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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

PAGE 12

Britepaths Executive Director
Lisa Whetzel at the podium
during the Artful Living event
benefiting families, students.

Fairfax CONNECTION

Talent and Generosity Share the Spotlight

NEWS, PAGE 17

Lucky Half Penny
NEWS, PAGE 9

FACETS Hosts 'Opening
Door' Breakfast
NEWS, PAGE 3



Vote So Lim for Fairfax City Council

Vote May 1, 2018

Endorsements from those effecting
City of Fairfax residents of various levels



"I'm supporting So Lim for City Council because she is ready to listen, lead, and get things done."

Congressman Gerry Connolly



"As residents and business owners in Fairfax City, we support So Lim. She has the business experience we need on City Council. Please join us in voting for her."

Chap & Sharon Petersen



Delegate David Bulova

I plan to make sure the City Council is collaborating, communicating and working, with businesses, with community organizations and each and every resident to make the City the best place to live, work and play.

My motivation for running for the City Council is based on a desire to give back to the community in the best way that I can, to serve others by devoting my time and full attention to the City. If elected, I will be an effective and passionate advocate for all City of Fairfax residents.

Learn more at: solimforcitycouncil.com

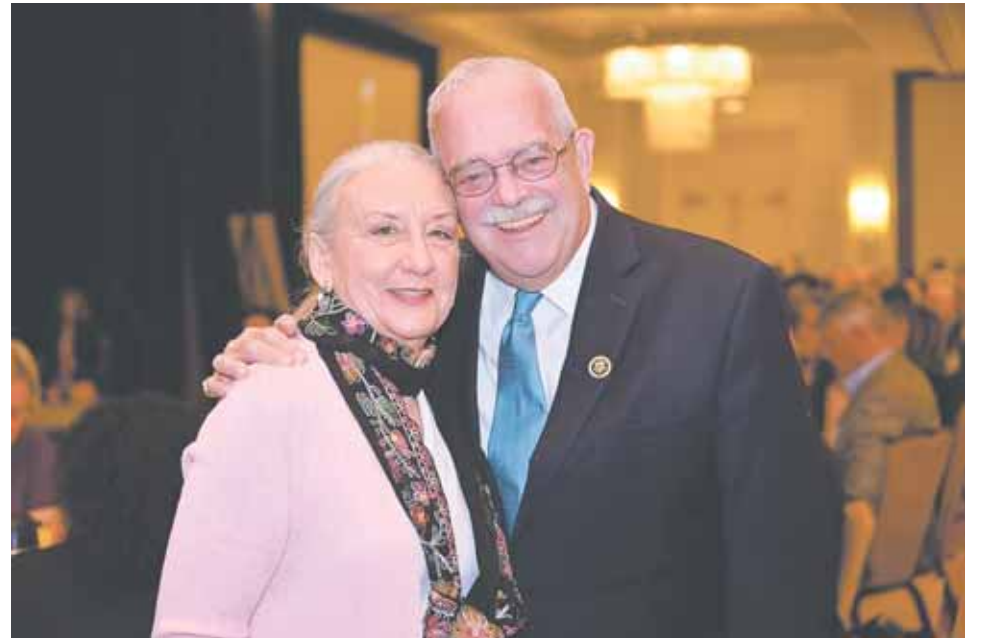
Paid for and Authorized by So Lim for City Council



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



NBC4 Northern Virginia Bureau Chief Julie Carey was the emcee for the FACETS' 30th Annual "Opening Doors" Breakfast. Carey was joined by FACETS Executive Director Joe Fay, Case Manager Robert Tindall (left) and Michael O'Reilly, chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness (right) before the start of the program.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was in attendance and added his praise for Linda Wimpey, who founded FACETS as a community outreach hot meals program in July of 1988. Connolly said that Wimpey was a driving force for the county's efforts to prevent and end homelessness, describing her as a "quiet disruptor," finding ways to get things done.

Honoring the Past; Focused on the Future

FACETS celebrates 30th annual "Opening Doors" benefit breakfast.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Television station NBC4's Northern Virginia Bureau Chief Julie Carey emceed the event at the Marriott Fairview Park, celebrating the 30th birthday of non-profit FACETS at the group's annual "Opening Doors" Breakfast. For its years of community service, FACETS received many kudos, but as Carey and others noted, meeting FACETS's clients, hearing their stories of struggle and of success, and focusing on the future and understanding how much more has yet to be done, was the main mission of the day.

FACETS has been tackling the causes and consequences of poverty and homelessness in Fairfax County since July of 1988, when founder Linda Wimpey started a "hot meals" program for the people she saw in need, delivering food three nights a week with the assistance of a few area churches.

Thirty years later, that simple outreach effort has evolved into a multi-faceted operation. FACETS still offers hot meals and supplies from their emergency pantry, but now, armed with a staff of professionals and the aid of some 50 faith-based communities and scores of volunteers, the organization can do more to support families and individuals living in poverty, or who are homeless or at risk of becoming so.

Case managers work with single adults and families, helping to stabilize them, avoiding eviction where possible, offering temporary accommodations where needed and assisting them toward achieving permanent housing. Parents and families receive support and training in financial, computer and life skills and are guided in accessing the tools and services needed to

improve their lives. Clients are also connected with medical resources, including mental health services.

Not satisfied with addressing the needs of the moment, FACETS seeks to break the poverty cycle by providing programs for children and teens — help with homework, mentoring, school supplies, and college or career planning — just some of the offerings. In FY2015, 301 youth participated in FACETS community programs. Nearly 65 percent of those who had educational assistance achieved honor roll status, and all of the graduating seniors went on to higher forms of education.

IN THE WINTER, FACETS also partners with the county and a number of faith-based communities to operate the Hypothermia Prevention Program, offering overnight accommodations, meals and other services to the homeless.

Ralph Menzel, president of the West Springfield Rotary Club, presented Wimpey with a certificate from the Rotarians, recognizing her service to neighbors in need.

In his remarks honoring Wimpey during the breakfast, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) credited her with sparking his own dedication years ago to solving the problem of poverty and homelessness in Fairfax County, taking him and his young daughter on a "ride-along" to serve meals to area homeless.

"It was eye-opening," said Connolly. "People were literally coming up out of culverts to get a hot meal. There were men in business suits. I couldn't believe what I was seeing in our own backyard."

Connolly praised Wimpey and all of FACETS as being instrumental in the development of the county's official response to the



Rachel and her husband came to be clients of FACETS through the winter Hypothermia Prevention program. At the event, she spoke about their struggles and ultimate successes. The couple experienced four years of housing insecurity and homelessness, despite both of them working.

issue. During Connolly's tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, first as Providence District supervisor and then as board chair, the county's governing body embraced the goal, establishing an Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.

"There's been a 47 percent reduction in homelessness in our community," said Connolly. "More to do, but good steps in the right direction." Connolly also brought a recognition — an official Congressional Proclamation honoring FACETS — that received unanimous Congressional approval. "That really says something about your work. That's not something you see these days."

Accepting the declaration was Joe Fay, executive director of FACETS, who said that the credit goes to all of the staff, volunteers and supporters of the organization. "You all

give with your hearts and your hands."

Fay acknowledged that the "next 30 years will bring an even greater challenge" as the costs of housing and basic needs continue to increase. More education, training and support will be needed to help residents gain employment that will achieve FACETS's mission — a community "where everyone has a place to call home." Fay said that the FACETS team is working to meet those increasing demands.

THREE OF THE FACETS' CLIENTS agreed to tell their stories to the attendees, although without publication of their surnames.

Pam spoke for herself and her husband Chris. They had experienced almost four years of transitory housing or homelessness, even though they both worked. "It just wasn't enough to make it," said Pam.

Rachel, who had earned a nursing degree in Florida, fell on hard times when she escaped an untenable family situation there and moved to the area with her partner. "It was really humbling. I never thought this could happen to me. Now, I may not have much, but I have my own place and a place to put my things." Rachel is hopeful that she will one day soon be "a nurse in one of our fine hospitals here."

Howa, from a Somali refugee family, participated in FACETS' youth program, crediting the staff and her mentors there with helping her to graduate from Old Dominion University. "My case worker even came on the admissions tour and asked all of the questions I never thought to ask."

As the event concluded, the attendees were urged to sign financial commitment pledges before leaving the event. As former FACETS mentor Julie Wood said, as she provided the pledge instructions, "you see where your money goes and how much good it can do."

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STAYING SAFE TOGETHER

May is National Bike Month! Expect more people biking on roads and trails. Here are some safety tips from BikeFairfax.

SPEED LIMIT 35

Follow posted speed limits.

Come to a complete stop at red lights and stop signs, including when turning right. Always yield to people crossing the street.

Avoid distractions. Never text while operating a vehicle.

Join us for the National Bike Challenge - May
Bike to School Day - May 9 and
Bike to Work Day - May 18
fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk

News



Spring Has Sprung in Fairfax City BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
These pink cherry trees outside Fairfax City Hall on Armstrong Street signal the start of spring.

‘Young Marine of the Year’

The Young Marines, a national youth organization, named its Division 2 Young Marine of the Year – YM Sgt. Maj. Lauren Loria, 16, of Fairfax. She is a member of the Col. Wesley Fox Young Marines under the command of Terri Loria. The unit meets in Sterling, Va. Loria is a junior at Chantilly High School.

Loria is the top Young Marine in Division 2 which includes five states: Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Over the course of the year, she will travel to other units throughout the division to lead, motivate, and serve as a role model.

“I feel greatly honored and empowered being named Young Marine of the Year for Division 2,” Loria said. “This has been something I thought was unattainable as a young private, but now that I look back, each step in my Young Marine career has led me to this point.”

Loria joined the Young Marines at age 8 and is in her eighth year in the program.

“I first joined the Young Marines, because my brother had been in it for a few years,” Loria said. “After I spent some time in the program, I developed a passion for teaching other Young Marines and being a part of a team.”

Loria received the Commendation of Merit for an outstanding job as 1st Sgt. during Division 2’s Frozen Chosen. She also earned a Distinguished Order of Merit for dedicating a park bench in honor of Col. Wesley Fox. Loria has been entered in the Congressional Record for her numerous community service hours.

Outside of the Young Marines, Loria plays soccer and the flute. In addition, she enjoys painting and creating jewelry.

Her goals after high school are to enroll in Northern Virginia Community College to earn an associate degree in Engineering and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Lauren Loria, 16, of Fairfax

continue to Ohio State University to become a mechanical engineer.

“The Young Marines definitely helped me in identifying a career,” she said. “I believe I have the leadership skills and confidence to pursue it.”

As Division 2 Young Marine of the Year, Loria will escort WWII veterans next spring to the annual Reunion of Honor trip to Guam and Iwo Jima.

One of Loria’s biggest supporters is Terri Loria who is not only her mother but the commander of the Col. Wesley Fox Young Marines. Her brother Alex Loria was a Young Marine for nine years, and he was awarded the Jimmie Trimble Scholarship.

“The Young Marines has taught me how to teach others and accomplish more as a member of a team,” Loria said. “It has shaped me into the confident leader I am today.”

For more information, visit www.YoungMarines.com.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Brothers Lane and Jackson Halpern are ready to eat their pancakes, sausage, bacon and biscuits at last year's event.

Pancake Breakfast Helps Children with Cancer

Fundraiser for Ellie's Hats is Saturday, May 5.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In 2013, teacher Jay Coakley began Ellie's Hats to cheer up one of his students, a then-5-year-old named Ellie, who'd been diagnosed with leukemia. When she lost her hair from her treatments, she wore hats to school every day, so Coakley organized a hat drive to get her more.

Realizing he could bring similar happiness to other young, cancer patients – and also raise awareness about the disease – he founded the nonprofit Ellie's Hats. And on Saturday, May 5, from 8-11 a.m., the third annual Ellie's Hats Pancake Breakfast fundraiser will be held at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St. in the City of Fairfax.

An extensive breakfast-buffet menu will be offered, including a pancake bar with toppings such as whipped cream, chocolate chips, blueberries and strawberries. Attendees may also feast on eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, fruit, juice and coffee. Cost is \$15, adults; \$5, children; \$35, family. Tickets are going fast, but they may still be purchased at <https://birdeasepro.com/ElliesHatsPancakeBreakfast>.

The Sons of the American Legion are donating their time and efforts to prepare the meal. And

new this year, said Coakley, "We have invited 25 families who have been affected by childhood cancer to join us at no cost. We are able to do this because of generous people who donated so we could provide tickets to these families."

The event will also feature a raffle. "This year, we are excited to have many of our supporters donating elaborate baskets," said Coakley. "They have themes including: Wine and Cheese, Beach, Girls Spa and Sleepover, Superhero, Princess, Date Night, Fitness, and Skincare." We also have prizes generously donated from Bowl America, Flight Trampoline, Rodan & Fields, Beachbody, Gray Kitty Boutique, and Keep Collective Jewelry."

Hoping for a good turnout, Coakley said, "The proceeds will enable Ellie's Hats to continue donating hats to children battling cancer. But Ellie's Hats finds other ways to help pediatric cancer patients and their families, too. This could be by donating gas cards or gift certificates or making a monetary contribution."

Ellie's Hats also works with Inova Children's Hospital to provide "Hero Bags" to newly admitted, pediatric cancer patients. They contain items chosen by the Inova Child Life Specialist that help families while their child is in the hospital. °

The pancake breakfast's main sponsors are Mystek Systems, Jim Maahs and VanLahr, P.C., All State Agency Owners, and Mike and Christine Angles. For more information about Ellie's Hats, go to www.ellieshats.org.

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BEFORE



The day of living history includes music, dance, history talks, blacksmithing, cow-milking, plus hayrides and 19th century games.

Fairfax History Day Debuts April 28

Children might come for the dairy cow-milking demonstrations and pony rides, but they — and adults — will stay for the range of living history during Fairfax History Day, Saturday, April 28, at Historic Blenheim.

The debut of this ambitious event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., focuses on a period that

covers the 1800 opening of the new County courthouse and how it impacted the creation and growth of the town throughout the 19th century. It will be a day for visitors to learn about the city's dynamic past in a setting where rich history actually occurred.

And those cows? They're not simply a lure for the little ones. Fairfax was a dominant dairy-pro-

ducing region in the Commonwealth of Virginia throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"We created a program with broad appeal not only for those interested in Fairfax's history, but also for those who may have never visited the Historic Blenheim site before," said Chris Martin, director of the Office of Historic Resources. "Blenheim, of course, is

nationally famous for containing the best preserved and most voluminous Civil War soldier signatures and writings inside the home, and families can take graffiti tours throughout the day."

With a daylong lineup of living history interpreters, demonstrations and speakers, attendees will learn about the vibrant life of a community along the Little River

Turnpike — chartered in 1805 as Providence and known during the Civil War as Fairfax Court House.

Visitors can take in living history through the diverse lenses of farmers, slave life and foodways, soldiers, tradesmen and tavern keepers. They'll also learn how the War of 1812 and Civil War impacted Fairfax.

Admission for adults is \$5; youth 3-12, \$3; and kids 2 and under, free.

This event is produced by the City of Fairfax Office of Historic Resources and Historic Fairfax City, Inc. For more information — including directions and parking — visit www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-591-0560.

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AARP
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Every day, hundreds of local residents lose their hard-earned money to a variety of fraud schemes. In fact, every 2 seconds, a con artist steals someone's identity!

To strike back against scammers, AARP Virginia and Fairfax County Government's Silver Shield Task Force are bringing together top experts and law enforcement officials to present at a free informational Scam Jam.

The presenters will discuss scams targeting Virginians, such as fake solicitor schemes, bogus investment deals, lottery scams, email fraud, a grandparent ruse and the latest identity theft shams.

FREE FRAUD EVENT

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

*shred truck will be on-site from 8 a.m. – Noon

Fairfax County Government Center | Board Auditorium
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Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call Melissa Smarr, 703-324-1929, TTY 711.



Sallyann Bergh

Fairfax Futures Welcomes New Executive Director

Sallyann Bergh joins Fairfax Futures as its new executive director, replacing Vera Blore, who is relocating after having served in the role for nearly eight years. Bergh joins the organization after a five-year stint at the Pew Charitable Trusts.

"We are delighted to welcome Sallyann Bergh to this key leadership position at Fairfax Futures," said Cathy Lange, Chairman of the organization. "Through her work at the Pew Charitable Trusts, she understands the importance of investing in quality early childhood education as key to school readiness and later academic and workforce success. The Board of Directors looks forward to working with her as we continue to partner with Fairfax County Office for Children, Northern Virginia area corporations and community organizations to achieve shared goals that support families and employers in our region."

Fairfax Futures is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that Fairfax County's youngest children are well prepared to succeed in school and in life.

NEWS

Michele Thames, executive director of SafeSpot, with Tim Sargeant, external affairs manager for Dominion Energy.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SafeSpot Receives \$5K Grant from Dominion Energy

SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax, one of 16 child advocacy agencies in Virginia, received a \$5,000 grant from the charitable arm of Dominion Energy. Funds from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation will support Fairfax County children who are victims of abuse.

"SafeSpot is exactly what its name implies – a safe, culturally-sensitive place that puts the needs of the child as the top priority," said Michele Thames, executive director. "Our therapists are specially trained to offer on-site trauma assessments for children who have come to us from a crisis situation at home," she said. "Working in collaboration with local law enforcement and child protective services, SafeSpot develops strategies that are in the best interests of the child."

"Child abuse in Fairfax County occurs at every so-

cioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all education levels," she added. "More than 400 children were assisted by SafeSpot in 2017. This generous grant from Dominion Energy will enable us to serve even more children in 2018 and beyond. We aim to decrease the impact that abuse will have on children later in life." For more information, visit safespotfairfax.org.

As part of its ongoing commitment to communities, Dominion Energy launched the new year with more than \$1 million in Critical Community Needs grants to help feed, shelter and care for people in need across the company's footprint. Donations were shared by 161 nonprofit organizations providing critical community services in 11 states. For more information, visit dominionenergy.com.

My name is Joe Harmon, and I want to be your voice on the City Council.

Our city is at a critical juncture between development and the vision we want for our future.

Our Fairfax should be a destination for the arts, entertainment, and history in Old Town; a place for innovation and commerce in Northfax at Chain Bridge Road and Fairfax Boulevard; and a strategic partner with George Mason University.

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

Please vote for me, Joseph Harmon for City Council, thank you!

Vote on May 1st!



www.JoeHarmon.com

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Budget Hits All the Right Notes

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



During Tuesday, April 24's Board of Supervisors Meeting, the Board marked up the FY2019 Advertised Budget by a vote of 8-2. Formal adoption of the budget will take place on May 1. I would like to share with you my remarks prior to our vote [on Tuesday] morning:

The process for adopting the County Budget every year is all about community engagement. Fiscal Year 2019 is no exception, with Budget Forums and Town Hall Meetings hosted in each of our nine Districts, Budget Committee meetings (which included our partners on the School Board), and three days of public hearings on the Advertised Budget earlier this month. Since February, our offices have received hundreds, if not thousands, of letters, e-mail messages,

phone calls and personal visits from our constituents.

The Budget "mood" this year was harmonic, thanks to an Advertised Budget that I believe hit all of the right notes.

The Budget that we are about to "Mark-Up," or amend, is based on a tax rate of \$1.15. The package:

- ❖ Fully funds the School Board's request, bringing teachers' salaries

into competitive alignment with our sister jurisdictions in the region;

- ❖ Overall support for our school system is increased by \$91.49 million or 4.22 percent over Fiscal Year 2018, with 52.8 percent of our General Fund Budget going to schools;

- ❖ Fully funds compensation for our County employees with a 2.25 percent Market Rate Adjustment, Performance, Merit and Longevity increases;

- ❖ Includes funding for Fairfax First, Gang Prevention, the expansion of Diversion First

and Opportunity Neighborhoods, additional slots for Early Childhood programs, and funding to address the Opioid Crisis;

- ❖ Provides an increase in funding for Metro (pending a long-term solution), VRE and our Connector Bus System.

While this Mark-Up package includes a 2 cent increase in the real estate tax rate, an increase of \$241 on the average annual tax bill, I believe the additional revenue is an important investment needed to shore up the foundation on which our quality of life rests.

I want to thank Budget Committee Chairman Jeff McKay for his excellent work bringing this Mark-Up Package to the Board today, along with Budget Guidance that addresses issues discussed during budget deliberations with each of our colleagues. Adoption of a Budget every year requires the good faith collaboration of each member of our Board and I appreciate everyone's willingness to come together on a Budget process that moves Fairfax County forward.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to Rediscover Libraries

To the Editor:

As a current high school teacher in Fairfax County, and a future school librarian, I frequently hear the question, "Why do you want to be a librarian? Do kids even read anymore?" April is National School Library Month, and I'd like to take the opportunity to clarify the answers to these questions.

In my school, the library is not only already an essential part of the school, it is filled with untapped potential as well, because so many parents, students, and teachers are not aware of all of the opportunities that are available. Our school library provides our students with technology access, research stations, a place to work and research, but also has lunch programs to help students meet each other and make friends; on some days during lunch there is a

knitting group that meets. Students meet and teach each other to create new stitches and patterns, and you haven't seen a school united until you've seen a freshman girl patiently demonstrating a stitch for the third time to a senior football player. We have a book club that meets during our remediation period once a month. The kids pick the books, and have some of the most lively discussions I've heard.

Even more than this, our library is teaching our students how to be digital citizens and 21st century learners. They foster curiosity — not always an easy feat in high schoolers. They have a coding station where our students can learn to code, even if they aren't taking computer science classes, and a media lab where students produce, film, and present daily announcements for the school. They are trying to get a 3D printer in the library, as well as virtual reality technology to allow our students to explore places and ideas to which they might never other-

wise have access.

So yes, kids do still read. But these also aren't the same school libraries that we had; no longer is the library a silent, intimidating tomb of books. Go check out your local school library after school one day in April — you might just be surprised at what you find!

Meagan Major
Fairfax

Stopping Violence in Any Form

To the Editor:

In response to your last week's opinion piece calling a new state license plate with the words "Stop Gun Violence" a small victory, I offer the following:

I notice that the Virginia General Assembly and the Governor have passed a bill for a new license plate with the words "Stop Gun Violence" on it. There are

those of us who are opposed to violence in any form — knife violence, explosives violence, poison violence, vehicular violence, and the like. Everett Piper recently stated: "Take away guns and we'll use a knife. Take away knives and we'll use a club. Take away clubs, and we'll use a rock." The lead editorial in the 4-10-18 edition of The Washington Times observed that knifings across the British Isles are up 21 percent. Stabbings in London in 2017 are at their highest level in 6 years, up 23 percent over the previous year. Knives and acid are the two most common weapons used in London. Violence starts in the heart — not in the hand.

The Virginia General Assembly's myopic focus on guns is not the solution to stopping violence. I suggest the General Assembly and Governor would better serve Virginians by renaming the license plate "Stop Violence".

Paul McIlvaine
Alexandria

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 Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or 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 Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary

schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

DOCENTS WANTED

Docents Needed. Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for people who live in the Fairfax, Burke, Clifton or Fairfax Station area and want to

contribute to the local community through volunteerism. This is a perfect opportunity for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call Michael at 703-945-7483.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Celebrate Arbor Day. 1 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The City of Fairfax will plant

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 19

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NEWS

April West, a Fairfax County employee and union member, spoke about the importance of retirement security for working families at public hearings before the Board of Supervisors earlier in April.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lucky Half Penny

Supervisors drop a half-cent from the proposed 2.5 cent increase in real estate tax rate.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

The Board of Supervisors dropped one half cent for the FY 2019 advertised budget in a 8-2 vote Tuesday, April 24.

"This is the fewest number of changes we've made to the budget in recent years. And I think a lot of that is a reflection on our desire to fund a lot of needs that exist in the county," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, at the board's budget committee meeting on Friday, April 19.

The Board of Supervisors will officially adopt its FY 2019 Budget on May 1.

"The recommendation is to go from a two and a half cent increase to a two cent increase, so going to \$1.15 as the new rate for FY 2019," said Joe Mondoro, the county's chief financial officer/director.

That translates to a drop from \$268 to \$241 for the average taxpayer on this year's real estate bill.

"We need to identify \$12.3 million," said Mondoro. "We are doing that in proportions, schools and county, just as we did with the building of the budget, so the impact is felt by both and as a result of the actions will maintain the 52.8 percent allocation to schools and will maintain the same growth rate for county and schools. That growth rate will be 4.2 percent as a result of this action. For the school side, the adjustment is \$3.6 million."

Supervisors expressed concern that they are providing more money to schools for teacher salaries, but schools plan to spend more than \$17 million of the funds for administrators, not teachers.

"The bottom line, for me, is that they are still talking very significant increases for administrators in one year," said John Foust, Dranesville District supervisor.

SEVERAL SUPERVISORS complained that they needed detailed information from the schools about raises for administrators, but they hadn't gotten that information as the vote approaches.

"I don't think we have the information we need to get them that money," said Foust.

"We're hoping we're going to have more definitive numbers before we have to act on this," said McKay. "The point is, we should have that information and we should be able to view it and we should be able to have it sooner rather than later since we have to take action on this on Tuesday."

"Tuesday is going to come real quick," said Foust at the Friday meeting. "They have to lay it out."

Pat Herrity added that School Board members hadn't gotten the answers to these questions either.

IN AN UNUSUAL TWIST, the General Assembly has still not approved the budget, injecting some uncertainty to how much the county and schools can expect to receive.

But overall, the news on state funding appeared to be good, with additional revenue from the state included in all three versions of the state budget, House of Delegates, Senate and Governor.

"As the board is aware, there is not yet a state budget. However, the \$900,000 that we're identifying here is included in all three the Governor, the House and the Senate versions of the budget so staff felt comfortable that recognizing this amount of money add on, which is typically what we would do, made sense," said Mondoro.

"And so the addition of that \$900,000 to the advertised balance that the county executive identified for you in February of \$3.9 million means going into markup there's \$4.8 million available to the board," he said.

Negotiations continue at the state level about expanding Medicaid, with the House of Delegates' and Governor's versions of the budget including the expansion. With expansion of Medicaid comes significant extra funding.

"Should Medicaid expansion happen, we should make sure as quickly as possible that we sit down back at this table and take a look at the results of that will be," Chairman Sharon Bulova said.



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NEWS

OLLI Talk on ‘Beyond the Whispers’

With dog Angus, members of Virginia Task Force 1 give lecture to OLLI seniors.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Members of the International Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 gave the PowerPoint lecture and demonstration, “Beyond the Whispers,” to a crowd of 50 seniors at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University on Friday, April 13, 2018.

Paul Serzan, a Firefighter Paramedic and K9 Handler with Virginia Task Force 1, who brought his dog Angus, gave the presentation along with Capt. Alex Obert of the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department, on the work they do to save people’s lives. With the assistance from Angus, a 7-year-old American purebred Black Labrador Retriever, they demonstrated outdoors how dogs, through smell, can find people trapped under buildings or rubble.

Serzan, who has 10 years with the Fairfax County Fire Department and seven years on the Virginia Task Force 1, is certified in disaster and wilderness live find, so he’s an expert on finding lost hikers, someone wandering with Alzheimer’s or autism or anybody trapped in rubble.

Capt. Obert, who has been with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for almost 17 years, and with the Task Force 1 for 12 years, works as Station Captain at the Fair Oaks Firehouse on Route 50. The Task Force has both international (USAR Team 1) and domestic (Virginia Task Force 1) disaster response experience.

They said the world-famous Task Force 1 Team is called into action during natural disasters like flooding, typhoons, tornadoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, and cyclones in addition to bombings. It has been deployed internationally to Nepal, Japan, and Haiti; as well as Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and to the bombing in Oklahoma City.

THE TEAM, which was established in 1986 after helping on an earthquake in Mexico City, relies on the expertise of its emergency managers, planners, physicians and paramedics and includes specialists in structural engineering, heavy rigging, collapse rescue, logistics, hazardous materials, communications, canine and technical search.

“We have 210 members to fill 19 positions. We are able to deploy multiple teams at any time. We can go out as a heavy team and medium team without a problem and still have people and firefighters, men and women, that are able to respond to emergencies here in Fairfax County,” said Serzan. “We don’t have to call for mutual aid. We have everybody that we need from our department. There’s no putting units out of service. There will always be a fire engine at every single house fully staffed.”

He continued: “We are highly trained and deployable at any moment’s notice.... Our average deployment is supposed to last 10-



Paul Serzan, a Firefighter Paramedic and K9 Handler with the Virginia Task Force 1, works with his dog Angus during a talk at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for seniors on Friday, April 13, 2018.



Stephanie Trachtenberg, OLLI Special Events Committee Volunteer.



Alex Obert, Captain, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue.

14 days; it’s gone up to 21; and when we went to Puerto Rico it was 24. We are able to work 24-hours nonstop at two sites, and that’s what the United Nations requires us to do in order to be certified with them to go to international deployments to be able to work. So, we have enough people, enough men and women to take care of that.”

Founded in 1991, OLLI at GMU was inspired by the Fairfax County Commission on Aging and visionaries Kathryn Brooks,

Lilyan Spero, Ken Plum and Shirley Fox. It began as a learning in retirement nonprofit center with 100 members. Today the institute has blossomed into a multi-campus operation (located in Fairfax, Reston and Sterling) with 1,200 members across Northern Virginia.

Affiliated with George Mason University, OLLI offers classes for seniors and retirees but there’s no age restriction, no homework, no exams, no grades, and no credit, said Karen Nash, Finance Associate with OLLI. The instructors come from GMU, the community, or are OLLI members themselves. Classes are free but the annual membership is \$425 or an introduction membership is \$150.

According to Rita Way, OLLI Board Member, OLLI offers 200 courses in its Spring catalogue including classes on music, art, philosophy, history, science, writing and more. In addition, there are OLLI clubs that members have formed, such as writing, needlework, classical reading or music, as well as special events like field trips to museums, plays and musical performances.

“OLLI is a wonderful institute for those of us that have either retired or have the

time now to enjoy getting more education. There are marvelous courses that are authored,” said Way.

“You can get involved as much as you want or as little as you want, and perhaps do things that you were never able to do when you had a job.”

According to Stephanie Trachtenberg, OLLI Special Events Committee Volunteer, “OLLI is made up of people who want to continue learning. You become a member and you can take unlimited classes on any topic. There’s a catalogue that’s put out by term.”

EXAMPLES of OLLI classes include speaker Amelia Draper, the weather person from NBC-4; Eye Health for Age 55 and Older with a local optometrist; and NBC-4 News Reporter David Culver.

“We had a breakfast this morning honoring the OLLI teachers and the main message that came out was we just love learning and we love to have fun, and that’s what retirement should be about,” said Trachtenberg, a member since 2013.

For more information on OLLI, visit the website: www.olligmu.edu.



About 50 people attended the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute discussion.

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Public Hearings

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Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings/default.asp> beginning April 16, 2018.

Public meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

Monday, April 16, 2018 Hampton Roads - Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320	Thursday, April 19, 2018 Lynchburg - VDOT Lynchburg District Office Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Richmond - Hilton Garden Inn 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834
Monday, April 30, 2018* Northern Virginia - Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030	Thursday, May 3, 2018 Staunton - Holiday Inn and Conference Center 152 Fairway Lane Staunton, VA 24402	Monday, May 7, 2018 Culpeper - Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
Tuesday May 8, 2018 Fredericksburg - Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408	Thursday, May 10, 2018 Salem - Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017	Monday, May 14, 2018 Bristol - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210

You can also submit your comments by email or mail by May 30, 2018:

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Affording Summer Camp

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the great pleasures of summer is going to camp. From kayaking and rock climbing to horseback riding and sailing, camp is a place where lifelong memories are created. A recent study by the non-profit, global policy think tank RAND Corporation shows that voluntary summer programs like camp have a significant, positive impact on low-income students during a time when they fall behind their wealthier peers both academically and socially.

Katie Crump, a case manager at Interfaith Works, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the poor and underserved, says that the luxury of summer camp often eludes those who need it most.

"The opportunity of attending a real summer camp is a big thing for them. Unfortunately, this experience can be unattainable due to the high cost and finding transportation among other things," said Crump. "Attending summer camp affords kids a special and important experience that's all their own. It allows kids to be kids, something that is particularly vital for low-income children who are often forced to deal with the burdens of adulthood at a young age."

Despite the cost of summer camp, keeping children engaged during the stretch of

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time between June and August when school is not in session is a critical part of their development, says Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University.

"Summer camps give opportunities for children to develop social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral skills," he said. "Some research shows that higher [socioeconomic status] children increase academic and behavioral skills over the summer and lower [socioeconomic status] children lose skills over the summer. Research shows that lower [socioeconomic status] children benefit from learning social and behavioral skills in different settings with new peers and challenges to apply their skills."

Even with limited resources, summer camps can still be accessible, says Tom Rosenberg, president and CEO of the American Camp Association (ACA). "There is a camp for every budget," he said "[Most] ACA-accredited camps provide some form

SEE SUMMER CAMP, PAGE 13

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Affording Summer Camp

FROM PAGE 12

of scholarship assistance. Reach out to the camp directly to ask about specific financial aid and scholarship options."

The RAND study also showed that even though low-income students can lose up to two months of math and reading skills over the summer, high-quality summer programs can bridge that gap. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camps are an example of programs that can be effective, but possibly unaffordable for some families.

Wolftrap and Colvin Run elementary schools in Fairfax County will be the site of a non-profit STEM camp called Camp Invention. Organized by the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF), the hands-on program is designed for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Through activities like building robots and designing gadgets, campers get a sense of what it's like to be a physicist or engineer.

"The program has sponsors that provide funding that's used to help underrepresented kids attend the camps," said Ken Torisky, spokesman for National Inventors Hall of Fame. "The money is distributed to students by the school district."

Options for financial assistance for summer camp run the gamut from discounts for dependents of those serving in the military to camp funding offered by churches, synagogues, and civic organizations. "I would suggest to parents that they look into their child being sponsored by a local business to attend a camp or look into payment plan options at a camp that they are interested in attending," advised Stacie Gottlieb, director, Bullis Summer and Extended Day Programs in Potomac, Md.

While Bullis does not offer financial assistance for summer camp, Gottlieb says that there are discounts for early registration and registering for multiple weeks of camp.

Parents should check to see if a camp participates in U.S. government assistance programs, particularly those with income eligibility requirements, like Title XX, advises Rosenberg. While it might be too late for this summer, he encourages parents to explore Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts and a Child and Dependent Care tax credit through the FSA Feds website: <https://www.fsafeds.com/>.

"I generally think lower income children benefit when they have

access to the same opportunities as upper-income children and also gain cultural skills and knowledge important to upward mobility when they have opportunity to interact with upper-income kids," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. "I also think

upper-income kids gain mightily when they have genuine interactions with kids from other class backgrounds. Because empathy, cross cultural understanding, and an ability to work in diverse groups are skills that this new century demands, having opportunities to hone those skills are of value for all involved."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME

Children at Camp Invention create tracks for a self-driving robot. This camp has funding to sponsor low-income children this summer.

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SCHOOLS



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The 2018 Fairfax County Spelling Bee awarded first place to Eric Kim of Wakefield Forest Elementary School in Fairfax. Pictured from left: Joni Pepin (Judge), Matthew Shinkman (Judge), Sarah Lundquist (Judge), Bee winner Eric Kim, Barry Giddens (Pronouncer).

Rotary Club of Fairfax Donates Dictionaries to Spelling Bee Competitors

To see a live Spelling Bee “is a real treat,” according to Fairfax Rotary past president Ron Hubbard. He attended the twelfth annual Fairfax County Spelling Bee held at Lake Braddock Secondary School in March. Hubbard represented The Rotary Club of Fairfax, which donated Webster dictionaries to each student who participated in the “Bee.” Competitors included seventy one students, from private and public schools

in the Northern Virginia area. The Fairfax County Council of PTAs organizes the annual event. The Bee winner was Eric Kim, a sixth grader at Wakefield Forest Elementary School in Fairfax.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Fairfax, visit the club’s website at www.fairfaxrotary.org, or email the Rotary Club of Fairfax’s Executive Director, Irby N. Hollans Jr., at ihollans@earthlink.net.

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SCHOOLS

Fairfax High Student Wins Rotary Speech Contest

For the Rotarians in the audience, the statistics were familiar: 35,000 Rotary Clubs, 1.2 million Rotarians in over 200 countries, service projects which vary from providing clean water in third world countries to starting a bully prevention program in local schools. But, the difference in hearing these statistics was their delivery by enthusiastic high school students who entered the Rotary District 7610 speech contest.

The Rotary International theme this year is "Making a Difference." The five speech contest finalists, sponsored by five Rotary clubs in District 7610, impressed the audience as youth who will make a difference in the world. They spoke about what Rotary meant to them, after they learned about the many clubs and their service projects.

Liam McPherson, a junior at Fairfax High School, sponsored by the Fairfax Rotary Club, placed first in the contest. As first place winner, he won a cash prize. His speech took the broader view of how nations can make a difference in the world by improving the quality of life for their citizens. When he spoke about Rotary, he referenced his mother, who received the polio vaccine from Rotarian volunteers in the Philippines. This was the first of many countries which Rotarians and their partners would visit to stop the spread of polio starting in 1978. Today, only two countries remain with endemic polio: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Fairfax Club is very proud of Liam. His poise, delivery and enthusiasm for Rotary impressed many throughout the contest. Liam's club sponsor was Barry Gordon of the Rotary Club of Fairfax. "Liam gives us hope that more young people like him will



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Fairfax High School Junior Liam McPherson won the Rotary District 7610 Speech Contest. Pictured from left are: Paula Brown Kelley, Past President of Fairfax Rotary, Rotary 7610 District Governor Ronnie Chantker, Barry Gordon, Fairfax Rotarian and Speech Contest representative, Liam McPherson, Speech Contest winner, Heather Davids, FHS Forensics (Speech) Coach.

provide leadership of which we will be proud," Gordon commented after the contest.

Liam was accompanied by his Forensic (speech) coach, Heather Davids of Fairfax High School. Davids added, "Liam is a natural speaker, but it has been my honor to watch him develop into a passionate and persuasive speaker over the last three years."

Liam was among the top five student contestants; all sponsored by area Rotary clubs. Rotary District 7610 consists of 57 Rotary clubs. Liam, and the other four high school speakers, from as far as Louisa County to as close as Springfield will speak again at the Rotary District Conference held over the last weekend in April at Kingsmill in Williamsburg, Va.

For more on Rotary International or the Rotary Club of Fairfax, visit: www.fairfaxrotary.org.

Planting a Pine Tree in Burke

Boy Scout Jacob Boyett, Phil Sternberg (standing), T-1131 Committee Chair and member Rotary Club of Springfield, and Daniel 'Kaz' Kasmierski, current President of the Rotary Club of Springfield, plant a pine tree on the edge of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Burke, as part of an Earth Day event.



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Last Chance, 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/.

Art Exhibit: The Scenic Route. Through May 6, gallery hours at Warrior Way Gallery (W-16), Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Chester Kasnowski, a veteran of the United States Air Force, is a multi-disciplinary artist who believes in the power of tradition and history. In *The Scenic Route*, Kasnowski engages with the history of landscape imagery and modernizes the genre through his use of abstracted brush strokes. Free. Visit www.workhousearts.org/event/chester-kasnowski-scenic-route/ for more.

Art Exhibit: This and That. Through May 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St. in Historic Occoquan. "This and That" features copper work by Anne Jordan of Fairfax; oil paintings by Steve Myles of Reston; and turned wood by Greg Wandless of Fairfax. Call 703-494-0584 or visit www.theartistsundertaking.com.

Rock of Ages – The Musical. Through May 20, Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, Building W-3 (Theatre), 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This Tony-Award winning musical takes the audience back to the 1980s era of big: big bands, big egos big guitar solos and big hair. Parental discretion advised. \$20-\$35. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Second Saturdays. 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet nearly 100 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Experience performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. www.workhousearts.org/.

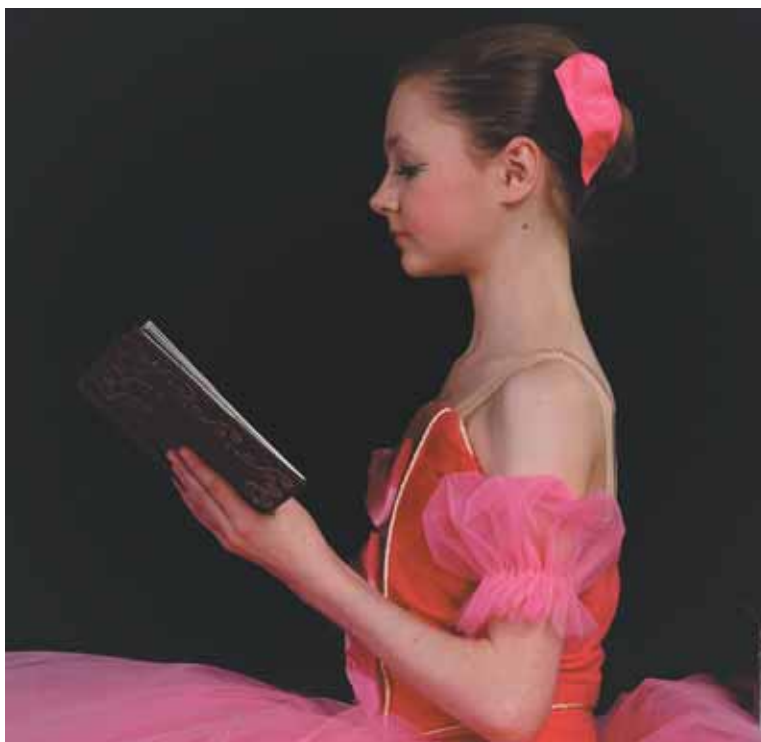
Senior Line Dancing. Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8-week session. Email barbriba@hotmail.com or call 703-524-3739.

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at www.fpow.org/volunteer. www.fpow.org, 703-324-5424 or dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Carolina Shag. 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. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.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



Virginia Ballet dancer

PHOTO BY DALE HUBBARD

Coppelia

Virginia Ballet Company And School will present the classic ballet *Coppelia*, professionally staged and fully costumed. Saturday, April 28, 2 and 7 p.m. in the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, students and seniors, plus a \$3 fee per each ticket at www.vaballet.org. A limited number of general admission tickets (\$12) is available for the Working Stage Rehearsal on Friday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. Must be purchased in advance online.

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.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp

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. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Lace Time Pottery Class. 10:30 a.m. at Young at Heart Senior Center, Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Paint Your Own Pottery. \$15. 703-359-2487.

Fall for the Book Pop Up Lit Night. 5:30 p.m. at Pacers Pop-Up Theatre Space, 10427 North St., Fairfax. 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, through April. call 703-352-ARTS www.fallforthebook.org/pop-up-lit-nights/

John Mason Arts Achievement & Business Awards. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Presented by Fairfax Commission on the Arts. Established in 2001 to recognize individuals and businesses who have made a significant contribution to the development of the arts (dance, music, theatre, literature, visual arts or other art disciplines) within the City of Fairfax community. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

Mason Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band. 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall at George Mason University. Mason Wind Symphony under the direction of Professor Mark Camphouse and Mason Symphonic Band under the direction of Professor

John Kilkenny & Denton Stokes. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 youth through grade 12. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Assistance League Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. The Assistance League of Northern Virginia annual spring fundraiser will include a luncheon and silent and live auctions. The funds raised will support programs which touch the lives of 6,000 children in Northern Virginia each year. \$65. www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Fairfax High School Jazz Ensemble with U.S. Navy Commodores Jazz Band. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Fairfax Jazz is an after-school academic class and ensemble open to all members of FHS Band, Chorus and Orchestra. fhsbands.org

Spring Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Stephens United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. The St. Stephen's United Methodist Women Maranatha Singers present a concert of "Hopes and Dreams." Free. Call 703-250-5013 or visit www.ststephensfairfax.org.

Mason Players "Originals." 8 p.m. at TheatreSpace, George Mason University. New scripts, artistic performances and creative offerings inspired by GMU students will drive this final theatrical celebration of the season. Programming varies throughout the weekend. Pay what you can (\$5 increments only). Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 27-29

"The Little Mermaid." Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's "The Little Mermaid" is a story for the ages. This fishy fable will capture your heart with its irresistible songs, including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl" and "Part of Your World." Tickets available at fxplayers.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MLVE MOVES!

In performance for "All About Dogs."

Therapy Dogs Take Center Stage

"All About Dogs" performance on May 8.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

'All About Dogs' celebrates "the untold number of ways dogs and their humans lift up, love and take care of one another," said Margot Greenlee, a leader with "MVLE Moves!," a local movement therapy program for individuals with disabilities.

The Springfield-based MVLE provides employment training and job placement, for people with intellectual and physical disability. MVLE is an internationally accredited agency that partners with government, not-for-profit agencies and commercial businesses.

In a break-through theatrical event performed at Fairfax's Sherwood Community Center, "All About Dogs" will explore dog-human connections and increasing opportunities for people with disabilities. The cast will include both professional performers and people with intellectual and physical disability. "Together they devised this original production, each contributing their unique perspectives," said Greenlee.

The "All About Dogs" cast will also feature a number of trained therapy dogs bringing love to people. "The trained therapy dogs visit client, go to schools, hospitals, and assisted living facilities," said Greenlee. "Interacting with a trained therapy dog helps people relax and feel connected."

"All About Dogs" also provides an opportunity for the non-professional human performers to build confidence and develop new skills, including feeling more independent.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGOT GREENLEE

Margot Greenlee, Founder, BodyWise Dance and co-creator "All About Dogs."

Where and When

"All About Dogs" presented by BodyWise Dance and MLVE Moves! at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax VA 22030. Performance on Tuesday, May 8, at 11 a.m. Performance is free. Call MLVE's Sarah Caldwell at 703-894-8247 to reserve. Note: The performance runs about 45 minutes. It is suitable for all ages, both those with and without intellectual and physical disability. "All About Dogs" is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Virginia Commission on the Arts, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Wells Fargo Foundation, Rea Charitable Trust and Express Lanes Foundation.

Audience member at "All About Dogs" will be invited to speak, join in songs and dances, learn the dos and don'ts of meeting a new dog for the first time, and learn nuances of terms like "improvise" and "harmony." Actress Tuyet Pham said "Expect to sing. Expect to have a blast." She added, "we are all capable of making art."

Ryan Sellers noted, "the program provides the opportunity for the joy of performance for everyone."

Actor J.J. Johnson added that "All About Dogs" is fascinating as it explores what dogs and people can do together, in service to each other."



Shobha M. gets a close look at a painting.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Kim and Julio Mazzarella peruse the artwork.

Talent and Generosity Share the Spotlight

Britepaths' Artful Living event benefits families, students.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Talent and community caring were both on display Saturday night, April 21, during Britepaths' fourth annual Artful Living event at the Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax. Part of the Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival, proceeds benefited that entity's scholarship fund, as well as the families Britepaths serves.

Attendees bid on original artwork during a silent auction, with Britepaths and the artists sharing in the sales. The evening also included a raffle, live music by Batida Diferente, hors d'oeuvres by Dolce Vita, wine and craft beer tastings, plus desserts from Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates and Red Velvet Cupcakery.

The artwork on exhibit illustrated the theme, "Empowerment," and winners were selected in several categories. In Computer Art, Fairfax's Russ McIntosh won for his "Consciousness Conductor." And Fairfax resident Ben Breaux's "Empowerment Revisited" was chosen the top Mixed Media entry, as well as Best of Show.

Britepaths Board of Directors member Catherine Read thanked the event's sponsors and acknowledged the dignitaries in attendance, including Fairfax City's mayor and several City Council members. She said people in need "don't want a Band-Aid" for their problems, and those helping them "want to invest in people becoming self-sufficient," and that's where Britepaths comes in.

"The gift of Britepaths is educating people, making people believe in themselves and giving them the skills they need to succeed," said Read. "But we can't do it without the help of the community. Please see our Website [britepaths.org] and see how you can help people make ends meet

in our community. Because of you, people are able to lift themselves out of poverty and desperate situations and get on the path to resiliency and self-sufficiency."

CITY MAYOR David Meyer then addressed the crowd. Britepaths was formerly called Our Daily Bread, and Meyer recalled how, 15 years ago, he and his wife volunteered through their church and delivered groceries to the organization's clients in Bailey's Crossroads, Burke, Chantilly and the City of Fairfax.

"Now, Britepaths gives clients food cards that allow them to get their own food," he said. "This helps with self-esteem and allows the very diverse ethnic groups served by Britepaths to obtain food that they enjoy. Today, Britepaths has grown in its scope and effectiveness, and the challenges it faces have become more complex."

Meyer noted that Fairfax residents live in the most prosperous region in the U.S., if not the world. Yet, he stressed, "Nearly 15 percent of our population live at or below 200 percent of the poverty level. There is a shortage of 31,000 living units that are affordable. The cost of daycare for an infant can be \$15,000-\$18,000, which far exceeds the ability to pay of many of our working poor."

So, he said, Britepaths' services are needed more than ever. "Britepaths offers its clients resources to stabilize their lives, but also effective, long-term intervention to give them the critical life skills of financial planning, job interviewing and skills enhancement," said Meyer. "As mayor, I can attest that local governments cannot ad-



Britepaths volunteers (from left) Alecia Fowler and Ashley Williams man the dessert table.

dress these circumstances by ourselves. The best approach is a partnership with key groups such as Britepaths, with the support of all of you."

"When people do not have hope or any way to create a path forward, prospects for daily living can be dim," he continued. "But thanks to everyone here, a brighter path is available for many in our community. Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of people in need."

Next to speak was Britepaths' Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "Saying this event brings together everything she values, in-



DéShaun shares her story.

cluding art and music, she said how pleased she was to see the community's generosity to help their neighbors in need.

"There is a common misconception that people in dire straits just need to pull themselves up by their bootstraps," said Whetzel. "If they just work a little harder, then they would succeed like the rest of us." "People do need to work hard." However, in our experience, we see that people who come to us often don't have any boots. Here at Britepaths, we provide the boots."

She said Britepaths recognizes that it's critical to not just stabilize struggling families, but to make them strong enough to weather financial storms. "We will continue helping them keep food on the table, a roof overhead and provide car-repair assistance so they can keep their jobs," said Whetzel. "At Britepaths, we are focusing our attention on building capacity for the programs that build resilience."

"Having the tools, resources and emotional support empowers people to suc-

SEE ARTFUL LIVING, PAGE 18

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to collocate antennas (tip heights 112') on the building at 4110 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax, VA (20180647). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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The band, Batida Diferente, entertained the crowd.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION



Artful Living Benefits Families, Students

FROM PAGE 17

ceed," she continued. "Our hope is that every family or single parent who comes through our door will be empowered to make lasting changes to succeed for the long term." Whetzel then introduced a client named DéShaun, who she called an "inspiration" and a testament to how hard work with outside support can help someone succeed.

DéShaun said that, almost two years ago, she and her husband and their two young sons were in a bad place financially. "He and I both worked, but were in danger of getting evicted," she said. "So we got in touch with Britepaths – then called Our Daily Bread [ODB] – and attended its financial-management clinic."

THE FAMILY eventually received food vouchers and joined Britepaths' Project Bridge, which helps clients achieve self-sufficiency. "With a matched-savings program, we saved \$500 that year, and it's our emergency savings," said DéShaun. "ODB employees were very supportive; and in February 2017, I had a dream of helping change lives by becoming a life coach. Their Empower and Workforce Development programs helped me cover the cost of training, and I'm now a holistic life coach, helping others through Britepaths. Without Britepaths, I truly don't know where we would



Event attendees included Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid and her husband Greg.

be, and I thank them so much for their support."

Attorney Scott Shannon – whose wife, May Shallal, is on Britepaths' all-volunteer Board of Directors – then led the live auction. Encouraging people to bid on the various items, he told them \$50 buys a grocery gift card, \$100 funds school supplies for eight children and \$250 pays for car repairs.

Ultimately, the evening raised about \$41,000, and Whetzel was delighted. "I love this event because it brings the community together to celebrate and support Britepaths' mission," she said. "It continues to amaze me that people are surprised that there are pockets of poverty next door to them. Artful Living creates a comfortable space to learn and be inspired by our neighbors in need who are empowered by the Britepaths community to succeed for the long term."

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 8

a tree at Fairfax High School. Open to the public.
Call 703-385-7995.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 27-28

City of Fairfax Spring Cleanup. Join the city in the annual spring cleaning ritual by taking advantage of the many special services offered this time of year. Call 703-385-7995.

❖ **Arbor Day tree planting** — Celebrate Arbor Day at 1 p.m. Friday, April 27 as the City of Fairfax plants a tree at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run.

❖ **Cleanup Day** — Residents and businesses can help the city spruce up for spring by cleaning up their neighborhoods or any public areas in the city. Choose Spring Cleanup Day April 28, or any day in April during Spring Cleanup Month. To participate, call 703-385-7995 or e-mail Heather.Turley@fairfaxva.gov.

❖ **Curbside leaf collection** — Curbside leaf collection in the city every Tuesday in April.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Caregiver Bootcamp. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join IMCC for a day-long training event covering essential caregiving topics. Day includes: breakfast, dementia overview, legal needs, lunch, communication and behavior changes and information on community resources. Rescheduled from April 7. Contact lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org, Lindsey Vajpeyi, 703-204-4664 or visit InsightMCC.org.

Scam Jam and Shred Event. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fairfax County Gov. Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free fraud fighting event with AARP Virginia and Fairfax County Government's Silver Shield task force. Shred truck will be on-site from 8 a.m.-noon. Documents will be shredded on-site free of charge. Registration required at aarp.cvent.com/OSSFairfax or call 1-877-926-8300.

Flea Market. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Rolling Valley Park and Ride, 9220 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Sellers: Rent two parking spaces (minimum). Spaces are reserved and pre-assigned. The prepaid cost is \$20 (plus the donation of a saleable item to Cub Pack 678's booth). To reserve spaces call 703-354-7045. Buyers: More than 50 sellers, bargains and refreshments.

Living with Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers. 10 a.m.-noon at Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Part three of three-part series. Join the Alzheimer's Association for this free three-part series and hear caregivers and professionals discuss helpful strategies to provide safe and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's. To register, call 800-272-3900.

Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fair Oaks District Station, 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax; Franconia District Station, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria; West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Free safe disposal of unused or expired medications. Drop off at any Fairfax County District Police Stations (pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/news/2018/medicine-cabinet-cleanout.

Drug Take Back Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in City of Fairfax Police Station lobby, 3730 Old Lee Highway. Unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs, including pills, ointments and liquids in sealed containers (no needles or syringes) will be accepted. Drop-off is anonymous. Call 703-385-7829.

Teen Job Fair. noon-2 p.m. at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road. Employers will gather, take applications and resumes for part time jobs. Contact Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Nancy-jo Manney at manney@springfieldchamber.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

2018 Annual Women's Day Service. 9:45 a.m. at Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Kimberly Ridley, pastor of My Light Christian Church in Richmond. Music will be furnished by the Greater Little Zion Women's Day Choir. Call 703-239-9111.

MONDAY/APRIL 30

Community Meeting: Lake Accotink. 7-8:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Park Authority will join Braddock Supervisor John Cook and Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay to gather public input in developing a vision for Lake Accotink Park. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/lakeaccotink. Call 703-324-8662

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You Mean Tomorrow Tuesday?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that deadlines don't happen in the newspaper business; of course they do, every Tuesday for us weeklies. But when combined with my usual post-chemotherapy malaise, it is a bit more challenging. More so when the deadline is tightened up due to the nature of hitting and occasionally missing in-house communications, which is also not unreasonable given the multiple demands multi tasking imposes.

Compounding this task even more is that until I'm back to semi post-chemo normal, in the interim, I am not eating too much, not sleeping well, have low energy (related to the previous two deficiencies), my hands are shaky, my balance is off and I'm having some difficulty focusing. It's a good thing I'm sitting at a desk while attempting to write this column because operating any heavy machinery would definitely be out of the question. What I need to do is mind my own business.

Business which at the moment involves fending off my buff-colored male cat, Chino, as he angles to sit on my writing pad as I move him from left to right — and then right to left since he won't take "Chino, move!" for a directive. But if I know anything, other than what to expect post chemo, I also know what to expect from Chino — or any of the other cats we manage: independence, as any fellow cat owner knows. Unlike a "true and loyal dog," a cat, generally speaking, is not inclined to respond to your commands, well, too many of them, anyway. Nor are they likely to respond to any physical discipline and/or pushing/pulling/redirection. Invariably, if you push, they pull. If you pull, they push.

How Chino knows I'm not feeling well and on an unanticipated and abbreviated deadline, I'll never know. But rather than leave me to it, he'll interfere every way possible: nuzzling, nudging, leaning, rubbing, meowing, moving about and plopping down when all else fails. If you love cats as we do, this is their charm. If you don't love them and their antics, I can see how this kind of behavior can be very frustrating.

I mean, with all this activity, it's difficult to think about what I'm supposed to be doing when I'm so busy preventing things from getting done. I imagine Chino thinks he's doing me a favor, being so affectionate and so in the way. Maybe he thinks he's contributing to the creative process by sitting in the middle of my writing pad? In a way, maybe he is. He's forcing me to concentrate. Moreover, he's forcing me to focus on this most immediate task which, at the moment, has me fending him off with my left wrist while I'm scribbling prose with my right hand. Oddly enough, it might be working as I'm three-quarters finished with this column which 30 minutes ago was a weekend task until it became a today/Tuesday task.

Now if I didn't have a CT scan and lower abdomen MRI scheduled for Wednesday, I'd have a bit more time to sort out the details of writing this column. Unfortunately, post-chemo, mid-newspaper deadline and pre-scan is a triple threat which sometimes can impose its will. A 'will' which I take personally so I will persevere and complete this column with one final paragraph now that Chino has left my desk and likely ended up on some unoccupied couch to sleep; he's had a big day.

All kidding aside, if there's one behavior I need more than any other during these deadline triple threats, it's companionship. Because of Chino and our other four cats: Andrew, Sloane, Biscuit and Twinkle, I am never alone and always have someone to talk to who, occasionally talks back. Not that we understand one another, but it's giving and getting, and it's loving and affecting — me and my cancer; and everything in between.

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

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