

Reston CONNECTION



Alex Hennessy of Reston and her son Nolan, 3, place a wreath on a veteran's grave during the Saturday, Dec. 15 Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon.

Wreaths Across America Honors Area Veterans

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OBITUARY

Joyce Ella
(Henderson)
Greene



Joyce Ella (Henderson) Greene

Joyce Ella (Henderson) Greene of Fairfax passed away at Alexandria Inova Hospital on Dec. 13, 2018 after a short illness. She was born in San Antonio, Texas on Feb. 26, 1938 to the late Henry Williams and Rebecca Harris Henderson and raised in San Mateo, Calif. and Kansas City, Mo. She studied nursing Holy Ghost Hospital in Boston, Mass. and practiced nursing before she married Robert Ewell Greene, Sr, an Army officer, on July 4, 1959 in Kansas City, Mo. As an Army wife, she moved around the world and the country, including Germany that she loved so much.

She was later a teacher at PALs Day Care Center in Reston, where she was adored by the parents and children in her care. She

will be missed by many for whom her life brought laughter and smiles.

A loving mother, wife, friend and aunt, she is survived by her loving son, David Arthur Greene of Alexandria and sister Rebecca Henderson Smith of Kansas City, Mo. She was predeceased by her son, Robert Ewell Greene Jr. and siblings Carlene Henderson Eason, Carl Henderson, and Hezzie Henderson. She has numerous nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Friends and family may visit on Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 6-8 pm at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Reston, followed by a mass of Christian burial at St. John Neumann on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 11 a.m.

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From Amazon to Shutdown

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

“I’ve been wrong before, so who knows? But I don’t think we will see a government shutdown over this budget and the border wall.”

That was U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine’s opinion at a roundtable discussion with his colleague U.S. Sen. Mark Warner. The event was hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, held at the Arlington campus of George Mason University, and moderated by NBC4 News Northern Virginia Bureau Chief, Julie Carey.

The question of a possible government shutdown with its disproportionate effect on Northern Virginia was one that the audience of area businesses, nonprofits and local government representatives were anxious to hear.

“There are two bipartisan options on the table for the President to choose from,” added Kaine, and if neither is to his liking, Kaine said that Congress could still move forward and “kick the can” with one or more Continuing Resolutions. “We can write the checks two months at a time.”

Warner agrees, while noting the situation is somewhat better than it has been during past similar circumstances.

“There are seven appropriation bills ready for signing,” he said. “Seventy-five percent of the needs are already funded through the regular rules of order.”

Border security is the last piece, with the president threatening the shutdown if Congress doesn’t provide him with the \$5 billion he’s asking to build the border wall. “We’re still waiting for that check from Mexico [that Trump keeps promising],” Warner joked.

Warner is not opposed to spending on border security. He just doesn’t see the value in massive spending on a wall or fence that would also require maintenance and manning. Spending on drones and other proven technologies would garner his support, “and would be more effective and cost a lot less now and in the future.”

The same applies when it comes to defense spending, which the senators say that the President wants to increase. “Virginia would certainly benefit from more defense spending,” said Kaine, but he doesn’t think it’s really a good idea or the right answer.

WARNER WORRIES that this administration is going all in “to buy the best of 20th century stuff” instead of focusing on what’s needed to fight the “real battles of today.”

Both men see that fight as cyber wars and attacks of misinformation — “taking place daily” declared Warner — and the surpassing of the United States in technology and trade by China, Russia and others. None of these “real, modern threats” will be won by the addition of another battleship or even more troops.



U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine and NBC4 News Virginia Bureau Chief Julie Carey trade questions and answers at a discussion hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER

Calling the government’s lack of preparedness and outdated networks and devices “stupid on steroids,” Warner gave examples of continuing purchases of devices without even the most basic of safeguards. “We are literally adding to our own vulnerability.”

Warner will be pushing for a cohesive “cyber strategy” going forward and thinks that Virginia could become the Cyber Capital, since no one else has yet laid claim to that title and role.

WHAT ABOUT the addition of Amazon in the senator’s own backyard?

“It’s a game-changer for the region,” in Warner’s view, praising Gov. Ralph Northam and the many others who worked on the deal to make it possible. Warner also sees the Amazon addition as another building block to the growth of a local economy that he says has continued to experience “real weakness” and a “level of vulnerability” post-sequestration. He also hopes that Amazon and the support services that will follow in its wake will help stem the decline of millennials in the region.

Risking what he said might be considered a “little bit of heresy to say with an Arlington crowd,” Warner has his fingers crossed, and will do what he can to encourage some “down-state” job benefits from those support services.

Kaine noted that the Amazon move, while fairly well accepted throughout the Commonwealth, received a resounding 90 percent approval rating from Virginians in the Appalachians.

“They see the connection with our shared successes.”



Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) meets with U.S. Sen. Mark Warner after the discussion. McKay says he agrees that the Amazon deal was an affirmation of Virginia and its workforce. The supervisor also said he and the board were willing to participate in any way necessary to continue the press for affordable housing and to invest in workforce development.

Both Kaine and Warner agree that the arrival of Amazon poses challenges, but provides the best opportunity to add impetus to working on two of the region’s biggest problems: affordable housing and workforce development.

Kaine sees Amazon’s choice of Virginia as one of their new headquarters as an affirmation of the workforce quality that the state can offer, but warns that it is critical to work toward producing that workforce, rather than allowing local companies to merely “cannibalize each others’ best workers.”

Work has already begun to update and re-write the “Higher Education Act” and Virginia is the chair of that taskforce. Kaine

says there is plenty that can be done at the federal level to encourage employers to “treat their employees like the assets they say they are” with tax incentives, changes to accounting rules, re-do’s of laws that hinder continuing education, and more emphasis on all forms of education, not just four-year college schooling.

On the subject of affordable housing, both men have ideas that they will support.

Kaine believes that Congress can assist by expanding the Low-income Housing Tax Credit. “It’s already a good program” and is a good place to start, rather than trying to “recreate the wheel,” but admits that to date, it’s been a tough sell.

Warner called for a regional housing authority to tackle the issue. The state already has a housing development division and will soon have millions to develop housing initiatives as part of the Amazon deal, but to deal with the problem locally requires local thinking and collaboration in his view.

QUESTIONS ABOUT METRO, transportation and infrastructure were also on the table.

Working together, Virginia, Maryland and the District helped the rail service gain its first dedicated revenue stream this year, but the additional federal \$150 million per year is not guaranteed year over year. Kaine and Warner are hopeful, with a Democrat-controlled House to be seated in January, but it’s still but something to count on, “but if we can get the \$150 million again, we’ll take the money and run,” said Warner.

The two senators lamented the fact that the anticipated “Infrastructure Bill” is nowhere in sight, with Warner going to so far as to label the Trump Plan “a scam extraordinaire, a shell game ... stealing money from the highways departments and projects” and leaving them unable to repair the country’s crumbling infrastructure. With a “builder President in the White House,” Warner thought that infrastructure work would

have been easy for both sides of the aisle and all levels of the government to connect, but sees nothing of consequence taking place.

And the last question that Carey posed to the senators? After the midterm elections, would they now categorize Virginia as a “Blue State?”

Warner wouldn’t say specifically, but he does think that the Northern Virginia delegation to the General Assembly being all Democrats will be a benefit.

Kaine still sees Virginia as “battleground trending Blue,” but if the GOP “keeps putting up cultural warriors and ideologues as their candidates, if that’s the match up — we’re Blue.”

OPINION

Merry Christmas

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

The pages of the Connection Newspapers (including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Potomac Almanac and the Centre View) have been full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving. Group and individual efforts to help the needy, holiday parades, Santa arriving by boat, Santa arriving by horse-drawn carriage, Santa arriving by tractor-pulled hayride, Santa arriving at the Malls, tree lightings, Menorah lightings, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally. Giving locally.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12:

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 25:35-40:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Successful Holiday Adoption Program

To the Editor:

Homestretch is a place where homeless parents with children go to turn their crises into opportunities. We work with our families to ensure each parent acquires skills and education, reduces debt, repairs credit, builds savings and restores health; and provide services for their children to ensure they are safe, happy and flourish-

ing in school.

As a way of rewarding these families for their hard work, each family gets “adopted” for the holidays. They receive a full Thanksgiving meal, and at Christmas they get a bounty of gifts based on wish lists that they provide. This holiday adoption program is a wonderful blessing for the children but it also assures the parents that

their hard work is leading to a far better life down the line.

Holiday adopters are local individuals, churches, businesses or civic groups who choose to do this as their way of supporting Homestretch.

For a mother escaping domestic violence or human trafficking, to see her children cared for in this way at Christmas by a group of caring strangers can be a pro-

foundly moving experience, something that they remember for the rest of their lives. One mother remarked, “I never knew there was such love in the world.”

On behalf of Homestretch, we thank all those who donated funds and volunteered time to bring so much joy to the families we serve.

Christopher Fay
Executive Director
Homestretch



Sharing Holiday Spirit

Santa is escorted by an entourage of his paddleboard elves as he prepares to dock at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston for Jingle on the Lake on Dec. 1, 2018. The pages of the Connection Newspapers have been full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving.

PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE GEARY/
[HTTPS://CHARLOTTEGEARY.COM](https://charlottegeary.com)

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

SO LET US SHARE the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Editor's Note About The Rest of 2018

This is our last regular edition of 2018. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children's Issue, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. You'll be able to find this online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/> Scroll down to Children's.

Our next regular edition will publish Jan. 2-3, 2019, with deadline for content and advertising of Dec. 28 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can email the editors at editors@connectionnewspapers.com. You can reach sales/marketing/advertising at sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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COMMENTARY

Thank You Governor Northam

BY KENNETH R. "KEN"
PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



By the time you're reading this, Gov. Ralph Northam will have made his annual speech to the House Appropriations and the Senate Finance Committees to advise them of any changes he proposes to the biennial budget of the Commonwealth. While the complete list of adjustments that he will propose to a budget that was passed nearly a year ago had not been made public when this column was written, we do know from public announcements some of the proposed changes that he is going to make, specifically in funding education. That is why I think he deserves a hearty holiday "Thank You!"

The Governor has proposed an additional

\$39 million in new money for investments "to ensure safe learning environments for Virginia's K-12 students." Of that amount, \$36 million will be used as a first installment of a three-year, phased plan to reduce school counselor caseloads to 1:250 from its current 1:425. The additional \$3.3 million will go to the Virginia Center for School Campus

Safety to train school staff in maintaining safety in schools.

As the Governor explained, "Taking steps to provide additional supports to students, raise awareness about suicide, and ensure students, school professionals, public safety personnel and community members are equipped with appropriate training and intervention skills are critical to a holistic school safety strategy."

To recruit and retain the best teaching talent to the Commonwealth, Governor Northam has announced that he will seek an additional \$268.7 million in new money for K-12 education that will among other improvements fund the state share of a 5 percent raise for teachers effective July 1, 2019. That is an increase over the current budget that would have funded a 2 percent raise.

The additional money for public schools includes \$70 million for programs for at-risk students targeted to schools with the highest concentration of students eligible for free lunch to provide dropout prevention, after-school programs, and specialized instruction. An additional \$80 million will be a one-time deposit to the Literary Fund which is a method by which the state helps poorer school divisions fund school construction.

As explained in a press release from the Governor's Office, "Altogether, the budget

proposals reflect the Governor's commitment to ensuring that every Virginia student, no matter who they are or where they live, has the same access to a quality education."

Even with these needed additional funds, the state share of education will continue to trail its pre-2008 economic recession level. With the slow recovery over many years that kept state revenues low, local governments have had to increase their funding to schools at the expense of other local needs. The proposals that the Governor is making will help move the state back to a more equal partnership with localities in funding schools and hopefully to a 60 to 40 sharing of costs of state and local funding that had been envisioned for schools.

Governor Northam deserves a big thank you for giving priority to funding programs for our children and their education. That is about investing in our future.

Supervisors to Move Forward with PRC Hearings

Public Hearing for the Planning Commission is Jan. 23 and the Public Hearing for Board of Supervisors is March 5, 2019.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County held on Dec. 4, 2018, the Board authorized the advertisement of two Public Hearings on the Reston Planned Residential Community (PRC) District - Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment. This meeting was not an opportunity for public input.

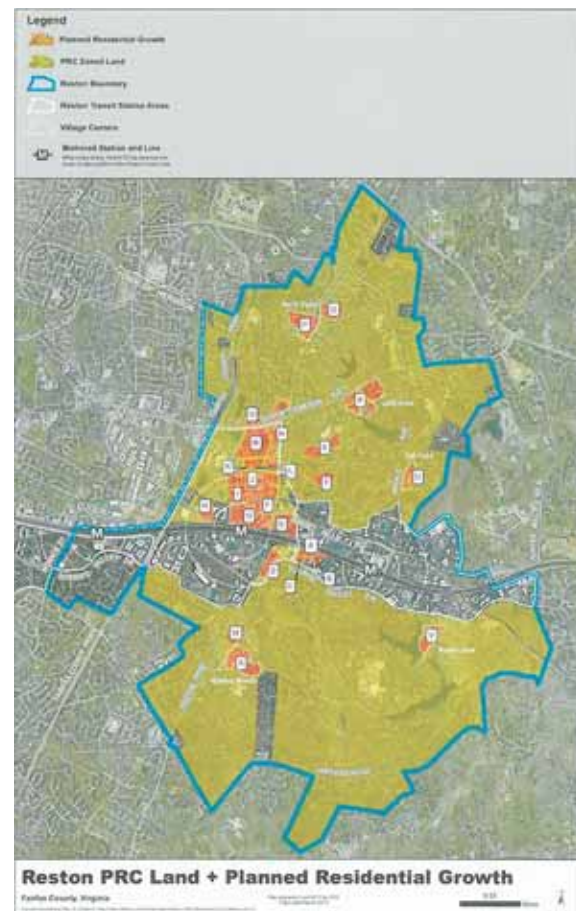
According to data available online by Zoning Administration Division Department of Planning and Zoning, the Public Hearing Date for the Planning Commission is Jan. 23, 2019, at 7 p.m. and the Public Hearing Date for Board of Supervisors is March 5, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. All dates are subject to change, the website notes. In addition, there is a Planning

Commission Workshop, for Planning Commissioners' questions & discussion only, on Jan. 10, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. This is not an opportunity for public input, reports the Zoning Administration office.

IN AN INTERVIEW with the Connection on Dec. 10, regarding the Dec. 4, Board of Supervisors Meeting, Fred Selden, Director Planning and Zoning Fairfax County discussed the PRC Residential Density Zoning Ordinance Amendment and its purpose.

"The proposed change to the PRC Zoning District has been under discussion for over a year and a half. It would allow an increase in the maximum overall density for the PRC District from 13 persons per acre up to and including 15 persons per acre," Selden said.

SEE PRC HEARINGS, PAGE 10



"Attachment 1- Reston PRC Land and Planned Residential Growth" presented in Staff Comment during the Staff Report on the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment,

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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of people gather under a sea of umbrellas to participate in the Wreaths Across America National Day of Remembrance Ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon on Dec. 15, 2018.



Members of the Bobby Pins, a group within Reston Chorale, (from left) Ellen Torzilli, Jo Marshall, Kate Schindler, Susan Wagoner, Kit Kobran and (not pictured) Al Torzilli sing as participants place wreaths on veterans' gravesites.

Wreaths Across America Honors Area Veterans

'Each wreath is a gift of appreciation,' said Carol Wright, Speaker, Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Across the country at more than a reported 1,640 memorial sites like the one at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in the Town of Herndon, people gathered as one nation, one community to show their gratitude and respect during the National Day of Remembrance Ceremony for Wreaths Across America, said Speaker Carol Wright Herndon Woman's Club, at the Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 event.

Before the start of the ceremony, the Hennessa family of Reston, parents Zach, Alex and son Nolan, 3 stood in the rain. "It's an honor to be here, to remember those who served. And to teach my son the importance of giving back," said Zach Hennessa. "Frank and Kathy Deffer are Nolan's grandparents; they served in the Army."

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP within the Reston Chorale, the Bobby Pins, sang as hundreds and hundreds of individuals from the surrounding communities of Herndon, Reston, Sterling, Great Falls and more, some very young, some very old and some alone stood huddled together, silent under a sea of umbrellas in the driving rain.

"Eight hundred and twenty-three veterans are buried in Chestnut Grove Cemetery," said Carol Wright, Guest Speaker and member of the Herndon Woman's Club. Men and women who "gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear. ... We are here to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom. We shall not forget. We shall remember."

As the rain pelted down during the ceremony, the Color Guard of Boy Scout Troop 1577 presented Arms. Wright named the

With rain dripping off his hat, Gunnery Sergeant Bernard Collins, US Marine Corps places a memorial wreath on its stand to represent Marine service members who serve and have served, and the sacrifices each made. Major Thomas Lane, US Army, looks ahead.



wreath presenters representing each branch of the Armed Forces, as well as the presenter for those taken prisoners of war and missing in action. She called out: Major Thomas Lane, US Army, Hqs. Department of Army G-8; Gunnery Sergeant Bernard Collins, US Marine Corps; Commander Gregory Vitorelli, Retired US Navy; Colonel Craig Bernhard, US Air Force Retired; Bill Wright, US Coast Guard, Base NCR; Lee Davis, United States Merchant Marines and Sergeant First Class Josh Smith, US Army Retired and his service dog, Shelby who Wright noted, "Will lay a remembrance wreath in honor of the United States ser-

vicemen and women from all branches of the service whose last known status was either Prisoner of War or Missing in Action."

FOLLOWING TAPS, Wright gave instructions to the crowd. She reminded them to securely place the wreath given to them, one per person, on the stake in front of the veteran's gravesite. "Say the veteran's name aloud and thank that veteran for their service. Remember we are not here to decorate graves. We are to remember, not their deaths but their lives."

Suzy Ledgerwood, Herndon Woman's Club confirmed via a database, veterans laid



Luca Cordaro, 9, stands beside the wreath he placed at a veteran's grave at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon. With Luca is his father, Lieutenant Colonel Philip Cordaro, US Army. "We are here to honor servicemen and women of the past and pay our respects," he said.

to rest at Chestnut Grove, had lived in Herndon and Reston and "from surrounding communities such as Sterling, Fairfax, Leesburg, Ashburn, Centreville, Arlington, and many others."

Sergeant Smith, US Army Retired, the serviceman who presented the wreath for POWs and MIAs said in an interview, "I'm glad to be here. It's good to give back."

On a hill, Lieutenant Colonel Philip Cordaro, US Army stood with his son Luca, 9, who prepared to lay a wreath. "We are here to honor servicemen and women of the past, and pay our respects," Lieutenant Colonel Cordaro said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Asking questions in class is advice that David S. Torain II, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and statistics at Montgomery College would offer new students.

Advice from Professors

Sharing things they wish they could tell their prospective students.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Many high school seniors will spend their holiday break working on college applications or making visits to perspective university campuses. As the excitement builds over the new collegiate experience that lies ahead, local professors offer advice on the things they wish they could share with new college students.

Avoid seeing college as simply a means to end or a pathway to a career and instead take advantage of the multitude of learning experiences available to students.

From football games and art exhibitions to student debates and faculty recitals, there are opportunities gain a vast amount of knowledge in four years.

Use that time to discover one's interests, says Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., professor of history at Montgomery College. "Do not come to college simply for financial gain," he said. "Study what you are most passionate about. Study what you love. The jobs will be there."

In an effort to encourage students to move outside of their comfort zone, Linda Gulyn suggests that they, "Learn, have new experiences, but do well academically," she said. "Socialize and engage in activities across your major or regular crowd."

"Do not come to college simply for financial gain. Study what you are most passionate about. Study what you love."

— Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., professor of history, Montgomery College.

"Read and always do your homework," said David S. Torain II, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and statistics at Montgomery College.

"If you read slowly, don't sweat it, just read," he said. "If you get bored, break your reading in to short sessions, but come back to it. If you can't make sense of it all, make sense of as much of it as you can, then talk to a classmate and ask a question in class."

Use college as an opportunity to build skills that will be necessary after college, says Jerome Short, Ph. D. "Students should choose courses and experiences to build their oral and written communication skills to better express themselves persuasively and concisely," he said.

Practice self-care and recognize stress and anxiety that a new college experience might bring. When those feelings arise, avoid negative coping mechanisms and instead focus on those which are healthy, advises Short.

"College is a time to dramatically grow your brain," he said. "Scientific research shows that exercise grows brain cells, learning connects cells, and sleep consolidates memories in cells. Do plenty of each of them every day."

For some professors, one of the best parts of their job is getting to know and share knowledge with their students even on subjects that are not related to the course, says Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, professor of psychology at Montgomery College.

"Get to know your professors, and make sure they get to know you," she said. "Visit your professors during office hours and use the time to ask questions about the course and even chat about topics interesting to you."

"College is a time to dramatically grow your brain. Scientific research shows that exercise grows brain cells, learning connects cells, and sleep consolidates memories in cells. Do plenty of each of them every day."

— Jerome Short, Ph. D.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Crazy 8s Club. Through December at Reston Regional Library 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Bedtime Math's Crazy 8s, where you build stuff, run and jump, make music and make a mess. Grades K-2. This STEM program will run on Mondays at 5 p.m. beginning Monday, Oct. 19. Register for each session separately, two weeks in advance, beginning Oct. 1. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ or call 703-689-2700.

Gingerbread Village. Through Jan. 3 at Hyatt Regency Reston, Reston Town Center. Visit the hotel lobby to see the annual Gingerbread Village display. Call 703-709-1234 or visit reston.hyatt.com.

Photography Exhibit: "National Parks and National Treasures." Through Jan. 5, gallery hours at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Photographer Jim Schlett, selected as the Artist-In-Resident (AIR) at four locations of the National Park Service in 2018, will be having a solo exhibition called "National Parks and National Treasures." Visit artspaceherndon.org or call 703-956-6590.

Winter Wonderland Ice Skating. Public skating every day and extended hours for all Holidays, through March 10, hours vary at Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion. Special events throughout the weekend, join in: Thursdays for College Night, \$2 off admission with a valid ID; Fridays for Rock the Rink with a live DJ; and Saturdays for Cartoon Skate, glide around the ice with The Grinch and Scooby Doo. Visit restontowncenter.com/amenities/ice-skating.

Trivia Night at Crafthouse. Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. at Crafthouse, 1888 Explorer St., Reston. Call 571-926-9931 or visit crafthouseusa.com.

Karaoke at Crafthouse. Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m. at Crafthouse, 1888 Explorer St., Reston. Call 571-926-9931 or visit crafthouseusa.com.

The Elden Street Tea Shop. Saturdays in ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Sip tea and enjoy a variety of locally made snacks and pastries while enjoying the latest art installations in the gallery. Visit www.eldenstreettea.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Meet Me at the Movies – Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. (doors open 9:15 a.m.) at Bow Tie Cinemas, Reston. Reston Association presents the feature film "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Call 703-435-6577 or visit reston.org.

Reading Nook by Valerianne. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Arts Herndon celebrates the Literary Arts with Snowmen All Year by Caralyn Buehner with a Snowman project. The Reading Nook Events reading activities and crafts are appropriate for children up to 5 years old. \$10 per family. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 20

Girl Power! Book Club. 7 p.m. at at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Middle grade readers (ages 10-13) gather to discuss and review favorite books that are written by or about women and girls. Authors, special events, and activities are part of every meeting, and new members are always welcome. Visit



Cast of "[title of the show]" - Clockwise from top: Katie McManus, John Loughney, Jennifer Redford, and Bobby Libby.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
NEXTSTOP THEATRE COMPANY

Witty, Charming Musical...

... with an unusual name.
NextStop Theatre presents
"[title of the show]"

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

As the calendar changes to January, NextStop Theatre has an anecdote for the long, cold nights with a sharp-witted, upbeat, lively musical. It's a musical with an unusual name, one that is even surrounded by brackets; "[title of the show]."

Under the artistic leadership of Evan Hoffmann, NextStop even has a radical concept for its productions of the musical about the lives of millennial aged friends who want to break into show business.

"At its core, '[title of show]' is about artists being true to their own voices and letting no one interrupt or distort their creative expression," said Hoffmann, Producing Artistic Director, NextStop. The production will have no single director to oversee its development.

"I am so excited that NextStop is able to give four remarkable artists and the production's music director the opportunity to express themselves in such a clear and unfiltered way," added Hoffmann.

The musical, "[title of the show]" is about four close friends, two men and two women, who consider

themselves "nobodies" in the competitive New York musical theater world. Joined together, they set out to create a musical for an upcoming theater festival.

Over the course of the production, NextStop audiences will get to know the four friends as they develop more than a dozen original musical numbers disclosing their personal lives. The musical numbers include songs about insecurities called "vampires," serious writer's block, the sharp competitive natures of the four friends and how to create "buzz" when everyone is unknown. The reason for the unusual show title "[name of the show]" is made clear.

NextStop cast members include Bobby Libby, John Loughney, Katie McManus and Jennifer Redford with music director Elisa Rosman. They are all veterans of the area vibrant theater scene.

As a group the NextStop cast described "[title of the show]" as about self-aware people with plenty of self-doubts, but bursting with personality." Since the cast will also be taking on the responsibilities of the traditional director, the actors "can be more authentic about their characters who so love

musical theater."

As for the musical numbers, "they are like clever, witty dialogue set to music" noted music director Rosman.

Seeking a pick me up after the Holidays, "[title of the show]" aims to be a loving homage to the musical. There is even this lyric as an enticement: "When you least expect, opportunity walks through the door, you suddenly connect."

www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111 for the book.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

Holiday Performance at The Promenade. 1-3 p.m. at Reston Town Center. Zee, keyboard and vocals, presented by Reston Community Center. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Fantastic Films: You've Got Mail. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Warm up with hot cocoa and a literary movie: You've Got Mail, set in wintertime NYC and starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks (1998, PG). Adults, teens. Call 703-689-2700 or

visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.
Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. departures on Market Street near Clyde's at Reston Town Center. Presented by Reston Town Center to benefit local charities. \$5 per person. Children under 5 ride free. Visit restontowncenter.com/holidays.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 26

INOVA Blood Drive. 1-6 p.m. beside the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Schedule Bloodmobile appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood. On-site registration available.
Holiday Concert. 6-7:30 at The John

F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. Featuring local Encore Chorale groups from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, and Reston. Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation's largest choral program for singers 55+, will present the combined talents of more than 250 Encore Chorales and Encore ROCKS singers in concert. Free, the public is invited and no tickets are required. Call 301-261-5747 or visit www.encorecreativity.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 27

Bobby Cadabra Magic Show. 11-11:45 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park,

Visitor Center auditorium, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Put some magic in the holiday season with the "Bobby Cadabra Magic Show," a magic show full of laughs, audience participation and live animals that will entertain audience members age 2-adult. Reserve a spot; \$5 per person. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park or call 703-437-9101.

MONDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Golf Tournament. 10 a.m. (shotgun start) at Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual four-person scramble. Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, range balls and prizes. \$60 per player. Entry deadline Dec. 21. Call 703-471-5769 or visit www.herndongolf.com.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 2

First Hike Fairfax 2019. Visit any Fairfax County Park Authority trail on Jan. 1, 2019. Take lots of photos. Pick a favorite photo to enter into the Fairfax County Park Authority's First Hike Photo Contest by Jan. 2. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers. Limit one photo entry per person. Visit the First Hike Fairfax at fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/first-hike.

SATURDAY/JAN. 5

RECenter Swim Classes Start. The Fairfax County Park Authority offers youth swim instruction for babies to teens at nine RECenters throughout the county. Adults join their children in the pool in the early years. Kids go solo and advance through different instruction levels as they get older. For more information about the Park Authority's swim programs, call 703-222-4664 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/swimming.

FRIDAY/JAN. 7

Open Mic Poetry. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Join ArtSpace Herndon for their open mic series on the first Friday of each month. The first hour is devoted to featured poets and the second hour is open to anyone. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 9

Creative Printmaking. 6-8 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Learn how to carve and create your own prints from handmade plates, carved blocks and more with Meaghan Busch. Four classes, Wednesdays in January. \$160, 8 students max. Email to register and questions to Meag.Busch@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 12

Basic Fundamentals of Figure Drawing. 2:30-4:30 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Basic Fundamentals of Drawing will be taught and demonstrated, to include the principal application of contour line, gesture and shade while performing exercises in drawing from life. With John Koeber. \$175 for eight-week session. Call 703-956-6590 or visit artspaceherndon.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 15-MARCH 5

FuzzieTales with Amanda Jasper. 4:45-6 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. FuzzieTales is a read-aloud book club for 5-7 year olds exploring high quality, age-appropriate stories through hands-on activities. \$150 for the eight-week session. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

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Richmond Priorities: Education and Transit

Supervisors host session with Fairfax General Assembly delegation.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The 2019 session of the Commonwealth of Virginia's General Assembly will begin at noon on Jan. 9. That's still weeks away, but the county has been preparing its "ask list" even before the second special session adjourned on Aug. 30.

That preparation takes into account the achievements and the disappointments that resulted from the 2018 session along with analysis of the current political situation, changes in federal rules, regulations and laws that may affect the state, and a review of the county's financial status and forecast of future needs before the budget is advertised in February 2019.

On Dec. 11, the Board of Supervisors invited the delegation representing Fairfax County to participate in a work session at the Government Center and to be formally presented with the county's legislative program which was adopted on Dec. 4. Most of those delegates were in attendance, and those unable to attend sent representatives.

"Securing K-12 funding is a top priority," said Board Chairman Sharon Bulova in her opening remarks. A joint position with the Fairfax County School Board on "Funding Core Services" for those grades was the very first item in the legislative program packet distributed to the delegation.

Bulova said some progress has been made, but the statistics continue to show an inequality when educational funds are apportioned, leaving local jurisdictions to fill in the gaps to maintain a quality system.

Only four other school system divisions in the state serve as many or more students receiving free or assisted school lunches. The county also has one of the largest shares of students with special education needs, or who are learning English as a second language to be properly educated, yet the county contends that the formulas for funding distribution contain structural features that leave "statewide funding far behind the inflation-adjusted FY 2009 level." As of



State delegates and senators joined the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, other county staff, and representatives from a number of civic groups for a legislative work session prior to the start of the 2019 General Assembly in January.

2013, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission ranked Virginia 23rd nationwide in total per-student spending, but 11th in the local share of this spending."

THE COUNTY says this trend reflects "Virginia's reliance on local effort and a growing imbalance in this partnership."

Together, the Board of Supervisors and the School Board strongly support a number of elements for their K-12 funding request:

- ❖ Restoration of full funding for Cost of Competing Adjustment for support personnel;
- ❖ Increased state funding for school divisions with high numbers of English learners, students living in economically disadvantaged households, students with special needs, and/or requiring mental health services;
- ❖ Elimination of the support positions ratio cap "which has artificially lowered state funding contributions ... by hundreds of millions of dollars;"
- ❖ Appropriately funded Standards of Quality consistent with local staffing costs;
- ❖ Use of "true weighted averages" when

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay chairs the Board of Supervisors' Legislative Committee. McKay gave an overview of the county's legislative priorities to the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly, his colleagues, and a roomful of staff and interested parties at the Government Center on Dec. 11.

- calculating average teachers' salaries and other education costs;
- ❖ Recognition of cost of living variations

throughout the Commonwealth in the funding formulas;

❖ Increased state resources for early childhood education programs to give all students the same opportunities for success when they enter the K-12 system.

The boards jointly oppose:

- ❖ State budgets that target or disproportionately affect Northern Virginia;
- ❖ State policies which direct funds away from local public schools and toward non-public options;
- ❖ Cuts or formula/policy changes which impose unfunded mandates.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee District) chairs the board's Budget and Legislative Committees and spoke to the next issues on the county's "top priorities list," starting with "Transit." He urged the delegation and the audience members to review the "Transportation Fact Sheet" included in the Legislative Program, and maybe even "dig deeper" for background information and a clear understanding of the current situation.

Of particular concern, and so noted in the "Priorities" of the Legislative Program, is the fact that legislation enacted in the 2018 General Assembly addresses the needs of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in part by diverting funds from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA).

This diversion reduces funds for other critical transportation needs in Northern Virginia by \$102 million per year. Projects that could be negatively affected or placed on hold for the foreseeable future include widening of several sections of Route 28 and the Soapstone Drive extension in Reston, among others. Such impacts will continue if the funding diversion continues.

McKay also made note of funding formulas which seem to "be a way to take money out of Northern Virginia and put it somewhere else." The Department of Rail and Public Transportation's policy change to allocate state funds based on project cost versus non-federal share could also impair the county's heavily-subsidized Connector bus system — which receives no federal funds and is a key element in the overall transportation network. In FY 2019 the locali-

SEE FAIRFAX DELEGATION, PAGE 12

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PEOPLE

Marcia Wines and Busia Bear plant daffodils with the help of her two Shelties, (from left) Mr. Peabody and Shamrock. "The daffodils will bloom in the springtime of our retirement," wrote Wines.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY
MARCIA WINES



Much Loved Assistant Children's Librarian Retires

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

"Sometimes it's simply time to pursue other interests and I'm 71 years old," said Marcia Wine in an interview upon her retirement in mid-November as Assistant Children's Librarian at the Reston Regional Public Library.

Many parents, children and even adult "children" will remember Wines and her treasured sidekick, Busia Bear. For thirty-five years, twenty with Fairfax County, Wines delighted audiences with her storytelling, engaging audiences with props, puppets, masks and more.

"Marcia's work at the Reston Regional Library was all about special moments for people of all ages. She enchanted adults as easily as children by sharing the wonder of a well-told story," said Katilyn Miller, Branch Manager of Reston Regional Library.

Wines said that she would come loaded down with props. "It's storytelling, not story reading. You can present a story as a song; act it out or put it on a flannel board. A book is just one format." In recall-

ing her work, Wines said she encouraged audience members to join in. "Children were active participants in my storytelling. They got inspired and then ran to the library to get the books like bees to a hive to relive the experience."

Ha Hoang, Assistant Branch Manager, Reston Regional Library said she noticed when Wine was at the library; she made it a magical place. Hoang described Wines as "a quintessential storyteller and performer who inspires kids to want to read, to explore, and to be creative."

Ilze Long, retired Assistant Branch Manager at Reston Regional Library wrote in her retirement letter to Wines, "The children at Reston, indeed Fairfax County, were in good hands with you! You enchanted and delighted both young and old. I always considered that hiring you was one of the best things I did at Reston."

Asked what's next in her life, Wines said, "I remember at the end, I had tears in my eyes, but it is time to go, while I still have my health... I will always be telling stories; I'm not done. Storytelling is my thing. I need this year to unwind, and I imagine next year, I'll be at nursing homes, Head Start... I'll turn the page and start a new chapter in my life."

PRC Hearings

FROM PAGE 5

"The purpose of the amendment is to implement the recommendations contained in the updated Reston Master Plan that was adopted in two parts, 2014 and 2015, after more than five years of community engagement.

The Reston Master Plan supports mixed-use development in the Reston Town Center and Metro Station areas. It also retains the limited redevelopment potential of the Village Centers. It does not support redevelopment of the two Reston golf courses," Selden added.

"The amendment would also allow the Board to approve residential development up to 70 dwelling units per acre for certain high density residentially designated properties in the Reston PRC District that are located within the transit station areas (TSAs) and planned for 'mixed use,' if the proposal is in accordance with the adopted Comprehensive Plan," states the online Transcript Board of Supervisors Highlights Podcast, Board of Supervisors Meeting-Dec. 4, 2018.

County staff reported in the meeting materials that Reston is different from the other PRC Districts in the County because Metrorail serves it.

IN RESPONSE to the Board's decision to move forward with PRC hearings, the Connection requested a comment from Reston Association Board President Andy Sigle, who wrote:

"We are currently formulating a response and are not yet prepared to discuss in public the detail of what such a response might be. Rest assured, Reston Association remains committed to vigorously advancing the interests of its Members and nothing is off the table. We expect to coordinate with our community partners to develop a strategy going forward; whether it be continued reasoned dialogue, formal written correspondence or community activism in the form of hundreds of yellow shirts protesting at upcoming Board of Supervisor meetings. Again, nothing is off the table."

Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) could not be reached for comment.

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SOBER-RIDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Free Sober Rides. 8 p.m.-4 a.m. daily, Dec. 14-Jan. 1. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home (limited quantities available). WRAP's Holiday SoberRide promo code will be posted at www.SoberRide.com.

THROUGH DECEMBER

White House Ornaments. Assistance League of Northern Virginia has begun its annual fundraising sale of White House Ornaments. The 2018 ornament honors Harry S. Truman, highlighting changes made to the White House during his administration. One side features the Truman Balcony and the reverse features the Blue Room. Assistance League is an all volunteer, non-profit organization. Proceeds benefit our community-based programs that support local low income children. \$22 (+ shipping if mail delivery required). Email burgessgl@verizon.net or visit www.alnv.org.

DONATION REQUEST

Support Reston Historic Trust & Museum.

The Reston Historic Trust & Museum has launched a GoFundMe campaign with the goal to raise \$15,000 to go towards the repair, cleaning, and reinstallation of icons on the façade of the former Lakeside Pharmacy, an original Lake Anne Plaza store, in a new permanent exhibit. The new exhibit will be unveiled during Reston's annual Founder's Day event, April 6th, 2019. Read more about their history and donate at www.gofundme.com/preserve-lakeside-pharmacy-icons to assist in their preservation.

WEBINAR

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit salary.aauw.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 20

Collaborative IEP Meetings: Parents as Partners. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Workshop for parents of children receiving special education services. Highlights include: the IEP process and its components, the parent's role in the IEP meeting, responsibilities of the IEP team members and planning for a child's IEP meeting. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

THURSDAY/DEC. 27

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Monthly group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. Discuss "The truth about your future" by Ric Edelman. Free and open to the public. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

TUESDAY/JAN. 8-FEB. 19

Workshop Series: Mind in the Making. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs by Ellen Galinsky, encompasses an evidence-based list of life skills that are essential for children to succeed socially, emotionally and intellectually in the short and long term. Participants may register for one or all of the workshops and do not need to attend the previous class. Registration is limited. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

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Stepping Back From the Precipice



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not so bad, even though it's been nearly 10 years on the cancer trail – and two columns, recently, courting my imminent demise.

The appointment with the otolaryngologist to assess the presumptive damage/my decline was instead wonderfully uplifting: "nothing worrisome in the throat." What symptoms I was experiencing (basically seasonal-type cold and flu to go along with a scratchy and extremely hoarse voice) had nothing to do with cancer and more so to do with the time of the year.

Meaning I wasn't going to die as a result; just sneeze, cough and so forth like everyone else, which as I've been told, repeatedly, I'm not.

Cancer patients might not have the benefit of doubt or delay like the rest of you. Time may not be of the essence, but one never knows. Cancer cells sort of have a mind/process of their own.

It's not so much a lesson learned as it has been a lesson reminded.

My oncologist has frequently advised me that should a new symptom appear and persist for two to three weeks, I should email him and alert him to my status/situation. I might have been a week or so late this time, but fortunately not too many dollars short.

My oncologist responded immediately as did my primary care physician. Each doctor making arrangements for me within a matter of hours: a face-to-face appointment with my internal medicine doctor – which led to the referral for the otolaryngologist (who called to schedule an appointment before I even got a chance to); and a referral as well by my oncologist for a CT scan of my neck.

Having now been examined and results interpreted, I am glad to report that as scared as I have been for the past two columns, my symptoms were not indicative of my lung cancer progressing. Rather it was more indicative of a cancer patient being stupid and stubborn.

Not wanting to ever believe that my life hangs in the balance and could be severely endangered by my neglect, I tend to go about my health-related business as I would guess the rest of you who are healthy and not cancer-diagnosed: I wait out the symptoms and try not to go negative.

As has been said recently – to me, nothing could be less appropriate given my stage IV, lung cancer. Being negative might actually save my life.

The reality is: I am compromised and subject to risks and complications many of you are not. My immune system has likely been weakened by this most recent every-three-week infusion interval recommended to shrink a relatively new tumor – and in so treating, hopefully will not have allowed any existing cancer cells to trigger and mutate and cause even more trouble.

After all, cancer is likely in control here and giving them an inch, so to speak, has never been part of our plan.

Even though my cancer had already metastasized in 2009, its movement seems to have been confined to my lungs and amazingly has remained there ever since. Still, if I've finally learned anything with this most recent scare, it is that I can't turn a blind eye or a deaf ear, metaphorically writing, to common sense or doctor's orders.

I'm not supposed to wait for the ambulance, if you know what I mean? I'm supposed to be smarter than that and act like my life matters: making arrangements much sooner rather than way later. Denying, pretending and hoping that new symptoms are benign because many other people experience them is, for a cancer patient, as foolish as it gets.

The last, and I mean the absolute last thing a cancer patient should think is that they are like everybody else. They are not. We are not. I am not.

You get it, Kenny?

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

PEOPLE



Moe and Michelle Tardie at the beginning of their wedding ceremony at Sunrise at Reston Town Center.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

From left: Moe Tardie, Michelle Roseberry (a Sunrise team member for more than 18 years), Irene Di Mezza (Michelle's sister, a close friend who officiated the ceremony), and Michelle Tardie, celebrating after the ceremony.

Wedding at Reston Sunrise

In July, Michelle Smith (now Michelle Tardie), a Sunrise Senior Living team member, married Moe Tardie, her boyfriend of over six years. The couple decided that they wanted to have their wedding ceremony at the community where Michelle worked, Sunrise at Reston Town Center, so that residents could be involved. Michelle has been with Sunrise for nearly 12 years, and Moe visits regularly to spend time with residents and form relationships.

"My family all understands that working at Sunrise is not just a job to me but my purpose in life and my passion," said Michelle, who now works at Sunrise at George Mason. "My residents are family to me, and when the timing was right for Moe and I to get married, we decided we wanted my residents to be with us for our special day."

A great number of residents, team members, and family members from the past and present were on hand to witness the beautiful ceremony in the community garden. The wedding was officiated by Irma De La Pena, a dear friend of Michelle's and the sister of Michelle's coworker, Michelle



Moe putting the wedding band on Michelle (from left to right: Irene Di Mezza, Moe Tardie, Michelle Tardie)

Roseberry. Three residents read Bible verses, and Michelle's daughter sang "Broken Road" while her son walked her down the aisle.

"The residents are still talking about the

wedding," said Michelle. "The ones who read our Bible verses were happy to have an important role in our wedding. It gave them great purpose, and they were beaming while they read."

"As my mom's mobility has declined, we have few opportunities to go out and experience the world," said Dagny Goldwein, the daughter of a Sunrise at Reston Town Center resident. "To be able to attend Michelle's and Moe's wedding at Sunrise was a true honor and a wonderful way to come together as a both a family and a community and enjoy a truly joyous life milestone."

Michelle has recently moved from her position at Sunrise at Reston Town Center to a new role at Sunrise at George Mason. As a Reminiscence coordinator, she helps bring meaning and purpose to the days of residents living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

"I cherish my relationships with my residents and their families," Michelle said. "Serving my residents brings me a lot of joy. After ensuring they have received the highest quality of care, have taken any medications they are supposed to, and are enjoying their meals, I get to enjoy spending time with them singing, dancing, laughing and hugging every day. I enjoy sharing the funny stories with my family and I keep a journal with my favorite memories in it."

Fairfax Delegation Discusses Assembly Priorities

FROM PAGE 9

ties within Northern Virginia will be footing over 19 percent of the bill for transit capital purchases, while outside Northern Virginia, jurisdictions will only be called upon to fund less than 5 percent of these goods and services.

The county also asks the Fairfax Delegation to protect Northern Virginia's fair share of statewide revenues for general maintenance. In FY 2019 the area is expected to only receive 6.9 percent of the state's Good Repair funds, even though the county's secondary roads, with only 39 percent rated as being in Fair or Bet-

ter Condition, fall far below the Commonwealth's 60 percent average, or its 65 percent target.

THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS of the county and Northern Virginia are crucial to the economic health of the Commonwealth as a whole, the supervisors and staff argue, and that health and continued growth are dependent on a modern, efficient, multimodal transportation system that is safe and in good repair.

McKay shared the podium with County Executive Bryan Hill, Deputy Director, Department of Management and Budget, Christina Jackson, and James Regimbal of

Fiscal Analytics to discuss the county's third — but equally important — Legislative Program priority; the State Budget.

Several pages of examples, statistics and concerns boil down to the county's position that the State "should rebalance its resources and responsibilities."

According to the report, State aid to localities has decreased by almost \$1 billion between FY 2009 and FY 2016. The inclusion of a 5-year period during that time when localities were required to return funds in order to help balance the state's budget basically created a "reverse concept of local aid to the Commonwealth" and equated to more than \$20 million in state

funding cuts to Fairfax County which was further affected by cuts to the K-12 funds and the implementation of the cap on funding education support positions.

Since 2016, the General Assembly has made progress in increasing the state's commitment to education in the county, but the formulas and the allocation of resources for education and other services and activities in Northern Virginia continue to fall way short of the needs and out of balance with the rest of the Commonwealth's shares and responsibilities.

Governance and Local Authority rounded out the county's Top Priority list.