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FALL FUN
PAGE 6

Tammy Morgan holds green-winged macaws, Kate and Rita, at TC Feathers Aviary in Chantilly.

Chantilly
CONNECTION
Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

Ready for
ParrotFest?

NEWS, PAGE 3

WHS To Present
Haunted House, Carnival
NEWS, PAGE 5

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

'Results vs. the Resistance' or 'Common-sense vs. Out-of-touch'?

Comstock and Wexton present stark choice for voters during first debate.

BY VICTORIA ROSS

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) charged directly at Democratic challenger Jennifer Wexton in her opening statement during the candidates' first debate Friday, casting Wexton as "the most left-wing state senator" who "wants to represent the resistance ... and who threatens economic growth and tax cuts."

Wexton, a former prosecutor and current state senator, shot back, calling Comstock a "political chameleon" who "paints herself as a bipartisan problem-solver" but "won't stand up for her constituents" against President Donald Trump.

"I fear how much damage can be done by this President and the Congress that enables him," Wexton said, emphasizing her bipartisan work in the Virginia legislature.

The 90-minute debate, organized by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce and held in the National Conference Center ballroom in Leesburg, was attended by a record crowd of 550 members.

Frequently punctuated by applause and whistles from supporters on both sides of the aisle, the debate was the first faceoff in one of the most closely watched congressional races in the nation.

VIRGINIA'S 10TH Congressional District has been held by a Republican for 38 years, but Democrats believe demographic shifts in the sprawling district — which include sections of Fairfax and Prince William counties and all of Loudoun County — and growing opposition to President Trump, will lead to a Democratic victory. In the 2016 election, Trump lost the district by 10 percentage points while Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, won the district by double digits in 2017.

Wexton has a record of bipartisan success in Richmond, where she passed more than 40 bills while in the minority.

But Comstock's supporters say she has demonstrated her ability to successfully navigate politics in the "Age of Trump" through her relentless campaigning, fast and furious fundraising, hands-on mastery of local issues and personal connections to people in her district.

"If there is a ribbon cutting or picnic, you can bet Barbara will be here," said Loudoun County developer David Garmand, who attended Friday's debate. "She sticks to what's important to the average business person."

Sidestepping direct support for Trump, Comstock credited her party for low unemployment, economic growth, increased defense spending and GOP tax cuts, saying those have benefitted Loudoun County.

"These are results to celebrate, not resist," Comstock said, to loud applause.

Comstock broke with Trump, however, on the key issue of imposing tariffs on U.S. goods, declaring herself a "free trader" who has always "opposed tariffs."

Wexton agreed that tariffs hurt Virginia farmers and businesses. "President Trump needlessly and recklessly imposed tariffs that are hurting Americans," Wexton said. Regarding the administration sending bailout checks to farmers, Wexton said "They don't want a bailout from the government. They want to sell their goods on the open market."

As with their shared opposition to the tariffs, the candidates mirrored one another on several other issues.

Both said they oppose Congressional moves to expand service at Reagan National Airport at the expense of Dulles International Airport, which is located in the dis-



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) responds to questions from Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce panelists during 90-minute debate Sept. 21, at the National Conference Center in Leesburg while her challenger, state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33) looks on.

trict. Both agreed that the opioid epidemic is a serious public health problem, and that addicts need to be treated, not just punished. Both expressed opposition to President Trump's proposed freeze on the pay of federal workers, thousands of whom call the 10th District home.

But when the candidates addressed immigration reform, the debate took a heated turn.

Comstock and Wexton both said they supported comprehensive immigration reform, including the expansion of programs enabling tech businesses to bring in skilled immigrants to fill cyber jobs.

"I do support having additional immigration," Comstock said. "But it needs to be legal and in a fair system. I have supported increasing H1B visas so we can get those high-quality workers."

"We need to address our immigration challenges in a bipartisan and comprehensive way," Wexton said, "but President Trump's divisive rhetoric and policies are only making that more difficult. Immigration is vitally important to our North-

ern Virginia economy; we have many tech businesses that rely on H1B visas and we have over 30,000 unfilled cyber jobs here in Virginia. Our farmers rely on seasonal immigrant laborers, and we need to make sure that they have them."

Wexton added that Republicans, who have controlled Congress for years, "have sat on their hands and put kids in cages." Her comment drew loud and sustained cheers and boos from supporters of each candidate, prompting an "order please" request from the event moderator.

DIFFERENCES between the candidates were also sharply defined on the GOP's tax reform bill passed last year. Wexton called it the "Trump-Comstock Tax Scam" which she said gives 80 percent of tax cut benefits to the wealthiest one percent of taxpayers and increases the annual deficit by a trillion dollars, instead of helping middle-class families. Comstock said she wanted to expand personal tax cuts and pursue more small business tax cuts.

While both candidates touted their work supporting funding for the Metro system, Wexton said Comstock's pro-

posals for Metro were so extreme they have failed to earn the support of any other members of Congress in the region. Wexton sharply criticized Comstock for voting against Metrorail's Silver Line expansion, "but that didn't stop her from showing up at the ribbon cutting."

The candidates also split over the Affordable Care Act. Comstock said "Obamacare was a totally partisan bill," calling it "deeply flawed." She said she did not support repeal, but instead would seek to fix the problems "piece by piece."

Wexton said there were steps the federal government could take to improve the system, but that "access to quality affordable healthcare is a right for all, not a privilege of the few" and that the Medicaid expansion she helped pass was providing "access to affordable healthcare to 400,000 needy Virginians."

In their closing statements, the candidates reiterated their campaign rhetoric:

"My record is one of getting results on your priorities ... results, not resistance," Comstock said.

"[Republicans'] actions show that they have no interest in real solutions, only sabotage. Unlike them, when I go to Congress, I'll work across the aisle to find real solutions," Wexton said.



Delegates Jennifer Boysko (D-86) and Kathleen Murphy (D-34) came out to the breakfast debate to support the challenger, state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33).



After the Virginia 10th District Congressional debate, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-Va) greets a supporter with a hug.

Aviary in Chantilly To Hold ParrotFest

Public can meet birds with “personality and intelligence.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Carey and Tammy Morgan’s Chantilly business is for the birds — and their aficionados. That’s because they own TC Feathers Aviary at 4309 Henninger Court, off Walney Road.

They sell exotic parrots, supplies and accessories and clearly enjoy what they do. Their store is bright, cheerful and bathed in light, and the walls painted in different colors give it a tropical feel. Even the birds have fun, taking turns playing on their own, life-sized gym. Besides their room and the sales section, there’s also a nursery, boarding area and breeding room.

And on Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 6-7, from noon-2 p.m., the Morgans are inviting the public to their first annual ParrotFest.

“Every year, we hold a customer-appreciation event,” said Tammy Morgan. “And this year, we decided to make it more fun and invite families.”

The free event will feature face painting, live music and refreshments, plus snuggles from three baby goats in a mini petting zoo. Children may also feed popcorn to the parrots and animal crackers to the goats.

The fun includes free raffles for bird toys and supplies; or \$5 raffle tickets for a bird cage and a year of free trims for the winner’s bird. People may also buy \$10 tickets to vie for \$400-\$500 java tree bird gyms. There’ll be sales on all merchandise, except for birds and food, and it’s also a fundraiser for the nonprofit Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

“There’s lots of fun stuff for kids to do,” said Morgan. “And it’s a good way to introduce the public to what our aviary has to offer. I started this store 18 years ago, and we’ve been in this location five year. We also board birds for people going out of town. We own about 200 birds — some 35 differ-



Amazon parrots playing on their gym, which includes a java tree.

ent types of parrots. Many are ones we’ve rescued and are our pets.”

About 19 years ago, she received a baby cockatiel as a present and fell in love with it. Then, as a hobby, she added more birds and eventually opened a store. But before that first bird, she said, “I never realized how much personality and intelligence birds have. For example, at home, one of my African Greys can tell me our other animals’ names, what they are and what they’re doing.”

So the bird will say things such as, “Zoe’s a dog, Molly’s a bird and Momo’s a cat. She’ll even communicate with them, saying, for instance, “Molly, stop” or telling one of the dogs, “George, no barking.”

“I like the interaction with the birds and the bond you form with them because they understand so much,” said Morgan. “And the different species have different personalities. So when people come into the store, we ask if they have kids, if they want an active or more sedentary bird, and if they live in an apartment or a single-family home — because the noise level could affect the neighbors.”

She said cockatiels are especially popular because they’re small, even-tempered and easy for children to handle. And African Greys are particularly intelligent and have one of the biggest vocabularies, easily able to learn 100 words.

Wife Carey got her first bird, 10 years ago, and her interest in them continued to grow. “I like how interactive they are,” she said. “You can almost have a conversation with them. And they live 15-80 years; the smaller ones live 15 years or more, and the large macaws can live 75-80 years.”

She said macaws, conures and caiques are big hits with the customers. “Conures are native to Central and South America,” said Carey Morgan. “They’re clownlike, playful and outgoing and come in many, different colors.”

Macaws come in various colors, too; and, from head to tail, can be 36 inches long. “They’re native to anywhere from Mexico to South America, can be good talkers and are even-tempered,” said Carey Morgan. “They’re like a giant version of conures.”

Caiques, however, are “the puppies of the bird world,” she said. “They’re very high



This 3-week-old umbrella cockatoo just arrived at the store.

energy and love to play and do tricks. They’re rough-and-tumble and hands-on.”

Noting that they’re one of her favorite species of parrot, Tammy Morgan added, “They love to wrestle. And they’ll lie on your lap on their backs to be tickled.”

Sometimes, she said, people place deposits on baby birds, but they can’t take them home until they’re fully weaned — anywhere from 8 weeks to 5 months old, depending on the species. “So they come and hang out with their birds in the evenings and on weekends,” said Tammy Morgan. “They cuddle and start bonding with them. It’s very social here.”

Carey Morgan said they also rescue and help adopt adult birds needing homes. “Birds often outlive their owners, or people call saying they can no longer keep their birds,” she said. “Or we’ll be alerted to a situation where there’s a bird needing our help. So we’ll have the bird disease-tested and then we’ll match it up with a family. And it’s one of the things that spurred us to raise money that’ll help the animal shelter — because, it, too, receives rescued animals

SEE PARROT FEST, PAGE 11



Fifi, a 7-year-old umbrella cockatoo, shows off her karate pose.



Dook, a double yellow-headed amazon parrot, can sing “Old MacDonald” and “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”



Skeeter, an eclectus parrot, perches on a sisal rope ring.

OPINION

Expand Criminal Fine Reform

Almost one million Virginians have had their licenses suspended due to unpaid court fines and other charges.

BY JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (R)

Criminal justice reform is about making sure that the criminal justice system achieves its goals and works equally for everyone. One issue being examined is whether assessing traffic and court fines and costs, regardless of ability to pay, and then punishing those who do not pay, is achieving any desired goal. Court fines and fees can be assessed for criminal or traffic offenses, such as speeding or parking violations. When someone receives a ticket or is ordered to pay a fine for an infraction, they also have to pay court and processing fees. This system is in place to deter people from committing these crimes, and also as a way to reimburse the cost of expenses associated with processing the cases and pay back to society for the cost of any damage caused by their actions.

For some, paying fines is not a problem. For others who are struggling to get by, it may be difficult or impossible to pay. The penalties for failing to pay fines and fees end up having a much greater impact on those in poverty than the rest of the population. If someone cannot pay their fine or traffic ticket, penalties for non-payment increase the amounts they could not pay in the first place. Overdue fines often go

to collection agencies and the mountain of debt grows even higher, since a 17 percent collection fee can be added on to the existing balance.

Compounding the issue is that if someone fails to pay their fines, the state can take their driver's license away. The Legal Aid Justice Center found in January that almost one million (974,349) Virginians had their licenses suspended due to unpaid fines and other charges. Two-thirds of that group (638,003) had their licenses suspended solely because of unpaid fines. When the courts suspend driver's licenses for unpaid fines, those individuals are not able to legally drive to work. Many people choose to drive illegally on their suspended licenses so they do not lose their income. If they are caught, then even more legal fees are added to their debt and some have to serve jail time. This vicious cycle makes it impossible for the courts to ever collect their fines and for those who owe to meet their obligations. It also means that people are pushed out of jobs and potentially into applying for government benefits.

Fortunately, in Fairfax County there are several programs to help individuals avoid these escalating penalties. Defendants can enter into a monthly payment plan with a down payment due at the time of their conviction. If a monthly payment is missed, then the defendant will go into default, which could result in additional

fines and/or jail time. Another option is to defer the entire payment until a later date. Defendants may also be eligible for the Fines Option Program, which allows defendants to perform community service in lieu of paying fines and fees. Those who sign up for this option go to the Magistrate's office on a Saturday morning, sign in, and take a bus to the George Mason University campus to perform tasks such as picking up litter, landscaping, or painting. Work hours are credited at the rate of \$15 an hour toward payment of fines.

While we have some remarkable programs to assist those who cannot afford to pay off their fines, many people still fall through the cracks. We need to implement a new system to help determine a person's ability to pay before they go to trial. The judge and clerk's office need the ability to set fines that can actually be paid. We need further opportunities for the alternative of assigning community service with more flexible schedules for those who cannot make the Saturday morning sessions.

Fine reform cannot truly take place without significant changes by the General Assembly. However, the County can help in the process by assisting the courts in bolstering their programs and making them more effective. We defeat the purpose of fines if we cause people to lose their jobs and the ability to support their families. Alternatives are important to a more just system.

BULLETIN BOARD

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 26

Sully District Council Membership Meeting. 7 p.m. at Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly. Visit www.sullydistrict.org for more.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 27

Alzheimer's Educational Conference. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee

Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)'s national Educating America National Tour, featuring AFA's free Concepts in Care educational conference, free memory screenings, and much more, comes to Fairfax. Program is open to families affected by Alzheimer's disease, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about Alzheimer's disease. Free. Visit alzfdn.org/event/

afa-educating-america-tour-fair-oaks/ or call 866-232-8484.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 29

Mental Health and Wellness Conference. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Dr. Amy Przeworski, associate professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Case Western University, will give the keynote presentation, Using Stress to

Your Advantage in Achieving Academic Success and Emotional Well Being. For the first time, the conference will also include an Our Minds Matter Teen Summit for middle and high school students. Participants will be able to choose from a wide variety of breakout sessions, and there will be many resource tables available. Free. Visit www.fcps.edu/mentalhealthwellnessconference for more.

Greenbriar Community Yard Sale.

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Many families of Greenbriar's 1,900 homes will be selling children's toys, clothing, kitchen/household items, furniture, wall hangings, home decor and more. Greenbriar may be accessed at Rt. 50 and Middle Ridge Drive or Majestic Lane, near intersection of Rt. 50 and Fairfax County Parkway. Access also from Stringfellow Road at intersections with Melville lane, Point Pleasant Drive and Poplar Tree Road.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 28

Military Academy Nomination Application Deadline. 5 p.m. Students interested in applying for a nomination by the 10th District Service Academy Advisory Board to one of the nation's military academies can mail or hand deliver applications to U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock's Sterling office at 21430 Cedar Drive, Suite 218, Sterling, VA 20164. Interested students can request an Academy Nomination Application at comstock.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

National Continental Congress

Members of the Centreville-based National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Lane's Mill Chapter, attended the Virginia luncheon held during the organization's National Continental Congress in Washington, D.C.

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Chills, Thrills and Squeals of Delight

Westfield High presents its Haunted House and Carnival.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

It's almost time for pumpkins, autumn leaves and Halloween. And for thrills, chills – and even family-friendly characters – that'll put people in the spirit of the season, the place to go is Westfield High's Haunted House and Carnival.

Put on by the school's Theater Department, it's set for Friday-Saturday, Oct. 5-6, from 6-9 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$8/person for all attractions and \$5/person for the Carnival only.

Haunted House

Junior Vicky Thomas is technical director of the Haunted House and doesn't recommend it for anyone younger than 7 "because it'll be scary." Theater students will perform in each scenario, and 30 students in all four of the Technical Theater classes are building the sets.

Thomas oversees the builders and painters, as well as the students responsible for the lighting, sound effects, costumes, makeup, props and general feel of each scary room visitors will enter. She also assigned groups of students to these rooms and let them create their own ideas for the event.

"There'll be five rooms in the black-box theater for people to visit," she said.

"The actors will portray voodoo witches, all tied together in one story." But to maintain the suspense so attendees will really be scared and surprised, she's keeping the specific details of each scenario under her hat.

Meanwhile, she's having a great time. "I love this so much," said Thomas.

"My friends who like performing tell me how acting makes them feel alive — and I feel the same way, creating things. The whole

SEE WHS'S HAUNTED, PAGE 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF KARA STAMPER

Disney princesses, plus other characters, will return to charm children coming to Westfield's Carnival.

Our new
Midwifery
program is a
labor of love.

Choose the birth plan that's right for
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service/midwifery](https://stonespringshospital.com/service/midwifery)



StoneSprings Hospital Center
HCA Virginia Health System

FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX STATION RAILROAD MUSEUM

LEGO Train Show and Craft Fair

The Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area LEGO Train Club will hold a special two-day display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. In addition volunteers will hold science, technology, engineering and mathematic activities about railroads. Recommended for ages 8 and older. Local crafters will also be on the Museum grounds selling crafts. Please bring any unwanted LEGO pieces or sets to help support the LEGO Train Club's educational activities. Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 6-7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$5. Call 703-425-9225 or visit www.fairfax-station.org.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Cox Farms' Fall Festival. Open daily, through Nov. 6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (5 p.m. in November). The Fall Festival features favorite attractions including hayrides, giant slides, rope swings, the Cornundrum Cornfield adventure, the Imaginature Trail, Foamhenge, the Tractor Museum, and all sorts of farm animals and their babies. Admission varies \$6-\$20. Last admission one hour before closing. Visit www.coxfarms.com.

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

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

425-9225.

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

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

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaire.org.

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

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

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org.

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit

A Bucket List for Fall

Activities that will add spice to the season.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

When the leaves turn colors and the air is crisp, Caitlin Upton gathers her family and pulls out a whiteboard and a marker. She's careful to jot down all of the ideas, shouted in rapid-fire fashion from her three children.

"We always create a fall bucket list of things that we want to do as a family," said Upton, who is a mother of three children ranging in age from two to seven. "This year, the kids want to go on a hayride and pick pumpkins. It's not too original, but they love it and get really excited about it. It gives us something to look forward to during the week when we're so busy."

Creating a fall bucket list — a compilation of experiences or achievements that one wants to accomplish — is an important way to create lasting family traditions and memories, while enjoying all that the season has to offer. From hayrides to pumpkin-carving, fall ushers in enough family-friendly activities to create an overflowing list of activities that make the most of the season's bounty.

"The start of a new season is a perfect time to create bucket list, and during fall there are so many fun things to do," said Upton, a marriage and family therapist in Burke. "So often, people have ideas of things that they want to do either with their kids, their friends or just personal things, but never get around to them. It's important to write them down and commit to doing them. I write our list on a white board in our kitchen, but I keep it short and attainable so we don't get overwhelmed. Carving out quality time to spend with family is important."

Foraging for vibrantly color fallen leaves in shades of orange and yellow is at the top of Bella Middleton's bucket list. Middleton, who is an art

instructor in Bethesda, gathers her two preschool-age children and collects leaves with the goal of turning nature into art. "Sometimes we do something as simple as taking branches with leaves that have turned orange and put them in vases that we display around the house. I mix pumpkins with leaves to create a centerpiece for the dining room table."

Making wreaths and collages is another project that Middleton does with her family. "This is really one of the most inexpensive and fun projects that you can do," she said. "My kids and I go to a park and gather fallen leaves. Then I get some construction paper and glue sticks or spray mount and let my kids attached the leaves to the paper in any way they want, then I display their works of art around the house. It's a great way to welcome the season."

Turning leaves into candle holders is another project that Middleton and her family enjoy. "You take leaves and glue them to the inside of mason jars and let them dry. You can attach the leaves with a craft glue called Modge Podge, which dries clear. Tie a pretty ribbon around the mouth of the jar and you have a beautiful decorative piece for fall."

Spending a day enjoying a scenic drive to Shenandoah, passing through the so-called Apple Trail, is must-do task for Arlington mother Camilla Kendrick and her family.

"It's a beautiful drive down. We stop and pick apples and then we come home and make apple doughnuts," said Kendrick, who works as a private chef. "They're messy, so the kids think they're fun to make. I also make apple cider doughnuts for some of my clients."

Taking a local fall foliage drive with her four children is something that Lauren Bickle puts on her bucket list each fall. "It's certainly not as breathtaking as the foliage in some place like New England, but this area has a lot to offer," she said. "There's Great Falls of course, and then Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery have some great colors. If you're up for a longer drive, Harper's Ferry in Maryland is fantastic for a fall day trip."

Apple Doughnut Recipe

Ingredients
2 cups flour
1/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 egg
3 tablespoons buttermilk
1/3 cup whole milk
5 Granny Smith apples, cored and sliced vertically into three pieces to create doughnut shapes.
2 cups olive oil for frying
1/2 cup powdered sugar, for coating

Directions: Stir together flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt to create the batter. Gradually stir-in buttermilk, whole milk and egg. Coat each apple ring with batter. Heat the oil in a deep frying pan. Place the doughnut rings in the pan and fry on each side for three minutes or until golden brown. Drain doughnuts on a paper towel and allow to cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

aforeverhome.org.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 27

Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. At Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Donations and participation has enabled the Erin Peterson Fund to award 73 scholarships and be the sole sponsor of the Westfield High School Young Men's Leadership Group, Stone Middle and Westfield

High School Girls Reaching for Academic & Culture Excellence (GRACE) groups, EPF Koats for Kids program providing new coats to kids at Centreville Elementary School. Early Registration starts Aug. 6. Visit www.erinpeterfonfund.org. For questions, e-mail erinpetersonfund@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 27-30

Centreville Library Book Sale. Thursday, noon-8:30 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200

St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Half-price on Sunday. Centreville Library Friends Fall Book Sale proceeds benefit the library and its patrons. Call the library at 703-830- 2223 or friendsofcentrevillelibrary.blogspot.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 29

NOVA Pride. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Bull Run Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. NOVA Pride invites all members and allies of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) community to attend this year's pride event. The only requirement: open hearts, and

FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

an appreciation for diversity, inclusivity, and acceptance. Visit www.novapride.org.

Anniversary Luau with Ono. Doors open 11:30 a.m. at Ono Brewing Company, 4520 Daly Drive, Suite 102, Chantilly. Hawaiian entertainment starting at 2 p.m. Learn to hula; visit vendors and crafters displaying handmade Hawaiian-themed items; watch lei making demonstrations and learn how to make your own lei. Odd BBQ will be serving an outdoor pork roast buffet along with additional a la carte items. Kona Ice truck will sell Hawaiian shaved ice. Raffle giveaways all day. Admission \$5-\$10. Visit www.onobrewco.com.

Ride to Thrive Polo Classic. 1 p.m. at Chetwood Park in The Plains, Va. The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP), based in Clifton, will hold the 12th Annual Ride to Thrive Polo Classic. Sponsorships range from \$500-\$10,000 and tickets to the event are now available for \$85 at www.nvtrp.org/polo-classic.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 30

Civil War Book & Memorabilia Sale. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax. Chuck Mauro and Don Hakenson and other vendors will also be selling their wares at the First Annual Civil War Book & Memorabilia Sale. Interested vendors may email mayo5304@cox.net or call 703-389-1505.

Hands-On Harvest. 1-2:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Come to the park for a garden tour through time and a chance to help staff and volunteers harvest the gardens. Dig for fall crops such as greens, broccoli and squash. It's the perfect way to let children learn more about how their foods grow. The program is designed for family members age 2 to adult. \$10 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Reading Circle Activities. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. "The Caboose That Got Loose" book will be featured. The Reading Circle will be held in two 45 minute sessions – one at 1:15, one at 2:30. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 6-7

LEGO Train Show and Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area LEGO Train Club will hold a special two-day display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. In addition volunteers will hold science, technology, engineering and mathematic activities about railroads. Recommended for ages 8 and older. Local crafters will also be on the Museum grounds selling crafts. Please bring any unwanted LEGO pieces or sets to help support the LEGO Train Club's educational activities. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$5. Call 703-425-9225 or visit www.fairfax-station.org.

Minefaire. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. 15,000 parents and children will connect with each other – and bridge the gap between the virtual world and the real world – when Minefaire comes to the D.C. metro area. All-inclusive tickets start at \$49; children age two and under free. Visit Minefaire.com.



Paradise Springs Winery

Wine Social Fundraiser

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is hosting a fall fundraising Wine Social at this family-run winery. Tickets, available at the door or for advance purchase, include two glasses of wine and hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds benefit the non-profit's children's programs. Sunday, Nov. 4, 1-4 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. \$25. Visit www.alnv.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 7

Clifton Day Festival. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Town of Clifton, 7144 Main St., Clifton. Clifton Day 2018 will feature an outdoor marketplace with 150 vendors. Live music, train rides, crafts, children's activities and great food will add to the fun. Admission is free. Parking starts at \$5 per car. The VRE will provide roundtrip train service to Clifton from all stops between Manassas and Rolling Road. The train ride to Clifton is free and the return trip costs \$5 per person (children under 2 ride free). Call 703-968-0740 or visit www.cliftonday.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 14

T-TRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia T-TRAK members will hold a N gauge Model Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

International Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St Timothy Catholic Church, 13807 Poplar Tree Road, Chantilly. 6th Annual International Festival – a faith, family fun event with live entertainment, food from around the world, games and more. Tickets sold at the door. All are welcome. Call 703-266-8972 or visit www.sttimothyfestival.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 21

NTRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge Model Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/NOV. 4

Wine Social. 1-4 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Assistance League of Northern Virginia is hosting a fall fundraising Wine Social at this family-run winery. Tickets include two glasses of wine and hors

d'oeuvres. Proceeds benefit the non-profit's children's programs. \$25. Visit www.alnv.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

HomeAid Northern Virginia's 17th Annual Gala & Auction. 6:30 p.m. at Lansdowne Resort & Spa, 44050 Woodridge Pkwy, Leesburg. Celebrate a successful year of building better lives for those experiencing homelessness in our community with Chantilly-based HomeAid's "Give me Shelter" Cirque themed gala. \$225. Call 571-283-6300 or visit www.homeaidnova.org.

LIBRARY FUN

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

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

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

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

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 for a spot.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

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News

WHS's Haunted House, Carnival

FROM PAGE 5
process is euphoric."

Carnival

Geared toward entertaining younger children, the Carnival will be on the auditorium stage. There'll be a pirate cove, fairies, The Incredibles, Disney princesses and a Harry Potter room.

"The characters will interact with the kids, talking to them and doing face-painting and fortune-telling," said Thomas. "And lots of kids come dressed in their own Halloween costumes and bring bags or buckets to collect candy at each of the character stations. Parents can also take their children's photos with the characters."

Senior Leena Kethu is the Carnival director, and some 30 students will act in the scenarios. "It's a great opportunity for the underclassmen to participate in the Theater Department," said Thomas. "And the upper classmen make sure everything's going smoothly."

It's a fun event, she said, because "Kids can get candy, meet their favorite characters and have a good time. I used to come to this with my mom when I was younger, and I loved it. The pirates told jokes and had a treasure chest full of candy — and they're still doing that."

Junior Keeley Rogers is in two scenarios. One night, she'll be Hermione in the Harry Potter room; and another night, she'll play the part of Violet from "The Incredibles" movie.

"Ever since my freshman year, the same group of people have been in the Harry Potter room, and we love it because it's kind of hidden from the stage," said Rogers. "So it's more fun for the kids to take them back there into it. We even have bricks over the doorway, like in the movies."

They'll also see most of the main characters — Harry, Hermione, Ron, Draco, Ginny, Dobby and Snape. "We've planned different activities, and we've decorated the room to look like Hogwarts," said Rogers. "We have a Sorting Hat, and someone will be its voice. It'll be put on the children's heads and



PHOTO COURTESY OF KARA STAMPER

This year's visitors to Hogwarts will again experience the thrill of the Sorting Hat.

they'll be sorted into the four Hogwarts houses."

About 10 actors will be in this room, and in one corner will be several potions. Harry will explain what each does and will demonstrate one. "Children won't feel like they're in the school, anymore, but actually in Hogwarts," said Rogers. "And it'll be fun for them to meet all the characters."

Although she'll be in the Haunted House this time, sophomore Ashley Andre played a Carnival pirate last year. "I got to dress up as a pirate, be in a cove and 'swordfight' and play games with the kids," she said. "It's fun seeing all the cute, little kids."

Overall, said Andre, "In the Carnival, we get to interact with kids and have a good time. And in the Haunted House, we scare people. But whatever we're doing, we work really hard on it, so everyone will have a good time."

Roundups

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Sept. 27, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary.

But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Sully Community Center Meeting

Area residents may learn about the new Sully Community Center at a meeting slated for Monday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m., at the Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Fairfax County is proposing to build the new facility on a 5-acre site at the intersection of Wall Road and Air and Space Museum Parkway in Chantilly, near Highlands Park.

The roughly 30,000 square-foot building will serve as a multigenerational center for the surrounding communities. It will also be the new and permanent home of the Sully Senior Center (currently operat

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 11

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Blakley, Cochrane and Morgan Are Promoted

All three served at local, police district stations.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Fairfax County Police Chief Ed Roessler has promoted two police captains to majors, and both have served as district-station commanders in the local area. Chantel Cochran headed the Fair Oaks District Station, and Bob Blakley led the Sully District Station.

In addition, the Sully station's current assistant commander, Lt. Ryan Morgan, has been promoted to captain.

Currently the Assistant Commander of the Police Department's Major Crimes Bureau, Cochran has been with Fairfax County since 1996. Her assignments have included Mount Vernon District Patrol, Neighborhood Patrol Unit, Crime Scene Section, Criminal



Bob Blakley



Chantel Cochran



Ryan Morgan

Justice Academy, Internal Affairs Bureau, and Commander positions at both the Mason and Fair Oaks district stations. She's married to a retired county police officer and has four children.

Blakley, who presently com-

mands the Department's Traffic Division, joined the county police in 2002, after serving four years with the Virginia State Police in the county. While with the FCPD, he's worked in the Crash Reconstruction Unit, Internal Affairs Bureau and Major Crimes Bureau and commanded the Sully District Station. Furthermore, Blakley serves as one of three police commanders on the National Capital Region Incident Management Team, which deploys and manages large-scale incidents and disasters across the region and beyond. He also oversees the department's leadership development program and teaches that material to law-enforcement professionals across the country with the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Blakley has a Master's in Public Administration from George Ma-

son University, where he also serves as an adjunct professor. A Marine Corps veteran, he married his high-school sweetheart and they have four children.

As for Morgan, he's spent a great deal of his career at the Sully District Station. Regarding his new position, he said, "I have been told I will be the department's Planning Captain. It's a great opportunity."

Pleased with all his newly promoted officers, Roessler said, "During the last few years, I've enjoyed the opportunity to coach and mentor a deep bench of highly qualified personnel who are learning the knowledge, skills and abilities to one day succeed to the next level of leadership. I wish them all the success in their endeavors and, above all, I pray they stay safe."



Route 29 Widening Fairfax County Public Information Meeting

**Wednesday, October 10, 2018
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Presentation begins at 7 p.m.**

**Colin L. Powell Elementary School
13340 Leland Road
Centreville, VA 20120**

Find out about plans to widen 1.5 miles of Route 29 (Lee Highway) from four to six lanes between Union Mill Road and Buckleys Gate Drive to relieve congestion and improve operations and safety.

The project will also correct vertical alignment to improve sight distance, add/improve bicycle and pedestrian shared-use paths on both sides of Route 29, and provide connectivity to bicycle/pedestrian trails at the Fairfax County Parkway/West Ox Road interchange.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project and its preliminary design. A presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2907 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **October 22, 2018** to Ms. Hong Ha, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Route 29 Widening" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Hong Ha at 703-259-2907.

State Project: 0029-029-350, P101, R201, C501, D612, D613
UPC: 110329, Federal: NHPP-5A01 (917)



Eric McDonnell



Joe Swartz



Ron Campbell

Three Recognized for Service

Three former Troop 30 Scoutmasters were honored at the Sully District Awards Banquet on Sept. 19 for their volunteering support at the District level.

Combined these three men served over 10 years in the Scoutmaster role and continue to serve Boy Scouting in various capacities: Joe Swartz, Ron Campbell, and Eric McDonnell. Other Troop 30 volunteers recognized that evening included Mark

Paschetag and Don Cohen.

Troop 30 is a mid-sized troop chartered by Centreville Presbyterian Church. Troop 30 Scouts attend the Westfield, Centreville, and Chantilly High School pyramids, including home schooled boys. Troop 30 welcomes all boys between 10-18 years of age. Find out more at www.troopwebhost.org/Troop30Centreville/Index.htm.

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Sully District Police Station.

BURGLARY: 6800 block of Colonel Taylor Lane, Sept. 10, 8:00 a.m. Officers responded for a report of a burglary. The victim left his home at 7 a.m. and returned at 8:15 a.m. to find his wife's purse was missing from the front foyer area. The door was left unlocked at the time and nothing else appeared to be missing.

BURGLARY: 15000 block of Eagle Tavern Way, between 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 7 and 2:35 p.m. on Sept. 9. Officers responded for a report of a damaged window and found two mirrors were stolen from inside the home. It appears the suspect(s) came in through the dam-

aged window. The home has been vacant since July and has been shown by several Realtors who recently noticed the damage.

BURGLARY: 5600 block of Barrymore Road, between 4:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. on Sept. 5. A resident reported that someone entered his garage and stole several items from his vehicle.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY: 14800 block of Bolton Road, Sept. 1, 7:45 a.m. The victim woke up to find her sliding glass door shattered.

BURGLARY: 14000 block of Verona Ln., Aug. 27, between 3:05 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. A homeowner reported someone entered her residence and took electronics. It appears the suspect came

into the residence through an unlocked window.

SHOOTING INTO OCCUPIED VEHICLE: Braddock Road at Orchard Hill Lane, Aug. 23, 2:28 p.m. A man was driving a school bus when one of the windows was broken by a BB. Officers located a man who was determined to be the shooter of the BB gun. A 19-year-old man from Fairfax, was arrested and charged with destruction of property and shooting at a vehicle.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY: 14600 block of Cedar Knoll Drive, between Aug. 13 at 8:30 p.m. and Aug. 14 at 6 a.m. A resident discovered he left his garage door open and someone went through his car at some point during the night.

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

Kalin Jean #20 rushes in for a TD against South Lakes.

Wildcats Vanquish Seahawks

The Centreville Wildcats defeated the South Lakes Seahawks on Friday, Sept. 21 in Clifton. During the halftime ceremonies 10 honorees for Centreville's first Hall of Fame class were announced: Jeremy Ferry, Kristen James, Laura James, Laura Heiner Tuner, Rickey Harris, S. Claire Laubach, Shannon Karl Soares, Tyelah Hall Brown, Will Montgomery and William Trussell Jr.

In the 1st quarter Jordan Wright would score from 5 yards out with 2:24 to play, giving Centreville a 7-0 lead.

In the 2nd quarter Griffin Greer would kick a 30-yard field goal to give Centreville a 10-0 advantage. With :54 remaining in the quarter, Centreville would once again get in the endzone on a 79-yard punt return. 27 seconds later after a South Lakes turnover, Centreville added 7 more points when Jordan Wright scored from 23 yards out.

In the 3rd quarter trailing 24-0, South Lakes was able to get on the board with 5:43 to play in the quarter. Following the TD, South Lakes Wilson Seneca was able to convert a 2-point conversion pulling the Seahawks to within 16, 24-8.

However, South Lakes would be unable to put any more points on the board while Centreville would add 21 more before games end. Jordan Wright would score 6 of those on a 61-yard TD reception with 4:49 to play in the 3rd quarter.



Abdul Koroma #10 single handedly brings down Donovan Mitchell #23.

Centreville would add two more scores in the 4th quarter. First with 9:56 and then an interception for 53 yards with 8:16 to play by Lamar Horner would conclude scoring and move Centreville to (5-0) and drop South Lakes to (3-1). South Lakes will play at Lan-

gley (1-4) on Friday while Centreville will play at West Potomac (2-2). With the 45-8 victory this is the third time this year that Centreville has scored more than 40 points.

— WILL PALENSCAR

ParrotFest

FROM PAGE 3
and adopts them out."

She said people don't have to be customers or bird owners to come to ParrotFest. "It's a community event to help educate people about parrots and the proper way to keep and care for them," said Carey Morgan. "And it'll be a lot of fun." She and Tammy are also proud of their store and happy to let people know more about it.

"We enjoy working for ourselves, and everything people see here — the happiness, the health of the birds and the environment in general — is a direct result of the work we do," she said. "It's a lot of hard work, but we enjoy the hands-on aspect of working with parrots — we're passionate about it."

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 8

ing in leased space in Chantilly). The community center will offer a broad array of services, programs and activities for people of all ages and abilities. The project is currently in the initial design stages and is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

Coffee with a Cop

Local residents may join police officers from the Sully District Station for an informal chat and a cup of coffee during the upcoming Coffee with a Cop event. It'll be held Wed., Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Starbucks at 14423 Chantilly Crossing Lane in Chantilly.

Driver Safety Assistants Needed

Volunteers are needed to help older adults in the CarFit program. Participants in the program drive their cars to a specified location where CarFit volunteers help the drivers adjust their car's seat, mirrors, and other features to maximize their comfort and safety.

Working under the supervision/guidance of CarFit event coordinators, volunteers will review a 12-point safety checklist with participants.

Volunteers must be licensed drivers, have good time management skills and be able to stoop down. A four-hour mandatory training will be held on Thursday, Sept. 6, at the Mott Center in Fairfax.

To learn more go to <https://car-fit.org>, or call Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406.

Meals on Wheels Drivers Sought

Meals on Wheels Drivers pick up meals and deliver them to individuals on a specific route. Routes take a maximum of two hours to deliver all meals. Deliveries are made midday Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays.

Deliveries can be made by an individual or as part of a volunteer group. Email volunteersolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Woe I'll Never Be



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not on hold with the Oncology department today. Not elbowing Twinkle or Biscuit off my writing tablet as I sit and write this week's column. And not going hungry from the previous Friday's infusion (a week plus has passed so the worst side effect of the treatment has passed).

In general, aside from waiting for my upcoming CT scan on Sept. 26, I am glad that soon I can get on with my life.

You'll note I didn't say fate. That word has too negative a connotation. And my nature, as you regular readers know, is as a positive/glass half full kind of person. So, as I approach this next milestone, I view it not so much as a millstone but more so as just another rock that hopefully leaves me not in a very hard place.

The pre-existing cancer diagnosis is already hard enough. But after living with it for so long and enduring as many rounds of chemotherapy, side effects, lab work, diagnostic scans, 24-hour urine collection and all the associated anxiety surrounding a "terminal" diagnosis as I have, one, at least this one, has learned to live with the miscellaneous demands.

It's not to imply that doing so is easy, but not doing so is so much more difficult. To that end, which ultimately won't be my end, assimilating the good, bad and the incredibly worrisome into some sort of mental spreadsheet seems the only logical pursuit.

Either you learn to take it in stride or you'll die not trying.

And since dying, so far as we know anyhow, is so much less appealing than living, I'm striving to balance my equilibrium and never get too high or too low no matter the news. (Yes. I'm a Libra so balance is very much a part of my process.)

That's not to say that there aren't incredible pressures and challenges that us cancer patients have to manage, it's more that to say that laughing in the face of death is not a sign of weakness but more so a sign of enlightened strength.

Part of that strength is respecting the process with which cancer patients are all too familiar and moreover, and most importantly, understanding and respecting what we don't have control over. There's an element of letting go which enhances one's quality of life and minimizes obstacles as well.

Doing what you can and not fretting about what you can't, in addition to keeping an open mind, combines to smooth out the rough edges and to focus on the path ahead. The 'path ahead' being the goal.

I remember that exact philosophy being expressed by my oncologist at the original Team Lourie meeting back in late February 2009. When it was suggested that my mother's smoking of Chesterfield King cigarettes in my youth or my dalliances in college in the '70s might be relevant/have had an impact on my lung cancer diagnosis, my oncologist would have none of it.

Retrieving fragments of history and/or assigning blame for less-than-ideal behavior was irrelevant to him. His concern was not the past, it was the present/future. We were to be looking/planning ahead and treating forward.

And so here I sit, very much having been treated forward.

At present, I am my oncologist's prize cow, a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor, alive and reasonably well nine years and nearly seven months into an initial "13 month to two year" prognosis. After hearing that grim prognosis, I never would have imagined that in August 2018, I'd still be alive.

But here I am. Not a victim of my own circumstances.

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

'E-Day' on the Horizon

County readies for Nov. 6 elections.

By Andrea Worker

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, voters will go to the polls to choose a United States Senator, representatives for Congress, Town officials in Herndon, and vote on several referendums.

The Fairfax County Electoral Board held a Media Briefing session on Sept. 17 to provide important information regarding the election process and voting in Fairfax County. With "E-Day" on the horizon, they want to help voters avoid any confusions or pitfalls that could cause unnecessary inconvenience or even the denial of their vote.

In-person absentee voting for the midterm elections began on Friday, Sept. 21, at the Fairfax County Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax and the first mailing of absentee ballots is scheduled to go out on the same date. The Office of Elections is ready, even as they continue preparations for actual election day action.

"Thank goodness we just got the ballots in," said Electoral Board Secretary Kate Hanley. "They came from New Bern, North Carolina!" a town particularly devastated by Hurricane Florence.

Election officials want to be sure that voters are ready to exercise their right to vote.

To that end, a voter information notice including a sample ballot, precinct locations and other pertinent information is being mailed to both active and inactive registered voters - but that won't do you much good if you haven't yet registered to vote.

Hanley reminds that the deadline to register to vote is Oct. 15. To be eligible to register, you must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Virginia, and at least 18 years of age by the next general election. Voters will need to provide a valid photo ID to vote in person.

New registrants can obtain the voter application form from a myriad of places, including the Elections Office in Government Center, DMV offices, and public libraries. The registration application must then be mailed as instructed to the Office of Elections. Registrants can also apply online at www.vote.elections.virginia.gov. The County reports that 95 percent of voter registrations are now done electronically.

VOTING can be done in person on Election Day, by in-person absentee voting or via a mail-in absentee ballot. There are 20 valid reasons accepted to vote absentee in Virginia and several different time ranges that apply, depending on a person's circumstances. All of these requirements are clearly outlined on the www.elections.virginia.gov website. If voters determine they meet the absentee voting criteria, the application for the absentee ballot can be downloaded from the site and there is even a video on the site showing how to fill out the application.

"It's important to realize that the ballot itself is still mailed to you," noted Electoral Board Chairman Stephen Hunt. "Some



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

From left: Fairfax County General Registrar Gary Scott, Kate Hanley, Secretary of the Fairfax County Electoral Board, Board Chairman Stephen Hunt, and Vice-Chairman Bettina Lawton host members of the media at a meeting on Sept. 17.

people just keep hitting the 'Apply' button, waiting for the ballot to download. It doesn't work that way."

Hunt wants voters to plan for that and give themselves ample time to receive the absentee ballot, complete it, and send it back. As of Sept. 17, the County reports having received almost 8,000 mail-in ballot applications. The deadline to apply for a mail-in absentee voting ballot is Oct. 30 at 5 p.m., but that doesn't leave much time for your ballot to be received by Election Day. Mailed-in absentee ballots are counted on election night in the Central Absentee Precinct.

Regardless of how you plan to cast your vote, the first port of call should be that www.vote.elections.virginia.gov website to check your voter status and to update your information if need be.

Hunt said that there have been instances where address changes or other incorrect information have caused problems for the voter. "Check everything in advance."

In addition to the Government Center location, registered voters can vote in-person absentee before Election Day at 9 other satellite locations: The Lorton Library; The Providence Community Center; the Governmental Centers of: Franconia, Mason, McLean, Mount Vernon, North County (Reston), Sully, West Springfield

The Government Center Offices will be closed on Oct. 8 for Columbus Day. All locations are closed on Sundays and the hours for each are posted on the County website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.

Other than the deadlines, voting requirements, and where to find the necessary information, the Electoral Board members had a few other cautionary notes and reminders.

Some of those reminders were aimed at college students, possibly living away from home on Election Day.

Using George Mason University as an example, Hunt and Hanley said that even though there is a voting poll on campus, students cannot vote there if they are registered elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

"Several hundred denials have resulted from voters attempting to vote at a precinct different from where they are registered," said Hunt. The chances of being able to race from the wrong polling place to the correct one in time are fairly slim. Mail-in ballots can be sent to any address, but in-person voting must take place where the voter is registered - still another good reason to check your information on the Virginia voter's website.

Also, said Fairfax County Information Officer Lisa Connors, "remind students to bring stamps!" Lack of access to stamps or a post office was reported as a problem when the County held a college intern brainstorming session this summer.

Hunt also took time to assure residents that while there have been incidents of missassigned voters, every effort is made to avoid those mistakes, including close collaboration with the Department of Motor Vehicles, the County departments involved in geographic information systems, and "a lot of manual checking and double-checking." Hunt said that even one voter denied their voting rights because of clerical error "is one too many."

THE BALLOTS are printed with instructions and information in Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese. There are also translators on phone "standby" that can assist voters at the polls.

Also on hand at the meeting was Travis

Potter, Acting IT Manager, and a handout was available on "Voting System Security." The Electoral Board assures voters that the County's voting systems have been "rigorously tested...and certified by the U.S. Assistance Commission and Virginia Department of Elections." No part of the certified system is connected to the internet - no modems, no Wi-Fi capabilities to allow hacking. Elections results are never transmitted but instead, are called into the office.

It's also important to note that election night results are not considered "official" until County election officers review the machine tapes for every ballot scanner and compare that information with the results reported.

Before the briefing concluded, Secretary Hanley updated the media on the Board's position to move the June primaries to the third Tuesday in the month. The Board officially adopted this position in July, and sent a letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, the Fairfax County School Board, and the members of the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly in August.

Hanley said, "165 of the County's 243 precincts are located in schools." Numerous reasons, not the least being the call for increased security at schools in recent times, have convinced the Electoral Board that for the June primaries, it is in the best interests of students and voters to move the date to when most schools have already finished the academic year.

"I think the recommendation is gaining traction," reported Hanley.

For more information, contact the Elections Office of Fairfax County by email at voting@fairfaxcounty.gov, in person, or by calling their offices at 703-222-0776.