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A+
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Mildred DeBell prepares to blow out the candles on her 100th-birthday cake.

‘A Legend in Her Own Time’

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Fairfax Teen Charged In Student’s Murder

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

Manners in the Tech Age

Etiquette classes aim to teach lost art of manners.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

On a sunny, autumn day a group of 10-year-old children sat around a formal dining room table at a home in Arlington. The boys wore blazers, pressed khakis and shiny loafers, while the girls have donned festive dresses, nude stockings and wore grosgrain ribbons in their neatly combed hair. They had arrived at the home for a lesson in etiquette, but most of them would have rather been someplace else.

"I have to leave early for a soccer game," said Jimmy, who didn't bother hiding his glee over missing part of the class.

In an era when it's commonplace to order pizza on a smartphone and coordinate play dates by text, old-fashioned etiquette can appear obsolete. A recent survey of teachers shows that 73 percent of instructors believe that students are less polite than when the teachers themselves were students. In the age high-tech conveniences, children can become over scheduled and under socialized, which has led to an uptick in the number of parents who are enrolling their children in etiquette classes, say protocol instructors.

"Parents have a tremendous interest in etiquette classes because so many parents realize that they don't have that knowledge themselves, said Dorothea Johnson, who founded the Protocol School of Washington and is the author of the book "Modern Manners: Tools to Take You to the Top," which she co-authored with her granddaughter actress Liv Tyler.

"I think most parents know that good manners and etiquette will be important to their [children's] future," added Henryette Neal who teaches etiquette classes for children through the Fairfax County Park Authority. "Young people will be educated, but without proper social skills they will not be able to present themselves properly." Neal is also the owner of Steppin Out Charm and Imaging Studio.

The result of fast-paced lifestyles combined with overloaded schedules is a generation of children who place more value on social media savvy than on knowledge of social graces. Family dinners are replaced by fast food, says one parent. "Who needs good manners to gobble down a slice of pizza," said Carole Mincey of Alexandria, whose 14-year old daughter and 11-year old son have taken etiquette and ballroom dance from Mrs. Simpson's Classes, one of the area's invitation-only etiquette schools. "Because everyone is so busy and technology is so advanced, reality television shows are setting standards of behavior and handwritten thank you notes have been replaced by emails and texts."

Good manners are as important to a child's future success as academics, says another parent. "I feel like if people know what do to do in social situations it empowers them," said Sarah Henry of Chevy Chase, mother of a 10-year old daughter and a 12-year old son. "If you're unsure of what to do it can make you feel intimidated. So it's all about empowering chil-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Henryette Neal teaches etiquette classes for children.

dren with knowledge. And it's good for them to be exposed to proper etiquette in case they're not getting it at home. And if they are getting it at home, etiquette classes can reinforce it."

Interactive class sessions help keep their children engaged in the etiquette lessons. "The key is to keep the children occupied," said Johnson. "For example, when teaching proper introductions, I would call two children up to the front of the room and have them introduce themselves to each other."

In addition to learning such common courtesies such as saying "Please," "Thank you" and "You're welcome," children learn to write thank-you notes and introduce themselves to others by making direct eye contact and offering a firm handshake.

"Knowing how to give a proper handshake is important. When I took my seven-year-old granddaughter Liv to formal events, her little hand went out as she was being introduced to someone," said Johnson. "I could take her anywhere because she had impeccable manners."

Henry says that in a class that she coordinated for her daughter's Girl Scout troop, part of the curriculum included having the children form a receiving


line with parents where they practiced handshakes and eye contact.

"We also printed proper table setting samples online and give the girls n plastic forks spoons, knives, napkins and a copy of the place setting," said Henry. "We talked about how to talked about the placement of the utensils, how to hold a knife and fork properly. One of my pet peeves is watching people hold a knife like it's a stick."

These are good life lessons, says Neal. "Etiquette classes are important because people still need to be respectful of others, and it starts with our children," she said. "A simple please and thank you is important."

"Young people will be educated, but without good social skills they will not be able to present themselves properly."

— Henryette Neal, etiquette instructor





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'A Legend in Her Own Time'

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Mildred DeBell is the first to admit she never expected to someday be 100. And yet, last Saturday, March 17, friends and family gathered to celebrate that very milestone with her and were delighted to have the opportunity.

"She kept telling us she didn't think she'd make it," said son John DeBell, who hosted the event for some 100 people in the home he and his wife Connie share in Catharpin. But, he joked, "We told her we had the party date picked out and she had to make it."

Raised in Fishers Hill, near Winchester, Mildred DeBell graduated from high school in Strasburg in 1934. Four years later, she moved to Centreville to teach first grade in the old, wooden, Centreville Elementary School. She was there two years, then taught fourth grade at Bailey's Crossroads, returning to Centreville Elementary to teach seventh-grade part time during WWII.

Eventually, she met and married Stuart DeBell and had three children, John, Stephen and Stuart Jr. The family now includes nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, with Mildred's first great-grandchild due in October.

In their younger years, Mildred and her husband ran a 500-acre dairy farm in Centreville called Sunnyside. "But we practically had no help because everyone was away at war," she said. "We had to work really hard. And in the late 1940s-early '50s,



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

Two centenarians, cousins Mildred DeBell (left) and Iris Vann, sing together.

Stuart opened an accounting business in Centreville because we needed the extra money. Later, as the dairy business changed, we sold the farm."

Mildred worked in their accounting company, too, and the couple added insurance to their offerings. Their business was where the Alto Plaza restaurant is now, along

Route 29. "A drugstore and hardware store were there, too," she said. "Centreville was a busy place." And for entertainment, she and Stuart and about eight other couples would have parties at each other's homes. "We had the best time," said Mildred.

An avid gardener, in 1950, Mildred was one of the charter members of the Rocky

Centreville's Mildred DeBell celebrates 100th birthday.



This professional photo shows Mildred DeBell in 1938 at age 20.

Run Garden Club, along with Ellanor C. Lawrence, in whose name the Centreville park was preserved. And from 1952 on, Stuart served 16 years on Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, including two terms as chairman.

In addition, until 1995, the DeBell family ran a Centreville landmark, the Newgate Inn (in the Newgate Shopping Center), for 26 years. Meanwhile, Mildred became a noted, Centreville historian and valued member of the community. In 2003, she was chosen the Sully District's honorary Lady Fairfax; and in October 2017, she was named Centreville Day's Citizen of the Year and Honored Community Historian.

However, Mildred always remained a spunky, fun-loving, down-to-earth person,

SEE 'A LEGEND,' PAGE 5

Fairfax Teen Charged in Student's Murder

Victim was a junior at Centreville High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Nearly a month after Matthew Brian Ortega's body was found lying on a Centreville street, Fairfax County police have charged a Fairfax City teen with his murder. He is Uriel Josaphat Espinosa Cruz, 18, and officers arrested him on Tuesday afternoon, March 13.

Ortega, 17, was a junior at Centreville High and, initially, detectives sought the public's help to identify him. On Feb. 14, at 5:17 a.m., a delivery driver discovered him in the 13000 block of Jeb Stuart Square and notified police. Ortega had sustained upper-body trauma, and medics pronounced him dead at the scene.

No weapons were found there, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy to determine the exact cause and manner of Ortega's death. Two days later, homicide detectives released his identity. And on Feb. 22, the medical examiner ruled that he died from a single, gunshot wound.

Again, police asked the public to contact them with any information that could possibly lead to Ortega's killer. Then last week, they took Espinosa Cruz into custody and charged him with murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Police say detectives "do not believe this to be a random incident."

The investigation is ongoing. Meanwhile, the suspect is being held without bond at the Adult Detention Center. And according to a jail spokeswoman, he also has an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) detainer on him. He was arraigned in court last Wednesday morning, March 14, and his next court date is slated for April 16.

After Ortega was identified, Centreville High School Principal Dave Jagels sent a message to all the school's parents, saying the Wildcat community was "deeply saddened by the death of Matthew Ortega." He said the incident was under police investigation and that anyone with information



Uriel Espinosa Cruz

related to Ortega's death should call the police at 703-691-2131.

"I have contacted Matthew's family to offer them our condolences and support," wrote Jagels. "We are letting you know so that you can provide any support your child might need." He also told parents that crisis-team members would be available at the school that week "to work with individual students and class groups who ask for support."

"Understanding death, especially the death of a classmate, can be a very difficult experience," he continued. "For that reason, we hope that you will listen to your son or daughter, as well as discuss with them their feelings and reactions to this tragedy."

"On behalf of all members of the school staff, our deepest condolences are with Matthew's family and friends during this difficult time," wrote Jagels. "He was a bright and engaging student who will be greatly missed by our school community."

A Go Fund Me page was started on Facebook to help the family with Matthew's funeral expenses and raised more than



The victim, Matthew Ortega

\$16,000. On that page, a relative wrote that Matthew's mother was "the only parent Matthew had left. The family had recently lost their dad, not too long ago. This tragedy isn't only difficult, but heartbreaking. Thank you all so much for all the love you have shown for little Matthew. God bless. Our Matthew will always be remembered. We love you, little brother."

Also on that page, he was described as a "son, brother, uncle and very loved by many." And on his own Facebook page, in mid-February, Matthew's older brother thanked everybody "for the overwhelming support during these last few days. My little brother is surely looking down from heaven and appreciating how you all have come together in love to support us."

OPINION

The Budgeting Conversation Begins

Board prioritizes compensation for teachers and county employees.

BY KEN MOORE

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity claimed the dissenting vote. “It probably is not going to surprise the board that I won’t be able to support this,” he said.

By a 8-1 margin, the Board of Supervisors advertised the county executive’s budget with the proposed two and a half cent tax increase.

Braddock Supervisor John Cook supported the advertisement but stated he won’t support a budget in May if it remains at the advertised tax rate.

“So I’ll support the advertisement because I think the process dictates that there be something on the table. But if the board is inclined to pass it as is, it will have to do so without me,” said Cook. “If the board is inclined to do what a couple of other people have suggested this morning, which is look for reductions and perhaps go back to that concept of balancing, then I’m looking forward to being part of that discussion and will keep an open mind to where we should end up. But two and a half cents is not where it’s going to be.”

Jeff McKay, chair of the budget committee, said advertising a lower rate “would be taking off the table an opportunity to hear from our public about whether our public employees from the schools and county side should be getting the type of compensation increases to move them into market and to deliver the services that we rely on in this county.”

In addition to community meetings scheduled around the county, the board slotted three days, April 10-12, for public hearings before the full board.

“We have two months of community conversation ahead of us, and some members of this board have declared how they are voting on the budget today or what they can’t support,” said McKay. “Two months we have to hear from our community about what their priorities are. And to me it would be irresponsible to decide how we are going to vote on the budget without hearing from members of our community and how they feel about it.”

The board will officially adopt the FY 2019 budget on May 1.

If the Board of Supervisors were to adopt the full two and a half cent tax rate increase, it would amount to an additional \$268 on the average homeowner’s annual tax bill.

“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 cannot be higher than” two and a half cents, said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Below are excerpts from the March 6 board meeting. The supervisors spoke in the order presented below:

PAT HERRITY, SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT

“It probably is not going to surprise the board that I won’t be able to support this. A two and a half cent with [an increase] in the storm water tax, a five percent potential tax increase, 26 percent over five years.

“I voted for last year’s budget because I



**Pat Herrity,
Springfield
District**



**Cathy
Hudgins,
Hunter Mill**



**Kathy Smith,
Sully**



**Jeff McKay,
Lee**



**Sharon
Bulova,
Chairman**

thought it was reasonable. We made some difficult decisions last year.

“I think we need to go back to doing what our residents have had to do in a time of stagnant wages, and make difficult decisions. And we just frankly have not done that. I’ve put a bunch of them on the table and it hasn’t happened and it needs to happen. ...

“If you look at wages, they’ve been stagnant, we’re literally taxing people out of Fairfax County.

“I appreciated the county executive’s introductory remarks when he said we’ve got to be more nimble and more efficient. We need to get to that, and I can’t put a potential five percent additional burden on our residents. I won’t be supporting it.”

CATHY HUDGINS, HUNTER MILL

“This advertising gives us that opportunity to look at what we really need.

“And I think it is difficult having a conversation with the citizens sometimes when we approach it as to what is the cost versus what is the return value. And I really have to say that we have done a lot of work to make certain that we try to be more efficient and more creative in the services that we provide.

“So I think there needs to be a balancing that we need to have here. We provided a meaningful option [in the meals tax]. And guess what? Our citizens didn’t support it. ...

“So I think it’s important that if we want to talk about how great Fairfax County is, we need to be prepared to figure out how to have the services that that draw people here and create a more balanced community in supporting what it takes to live in this county.

“So we’ll have a chance to have that discussion and maybe the opportunity to move forward, so my vote is yes.”

KATHY SMITH, SULLY

“I think that we are at the beginning of the discussion with the public ...

“I’m not at the point of saying what I will vote for in this budget. This budget supports our employees, it supports the school system. We heard from a community group that suggested that we advertise at this rate...

“It is a fine balance between looking at the needs we have in this community and the services we want to provide and how we do that. So I’m supportive of advertising this tax rate.”

JEFF MCKAY, LEE, BUDGET CHAIR

“I appreciate everyone’s comments. Clearly,

we are going to work to generate savings but as many have spoken, you would be cutting off conversation if we didn’t advertise this tax rate.

“The lion’s share of all new revenue goes to ... employee pay and teacher pay. And there is no way you could come up with enough cuts in this budget and do the type of pay increases that our employees and teachers deserve. The numbers just don’t work.

“Every member of the board has the opportunity to bring forward a package of cuts that balances the budget to the tax rate that they so desire. I look forward to having that conversation as we move forward. ...

“To me it would be irresponsible to decide how we are going to vote on the budget without hearing from members of our community and how they feel about it.

SHARON BULOVA, CHAIRMAN

“This is a budget that does address the board’s highest priorities, Diversion First, addressing the opioid crisis, gang prevention, early childhood education, funding compensation for our teachers as well as our county employees ...

“I did also want to just say something for people who believe that people are fleeing Fairfax County to other parts of the region. Since 2015, Fairfax County’s population has actually increased by 26,700, which is actually the size or a little bit more than the size or the population of the City of Fairfax. So we’ve been growing.”

Stay Involved: County Budget Meetings

❖ 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.

More at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget

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A Connection Newspaper

‘A Legend in Her Own Time’

FROM PAGE 3

affectionately called “Mama” by everyone in her family. She still enjoys gardening and writing poetry — among other things. “I just quit smoking in November,” she said on Saturday. “And I still sneak a cigarette, every once in a while.”

“I met her when I was 14,” said Connie. “She was a fireball back then and she still is.” Connie then led the party guests in a toast to her mother-in-law who, she said, “still has an occasional drink.”

Mildred’s favorite TV network is C-Span. “I still love politics, our country and our history,” she said. She attributes her longevity to always keeping busy and moving, but good genes have helped, too. In fact, her first cousin, Iris Vann — who turned 100 in October — was also at Mildred’s party, and the two of them sang a song together that they first sang as 5-year-olds about what it would be like to grow up.

Mildred’s actual birthday was March 16 and, while delighted to celebrate her centennial with family and friends, she said modestly, “It’s absolutely wonderful, but I don’t deserve all this attention. When I woke up this morning, I wanted to roll over and go back to sleep. But I couldn’t because I had to get ready for the party. I never thought I’d live this long — I just couldn’t imagine 100 years.”

Son John said his mother was the youngest of five girls who lived into their 80s and 90s, and their father lived to age 96. “Family and church were important to her,” he said. “She was a stern, but loving, mom. She let us do our own thing, but counseled us well and was always there for us.”

Son Stuart Jr., (“Snooky”), said his mother’s faith always saw her through whatever came her way. And that included the deaths of her husband and son Stephen. “She told us to believe in God and everything else would take care of itself,” he said. “She’s always been there when we needed her and gave me good advice, and I have nothing but admiration for her. Everybody in our family stays in touch with her, and we all contributed to putting on this party.”

A member of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Centreville since 1938, Mildred used to direct its choir and play the organ there. And on Saturday, its former leader, the Rev. Howard Kempzell, was at her party, as was current leader, the Rev. Carol Hancock. “St. John’s loves Mildred,” said Hancock. Address-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

Mildred DeBell reminisces about her childhood.

ing her directly, she said, “You are in our hearts and in our prayers always. You and your family helped get St. John’s to where it is now; thank you.”

Among the partygoers was Mildred’s grandson (Snooky’s son), Paul DeBell, 33, who flew here from his home in Durango, Colo., for this event. “I’ve always been close to Mama,” he said. “She’s really had a huge impact and a positive influence on all our lives. She’s always been able to help me see the bigger picture. Every time I’ve been dealing with something — a loss or a difficult circumstance — she’d help me take the longer view, and she told me, ‘Stay on the sunny side, be kind and trust that everything will be OK.’”

He also loves talking to his grandmother about history and her own life story. For example, he said, “She told me what life was like on the farm in WWII, about the great Depression and growing up in the Shenandoah Valley with no electricity or running water. They had to dig big holes in the ground and put blocks of ice in them to keep their food fresh. She also has a deep appreciation for American culture and history; she’s really an amazing resource for all of us.”

Also there was GMU history professor Ted McCord, Mildred’s first cousin, once removed, who’s also in awe of her. “She’s a legend in her own time,” he said. “She smokes, she drinks and she’s a hero to most of my friends because of that.”

McCord’s father used to be a physician and, when Mildred was in her 20s, she’d been out on a riverbank, not realizing it was covered with poison ivy — which spread all over her body. “She went to see my dad, and she’d wrapped herself up with bandages, head to toe, like an Egyptian mummy. She walked in to his office that way, and they both had a good laugh about it.”

Then, a year ago, McCord introduced Mildred to his girlfriend. But instead of trying to impress her, Mildred told a story about how she’d been busy gardening and accidentally fell backward. She got stuck in a big flower pot, and there she stayed until rescued by a family member. But instead of getting angry, she just laughed.

So, said McCord, despite her age, Mildred is still going strong and bringing joy to everyone around her. “She has a remarkable mind, a great memory and an excellent sense of humor,” he said. “And she can still spin a good story.”

Mildred DeBell’s Poem for her Cousin

Mildred DeBell wrote this poem for her cousin Iris Vann, who turned 100 last October:

Here we are in this old mill back where we shared our youth in old Fisher’s Hill.

At five, we sang forty was something to fear; then Father Time traveled year after year.

We chose our partners and pursued our life’s trends with the blessings of family and so many friends.

We shared in their joys, their sorrows and grief; we did what we could for others’ relief.

And then, everything started slipping away; our bodies were changing, our hair turned to gray.

We watched the world change and watched our families grow; we watched them come and watched them go.

“You’re not the same anymore,” we are told. Let’s

face it, old girl, we are now getting old.

A new century arrived, yet we tried to hang on. Years have gone by; where have they gone?

The last ten years were the hardest. Only memories remain of all the things we used to do; nothing seems the same.

As we count our many blessings and we look up to the sky and thank our God for 100 years, you made it! God willing, so will I!

Our thanks to Him for helping us through joys and through our tears. And for loving friends and families who helped us through the years.

So happy birthday, Iris. May we pray each day that we have left be free from pain and sin, so when we get to the pearly gates, St. Pete will let us in.

— MILDRED KELLER DEBELL

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SCHOOLS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Science Fairs

The Goddard Schools located in Chantilly, along with 15 other greater Washington, D.C. area locations, hosted weeklong Science Fairs during which the students participated in hands-on activities that included manipulating marshmallows, tarnishing pennies and experimenting with peeps. While The Goddard School's curriculum incorporates STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) on a daily basis, the pre-schools' Science Fairs offer children an opportunity to further immerse themselves in these subjects with play-based lesson plans.



Employment

Globalgate IT Solutions LLC has openings for Computer Systems Analyst. Jobs loc in Chantilly, VA & var unanticp locs t/o US. Cnfr w/ clts regdrng natur of info procsng or computn needs a comp prog is to addr. Coord & link comp sys w/ in an org to incrs comptblty so info can be shared. Tst, mntr & monitr comp progs & sys, incldg coordg installtn of comp progs & sys. Wrk on incrmntal delivries, incldg immed anlyss & fix of critcl issues. Trvl/reloc to var unanticp locs t/o US for LT/ST asgnmnts at clt sites. Req: BS or frgn equiv in Comp Sci, Engg (any), or rel. Also OK: 2 yrs of exp in job/off or as Comp S/W Prof in lieu of BS. Mail res w/cvr ltr: Globalgate IT Solutions LLC, 14801 Murdock St, #155, Chantilly, VA 20151; Job 17GBG03; EOE

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Employment

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ROUNDUPS

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 29, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed. Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Congressional Art Competition

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock has announced the 2018 Congressional Art Competition for Virginia's 10th Congressional District. The competition is open to all high school students who reside in the District. The Best in Show winner of the competition will have their piece of art displayed in the United States Capitol. Comstock is a member of the Congressional Art Caucus and started the House Arts Caucus in the Virginia General Assembly. Students should drop-off their completed artwork on April 2 between 2-5 p.m. at Enterprise Hall on the George Washington Virginia Science & Technology Campus. Art submitted must be ready to hang and entries are limited to two per student. For information and guidelines about the 2018 Congressional Art Competition, go to <https://comstock.house.gov/services/art-competition>. Students and teachers can also contact Amanda Gray Bailey in the congresswoman's office at 703-404-6903 or by email at AmandaGray.Bailey@mail.house.gov.

Premier Birth Center Opens in Chantilly

Premier Birth Center (PBC) has opened a second location in Chantilly. Director of NOVA Natural Birth Center, Peggy Franklin, has retired after 30-years of midwifery service, creating the opportunity for Premier Birth Center to assume ownership and operation of that birth center located at 4200A Technology Suite Court, Chantilly. Premier Birth Center will provide care for clients already established at that location and continue taking new clients.



Premier Birth Center offers prenatal care, as well as options for birthing at the center or the client's home, postpartum, baby care, and well-woman care. Co-managed care with an obstetrician is an option for families desiring a hospital birth. For more information, contact Kim Pekin at kim@premierbirthcenter.com.

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Almost Exactly Four Days ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... was the length of time during which we were powerless a few weeks back when the wind nearly brought down the house; yet it was no laughing matter. I might have written this column sooner but until Tuesday, March 6 – when the power finally came back on, we were semi-frozen to the bone. The old-fashioned thermostat in our living room indicated 42 degrees at its most frigid.

Aside from the obvious physical discomfort – made a bit more bearable while wearing hats, gloves, coats and scarfs – inside, the toll the cold took on my mental acuity was much less manageable. My brain still worked, but not overtime. It was, to invoke a “Star Trek” reference: “On impulse power,” somewhere between barely functioning and imminent danger.

This power outage was the most significant we had experienced at “Belly Acres” in the 26 years since we took ownership in late May 1992. And though this four-day non-sojourn was difficult, it was for us not a return down power-outage lane. We have been lucky in our time here; very little has upset the apple cart. Considering the hundreds of trees that surround our house, and the many thuds they all made as they fell and hit the ground that extremely late Friday night/early Saturday morning, the miracle is that not one of them hit the house, or either of our two cars parked in the driveway.

I wouldn't say I woke up in the morning to find our house relatively unscathed because as of 3:30 a.m. when I felt the house shudder for the first time, I never was able to fall back asleep as I kept bracing myself for incoming trees and limbs. Given the potential damage and hassle a direct hit likely would have caused, a power outage seemed a minor inconvenience, all things considered.

As it happened, when the power came back on, I was not at home. I was en route to the Glenmont Metro station in Wheaton to pick up Dina. When I came to a stop at “Kiss and Ride,” I looked at my cell phone and noticed a “missed call” from one of my neighbors. I immediately called back and soon heard my neighbor, Helene, singing “We're in heaven, ...,” with the explanation – not in verse – that power had returned to New Birmingham Manor (the official name of our 10-home dead-end street). BG&E, our utility company, had finally come by to cut/trim the tree that had been uprooted in the storm and fallen across the power line which electrifies our neighborhood.

As difficult as it had been for some of us, it had not been nearly as difficult for the four neighbors who had generators and thus were prepared and able to keep the lights on and the heat circulating. One of whom was kind enough to call around the neighborhood and offer hot showers as well as refrigerator and freezer storage to anyone interested. Given that the previous week was a post-chemotherapy week for me when I'm not eating much and shopping at supermarkets even less, we had minimal food in the freezer - all of which ended up being a loss, and a bit less than usual in the refrigerator which, after putting the contents into two coolers filled with ice, ended up being a gain.

Oddly enough, I haven't re-inventoried the refrigerator/freezer as yet. I don't know if I'm being paranoid or just plain lazy, but I haven't felt inclined to stop and shop, not even at the Giant. I imagine the feeling will pass because after eating out every night; some fast, some slow, over the last week or so, I'm probably way over our imaginary budget and way under prepared for the next go around. But as is often heard on basketball courts on playgrounds all over America: “No harm. No foul.”

The four days without power weren't particularly pleasant but we survived the ordeal nonetheless and may have even learned something in the process: our long underwear still fits.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The



IMAGE COURTESY OF FAIRFAX JUBIL-AIRES

Rat Pack Revival

Fairfax Jubil-Aires' 62nd Annual Show presents Rat Pack Revival – featuring the music of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. With special guests Pratt Street Power and the Bella Nova Chorus. And a surprise master of ceremonies. Saturday, March 24, 3-5:30 p.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Tickets \$20 adults, \$5 children at www.fairfaxjubilaires.org.

Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilairs.org for more.

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

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

LIBRARY FUN

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

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

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000

Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 24

Rat Pack Revival. 3-5:30 p.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Fairfax Jubil-Aires' 62nd Annual Show presents Rat Pack Revival – featuring the music of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. With special guests Pratt Street Power and the Bella Nova Chorus. And a surprise master of ceremonies. Tickets \$20 adults, \$5 children at www.fairfaxjubilaires.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 24-31

Fairfax County Parks. Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055.

On Saturday, March 24 – Children age 1-6 are invited to the Easter Eggstravaganza at **Frying Pan Park** to hunt for eggs that contain treats and prizes and visit with farm animals. \$8 per child. Add a wagon ride for \$2 per person. **Sully Historic Site** is offering an egg hunt, egg-related games and an Easter craft for children age 1-8. \$8 per child. Wagon rides cost another \$2 per person.

On Sunday, March 25 — Stop by the

Easter Egg Hunt at **Sully Historic Site**. The historic site is offering an egg hunt, egg-related games and an Easter craft for children age 1-8. \$8 per child. Wagon rides cost another \$2 per person. **Lake Fairfax Park** will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for children age 1-6. \$8 per child.

SUNDAY/MARCH 25

Spring Reading Circle. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The museum will feature a Spring Reading Circle and Activity Day. 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Powhatan's People. 2:30-4 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Discover elements of the Algonquian culture of the Powhatan and Tauxenent Indians. End the program by playing games. For ages 2-adult. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the program. \$10 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

MARCH 26-30

History Explorers Camp. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Camp will meet at the Walney Visitor Center, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Keep children entertained over spring break and sneak in a little history during the History Explorers Camp at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Children will explore the history of Fairfax county and take a field trip every day of camp to such local historic spots as Fairfax Historic Courthouse, Historic Blenheim, Gunston Hall, Frying Pan Farm Park and the Reston Museum. At the park, they will participate in fun, hands-on activities such as making meals of the past, building their own historic toys, sewing, and building a planned community. For campers age 8-14. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. \$349 per camper for the week. Camp will meet at the Walney Visitor Center. Before and aftercare is available for additional cost. Download camp forms from the park website. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

TUESDAY/MARCH 27

Easter Egg Hunt. At Bull Run Park, Centreville. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. Visit apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks for details and to register.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

Open House. Noon-7 p.m. at Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Call 703-572-4118 or visit airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy.

FRIDAY/MARCH 30

"Please Touch" Tour. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., tours on the hour, at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Tour Sully as never before when visitors are encouraged to do more than just look. Enjoy the chance to touch such objects from the past as Redware dishes, blue and white china, tools, clothing and furniture. For participants age 5-adult. \$7 per person. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

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Easter
AT CENTREVILLE BAPTIST

Easter Celebration Services
Sunday, April 1

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9:15 am & 10:45 am Worship Services

Free Family Photos • Kids Easter Egg Hunt

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