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# Fairfax CONNECTION

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And Standing Ovarions

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From left, So Lim and Sang Yi  
are the first Asian Americans  
elected to City Council.

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*BEFORE*



By STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**About 1,000 people filled the bleachers at Oakton High School.**

## Charity Basketball Game Raises \$1,000

The staff at two elementary schools – Mosby Woods and Providence Elementary — challenged each other to a game of basketball on Thursday, March 22, at Oakton High School, with a final score of Mosby Woods, 67, to Providence, 57. Between the players, musicians, cheerleaders and admission collectors, there were around 50 volunteers from the two schools, plus 1,000 fans in the crowd.

The event raised about \$1,000 for the Lamb Center of Fairfax, which serves the poor and homeless.

According to Dan Phillips, Principal of Providence Elementary, “It’s such a great opportunity for us to get together and have a family event. We have a fantastic PTA and they do so many good things and they helped organize this tonight. And, we love being with Mosby Woods. Some of our kids go to the center at Mosby Woods

so there’s sort of a family connection already and it’s all for a good cause.” Added Mahri Aste, Principal of Mosby Woods Elementary, “We’re so proud of this event because it raises money for our local charity, which is the Lamb Center. So, it’s one of our best events of the school year because it really brings our whole staff, students, teachers, parents all together and to do a great thing and we love playing the game.”

“We have a bunch of staff members, 50-plus volunteers between two school getting together to volunteer their time to raise money for a local charity and that’s the most important thing. And everybody has a fun and positive experience and then also you have a bunch of adults running around and none of us have gotten hurt so that’s good too,” said organizer Taylor Gaddy.

— STEVE HIBBARD



**The halftime performance included the Mosby Woods sixth-graders dancing to “Thriller.”**



**Showing their school spirit are Providence Elementary fifth-graders (from left): Todd Blakeney, Micah Gillespie, and Michael Nguyen.**



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Surrounding Mayor David Meyer (center) are Council members (from left) So Lim, Michael DeMarco, Jennifer Passey, Janice Miller, Jon Stehle and Sang Yi.

MAY 1, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION							
UNOFFICIAL RESULTS - CITY OF FAIRFAX PRECINCTS ONLY							
CITY COUNCIL							
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
MILLER	195	348	346	370	277	244	1926
STEHLE	191	325	353	365	305	261	1940
PASSEY	195	361	354	367	283	228	1906
DEMARCO	183	362	362	390	322	233	1980
HARMON	148	305	295	312	221	184	1583
YI	244	410	389	364	280	245	2053
ROSS	168	294	380	310	227	181	1681
LIM	215	350	380	372	235	211	1850
WRITE-IN	8	18	9	12	3	13	66

The final election results for the City Council candidates.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

# Making History in Fairfax City

**So Lim, Sang Yi are first Asian-Americans elected to City Council.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

The City of Fairfax made history Tuesday night when it elected its first-ever Asian-Americans, So Lim and Sang Yi, to City Council. Reflecting the nation's growing diversity, they'll join incumbents Janice Miller, Jon Stehle, Jennifer Passey and Michael DeMarco, who were all re-elected.

There was standing-room only May 1 in Old Town Hall, as residents and candidates alike, plus their families, watched a large screen as the voting results for each precinct came in. They cheered for everyone and, afterward, the winners spoke from the podium.

"This is going to be a unique and interesting City Council," said Miller. "Not only do we have some ethnic diversity, we have people not born in Fairfax City, who didn't attend Fairfax High School and who weren't even born in the U.S., but later became citizens. And that's a different outlook on the Council. We also have people spanning five generations."

So, she said, "We're going to be able to come at problems and challenges from a different perspective and craft solutions which will serve this City very well. I look forward to working with all of you to make this the very best place to live."

Two seats on the Council came open when current members Ellie Schmidt and Jeff Greenfield chose not to run again. In all, eight people vied for the six Council slots, with Yi garnering the most votes, 2,053, followed next by DeMarco, with 1,980. Stehle received 1,940 votes; Miller, 1,926;

Passey, 1,906; and Lim, 1,850. Challengers Joe Harmon and Tom Ross were defeated.

**RUNNING UNOPPOSED**, Mayor David Meyer was re-elected with 2,635 votes; there were 153 write-ins. And all five School Board members – Carolyn Pitches, Mitch Sutterfield, Bob Reinsel Jr., Toby Sorensen and Jon Buttram – were also unopposed and re-elected.

"All of us did something today fundamental to democracy – we went out and voted," said Meyer. He then thanked the City's Electoral Board, Registrar's Office and tireless election officers "who worked all day for us. And I express my personal appreciation to Ellie Schmidt and Jeff Greenfield for their years of service to this City."

Meyer also thanked the School Board members for "their work on behalf of all the students of our City," as well as Harmon and Ross for their contributions to Fairfax. "Putting yourself out in front of your neighbors and making your case [for election] is not for the faint of heart," said Meyer. "To the four incumbents, congratulations on your re-election; and to Sang Yi and So Lim, I look forward to working with you, and welcome to City Council."

"It's been a great pleasure getting to know the people of Fairfax [while campaigning]," said Lim. "And as a Councilwoman, I'll continue to visit you and ask about your concerns. I really worked hard, and I want to thank [everyone who helped and supported me]."

Holding his daughter Evie, 4, while he spoke, Yi said, "Fairfax is not just a place or a home, it's a family. I'm so grateful for everyone in this room. We can have disagreements but, at the end of the day, we're still a family." He also thanked his wife Sarah for all her support.

"As the demographics have changed, we don't just have people who've always been here, we have people from all over," he continued. "Families stick together, and we're going to work through everything together."



Mayor David Meyer.

Passey thanked her family for all its help, plus the volunteers who advocated for her candidacy. "Thank you to every voter," she said. "We have a great city, and I'm so proud to be standing here tonight. I look forward to working with you all to move us forward in a positive direction."

Delighted to be re-elected, Stehle said, "From streetlights to strategic vision, it was all discussed at the polls today, and we did it in a collaborative and open manner." He thanked Ross and Harmon for running honest campaigns. And noting how his children were involved in his campaign, Stehle said, "It means a lot to show the next generation what it means to be a democracy – to get out and engage [in your community]."

"I love doing this," said DeMarco. "This will be my fourth term on City Council, and I'm looking forward to the next two years. We have a lot of activities hitting us soon, and we'll have to take action on them." He thanked his supporters and wished his wife Joanne a happy birthday, and the crowd then sang happy birthday to both her and

Evie Yi, who was also celebrating her birthday May 1.

Lastly, Meyer thanked his wife Cindy for her support and the residents for re-electing him mayor. "It is a distinct privilege to serve you," he said. "Ten years ago, when I decided to run for City Council, [former mayor] John Mason said I'd learn through campaigning how kind, thoughtful and appreciative the residents are, and that says a tremendous amount about our City."

**OF FAIRFAX'S 24,000 RESIDENTS**, Meyer stressed that more than 26 percent were born in another country.

"That's profound," he said. "And it says they came here for the freedom we have and to be part of our democratic experience. I welcome them and look forward to great things for this City – the best is yet to come."

Both the Council and School Board members serve two-year terms and will officially take office July 1. "It's wonderful to run without opposition," said School Board member Mitch Sutterfield. "I do the same things I always do – knock on doors, drop off campaign literature, plant signs and talk to people. But there's no pressure; it's fun."

Carolyn Pitches has been on the Board eight years. "Education is my life's work," she said. "I've been a teacher for 20-plus years, and my kids are in our schools, so I have a vested interest in what goes on in the buildings." While campaigning, said current Board Chairman Jon Buttram, "People ask me about pre-K education availability for kids, AAP [advanced academic placement] and sometimes, budget questions. They also want to know the difference between our School Board and the county's, and I like explaining this to people who don't know about the relationship between us. "We're the City's voice in education and we have a really solid partnership with the county that's beneficial to both of us," he continued. "We're more than 40 percent of the City's budget and we're fully cognizant of our responsibilities."



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## NEWS



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS

**Almost 2,000 people, plus 900 singers, packed Hayfield Secondary School for the 46th annual All-County Chorale Festival.**

## Do-Re-Me SING!

**Voices ring for All County Choral Festival.**

**T**he young singers have been honing their voices for months, singing in large and small groups every week since January.

On Saturday, they finally got the chance to showcase their work, as nearly 900 sixth-grade singers — hand-picked by their elementary school music teachers for their vocal talent — sang together at Hayfield Secondary School for the 46th annual All-County Choral Festival.

"It is truly an honor for the students performing today to be a member of this select group of vocalists," said Kelly M. Harbison, president of the Fairfax General Music Educators Association and a music educator at Canterbury Woods Elementary School.

Led by guest conductor Dr. Jamie Hillman, the students sang a variety of music — from George Handel's classic "Sing for Joy!" to Joan Varner's "When I Am Silent," a tribute to young Holocaust victims.

The song, and the voices of 900 sopranos, moved many in the audience to tears. "These young singers were truly amazing,"

said Hillman, who previously taught music at Phillips Academy and Boston University.

"They've only had one day to practice as a complete group, and they came together flawlessly. Their energy and enthusiasm was inspiring."

In addition to the 900 singers, Hayfield's auditorium was packed with twice as many family members, including School Board members, school principals and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Brabrand.

"I told parents 'prepare to be wowed by these singers.' I think we were all blown away by the talent and organization it took to accomplish this," Brabrand said.

Organization was key as music teachers used songs and audience sing-offs to quickly reunite singers with their families and move 2,000 people out of the auditorium in under 15 minutes.

"The festival was a rousing success at every level. We're all proud of these students and our music teachers for this festival," Brabrand said.

— VICTORIA ROSS



**Nearly 900 sixth-grade singers — hand-picked by their elementary school music teachers for their vocal talent — sang together at Hayfield Secondary School.**



# Brabrand Returns to Fairfax Rotary Club

BY PAULA KELLEY  
ROTARY CLUB OF FAIRFAX

The Rotary Club of Fairfax was pleased to welcome back a long time member, Dr. Scott Brabrand, the superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, to a recent meeting. Dr. Brabrand, once the principal of Fairfax High School, became a Rotarian at the Fairfax club in 2006. In 2012, he accepted a job as superintendent of Lynchburg Public Schools in Lynchburg, Va. After five years in Lynchburg, Dr. Brabrand was selected to become the superintendent of Fairfax County Schools in 2017.

Dr. Brabrand spent some time addressing Fairfax Rotarians with an engaging update on the county school system. The superintendent was excited to share some new education ideas. The superintendent believes that college preparation remains important. He did emphasize that employers seek strong math skills from their future employees but also want their employees to develop communication skills. In the quest for excellence, Dr. Brabrand emphasized to the Rotary Club that there are many good colleges in Virginia. Students and their parents should consider several colleges when making future educational choices, not only

the top three Virginia schools.

Dr. Brabrand sees the need for alternative training for those students who do not plan to attend college. He updated the club on the importance of continued vocational training as well as cyber security training. In fact, according to the superintendent, cyber security classes have become so popular that more teachers are needed for this subject. Dr. Brabrand also discussed initiatives in the schools under the Strategic Plan: Ignite. At the same time, under a continuous improvement model, all programs are evaluated to make sure they are effective and efficient methods to serve students and families. Newly back in the area after five years, the superintendent is excited to lead the school system in a positive direction. Many in the room fondly remembered his leadership at Fairfax High School. His energy, knowledge of school system supervision and understanding of the Northern Virginia area, will serve him well. The club enthusiastically welcomed Dr. Brabrand back to Fairfax. For more information about the Rotary Club of Fairfax, visit the club's website at [www.fairfaxrotary.org](http://www.fairfaxrotary.org) or email the Rotary Club of Fairfax's Executive Director, Irby N. Hollans Jr., at [ihollans@earthlink.net](mailto:ihollans@earthlink.net).

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# OPINION

## Small But Needed Step in the Right Direction

### Why raising the felony larceny threshold to \$500 is an important step in Virginia?

BY EILEEN FILLER-CORN  
STATE DELEGATE (D-41)

**R**ecently, Governor Ralph Northam signed legislation to raise the felony larceny threshold from \$200 to \$500 in Virginia as part of a bipartisan compromise. While imperfect as many bills are, HB 1550, carried by Delegate Les Adams, is a small but necessary step in the right direction.

Raising the threshold is a key breakthrough for common sense criminal justice reform. I applaud Governor Northam for not only delivering on a top campaign promise within his first few months in office — but doing so by coming to a bipartisan compromise and working with his Republican partners across the aisle. I was privileged to carry the Governor's legislation the past two years to raise this



threshold. While my legislation did not move forward, I was honored to serve as a co-patron on HB 1550 and privileged to have the opportunity to finally help make this initiative the law.

In recent years, Virginia has been a leader in the nation when it comes to providing people second chances — which is why it is surprising that Virginia has held the lowest larceny threshold in the country alongside New Jersey at \$200. In my mind, this was simply unacceptable. Since 2000, at least 37 states have raised their felony thefts thresholds, and many of our neighboring states, including North Carolina and West Virginia, have their felony larceny threshold at \$1,000.

Raising the threshold will not only create a more just and fairer system — but it is fiscally responsible and will create a safer Commonwealth. According to the ACLU, larceny convictions accounted for one out of every four individuals incarcerated in 2012, at a cost of approximately \$25,000 a year per individual. The Virginia Department of Corrections found that the state could have saved between \$18.3 million and \$22.5 million just in prison costs between fiscal years 2009 and 2014 had the General Assembly raised the

threshold to \$500 or \$600 in 2008. And the savings could have been even higher if it was raised to \$1,000.

It is worth noting that people cannot contribute to our economy if they are incarcerated. Virginians who have paid their debt to society and strive to actively contribute to it, find themselves struggling to find employment because of a felony record, when it could have been a misdemeanor. Those convicted of larceny also face barriers to housing, healthcare or taking out a loan.

Raising the felony larceny threshold does not only pertain to adults; it impacts the Commonwealth's children too. Larceny was the top category for juvenile arrest in Virginia in 2017. This means that one can be carrying the weight of an adolescent mistake on their back for the rest of their life. We can and must do better.

I have been working on the issue of raising the felony larceny threshold for two years now. While I was proud to carry versions of this bill on behalf of Governor Ralph Northam and former Governor Terry McAuliffe, I kept thinking to myself during that time that we cannot let one's mistake ruin that person's entire life. Virginia's progress on this issue has been slow, but this breakthrough for criminal justice reform is a small and needed step in the right direction.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Missing Numbers

To the Editor:

County Chairman Sharon Bulova's April 25 opinion piece, "Budget Hits All the Right Notes," about the proposed FY2019 real estate tax hike, is misleading. When she says the proposed real estate tax rate is

\$1.15, she omits the stormwater rate. When that is included the FY2019 rate will be \$1.1825 instead of \$1.15.

She states that new budget includes a 2-cent increase in the real estate tax rate, but this omits the additional tax increase due to the 2.2 percent increase in average residential assessments. The effective rate increase when assessments and the additional stormwater rate increase (1/4 cent) are included is 4.7 cents, not 2 cents.

The typical Fairfax County homeowner's real estate tax bill will increase by \$258, a 4.2 percent increase. Loudoun County reduced its average tax bill by \$48, a 1 percent decrease.

Chairman Bulova states that the tax hike fully funds the Market Rate Adjustment, Performance, Merit and Longevity increases for county employees and states that the Market Rate Adjustment is

2.25 percent. She does not state the total salary increase resulting from the Performance, Merit and Longevity increases. When those are included county employees will see average increases ranging from 4.25 to 4.50 percent.

Likewise, the school board is funding a 2.3 percent step increase and other salary adjustments, but does not say what the total average raise will be when the other adjustments are included. It is likely to be 4 percent also.

The real estate tax hike will increase county revenues by about \$116 million. The cost of next year's county and school raises is \$139 million. Raises are the primary driver of the county's annual real estate tax hikes.

Since FY2000, the supervisors have increased real estate taxes 169 percent, more than three times faster than inflation, which increased 53 percent.

If Chairman Bulova felt that the voters who defeated the 2016 meals tax, which would have raised \$100 million, would support next year's 4.2 percent tax hike to raise \$116 million for 4 percent raises, why didn't she acknowledge those numbers in her statement?

**Arthur Purves**  
President  
Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance

### Medicaid Expansion: It's Time

To the Editor:

The 2017 elections demonstrated that Virginians believe that individuals cannot work, take care of their families, or pursue happiness if they cannot see a doctor when they are sick. The candidates who heard this message and ran on expanding access to healthcare, won. Those advocating for expansion are more than willing to compromise with lawmakers who may have legitimate policy concerns.

We know that 33 other states have already opted to insure their working poor. It is time that our federal tax dollars stay here in Virginia to help cover approximately 400,000 hard-working families earning up to 138 percent of the

poverty level. Making health insurance available to more Virginians is the right thing to do and the sensible thing to do. The Federal government is offering to cover no less than 90 percent of the costs of insuring Virginia's working poor. Virginia's hospitals are committed to covering the remaining 10 percent of the costs. Additional money flowing to Virginia under Medicaid expansion will enable the state to increase funding for schools and other needed services. Another benefit of Medicaid expansion is the likelihood of smaller rate increases in our health insurance plans. Studies have shown that in states where more people are insured, the cost of uncompensated care drops. Yes, we will all benefit if more of us have access to healthcare. It is time to act!

**Barbara Favola**  
State Sen. (D-31)

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

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## PEOPLE

# City of Fairfax Band Conductor Receives Outstanding Conductor Award

The national Association of Concert Bands (ACB) has chosen City of Fairfax Band Music Director Robert Pouliot to receive its highest honor for a band leader: The Outstanding Conductor Award.

Pouliot, who has led the nationally acclaimed City of Fairfax Band since 1994, will be only the fourth person to receive the award since its creation in 2010. The national honor recognizes conductors who have demonstrated musical leadership excellence, conducting skills, musicality, community contributions, educational foresight, and dedication to the ACB organization.

"There are a number of awards that honor the community band as an ensemble, but the Outstanding Conductor Award is the only one that singles out the conductor," said Gail Brechting, creator of the award and chair of its selection committee. "Sometimes we (conductors) get to bow, but people have no clue about the work that goes into it," she said.

The award's selection panel—two past ACB presidents and two



**Robert Pouliot**

previous Outstanding Conductor recipients—noted that Pouliot often selects music for the City of Fairfax Band that is more challenging than typical community band pieces. However, the concerts he creates always entertain and engage audiences at all levels. He also secures exceptional guest artists, Brechting said.

Nominating Pouliot for the award required the City of Fairfax Band Association to submit a 40-minute audio of live concerts he led, a video of a performance he conducted the past year, and three recommendation letters from fellow band directors or well-known musicians. Brechting said the band played very well and the recommendation letters for Pouliot were

"exemplary."

Plans call for an ACB representative to present Pouliot the award plaque later this year.

A Rhode Island native, Pouliot received his bachelor's and master's of music degrees from the University of Connecticut at Storrs. He accepted a U.S. Air Force commission in 1986 and spent seven years conducting concert and jazz band tours in 15 states and in Central and South America. He also was on the conducting staff of the U.S. Air Force Band in Washington, D.C.

Since his appointment as City of Fairfax Band music director in 1994, Pouliot has released three compact discs with the band, secured world-renowned guest artists, and instituted the annual Young Artists Competition that awards scholarship funds to Northern Virginia musicians.

In addition to the ACB Outstanding Conductor Award, Pouliot has received the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence. In 2015, he was bestowed the John Mason Arts Achievement Award.

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Attendees enjoy a hayride on the grounds of Historic Blenheim.

## Fairfax Steps Back into History

Fairfax History Day was April 28 at Historic Blenheim.



Civil War re-enactors (from left) Paul Goss and Rudy Segaar of the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Co. D, Fairfax Rifles.



Barbara Fornoff, of the Waterford Weavers, works at a hand loom at Fairfax History Day.

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Tony Meadows, captain of the 49<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, shows spectators his revolver.

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 14

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# Erasing the Stigma

Mental Health advocates work to tear down barriers to treatment.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**I**t was during college when Laura Greenstein began to notice that something was not quite right. “I noticed that things that were creating anxiety on a daily basis, they weren’t just situational,” she said. “My anxiety was grabbing onto anything that it could. If I was running late, I would start to panic. Any small thing became a big issue.”

“My mother has always been supportive, but when [my anxiety] got to a certain point some close friends and family began to stigmatize it,” said Greenstein, who now works for the National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) in Arlington. “They would say, ‘You’re not doing enough.’ It was difficult to feel that I wasn’t being fully accepted.”

After months of therapy and recent session with a psychiatrist who prescribed medication, Greenstein said that she is beginning to feel some relief. She even began blogging about her experience. “This was my first time sharing my story,” she said. “It’s been a really validating process. Being open can really improve your outlook.”

During May, Mental Health Awareness Month, Greenstein and other mental health advocates are sharing the ways in which negative perceptions about mental illnesses can impact those who suffer from it. NAMI

reports that approximately 1 in 5 adults and children in the United States are experiencing mental illness in a given year. Only 41 percent of those adults received mental health treatment, while slightly more than half of children aged 8-15 received those services. One of the roadblocks to treatment, say mental health professionals, is the stigma surrounding mental health.

“Micro-aggressions towards individuals with mental illness are very common, such as assuming that someone with a mental illness is inferior, stupid, or not in control of their own behaviors,” said Jessica McLaughlin, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology at Montgomery College. “Because of our society’s misperceptions of mental illness, many individuals struggling with mental health problems feel ashamed and isolated. They may even feel like it is not appropriate to seek help. “[And] being on the receiving end of these hurtful comments and beliefs actually worsens symptoms.”

With a theme of “Cure Stigma,” NAMI activists are encouraging people to educate themselves and eradicate the stigma which can be a roadblock to those who suffer from mental illness to get the treatment they need. They were afraid of being labeled, so they suffered in silence. This is particularly true with teenagers and preteens, advises Stacie Isenberg, Psy.D., a child psychologist

who specializes in anxiety disorders. “A mental illness stigma may cause a teen or pre-teen to be hesitant to admit to her or himself that they are having a mental health problem, to share with a parent, teacher, or pediatrician about their problem, and to seek mental health treatment,” she said.

The stigma surrounding mental illness is an important issue that often goes unrecognized, says McLaughlin. “Individuals with mental illness face both overt and covert discrimination,” she said. “For example, there is an assumption that people with mental illness are violent or crazy, which is not true. However, our belief in these myths can affect someone’s ability to find employment or obtain housing.”

“Education is a powerful tool in combating mental health stigma, and community-wide, mental health awareness campaigns are helpful,” added Isenberg. “Individually, kids often search online to check out what their symptoms mean. Education from credible websites, and those of mental health organizations often provide clarity and guidance for those seeking help.”

Allowing those who might be experiencing symptoms of a mental illness to speak freely about their condition without fear of judgment can remove barriers to treatment advises McLaughlin. “That means asking how we can help, listening with an open mind, and being nonjudgmental,” she said.

Sometimes it can be a tremendous help just to let someone know that they have someone to lean on and that they are not alone.”

People can also fight the stigma of mental illness by being accepting and supportive of people who are experiencing mental health issues, and by modeling this acceptance for their children, suggests Isenberg. “Employers can encourage employees to use mental health days as needed, and to permit longer lunch hours or flexible dismissal or arrival at times to accommodate therapy appointments,” she said. “Similarly, schools can work with families to allow kids to use free periods, lunch periods, etc. to attend therapy when an after-school time is not available and the need for treatment is significant.”

A family’s attitude about the mentally ill can affect a child’s willingness to ask for help, advises Isenberg. “A child who comes from a family that does not consider mental health issues to be real or problematic may be reluctant to share with her or his parents,” she said. “Similarly, kids whose friends stigmatize mental health issues, or kids who don’t talk much about personal issues with friends, are often unsure about sharing with their friends. On the contrary, kids who believe their families and friends will be sensitive and supportive to them are more likely to be open with them about any concerns they are having.”



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**Date:** Saturday, May 12 2018  
Saturday, June 9, 2018  
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**Time:** 9:00-9:30a.m.-Registration  
9:30-1:00 p.m.-Workshop

**Place:** **Duff & Kronfeld, P.C.**  
Fair Oaks Commerce Center  
11320 Random Hills Road/Suite 630  
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Please join us for coffee at our Second Saturday Divorce Workshop and get the information and support from professionals: a family law attorney, a financial advisor, a family therapist, a private investigator, an estate planning attorney and other professionals who will help guide you through the divorce process. Speakers vary for each workshop.

Registration at the door; however, pre-registration is recommended as space is limited.

Online Registration: [www.secondsaturdaynova.com](http://www.secondsaturdaynova.com)  
Email: [nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com](mailto:nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com)  
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## STAYING SAFE TOGETHER

May 9 is Bike to School Day.  
Here are some safety tips to remember.



Join us for the National Bike Challenge - May 1-31  
Bike to School Day - May 9 and  
Bike to Work Day - May 18  
[fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk)





# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**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. [www.workhousearts.org/event/chester-kasnowski-scenic-route/](http://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." an 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](http://www.theartistsundertaking.com).

**Art Exhibit: To the Ends of the Earth.** Through May 13, gallery hours at Vulcan Gallery, 1st Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center presents To the Ends of the Earth Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

**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](http://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 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/).

**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](http://nvshag.org).

**FUN-Exercise** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**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](http://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](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 3-5

**"The Little Mermaid."** Thursday-Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 1 and 7 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" 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](http://fxplayers.org).

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 3-6

**"Orson the Magnificent."** Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at City of Fairfax Theatre Company, Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Direct from its extended run at the 2017 Capital Fringe Festival, "Orson the Magnificent" explores a little-known side of cinema legend Orson Welles: his lifelong love of magic. Half magic show and half dramatic biography. Visit [www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org](http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org).

## FRIDAY/MAY 4

**Pinko De Mayo.** 6-11 p.m. at Brion's Grille, 8815 Cromwell Drive, Springfield. Pinko De Mayo is a fundraiser event for The Breast Cancer Box. The Breast Cancer Box delivers recovery supplies to women in hospitals and ships them nationwide at no cost to the patient. Call 703-966-2759 or visit [www.thebreastcancerbox.com](http://www.thebreastcancerbox.com).

**Viva La Musica.** 8-10 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. A night in celebration of Hispanic music and culture. Presented by the Reunion Music Society, Inc.



PHOTO BY GINNY AX

**The Gaffney home is one of four Clifton homes featured on the Clifton Homes Tour for Charity on May 18.**

## 46th Annual Clifton Homes Tour

Guided tours of four Clifton homes and a silent auction at Clifton Presbyterian Church. Free events include tours of two historic Clifton churches, a silent auction, wreath sale, and Trinkets and Treasures at Clifton Presbyterian Church. Proceeds benefit local scholarships and charities through the Clifton Community Woman's Club 501(c)(3) Charitable Trust. Tour tickets: \$25-30; free admission to silent auction. Friday, May 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., meets at Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Visit [www.cliftoncwc.org](http://www.cliftoncwc.org).



PHOTO BY CFBA

## Fairfax Band

## All-American Music

The City of Fairfax Band presents an evening of All-American music by Aaron Copland, Paul Creston, Alfred Reed, John Philip Sousa and John Williams, plus a tribute to Stephen Foster featuring the Fairfax Saxophone Quartet. Adding to the celebration is the presentation of the winner of the 2018 City of Fairfax Band Young Artist Competition in performance with the band. Saturday, May 19, 7:30-9 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. \$10-\$15; students free. Call 571-336-2322 or visit [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org).

and the NVCC-Annandale Campus, under the direction of Christopher Johnston. \$15, adults; \$10, students with ID; free, NOVA students with ID and children 12 & younger. Call 703-569-0973 or visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/viva-la-musica-celebrating-hispanic-music-culture-tickets-44657057461](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/viva-la-musica-celebrating-hispanic-music-culture-tickets-44657057461).

## FRIDAY/MAY 4-SATURDAY/MAY 12

**"Into the Woods."** At West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Door 4, Springfield. Dates/times: Friday, May 4 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 5 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m.; Thursday, May 10 at 7 p.m.; Friday, May 11 at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8/students and seniors; \$12/adults. Tickets on sale at [www.spartantheatre.com/ticketsales](http://www.spartantheatre.com/ticketsales). There will be a Spartan Theatre Homecoming on Saturday, May 12, noon-4 p.m. to give tours of the new space. Visit [www.spartantheatre.com](http://www.spartantheatre.com).

Civil War fortifications in the Clifton area as well as Centreville's Confederate Military Railroad, Saint John's Church and cemetery, Mount Gilead and several other preserved Civil War fortifications. \$20 for Museum members, \$30 for non-members. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org/tours.html](http://www.fairfax-station.org/tours.html) or call 703-425-9225.

**Celebrate Communication.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center Mall, Springfield. Celebrate Communication is an information fair for anyone with an interest in or connection to hearing loss. Some 30 vendors will provide current technology, resource information, crafts and family friendly events including face painting and appearance of mascot Yellow Dog. Free event. Near Starbucks. [www.nvrc.org](http://www.nvrc.org). Call 703-352-9055 (voice); 571-350-8656 (VP).

**Gospel Concert.** 5-8 p.m. at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 4325 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter will host a free Gospel Concert in honor of its 25th Anniversary. Free. RSVP required at [info@fcacd.org](mailto:info@fcacd.org).

**Monica Rizzio Concert.** 6-7 p.m. at Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Monica Rizzio, Independent Music Award "Country Album of the Year" nominee and Radio Crystal Blue "Best New Artist" of the year will perform live in concert. Family friendly. Free, donations accepted. Call 703-618-3074 or visit [www.livingsaviorlutheran.org](http://www.livingsaviorlutheran.org).

**Cinco de Mayo Driving Range Social.** 7-10 p.m. at Burke Lake Golf Complex, 6915 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. This event welcomes golfers of all levels, adults looking for a fun, social experience and taco enthusiasts alike. Festivities include unlimited range balls, taco bar, soft drinks, water, music, games, contests, prizes, giveaways and more. \$30. Advance registration required, only 50 people. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake/range-social/may2018](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake/range-social/may2018).

**Casino Night.** 7-11 p.m. at Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. A Forever Home Rescue Foundation is holding a casino night fundraiser. Purchase tickets and bid on auction items at [one.bidpal.net/afhcasinowelcome](http://one.bidpal.net/afhcasinowelcome).

## MONDAY/MAY 7

**FCAC Golf Tournament.** 7 a.m. at Reston National Golf Club, 11875 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston. FCAC will host its 9th Annual Spring Tee Golf Tournament. Golf Clinic. Tax-deductible sponsorship opportunities are available. Email [Golf@fcacd.org](mailto:Golf@fcacd.org) or visit [www.fcacgolf.info/](http://www.fcacgolf.info/).

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

**Investigating the Attempted Assassination of President Reagan.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Workhouse W-3 Theater, Workhouse Arts Foundation, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join for a lecture by Thomas Baker, retired FBI Special Agent, who will share his experiences as one of the first agents on the scene of President Reagan's shooting. Free, donations welcom. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

## FRIDAY/MAY 11

**Welcome Home Concert 2018.** 7 p.m. at Ernst Theater, Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Tickets \$10 for adults, students enter free. [www.vamusicadventures.org/](http://www.vamusicadventures.org/).

**Friday Night Campfires.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center is located at 8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield. Learn about animals, insects, plants and more. End the evening with s'mores by the campfire. \$8 per person. Call 703-451-9588 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond).

## SATURDAY/MAY 12

**Eagle Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Live raptor and reptile shows, environmental organization, outdoor recreation clinics, boating bonanza, eagle cam, photo exhibit, hay and pony rides, food trucks, live music. Pre-opening bird walk at 8 a.m. led by Audubon Society Northern Virginia. Park in the picnic area. Visit [www.masonneckstateparkfriends.org/](http://www.masonneckstateparkfriends.org/)

**Fundraiser and Book Fair.** At Barnes and Noble Store, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum volunteers will introduce visitors to life in Fairfax Country during the 1800s. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), or [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR). Call 703-425-9225.

**Hoedown for Harmony.** 7-10 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Over 18 \$25; 13-18 \$15; under 13 free. Call 703-968-2971.



## SPORTS

# Darcy, Miller-Green Lead Lake Braddock Past Robinson

**Glynn pitches five scoreless innings for Bruins.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
FOR THE CONNECTION

**R**obinson starting pitcher Hugh O'Hara had his way with the Lake Braddock lineup early in Monday's Patriot District matchup, no-hitting the Bruins through the first three innings.

In the top of the fourth, however, Lyle Miller-Green and Jack Darcy reminded onlookers why Lake Braddock is a state championship contender.

Miller-Green drove in the game's first run with a double and Darcy followed with a three-run homer, propelling the Bruins to an 8-1 victory over the rival Rams on April 30 at Robinson Secondary School.

The left-handed O'Hara struck out the side in the second and pitched a 1-2-3 third inning before running into trouble in the fourth. After back-to-back walks, Miller-



**Lake Braddock's Jack Darcy hit a home run and drove in four runs against Robinson on April 30.**

Green doubled to deep left before Darcy launched a 1-2 pitch over the right-field fence.

"We made some adjustments the second time through" the lineup, Lake Braddock head coach Jody Rutherford said. "We've done a good job of that this year."

Darcy said it was a curveball that he deposited over the fence.

"I definitely think it was a big momentum swing," said Darcy, who will play football at Shepherd University next year.

Darcy drove in a run in the fifth inning with a sacrifice fly. He fin-

ished 1-for-3 with a home run and four RBIs.

With Lake Braddock leading 5-1 in the top of the seventh, Miller-Green launched a three-run homer of his own. The junior went 2-for-4 with a home run and four RBIs. Miller-Green, who is committed

**"We made some adjustments the second time through" [the lineup] ... We've done a good job of that this year."**

**—Lake Braddock head coach Jody Rutherford**

to Virginia Tech, also pitched two innings of relief. He allowed one run on one hit and struck out three after battling an arm injury earlier in the season.

Lake Braddock starting pitcher Connor Glynn earned the victory, tossing five shutout innings.

"Connor did a really good job pitching," Miller-Green said. "Since he kept [Robinson scoreless], we had his back."

On Tuesday, the Bruins defeated Fairfax 7-6 to improve their record to 14-3, including 8-0 in the district. Lake Braddock will travel to face West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4.

PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN

## THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online

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5/9/2018.....	HomeLifeStyle
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# Evenings of Laughter and Standing Ovations

## Rambunctious Theatre Company at Robinson presents 'Monty Python's Spamalot.'

BY NATALIA MEGAS  
THE CONNECTION

**"M**onty Python's Spamalot," the musical comedy performed by Rambunctious Theatre Company at Robinson Secondary High School is a must-see this week.

"Spamalot," the multiple Tony award-winning musical by Eric Idle based on the 1975 motion picture "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," is an irreverent parody of the Arthurian legend with a few twists and hilarious ones at that.

When high school director Megan Thrift chose the school edition of "Spamalot" for Robinson students, she did so with the intention of giving everyone an opportunity.

"The show is so full," she said. "It's full of moments and opportunities for everyone to shine. We have 70 kids in this cast and they are fully immersed on stage and off." This show also provided a lot of unique challenges for the 40 student designers and technicians to work through collaboratively. And their work truly shines, and in some cases, steals the show."

Having auditioned 89 high schoolers and 32 elementary and middle schoolers, the final cast and crew's two months of rehearsals paid off.

**ON OPENING NIGHT**, Friday, April 27, a packed theatre gave way to an engaged audience in non-stop laughter and standing ovations for performances that wowed.

High school actor Daniel Williams' standout performance as King Arthur coupled with Claire Burton's soulful and agile vocal range as Lady of the Lake Godiva were the icing on the cake.

But everyone's perfected performance impressed the audience equally as much from the pit orchestra to the makeup and costume designers to the tap dancers to the Frenchies with their precise accents to the Wee Knights Who Say Ni, including its youngest cast member, middle school drama department chair Amy Hard's three year old daughter.

"I loved the show," said audience member Shelly Persil. "I had a smile on my face the entire time and I was very impressed with the talent. The voices were amazing and I especially loved Steven Eckloff as Prince Herbert. Beautiful vocals and a rich character filled with emotion."

Collaboration among students is vital, said Thrift. "I'm in constant awe of these students who choose to work collaboratively and give of themselves, realizing that the show is about the ensemble and support-



PHOTO BY KHUYEN DINH

**'Spamalot' runs May 3 to May 5, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Robinson High School.**



PHOTO BY JULIA MACINNIS

**Lady of the Lake Godiva (Claire Burton) and Sir Galahad (David Ingle).**



PHOTO BY JULIA MACINNIS

**Lady of the Lake Guinevere (Anna Maria Shockey)**



PHOTO BY RICH CONDIT

**Patsy (Nico Ochao) and King Arthur (Daniel Williams)**

ing each other."

"That consistent process through rehearsals and tech is what creates such an incredible product that the kids can be proud of because they know they added to it every step of the way," said Thrift.

Hard, who only recently began collaborating with the high school theatre said it was a fulfilling experience to see her former middle school students perform.

"Ms. Thrift's leadership and inspiring spirit is the key to these huge productions. She trusts her students, and sets the bar higher than many a professional theatre. The sky is the limit, and her students jump, strive, and reach for what many would view

as impossible 'for high school.' She has built a theatre program that is beyond most people's expectations, except for hers," said Hard, who choreographed for the production along with students Izzy Guzzano and Maria Gleason.

"Incorporating local elementary school students is another way she has reached out to the community to include all," Hard added.

Anna Maria Shockey who played Lady of the Lake Guinevere said the Monty Python quest is a classic nobody forgets.

"There is something so magical about the audience already loving the story so that the actors onstage are actually living and

enjoying the adventure right along with them. It makes our job easy and fun!" she said.

"People should definitely come see the show because the level of performance is so much higher than what you'd expect from your average high school presentation," said Alexa Mitchell, who is a freshman and played the viola in the pit orchestra. "I couldn't stop laughing the first time I saw it, and everyone should have that experience."

**"SPAMALOT"** runs from May 3 to May 5, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Robinson High School. For tickets, visit <https://rambunctious-theatre-company.ticketleap.com/spamalot/>



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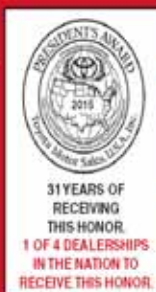
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**News**

**History**

FROM PAGE 8

**Arlington House Victorian Dance Society members entertain the crowd.**

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION



Striking a pose are (from left) Scott Diezman, Jibran Hutchins, David Freeman and Patrick McGuire of the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland Volunteer Infantry.



Dastan Kazemi, 2-1/2, of Fairfax, hammers aluminum on an anvil in the blacksmith area.



Civil War re-enactors with the 49<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry are (from left) Robert Shelton, Barry Turner, Dennis Brown and Kurt Jacobs.

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

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**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 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 703-945-7483.

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

## THURSDAY/MAY 3

**College Applications Essays.** 7-8 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Don't be intimidated by college applications essays. Practical strategies and writing tips will help yours shine, revealing something that your grades and test scores can't. Free. Age 13-Adult. Call 703-644-7333 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).

**Community Meeting - New Location.** 7:30-9 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, 9612 Fernedge Lane, Lorton. Learn about the planning and design of the new Lorton Community Center. Fairfax County staff will present the project and answer questions from the community. To arrange translation service, childcare and transportation from the Lorton Library, contact Maria Franco-Nativi at 703-704-6700, TTY 711, or [maria.franco-nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:maria.franco-nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 4-6

**Volunteers Needed to Pack Meals.** Friday, 9:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Community members will fight world hunger by packing food for starving children through a partnership between New Hope Church (Lorton) and nonprofit Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). 16,000 local volunteers will feed 9,585 children for a year by packing nutritious ingredients into 583,333 bags in three days. Visit [www.2018foodfight.com](http://www.2018foodfight.com).

## SATURDAY/MAY 5

**Workshop for Siblings of Children with Special Needs.** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Key Middle School, 6402 Franconia Road, Springfield. This Sibshop workshop is for 8-13-year-old siblings of children with special needs enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools. A pizza lunch will be provided. Visit [www.fcps.edu/spedconference2018](http://www.fcps.edu/spedconference2018).

**Ramadan Food Pack-Out Sessions.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or 2-6 p.m. at 6820 Commercial Dr., Suite F, Springfield. Islamic Relief USA will hold its annual Ramadan Food Box Pack-Out sessions with volunteers packing boxes with many nonperishable foods. The goal is to create some 5,000 packaged meals at each location. All food will go to residents in the United States. Visit [irusa.org](http://irusa.org).

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<b>Find us on Facebook and become a fan!</b> <b>www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers</b> <b>THE CONNECTION</b> Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community <a href="http://www.connectionnewspapers.com">www.connectionnewspapers.com</a>		An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mis- takes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>	

## You Mean Next Week Tuesday?

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Today, Sunday, April 22, I am not on any real – or imagined, deadline pressure, quite different than my previous column (“You Mean Tomorrow Tuesday?”), published April 25. This column isn’t due until nine days from now, since my copy editor returns from vacation that Tuesday. And of course, since there’s no abbreviated/immediate-type deadline, and it’s a relatively quiet weekend at home (as opposed to the “triple threat” Tuesday I wrote about last week), Chino, in addition to any of our other four cats, are nowhere to be found. Certainly, they’re all sleeping. I mean, it is 12:30 pm. In fact, as I get up to investigate, Chino is sleeping on the very same chair he ended up on last week. This week however, when I have minimal deadline pressure, Chino has minimal Kenny interest. At present, he is not the least bit involved in the creative process, other than as a point of reference, that is.

And just as Chino is minding his own business – for now, I am able to mind mine and stay on task. It is so much easier to do so when my writing pad is not the exact midpoint and/or crossroads for where Chino is and for where he wants to be. Therefore, I have no excuses for not maintaining a creative flow as pen is put to paper. No cat interruptions or interference whatsoever. To quote my late father, I have no “encumbrances” – at the moment.

More so even than Chino walking right to left across my desk (and back of course). I just received an email from my oncologist, yes on the weekend, telling me that my two scans taken on Wednesday, April 18, continue to show “stable.” News, with which I’m extremely fond of writing – properly, I can live. As much as I could likewise live with tumor “shrinkage” as well, I am ALWAYS pleased when I see my new favorite word: “stable,” in any communication from my doctor. For a cancer patient still undergoing treatment – as I am, or for any cancer patient in remission, a “stable” result is hardly the problem. The problem is growth and/or movement or appearance elsewhere in the body. (For lung cancer patients, movement to the brain, which occurs in approximately 30 percent of patients, is the predominant worry. As such, I get a brain MRI regularly.)

So, no scan-result pressure. No post-chemo side-effect pressure. No newspaper and/or deadline pressure. And no cat-related pressure compounding any of the aforementioned pressures. Ergo, the ‘pressure’ is officially off. And when the ‘pressure’ is off, my creativeness is on. Though this may not be the best column I’ve ever written, it’s certainly been one with the least amount of ‘encumbrances.’

And speaking of my father, Barry, who died in in 2006, and now my mother, Celia, who died two years later, almost to the day, what I am particularly grateful for is the timing of my diagnosis/prognosis: it all happened after they had died. They never knew. My first symptom manifested four weeks after my widowed mother was laid to rest. They both know now though as I regularly update them when I visit their gravesites at the cemetery. And though the conversations are mostly one-sided, still, it brings me comfort and a peculiar sort of joy to share the details of my treatment and the miscellaneous pressures I experience, some of which I’ve mentioned and some of which I haven’t. Many of those my parents knew about, and were often topics of discussion – while they were alive.

I was lucky then and I continue to be lucky now. Great parents before and an amazingly fortunate post-cancer-diagnosis after. Whoever I have to thank: thank you.

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





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**Fairfax** **\$614,900**

Lovely 4 Level Split nestled on a beautifully Landscaped Lot. This perfectly maintained beauty offers, 5 BRs, 3 Full Baths, Warm and Cozy Family Room w/Gas Fireplace, Mud Room, Huge Unfinished 4th Level offering storage galore, + a One Car Carport. For a private tour, call Sheila, 703-201-4681.



**John & Jennifer Boyce**  
703-425-JOHN (5646)  
jennifer.boyce@longandfooster.com  
[www.425JOHN.com](http://www.425JOHN.com)



**Del Ray**  
**\$585,000**  
2BRs, 1.5BAs  
Gorgeously Renovated!  
Move-In Ready!  
Near Metro, Shops &  
Restaurants.



**Burke**  
**\$570,000**  
4BRs, 2.5BAs,  
Updated Kitchen,  
Landscaped Yard



**ELLIE WESTER**  
703-503-1880  
L&F Founder's Club  
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer  
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar  
Sales Club  
[ellie.wester@longandfooster.com](mailto:ellie.wester@longandfooster.com)



**Fairfax/  
Glendilough**  
**\$724,900**

Sited on a lovely and scenic half acre lot in the Ridges of Glendilough. Bright and light updated kitchen with stainless appliances, granite counters and hardwood floors. The h ardwood continues throughout the main level including family room. Three full updated baths, library and tiered decking are among the thoughtful upgrades. A whole house generator for emergency power, all windows replaced and freshly painted interior. Oakview-Frost-Woodson schools.



**"Committed to Earning the Loyalty of Our Clients by Providing Unparalleled Professionalism and Exceptional Service While Supporting Our Community."**

