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Panini America Super Bowl Kid Reporter Corbin Boehm asking Los Angeles Rams TE Tyler Higbee a question as Trent Dilfer looks on at Super Bowl Opening Night.

Burke CONNECTION

A Thrill of a Lifetime

NEWS, PAGE 4

Tolls Off the Table
For Area Parkways

NEWS, PAGE 3

Serving on a Girl
Advisory Board

NEWS, PAGE 8

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Tolls Off the Table for Area Parkways

Public opposes Express Toll Lanes on Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) planner Thomas Burke told the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee that “tolls were not included in the strategies under consideration” as improvements to the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways at their meeting on Feb. 12 at the Government Center.

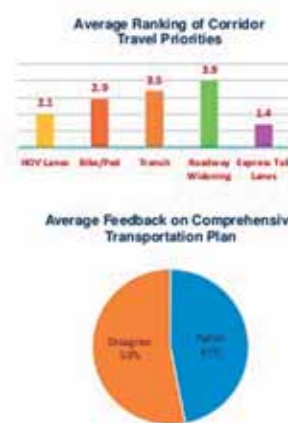
Burke was there to update the committee on the progress being made by FCDOT and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on the “Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study” of the two major thoroughfares. The multimodal corridor study spans the often-congested 31 miles from Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) in the north, to Route 1 (Richmond Highway) in the south and includes 17 interchanges and 83 intersections.

FCDOT is leading the long-range aspect of the study, reviewing today’s deficiencies along the network and projecting future needs in order to make recommendations for improvements for 2040 and beyond. VDOT, in conjunction with the county, conducted an Existing Conditions study in 2017, developing more than 350 recommendations for immediate or near-term improvements to the roadways. To date, said Burke, 49 of those recommendations have been implemented. Still in the works for VDOT is a planned widening of a section of the Fairfax County Parkway from Route 29 to Route 123, including the interchange at Popes Head Road and Shirley Gate Road extension.

In October of 2018, FCDOT held three public outreach meetings to inform the com-



Public Outreach Summary “Fall 2018”



FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation’s Thomas Burke presented an update on the study of the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways which included a summary of the public’s feedback the department received after a series of outreach meetings last October. A number of proposals met with public approval, however the notion of adding Express Toll Lanes to either roadway received opposition.

munity of the project and to solicit public feedback before developing recommendations.

Some of the questions being posed included:

- ❖ How transit should be integrated into the corridor
- ❖ Addition of, or improvements to, interchanges and intersections
- ❖ Bicycle/pedestrian considerations
- ❖ Possible implementation of Toll and/or HOV lanes

At the meetings, attendees were invited to participate in several interactive exercises to offer their own suggestions. Comments sheets were also made available and, in addition, project managers produced a 45-

day on-line survey and commentary forum that gave participants the opportunity to “plan” various segments of the parkways, or simply leave written comments as they wished.

The number of respondents exceeded their expectations.

“We were thinking maybe 3 or 4 thousand would participate,” admitted Burke, judging by the response to previous on-line transportation-related surveys. Instead, a total of 15,150 responses were recorded via the online survey, with 108 more responses received via emails, the website comment form and to district offices. Another 71 comments were recorded on the project’s Facebook page.

FCDOT and the project planners were pleased that their efforts to engage the public through numerous methods, including social media, resulted in “so many voices being heard.”

Burke summarized the responses for the committee. While HOV lanes were generally ranked below road widening and addition of transit options, the idea of adding toll lanes to any segment of either parkway was met with significant opposition.

FCDOT got the message. None of the preliminary strategies under review will include toll lanes as an option, although HOV-2 lanes, possibly just at certain junctures, are still being considered.

Burke’s presentation was met with appreciation for the work already done and still to come. Supervisors John Cook (Braddock) and Pat Herrity (Springfield) however, cautioned that they would like to see any strategies for improvements take a “more regional outlook” before recommendations are developed, with Cook asking “how do these concepts affect others roads in the region?”

Supervisor McKay (Lee) also asked that the FCDOT team keep up communications with the county’s delegates in Richmond, in light of upcoming legislation that could affect the project.

Burke says there will be more public outreach events in the next few weeks to report on the survey results to the community and gather additional feedback before further recommendations are brought before the committee and the full Board of Supervisors.

The update presentation, as well as history and additional information, are available on the county’s website.

Fairfax Adult Softball Holds Record-setting Fundraiser

More than 250 participants, friends and long-time supporters of Fairfax Adult Softball, Inc. (FAS) united together on Sunday, Jan. 27 for the 19th Annual Benefit Bowling Tournament to raise funds for INOVA Children’s Hospital and Fairfax County Park Authority field improvements. The event took place at the Falls Church Bowl America and grossed more than \$22,000 making it the most successful event in its 19 year history. In fact, this is the fourth straight year that the fundraising record was broken.

“Even though we sold out in just two short weeks with several teams on the waiting list, with the Government being shut down, I wasn’t sure what to expect at this year’s event,” said FAS Program and Media Manager, Becca Frece. “We managed to raise more funds than any year in the event’s history which speaks volumes for the amazing people involved in the event. We are beyond grate-

ful and are very excited to be able to donate to INOVA Children’s Hospital.”

“INOVA relies on community support to provide world-class care to Northern Virginia’s children and their families,” said Kristin McArthur, Director of Leadership Giving. “We are grateful for the generous gift from the members of the Fairfax Adult Softball league. The gift is already having an impact on our youngest patients and we look forward to partnering on more events in the future,” McArthur said.

FAS softball offers play for adult men and women in a number of different leagues across Fairfax County: Men, Women, Coed, Modified Coed, Social Coed, Fast Pitch, Men’s

35+, Men’s 50+ and Church. Registration is currently open for 2019 Spring Season for both team and individual registration. The deadline for applications and payment is March 1, 2019. Visit and register online at: www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Benefit Bowling Tournament raised more than \$22,000 making it the most successful event in its 19 year history.



Panini America Super Bowl Kid Reporter Corbin Boehm enjoying a fun moment with one of his favorite players, former Tampa Bay Buccaneer and NFL Hall of Famer, Warren Sapp.



Panini America Super Bowl Kid Reporter Corbin Boehm getting ready to take his seat before Super Bowl LIII at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

A Thrill of a Lifetime

Corbin Boehm of Burke wins the Panini America Super Bowl Kid Reporter Contest.

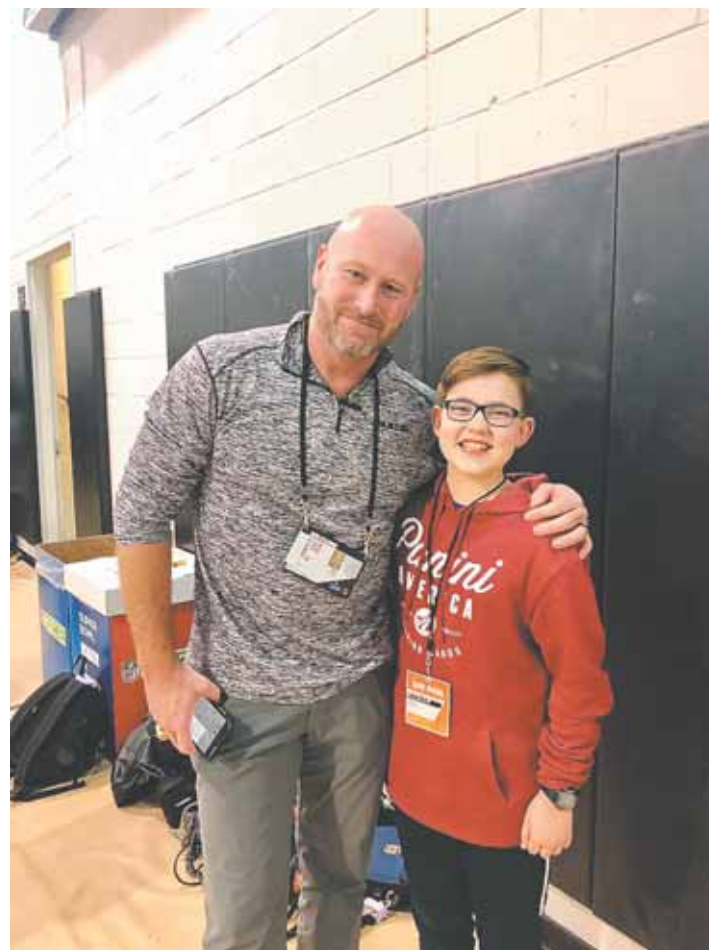
BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Corbin Boehm, 12, of Burke got the thrill of a lifetime when he was selected out of 63,000 kids ages 7-13 as the winner of the annual Panini America Super Bowl Kid Reporter contest for the company that makes trading cards for the NFL and NFLPA. Not only did he get a free trip to the Super Bowl to see the New England Patriots beat the Los Angeles Rams, 13-3, but he joined Trent Dilfer (former Baltimore Ravens quarterback) at Media Day in Atlanta as this year's Super Bowl Kid Reporter. He also spent the week of Jan. 28 thru Sunday, Feb. 3, interviewing football superstars and Hall-of-Famers alongside major media outlets.

"It was definitely an amazing blessing to be able to do this amazing experience ... I never thought I would ever go to the Super Bowl. That's an experience that I could only dream of," said the son of James and Christina Boehm of Burke who attends Terra Centre Elementary. "The halftime show was amazing to see live. The game was amazing to see live. It was amazing that I was able to do that."

He added: "Once we flew down (to Atlanta), we had a lunch with everyone at Panini and they gave me a pep talk about Media Night when I was able to interview Tom Brady, Jared Goff, Rob Gronkowski and Brandon Cooks. And there were plenty more players."

TV REPORTERS from sports outlets around the world attended. What was it like to be in the same company as the big leagues? He said: "It was exciting but a little nerve-wracking at the same time. I saw ESPN cameras, and FOX News and wondered if they had better questions than me."



Panini America Super Bowl Kid Reporter Corbin Boehm shares a moment with Panini America Super Bowl Kid Reporter Ambassador Trent Dilfer.

He got to ask Rob Gronkowski how big he was when he was the same age (12). "He told me he was 6-foot tall when he was 12. I was amazed by that, honestly. I asked Tom Brady how proud were you that two Bay area quarterbacks are competing up against each other in the Super Bowl. For Brandon Cooks, I asked him something

around what do you think makes Jared Goff so mature for a young guy?" he said.

Other highlights were attending the NFL Hall-of-Famers Brunch and the Panini Skills Clinic where he had the opportunity to catch passes and interact with NFL players. He interviewed Nick Mullens, Nick Bosa, Bradley Chub, Phillip Lindsay and Ito Smith,

among others.

"For each of the players, I would ask them the same questions; I asked Tyler Boyd if he had to switch to any position, which would he switch to, and he said 'cornerback' because of his speed and athleticism," he said.

SEE REPORTING, PAGE 10

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WINTER SHELTERS

Find homeless and cold weather drop-in centers and shelters that serve Northern Virginia at www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-Lists.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2019, are eligible to attend kindergarten. Find the correct neighborhood school by entering your address at boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/. Complete a packet of registration forms found at www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf or in the school office. Gather supporting documents: proof of residence in the school boundary, a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school, but is not required for registration. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent. Learn more at www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements. **Union Mill Elementary** is currently registering new students for the 2019-20 school year. Find registration forms in the Union Mill Elementary office or online at www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf. Call 703-322-8500 or email lrnulla@fcps.edu to make an appointment to bring completed registration forms and supporting documentation to school. Kindergarten Orientation will take place on Monday, April 1, 4-5 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Interested in local Civil War or Railroad History? Consider volunteering at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. The Museum is also seeking an individual to

coordinate the scheduling of the volunteer staff. Training will be provided for all positions. Email volunteers@fairfax-station.org or call 703-945-7483 for 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. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke needs volunteer drivers for trips to medical appointments (Monday - Friday) and companion shopping (Tuesday, Friday) within the Fairfax-Burke area and in the South County area (west of Route 1, Alexandria). Office volunteers are also needed to work in the SCFB (Olley Glen) office to schedule rides. Bilingual volunteers (English and Spanish) are needed as drivers and office volunteers. Email Shavaun.Wall@scfbva.org or call 703-323-4788.

INPUT SOUGHT

Shaping the Future Together. Fairfax County Government is beginning a strategic planning process with the community to shape the future together. The goal is to hear all voices and reach all segments of the community. This effort will span most of 2019, but in this first phase, the community is being asked to visit fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan and:

- ❖ Take a short five-question online survey
- ❖ Join a community conversation in person: Feb. 25 - Alexandria; Feb. 26 - Fairfax; March 6 - Falls Church.
- ❖ Share the survey and conversation invitation with neighbors, co-workers and county family and friends.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

Volunteers Wanted. 10:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army Corp building, 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax. The Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary are

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10



Join us for coffee & conversation. Fairfax Divorce Workshop.

Support. Information. Hope.

Date: Saturday, March 9, 2019
Saturday, April 13, 2019

Time: 9:00-9:30 a.m. -Registration
9:30-1:00 p.m. -Workshop

Place: Duff & Kronfeld, P.C.
Fair Oaks Commerce Center
11320 Random Hills Road/Suite 630
Fairfax, VA 22030

Please join us for coffee at our Second Saturday Divorce Workshop and get the information and support from professionals: a family law attorney, a financial adviser, a family therapist, a private investigator, an estate planning attorney and other professionals who will help guide you through the divorce process. Speakers vary for each workshop.

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

Online Registration: www.secondsaturdaynova.com
Email: nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com
Phone: (703) 591-7475

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1. To qualify for this offer, you must have a new or existing Platinum Savings account and enroll the account in this offer between 01/21/2019 and 03/22/2019. This offer is subject to change at any time, without notice. This offer is available only to Platinum Savings customers in the following states: CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NY, SC and VA. In order to earn the Special Interest Rate of 2.08% (Special Rate), you must deposit \$25,000 in new money (from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates) to the enrolled savings account and maintain a minimum daily account balance of \$25,000 throughout the term of this offer. The corresponding Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for this offer is 2.10%. The Special Rate will be applied to the enrolled savings account for a period of 12 months, starting on the date the account is enrolled in the offer. However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 12/10/2018, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NY, SC and VA with an account balance of \$0.01 to \$99,999.99 is 0.03% (0.03% APY) and with an account balance of \$100,000 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of \$1 million. Offer not available to Private Banking, Wealth, Business Banking or Wholesale customers. 2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 01/21/2019 and 03/22/2019. The 11-month New Dollar CD special requires a minimum of \$25,000 brought to Wells Fargo from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates to earn the advertised APY. Public Funds and Wholesale accounts are not eligible for this offer. APY assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity. Interest is compounded daily. Payment of interest on CDs is based on term: For terms less than 12 months (365 days), interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or at maturity (the end of the term). For terms of 12 months or more, interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. A fee for early withdrawal will be imposed and could reduce earnings on this account. Special Rates are applicable to the initial term of the CD only. At maturity, the Special Rate CD will automatically renew for a term of 6 months, at the interest rate and APY in effect for CDs on renewal date not subject to a Special Rate, unless the Bank has notified you otherwise. Due to the new money requirement, accounts may only be opened at your local branch. Wells Fargo reserves the right to modify or discontinue the offer at any time without notice. Offer cannot be combined with any other consumer deposit offer. Minimum new money deposit requirement of at least \$25,000 is for this offer only and cannot be transferred to another account to qualify for any other consumer deposit offer. If you wish to take advantage of another consumer deposit offer requiring a minimum new money deposit, you will be required to do so with another new money deposit as stated in the offer requirements and qualifications. Offer cannot be reproduced, purchased, sold, transferred, or traded. 3. The Portfolio by Wells Fargo program has a \$30 monthly service fee, which can be avoided when you have one of the following qualifying balances: \$25,000 or more in qualifying linked bank deposit accounts (checking, savings, CDs, FDIC-insured IRA) or \$50,000 or more in any combination of qualifying linked banking, brokerage (available through Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC) and credit balances (including 10% of mortgage balances, certain mortgages not eligible). If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the bonus interest rate on all eligible savings accounts, and discounts or fee waivers on other products and services, will discontinue and revert to the Bank's then-current applicable rate or fee. For bonus interest rates on time accounts, this change will occur upon renewal. If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the remaining unlinked Wells Fargo Portfolio Checking or Wells Fargo Prime Checking account will be converted to another checking product or closed.

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OPINION

A Historic Session

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



As you read this column the Virginia General Assembly will be nearing its adjournment *sine die* for the 400th year of its existence, having first met in the church on Jamestowne Island in 1619. During this commemorative year there will be many opportu-

COMMENTARY

nities to learn more about Virginia and to reflect on how its history influences it to today even in the current legislative session and in what on another occasion was referred to as its "recent unpleasanties."

That first session of what became known a century and a half later as the General Assembly was composed of a representative of the 22 plantations that had sprung up along the major rivers of the state as there were no local government, political boundaries, or transportation networks in existence. The representatives were all white males who were land owners. African Americans had to wait for the outcome of the Civil War and women the twenti-

eth century before they became part of the electorate. While the right to vote has begrudgingly expanded over time there continues to be a resistance to making it easier to vote. In the current session there were proposals to allow people to vote early or vote absentee without an excuse and to make election day a holiday for the convenience of voters, but it does not appear that any will become law.

Establishing a fair way to draw legislative boundaries has been hotly debated, but the decision to establish an independent redistricting commission will await the closing hours of the session. Slaves were brought to the colony of Virginia in 1619 to work the tobacco fields that were the mainstay of the colony's economy. They had none of the rights that Englishmen claimed and beginning in the 1640s were subjected to "slave codes" that defined them as property to be bought and sold with no access to learning to read and write or to move about freely. After the Civil War these restrictive laws became the Jim Crow laws that continued to limit the rights of black people who were kept in line by the Ku Klux Klan and by

public lynchings. White supremacy reigned with black-face entertainment intended to degrade black people through crude humor. Happenings during this legislative session showed how little we have progressed on issues of human rights and respect, but there is hope. The reminder to the Governor of his racist past will make him an even more enlightened person who if he continues can provide important leadership to dismantling racism in the state. The incredible people of color who were elected to the House of Delegates in the last election bring strong voices to the need for greater equity and justice in the Commonwealth. Some limited reforms that will help establish equity and remove racism in the criminal justice system are on their way to passage.

Women first came to the Virginia colony in 1619. While rights of women have expanded slowly over the centuries, having Virginia ratify the Equal Rights Amendment is still in doubt. May the lessons of this historic legislative session move us forward in future years.

To check on the fate of specific bills, go to <http://lis.virginia.gov>.

Be Part of the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 22.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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— MARY KIMM

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

ONGOING

Winter Golf. Through Feb. 28, skip the traffic with the Afternoon Drive special at the heated and covered ranges at Burke Lake Golf Center and the newly renovated Oak Marr Golf Complex. All buckets are \$2 off, Monday-Thursday, 4 p.m. until closing. Or try the indoor studio at Pinecrest Golf Course's Valis Family Golf Learning Center, featuring three indoor hitting bays or a private session with the TrackMan Golf Simulator Suite (five person max.), both reserved by the hour. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf.
Exhibit: Purchased Lives. Through Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily (except major holidays) at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Purchased Lives is a traveling exhibition from the Historic New Orleans Collection. The exhibit examines a complex and divisive period of American history and educating about the far-reaching economic and heartbreaking personal impact of the domestic slave trade. Look for The Washington Home of the Philippine Suffrage Movement March 3-31. Call 703-385-8414.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Burke Historical Society Speaker. 7 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Learn about the many spooky legends of the region — and their historical background — as Cindy Bennett presents “Ghosts, Goons, and a Bunny Man.” Visit burkehistoricalsociety.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Father/Son Advance. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Hundreds of men and sons from Northern Virginia come together for a jam-packed day full of adventurous activities and workshops. All men and children ages 5-18 are invited. \$15/person (\$30 maximum/family). Register at jccag.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/191181.
Orienteering Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Put down the GPS and get around the old-fashioned way. Orienteering is the sport of navigation with map and compass. It's easy to learn but always presents challenges. Participants in this program will learn how to use a compass, read a topographic map and navigate orienteering courses. A compass is required. For participants age 8-adult. \$31 per person. Call 703-323-6600 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.
Reception: Amazing Art Jam. 7-11 p.m. at the Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center hosts the third iteration of the Amazing Art Jam. This pop-up exhibition offers fresh perspectives by exploring several young, contemporary themes including street art, anime, Marvel iconography and hip-hop culture. Curated by Ackshun Jackson, the show will feature works in various mediums including interactive, sculpture, murals, paintings and works on paper from over 40 regional artists. Visit www.workhousearts.org/event/amazing-art-jam.

SUNDAY/FEB. 24

The Capitol Steps Benefit Performance. 7 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run Road,



Monty's Model Train Display

Local model train enthusiast Monty Smith will display his running brick-built model trains featuring LEGO trains in this two-day event. Saturday, March 2, noon-5 p.m. and Sunday, March 3, noon-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Fairfax. Join in for a SILLYarious evening as the Capitol Steps political satire comedy troupe performs a show to benefit high school theatre for the Cappies of the National Capitol Area. Free parking. Adults, \$30; students/senior citizens, \$20; children 12 and under, \$10; and groups of 10 or more, \$15. Contact Amy.Young@cappies.com or visit www.cappies.com/nca.

MONDAY/FEB. 25

Nature Quest at Hidden Pond. 11 a.m.-noon at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield. Four-part series. Little ones become part of the long-running naturalist program at Hidden Pond Nature Center. In Nature Quest, kids age 3-6 learn about local animal species hands-on and in the field at the nature center. The program varies each week and covers topics from field to stream and everything in between. \$32 per child. Call 703-451-9588 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond.
Burke Historical Society Speaker. 7 p.m. at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St, Springfield. Hear from archaeologist Patrick O'Neill about the birthplaces and other homes of the eight Virginia-born Presidents. Visit burkehistoricalsociety.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 28

Screening: The Unafraid. 7:30-10 p.m. at Johnson Center Cinema - George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series: The Unafraid with Heather Courtney. The documentary follows three DACA students in Georgia over four years, growing up both American and undocumented in the United States. Free. Call 703-993-2768 or visit fams.gmu.edu/events/8588.

FRIDAY/MARCH 1

Registration Deadline: Fairfax Adult Softball. Experience firsthand the enjoyment that only FAS softball offers with play for adult men and women in a number of different leagues across Fairfax County: Men, Women, Coed, Modified Coed, Social Coed, Fast Pitch, Men's 35+, Men's 50+ and Church. Team and individual registration now open. Visit us and register online at www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 2

Spring Brunch. 2-3:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road,

Burke. Join Chef Cal Kraft to welcome spring. He'll help plan and host a special brunch to celebrate the season. Adults, Teens. Free. Call 703-978-5600 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5020831.

MARCH 2-31

The Explorer's Club. Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. London, 1879. The prestigious Explorers Club is in crisis: their acting president wants to admit a woman, and their bartender is terrible. \$20-\$30. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 3

Historical Society of Fairfax County Meeting. 2-4 p.m. at Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters, 12099 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. View vintage uniforms, firearms, patches, and memorabilia. Free parking in the garage. Free. Email suzannelevy@cox.net or visit www.fairfaxhistoricalsociety.org.
Basket Bingo. 2-5 p.m. at West Springfield High School - Cafeteria, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Doors open at 1 p.m. Twenty Bingo games will be played for prizes. There will be a door prize raffle, three special games, and three raffle ticket drawings. Prizes include electronics, a gift card tree, and more. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. There is no ATM on site, bring cash or checks. Visit www.spartancrew.org or email info@spartancrew.org.
Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium. 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, Fairfax Campus. Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure is an immersive experience that invites everyone to jump in and explore unknown ocean depths where prehistoric marine reptiles lived eons ago—and maybe live still today. \$15 for Adults/\$10 Children. Family-Friendly. Recommended for ages 5 and up. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/erth-39-s-prehistoric-aquarium-adventure.

MONDAY/MARCH 4

Try Girl Scouts. 6-7 p.m. at Keene Mill Elementary School Cafeteria, 6310 Bardu Ave., West Springfield. Make new friends, learn about Girl Scouts, and earn the requirements for two new cybersecurity badges. \$25 for the four-week sampler (March 4, 11, 18 & 25). Email cosborne@gscnc.org or 703-372-4341.

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NEWS

Performance Bikes on Frontier Drive is Closing the Doors

Options for bike buying and service gets limited in Springfield.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The store closing banner over Performance Bikes on Frontier Drive in Springfield, flopped in the wind making it hard to read but once in front of the store, it was clear the store was closing.

Emily and Dave Webster walked out with a new pair of biking gloves and a seat they got for bargain prices. "Very cheap," Dave Webster said. They'd seen other big box stores on the same strip close over the last couple of years, some facing the internet shopping competition, but a bike store seemed a little distanced from that retail obstacle. The Performance location was good, near the Metro station and connected with the Springfield-Franconia Parkway and bike trail, and a good parking lot for test riding a bike before buying. That's one advantage a brick and mortar bike store has over the internet.

Up front, it wasn't clear why the bike store was closing, but Emily Webster wasn't happy. She had bought her family a few bikes there and liked the location. "It's not like this is really that inconvenient," she said of the location. "Times are changing and I don't like it," she added.

On the Performance website, it said the company was filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. "Currently all Performance Bicycle Stores are holding Store Closing Sales," the information stated.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Although there are signs that say 'this location only,' the website says different.

Ordering a bicycle on the internet may be the wave of the future, but if it doesn't fit the rider, returning it would be more than just showing a receipt at the counter. Shipping a bicycle back is a process and the inside of a bicycle shop is an experience for the cyclist. There are all kinds of bikes, outfits, pumps, shoes and usually a shop in the back to fix bikes. Shops like this are "a real asset to the biking community," said Colin Browne, the communications director at the Washington Area Bicycle Association. "It's always a bummer to see the brick and mortar bike shop close," he added.

An employee inside said the actual last day will be in a few weeks, which puts the actual closing date in late February or early March.

Big Box Beware

For the two streets on either side of Springfield Town Center, a few stores have closed over time. Next to Performance was a Party City store that moved to the other side of the Town Center, and Borders books a few doors down closed a few years ago and is now Modell's Sporting Goods. Over where Party City's new location is, the HH Gregg store closed and was subdivided into two stores. One will be Party City and the other will be Marshalls, a clothing variety store. It is not clear what is going in the old Party City or the Performance location. Down the parkway a few miles, there is the shell of a Toys R Us that closed a while ago, and so far, there are no plans for that location.



Hannah C Lee

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Serving on a Girl Advisory Board

Hannah C Lee, 10th grade at Lake Braddock High School, of Girl Scout Troop 229, based in Burke, was selected as a Girl Advisory Board (GAB) delegate for 2019-2020 by the Girl Scout Council's Nominating Committee. The purpose of GAB is to work as a team to determine priorities of Girl Scouting needs addressed in the areas such as programs, girl activities, girl engagement, training, and social trends and other areas determined by the CEO. GAB members will also be exposed to governance opportunities and be able to represent the Council at various activities and events.

By facilitating adult partnerships, these leadership opportunities allow GAB members to influence and have their voices heard in programmatic activi-

ties in the Nations Council. GAB members also have the opportunity to make recommendations and share ideas. The GAB will meet with the CEO at least three times a year in person.

The Girl Advisory Board (GAB) allows Girl Scouts who are 14 years or older, the opportunity to serve as an advisory team providing programmatic input to the CEO. By lending a voice to the Girl Scout movement that wants, needs and values girl-led contributions, these young leaders will play a significant role in shaping the ongoing work of the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital.

Hannah has been a girl scout for 7 years and a naturally born leader in school and her community. She is also pursuing her Girl Scout Gold Award.

More Than 8,900 New Jobs in Fairfax County

The 2018 job announcements were notable for the diversity of businesses involved.

In 2018, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) worked with 143 businesses that announced the addition of more than 8,900 jobs to the Fairfax County economy.

The year featured announcements from a number of major firms, many of which, including Appian, Bechtel, Arconic, MicroStrategy and KPMG also announced new or upgraded headquarters spaces which will provide modern facilities in Fairfax County for years to come.

The 2018 job announcements were notable for the diversity of businesses involved.

Appian and MicroStrategy, for instance, are in information technology sectors. Appian announced the addition of 600 new jobs as it prepared to move to a new headquarters in Tysons Corner,

while MicroStrategy said it will add 300 jobs at its existing base in Tysons Corner. KPMG, one of the largest professional services firms in the world, said it will add more than 500 jobs at its Tysons Corner location.

Arconic, a Fortune 500 metals manufacturer, will create at least 50 jobs as it relocates its headquarters to Tysons Corner from New York. Bechtel, adding 150 new jobs as it shifts its U.S. headquarters to Reston from San Francisco, is a leader in construction and engineering. The St. James, a new health and entertainment complex in Springfield, created 300 jobs.

"The 2018 announcements reflect Fairfax County's growing economic diversity, its skilled workforce, and the availability of prime office and tech space that is attractive to major corporations," said Catherine Riley, interim president of the FCEDA. "Companies have many choices on where

to locate and expand, and we are proud that so many firms chose Fairfax County as a base from which to grow and succeed."

OF THE 143 FIRMS that worked with the FCEDA and announced new jobs, 100 are American companies, including 15 that are minority-, woman- or veteran-owned. Forty-three of the companies announcing job creation are foreign-owned firms.

Also in 2018, Amazon announced it would divide its "HQ2" between Arlington and New York City and said it would create at least 25,000 jobs in each area. Fairfax County, which already is home to an Amazon Web Services campus, collaborated on the Northern Virginia proposal submitted to Amazon by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. While HQ2 will not be located in Fairfax County, the county can expect additional interest and consideration from companies that want to be close to Amazon as well as the county's technology community that includes more than 9,100 companies.

Business growth and innovation helps

Fairfax County fund the top-rated school system and other public services that contribute to the quality of life of residents. Fairfax County offers businesses a state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure, access to global markets through Washington Dulles International Airport, a vibrant investment capital community and a highly skilled, well-educated workforce.

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority promotes Fairfax County as a business and technology center.

THE FCEDA offers site location and business development assistance, and connections with county and state government agencies, to help companies locate and expand in Fairfax County. In addition to its headquarters in Tysons Corner, Fairfax County's largest business district, the FCEDA maintains marketing offices in six important global business centers: Bangalore, Berlin, London, Los Angeles, Seoul and Tel Aviv.

Black History Month: A Look at African American Art

Promoting and preserving a part of history.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Despite his predilection for visual arts, Allen Carter, an African American boy growing up in pre-civil rights era Arlington, might not have been granted entrance into some the nation's museums due to segregation. Still, he persisted, and years later he became a lauded artist, distinguished teacher and mentor to underprivileged children. And in February — African American History Month — his work is being shown in an exhibit, "Big Al Carter: A Retrospective," at the Fred Schnider Gallery of Art. While his work is part of the permanent collections of both the Smithsonian Institution and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, this is the first exhibit of Carter's work in the Washington, D.C area since his death in 2008.

"Big Al's family has given us an incredible gift by sharing his art, allowing us to continue to reflect on his life, his art and his message for future generations," said Marty Schnider, president of Fred Schnider Investment Group and founder of Fred Schnider Gallery of Art.

As a painter, printmaker, sculptor and muralist, Carter, also known as "Big Al" drew inspiration from his life experiences,

art history and everyday life. He believed that his life's purpose was to use art to heal. "Art is my emotion. Art is my memories. Art is my life. I create the essence," he once said.

"He paints poor people, he paints people who are fishing or people who are having dinner at the table ... his work is very vast," said Carter's daughter, Cecilia Carter.

Carter's exhibit is particularly noteworthy to some African-American art historians who point to a recent study showing that just 2.4 percent of all acquisitions and gifts and 7.6 percent of all exhibitions at 30 prominent American museums have been of work by African American artists. The recent Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Art Museum Staff Demographic Survey of 181 art museums in North America found that African Americans are greatly under-represented in mainstream art museums as directors, curators, conservators and educators. Those who study African American art say that solving this dilemma requires a year-round approach.

"We can't just focus on it during Black History Month," said African American art historian Crystal Johnson, Ph.D. "These two statistics go to hand-in-hand and prove what we already know. We need more African American students to explore their ar-



President of Fred Schnider Investment Group, LLC and Founder of the Fred Schnider Gallery of Art, Marty Schnider with Allen "Big Al" Carter's daughters, Cecilia Carter (left) and Flora O. Stone (right)

tistic talents and we need more students to take chance on a non-mainstream career and pursue jobs in museum administration. In order to make any changes, we need to have a seat at the table."

One such aspiring decision maker is recent a George Mason University graduate who landed a position as the co-curator of an exhibit at Howard University. "I'd worked with an exhibition, but I've never had the chance to curate before. I was excited and

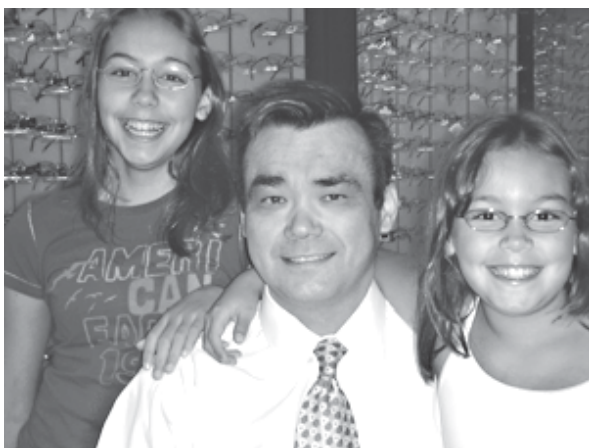
nervous," said Kourtney Riles of the exhibit called, "An Examination of Feminist(s) Subjectivity in Modern and Contemporary African American Art."

Art plays a vital, but often overlooked role in African American history, not just during Black History Month, but all year long, advises Angela Black, who has taught art history. "Art is a way of preserving our history," she said. "It tells our story and we need more professionally trained artists who can do that."

Carter's exhibit, which features rarely seen artwork from his daughters' private collection, runs through March 3 at the Fred Schnider Gallery of Art, 888 N. Quincy Street, Arlington. Several pieces will be available for sale.

"The exhibit and his work reflect everything that he's been through, what he's seen, and what other people have been through and seen," said Big Al's daughter Flora O. Stone, Carter's daughter.

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NEWS

Reporting on Super Bowl

FROM PAGE 4

Included in his itinerary were an 'NFL Experience' with booth activities where they Created Their Own Football Cards; and an amusement park with football-related activities called The Super Bowl Experience. He went to the NFL Shop with Ito Smith, a running-back with the Atlanta Falcon, where Ito gave out autographs. "It was a really great experience for me," he said.

He also attended a Nickelodeon with other football players, including Bradley Chubb. "He was autographing stuff for kids and it was really cool," he said. Next, he attended a Pro Football Hall-of-Famers Brunch and a Panini Skills Clinic.

"I got to go to this brunch with NFL Hall-of-Fame legends. The people at Panini got me a table with Warren Sapp, with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He was a really cool guy. He knew everyone there so he got me to meet other players, including Derrick Brooks and other players such as Tony Gonzales," he said.

On Sunday, Feb. 3, Corbin attended the Super Bowl with his mom Christina, sister Brianna, 9, and Grandma Lyn Smith of Florida; his father was deployed in Afghanistan with the U.S. Air Force and could not attend. They sat near the 35-yard line near the Rams' endzone (Section 317, Row 9).

"Originally, I was rooting for the Rams to win, but after I met Tom Brady, I realized how cool he was so I ended up switching to the Patriots to win," he said.

REGARDING THE CONTEST, Jason Howarth, VP of Marketing, said Panini America put codes inside Panini Trading Card packs, which could be purchased at Wal-Mart. The kids then entered the codes in the Panini Kid Reporter website. With 63,000 entries, the sweepstakes randomly selected 10 finalists. The finalists were asked to submit a two-minute video on why they would make the next great kid reporter.

Corbin's video stood out for his dynamic personality and confidence.

"Corbin was the favorite of everyone who voted," said Howarth. "There were a couple of factors that stood out... how confident he looked on tape. You could tell he was comfortable with asking questions. You need a kid who is comfortable with themselves in their own skin, who can ask a question that a



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED/THE CONNECTION

Panini America Super Bowl Kid Reporter Corbin Boehm asking Los Angeles Rams TE Tyler Higbee a question as Trent Dilfer looks on at Super Bowl Opening Night.

player can hear them amongst all the craziness that's going on that night because there's so many people there trying to ask the players questions," he said.

Needless to say, Corbin won the contest and was thrilled.

In his spare time, Corbin loves sports, including football and basketball, as well as playing in his school band and hanging out with his friends. As far as future aspirations, he said: "Definitely writing — after this experience it's an option in my book. I love being able to write whatever's in my mind. I just love writing."

So which NFL team is Corbin's favorite: The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and favorite college team is Notre Dame. His all-time favorite player is Mike Evans, a wide-receiver from Tampa Bay, he said.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

seeking volunteers for their upcoming events. Meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday, September through May. Call Lori Smith at 703-830-3520 or Sylvia Laiti at 703-830-8849.

Dementia 101 & Clinical Trials. 1-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, #100, Fairfax. Learn about the general stages to help anticipate future changes. Learn the basics of dementia, along with current research and clinical trials available. Free. Respite care may be available by request; please notify us when registering to confirm availability. Register online at www.insightmcc.org, or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.
Fairfax Commission on Aging Meets. 1-3 p.m. at the Hunter

Mill District Office, Community Room A, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Smart Growth. 7-8:30 p.m. at Fairfax Library, 4135 Evergreen Drive, Fairfax. Citizens are invited to join a discussion of proposed developments and Fairfax Master Plan in the City. This group meets monthly and all are welcome to participate. Free. Email judyteach912@aol.com or call 703-273-1324 for more.

Planning Commission Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. For agendas or to sign up to speak, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planningcommission. For more Planning Commission information,

questions or a printed copy of the agenda, call the Planning Commission office at 703-324-2865 (TTY 703-324-7951).

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Supervisor Dan Storck will be joined by County Executive Bryan Hill, County Chief Financial Officer Joseph Mondoro and FCPS staff to inform the community about the proposed budget, listen to feedback and further explain the budget process. Provide input during the budget public hearings at the Fairfax County Government Center on April 9, April 10 and April 11. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

Selective Mutism. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Learn about the diagnosis of Selective Mutism and how symptoms are maintained and persist. Dr. Kristin Swanson is a clinical psychologist, specializing in work with young children (ages 2-12) and their families. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

Scholarship Application Deadline. The Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will award scholarships to African American female students who demonstrate a high degree of scholarship, leadership, and community service. Applicants must have a 3.0 or higher grade point average on a 4.0 scale and be a resident of Fairfax County. Download an application at www.fcacdst.org/scholarship-application. Email fcacscholarship@fcacdst.org with questions.

Language Immersion Lottery Registration Deadline. Immersion lottery registration will close on Feb. 22 for grade 1. A SIS parent account is required to register. More information about Immersion programs and information meetings can be found at www.fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Super Transition Saturday. 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. This workshop is for parents and educators of students receiving special education services. Learn about Career and Transition Services (CTS) programming and course options for students with disabilities. This event also includes a student/parent panel where members describe their personal experiences. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

MONDAY/FEB. 25

Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall. 7 p.m. at Laurel Hill ES Library, 8390 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Supervisor Dan Storck will be joined by County Executive Bryan Hill, County Chief Financial Officer Joseph Mondoro and FCPS staff to inform the community about the proposed budget, listen to feedback and further explain the budget process. Provide input during the budget public hearings at the Fairfax County Government Center on April 9, April 10 and April 11. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. For agendas or to sign up to speak, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/board-zoning-appeals. For more Board of Zoning Appeals information or questions, call the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-324-1280 (TTY 711).

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. The Park Authority Board is a 12-member board appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to set policy and establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Open to the public. For information regarding meeting agendas, Park Board members, opportunities for public comment, or to view meeting materials, board minutes and archival materials, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm.

Planning Commission Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. For agendas or to sign up to speak, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planningcommission. For more Planning Commission information, questions or a printed copy of the agenda, call the Planning Commission office at 703-324-2865 (TTY 703-324-7951).

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Enough About Cancer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

At least that was my intention when I sat down to write this column. I was planning on highlighting a couple of my pet peeves: One was about people who back into parking spaces, an all-too common practice (which does not make perfect) that irks me no end and often inconveniences me while idling in my car waiting for the driver to crane his neck and coordinate his mirrors while backing into a head-first space, all while blocking my passage.

The second peeve also involves cars, but this action has potentially far more dangerous consequences: Drivers who, while motoring along, completely ignore my car's blinkers/indicator lights – WHEN THEY'RE FLASHING.

I was taught that when driving a vehicle and needing to turn/switch lanes, I was to indicate that to other drivers by using my blinkers, look into my mirrors and then move right or left accordingly. Moreover, when I observed those same lights flashing in other vehicles, I was to respect their intentions and give them a wide berth. I was not to speed up and interfere with their indications. Unfortunately, the exact opposite often happens.

Though I am still respectful when drivers flash their blinkers, it often happens that when many of my driving brethren see those lights, they react much the same way as a bull does when he sees red: they SPEED UP, and in their vehicle's acceleration, they put me and my passengers at risk. If it has happened once – which it has – it has happened a thousand times.

Unfortunately, neither of these car-related "misbehaviors" has been able to block out one of my key cancer anniversaries: Feb. 20, 2009, and as such, I will now be returning to the scene of the semi crime. And though I am not Billy Shears 20 years after the band taught me how to play, I am a lung cancer survivor who 10 years ago on Feb. 20 learned that I had cancer. That was the day when my primary care physician called me at work, about noon-ish on a Thursday to discuss the results of my previous week's surgical biopsy.

After declining the offer to come to his office, I encouraged him to just tell me – which he did: the growth was malignant. Dumbfounded, I asked for further details, which he politely deferred to an oncologist (a specialty with which I was totally unfamiliar), with whom, while we spoke on the phone, my primary care physician scheduled a Team Lourie appointment for the following Thursday.

This officially ended the diagnostic process which had been going on since I showed up at the Emergency Room on Jan. 1, 2009 complaining of pain in my right side, an inability to take a deep breath and difficulty bending over.

With an inconclusive X-Ray to not corroborate, an otherwise healthy patient with no family history of anything relevant – especially cancer, the doctor was perplexed. Fifty days later I learned I had cancer. And so I remember that day/date, a day which will go down in infamy, so to speak – in my family anyway.

The intervening days, as I have written about recently, were spent investigating the cause of my original symptoms. Eventually all test results led to one conclusion: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV.

Meaning metastatic and inoperable, meaning "terminal." It was Feb. 20 when I learned my fate. (The following Thursday, Feb. 27, is another anniversary; that's when we met my oncologist for the first time and learned that my life would never be the same, or last nearly as long.)

But yet here I am, alive and reasonably well, writing about nonsense, mostly, instead of cancer, for this week, anyway. Good therapy for sure, and a nice change of pace.

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



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