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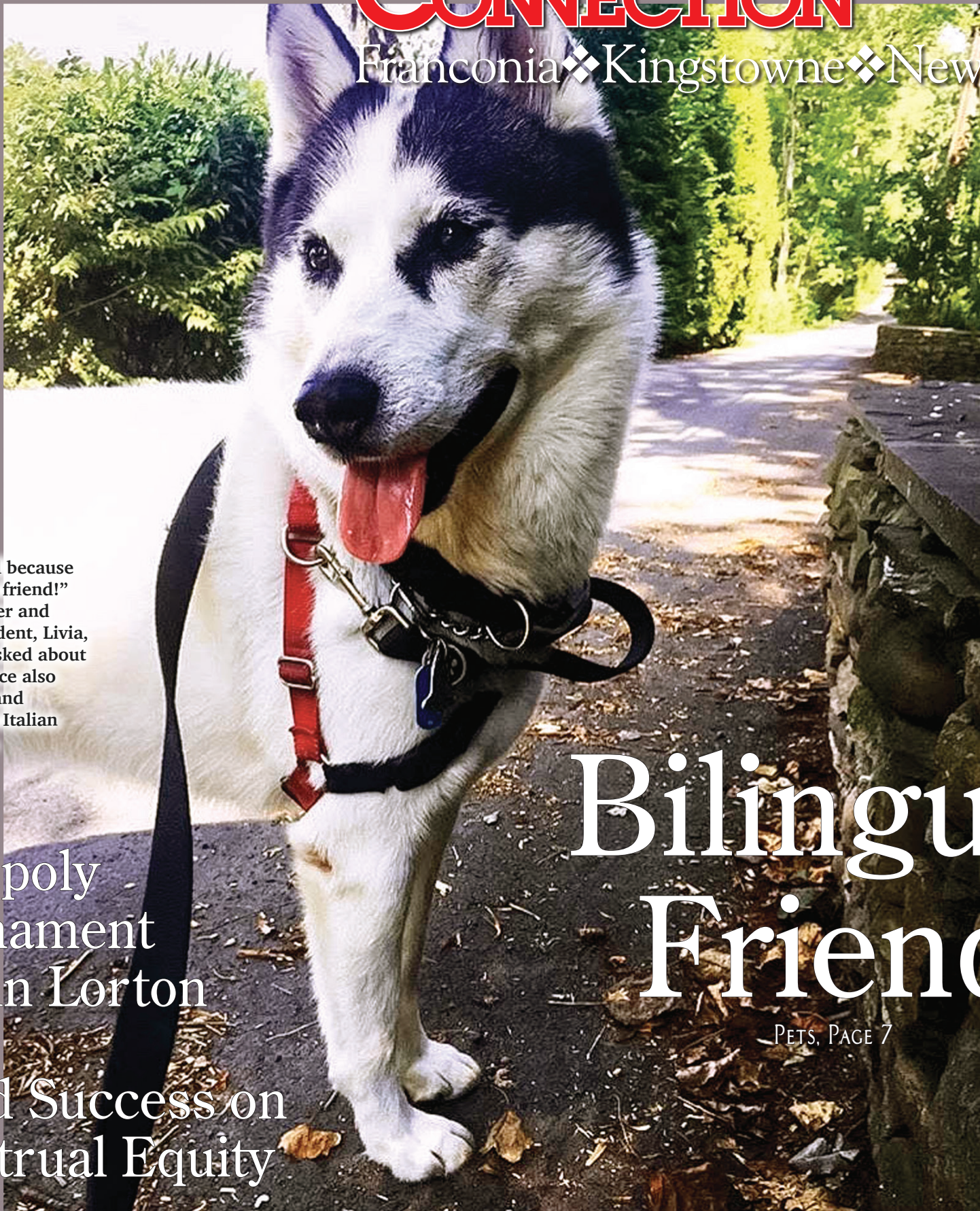
OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Inside
PET CONNECTION

Springfield **CONNECTION**

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington



“He’s special because he’s my best friend!” Bruce’s owner and McLean resident, Livia, said when asked about her dog. Bruce also is bilingual and understands Italian and English.

Monopoly
Tournament
Held in Lorton
NEWS, PAGE 3

Mixed Success on
Menstrual Equity
NEWS, PAGE 5

Bilingual Friend

PETS, PAGE 7



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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.

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."

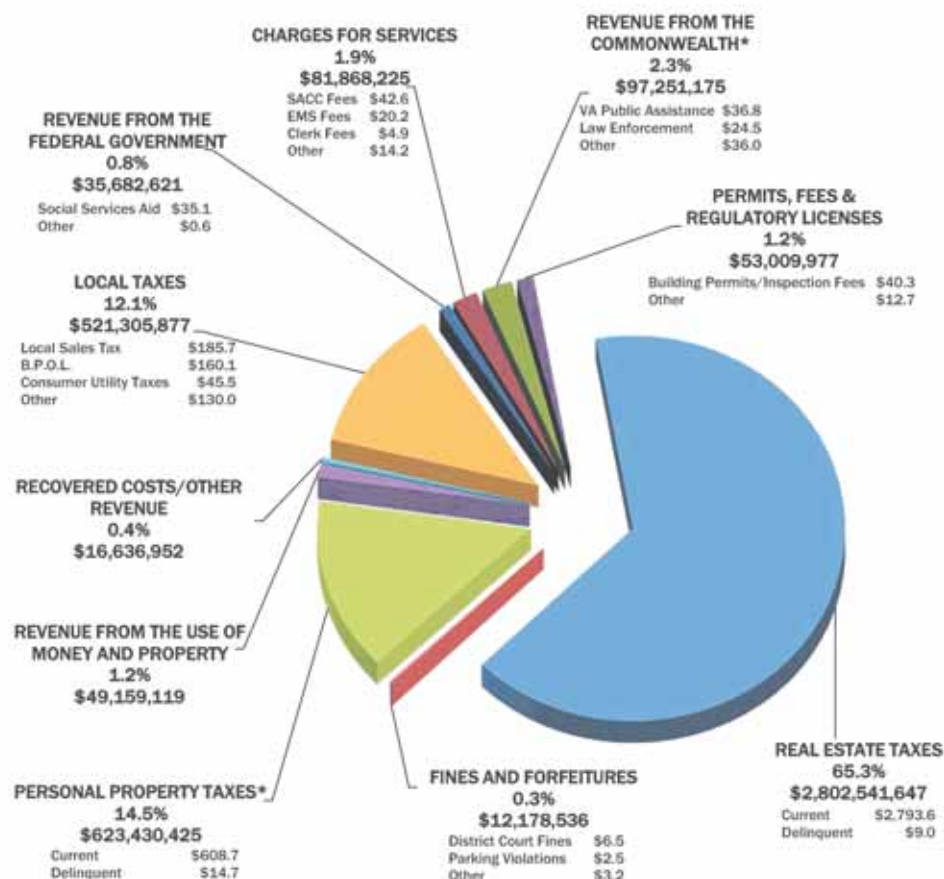
"While there are many things in this budget that I strongly advocated for and fully

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**

* 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.

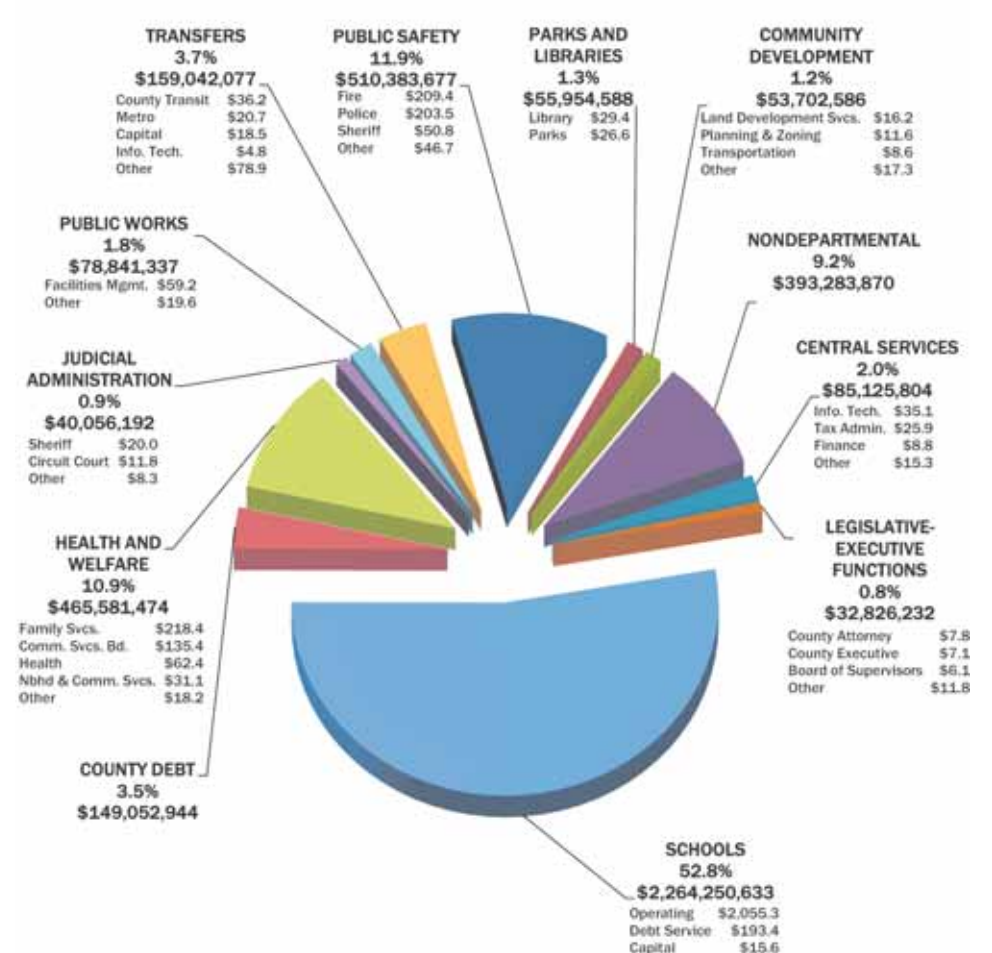
** Total County resources used to support the budget include the revenues shown here, as well as a beginning balance and transfers in from other funds.

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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.

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION ♦ MARCH 1-7, 2018 ♦ 3

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 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."



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Board & Brush of Springfield Open House Party on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018 at the Brookfield Plaza Shopping Center.

Board & Brush Opens in Springfield

Shop holds DIY sign-making classes on weekends for \$65/adults.

A new Board & Brush Creative Studio held a ribbon-cutting and open house at its new location in the Brookfield Plaza Shopping Center in Springfield on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018. The shop offers residents the opportunity to create their own DIY hand-made wooden signs.

Guests can choose between 100 different signs, then choose the stains and paints and customize them with their names, locations, special dates, or marriages. They are great for wedding gifts, or to hang in the kitchen, laundry room or bedrooms.

"There's lots of different things you can do with them, including giving them away as gifts or just to have for yourself," said Opal Foster, owner, Board & Brush of Springfield, which opened in December 2017.

The company, with more than 100 franchises, was started in 2015 out of Hartland, Wisc., by Julie and Curt Selby. The Springfield shop holds DIY sign-making classes on weekends for \$65 per adult, which includes all the raw materials to make the signs. Their instructors will walk participants through the steps of sanding, distressing



Board & Brush of Springfield owner Opal Foster at her Open House Party.

and painting the wood – whatever it takes to complete the signs, which is about three hours. Board & Brush does corporate, private, and teen parties as well as parties for groups of friends.

"I think it's a great opportunity for people to come out and make a piece of art for their home," said Foster. "By the time you leave, you go home with a beautiful piece of art that you

SEE BOARD & BRUSH.
PAGE 5

NEWS



Board & Brush of Springfield owner Opal Foster chats with Tom Pfeifer and Ariel Goldchain at the Open House Party.

Board & Brush

FROM PAGE 4

can immediately hang or show in your house.”

“It’s great to have fun, new businesses in the community — a business that brings a unique item. This is something that’s growing and trending where people want to get together and do parties and participate and have fun and make stuff,” said Nancy-Jo Manney, president of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, who attended the ribbon-cutting.

Added Kathleen McDermott, Board Chair: “The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is very excited to have such a creative and interesting business opening in

our business community and they are a welcome addition to our community.”

Kendra Dominick, assistant studio manager, added: “It’s a perfect space just to enjoy time with loved ones or friends. You can come in and make a custom sign to take home with you and keep in the house forever. It’s just a place that you can also keep coming back to and enjoying the different designs.”

Board & Brush of Springfield is located at 7002 Spring Garden Drive, Springfield. For more information, visit www.boardandbrush.com/Springfield or call 571-635-7671.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Hand-painted wooden signs adorn the walls at Board & Brush of Springfield.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



Isabel Gonzalez and Clara Villalobos admire the wooden signs on the wall of Board & Brush in Springfield during the Open House Party.

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Saturday, April 14, 2018
Saturday, May 12, 2018

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

Sharon 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."

Springfield 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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CALENDAR

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

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, or 703-550-9220, for more. To register online, visit 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/.

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/ or 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.

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.

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.augustof.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.

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 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.

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 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.

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.

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.



'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

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 ffjazzercise@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.

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 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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LETTERS

Less Talk and More Action

To the Editor:

The recent shooting of a police officer in Prince George's County offers the most striking example of why teachers should not be expected to bring weapons to class to protect students. If a police officer, who is skilled in using a weapon, enters a home with an awareness of an impending life-threatening situation is killed by the assailant, how can a teacher, with limited weapon experience, be expected to react to a spontaneous life-threatening situation? He or she can't maintain perpetual vigilance. What if the teacher mis-

takenly kills a person who is making threats but has no weapon? This too has happened with police officers. Who assumes this liability?

The NRA would like everyone to carry a gun. More profits for gun dealers. Yet what have any of the gun advocates done to help families who have lost their loved ones or to help injured victims. They simply become very devout and patriotic, offering their prayers and preaching their rights.

They should put their money where their mouth is. If they won't do this, it confirms their lack of

compassion for these victims and perhaps the need to heavily tax bullets to fund programs of compensation to victims, security measures, etc.

If legislators are too intimidated by the NRA and other gun advocates to enact any gun control measures, yet are comfortable in raising taxes, then taxing ammunition might be a good start in passing some of the cost of these programs on to the users, just like other citizens pay tolls for roads.

Elaine Miletta
Fairfax Station

It's the Culture, Not the Weapon

To the Editor:

I sincerely appreciate the groundswell of youth and others in the country saying "never again" to the violence that we've repeatedly seen in our schools, our churches and our neighborhoods. But I fear the proposed "fix" of banning some or all guns is missing the underlying cause of the problem. Our problem in America is a culture of death.

It's a culture where we provide our children with "games" that seek to immerse them in full virtual reality as they kill and maim, rape and ravage. In America we call that entertainment.

It's a culture where we go to movies that encourage us to cheer or laugh as the "bad guy" gets shot in the head. We call that entertain-

ment too. That guy deserved to die. Our movies, our games, our culture teaches us that some people simply deserve to die. So why are we surprised when our kids decide that some classmates, neighbors, parents or others deserve to die? Particularly kids who may be especially vulnerable to those messages because of mental illness.

If we really mean "never again," we need to change our culture and start teaching our kids the every human life is precious. We need to teach them that even the child that results from an unplanned pregnancy or a child with Down syndrome is precious. We need to teach them that an aging parent with dementia is precious and needs to be visited and cared for,

not warehoused, forgotten or helped to an early death. We need to teach them that even a prisoner who commits a heinous crime may be able to change, that we have no right to decide who can be rehabilitated and who should be put to death because they're not just worth the effort.

When we start to value every human life, then things will change. Until then, we can ban AK-47s, and someone will pick up a different rifle. We can ban every gun, and someone will drive their car into a crowd or build a pipe bomb, or use a machete. It's not the weapons people choose, it's the culture we need to change.

Randy Robish
Springfield

SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com.

Alexander Bar, of Lorton, majoring in dance, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at The University of Akron (Ohio).

Robert Brabston, of Fairfax Station, was named to dean's list for their academic achievements during the 2017 fall semester at The Citadel (Charleston, S.C.).

Erin Garber, of Fairfax Station, was named to dean's list for their academic achievements during the 2017 fall semester at The Citadel (Charleston, S.C.).

John Mueller, of Fairfax Station, was named to dean's list for their academic achievements during the 2017 fall semester at The Citadel (Charleston, S.C.).

Rene Valentine, of Lorton, was

named to dean's list for their academic achievements during the 2017 fall semester at The Citadel (Charleston, S.C.).

Wonhyeoung Choe, of Springfield, was named to the Iowa State University dean's list **Robert Banks**, of Alexandria, an exercise and sport science major made the fall 2017 dean's list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.).

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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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

- ❖ 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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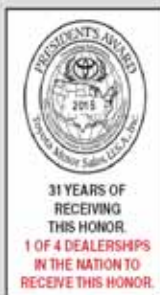
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