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**A+**  
PAGE. 11

(From left) are Walmart store manager Lind Godeni and Britepaths Programs Director Chris Garris during the food drive for Britepaths.

# Fairfax CONNECTION

## Feeding Fairfax Families

Today we are collecting food for your local food provider that helps people in this neighborhood.

# ‘This Drive Will Help Us Restock’

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## Tolls Off the Table For Area Parkways

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## Promoting Early Learning

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Volunteers from several entities participated in the Stuff the Bus food drive for Britepaths' food pantry. In the center (back row) is Braddock District Supervisor John Cook.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

At the Britepaths donation table are (from left) Steve Grunch with Volunteer Fairfax, Grace Song, David Meyer, Chris Garriss and MPO Reanna Jacobson and MPO Wayne Twombly, both of the Fair Oaks District Police Station.

# 'This Drive Will Help Us Restock'

## Britepaths holds Stuff the Bus event at Fairfax Walmart.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Energy and enthusiasm ran high last Saturday, Feb. 16, during the Stuff the Bus food drive for Britepaths. Held at the Walmart in Fairfax City, it was part of Fairfax County's annual initiative to stock local food pantries in the winter.

From 11 a.m.-4 p.m., various volunteers greeted Walmart customers and passed out fliers asking for donations of food or money so the nonprofit Britepaths can continue providing food for local families in need. What was collected was then stuffed into a Fastran bus and brought to the organization's pantry.

"It's great to have all the volunteers here – from Britepaths, youth baseball, Fair Oaks District police, etc.," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who dropped by during the event. "And we want to thank Walmart for letting us be at this location. It's wonderful to see so many people be here today to help out their neighbors."

"People sometimes forget that, although Fairfax is a very wealthy county, we have a great many people who live in poverty," he continued. "And we learned during the federal-government shutdown that we have a very large number of people who are working but living paycheck to paycheck. And I just think that part of being a good neighbor is helping people in the community when they're having a tough time – and that's what this is all about."

**THE FAIRFAX ROYALS 13U** Blue Travel Baseball Team not only helped staff the drive all day, but also helped bring the donations back to the food pantry. And play-

ers Kevin Burns and Charlie Barsotti, eighth-graders at Frost and Lanier middle schools, respectively, were among them.

"I wanted to help support families in need that don't have as much as us," explained Kevin. Both boys handed out fliers telling about Britepaths and listing some of the most-needed items.

They included: Canned fruit, cooking oil, dried beans, pizza kits, parmesan cheese, lunch snacks, healthy cereals, shelf-stable milk, laundry detergent, toilet paper and shampoo. Customers were also able to contribute cash, checks and grocery-store gift cards.

Happy to participate, Charlie said, "I just wanted to give back to the community and help people who aren't as fortunate as others are." Also donating was Walmart store manager Lind Godeni, who gave Britepaths 10 Walmart gift cards worth \$25 each, for a total of \$250.

Besides hosting the event, Walmart also provided a parking area in front of the store for the bus. "Walmart really believes in helping the community," said Godeni. "And we always partner up with anybody on the same mission as us – to make people's lives a little easier." Britepaths Programs Director Chris Garriss said Stuff the Bus came at a good time for her organization. "Due to the government shutdown, furloughed workers came to our pantry, as well, a couple weeks ago, so it was emptied of much-needed items," she said. "So this drive will help us restock."

She also praised the county government, Office of Public Private Partnerships (Fairfax Community Connections), MV Transportation and Walmart Fairfax for making it all possible. "The partnerships of Stuff the Bus have been so important," said Garriss. "They not only brought awareness to the need, but brought together the county, volunteer organizations, youth groups and a local business." She said many of the families Britepaths serves are working multiple jobs just to make ends meet. "They often have to make the choice between buying food or



(From left) Kevin Burns and Charlie Barsotti of the Fairfax Royals 13U "Blue" Baseball Team pass out fliers to Walmart customers, telling them what food items are needed.



(From left) are Walmart store manager Lind Godeni and Britepaths Programs Director Chris Garriss during the food drive for Britepaths.

paying their rent," explained Garriss. "That's where Britepaths steps in to not only support their emergency needs, but to educate them on budgeting and workforce development – helping them obtain the skills they need to get a better job."

**ALSO LENDING A HAND** at the food drive were Ivy Zarbo and Grace Song, both with the county's Coordinated Services Planning (CSP). Song said people that day asked them about the homeless statistics in Fairfax County and what is the screening process for their services.

"We're an information and resources phone line," said Zarbo. "People ask us, for example, 'Where can I find affordable daycare, how can I get medical care without insurance and where can I get food? And we verify their need.'"

Because of that, said Garriss, CSP is an invaluable resource for Britepaths. "We rely heavily on them for their referrals because they do the screening before people come to us for help," she said. "[In turn], we always refer people to them to get connected to the proper resources." "When people call

in with emergency needs, we interview them over the phone," said Song. Zarbo said they ask about the callers' mental and physical health, insurance status and any concerns they have about their children.

"Usually when they call us for help, there's an underlying need," she said. "For example, they can't pay their rent, utilities or medical bills." CSP's number is 703-222-0880, and people speaking multiple languages are available to help.

Coming to the food drive, as well, was Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer. "As an elected official, I know firsthand the impact that Britepaths makes in our City and region," he said. "Governments cannot meet all the needs of their citizens, and Britepaths is one of the most effective organizations in our area that is transforming lives and improving outcomes for persons at risk."

"I commend Walmart for hosting Stuff the Bus, and Fairfax County for its ongoing collaboration with the City and Britepaths," he continued. "The volunteers who give their time, and the many citizens who donated food and money, will know that their support is making a difference."



# 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.

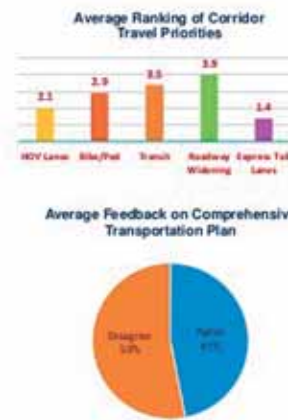
Burke was there to update the committee on the progress being made by FCDOT and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on the “Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study” of the two major thoroughfares. The multimodal corridor study spans the often-congested 31 miles from Route 7 (Leesburg 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](http://www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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



# Virginia Joins States to Sue Trump Over Wall Funding

**Concern over loss of funds for local military bases.**

By JAYLA MARIE MCNEILL  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Virginia has joined a coalition of 15 other states to challenge President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency and to block the diversion of congressional funding to build a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico, according to a lawsuit filed Monday, Feb. 18.

"Concocting a fake emergency to build a needless wall goes against the Constitution and the values America was built on," Attorney General Mark Herring said in a statement.

"President Trump's ill-advised plan could divert critical funds from actual national security priorities, including military construction projects at bases and facilities throughout Virginia. We

must stand up to this administration when it violates the law and attacks our values."

According to Herring's statement, the complaint was filed to block Trump's "fabricated" national emergency declaration and the "unconstitutional" diversion of appropriated federal funding to pay for the construction of the border wall.

On Friday, Trump said he would declare a national emergency in order to bypass Congress to fund the construction of a wall along the southern border.

The White House released a statement stating that the president has "clear authority" to declare a national emergency and that Trump is taking "necessary steps" to "ensure we stop the national security and humanitarian crisis at our Southern Border."

"We fight wars that are 6,000 miles away, wars that we should have never been in in many cases, but we don't control our own border," Trump said in his speech Friday at the White House. "So we are going to confront the national security crisis on our southern border. And we are going to do it one

way or the other."

The administration estimated that the national emergency declaration will make over \$8 billion in taxpayer funds available to build the border wall.

Other states participating in the lawsuit includes Hawaii, Colo-

rado, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, New York and California.

The states contend that Trump's emergency declaration is only a means to justify using federal

funding to pay for his border wall.

"The states allege that the Trump Administration's action exceeds the power of the executive office, violates the U.S. Constitution and federal statutes, and would illegally and unconstitu-

SEE WALL, PAGE 13

## Assembly Repeals 'Jim Crow' Minimum Wage Exemptions

By DANIEL BERTI  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A Democratic bill to repeal a Jim Crow era law that legalized wage discrimination against many African-Americans is headed to the governor's desk after being approved by the House of Delegates.

The bill, SB 1079, rescinds the law that allows employers to pay less than minimum wage to "newsboys, shoe-shine boys, ushers, doormen, concession attendants and theater cashiers" — jobs to which many African-Americans were relegated decades ago.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Lionell Spruill, D-Chesapeake, said the exemptions were rooted in Virginia's history of discrimination against African-Americans.

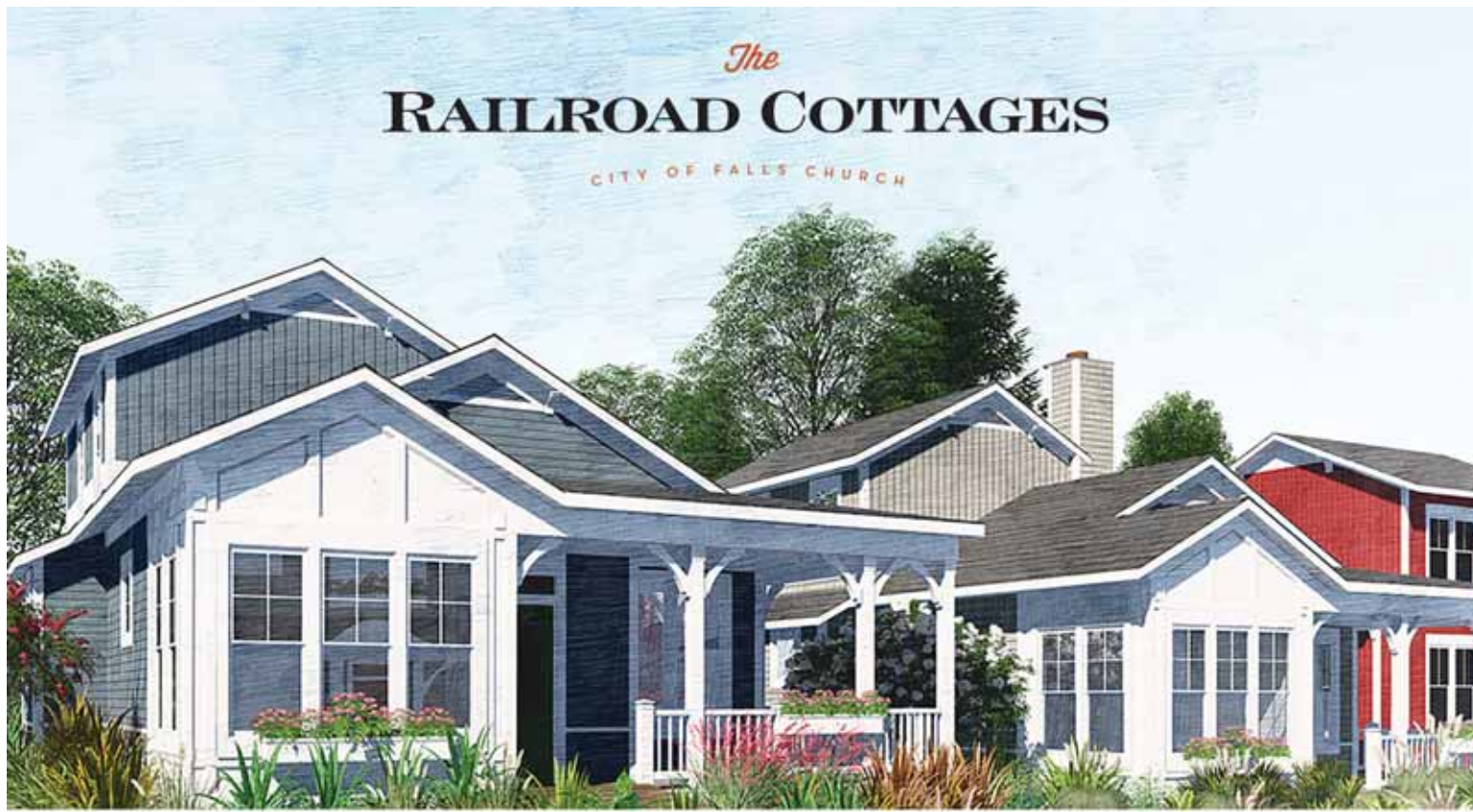
"It's clear that this law was put into place to keep African-American Virginians from advanc-

ing," Spruill said. "Hardworking Virginians deserve wage protections, regardless of the job that they do. I am proud to champion this long overdue legislation and to witness its bipartisan passage in the General Assembly."

Spruill's bill also eliminates the minimum wage exemption for babysitters if they work more than 10 hours per week.

The measure passed the Senate, 37-3, on Jan. 18. On Wednesday, Feb. 13, the House voted 18-14 in favor of a modified version of the bill. And on Friday, Feb. 15, the Senate unanimously approved that version and sent it to Gov. Ralph Northam to be signed into law.

In 2018, Del. Paul Krizek, D-Alexandria, carried a bill with the same intent, and it died in committee. Krizek said the minimum-wage exemptions were "obviously aimed at African Americans who were in these service jobs because those were the jobs they could get at the time."



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# News

## Law Would Protect Elderly Against Financial Crimes

BY JAYLA MARIE MCNEILL  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

### Report Elder Abuse

With bipartisan support, legislation headed to ward approval in the General Assembly may help protect elderly residents and other vulnerable adults against financial exploitation by giving financial institutions more tools to help prevent this crime.

Both the House and Senate have passed versions of SB 1490, but the two chambers must resolve their differences over the measure. "This bill addresses the issue of financial exploitation of older Virginians, which has been on the rise in recent years," said the sponsor, Sen. Mark Obenshain, R-Rockingham. Del. David Toscano, D-Charlottesville, is sponsoring HB 1987, the companion bill in the House. That measure was unanimously approved by the House last month and, in a slightly different version, by the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee on Friday, Feb. 15.

"I think it's important for people

To report suspected adult abuse, neglect or exploitation, call the 24-hour, toll-free Adult Protective Services hotline at 888-832-3858.

to pay close attention to elderly folks and how they may be financially exploited. We're all getting older, there are more of us and we've got to watch out for each other," said Toscano, the House minority leader.

"This bill helps encourage banking institutions to do that."

Toscano's and Obenshain's proposals would give financial institutions the ability to "refuse to execute a transaction, delay a transaction, or refuse to disburse funds" if the institutions believe in "good faith" that the "transaction or disbursement may involve, facilitate, result in, or contribute to the financial exploitation of an adult." "What we've been finding is that sometimes, elderly people are exploited by their caregivers or some relative by taking them to the bank and removing cash from

SEE FINANCIAL CRIMES, PAGE 7

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# OPINION

## A Historic Session

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



**A**s you read this column the Virginia General Assembly will be nearing its adjournment *sine die* for the 400<sup>th</sup> 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-

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

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.

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).

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## News

# Financial Crimes

FROM PAGE 5

their accounts. Once the cash is removed, it's hard to get it back," Toscano said. "So this gives lending institution some more teeth to make sure that they're not giving away the money of folks who are being exploited and can essentially stop it before it happens."

The legislation also would grant the financial institution's staff immunity from civil or criminal liability for refusing to process transactions or for reporting suspicious financial activity as long as these actions are taken with due cause.

"Often the tellers at bank branches are in the last position to identify and stop these crimes, but too often they feel helpless because they cannot stop or delay suspicious transactions," Obenshain said. "This bill will empower these bank employees to help protect vulnerable older Virginians."

The financial exploitation of vulnerable adults is a widespread yet hidden problem.

The National Adult Protective Services Association identifies vulnerable adults as anyone who is "targeted due to age or disability, isolation, reliance on caregivers, or decreased physical or mental capacity."

According to the association, 1 in 9 seniors has been "abused, neglected or exploited," and 1 in 20 cases involves financial exploitation. About 90 percent of abusers are family members, caregivers or other individuals in a position of trust.

The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services reported 1,016 substantiated cases of financial exploitation in fiscal year 2015. But because most cases go unreported, the agency estimated there were more than 44,000 incidents of exploitation that year, costing elderly or incapacitated victims potentially more than \$1.2 billion.

The average financial loss per victim was about \$28,000, state officials found. State lawmakers have been trying to address the problem since 2013, but legislation has failed in previous years. In 2016, for example, Del. Paul Krizek, D-Fairfax, introduced a bill nearly identical to HB 1987; it died in a House subcommittee.

Toscano is confident that the legislation will pass this year after House and Senate members iron out their relatively minor differences. "I think that we will resolve the technical differences, and it will pass," he said.




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**Route 29 Northbound  
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Fairfax County**

**Public Information Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2019  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.**

**Inclement Weather Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

Fairhill Elementary School  
3001 Chichester Lane  
Fairfax, VA 22031

**Find out** about plans to build a continuous shared-use path along northbound Route 29 (Lee Highway) between Vaden Drive and Nutley Street (Route 243) to improve safety and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians. The project will also extend the Route 29 culvert over the tributary of Accotink Creek just west of Nutley Street to accommodate the shared-use path.

**Stop by** between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project and preliminary design plans. VDOT will hold a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

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

**Give your written comments** at the meeting, or submit them by **March 15, 2019** to Ms. Hong Ha, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Route 29 Northbound Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements" in the subject line.

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

State Project: 0029-029-414, P101, R201, C501  
UPC: 113518, Federal: NHPP-5A01 (946)

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# Promoting Early Learning

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**D**iane Volcansek, 47, of Herndon is the new Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, which has 1,100 members and covers Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties as well as the city of Fairfax and Alexandria. She also works as the Director of Christ Presbyterian Preschool, which has 110 students, along Route 50 near Fairfax/Chantilly.

Her new position is important, she says, because the early childhood education world is so varied. It includes in-home daycares where the employees have a high school diplomas all the way up to private schools where the teachers have upper-level graduate degrees, but they all affect the world of a young child.

"NVAEYC hopes to standardize the continuity of care and professional development for these educators. We also hope to be a voice for those who work in the early child education field as policy and local and state laws are developed," she said. Up until about a year ago, the organization was all-volunteer.

She said her mission is to promote high-quality early learning for every child from birth to age 8. "We connect practice, policy and research to support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young chil-



**Diane Volcansek is the new Executive Director of Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children.**

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/  
THE CONNECTION

dren in Northern Virginia," she said. They are an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"My job is to coordinate with the volunteer Board of Directors to make sure that we have an outreach program to those who serve young children in the Northern Virginia area — to meet and collaborate with local elected officials, School Board officials, early childhood education professionals — to help them grow and learn in early childhood concepts," she said.

She added: "We train early childhood professionals on best practices based on the latest research and we advocate at the local and state level for the policy to best benefit young children."

## Diane Volcansek heads Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children with 1,100 members.

areas of child development and celebrate what young children are capable of doing.

They also help in the preschool accreditation process. The National Association for the Education of Young Children provides an accreditation system for early childhood programs and they help local schools reach that accreditation. Since 1985, the NAEYC accreditation has served as a transformative quality improvement system that sets professional standards for early learning programs and helps families identify programs of the highest quality, she said. The accreditation process can take two years and there's also a renewal process.

According to Rosemary Kendall, Ph.D., Co-President: "We are excited to have Diane Volcansek as our new executive director. She brings to the job enthusiasm, experience in a variety of early care and education settings, and an understanding of the importance of teamwork and involving new partners. NVAEYC currently provides professional development and scholarships to early childhood educators in Northern Virginia. We also advocate for local, state, and federal efforts to promote high-quality early learning for every child birth through age 8. Her leadership will help NVAEYC continue its work in all these areas."

They provide professional development workshops to early childhood professionals in the area. "We offer training on different concepts teachers can take into their classroom — behavior management, math and science curriculum, mental health and other current topics," she said.

Part of her job is also community engagement. They conduct family events where they help educate parents to engage them in developmentally appropriate activities. They hold art parties where they engage young children in creative art processes in libraries and other settings. They've also hosted book clubs and book stores with guest readers. The Week of the Young Child held in April is where they explore different



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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

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

## FRIDAY/FEB. 22

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638.

## 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. The Father/Son Advance features a comic book sketching session with Marvel artist, Sal Buscema; ziplining; bb gun target shooting; an escape room; laser tag and more. All men and children ages 5-18 are invited. \$15/person (\$30 maximum/family). Register at [jccag.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/191181](http://jccag.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/191181).

**Fairfax Genealogy Society.** 9:30 a.m. at Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station Hall, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Michael Donovan will discuss the 1958 explosions at the Nike missile launch site in Middletown, N.J., and the genealogical research on the 10 victims. Visit [www.fxgs.org](http://www.fxgs.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 24

**MainStreet Band Concert.** 4-5:30 p.m. at Sidney Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. 10th anniversary celebration. Medley of Beatles hits, a Romantic-era composition by Camille Saint-Saëns, and selections from favorite movie musicals and birthday cake to celebrate the band's decade of success. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxband.org/product-category/tickets/](http://www.fairfaxband.org/product-category/tickets/) or call 571-336-CFBA (2322).

**Pohick Church Coffeehouse Fundraiser.** 5-7 p.m. at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Come for an evening of entertainment, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Performers will include youth, adults and local musicians. All are welcome. The event is free, but donations are encouraged: all proceeds go toward the summer Sr. High Mission Trip.



## 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](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

Contact Rusty Booth at 703-339-6572 or [rusty@pohick.org](mailto:rusty@pohick.org), or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

### The Capitol Steps Benefit

**Performance.** 7 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run Road, 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](http://www.cappies.com/nca).

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**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638.

## 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](mailto:suzannelevy@cox.net) or visit [www.fairfaxhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.fairfaxhistoricalsociety.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](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/erth-39-s-prehistoric-aquarium-adventure).

## MONDAY/MARCH 4

**Mason Symphony Orchestra Concerto Concert.** 8 p.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, Fairfax Campus. Under the direction of, Dr. Dennis Layendecker, the Mason Symphony Orchestra performs. \$20 adults, \$15 seniors, \$5 youth through grade 12. Visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/mason-symphony-orchestra-concerto-concert](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/mason-symphony-orchestra-concerto-concert).

## TUESDAY/MARCH 5

**TheatreWorks: Henry & Mudge.** 10:30 a.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, Fairfax Campus. Based on the best-selling series of books by Cynthia Rylant. Moving from the city to a new house in the country can be tough. Just ask Henry, who can't find a playmate in his new neighborhood. Luckily, he's got Mudge, a great big, 182-pound canine buddy, with whom he can share all kinds of adventures. Recommended ages: pre-K through 3. For tickets call 1-800-497-5007 or visit [twusa.org](http://twusa.org).

## MONDAY/FEB. 25

**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](http://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](http://fams.gmu.edu/events/8588).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 28-SUNDAY/MARCH 3

**Really Really.** Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 2 p.m. at GMU's deLaski Performing Arts Building, A105, TheaterSpace, Fairfax Campus. When morning-after gossip about privileged Davis and ambitious Leigh turns ugly, self-interest collides with the truth, and the resulting storm of ambiguity makes it hard to discern just who's a victim, who's a predator, and who's a Future Leader of America. Contains adult language and situations, and depictions of sexual violence. \$20 Adult, \$10 students, staff, seniors and groups. Visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/really-really](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/really-really).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 1

**Registration Deadline: Fairfax Adult Softball.** Experience first-hand 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,





Street appeal is huge in the real estate business.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Much of the work was done in the rear of the house with roof lines and drainage.

## Creativity Within the Bounds is Behind Daniels Remodeling

Local husband-wife efforts are awarded.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

In early February, Daniels Design and Remodeling of Fairfax was awarded a 2019 Contractor of the Year Award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI)/Metro

DC Chapter for our Residential Exterior Project Over \$200,000 for a makeover of sorts for a home in McLean.

Looking dated is always going to happen with anything in real estate, and this house in McLean needed a makeover, so the Daniels' delivered. In the back, they used

different materials and altered roof lines to improve the patio, enhance the space of their breakfast room area and enlarge their kitchen, which required exterior addition and renovation. Their efforts cut the maintenance needs and address drainage issues out back, replacing finishes and changing rooflines to match the look out front. The rooflines were changed to a "steep-sloped gable roofing that aligned with the mass-

ing of the existing home to provide a more balanced look," the award submission stated. New materials made a big impact at this part of the house. Off the master bedroom, a faux slate roof shingle was used, and snow guards were put in for safety.

In addition to improving the rooflines and fixing the water drainage issues, old termite damage required material replacement elsewhere too, all of which had to be removed and reframed. Front railings were replaced with a sturdier option. All exterior lights were replaced with copper fixtures to tie in with the copper gutters.

Inside they refurbished the kitchen, and modernized the look but this interior work was not part of the award. They received their award at a ceremony, called the "Evening of Excellence," held on Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna.

Traditionally, Gayle and Ted Daniels use a creative approach to solutions when their team is working on a room or whole house project like the one in McLean. In a past master bathroom project, there was need for a vanity, so Ted Daniels created one by making space with the other additions. "It was really cool," added Gayle. "He

finds creative ways to solve problems," she said. Unlike one of the reality shows on television, where the brothers take down drywall and uncover all kinds of problems that hike up the price and add to the drama but people don't like that in real life, so the Daniels stay away from situations like that. Although "things are always going to come up," she said, Ted tries to minimize change orders that could impact the price. "He really tries to keep it with that," she said.


One of their specialties is to outfit homes so seniors can age-in-place. This requires wider doorways for wheelchairs and walkers, lower countertops, and non-slip or heated floors. The baby boomers, "they're considering all the options to staying in their homes," said Gayle Daniels. Ted Daniels is certified in aging in place and green remodeling.

**THE DANIELS' COMPANY** started in 1997 at a location in Fairfax Station. They relocated to the City of Fairfax where they've been for the past four years. In January, Daniels Design and Remodeling of Fairfax, Virginia won "Best of Design" on Houzz, a platform for home renovation and design.




The kitchen remodeling job was part of the effort but not the award.

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# 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 underrepresented 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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**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.

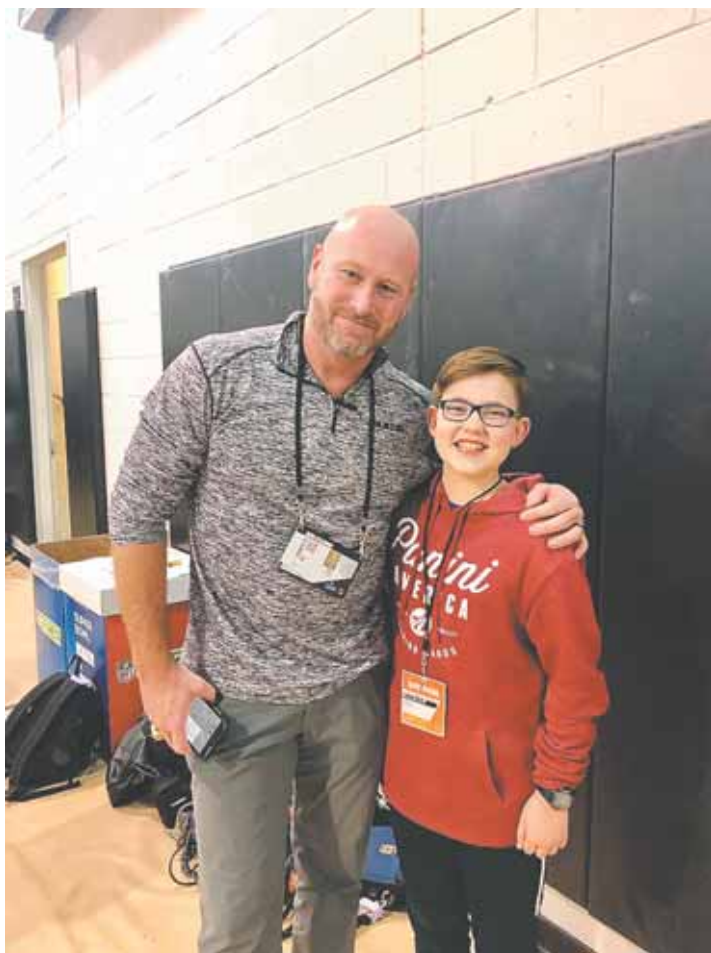
BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**C**orbin 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,



**Panini America Super Bowl Kid Reporter Corbin Boehm hanging out with Atlanta Falcons RB, 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 SUPER BOWL, PAGE 13

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# Reporting on Super Bowl

FROM PAGE 12

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.

## Wall

FROM PAGE 4

tionally divert federal funds appropriated by Congress for other purposes," Herring's statement said.

"The suit seeks declaratory and injunctive relief to block the emergency declaration, the construction of the wall, and any illegal diversion of congressionally-appropriated funds."

According to the attorney

general's statement, Virginia could potentially lose over \$130 million in military construction funding — money that is currently allocated for projects at Dam Neck, Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Belvoir, Humphreys Engineer Center, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, and the Pentagon.

Trump said that he expected his contentious national emergency declaration to prompt lawsuits. He

remains confident, however, that his decision will be upheld by the Supreme Court, similar to the way his 2017 travel ban was upheld by the court in a 5-4 decision.

"We will have a national emergency and we will then be sued," Trump said.

"Hopefully we will get a fair shake and win in the Supreme Court just like the ban."

### 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/](http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/). Complete a packet of registration forms found at [www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf](http://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/](http://www.fcps.edu/)

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### WINTER SHELTERS

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

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-Werner Heisenberg

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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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## BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 13

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](http://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf). Call 703-322-8500 or email [lrmill@fcps.edu](mailto:lrmill@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](mailto: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](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://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 at [recruiter@scfbva.org](mailto:recruiter@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](http://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 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](http://www.insightmcc.org), or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or [lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org](mailto: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/ds/olderadultservices/coa.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ds/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](mailto: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](http://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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