

Fairfax

PAGE, II

(From left) Parker Stephens (Scuttle), **Densmore Bartly Jr.** (Sebastian), Seth Strong (Flounder) and Kamila Adamczyk (Ariel) are in Fairfax High's "The Little Mermaid," opening on Friday, April 27.

ra News, Page

Meet Fairfax City **Council Candidates** News, Page 3

'It's a Timeless, American Classic' News, Page 4

April 19-25, 2018

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Vote So Lim for Fairfax City Council

Vote May 1, 2018





I am running for the Fairfax City Council to make our home an even better place for all of our neighbors to work, start a business, raise a family, go to school, and to retire.

As a Council Member, I will listen to you — our residents, reach out to learn every side of an issue, roll up my sleeves to tackle the challenges that may arise, and offer practical solutions to keep our local government operating effectively.

In my experiences as a businesswoman and mom, I have found that these simple but common sense approaches to problem-solving are the best way to operate my small business. And that is what I promise to do for you and for our City of Fairfax.

Learn more at: solimforcitycouncil.com

Paid for and Authorized by So Lim for City Council



Meet Fairfax City Council Candidates

Four incumbents, four challengers vie in May 1 election.

Michael J. DeMarco

How long you've lived in your community: I have lived in Fairfax for 18 years with my wife Joanne and three children.

Family info.

My wife and I have raised our children, Anna, Emilia and Antonio in Fairfax City. Joanne is a teaching assistant at a private elementary school in the City. Our oldest is a business graduate and works in New York City. Our second is currently in graduate school in Higher Education Administration. The youngest is attending Fairfax High School.

Profession: I recently retired after having worked for ExxonMobil for 27 years in various, executive-level positions. I have undergraduate degrees from Penn State and Temple, and an MBA from Columbia.

If an incumbent, how long you've served in this position: I am in my third term on City Council, having previously served as chairman of the Economic Development Authority.

Joseph D. Harmon

How long you've lived in your community: Moved to the City in 1996

Family info: Three children, Erin (Currently active duty, U.S. Air Force); Shannon and Nathan (Attend Fairfax High School)

Profession: IT Web project manager; small business owner (E-commerce)

If an incumbent, how long you've served in this position: N/A

Why are you running for election to this office? We are at a critical juncture in the life of the City. Development in the City is at an all-time high. It's a good problem to have that people want to be here, and the development community wants to build here, but what we build now will determine our future.

Imagine an innovative, mixed-use commercial destination that brings people to Fairfax. Think of a place in Fairfax that is like the Historic Downtown Mall in Charlottesville. We have a choice: We can be the destination in the heart of Northern Virginia, or we can be little more than cutthrough strip malls. I want to work to make the City of Fairfax a place to go to.

What are your qualifications for it?

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Why are you running for reelection to this office? I am running for re-election to strengthen our principles of collaboration and problem solving. We must actively listen and learn as part of the deci-

sion- making process. And our decision making must be based on strategy and facts, and not on emotion and sensationalism. Finally, we must have a culture of regional cooperation where we look for regional solutions to common problems. In order to elevate the dialogue to achieve shared solutions, we need strong leadership on Council.

What are your qualifications for it? My personal vision statement is: "I am an active listener and learner, develop thoughtful solutions to challenges facing the community, and mobilize resources to action." The qualities that are needed to fulfill this vision are a thirst for knowledge, facts and data and then the ability to turn information and insight into strategic vision and action. I am collaborative, but deliberative. I have found in my experience that a hybrid solution is typically the best solution. This is where we find win-win solutions for the community. I am hard working, willing to roll up my sleeves and best able to effectively utilize the resources available to us.

I have very strong interpersonal and communication skills, and my career has enabled me to build a varied skill set, including sales, finance, marketing and customer service. But one of the greatest principles that I learned in business is that honesty, integrity, ethical behavior and fair dealing is critical to success and "how we get results is just as important as the results themselves."

Platform – your issues: The biggest issue facing the City is our vision and strategic plan for economic growth. We need to play a strong leadership role with developers to deliver the right type of development, in the right location, to improve our commercial tax base and to reduce our dependence on residential taxes.

And the commercial tax base is critical to adequately address the increasing needs of our diverse population, especially in the area of affordable and senior housing. A

strategy of mixed-use development, with transit access, walkability, and bikeability, will create an interconnected City, enabling an easier flow to and within our activity centers.

Why should people vote for you why are you the best person for this job? Change gives us an uneasy feeling that we are doing away with our past. But without change, there is no future, and we will be bettered by places like Mosaic and Fairfax Corner. With change comes opportunity, and if we get "our" formula of economic growth right, we will not only preserve but improve our neighborhoods, we will retain our history and character, we will have the highest quality services and education, we will have a mix of housing choices, we will live in a safe, healthy and secure environment, and we will have the characteristics that will attract the next generation of residents, workers and businesses to the City.

I promise that I will continue to be attentive, thorough and diligent, and will always give careful consideration to all of the issues that we face, both locally and regionally. Effective leadership is the only way we will be able to follow through on these promises.

to is key to the long-term success of the City. The retail business is changing rapidly in our country, not just here in the City. We are becoming a point-and-click purchasing society. Quickly fading are the days of going to the store; it's easier now to shop from your living room. Brick and mortar business must be more than a place to buy items off a shelf. Tomorrow's retail must find a way to combine entertainment, shopping and places to gather.

♦ Parks and the Arts – Our parks speak to the quality of life we have in the City. Our arts speak to our ability to enjoy our environment and express creativity and imagination. This is what makes living here special and unique. Our parks within our neighborhoods are part of what provides a sense of community and small-town America that makes the City of Fairfax exceptional in Northern Virginia.

Janice Miller

How long you've lived in your community? City resident since 1970. Homeowner in Providence Square Condominiums.

Family info: Widow,

four adult children (Tim, Ben, Adam and Betsy) and four grandchildren (Drew, Matt, Zach and Alexa).

Having said that, we need to take care of what we have. Our Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan calls for improvements going forward that will be costly, but with the right application, will be excellent investments for our future.

Why should people vote for you – why are you the best person for this job? My experience and involvement in the City have made me well-prepared to serve on City Council. Mostly people should consider me the best person for the job because I know how to actively listen to people. I carefully consider all the concerns regarding an issue, and then make an informed decision.

If elected, I will work to ensure livable home neighborhoods, a thriving City economy and vibrant, walkable places to work, shop and play.

Profession: Travel counselor, former middle-school teacher

If an incumbent, how long you've served in this position: Three terms: 2014 to 2018 and 1992 to 1994. City School Board member for nearly 30 years.

Why are you running for reelection to this office? I am running

See Candidates, Page 8

FAIRFAX CONNECTION & APRIL 19-25, 2018 & 3

I have served on the City of Fairfax Industrial Development Authority (four years), the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (eight years; four years as chairman), and currently am serving on the Planning Commission (four

years). This experience and involvement demonstrates my commitment to the success of our community.

I have a Masters in Business Administration and a Bachelors in Business Administration from Averett University. I have earned a Project Management Professional certification. Most recently, I earned a Virginia Planning Commissioners certification from Virginia Tech.

Platform – your issues: I will concentrate my efforts in three priority areas:

Home Neighborhoods – The City of Fairfax is to be first and foremost a place to live. Where we choose to live matters. We must work with our Zoning and Planning Commissions to ensure balanced change and smart growth. Preserving the unique character of our neighborhoods is important to me. They must also be affordable and accessible and include options for aging in place.

✤ A Place to Go To – Destination, destination, destination. Building activity centers in the City that people purposefully go





Clockwise from top are Brigid Smullen (Atina), Tatiane Jones (Adella), Josie Morgan (Alana), Hannah Runner (Aquata), Kamila Adamczyk (Ariel), Diana Park (Arista) and Aya Nassif (Andrina).

Cartoon Characters Will Come to Life

Fairfax High presents Disney's 'The Little Mermaid.'

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

riel, Flounder, Sebastian and all the other beloved characters in Disney's "The Little Mermaid" are set to make a big splash on the Fairfax High stage. It's the school's Cappies show, and it's chocked full of music, color, excitement and fun.

The story is about Disney princess, Ariel, a mermaid who falls in love with a human. To be with him, she asks the show's villain, Ursula, to give her legs. But in exchange, she has to give away her voice. The show then follows Ariel's adventures, both above ground and in the sea.

The cast and crew of 70 has been rehearsing since February, and Director Erich DiCenzo says he's encouraged by their "camaraderie, dedication and support for one another. Everyone knows the iconic, animated characters in this show, and my cast has really dived in and brought them to life."

He's also excited for the audience to see the "explosion of color onstage through the singing, dancing, actors, set and costumes. Each ensemble number will represent a different species of fish in the sea and will feature elements of puppetry and unique costume construction." The fish will be different shapes and colors, and their fins will move.

"I think audiences will also be blown away by how everything's larger than life," said DiCenzo. "Whether it's a crab swinging on a life preserver over the audience, or a seagull literally flying overhead, the magic of Disney will truly be present."

"It's our first time at Fairfax doing a

4 ♦ Fairfax Connection ♦ April 19-25, 2018

children's show, so we're excited to welcome a brand-new audience," he continued. "And after the matinees, children will get to meet the characters and receive a commemorative photo with Ariel and her friends. But we believe all our shows will be experiences theater lovers of all ages will enjoy and remember long after they leave."

SENIOR JOSIE MORGAN plays Alana,, one of Ariel's six mermaid sisters. "She's the peacekeeper among King Triton's daughters, but the others are jealous of Ariel because she's his favorite," said Morgan. "Alana loves being under the sea with all the sea creatures. Our big song is 'She's in Love,' where all the other sisters are gossiping about Ariel with her best friend, Flounder. It's fun to be in and it's a 1960s, bright and bubbly, pop-dance number."

Morgan likes her role because of Alana's songs and dances and because she gets to interact with many different cast members. "It's my fifth musical here and a memorable way to end my high-school theater career," she said. "And the mermaid sisters also double as princesses on land, competing for Prince Eric's love."

Calling this show a "spectacle," Morgan said, "We have bright colors, loud vocals, vibrant set pieces and extravagant, over-thetop characters. It's full of comedy and people will enjoy themselves. It's Disney – it's impossible not to."

Portraying Ursula, the evil octopus/witch, is senior Julie Kovach. "She's crazy, has multiple sides, is enticing and gets what she wants," said Kovach. "She's confident and

See Mermaid, Page 7



Teen lovebirds George (Andrew Black) and Emily (Grace Bonaccorsy) chat with each other from their bedroom windows.

'It's a Timeless, American Classic'

Woodson High presents the play, 'Our Town.'

> By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

he play, "Our Town," is a classic of American theater and will soon be presented by Woodson High. The cast and crew of 45 have been rehearsing since February, and Director Terri Hobson says things are going great.

"This is the 80th anniversary of the premiere of 'Our Town' on Broadway, and a new version of the script was released based on playwright Thornton Wilder's writings about it and how he wanted it done," she said. "This is that version, a minimalist concept."

Hobson said Wilder really wanted to zero in on the story, themes and characters, rather than on elaborate sets and props. So, except for chairs, ladders and staircases, her actors learned how to pantomime the props and set pieces. Set in Grover's Corners, N.H., in the early 1900s, "Our Town" is about family, life and death, as well as understanding vs. ignorance.

"On the surface, you follow Emily Webb's life and important milestones, but it's about much more than that," said senior Andrew Black, who plays Emily's love interest, George Gibbs. "It teaches us that we shouldn't take things for granted, but should take time to really look at each other and build upon our interpersonal relationships."

CALLING HER CAST "delightful to work with," Hobson said, "The show became very special to me after my father

passed away in December. He grew up in a small town in Massachusetts, and the stories he told me about that time really resonated with me, in relation to Grover's Corners and the simple but full lives people led there. I told my cast those stories and they loved hearing them, and it led them to a deeper understanding of this show and their characters."

"It's a timeless, American classic," she continued. "This is my 40th mainstage production here, but the first time we've done this play." She said the audience will be able to make many connections with the townspeople and their relationships to each other. And, she added, "They'll realize they have an opportunity to be grateful for every minute of every day."

Agreeing, Black said, they'll understand that "only in death do people learn how good they had it, just because they were alive." As George, he plays a highschool student and the typical boy next door. "He's awkward and has puppy love for Emily," said Black. "He's also the town's golden boy because he's his school's star baseball player. He's outgoing, rambunctious and a little immature, with a childlike sense of humanity."

Black said playing a romantic lead is a new experience for him. "George is so childlike and the epitome of ignorance because he never appreciates what he has, right in front of him," said Black. "I get to show his emotions, ranging from happiness to great sorrow."

He said this show will subconsciously haunt the audience because "It'll make them feel something and get them thinking about life, the human experience and relationships. And I'm hoping they'll fall in love with the characters and be part of George's and Emily's families."

See 'Our Town,' Page 7

Calendar

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

ONGOING

- "The Front Page." Through April 21, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at The James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Set in a Chicago press room in the 1920s, reporter Hildy Johnson wants to break away from journalism and get married. All that changes when an escaped convict ... Visit www.providenceplayers.org for tickets.
- Art Exhibit: Pulp Fiction. Through April 29, gallery hours in Arches Gallery, Building W-9 of the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Pulp Fiction showcases work by artist Anne Hollis, exploring mixed media art while focusing on moments in time from mythological stories to real life. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.
- Exercise Program Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.
- Smoke Free Bingo. 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.
- Funday Monday 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

FACETS' Opening Doors Breakfast. 7-9 a.m. at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Free breakfast to educate the public and local businesses about FACETS' work to help families and individuals who are struggling in the Fairfax community. Several FACETS' clients will be sharing their stories about homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Contact Shawn Flaherty at 703-554-3609.

Friday Morning Music Club. On Thursday. Noon-1 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Friday Morning Music Club, Inc. is a



Event planning-committee volunteer Dennis Michael and Britepaths Development Assistant Debra Jones peruse the art submissions.

Britepaths' Artful Living Is this Saturday

B ritepaths' fourth annual Artful Living event will be held this Saturday, April 21, from 7-10 p.m., at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. Part of the Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival, the works on display will illustrate the theme, "Empowerment."

Prizes will be awarded to works in the categories best of medium and best of show, and attendees will vote on a People's Choice Award. All the art will be offered in a silent auction, with Britepaths and the artists sharing in the sales.

Proceeds from the event, which also include live music by Batida Diferente, appetizers, wine and beer, a live auction and a client testimonial, will benefit the families Britepaths serves and the Spotlight on the Arts Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door. Tickets and more information are at http://britepaths.org. Contact info@britepaths.org or 703-273-8829.

On April 5, Britepaths' staff and event planning-committee volunteers evaluated the works artists submitted for inclusion in the event. From 77 pieces of art – including paintings, photographs, pottery, collage, sculpture – the committee chose 54 pieces by 42 artists to be included in the juried art show.

community of music lovers and musicians dedicated to promoting classical music throughout the metropolitan area. On the third Thursday of the month they host their performances at Old Town Hall. Free and open to the public. Visit www.fmmc.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy

free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more. **Family Movie Night: Leap.** 7 p.m. at

Stacy C. Sherwood Comunity Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Leap (rated PG). An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 14. Lights go down at 7 p.m., and participants may bring their own snacks. Additionally, the Fairfaxbased nonprofit organization Britepaths will accept donations of non-perishable food from 7-9 p.m. Admission is free. Call 703-385-7858.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 20-21 Volunteer: Healthy Strides 2018.

At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Support those who are trying to make healthier strides in their lives by volunteering at the Healthy Strides 2018 Community 5K, 10K and Fun Run. Volunteers are needed Friday, April 20, 2:30-8 p.m. to distribute race packages. On race day, Saturday, April 21, volunteers will be needed 5:30 a.m.-noonFind an available shift at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ healthy-strides/community-10k5k-

run. **Short Play Festival.** Mixer at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. both nights at Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. An interfering mother attempts to "out" her gay son...A scientist creates the 'perfect' woman, who thinks she's too good for him Infinity Stage presents its 2018 10 x 10 x Infinity Short Comedy Play festival — ten 10-minute comedies selected from over 350 submissions. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$20 at www.infinitystage.com.

APRIL 20-MAY 11

Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival. The 33rd Annual Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival kicks off with a glittering Gala evening Friday, April 20 at Old Town Hall celebrating three decades of arts in the City of Fairfax. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax in cooperation with George Mason University and the arts community of Fairfax, Spotlight on the Arts continues its commitment to support and encourage the awareness of cultural opportunities in the greater Fairfax community. Some events are free and some require a fee. Visit www.fairfaxspotlight.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Model Classic 2018. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. An Educational/ Art & Craft/ Exhibit by the Northern Virginia Modelers Chapter, International Plastic Modelers Society. \$8. Visit www.novaipms.org for more.

Pet Adoption Event. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/ police/programs/animal-control/ adopt-a-pet.

Walk to End Sexual Violence. 9:45 a.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 4th Annual Fairfax County Walk to End Sexual Violence and resource fair. Activities will include DJ, Zumba, raffles, and food trucks (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.). First 100 people to register will receive a free t-shirt. Family-friendly event, children and pets are welcome. Free. Contact Angela Acosta at Angela.Acosta@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-9484. Visit bit.ly/2uZOi1i for more.

Fairfax Art League: Spotlight Reception & Awards. 2-4 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League will be having a reception and awards as part of the Spotlight on the Arts festival. The Fairfax Art League exhibit will feature the artwork of its members. The public is invited to view the show, meet artists, enjoy musical entertainment, and sample the buffet. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-

587-9481 **Centreville International** Showcase. 5:30-9 p.m. at Korean Central Presbyterian Church, 8514 Forrester Blvd. Springfield. The 8th Annual Centreville International Showcase will feature food, song and dance reflecting the cultural heritage of Centreville residents including Guatemala, Ireland, India, Ghana, Peru and Korea. Admission is free The showcase raises money for CIF through the Showcase Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, food sales, and donations during the evening. Contact the Centreville Labor Resource Center at

contact@CentrevilleLRC.org, 703-543-6272 or centrevilleimmigrationforum.org/.

Gala: Community Champions of Children's Health. 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Celebrating community champions of children's health with Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation. \$125. Visit mccpfoundation.org/. Britepaths Artful Living:

"Empowerment." 7-10 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. An evening of Art, Wine and Strengthening Our Community in association with the Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival. For more information and to register, visit britepaths.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 21-22

"The Best Doctor in Town." Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Pacers Pop-Up Theatre Space, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Set in Southwest Virginia, inspired by actual events, the play follows the story of the small town's most revered doctor, who may just be an

See Calendar, Page 12

festival of the Arts North Highland Street and Washington Boulevard in the Clarendon district of Arlington, VA

ARLINGTON



April 21st – 22nd Sat./Sun. 10am – 5pm

Arlington 📷

OPINION Send in Mother's Day Photos

other's Day is Sunday, May 13 this year, and as every year at this time, This newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information. You can upload photos and

Editorial

information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/ mothersday/ or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Mother's Day is just one of many occasions throughout the year that we would love to receive photos from our readers. Send us photos and notes when anything of note is happening in your family, neighborhood, school, club ... Be sure to include basic information: Name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information. Send to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Soon after we publish our Mother's Day

photo galleries, we will begin to ask for submissions for our Father's Day galleries. Father's Day is June 17 this year.

Each year we seem to receive many more photos for Father's Day. We're curious whether that is because it is the second of the set so readers are more aware or because mothers are more likely to send in images of the Dads.

Twice a year we ask you to send photos and tell us stories about your pets and how they have come into, touched and left your lives, publishing the last week in July and the last week in February.

In late summer, we invite readers to share what they know about their community for neighbors and newcomers alike.

And wrapping up the year, we gather writing and art from local students to fill our holiday edition. Each year, through an enormous effort by area teachers and school staff we receive an amazing display of student talent.

Regular contributions to our entertainment calendars, community bulletin boards, school notes, and business notes help us to share news in your community. We also always welcome photos and captions from community organizations (Scouts, sports teams, faith groups, school activities, etc.) and local businesses.

Please start by sending in photos for Mother's preferably Day, by May 4. www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/.

Virginia Press Association Winners

Connection writers and photographers garnered awards at the Virginia Press Association annual award banquet. Here is the list of our winners, with more details to come in the future:

- First Place, Michael Lee Pope, Business and Financial Writing, Great Falls Connection
- First Place, Bonnie Hobbs, Public Safety Writing, Chantilly Connection First Place, Mark Mogle, Pictorial Photo, Great Falls
- Connection
- First Place, Mark Mogle, General News Photo, Arlington Connection
- First Place, Eden Brown, Public Safety Writing, Arlington Connection
- Second Place, Dan Brendel, Government Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Second Place, Vernon Miles, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Second Place, Fallon Forbush, Breaking News Writing, McLean Connection econd Place, Fallon Forbush, General News Writing,
- Reston Connection Second Place, Bonnie Hobbs, General News Writing,
- Fairfax Connection
- Second Place, Marilyn Campbell, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
- Third Place, Shirley Ruhe, Personality or Portrait Photo, Arlington Connection Third Place, Fallon Forbush, Education Writing, Great
- Falls Connection Third Place, Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing, Great Falls Connection

Letters to the Editor

It's Time to Give Volunteers the Credit They Deserve

To the Editor:

This week, April 15-21, is National Volunteer Week, an opportunity for organizations across the country to pause and recognize the importance and impact of the millions of selfless individuals who volunteer in our communities. Governor Northam recently honored some of Virginia's most remarkable individuals and organizations that have committed to service across the Commonwealth at the 2018 Virginia Governor's

Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Their stories of service were touching, uplifting, and an inspiration for all of us to do more for others. I encourage you to read more about these remarkable volunteers at VirginiaService.virginia.gov.

And yet, this amazing group of volunteers are just a fraction of the more than 2 million who serve annually in Virginia. Each day, individuals give their time and talents to make our communities

Volunteer Victims Needed. Virginia

full scale exercise and needs

Task Force 1 (VA-TF1) is holding a

volunteers to act as victims in need of

from the evening of Monday, April 23

through afternoon of Thursday, April

need to be able to crawl in and out of

lying in place for extended periods of

christopher.yorty@fairfaxcounty.gov.

rescue. The exercise will take place

26. A minimum shift of six hours is

expected, overnight volunteers are especially needed. "Victims" will

rubble piles, capable of sitting or

time, and not mind getting dirty.

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

Parent Support Partners, a service

Contact Christopher Yorty at

Ibrahim Khalil at

703-324-4547.

safer, healthier and stronger. Whether it is the parents and grandparents volunteering in our schools, community members collecting and donating food to our food banks, or busy professionals utilizing their skills to help individuals and organizations in times of need — volunteers are the force behind addressing our greatest challenges.

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, I would like to thank these fantastic volunteers. Thank you for caring. Thank you for committing. Thank you for understanding the power of service. We want you to know that we see you and we hear stories of how you are changing communities for the better. You provide hope to so many and inspire others to follow your lead to serve.

> Jessica Bowser Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

> > **Editor in Chief** Steven Mauren **Managing Editor** Kemal Kurspahic Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh

Fairfax

NECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com @FfxConnection An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to

homes and businesses.

Published by

Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to

your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:

south@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic

Editor ***** 703-778-9414

kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs

Community Reporter * 703-778-9438

south@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker

Contributing Writer

aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card

Production Editor

jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information

e-mail:

sales@connectionnewspapers.com

703-778-9431

Debbie Funk Display Advertising/National Sales

703-778-9444 debfunk @ connection newspapers.com

> **David Griffin** Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431

dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment

Advertising

703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President

Jerry Vernon

703-549-0004

jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Production Manager: Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION **Circulation Manager:** Ann Oliver circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

- Bulletin Board **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
- **STEM Professionals Needed**. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in six Northern Virginia school districts. Contact

donaldrea@aol.com. Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact

Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or

- of the Healthy Minds Fairfax Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or
 - initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualitied to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ healthymindsfairfax or www.naminorthernvirginia.org/parent-peersupport.html.

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 orientationor 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.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

News 'Our Town'

From Page 4

Portraying Emily is senior Grace Bonaccorsy. Initially, she's in high school. "She's aiming for perfection in her life and thinks highly of herself," said Bonaccorsy. "She's always trying to be the best she can be and has lots of confidence, but she's also young, nervous and confused. She feels deeply and has emotional connections with others. When she loves someone, she loves them to the ends of the earth and would do anything for them."

Saying she's honored to play Emily, Bonaccorsy said, "This is my first major role, and to be this character is a beautiful experience. I connect with her emotionally. She goes on a very impactful life journey, and I like getting to go on it with her and figure it out." Bonaccorsy also said this play will appeal to all ages.

"It has innocence, love, heartache, drama and joy," she said. "There's a simplicity about the small-town life, but the story is intense, too. There's a big contrast between the first two acts and the last act. You see Emily's daily life and watch her grow up. In the last act, she's already died, but gets to relive one day in her life. But this time, it's different, because she knows the outcomes and it's painful for her to be there. She realizes that people don't understand how precious life is."

FRESHMAN Sara Willcox is the understudy for George's mom, Julia Gibbs, and will perform in the May 5 matinee. "She's a loving mother, content with her life, but doesn't necessarily want it to be that way," said Willcox. "She's happy and loves her family, but also wants to travel and visit a

'Mermaid'

country where no one speaks English. Later, Emily mentions how she and George bought something with the money Julia would have used to travel to France."

Willcox likes her role because "I get to feel older than I am. Julia is powerful and has a strong stage presence, and I know what character traits of hers I want to come through. And I get to wear a long, ankle-length, burgundy skirt with a nice blouse."

She said this show conveys a message that'll speak to people at all stages of their lives. "It's different for each person," said Willcox. "But life is fleeting, and that's not a bad thing. We just need to know how to appreciate it while we have it."

Senior Sean Coady portrays Julia Gibbs in most of the shows and is also the play's technical director. Before it opens, she's busy organizing the technical crews responsible for hair, makeup, costumes, sound, lighting, publicity and set. She said the actors will wear modest clothing in bold colors. Girls will have long skirts, high collars, corsets and has, and boys will don suits with vests, hats and pocket watches.

"I have stage-management experience, so I work closely with our stage manager, Kelly Ward, to help design the show's special lighting effects," said Coady. "As for Mrs. Gibbs, she's one of my favorite characters I've played because she's very motherly, but in a calm, not strict, way. She seems wise in what she says and is just a lovely person to play."

Coady said the audience will appreciate "how much the show means to us. It's about a town where everybody is family, and I think that's how all of us in the theater department see ourselves."

Home of the \$6,850 Bathroom Remodel From Now to WOW in 5 Days Guarantee **TWO POOR TEACHERS** Select your 10% down products from nothing until the job Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling our Mobile is complete for the Showroom past 17 years and Design Center I SINGER & BATH DISIGN CENTER Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999 703-969-1179 SEPA **Free Estimates** 703-214-8384 Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Communities of Worship





To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418



At Westminster at Lake Ridge, a vibrant and exciting world awaits you. The retirement lifestyle you deserve is shared with the active and engaged friends and neighbors who make our community home, all with peace of mind that comes with on-site health care.



Now accepting wait list deposits. Call 703-791-1100 or visit us today!

Westminster at Lake Ridge is a CARF accredited, not-for-profit, continuing care retirement community.

703-791-1100 | www.wlrva.org 12191 Clipper Drive | Lake Ridge, VA

manipulative and knows how to push people's buttons. She pretends to care about others so

From Page 4

they'll fall into her trap." Kovach loves showing her character's various facets. "She goes from envious to reflective and sad, and is never really happy," said Kovach. "She's evil and frustrated because she's been banished from the sea and believes everything's been taken from her and given to her brother, King Triton. It's a fun role because you don't get to be vicious in your everyday life."

Her favorite number is "Sweet

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

kicks, Flotsam and Jetsam. "It's eerie and manipulative," she said. "The eels are trying to persuade Ariel to come to Ursula." Kovach said the audience will enjoy the show's brightness, warmth, energy, colorful costumes and "fun cast. And the set – including a tire swing, bubble machine and poolnoodle decorations – makes the audience feel like they're part of the show."

Child," sung by Ursula's eel side-

Senior Thomas Iodice plays Jetsam. "He has a nasally voice and loves being with Ursula," said Iodice. "He, Ursula and Flotsam

See 'Mermaid,' Page 14

Fairfax Connection 🔹 April 19-25, 2018 🔹 7

Meet Fairfax City Council Candidates

the City of Fairfax School Board as chair-

man, and I've held leadership positions with

youth organizations such as the Fairfax

Little League (first female president), FPYC

(girls basketball coordinator) and PTA or-

ganizations. I have a solid record as a con-

sensus builder, working collegially with

other elected officials, residents, fellow vol-

unteers and City staff members to "get the

Platform - your issues: Local govern-

ment is all about "taking care of business." Issues demanding thoughtful analysis and

Janice Miller

From Page 3

because I believe in this community and I want to represent residents' views on City Council. I bring a strong voice and decades of community experience to City Hall.

What are your qualifications for it? My qualifications include extensive experience as an elected and appointed official, as well as an active school and community volunteer. Over the past four years, I've been an active and attentive Council member. In the past, I've provided robust leadership on

Jennifer E. Passey

How long you've lived in your community and in the City: My family has lived in Country Club Hills since moving to the City in 2010.

Family info: I have been married to my husband Michael for 17 years. We have four sons, Eamon (14), Liam (12) and twins Colin and Declan (8).

Profession: Marketing & Communications Manager at Girls on the Run of NOVA, a nonprofit located in the City of Fairfax.

If an incumbent, how long you've served in this position: I have served on City Council for just seven months. I was elected in September 2017 during the special election to fill now-Mayor David Meyer's former City Council seat.

Why are you running for re-election to City Council? I care deeply about the City of Fairfax; and as the newest sitting member of Council, I am just getting started. The City is a wonderful place my family calls home. We are at a pivotal time in our City's

D.T. "Tom" Ross

How long you've lived in your community: For 38 years, in two neighborhoods, Old Lee Hills and Fairview.

Family info: Married 46 years, two adult children: Michael, works in local government, has a son, 8;

Brian is married and works at George Mason University. Michael and Brian were raised in the City of Fairfax and attended City schools. Henry, our 9-year-old Labrador retriever, is also an essential part of our family.

Profession: Retired from the National Park Service as the assistant director for Recreation and Conservation, where I administered national programs working in partnership with state, local and nonprofit agencies to provide close-to-home park and recreation opportunities. Served as executive director, Maryland Recreation and Parks

8 * Fairfax Connection * April 19-25, 2018

In conscientious deliberation include: Conducting City business by engaging the comhistory, with a number of redevelopment projects in the pipeline. This is the time to implement positive change to see that our City remains a vibrant, safe, close-knit community for **all** in the near future and for generations to come.

iob done."

What are your qualifications for it?

I moved to the Washington Metropolitan Area from Minnesota in 1995 to attend The George Washington University, where I received my B.A. and, later, my Masters in Political Management. As an issue- advocacy specialist with over 15 years of professional experience in Washington, D.C.; New Delhi, India; and Dhaka, Bangladesh, I have continuously looked for ways to use my skills and knowledge to contribute and give back to the community since my family's arrival in 2010.

As a current member of City Council, I presently serve as our City's representative to the Climate Energy & Environmental Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. And prior to my election to City Council, I served on munity in a transparent and open setting;Adopting the new Comprehensive Plan

as a strategic tool for sensible economic growth;
Supporting neighborhood renaissance and plan for diversified housing options;

 Encouraging and promoting walkability through sidewalk and trail connectivity;

 Partnering with the School Board to provide outstanding opportunities for all

students; and
Preserving our excellent City services at the lowest-possible tax burden.

Why should people vote for you – why are you the best person for this job?

the City's Planning Commission from 2011-14, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board from 2012-14, and the Country Club Hills Civic Association from 2010-12.

Platform – your issues:

Strategic Economic Growth - A vibrant and healthy commercial tax base is necessary to secure our economic future, as well as support the high-quality services the City currently provides its residents. While maintaining our community's character and traditions, now is the time to focus on improving and growing key commercial areas in our City. In addition, we need to look at incentives to encourage businesses to remain, expand and start up in the City.

We cannot address our growth, development by development – we need a real vision. The Comprehensive Plan we are in the midst of finalizing needs to serve as our collective roadmap for the way ahead. In addition, we cannot continue to raise our tax rate to account for any stagnant growth. We need to spend wisely and take steps to increase our commercial tax base.

I will work with the community, my colleagues and City staff to finalize this vision and communicate the brand of our City to attract the type of businesses that would

neighborhood associations, Old Lee Hills and Fairview; chair of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Committee of the 2020 Commission; and advisory member of the Van Dyck Park Master Plan.

Platform – your issues:

Sustainability for the future. We need to plan now to create the kind of community in future years that provides excellent police, fire and emergency services; excellent schools, access to quality park and recreation opportunities and that sense of place that is a trademark of our community.

Protecting and preserving our neighborhoods. Through thoughtful planning, we should work toward creating new development and redevelopment in a manner that lessens negative impacts on our neighborhoods.

Enhancing our sense of community. Continuing our special programs and events and other special events brings all ages and backgrounds together in a way that celebrates our community. My years of public service offer a unique perspective of our community, and my leadership in elected and volunteer positions has taught me many lessons. My commitment to continuing as a dependable, productive, hard working and caring member of the next City Council remains as strong today as it was four years ago. I value collegial working relationships with other elected officials and staff, thoughtful review and analysis of City business matters, listening to others and providing outstanding constituent services to all citizens. I pledge to do my best for each City resident and members of the business community.

do well. Lastly, I want to see us work closer with GMU at all levels and further cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit within our City.

Communication and Civic Engagement - Good communication starts with listening. Residents and businesses deserve to have more personal engagement opportunities to express concerns, interact on upcoming meeting-agenda items, and provide feedback on the decisions made by those elected to represent them. Additionally, we need to be more proactive in seeking a more diverse representation of our City's population in our community leadership roles.

Why should people vote for you – why are you the best person for this job? Fairfax City voters should cast their ballot for me because of my experience, knowledge and desire to move our City forward in a positive direction. As a current member of the City Council, as well as having served on the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, my neighborhood civic association, and as a marketing and communications professional, I have the skill set and passion it takes to be an effective member of your City Council for the 2018-2020 term.

Strengthen our historic Old Town. Our historic downtown is the core of our community and continues to struggle economically. We need to partner with the business community and others to help create new opportunities for businesses and increase access to our downtown.

Why should people vote for you why are you the best person for this job? My family and I moved to Fairfax in 1980 and have made this community our home. For over three decades, I have been involved in the life of this place we call home and have served in leadership roles helping to define and improve the City of Fairfax. This engagement in all aspects of our community has provided me with the experience to address the challenging decisions we will be facing in the next few years. I truly believe, at this time and place, that experience matters - and I look forward to serving our citizens as a member of your City Council.



Assn., for six years. **Why are you running**

for election? The City of Fairfax, where I have been involved for 38 years, is facing unprecedented change. In the next few years, we will be making significant decisions on our

Comprehensive Plan, development and redevelopment throughout the city, and working to sustain our quality of life and sense of community. My experience in this community has prepared me to help make those decisions that are critical to our future.

What are your qualifications for it?

Ten years of service on the Planning Commission, including three years as chairman; chair of the City's Electoral Board; a leader in Fairfax City's Citizens for Smarter Growth; a member of the City Charter Review Commission; Past President of two

Jon Stehle

How long you've lived in your community: Homeowner at Oxford Row Townhome Condominiums since 2007.

Family info: Married to Stephanie Stehle; two children, Zoe, 9, and Cooper, 5.

Profession: Business Director, Performa. Previously, Strategic Performance Management Lead, MITRE; and Senior Analyst, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO).

If an incumbent, how long you've served in this position: I am currently serving my first term on City Council.

Why are you running for re-election to this office? The City is the place Steph and I chose to start our family, and I am proud that the City of Fairfax is Zoe and Cooper's hometown. I am running for re-

Sang H. Yi

How long you've lived in your community: My wife Sarah and I were some of the earliest residents of Cameron Glen since 2013, and I served as my neighborhood's inaugural HOA president.

Family info: My wife and I have two young children, Evelyn (turns 4 on Election Day) and Harrison (2). Sarah and I chose to settle in Fairfax City as a young family, and both of our children were born as City residents.

Profession: I have extensive government experience. I currently serve as a senior aide on Capitol Hill, focused on government oversight and natural resources issues. I previously served in the Defense Department at an intelligence agency. I also currently serve as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and received my

So Lim

How long you've lived in your community: I've lived in the Fairfax community for 19 years and plan to live in the City indefinitely.

Family info: My husband Mark Hardy and I have been

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

married 17 years and have two children each. My two sons, Corey and Ryan, graduated from City of Fairfax schools. Corey is Federal Channel Account Manager at Gigamon and Ryan is studying in South Korea at Yonsei University, pursuing a Masters in International Studies.



election to continue to ensure you get value for your tax dollars with top-notch services, to continue to engage with local businesses to move our economy forward, and to continue to work to maintain our City's unique community feel.

What are your qualifications for it? In addition to

serving on City Council, I also serve on the Board of Directors of Oxford Row Townhome Condominiums and on the Board of Directors for the American Association for Budget and Program Analysis. Previously, I served as the chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the City. As part of my role on City Council, I represent the City of Fairfax on the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments' Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy

Committee and on the Virginia Municipal League Environmental Quality Committee. I am a member of the Providence Elementary School PTA and also a girls lacrosse

coach with FPYC. I have a Master of Arts in Public and International Affairs from the

commission from the U.S. Mer-

chant Marine Academy. I am a

graduate of the U.S. Naval War

College, and the George Wash-

ington University Law School.

Why are you running for

election to this office? I

University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Platform: If elected to serve a second term on City Council, I will continue to:

Focus on integrating targeted, smart, redevelopment opportunities that include a variety of housing and transportation options.

Engage with our business community to find ways to work together, both in person and virtually - as we did this year with our Economic Development Authority for Restaurant Week - to ensure the City will continue to have a healthy and prosperous commercial base.

Partner with our School Board – as we did this year resulting in the City receiving recognition in the Stairway to Success Program for the work our community does in early childhood education - to continue to provide outstanding opportunities for our students.

Be available to all residents and listen to your views so that I can better advocate

within our community as the former appointed City member to the Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board, the 2nd Vice Commander of our local American Legion Post 177, and as president of Cameron Glen HOA. Professionally, I have experience in reviewing the efficacy of government policy. I have adopted and exercised leadership principles from military training for more than half of my life.

Platform - your issues:

✤ I will advocate for the most efficient and disciplined use of City taxpayer dollars to ensure we keep our tax burden low, while maintaining our excellent level of City services.

✤ I will seek to preserve the character and family-friendly environment of our City through sensible development. While growth is an important factor in our City's success, we must ensure how we grow does not adversely impact the level of services we enjoy or further congest our roads. I believe that sensible development includes Why should people vote for you -

for the future of our City.

why are you the best person for this job? I am proud of the work we have done this year on City Council, including partnering with the Association of Government Accountants to produce the City's first annual Citizen Centric Report, and maintaining our Silver Award status in the Go Green Initiative for our work in implementing environmental policies and practical actions.

I am proud of the relationships I and my colleagues have built with communities across the City, with George Mason University, especially the George Mason Student Government, and with jurisdictions throughout our region. I believe it is the responsibility of all of us to work together to shape our collective future.

The next team of six on City Council will continue to provide the direction for the future of the City. I bring experience, commitment and an engaging approach to the City Council. I ask for your vote on May 1 to continue to serve you with integrity, representing your needs on Council.

appropriately located and robust commercial and retail economy in our City with a proper balance of residential growth.

I will work collaboratively with our School Board to promote a strong City school system dedicated to delivering a firstrate education to the students of Daniels Run Elementary, Providence Elementary, Lanier Middle and Fairfax High School. Among other focus areas, we must ensure that both physical and program capacities are not overwhelmed.

Why should people vote for you why are you the best person for this job? I pledge to be a transparent, collaborative and thorough Council member. I will be focused on listening to and understanding your concerns and incorporating your input to our solutions. With my experience and engagement in our community, I will always do my best to ensure that we all enjoy a high quality of living as residents of the City of Fairfax. I would be honored to earn your vote on May 1.

hopes to develop in the next few years. I was 38th president of the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area from 2015-16 and was honored by a joint resolution from the Virginia General Assembly in 2017. I'm an active member of the Farrcroft community and the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. I also serve as president of the U.S. Chapter of the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation.

Platform – your issues:

* I hope to improve communication between City residents and City government. Since the day I decided to run for office,

See So Lim, Page 14

Fairfax Connection & April 19-25, 2018 🔹 9



Profession: I own and operate an insurance agency that I founded in 1992 and is now one of the largest in the commonwealth. I've received many awards for my business and entrepreneurship, including Community Service Awards, President's Award and Top Producer award, and have over

5.000 clients.

Why are you running for election to this office: I immigrated to Springfield with my family when I was 12 years old. I come from humble means, but with strong family Christian value and a strong work

ethic. Now that I found success in business and my children received a world-class education, I want to give back to the community that has been generous to me and given me and my family so much opportunity.

I have a long history of service to the Northern Virginia area and Korean American Community in the DMV area. I want to bring my entrepreneur experience and leadership skills to offer new and fresh ideas and perspectives to create and deliver our vision - the best place to live, work and play.

What are your qualifications for it: I'm well-connected to GMU and serve on its School of the Arts Board and Korea Board. I understand how the university

love our City and the people who make it special. I have dedicated my entire adult life to service, and I view the opportunity of serving on the City Council as a civic duty to my fellow residents and neighbors. While many of us have busy lives with work, family or various personal challenges, I want to help people stay

connected to our City as a community. I also want to help preserve the character and family-friendly environment of our City and promote economic development.

What are your qualifications for it? I have served our community in various capacities and have high-level experience in government. I have been closely engaged



"What can you do to improve your watershed?"



Rachel Carson Middle School students won top honors for expanding FooSha2, their project that established a food sharing program between their school and a local shelter to reduce cafeteria waste. This year hundreds of area students competed to develop solutions to local watershed issues. Finalists presented their proposals at the School Environmental Action Showcase on April 10 at George Mason University. Thank you to all the students, educators, and partners who participated!

Agrium provided nearly \$20,000 in cash prizes and \$10,000 to help implement student ideas.

Caring for Our Watersheds is supported by international nonprofit Earth Force, whose mission is to engage young people as active citizens who improve the environment and their communities, now and in the future. The program empowers students to create solutions in their local watersheds, developing problem-solving, budgeting, community-involvement, and presentation skills.

Turning ideas into realistic solutions is the key to improving our local watersheds.

Northern Virginia Finalists, Grades 6-10

Final Place	Award	Proposal Name	School
1	\$1,000	FooSha2	Rachel Carson Middle School
2	\$900	Watershed Protection Group	Kenmore Middle School
3	\$800	Enhancing Our Outdoor Living Classroom	Lanier Middle School
4	\$700	It's Green, It's Grass, and It Grows	Lanier Middle School
5	\$600	Fishing Line Recycling	Dogwood Elementary School
6	\$500	Bee Keeping Bonanza	Rachel Carson Middle School
7	\$450	Bridging the Gap to the Future	George Washington Middle School
8	\$400	Plant a Plant	Kenmore Middle School
9	\$350	Enviro Educators – Warriors for Watersheds	George Washington Middle School
10	\$300	Christmas Trees for the Fish	Dogwood Elementary School

Agrium



CaringForOurWatersheds.com earthforce.org

Education Learning Fun **Teaching Money Management**

April is Financial Literacy Month.

By Marilyn Campbell

n an era when consumers can purchase merchandise and deposit money into a bank account using a smartphone, teaching money smarts to children can be fraught with complications. April is Financial Literacy Month and local financial advisors say teaching children how to man-

age their money responsibly is a necessary part of becoming a financially responsible adult. "How a parent treats

cash is the way their kids will treat cash; lead by example," said Andrea Foster, professor and department chair of Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications and Paralegal Studies (BEACAPS) at Montgomery College. "If your kid sees you cutting coupons and budgeting, when they grow up they will do the same. They will see the benefits and the value of your thriftiness. "

One of the most important financial lessons that a parent can teach is how to save, advises Foster. "Teach them how to budget so that they can learn how to save for what they want," she said.

Children pay attention to and learn from the

ways in which their parents manage money and it's ize how much it costs to maintain them and how critical that they learn financial literacy at home, suggests Victoria G. Henry, assistant vice president at West Financial Services, Inc. in McLean.

"Explaining the concept of savings early to chil-

dren is key," added "It is natural to want to spend everything right away, so it may be hard to understand why it is important to set a little aside for future expenses. Perhaps it could be explained by saying the savings will come in handy if a favorite toy breaks or is lost."

An ideal time to offer a lesson in saving is when a child receives money as a present for a birthday or other occasion, says Henry. "It is a good practice to have them save even 10 or 20 percent of the gift, and let them have the rest to spend how they

for money for something else, it is a good to remind them that maybe they should think more carefully about how they want to spend their money in the future. This will help them get into the practice of making wise choices with spending and saving down the road when they start earning money as well."

Foster also suggests helping children develop savings goals." [Whether] by piggy bank, envelope, can, or jar, a vessel is an important tool for teaching kids how to save for major milestones," said Foster. "Identify a goal for the saving and have them save towards that goal."

Transparency builds enthusiasm, adds Foster. "Us-

ing a clear jar for saving creates enthusiasm and motivation as the kids see it fill up with the coins," she said. "[Saving] also teaches then self-reliance and not counting on their parents to help them for everything. By giving a reward, kids can learn the value of money and how to spend money."

Foster also suggests encouraging children to keep a spending diary and limiting the amount of money they can spend or the number of items they can purchase when shopping for themselves. "Show them that stuff costs money," she said. "Have them keep track of all the money that mom and dad spend on them in one month, from food to clothing and other things. They will real-

much all the stuff that they want costs."

Involve children in a family's charitable donations, advises Henry. "Ask your children to think about what kinds of charitable efforts the family should support,"

she said. "Have them research and pick a charity and then make a small contribution to that organization on their behalf." "Have children earn their

allowance and let children experience the pain of not having enough money if they don't budget correctly," said Dr. Brian Hollar assistant professor of Accounting, Economics & Finance at Marymount University. "Experience is a good teacher and learning when the stakes

are low is invaluable." Hollar underscores the importance of teaching solid math skills. "It's hard to de-

want," she said. "If they decide to spend their fun velop strong financial literacy without understandmoney on something and then quickly return asking ing exponential growth," he said.

- Victoria G. Henry,

West Financial Services, Inc.

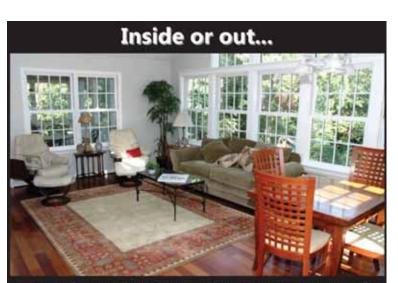


Saturday, April 28 ★ 10am - 5pm



LIVING HISTORY ★ HOUSE GRAFFITI TOURS VICTORIAN DANCE * BLACKSMITHING COW MILKING DEMO **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES HAYRIDES & PONY RIDES Historic Blenheim** 3610 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030 * www.fairfaxva.gov * (703) 591-0560 \$5/Adults \$3/Youth 3-12 Free/2 and under **FREE shuttle from Fairfax High School** Presented by FAIRFAX CITY 11

3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030



... Tech Painting's got you covered!





Teaching young children about the concept of saving money is a critical part of financial literacy.

"Explaining the concept of

savings early to children is

key. It is natural to want to

away, so it may be hard to

aside for future expenses."

spend everything right

understand why it is

important to set a little

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Gall or Visit Us Online to Register www.afth.org \$757.447.4046



E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

ONNECTION ers & C 703-778-9431





HANNA AYOUB

SAVE up to

35

Extended by

Popular Demand

Free!

Hardwood Floor

Cleaning &

Polishing

Hurry, Offer Expires 4/29/18.

We Hand-Wash

Your Fine Oriental Rugs!

6628 Electronic Dr.

Alexandria, VA Springfield VA

OFF

3116 W. Moore

Street

Richmond VA

Oriental Rug Cleaning Co.

SINCE 1953

And Get

The 3rd

Cleaned

Wall to Wall

Carpet Steam

Cleaning

"Hurry, Offer Expires 4/29/18

3206 Duke

Street

OFF

identity thief and serial killer. But a local police officer with a tarnished reputation, a reporter who manipulated facts and the doctor's chief intern, who may be a thief, have pieces of the puzzle. All the while, patients are dying and no one in authority believes the great doctor could be responsible. Visit www.shoestringtheatrecompany.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

Afternoon with Author Hena Khan. 2 p.m. at GMU's Innovation Hall 103, 4699 Mattaponi River Lane, Fairfax. Hosted by Scrawl Books. Khan will discuss and sign her book, "Amina's Voice." Free. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

- Washington Chamber Orchestra. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra is a 1945 musical composition by Benjamin Britten with a subtitle Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell. It was based on the second movement, "Rondeau," of the Abdelazer suite. The work is one of the best-known pieces by the composer. Visit www.thewco.org. Main Street Community Band -
- **Spotlight Concert.** 4 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Main Street Community Band presents a fun, upbeat concert reflecting the mood and excitement of spring. Don't miss this annual highlight of the City of Fairfax's "Spotlight on the Arts"
- series. Visit www.fairfaxband.org. 11th Annual Spotlight Bluegrass & American Roots. 6-9 p.m. at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Bluegrass at The Auld Shebeen with Andrew Acosta and Friends. Free and open to the public. Visit www.fairfaxspotlight.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 23

- Funday Monday: Peter McCory -One Man Band. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Music, movement, story telling, performances, crafts, and more. Funday Monday is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Free and open to the public, donations appreciated. Call 703-385-7858 or visit
- www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts. Free Yoga. 2 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Lobby, at George Mason University. Join Alyssa Hadley, resident yoga instructor of Mason's Center for the Advancement of Well-Being (CWB), for free yoga classes in the Center for the Arts' lobby. They include instruction in beginning level postures, breathing practices, and guided relaxation. Classes are open to all. No prior experience needed. Bring a yoga mat. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

Stanley Kubrick Showcase. 7:30 p.m. at Angelika Film Center -Mosaic, 2911 District Ave. Fairfax. The Angelika Film Center - Mosaic will celebrate filmmaker Stanley Kubrick. Visit www.AngelikaFilmCenter.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Fall for the Book Pop Up Lit Night. 5:30 p.m. at Pacers Pop-Up Theatre Space, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Fall for the Book's New Pop Up Lit Nights invite the community to Happy Hour appreciations of literature and storytelling. Bring friends and enjoy food and fun. Readings take place on the last Thursday of each month, January through April. Free parking is available. For more information visit www.fallforthebook.org/pop-uplit-nights/ or call 703-352-ARTS.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM



ASSIFIED

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER. CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411



So Lim

From Page 9

I've knocked on doors throughout the City to listen to neighbors and discuss proposed solutions. Once on City Council, I'll continue knocking on doors in our community. I'll also create a constituent survey, regularly speak with civic associations and community groups and hold office hours. I strongly support efforts to make City government more transparent

✤ I'll use my business experience and international relationships to initiate an international, businessincubating program, collaborating with GMU to attract technology firms from abroad, as well as forming a sister-city relationship from abroad to globalize our economy.

♦ I'll commit to having an International Festival to embrace diversity into our community, and festival proceeds will benefit the police and fire departments. This festival will not only showcase different ethnicities and cultures, it will be an event creating more foot traffic to downtown, not only from City of Fairfax folks, but from the

Iodice. "And we'll also have lots of

cool, lighting effects."

I'll make sure public safety is a top priority. Several years ago, one of my close friends was badly injured while crossing Old Lee Highway. While improvements have been made, I'll push for safer sidewalks, crosswalks and bike paths so all residents can safely travel throughout the City.

* I'm committed to supporting and seeking out diverse housing options. I'll review, revisit, communicate with all stakeholders, and conduct tough but necessary discussions to ensure there'll be housing options for all people.

Why should people vote for you - why are you the best person for this job: As a Council member, I'll listen to all City residents to learn every side of an issue and roll up my sleeves to tackle all challenges that arise. In my entrepreneur experiences, I've found that common-sense approaches to problem solving are the best way to lead. That's what I promise to do for you and for the City of Fairfax. I'll represent and listen to everyone to create new and creative solutions to the issues we face as a community, using my experience and unique background.



Portraying Chef Louis is senior Ian Kirkland. "He's a crazy chef infatuated with cooking fish," said Kirkland. "He's basically a cartoon character come to life, which makes him really fun to play. He's flamboyant, excitable and pretty outrageous. He's also a villain because he tries to cook Sebastian the crab for the palace dinner for Ariel."

Kirkland likes exploring his character's quirks. "As Chef Louis, I get to have a French accent and be super-exuberant with my expressions," he explained. "And my physical motions are over the top. My character is so silly and funny, kids will love him, even though he's a villain."

In the "Under the Sea" number, however, Kirkland is a puffer fish singing with the ensemble. "It's a paradigm of the sea life we're portraying," he said. "Everyone's lively and has their own character, while still uniting to support Sebastian."

He said audiences will love the show's vibrant nature. "Everything is there to wow people," said Kirkland. "They just have to sit there and let us entertain them. The crazy characters will make them laugh and really draw them into this world of 'The Little Mermaid.""

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

BULLETIN BOARD

From Page 6

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/APRIL 19

- **FACETS "Opening Doors" Breakfast.** 7-9 a.m. at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Free. To educate the public and local businesses about FACETS' work to help people who are struggling in the Fairfax community. Several FACETS' clients will be sharing their experiences with homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Register at www.FACETScares.org or contact 703-352-3268.
- **Opioid Crisis Conversation.** 7 p.m. in the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. This community health emergency affects all ages, cultural backgrounds, income levels and neighborhoods. Join the city's conversation on the opioid crisis with an outreach panel discussion featuring first responders, educators, health-service providers, and public-safety officials. A question-andanswer period will follow. Call 703-385-7894.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

- RSVP Lunch and Learn. Noon at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. "The Importance of Volunteerism in Retirement" with George Mason assistant professor Dr. Patrice Winter, during an RSVP Northern Virginia Lunch and Learn. Free, includes a free healthy lunch, open to all of those who are 55 and older. RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is the region's largest volunteer group for seniors, offering more than 200 meaningful volunteer opportunities in the region. To sign up for lunch and learn, email
 - chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-403-5360. Visit www.rsvpnova.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

- Special Education Conference. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Dr. Pamela Mims, the keynote speaker, will present Using Evidence to Guide Practice: Justifying Inclusion for All. Choose from over 60 workshops. Register online at www.fcps.edu/spedconference2018 or call 703-204-3941.
- **Dr. Walter Brueggemann Discussion**. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Brueggemann is speaking on "Life Outside the Toxicity of Our Common Culture." He will also teach and preach Sunday morning. Childcare available by reservation. Free. Visit gracepreshy org
- reservation. Free. Visit gracepresby.org. Unsung Heroes and Presidential Awards Recognition Breakfast. 9 a.m. at the Waterford Events Center in Springfield. The featured guest artist will be saxophonist,Tony Craddock, Jr. Cost is \$24 for adults; \$20 for children 6-12. Ages 5 and under are free. Reservations are required, and tickets can be purchased by calling 703-239- 9111.
- VA Legislative Wrap-Up. 9-11:30 a.m. at Virginia International University, Conference Hall (VD-301), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Panel discussion with Northern Virginia State officials to review the Legislative Session in Richmond. The Legislative Wrap-Up provides an overview of what happened during this year's session, what didn't, and what it means for the region and the state. Bring questions and concerns. Free and open to the public. Call 703-865-0287 or visit www.facebook.com/events/ 174554143196661.
- Nutrition Information. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at all Wegman's Food Markets. Learn about Wegman's *Food You Feel Good About* products, and in celebration of Earth Day, learn about sustainability at Wegmans and participate in the company's plastic bag exchange. Samples will be offered in a variety of departments. Visit www.wegmans.com.
- Banking for Success. 1-4 p.m. at South County Government Center, 3851 Richmond Highway. NAACP Fairfax County presents Banking for Success, an interactive workshop with banking experts from BB&T Bank and a financial planner from Primerica Financial Services. Learn the steps that can lead to successful financial growth. Content is geared toward ages 18-30 but all are welcome. Free, space is limited. Refreshments and doorprizes. Register at 703-628-8438 or community@fairfaxnaacp.org.



BUSINESS

DIRECTORY

If Only It Were That Simple



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I immerse you regular readers in the excruciating details of my cancer-affected life, rarely do I bombard unsuspecting conversationalists who unknowingly yet sincerely wander into territory with which many of you are intimately detailed. Not that I don't have stories to tell, and/or perhaps even unsolicited advice to offer; generally speaking, if I can avoid it, I don't want to drag the conversation into a cancer-centric black hole.

It's not because I'm uncomfortable talking about cancer, or that I would feel it an inappropriate invasion of my privacy, or that I would feel the need to blather on non-stop. Hardly. But I would see it as the end of an innocent inquiry undone that then takes on a more empathetic, sympathetic and possibly even pathetic tone, some of which might make me uncomfortable.

The reason being: part of what feeds my self-preservation and sense of well-being is reading and reacting to the feedback I receive from others when the subject matter turns to cancer, however well-meaning their intentions may have been.

Sometimes the reactions I get aren't helpful ("Tell me Ken, how's it feel to know you're going to die?"). Sometimes, I find myself rationalizing, explaining and revisiting issues and experiences more helpful and of interest to the party that asked the question rather than to yours truly who's now having to answer the question. Not that I don't want to be helpful or have difficulty empathizing; nothing could be further from the truth.

It's more that I don't want to see their expressions/hear their apologies when their innocent question ("So what do you do?") elicits an extremely unexpected answer. "Not too much. I have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer."

Then I have to decide how I involved I want to get them in my life. Since I'd just as soon not get them involved for all the reasons I've outlined, usually I deflect their questions and/or redirect them away from me and back to them. I don't exactly shut them down. It's more like a gentle closing. I'm not rude or the least bit off-putting. I'm more like a traffic cop re-routing emotions to avoid any accidents – for all parties engaged.

My experience has been that responding to an innocent question with a "I have terminal-cancer"-type bombshell tends to take the conversation in an entirely different direction than likely intended. The seriousness of my response/situation and the emotions – maybe even memories it stirs in the person who asked the question, can hijack an evening and cause at least for a few minutes anyway, a rather dreary dynamic. All of which I don't want to happen and more so, don't need to happen. As a cancer patient, I don't need dreary. I don't need pity. I don't need negativity. I need humor. I need encouragement and compliments. I need to be made to feel, as Tony the Tiger might say: "Not just good, but GREAT!"

When I assess my nine-plus years postdiagnosis; having lived now years beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I can't quite attribute my amazing good fortune to anything in particular. However, I will admit to this: trying not think about my diagnosis/prognosis too much, trying to remain positive, trying to be funny and self-effacing, and trying to avoid people and situations where I might feel bad, are all components. Are they working to keep me alive more than the medicine, my pills and my miscellaneous non-Western alternatives are?

Yet another question or two I'd rather not answer.

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



16 Stairfax Connection Stair 19-25, 2018