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# Burke CONNECTION

## Fantasy: Adopting an Office Pet

OPINION, PAGE 6

Board of Supervisors  
Chairman Sharon  
Bulova in a visit  
to Animal Shelter.  
Bulova writes, "Our  
office fantasy is to  
adopt an office pet."

Inside  
**PET CONNECTION**

County Budget:  
New Kids in Town  
NEWS, PAGE 3

Harry Potter at  
Burke Library  
NEWS, PAGE 4



# Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

## 2018 Assessments by Area

Also home values for members of  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)**  
2017 — \$674,430  
2018 — \$722,600  
7.14%



Dranesville Supervisor **John Foust (D)**  
2017 — \$2,788,330  
2018 — \$2,805,330  
0.61%



Mason Supervisor **Penelope Gross (D)**  
2017 — \$478,490  
2018 — \$535,750  
11.97%



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)**  
2017 — \$834,700  
2018 — \$853,670  
2.27%



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)**  
2017 — \$677,950  
2018 — \$691,950  
2.07%



Mount Vernon Supervisor **Daniel Storck (D)**  
2017 — \$620,590  
2018 — \$645,810  
4.06%



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)**  
2017 — \$665,090  
2018 — \$665,090  
0.00%



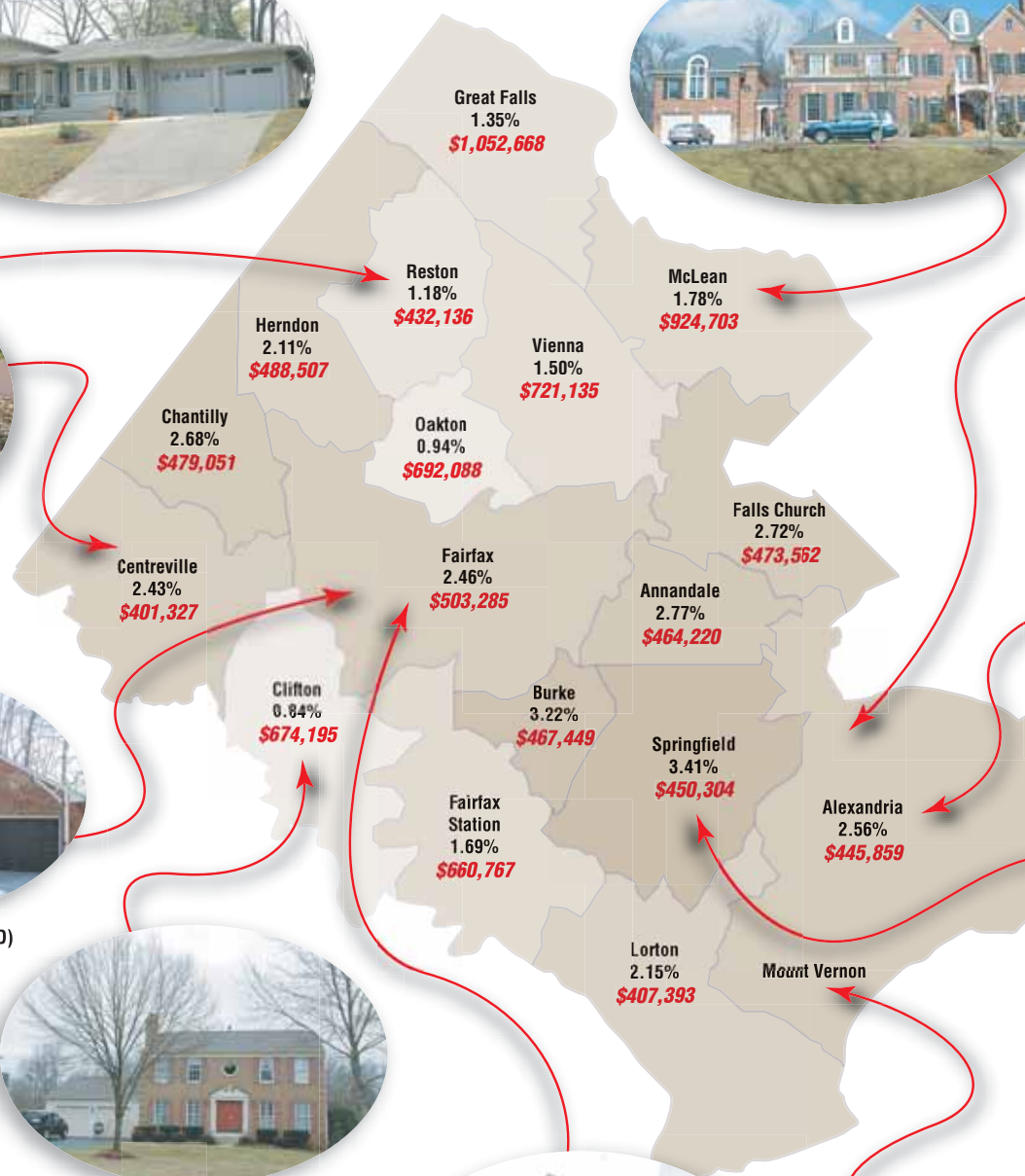
Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)**  
2017 — \$599,140  
2018 — \$611,060  
1.99%



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)**  
2017 — \$630,810  
2018 — \$657,810  
4.28%



Sully Supervisor **Kathy Smith (D)**  
2017 — \$607,140  
2018 — \$636,370  
4.81%



2018 Countywide average for all homes — \$547,219, up 2.17%  
Single family-detached homes — \$656,071, up 2.11 percent  
Townhouse/duplex properties — \$409,792, up 2.85 percent  
Condominiums — \$264,974, up 1.68 percent

ZIP CODE AREA	2017 MEAN	2018 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria/Mount Vernon	434,746	445,859	2.56
Annandale	451,699	464,220	2.77
Burke	452,874	467,449	3.22
Centreville	391,787	401,327	2.43
Chantilly	466,566	479,051	2.68
Clifton	668,564	674,195	0.84
Fairfax	491,198	503,285	2.46
Fairfax Station	649,794	660,767	1.69
Falls Church	461,006	473,562	2.72
Great Falls	1,038,630	1,052,668	1.35
Herndon	478,405	488,507	2.11
Lorton	398,803	407,393	2.15
McLean	908,497	924,703	1.78
Oakton	685,639	692,088	0.94
Reston	427,099	432,136	1.18
Springfield	435,442	450,304	3.41
Vienna	710,459	721,135	1.50

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

The average assessed value of a  
single family home in Fairfax County  
for 2018 is \$656,071, up 2.11 percent

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY



# NEWS

## New Kids in Town

County executive proposes budget that fully funds schools and compensation for employees.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

The Board of Supervisors has until March 6 to determine if it will advertise the 2.5-cents real estate tax increase proposed by new County Executive Bryan Hill last Tuesday, Feb. 20.

“When we advertise the tax rate that will become the ceiling for what the tax rate can be. It can be lower, it can be the same, but it can not be higher than what we advertise on March 6,” said Chairman Sharon Bulova, following Hill’s presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

The board will officially adopt the FY2019 budget on May 1, after a series of community meetings and public hearings on the \$4.29-billion budget. More than 40 community meetings have already been scheduled in the next month throughout the county.

“This will be an intense process as we work with the community,” said Bulova.

Bulova called Hill’s proposed tax increase “a significant amount.”



County Executive Bryan Hill answered questions along with FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand. The FCPS budget is fully funded in Hill’s proposal.

PHOTO BY MARY KIM/THE CONNECTION

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust said, “the size of the increase, obviously a concern.”  
“Every budget has two sides; you have

the receiving end and the paying end, and if you’re on the receiving end of county services people will be very happy,” said

Braddock Supervisor John Cook. “When you walk up to your office, Mr. Hill, at the end of the day, people in the hallways will be very happy. Every county priority is fully funded, schools are fully funded, and that’s not a bad thing, that sounds good, but we have to remember the other side.”

The other side starts with what Bulova said would be an average tax increase of \$268 to every homeowner in Fairfax County.

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity calculates that increase to be five percent, adding to a total the last five years of more than 26 percent, Herrity said.

“While the tax bills continue to grow in Fairfax, wages have not, especially for our growing population of seniors and our dwindling population of millennials,” said Herrity.

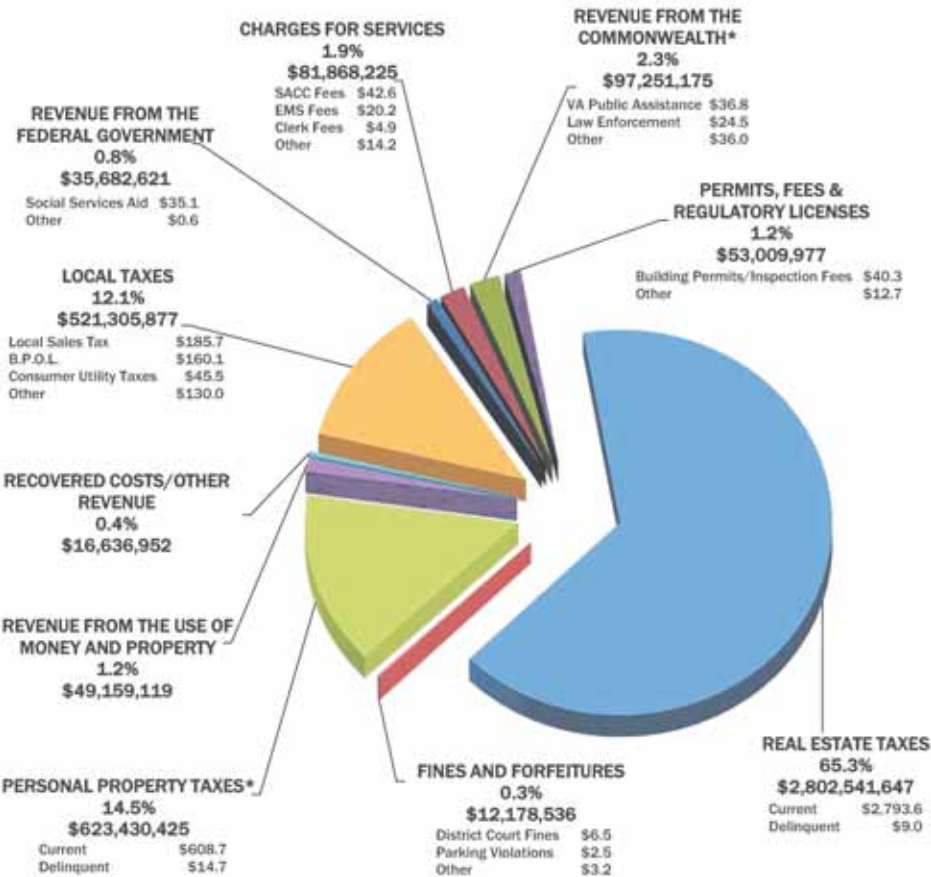
And various parts of the county will be hit harder than others. Cook suggested that some in his neighborhood each month “will pay \$450 to \$700-plus more with this budget.”

“While there are many things in this budget that I strongly advocated for and fully

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 4

### FY 2019 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

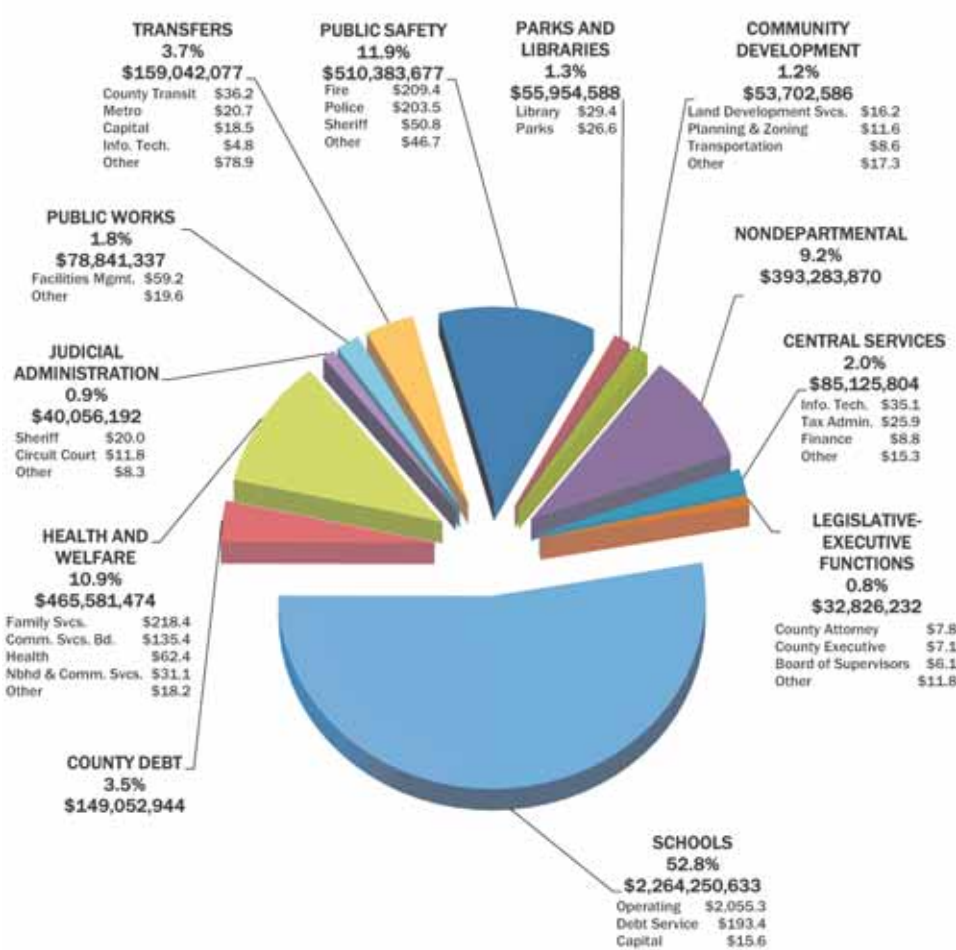
#### GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS “WHERE IT COMES FROM” (Subcategories in millions)



FY 2019 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS = \$4,293,064,554\*\*

### FY 2019 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

#### GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS “WHERE IT GOES” (Subcategories in millions)



FY 2019 GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS = \$4,288,101,414

In addition to FY 2019 revenues, available balances and transfers in are also utilized to support disbursement requirements.

\* For presentation purposes, Personal Property Taxes of \$211,313,944 that are reimbursed by the Commonwealth as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 are included in the Personal Property Taxes category.

\*\* Total County resources used to support the budget include the revenues shown here, as well as a beginning balance and transfers in from other funds.



# County Opens Budget Debate

FROM PAGE 3

support, and it's nice to see, we also have to go back to the people who pay. ... In this budget, it's hard to explain to the people paying the bill where the restraint was," Cook said.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay heads the budget committee for the board.

"When you're stuck with residential taxes as your main source of revenue and you can't control property values, you can't control the fact that the highest percentages are sometimes in the communities of this county whose residents can least afford that increase," he said.

**HILL TOOK OVER** as county executive on Jan. 2; former county executive Ed Long retired Sept. 15, 2017.

"Excellent job in a very short period of time," said Foust, after Hill's presentation.

"Fifty-three days, sir," said Hill, with humor.

Bulova called Hill's budget "outstanding."

"It essentially hits on all the notes that our board is concerned about, increasing funding for schools, fully funding compensation for our employees and also addressing Diversion First and increases in what we need to fund CSB [County Services Board] and police, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera," said Bulova.

"This is a budget that invests in people and I think that's the single most important thing we can do this year, to invest in our school employees and our county employees," said McKay.

Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins said she welcomed Hill's support "embracing initiatives" that will allow all families to enjoy what the county has to offer.

"Fairfax County is a really great place but unfortunately there are a lot of folks who are not in a great place in order to enjoy all of that," she said.

For example, "School readiness needs to be looked at with as broad a brush as you can find," she said.

**URGENCY AND WARNING** were themes of Hill's presentation, however.

This year's budget proposal addresses almost all priorities and initiatives, but the future will need to be different, Hill said.

"We're going to have to change how we do business here in Fairfax County," Hill said, predicting persistent budget shortfalls into the future. "It's 2020 where we really need to tie our shoes a little tighter," being "more creative and nimble."

He recommends returning promptly to an analysis of county lines of business, looking for efficiencies and savings in each department.

"You hit the nail on the head," said Foust. "We have to find a way to make county government more efficient if we are going to continue providing the awesome services that we provide at fair and reasonable costs."

Hill predicts restrained revenue growth for the foreseeable future, with uncertainties in federal spending, the impact of tax reform on property values, state budget contributions and meeting the needs of Metro.

One continuing issue is that Fairfax County sends far more tax money to state coffers than returns, getting just 23 cents back for every dollar, Hill said.

"No matter how many times I say it, people in our community don't understand it," said McKay. "They think we get significant help from the state, they

## FAIRFAX COUNTY TOWN HALL BUDGET MEETINGS

- ❖ Monday, March 5, 7:30 p.m., McLean Budget Meeting, McLean High School Cafeteria, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean
- ❖ Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m., Sully District Town Hall, Rocky Run Middle School Little Theater, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly
- ❖ Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m., Hunter Mill Community Summit, South Lakes High School Lecture Hall, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston
- ❖ Monday, March 12, 7:30 p.m., Great Falls Budget Meeting, Great Falls Library Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
- ❖ Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m., Providence Community Budget Meeting, Providence Community Center, First Floor Multipurpose Room, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax
- ❖ Wednesday, March 14, 7:30pm, Braddock District Council Annual Budget Meeting, Location To Be Determined
- ❖ Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m., Mason District Budget Town Meeting, Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
- ❖ Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m., Lee District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center Community Room, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria
- ❖ Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m., Springfield District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield
- ❖ April 10-12, Board of Supervisors Public Hearings on FY 2019 Budget and FY 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form) to sign up.

think the schools get significant help from the state, but really the schools are getting significant help from the homeowners in Fairfax County."

**THE \$4.29-BILLION** budget would transfer \$2.26 billion to the school system, 52 percent of the total.

Hill and new School Superintendent Scott Brabrand pledged to work collaboratively to reach joint priorities and efficiencies.

The two new executives stood side by side when answering questions about the proposed budget.

"The quality of the school system is directly tied with the quality of life in the county," said Brabrand, who began July 10, 2017. His contract runs through June 30, 2021.

"I think it is the first time in recent years that the county executive and the superintendent of schools have stood side by side to share our budgets and take questions. I think this change is emblematic of a new approach to meeting the needs of the residents of Fairfax County," he said. Hill's proposed budget would fully fund the FCPS request.

Hill's annual salary is \$250,000, Brabrand's is \$290,000.

**MORE THAN** 18.9 million square feet of office space remains vacant in the county.

"Maybe it's starting to think about different uses for that instead of the normal," said Hill. "Leaving it vacant is not a good thing for our tax base. The more people we have in our vacant office space ... reduces the burden on our county residents. So we have to be more creative, we have to be more nimble, and we have to be cutting edge."

Hill and numerous supervisors discussed the importance of economic development,

"Increasing commercial is a really good story that can not be overlooked," said Foust. "A 3.8 percent increase in the non-residential assessment is really good news."

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck suggested overtime expenditure is an area to save money.

And Herrity made his annual appeal for the county to address pension benefits.

"Every year we put it off, it gets harder," Herrity said.

"I am extremely disappointed that we have reached yet another budget cycle and we have failed to address our pension issues," he said. "As I talk with constituents throughout the county, they are in disbelief that we continue to offer new employees a pension benefit more generous than surrounding jurisdictions on top of a county taxpayer paid social security benefit as early as age 55. Pension costs alone add 30 cents to every payroll dollar and compete for funding with critically needed county services and employee and teacher raises."



**Library aide Laura Damian with a Harry Potter tree at the Kings Park Library in Burke.**



**Audrey Husemann, 9, with her polyjuice potion.**

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

# A Day of Fantasy

## Hogwarts packed the Kings Park Library on Saturday.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t the Kings Park Library in Burke, Audrey Husemann, 9, of Fairfax held her Harry Potter polyjuice potion in hand, with a firm fantasy belief that it was the real thing, even though the whole library was captivated in a fun, imaginary world of the Hogwarts on Harry Potter day. The potion was used to turn into someone else.

To use the potion, "add a hair from someone you want to turn into and drink it," she said. It was that simple, and the library was full of theories to work the imagination on Saturday, Feb. 24 as Harry Potter fans packed the side hall and part of the library apart from the book area. Laura Damian, a library aide at Kings Park, was fully aware of the Harry Potter phenomenon and appreciated the way the series has popularized reading at that age. The books are "a perennial favorite," she said, "it's always dicey if there's one on the shelf because they are constantly circulating, whatever pulls them in is great," she added.

And it did pull them in that day, in costume or not, to celebrate the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling that has been a fantasy favorite in the last 20 years. Rowling has capitalized on character development in the series, and the readers have

grown to identify with a character based on traits they have or liked to have.

Damian liked Hermione the best, while Audrey, 9, likes to identify with Ginny Weasley, who is described as "the youngest Weasley child. Brave, tenacious and an accomplished Quidditch player," according to the Harry Potter website. Quidditch is a wizarding sport played on broomsticks in the Harry Potter world. "She's fun and adventurous," Audrey said.

Sarah Husemann, Audrey's mother, likes her daughter's attraction to the books. "It brings their imaginations to life, she and I take turns reading together," she said.

Ryan Hall, 10, is on the seventh book, "The Deathly Hallows." "I like the part where Lord Voldemort gets powerful in a big battle," he said. Lord Voldemort is a Potter villain.

At the library, the side room had a castle-like painted sheet covering the door, and once inside, there was a Harry Potter knick-knack table, a witch's corner where they mixed up the potions, a Great Hall room with games and puzzles, and a picture booth room with a Harry Potter stand-up character to pose with. Griffin Schmidt, 4, from Falls Church, was in that room with a broomstick in hand, posing for his parents.

SEE HARRY POTTER.  
PAGE 10

## COMMENTARY

# Richmond Report: Assembly at Halfway Point

BY EILEEN FILLER-CORN  
STATE DEL. (D-41)

**A**s we pass the halfway point for the 2018 General Assembly, I wanted to provide an update on my legislation and where we stand on important issues.

I am proud that several of the bills I have been working on passed the House and are now headed to the Senate. In addition, some of the issues I have been promoting and advocating for years, such as raising the felony larceny threshold and making cannabis oil more accessible to those with difficult illness, are moving forward in different forms.

### Keeping Children Safe in Cars, HB 708

HB 708 would require car seats to be rear-facing until a child reaches 2 years of age or until a child reaches the weight or height limit of the rear-facing child restraint device, whichever comes first. Rear-facing car seats support a child's head, neck and spine, and they are designed to distribute the crash forces across the shell of the car seat. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children in the second year of life are five times less likely to die or be seri-



ously injured in a crash if they ride in a rear-facing car seat. Children under the age of 2 are simply not strong enough to withstand a strong crash without the extra protection that a rear-facing car seat provides.

It would be an important step to implement rear-facing car seats for 2-year-olds and under as a standard in Virginia – not

an option.

### Boundaries Bill, HB 45

This bill would allow any family life education curriculum offered in our public schools system to incorporate lessons and understanding on the important of personal privacy and personal boundaries.

Unfortunately, bullying and personal space topics are prevalent issues in our schools – the rise of cyberbullying underscores this. It is important that students of all ages and backgrounds should learn how to be respectful of one's personal space. If we are encouraging our children to live healthy and productive lives, we should be teaching them in schools the true meaning of respecting one's personal boundaries.

Passing this piece of legislation would be a major step forward for our children's understanding of personal space and safety.

### Promoting the Use of Open Educational Resources, HB 454

My bill, HB 454 would require the governing board of each public institution of higher education to implement guidelines for the adoption and use of low-cost and no-cost open educational resources and low-cost commercially published materials in courses offered at such institutions.

Just as students struggle with crippling tuition debt, so too do many students struggle with the rising costs of textbooks. My bill helps universities and colleges make it easier for teachers to create courses with low cost or no cost educational materials.

I am excited to report that this bill passed the House and I look forward to presenting it in the Senate Education and Health Committee.

### Combating Absenteeism in Schools, HB 1485

A child can be absent from school for a variety of reasons – but regular school attendance is critical for academic and personal success. It's important to remember that many times, absenteeism itself is not the problem – it can be an indicator of other problems in a student's life. When students aren't in school, we need to understand why they stay away or why they are missing school – not immediately jump to the courts to fix the problem. HB 1485 starts at the

bottom by working towards reforming public policy related to absenteeism. It works to find better options to keep children in school before they are referred to the court system for truancy.

I am pleased that my bill passed the House by an overwhelming margin, and I will present it before the Senate Education and Health Committee in the coming weeks.

**I ADDITIONALLY WANTED** to provide updates on legislation of note that moved forward in other forms.

### Raising the Felony Larceny Threshold

For two years now, I have been working on the issue of raising the felony larceny threshold. I was honored to carry the bill to raise the threshold on behalf of Governors Northam and McAuliffe. While my bill, HB 706 did not pass, we are moving forward with this concept with HB 1550, patroned by Delegate Les Adams. I am proud to serve as a co-patron on his bill, which passed the House last Tuesday.

This move will not only create a more just and fairer system – but it's fiscally responsible and will create a safer Commonwealth. I applaud the efforts by Governor Northam and Speaker Cox for their bipartisan agree-

SEE RICHMOND REPORT, PAGE 10

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**Time:** 9:00-9:30a.m.–Registration  
9:30-1:00 p.m.–Workshop

**Place:** Duff & Kronfeld, P.C.  
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# 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.**



**Sharon Bulova (front row, middle) with Animal Shelter staff and volunteers.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Bulova: Fantasy — To Adopt Office Pet

**S**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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter) for more information."

**Burke CONNECTION**

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## PET CONNECTION



Therapy Dog duties at Dulles International Airport.



Tia as a Vizsla dog breed representative at Hungarian Embassy EU Day celebration.

## Meet Tia, a Therapy Dog

Working as a Therapy Dog since 2011, Tia has made many friends. Now with more than 200 hours of therapy dog service to severely injured adults, seniors, students of many ages at all education levels, child readers at library programs, holiday air travelers and airline crews at Dulles International Airport, and to visitors at Hungarian Embassy European Union Days, she is an accomplished and beloved representative of her Vizsla dog breed. Tia's community service also includes working in Fairfax County's Geese Management Program in 2010, and helping to alert the public to sale of puppy mill puppies within the County in a televised news story which aired in October. In addition to assisting her human friends, she regularly socializes Vizsla pups, of all ages, and encourages their good behavior during weekly "Vizslas Go" group

meet ups.

Recently, for the milestone of her 10th birthday, Tia was honored by the Fairfax County Park Authority and Park Foundation for her years of service with a bench on the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail in the Pohick Stream Valley Park. A firm believer in daily walks, Tia loves the area parks; and she and her admirers raised more than \$2,300 for the FC Park Foundation in celebration of her special birthday.

Nationally ranked in 2011, she continues to enjoy and train in Agility and participates in other dog sports, including Barn Hunting, Nose Work, and Tracking. Someday she might be able to track and rescue a lost person.... but right now she can only rescue hot dogs. So proud of our Canine Good Citizen — Tia!

— SUSAN LAUME OF  
SPRINGFIELD



Tia's 10th birthday cake.



## Rescuing Frodo and Sammi

Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova share these photos of her two rescue cats: top is Sammi and the big orange guy below is Frodo. "Frodo came from a foster mother in Fairfax Station. He had had a difficult time being adopted. Sometimes he will nip when he doesn't want to be handled and that may have been the problem. He is very sweet and affectionate though.

Sammi was part of a feral litter of kittens living behind a restaurant in D.C. Tammy Kaufax (Lee District School Board Member) and her two kids took care of the kittens as part of a school project. I adopted Sammi but Tammy and the kids couldn't part with the other two."



## Heidi Celebrates

The Krallinger family of Fairfax shares this photo of Heidi. She is a German Shepard that celebrated her 13th birthday on Jan. 26. She still loves playing Frisbee with the family, a sport she has always loved.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Showcasing Musicians

Songwriting competition at  
Bethesda Blues & Jazz  
Club on Friday.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE CONNECTION

There is no formula that lands a musician a place on the Billboard Charts, and some of the most talented, hardworking artists will never find commercial success.

Bethesda's Carol Bernard took matters into her own hands and founded the Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards in 2016 in honor of her uncle, who did mount the long, uphill road of turning music — his passion — into his livelihood.

Ebb was the lyricist for a number of songs in Broadway musicals, including "Cabaret" and "Chicago."

The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District will present year's Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards after all the finalists perform in a concert on Friday, March 2, at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club.

At the end of the show, a panel of judges will determine the winners. The winner receives \$10,000 and 25 hours of free studio recording time so that they can “focus on and hone his or her musical talents,” according to the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District. The Youth Songwriter Award winner will receive \$2,500.

**BURKE RESIDENT** Skyler Foley, a sophomore at



**Skyler Foley of Burke is a finalist in songwriting competition at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club on Friday.**

Lake Braddock Secondary School, is one of the three Young Songwriters finalists.

"I've been entering for three years now, but this is my first time as a finalist," Foley said. "It's incredible; I wasn't sure it was ever going to happen. I've never been a part of anything like this, so it's really exciting to me."

Foley has had a knack for music since the first time she heard a beat.

"I first got interested in preschool," Foley said. "I had this music teacher who called my mom and suggested that she sign me up for music lessons. I took voice, then guitar and piano. The summer after seventh grade, I took a songwriting class and have been writing ever since."

Foley will be performing two songs on Friday.

"This is probably the most important thing I've ever performed for, so, while I'm nervous, I'm mostly super excited. I don't have much stage fright. I perform with a band, so I've had to get over it. This concert is all I've been thinking over the past week. I don't know what the future holds for me, so, right now I'm just trying to become as best as I can and explore this passion as much as possible. I'm just looking forward to the show and am so grateful for the opportunity."



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## SATURDAY/MARCH 3

**Historic Sites in Peril.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Meet leaders in Mid-Atlantic archaeology, and learn about their challenges and finds. Registration is \$55; \$45 for Friends of Gunston Hall and Friends of Fairfax Archaeology, \$25 students. Contact Lacey Villiva at [lvilliva@gunstonhall.org](mailto:lvilliva@gunstonhall.org), or 703-550-9220, for more. To register online, visit [bit.ly/2BcZskw](http://bit.ly/2BcZskw).

## MARCH 3-APRIL 1

**Avenue Q.** Fridays-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. at Workhouse Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The laugh-out-loud musical tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton, who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. \$20-\$35. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 4

**Longaberger Basket Bingo.** Doors open 1 p.m., bingo begins 2 p.m. at West Springfield High School Cafeteria, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Proceeds support West Springfield Crew. Tickets are \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door if still available. Visit [crewbasketbingo.ticketbud.com/](http://crewbasketbingo.ticketbud.com/) or [crewbingo.com](http://crewbingo.com) for tickets.

## MARCH 4-10

**Fairfax City Restaurant Week.** Participating restaurants will offer a \$35 three-course dinner menu, a \$20 three-course lunch/brunch menu, dine-in specials, and additional

thematic layers of entertainment. Visit [fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com](http://fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com).

## TUESDAY/MARCH 6

**Modern Media.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Clayton Boyce, a past president of the National Press Club, shares serious and humorous insights about the changing news media. Adults. Visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3654398](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3654398).

## TUESDAY & THURSDAY/MARCH 6 & 8

**Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration.** 9 a.m.-noon at Tallwood, 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Join OLLI members in an early observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018. View two films examining the life and writings of the German/Jewish/American political theorist, philosopher and academic Hannah Arendt. Visit [olligmu.augusoft.net/](http://olligmu.augusoft.net/) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 7

**Connecting Women Business Owners Luncheon.** Noon-2 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Join in celebrating Fairfax City women business owners, co-hosted by the City of Fairfax Commission for Women and Economic Development Authority. The event will also provide an opportunity for women-owned City businesses to showcase their organization. Donations will be accepted to benefit BRAWS. Register at [tinyurl.com/y7ulf4ce](http://tinyurl.com/y7ulf4ce).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 8

**Art and Lunch.** 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League will be hosting an Art & Lunch event.

Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Free and open to the public. Visit [fairfaxartleague.net](http://fairfaxartleague.net) or call 703-587-9481.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 9

**"Celtic Spring, Music from the Celtic Countries."** 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series presents Linn Barnes & Allison Hampton: "Celtic Spring, Music from the Celtic Countries." Free and open to the public. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 10

**Children's Consignment Sale.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Chirst Church, 7600 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Come and shop for quality, gently used items. Free admission. Call 703 425-3580 or visit [www.christchurchsale.com](http://www.christchurchsale.com).

**NoVa TEEN Book Festival.** Opens at 9:30 am at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. Forty authors will take part in the NoVa TEEN Book Festival. Book lovers of all ages are welcome. Free admission. Find a full event schedule and registration information at [novateenbookfestival.com](http://novateenbookfestival.com).

**Children's Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently read books and non-book media. \$.25-.52. Some specials \$3 and \$4. Plenty of free parking below library; personal check or cash only. Call 703-644-4870 or email [friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com).



## 'The Big Picture'

David Krakauer and the 35mm Orchestra with "The Big Picture" at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Ave, Fairfax. Performance Friday, March 2, 2018 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$26, \$37 and \$44. Call 703-993-8888 or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu)

**Coffee House/Open Mic.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Free. Call or text Pete at 703-955-2039 to perform.

**"Irish Country Dancing."** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The Ancient Order of the Hibernians presents the Northern Virginia Ceili "Irish Country Dancing." Adults: \$15; families: \$25; children under 16: free; GMU Students (with ID): \$5. Call 703-273-6090.

**Tone for Two.** 7-7:45 p.m. at The Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Learn how to stick with your workout routine by exercising with a partner. Use clothes, bring a mat and water. \$20 for two people in advance; \$25 for two at the door. Think of it as "date night" for fitness. Childcare available. For information email [ffxjazzercise@gmail.com](mailto:ffxjazzercise@gmail.com) or call 703 909 6449.

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. at GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive,

Fairfax. Mozart's Requiem with Christopher Zimmerman, conductor and Fairfax Choral Society and the Music & Arts Chorus. Tickets: \$65, \$53, \$39; student tickets: \$15. Visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 11

**Hands On Day.** 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold a Hands On Day with crafts. Admission: museum members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Craft supplies included with admission. Visit [www.fairfaxstation.org](http://www.fairfaxstation.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**"Women Back to the Future—Nevertheless She Persisted!"** 2 p.m. at Fairfax City Hall Annex, Council Chambers, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Stevenson will conclude the performance by highlighting contemporary women role models in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Youth and adults welcome. Free. Call 703-385-8414.

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# RICHMOND REPORT

FROM PAGE 5

ment on this issue earlier this month. I hope that this action will set a tone for the remainder of the legislative session.

## Improving Transportation in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads

I introduced HB 1083 to institute a gas tax floor in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. Currently, the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads regions could lose millions of dollars in gas tax revenue that would be used to fund transportation projects, in particular, provide a portion of the necessary Metro subsidies to expand and improve public transit systems in Northern Virginia. The ability for Virginia to attract and retain business is dependent on a 21st century transportation infrastructure solution. Our state's growth and economic development depends on providing optimal relief of road congestion and achieving the best return on investment for Virginia taxpayers. My bill was later incorporated into House Appropriations Chairman Chris Jones' bill HB 768. Passage of this legislation would bring more stability to Northern Virginia's transportation systems and will allow us to more effectively fund Metro.

## Cannabis Oil

I am pleased that Delegate Ben Cline's HB 1251 passed the House unanimously several weeks ago. This bill is very similar to my earlier introduced bill, HB 458. Both bills would allow doctors to recommend the use of cannabis oil to treat conditions that a physician feels appropriate. This came about from

a study by the Joint Commission on Healthcare. I am proud to serve as a chief co-patron on Delegate Cline's bill and to be able to continue the work on this issue with my constituents Beth, Patrick and Jennifer Collins and so many other amazing parent advocates. It is hard to believe this all began over coffee in the 41st District with Beth Collins, Teresa Brogan, Senator Dave Marsden, and myself five years ago.

## License Revocation

No one should have to worry about their livelihood or professional license being taken away from them because they have crushing student debt. Currently, Virginia law allows the Commonwealth to order the suspension of a license if a person is delinquent in the payment of their "federal or state educational loans." The law can impact health professionals like nurses, psychologists, massage therapists and more. I introduced HB 456 to repeal this section of Virginia's code. My bill was incorporated into HB 1114, authored by Delegate Van Valkenberg—which not only repeals this code, but protects other professions as well. I am proud to be the chief co-patron and pleased this bill is now headed to Governor Northam's desk.

There are still several weeks left of session and with it will come in-depth discussions and debates on the budget as well as the bills that have crossed over from the House to the Senate and the Senate to the House. I look forward to keeping you updated as we move forth.

# Harry Potter at Burke Library

FROM PAGE 4

Griffin has seen the movie, said his father Jeremy, and will possibly enjoy the book when he gets older. "It gets him in the library, and it's good to be around the older kids," Schmidt said.

Library staff member Jill Wright watched the constant flow of children and their parents in the room. "People are really excited to have their pictures with Harry," she said.



The table of Harry Potter trinkets was popular.

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

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## 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](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration).

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the Museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 29

**Gentle Yoga.** 12:30-2 p.m. at Sentara Surgery Specialists Comprehensive Breast Center, 8988 Lorton Station Blvd., Suite 103, Lorton. This yoga protocol is facilitated by Pat Fitzsimmons RN, C-IAYT, E-RYT 500, an instructor specifically trained to work with cancer patients. Pat will adapt traditional yoga practices to meet the physiological and psychological needs of cancer patients. No registration required. It is recommended that participants dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat, towel(s), and water. Visit [www.sentara.com](http://www.sentara.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 1

**Community Information Meeting.** 7-8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Oak View Elementary School, 5004 Seaburn Road, Fairfax. The Virginia 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 Braddock and Providence Districts. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 2

**Voices of the Heart: Forgiveness.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Ezher Mosque, 10359 B Democracy Lane, Fairfax. Learn more and do more with this new discussion series: Voices of the Heart. This small round table discussion setting is designed for attendees to meet one another and immerse themselves in conversations about social problems, community issues, and other topics relevant to society from the basis of their faith or non-faith. Free and open to the public, registration required; light refreshments will be served. Register at [bit.ly/2H4ltCv](http://bit.ly/2H4ltCv).

## MONDAY/MARCH 5

**Tax Relief Workshop.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Real estate and vehicle tax relief is available for older adults over 65 years of age and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications. Staff from the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at this workshop to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answer any questions residents may have. No appointment is necessary. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/tax-relief-workshops](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/tax-relief-workshops).

## MONDAY-THURSDAY/MARCH 5-8

**Unclaimed Property.** Virginians can visit any of the four events below and find their unclaimed property. This free public service is facilitated by The Virginia Department of Treasury. Learn more at [www.VaMoneysearch.org](http://www.VaMoneysearch.org).

- ❖ Monday, March 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax County Herry Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax
- ❖ Tuesday, March 6, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston
- ❖ Wednesday, March 7, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Jennings Judicial Center Cafeteria, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax
- ❖ Thursday, March 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hollins Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria

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## I Can't Forget What I Don't Remember



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 clinically-confirmed 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 much 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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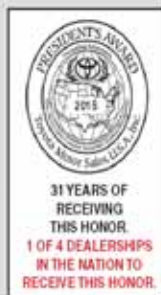
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