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News

Public Hearing on East Spring Street Widening

Meeting is Thursday, March 8 at the Herndon Community Center.

By Mercia Hobson The Connection

he Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is holding a Public Design Hearing on Herndon's East Spring Street Widening Project, on Thursday, March 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Drive, Herndon. All citizens are encouraged to attend and to participate in the design public hearing.

The Smart Scale Project website, smartportal.virginiahb2.org provides a detailed project description for the East Spring Street Widening Project (UPC 105521) as follows: "The scope of this project is to widen and reconstruct Spring Street from 4 to 6 lanes between Fairfax County Parkway and Herndon Parkway, channel traffic with raised median and dedicated turning lanes between Fairfax County Parkway and Herndon Parkway, and add turning lanes on approaches to the intersection of Herndon Parkway and Spring Street. Key access management and congestion relief measures are:

1. Widen Spring Street eastbound by one lane between the Fairfax County Parkway Ramps and Herndon Parkway, continuing approximately 650 feet west of Herndon Parkway.

2. Widen Spring Street westbound by one



The East Spring Street Widening Project in Herndon is in the Development Stage. VDOT welcomes all citizens to their upcoming Public Design Hearing on March 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center.

lane for approximately 400 feet from the Fairfax County Parkway Ramps to the point where the existing right-turn lane begins.

3. Reconfigure the Fairfax County Parkway off-ramp at Spring Street to accommodate an exclusive southbound left turn lane.

4. Add two dedicated northbound right turn lanes on Herndon Parkway at Spring Street.5. Add a second dedicated left turn lane

5. Add a second dedicated left turn lane on southbound Herndon Parkway at Spring Street. 6. Reconfigure the existing traffic signals at the Herndon Parkway/Spring Street and Spring Street/Fairfax County Parkway Ramps intersections to accommodate the above lane use changes.

7. Create a safe pedestrian crossing of the ramp to southbound Fairfax County Parkway along the southern side of Spring Street and connect that crossing to nearby sidewalks;

8. Enhance safety facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and transit users (i.e., ADA accessible wide sidewalks/curb cuts, streetprint crosswalks, pedestrian crossing/refuge islands, pedestrian/audio signalization, curb radius reduction); and

9. Site access management and median controls. Mobility for drivers is projected to be maintained without significant impacts to pedestrian, bicycle, or bus operations.

Furthermore, this plan establishes access to the Herndon Metro Station Area with the highest priority going to pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users."

Smartportal.virginiahb2.org reports Spring Street is a direct route to the town's adopted Urban Development Area (UDA #23) designated in Herndon's 2030 Comprehensive Plan citing the UDA will become an employment destination area and is expected to host almost 15,000 jobs. "The ability of Spring Street to convey goods and people in and out of Herndon is crucial to the economic viability of the town's UDA. Forecast to transport up to 43,950 trips per day in 2035 amid vehicular weaving movements to and from Fairfax County Parkway, the eastern portion of Spring Street is in need of congestion mitigation, capacity improvements, and multimodal enhancements."

This project is being financed with federal and state funding, including Smart Scale funding. The current estimate is \$11,468,331.

String of Commercial Robberies Hit the Area

By Mercia Hobson The Connection

airfax County Police Department (FCPD) report they are investigating nine commercial robberies often involving gas stations and convenience stores that have occurred in their patrol districts in the past five weeks. Fairfax Police Department believes the nine robberies are the latest in a string of 19 area commercial robberies that are connected, including two in the Town of Herndon and eight in Loudoun County. The Town of Herndon has its own police department.

Fairfax County's Major Crimes Bureau is working with detectives from three agencies, Herndon Police Department, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, and the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force to identify suspects in these robberies, all of which have occurred since mid-January and recently reflected an uptick in frequency.

According to Fairfax County Police, the first robbery in the suspected series occurred on Friday, Jan. 19, 2018, at the Exxon gas station located at 2957 Chain Bridge Road (Oakton). Then on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018, a male entered the 7-



The Exxon Gas Station at 2990 Centreville Road in Herndon was site of one of 19 regional robberies in Fairfax County and Loudoun County. The suspect was armed with a rifle. Fairfax County Police detectives believe this robbery is connected to the others.

Eleven at 2501 Centreville Road (Herndon, Fairfax County) and went to the counter to make a purchase. When the clerk was reaching for the item, the suspect displayed a gun and demanded cash. He was last seen wearing a black jacket, blue jeans, and sneakers.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, Fairfax County Police responded to a robbery at the Exxon gas station at 2990 Centreville Road in Herndon. A man armed with a rifle robbed the store of an undisclosed amount of cash. According to Herndon Police Department (HPD on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018, in the 1100 block of Crestview Drive, at 11:28 p.m. "a suspect entered the business, approached the clerk behind the counter, produced a handgun, and demanded money from the registers. After being given an undisclosed amount of money, the suspect left the store on foot and appeared to walk towards Crestview Drive in the direction of Wexford



According to Fairfax County Police Department, "A gas station robbery on Centreville Road (in Herndon) on Feb. 10, a suspect was armed with a rifle."

Court. The suspect is described as a lightskinned black or Hispanic male, 5'5" to 5'7", wearing all black clothing and shoes, and a black ski mask."

On Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, shortly after 10 p.m, Herndon Police Department reports, "...a suspect entered a business, approached the clerk behind the counter, produced a handgun, and demanded money from the registers. After being SEE ROBBERIES. PAGE G

OPINION Hope for Expanding Health Care

Just say yes to \$400 million, thousands of jobs and health care for 300,000.

400 million. That's how much the Virginia Senate had to cut from its budget because it refused to include Medicaid expansion in the budget.

The House of Delegates version of the budget has \$400 million more to work with.

\$400 million is a lot of money.

The change in the House of Delegates, a small miracle, comes with the change voters created last November. Republicans had a 66-

34 in the House but lost 15 seats after the election. Editorial The economic boost that

comes with expanding Medicaid includes as many as 30,000 new jobs. It's ludicrous that Virginia has bypassed this money, this economic boost, this life-saving measure for poor Virginians. The Commonwealth has forfeited than \$10 billion because of ideological, partisan irrationality.

State Sen. Janet Howell may have captured the cause and effect the best in the floor debate: "We've cut education, both higher and public education. We've cut student aid, public safety, mental-health programs, programs for the disabled, programs to have a reliable election system. Why have we made these cuts? We've made them to deprive low-income people of healthcare."

More than 10 percent of residents of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County have no health insurance.

A Harvard Medical School study determined that the decision by 25 states to reject the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act would result in between 7,115 and 17,104 more deaths than had all states opted in.

In Virginia, the number of deaths due to failure to expand Medicaid estimated between 266 and 987.

These are wrongful deaths, caused by the willful action of particular Virginia legislators.

Refusing to accept federal funds to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation or education. Imagine the celebration of the economic stimulus of adding \$400 million and tens of thousands of new jobs by any other means.

In Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

As Virginia wrestles with heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed. More people die of opioid overdoses in Virginia than in vehicle crashes. It's time for a change, and there is hope for change. Look towards the budget conferences coming up shortly.

> — Mary Kimm MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova in a visit to Animal Shelter.

Photos contributed

Sharon Bulova (front row, middle) with Animal Shelter staff and volun-

Bulova: Fantasy — To Adopt Office Pet

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haron Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, sent the following submission to the Pet Connection issue:

'Our office fantasy is to adopt an office pet. In our imagination, we bring back a cat, or dog, maybe a bonded pair of guinea pigs. At our last visit to the Animal Shelter we

fell in love with a comical looking lion-headed rabbit. Apparently it is a distinct breed. And then there was a very cute little white mouse that someone had rescued from becoming a snake's meal at a local pet store. Maybe we could bring them all back.

"The 'we' is my wonderful chairman's team. We are all big

time animal lovers. In the end, however, we admit that the dream of populating our suite in the Government Center with critters is not really practical, much less permitted. Although we can't bring back all of the animals, it sure is fun to visit the Animal Shelter and spend some quality time there with such caring staff, dedicated volunteers, and well-tended animals. "Pets add so much dimension to our lives. While I have not adopted an office pet, I do have two wonderful rescue cats at home that make me very happy.

"To volunteer at the Shelter, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ animalshelter for more information."



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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered

to homes and businesses. Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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CIRCULATION circulation@connectionnewspapers.com 2016 Virginia PRESS Association Award Winning

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Newspaper







Travelling in Style

Dee Hobson of Oak Hill writes: "This is our 8-year-old Yorkie, Daisy Mae, and her 'dad,' Dick Hobson, trying out her very own doggy stroller last summer. Daisy enjoys day trips and dining at outdoor restaurants and the stroller really allows her to travel in style!"



Winter Day in Herndon

Sally, Duncan and Dillon. Guess which dog didn't go out in the snow? They live in Herndon with Gwyn Whittaker, owner of the GreenFare Organic Cafe.



'Godspell' at NextStop: Much to Adore

By David Siegel The Connection

"Godspell" with its message "about compassion, understanding, and building a community despite our differences" is the next production to grace the NextStop stage in Herndon," said Lorraine Magee, "Godspell" director and choreographer. "And we need that now."

With a musical score of nearly 20 songs such as "Day By Day," and "On the Willows," each set to modern music but lyrics based upon traditional hymns, "Godspell" is a musical reimagining of the parables of love and understanding taught by Jesus of Nazareth.

Even with its title and Biblical source material, "you don't have to be Christian, or even a believer in any higher power, to find meaning in this story," said Magee. "Love, understanding, and tolerance can be found at the foundation of virtually all the great religions of the world."

"Godspell" was created by three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner Stephen Schwartz ("Wicked" and "Pippin"). NextStop has cast some of the D.C. area's fine talent, "along with creativity and exhilarating production values for this uplifting musical in our unique intimate space," said Evan Hoffmann, producing artistic director, NextStop Theatre.

The NextStop cast includes Angeleaza Anderson, Philip Da Costa, Javier Del Pilar, Tess Higgins, Jennifer Lambert, Bobby Libby, Alan Naylor, Jolene Vettese, Chani Wereley, and AJ Whittenberg.

NextStop's production of "Godspell" will be un-

Where & When

NextStop Theatre presents "Godspell" at 269 Sunset Park Dr, Sunset Business Park, Herndon. Performances March 1 to April 1, 2018. Thursdays at 8 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m. Saturday March 3 at 7 p.m., March 10 at 8 p.m., March 17, March 24 and March 31 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday, March 4 at 2 p.m., March 11 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m, March 18 at 2 p.m., March 25 at 2 p.m. and April 1 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: General Admission tickets start at \$35 and increase as performances fill up. Call 866-811-4111 or visit <u>www.nextstoptheatre.org</u>. Note: NextStop Theatre has a special dinner ticket package tie-in with its near-by neighbor "Taste of the World." Details are at www.nextstoptheatre.org.

like other local productions the audience may have seen. "The musical is frequently set in an abstract, timeless environment or city street. Our 'Godspell' is not in a limbo – it is in the here and now – in a coffee shop. In the 21st century, the internet and the coffee shop were supposed to be places to bring us together and connect us to one another, but they seem to have had the opposite effect."

A live, small orchestra will be a key part of NextStop's "Godspell" under the direction of Elisa Rosman. "We are doing an updated orchestration. There will be drums, bass, and three guitars and me on keyboard. One of those guitarists will be doubling on keys." "The updated orchestrations we are using are definitely different from the original production," said Rosman. "I would say the music will be much less '70s in its feeling; and more of a rock feel. Overall, the music is fun. I can say that we in the orchestra all leave rehearsal humming every night."

Inviting audiences to the NextStop production, Rosman is clear, "There is so much to adore."



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Robberies

From Page 3

given an undisclosed amount of money and several packs of cigarettes, the suspect left the store on foot and walked towards Jackson Street. The suspect is described as a white male of average height and build, wearing all black clothing, and a black ski mask." The investigation is ongoing. HPD is working with detectives from Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and Fairfax County Police Department on possibly related cases.

During the same approximate period, Feb. 11-21, Fairfax County Police responded to six more robberies including two on Monday, Feb. 19. At 10:20 p.m., a robbery occurred at the Shell gas station 12219 Leesburg Pike (Herndon, Fairfax County). At 11:06 p.m. the same evening, the Sunoco gas station at 1496 North Point Village Center (Reston) was robbed.

Fairfax County Police Detectives released surveillance photos and are asking for anyone with information to contact them, stating, "The suspects appear to be males between 5'4" and 6' tall... If you recognize the suspects, or if you have any information about these crimes, please contact our Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800. Tips can be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or calling 1-866-411-TIPS. They can also be sent in via text by texting "TIP187" plus the message to CRIMES (274637). Text STOP to 274637 to cancel or HELP to 274637 for help. Message and data rates may apply. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest."



Saman Berenji, daughter of Mrs. Mela Emam of Herndon, VA., Mehdi Ryan Raoufi, son of Mr. & Mrs. Amir and Rosetta Raoufi of Herndon, VA., were married on October 20th, 2017.

The ceremony was held at Waterford at Fair Oaks in Fairfax, VA. Given in marriage by her grandfather, Mr. Jafar Berenii, The Bride w.

Given in marriage by her grandfather, Mr. Jafar Berenji. The Bride was attended by Azadeh Esmailzadeh as maid of honor. The Groom was accompanied by his Best Man, William Alden Smith.

Mrs. Raoufi-Berenji holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Argosy University, and worked at Community Connections as a Therapist in Washington, D.C. before moving to Boston, MA, and currently works at The Lighthouse School as a Family Therapist, a therapeutic day school in Massachusetts.

Mr. Raoufi-Berenji holds a B.A. in Theater with a specialization in Directing and Dramatic Literature from Christopher Newport University and is currently pursuing a Master's of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in Expressive Arts Therapy at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Before moving to Boston, Mr. Raoufi worked as a therapeutic aide, while also a theater director for Artstream, a non-profit theater company comprised of adults with disabilities. He is currently working as a Pre-Employment Program Specialist for Partners for Youth with Disabilities in Boston.

The Raoufi-Berenji's currently reside in Boston, MA.





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

MARCH 1-APRIL 1

"Godspell." Thursdays through Sundays at NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop opens "Godspell" with a modern twist to the musical, setting the new production in a coffee shop. Tickets, \$35-\$65, available online at www.NextStopTheatre.org or by calling 866-811-4111.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

- Jazz Night. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Lake Anne Coffee House/Wine Bar, 1612 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Patrons may enjoy Mykle Lyons and company as they wine and dine in the cozy second floor wine bar. Admission is free. Call 703-501-6289 or email maurisapotts@gmail.com.
- Millennials Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Title is "Stiff" by Mary Roach. Check out a library copy or buy one to keep. Adults from early 20s to early 30s. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/MARCH 2

Open Mic Poetry Night. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featured members of the Poetry Society of Virginia will share their poetry. An open mic will follow, allowing for anyone attending to have a moment on stage. Free and open to the public. Visit artspaceherndon.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 2-3

Grand Opening: Rise. Friday, 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Rise Well-Being Center, 11130 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 150, Reston. Try classes and experiences. A \$5 contribution provides access for the entire day. www.risewellbeing.center.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

- Fantastic Films: "Fried Green Tomatoes." 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The book is always better - or is it? Enjoy these films that started out as novels. Adults, teens. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov. Delaney's Book Drive. 4-5 p.m. at 1713 Ascot
- Way, Reston. Help volunteers collect 2,000 used or new books for children in need. Visit www.barberafoundation.org/events/delaneysbook-drive-1

SUNDAY/MARCH 4

Indigo T-shirt Dyeing. 2-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Indigo Tshirt Dyeing with Elizabeth Gibson. Ages 7-13. \$20 per student. Visit artspaceherndon.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 5

Read To The Dog. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Bring your own book or choose one from the Library. Call or sign up online for a fifteen minute session. Age 5-11. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/MARCH 9

Swing Dance. 8:30 p.m., beginner lesson; 9 p.m.midnight, dance, at Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Swing dance with All Wheel Jive. \$15. Call 703-359-9882 or visit our website at www.gottaswing.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

Touch Combo Album Release Concert. 7-9

p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. The collaborative quartet explores the possibilities of jazz, rock, fusion, funk and some traditional rhythms. Refreshments will be served. \$20. Visit artspaceherndon.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 11

Women's Choral Festival. 4-6 p.m. at Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. Capital Harmonia Choir will host its third Annual Women's Choral Festival feature the Madeira School Glee Club along with a piano and string quintet. This year Capital Harmonia performs the music of Anne Frank: A Living Voice. Free and open to the public. Call 703-989-4007 or visit www.capitalharmonia.org.





By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Four score and several years ago, in the course of human marital events, history which had been made/experienced between and husband and a wife was not recalled quite the same, which likely led to a disagreement. Without there being a video tape then - or now, or a Warner Wolf, insults and recriminations may have flown, and not just the coop. Practically speaking, how does one - or two, actually, solve this most unsolvable of problems?

This is not a declaration of independence or the announcement of a change of address from Burtonsville to Gettysburg, but it is a bit of a query as to how one manages times from one's relatively distant past. After a substantial while, and I would say 40 years qualifies, it's particularly challenging to remember the facts and the feelings that corroborate a memory: Who was there? What was said? How did it sound? Why was it even happening?

And after all these years, the recollections are not exactly black and white - for either party. One - or both - are either viewing them through the looking glass, a prism, a filter, a haze, or in my case as a cancer patient, through a now clinicallyconfirmed side effect of chemotherapy: "chemo brain." A consequence of treatment which erases/alters memories in some disputable way. A way in which what was once front and center is now back and to the rear, or not at all. And not only are these memories irretrievable, when spoken and heard, they are sometimes not believable either.

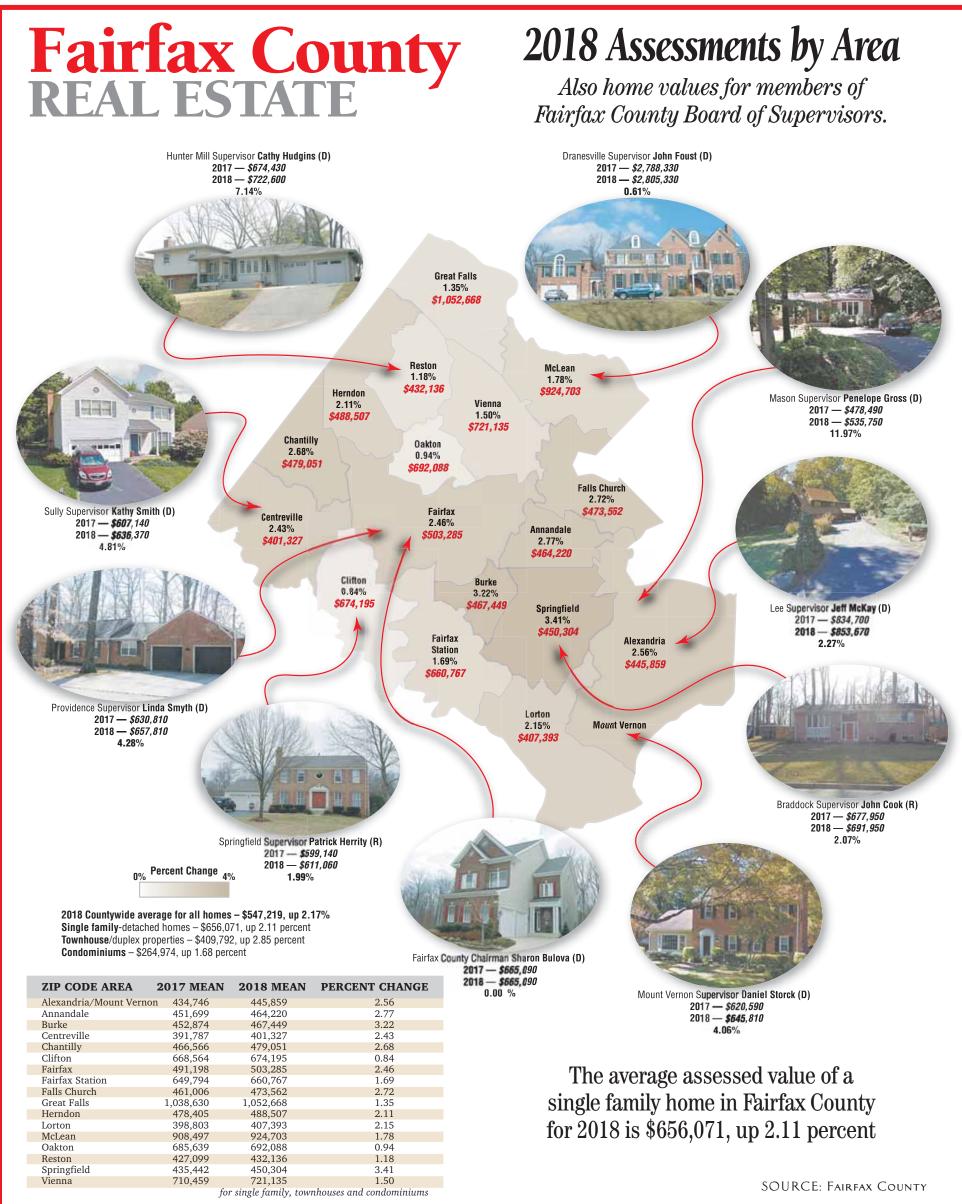
I know what I remember. I'm clear in my thinking. Time and place and context are all familiar but the assessment and interpretation of the facts and feelings are different. I realize that simply remembering where I was and what I was doing/saying (or not, to be fair), doesn't guarantee accuracy or agreement, but neither should it be discounted. I mean, being present and accounted for counts for something. The question is/remains: What am I missing? I will admit though, knowing part of the

underlying cause of some of these "recollection-disputes" does minimize the stress of it. Nevertheless, most of the recollections to which I'm referring (in the abstract) are not gone (in my opinion), it's more that they're rearranged, maybe even "misremembered," to invoke baseball great, Roger Clemens, in his sworn testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, given back in February 2008. The "Rocket's" situation/status wasn't resolved then any more than my situation has been resolved now. It's a work in progress – for all of us.

But I'm happy and fortunate to say: I can live with it. As a nearly nine-year stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor; in fact, I am now my oncologist's longest living lung cancer patient, I can deal with most things cancer-affected and/or life-related. Because in having so obliterated the "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given back in late February 2009, I wouldn't say I'm living on borrowed time exactly, but I would say that I'm living on unexpected time.

So what's a few missing memories or a few historical references out of context? Not nuch when you consider the alternative Besides, life's too short (don't I know it) to long for what I can't remember or worry about what I may have forgot.

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



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