Chargers Defeat Bulldogs

The Chantilly Chargers traveled 4.9 miles west on Route 50 to take on a familiar foe, the Westfield Bulldogs on Jan. 16.

The home team opened the 1st quarter with 17 points while holding Chantilly to 12.

In the 2nd quarter Chantilly would narrowly edge Westfield 21-20 giving the home team a 37-33 advantage to start the 3rd quarter.

In the 3rd quarter Chantilly would hold the Bulldogs to just 8 points and scored 18.

The 4th quarter would see Westfield again outscore Chantilly 17-14, but the game would not be secured until Kendall McHugh converted two free throws with 4.3 seconds left to seal the 65-62 win for the Chargers.

The Chargers improved to (9-7) and were led by McHugh who scored a game high 22 points, and teammate Jon Tamarro added another 14. Westfield (8-6) was led by Jordan Hairston who scored 15 points and Marshall Reed's 11.



Westfield's Jordan Hairston lays in two of his team high 15 points.



Kendall McHugh #12 scored 22 points to lead all scorers in Chantilly's win over Westfield 65-62.

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News

Land Use

FROM PAGE 3

155 townhouses, 650 apartments, plus retail and other amenities.

Akridge owns the land and is building the apartment and retail components; Elm Street Development is constructing the townhouses. Included will be an amenity area with walking paths, a pavilion/performing and gathering area, plus a lake that's currently not accessible.

"Elm Street says the first homes will be delivered in March," said Smith. "They expect townhome construction to be completed by mid-2019, plus the other residential and retail [components] by then, too. But the I-66/Route 28 project should help with the people that will come there."

She also said a Sully District Community Center will be built off Centreville and Wall roads. And the Sully Senior Centre currently on Albemarle Point Place in Chantilly will become part of it, as well.

"It will be modeled after the Providence Community Center," said Smith. "And we hope to get two gym courts in there, instead of one. It'll be part of the county CIP [Capital Improvement Program], and we want to get community feedback about what people want to see in there because it'll be for all ages."

Guilty Plea

FROM PAGE 3

swiped where she was standing. He later called a friend and described what happened, and the friend thought he'd struck a guardrail."

The next evening, said Greenspun, Nguyen spoke with his parents. "His mother had heard about the fatal accident and told him about it," said the attorney. "So [on Oct. 10] when he went to the Virginia State Police barracks on Braddock Road to report his accident, he was now aware he might have done something much worse."

Judge Smith then officially accepted Nguyen's guilty plea and found him guilty as charged. He then ordered the probation department to prepare a pre-sentencing report and, after conferring with both attorneys, set Nguyen's sentencing for April 27.

Saying that the state sentencing guidelines for this offense call for one day to six months in jail, Greenspun asked for his client's bond to be continued while he awaits sentencing. He also noted that Nguyen is working and lives with his parents.

But the judge had other plans for this defendant. "Bond is revoked," he said. The bailiffs then handcuffed Nguyen and led him out of the courtroom to jail.

Funes, of Manassas, was the mother of two boys and two girls, ages 19, 18, 16 and 6. Afterward, outside the courtroom, her 18-year-old daughter, Yesenia Mejia, said, "She was a good mother. It was sad how she never came home that night."

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Lost in Space



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not a reference to the iconic television series of my youth, but there was "danger," Ken Lourie, and it wasn't caused by Dr. Zachary Smith nor by "robot," (Robbie) either. And it wasn't a conspiracy. It was simply a confluence of absenteeism by my health care providers. Both my oncologist and internal medicine doctor were absent with leave and yours truly was caught in the crossfire, so to speak. Let me provide some context to help you appreciate my dilemma.

I have chemotherapy every six weeks. Accordingly, I have lab work the Wednesday before the Friday to check for anomalies – anomalies which over the years have occasionally delayed my infusion by up to two weeks waiting for my body to settle. In the early days of treatment, my white blood cell count was crucial; too low and no treatment; too high, it was never too high. No treatment and the cancer was left unchecked. An incredibly stressful occurrence when your treatment is stopped. Whether or not a week or two delay ultimately mattered in checking the cancer, it certainly mattered – emotionally, to the patient. You feel adrift, sort of, which is exactly how I felt during the first two weeks of January.

Typically, what my current lab work presents is my creatinine level and the associated glomerular filtration rate, measuring kidney function/efficiency. After nearly nine years of infused toxicity, I have suffered some collateral damage to a major organ. My oncologist and internal medicine doctor are incredibly sensitive and concerned about this damage. Per these results, every medical decision made concerning me; from prescriptions approved to "normal" internal medicine stuff to whether I get "contrast" when I have my scans and MRIs to what chemotherapy drug I infuse and how frequently its infused, is decided with my kidneys in mind. Nothing happens medically until my kidneys sign off on it, if you know what I mean?

As it happened, my creatinine level for my Jan. 12 infusion was higher than usual. When this measure occurs, I know to call the Infusion Center and ask the head nurse if I should come in for treatment. She will contact my oncologist and with his direction, will advise me what to do, except for this week. My oncologist was away and though another oncologist – whom I've never met – was covering, I'm not really sure she knows enough about my situation. Specifically that I'm a bit of a special case, per my oncologist's own characterization of me, and I've never gone seven weeks, let alone eight weeks without treatment. Delaying my infusion would break a multi-year precedent. In fact, around the holidays when I asked my oncologist if I could extend my infusion interval from six to seven weeks (to accommodate life), he emphatically said "No." Moreover (to complicate a covering physician's decision), my oncologist has also told me that if I were a new patient with creatinine levels as chronically high as mine, he wouldn't/couldn't treat me until those levels reduced.

So not only was I in the middle of an unprecedented one to possibly two-week delay in my infusion, but I also needed an oncologist – who I don't know and who doesn't know me – to decide/make an exception/maybe risk her medical license (if something were to happen to me), to authorize treatment for a patient whose creatinine levels fall outside of protocol, and me not having either of my two primary-care physicians available for consultation. And other than the default emails advising that both were out of town, I had nowhere to go and no one to turn to.

Heck, I might as well have been on another planet, given the limited choices I had.

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

ROUNDUPS

Stuff the Bus

To help refill food pantries, Fairfax County runs "Stuff the Bus," a food collection campaign that partners with nonprofits, grocery stores, and MV Transportation to restock depleted shelves.

Stuff the Bus runs now through Monday, Feb. 19 at 14 local Giant and Shoppers Food and Pharmacy stores. A local collection, benefitting Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, will be held at the Clifton Giant, 5740 Union Mill Road, on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. View the full schedule at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/stuff-the-bus.

Converting Empty Office Buildings

Following a recent change to more easily allow empty office buildings in mixed use and industrial areas to be converted into other uses, Fairfax County officials are looking to expand this flexibility to offices in suburban neighborhoods.

To introduce this proposal, the county will hold a community meeting on Monday, Jan. 29, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, conference rooms 9 and 10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

At this meeting, county planners will seek public feedback on what kinds of conversions to allow and the criteria and condi-

tions for offices to be eligible for conversion, such as ensuring they are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods.

The Planning Commission is currently scheduled to hold a public hearing on the proposal on March 22, and the Board of Supervisors, which must ultimately approve it, plans to hold its public hearing on May 1.

Learn about Paving And Restriping

The state Department of Transportation and Fairfax County Department of Transportation will host a community information meeting to discuss this year's paving and restriping efforts in the Sully District on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Richard Frank Community Room of the Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. The meeting provides residents with an opportunity to speak with road engineers and transportation planners about the repaving program, proposed striping changes and general traffic safety concerns. Information about repaving and restriping in the Sully District will be on display in an open house format, with a presentation at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on the 2018 Paving and Restriping Program, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping>. The Sully District information page, located at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/>

2018-paving-and-restriping/sully-district, includes maps, sample photos, the proposed list of roads being considered for paving and link to a comment submission form.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Feb. 1, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Help Honor A Volunteer

The deadline for nominations for the 26th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards presented by Volunteer Fairfax is Thursday, Feb. 1, at 5 p.m.

To nominate a volunteer or volunteer group, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org and complete a service award nomination form.

The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards is a community-wide celebration of volunteerism that culminates in a special breakfast hosted by Volunteer Fairfax, Friday, April 27, at The Waterford at Springfield. For a complete list of categories and guidelines and to access a short podcast that includes helpful tips on how to prepare a nomination, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call Kristen Moore at Volunteer Fairfax at 703-246-3531.

Chantilly Park Grows

The Fairfax County Park Authority's acreage continues to grow with the acquisition of 7.33 acres of land from the Board of Supervisors, which will be combined with 6.13 acres of existing parkland at Chantilly Park.

This acreage in the Sully District was transferred to the Park Authority in November 2017. It originally was part of a larger parcel that includes the Chantilly Library.

The land transferred to the Park Authority contains three, 60-foot ball diamonds, two of which are lighted. The fields were originally developed by the Chantilly Youth Association, and it continues to maintain them under the Park Authority's Adopt-A-Field Program.

The property also includes a 105-space parking lot and a trail that connects to an existing trail in Chantilly Park. The combined trail runs for approximately 800 feet and connects the parking lot to Brookfield Court cul-de-sac, which is part of the Brookfield residential community.

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CRIME REPORT

*The following incidents were reported
by the Sully District Police Station.*

BURGLARY: 5300 block of Sammie Kay Lane, Jan. 19 between 10 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. A home was broken into and money and property were taken.

ARMED ROBBERY: 14500 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Jan. 13 around 1:00 a.m. The victim was walking to his car after leaving a nearby restaurant.

He was approached by the suspect and he demanded money. The suspect was described as a Hispanic man, approximately 5'5" tall, dressed in dark clothing, and carrying a black handgun. The victim was not injured.

ROBBERY: 14400 block of Black Horse Court, Jan. 3 around 8:15 p.m. A teen agreed to meet an acquaintance to let him borrow his pay-as-you-go phone. When he arrived, the acquaintance wanted to see his other phone as well. The teen declined and began to walk away.

He was followed and then assaulted by the acquaintance and a second suspect who came out of a wooded area. The two suspects took both of the victim's phones and left. One suspect, a juvenile, was located, and the search for the second suspect is ongoing.

ASSAULT ON A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ARREST: 6300 block of Oak Stone Court, Jan. 1 around 2:35 a.m. A man was banging on the outside of a home and assaulted the homeowner when confronted. The man continued to be belligerent after officers arrived and assaulted one of them as well. A 25-year-old man from Warrenton was arrested and charged with assault on a law enforcement officer, assault, destruction of property, unlawful entry, resisting arrest, and drunk in public.