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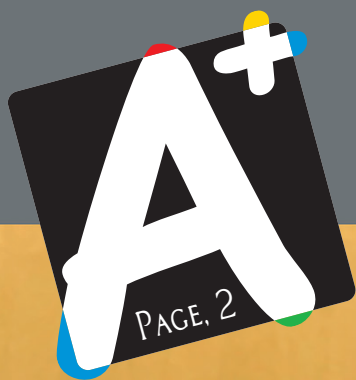
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Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION



Lead Pastors of Life Ticket Church, Dorian and Leah Baker prepare for the ceremonial photo to commemorate their acceptance of the Proclamation to recognize “African American History Month February 2019” from the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Herndon

‘Dates Matter’ For Herndon Pastor



South Elden Area
Plan Moves On

NEWS, PAGE 3

History Made at
The Nysmith School

NEWS, PAGE 8

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

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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South Elden Area Plan Moves On

Comstock envisions a walkable, pedestrian-friendly environment with multi-modality options.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In a 35 second comment during Feb. 12, 2019, Herndon Town Council Public Meeting, Bill Ashton, Town Manager shared what appeared to be the first solid update in the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project since the fall of 2018. Ashton hinted more information would be forthcoming. In a second and unrelated move, the Herndon Town Council approved Comprehensive Plan Amendment CPA #18-01 (South Elden Area Plan) as an amendment.

"The fourth revision of the (Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project) site plan is back in staff hands," said Bill Ashton during the Comments from the Town Manager portion of the Feb. 12, 2019, Herndon Town Council Public Meeting. "This has been an iterative process. We have worked with Comstock over a period of time to refine the proposal and the site plan, and they've answered our comments moving forward. We will talk more about this as we move forward."

"Great to hear," responded Mayor Lisa C. Merkel.

Asked for a comment, Comstock replied, "Comstock remains very excited about the project. We've worked hard with the town improving the site plan."

THE HERNDON DOWNTOWN Redevelopment Project is a proposed 4.675-acre redevelopment of town-owned land through a public-private partnership with Comstock Herndon Venture L.C. According to the Comprehensive Agreement signed Nov. 30, 2016, Herndon and Comstock intend Comstock develop and construct as a single project, a multi-level retail and residential complex comprising three buildings, a parking garage, a pedestrian plaza with the project anchored by an "Arts Center" described in the Agreement as a "18,000 square foot cold, dark shell space" owned by Herndon.

Following the town's receipt of appeals from citizens aggrieved after the Herndon Heritage Preservation Review Board (HPRB) awarded three Certificates of Appropriateness to Comstock necessary for the project to move forward, the project momentarily back stepped the summer of 2018. On July 13, 2018, Comstock Herndon Venture, L.C. sent notice to David Stromberg, Zoning Administrator Town of Herndon of its "Withdrawal of Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) Heritage Preservation Review Board." Since then, Comstock continues to work with the town on approval of its site plan, now in revision number four according to Ashton, before it resubmits its application to HPRB for the needed COAs.

An online FAQ states, "You may visit the town's website at www.herndon-va.gov/downtown for updated information." On Feb. 15, 2019, the website provided what

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Elizabeth M. Gilleran, AICP, Director of Community Development Town of Herndon describes the plan as Dana E. Heiberg, Senior Planner Department of Community Development Town of Herndon looks on.



Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP, asks about affordable housing in the plan.



Walter Shorter, HOA President, Four Seasons located within the plan area urges the town to include Four Seasons in the future steps before implementation of the plan.



Arthur Nachman Senior Commercial Broker at Long and Foster Commercial Division, Long and Foster Companies urges the town to develop the plan in greater detail before adopting it.

appeared to be the first Site Plan, as it is dated, 04/27/18. Comstock's Architectural Drawings shown on the site are dated May 18, 2018, and FAQs on the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project appear to be the same as released when Comstock withdrew its COAs. In reply to an inquiry about "updated information," a town spokesperson replied on Feb. 15, "The website is in process of being updated."

The Agenda for the Town Council Work Session, Feb. 19, 2019, states: "Update on Downtown Redevelopment (Discussion by the Town Manager)."

During the Herndon Town Council Meeting on Feb. 12, 2019, Mayor Merkel and the six councilmembers considered a resolution to adopt Comprehensive Plan, Amendment CPA #18-01, South Elden Area Plan. A week and a half earlier, on Feb. 1, the town held "Community Meeting for Business, Property Owners on South Elden Area Plan." The plan is created as a future development policy for the area.

Elden Street is the town's main corridor connecting with Dulles Toll Road to the

northwest and Reston to the southeast. According to the town, the South Elden Area Plan covers approximately 76 acres and 29 parcels and is one mile and one half-mile radii at Herndon area Metrorail stations. Before the special meeting on Feb. 1, Dana E. Heiberg, Senior Planner Department of Community Development, said, "We try to keep the door open every step of the way through the community-driven planning process."

During the presentation, Elizabeth M. Gilleran, AICP, Director of Community Development Town of Herndon told the assembled crowd, "This is a guide for the Planning Commission and the Town Council in the future when proposals come in, a primary guide for what is appropriate and is not appropriate." Gilleran spoke about the future steps required before plan implementation involving public hearings and administrative review according to drafting and adopting of zoning text amendments, submission of applicant-initiated zoning map amendments, site plans, building permits and such.

Walter Shorter, HOA President of Four Seasons, a small residential community within the plan area urged the town that as it goes forward with the plan, Four Seasons be included in processes. "We are the buffer to Metro; we want to protect our interests and value...to make sure about density...our biggest concern is traffic near KinderCare," he said.

Gilleran described the five tiers or areas in the plan- transitional, urban residential, commercial, neighborhood mixed-use and gateway.

In greater detail, she said Tier 2 would have a density of 18-20 units per acre, with townhouses and 2 over 2 stacked townhouse developments.

Arthur Nachman, Senior Commercial Broker at Long and Foster Commercial Division, Long and Foster Companies, inquired about the width of the stacked townhomes. "Sixteen feet?" asked Nachman. Gilleran said, "It could be less than that...I'm trying to remember if it went down lower." Spreading out his arms, Nachman said, "That's you and I standing up with our arms like this, and that's it." Gilleran replied, "That is where we will be looking at the zoning language."

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP, asked about affordable housing. Gilleran said the plan does not provide a significant incentive to do that.

Nachman urged the town to develop the plan in greater detail before adopting it. "You have to lay everything out ahead of time before you can expect them (developers) to come in," he said. "I think there needs to be a higher level of certainty before this plan comes to the table." Nachman advocated for tax incentives, density improvements and a financing component.

"If you truly want to create a workable document where sticks, bricks and dirt are turned, you need to create a tax incentive, as well as a density improvement in order to get this done...(And) there needs to be a financing component placed on this. When someone asks how much should the town do to get development, my answer is, absolutely everything, all the time because we have these decaying properties and they are spreading..." said Nachman.

QUESTIONED by an attendee about the high traffic in the area and Herndon Parkway now and the impact of potentially increased traffic, Gilleran said the most significant impact from traffic was less about changes within Herndon and more about the development outside the town limits. Gilleran said the South Elden Area Plan aimed to make the area a walkable, pedestrian-friendly built environment with a variety of multi-modality options. She acknowledged that for current and future residents, traffic would more than likely increase; however, South Elden would become "a walkable community and a transit-friendly community, so the vehicle trips

SEE DOWNTOWN, PAGE 5

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 opportunities 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 gov-

ernment, 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 twentieth 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.

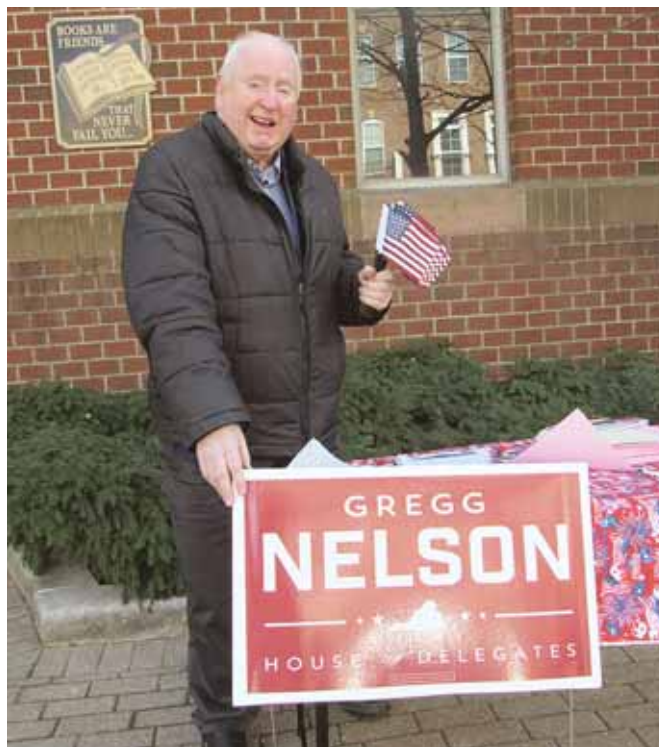
Slaves were brought to the colony of Virginia in 1619 to work the tobacco fields that were the mainstay of the colony's economy. They had none of the rights that Englishmen claimed and beginning in the 1640s were subjected to "slave codes" that defined them as property to be bought and sold with no access 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>.



Kat Kehoe of McLean, Kris Gregory of McLean, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors-Dranesville, John Foust (D) and Christy Villalobos of Herndon man the polling station table for Dr. Ibraheem Samirah during absentee voting at the Herndon Fortnightly Library on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019.



Rob Whitfield staffs the polling station table for Gregg Nelson, Republican Candidate for VA House of Delegates 86th District during absentee voting at the Herndon Fortnightly Library on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Interest Runs High in Early Voting in 86th District

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In-person absentee voting numbers looked promising Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, as voters entered the Herndon Fortnightly Library for the Special Election-86th House of Delegates District held to replace Jennifer

Boysko, who was recently elected to the State Senate. At 11:30 a.m., 72 ballots had been cast, said Russell Ugone of Vienna, Supervisor of Absentee Voting Fairfax County Election. "This is a very good number," Ugone said.

Outside the library, Democrats staffed their table for Ibraheem

Samirah and Republicans staffed their table for Gregg Nelson. Independent candidate Connie Hutchinson placed her campaign signs out earlier that morning in front of the polling station. Reached for comment, Hutchinson said she and her volunteers were out knocking on doors, seeking votes.

When the polls closed at 5 p.m. a spokesperson said, 275 people had voted.

Since the Special Election for Virginia HD-86 is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 19 after the Oak Hill & Herndon Connection is published for the Feb. 20-26 edition, election results will be reported in Feb. 27- March 5 edition.

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News

South Elden Area Plan Proposed Land Use Map



February 12, 2019 CPA #18-01 South Elden Area Plan

Herndon

SCREENSHOT OF TOWN OF HERNDON POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

South Elden Area Plan Proposed Land Use Map, showing the substitution of “Adaptive Residential” (lower right corner) for land previously designated “Office Parks & Flexible Space” and the substitution of “Adaptive”(center length) for land previously designated “Business Corridor.”

Downtown Project Moves On

FROM PAGE 3

(by residents) will be lower.”

At the Feb. 12, Herndon Town Council Meeting, the council approved Comprehensive Plan Amendment CPA #18-01 for adoption as an amendment to the Town of Herndon 2030 Comprehensive

Plan adopted Aug. 12, 2008, as amended.

To view CPA #18-01, South Elden, Resolution (Approved), visit herndon-va.gov, go to Agendas, Minutes & Webcasts; Archived Videos-Town Council Public Session 02/12/19 Agenda.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Weekend Food for Kids. 10 a.m.-noon at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, invites community members to help pack food for its Weekend Food for Kids program, providing nonperishable food over the weekend to children who receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year. May arrive at 9:30 to help with setup. Free. Email philanthropy@ALNV.org or visit www.alnv.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

The Storytime Social Hour. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Every Friday, moms, dads, caregivers and kids are invited to join a Storytime Social Hour. Scrawl will provide coffee and treats for the adults; stories and fun for the little people. Make new friends or meet up with neighbors. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

The Bookworms Club. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Young readers are invited to join Scrawl's all-new and completely free Bookworms Club. Explore a new theme each week with picture books, special guests and most often, authors. Readers are welcome to join or participate any time. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

Cure Wintertime Boredom. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Tired of being cooped up this winter? Flock over to Frying Pan Farm Park for the "Bored out of your Gourd" birdhouse program. Make a new home for your feathered friends out of gourds that were grown at the farm last year. It's an activity for bird lovers age 7-adult. \$14 per person. Only registered participants will receive a birdhouse gourd and decorating supplies. Children age 13 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-437-9101 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.

Saturday Series: Nature Explorer. Noon-1:30 p.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. In the "Exploring Nature Series-Winter" program, students age 6-adult will explore Virginia's ecosystem. Sessions are spread over four Saturdays in February with a new topic to explore each week: Feb. 23 - Trees. Each session is \$8 per person. The program takes place both outdoors and indoors, so dress accordingly. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

Search for Signs of New Amphibian Life. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Vernal pools are one of the most fascinating and elusive ecosystems at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Discover the critical role they play for wildlife in the park at the "Vernal Pool Ventures Campfire." Come by after-hours and hike the park trails with a guide to search for signs of new amphibian life. Learn about the life cycle and early development of local amphibians. End the evening by roasting s'mores over a campfire. This program is designed for participants age 4-adult. \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.



SUNDAY/FEB. 24

Introduction to Watercolor. 2-5 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Starting at the very beginning, this introduction to watercolor course will go over brushes, paper types, the use of water, negative space, glazing, color mixing, and more. With Katherine Rodgers. Six-week session, \$225. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

Fire Building and S'mores. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn the science and art of fire building at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Discover what it takes to build a fire, and then test new abilities with primitive fire bows and modern fire-making techniques and then roast s'mores. \$8 per person, and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Live Music: Nothin' Fancy. 7 p.m. (doors open at 6) at Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Make plans to "hitch up the team" and head to Frying Pan Farm Park this season for Bluegrass Barn. Food and beverages available for purchase. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Purchase tickets online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/bluegrass-barn or by phone at 703-222-4664 or 703-437-9101.

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.

MONDAY/FEB. 25

Introduction to Watercolor. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Starting at the very beginning, this introduction to watercolor course will go over brushes, paper types, the use of water, negative space, glazing, color mixing, and more. With Katherine Rodgers. Six-week session, \$225. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

Little Hands Work on the Farm at Frying Pan. 9:45 a.m. (2-3 year olds); 11 a.m. (3-5 year olds) at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Discover what happens on a farm during the winter. Children will learn about animals, farm chores and how farm life changes with the season with activities such as stories, crafts or games. \$8 per child. Children must

Exhibition: "RPS Clicks @ USGS"

The Reston Photographic Society, a special-interest group of the League of Reston Artists, asked photographers to enter their work in the "RPS Clicks @ USGS" exhibit. The exhibit will hang through March 1-29 at the US Geological Survey, National Gallery, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

"Fishing Buds," is one of Dawn Murphy's entries in the "RPS Clicks @ USGS" exhibit.

be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park.

Photography Critique. 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts to attend the club's critique. Ellis Rosenberg, an experienced photographer and exhibit judge, will critique member photos. Nonmembers are welcome. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 28

Watercolor 2.0. 5:30-8:30 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. In this course students will learn more in depth color theory, mixing watercolor pigments, composition concepts, how to create texture and the use of negative space. With Katherine Rodgers. Six-week session, \$225. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 2

ArtSplash. 2-4 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Create a masterpiece in this art workshop led by artists from Abakadoodle Northern Virginia. Adults. Free. Registration starts Feb. 16 at fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events or call 703-689-2700, ext 4.

MONDAY/MARCH 4

Family History Research. 7-8:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Learn to find courthouse, immigration and military records in this workshop taught by a librarian from the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Public Library. Free. Call 703-689-2700 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

TUESDAY/MARCH 5

Bollywood Dance Fitness. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Try out some fun Bollywood dance moves in this fitness program for spring, led by local instructor Aparna Rao. Adults, teens. Free. Call 703-689-2700 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

Author Event: Dani Shapiro. 7-8:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dani Shapiro will discuss and sign copies of her latest memoir, *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*. She will be in conversation with professional genealogist Shannon Combs-Bennett. Free. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5065844.

BULLETIN

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.

DONATION REQUEST

Diva Central Accessories Drive. Through Feb. 28, Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Reston Community Center will be collecting gently used items at its Hunters Woods and Lake Anne locations. RCC is accepting donations of accessories, including shoes, jewelry, handbags and shawls. RCC does not need donations of dresses this year. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com for more.

Support Reston Historic Trust & Museum.

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

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

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.

Preschool Open House and Registration. 6-7:30 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The Herndon Community Center Preschool will host an open house and registration will be taken for the 2019-2020 school year. Visitors can meet the staff and tour the preschool room. The preschool is a state licensed program for children ages 4-5. The program operates weekdays from Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for 4-5 year-old students and 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday for 3-4 year-old students. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

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).

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.

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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.

NEWS

'Dates Matter' for Herndon Pastor

Pastor Dorian Baker Accepts 'Proclamation African American History Month February 2019 from Mayor and Herndon Town Council.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon celebrated African American Month on Feb. 12, 2019, during the Town Council Meeting. The Mayor and Town Council proclaimed "African American History Month February 2019" to emphasize the importance of remembering the accomplishments and contributions by African Americans.

Commenting on recent events during the last few weeks in Virginia, Mayor Lisa C. Merkel said, "There is much work to do, and I hope there's a conversation that started. We are going to heal together and continue to uphold each other because I believe it was, as Mr. McKenna (town councilmember) said, 'We're all here for the same reasons, trying to make it a better place.'"

Dorian and Leah Baker, Lead Pastors of Life Ticket Church in Herndon, attended the town council meeting to accept the Proclamation read by Vice Mayor Sheila Olem.

"...We honor those who played a critical role in the creation of our nation through their labor, leadership, patriotism, intellect and artistic endeavors; and we acclaim the sacrifice, strength, accomplishments, and unyielding spirit of our nation's greatest civil rights leaders," read Olem.

Accepting the Proclamation, Dorian Baker said, "Last year... I felt like I came as a son of Virginia and tonight I really feel as I am a son of Herndon...Dates matter." Baker reminded the audience how in 1869 the Virginia General Assembly authorized the State Superintendent and State Board of Education, then Fairfax County, to start opening public schools, and how like other counties, there were two sets of schools in the county, one for white students and one for black students. Baker recounted that between 1860 and 1900 in Fairfax County one-room

schools served African American children with enrollments as high as 408 students and up to 1150 students 1890 in the one-room schools.

Most importantly, Baker recalled how a set of 1881 Herndon Town Council minutes showed the council approved an expense of "\$15.50 for wood that was furnished to the colored school," he said. The reason he shared these dates, Baker said, "Is because dates matter. And this date, tonight in 2019 will matter... The minutes will show that this Town Council and the people of Herndon honored the history and honored the people that have served and fought and worked to allow people like myself and my family and our church to be in a position that we are today. "I'm humbled; I'm honored. This is truly not a reward I am receiving, but it is an acknowledgment of all the service and hearts of people who have come before us.

So we say thank you, on behalf of my wife Leah and Life Ticket Church and the people of the Town of Herndon. Thank you."



Lead Pastors of Life Ticket Church, Dorian and Leah Baker (center) stand with Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa C. Merkel, Vice Mayor Sheila Olem (right of Baker), other Councilmembers and town staff after accepting the Town of Herndon Proclamation "African American History Month February 2019" during the Herndon Town Council Meeting on Feb. 12.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A record-breaking two hundred thirty-four students at The Nysmith School in Herndon successfully qualified for the "Washington, D.C. Regional Final of the National History Bee" organized by International Academic Competitions (IAC).

History Made at The Nysmith School

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A record-breaking 234 students at The Nysmith School in Herndon successfully qualified through the Online Regional Qualifying Exam for the "Washington, D.C. Regional Final -2/23/19 of the National History Bee," organized by International Academic Competitions (IAC). "It is exciting to see so many Nysmith students qualify for the regional History Bee. I think the achievement is a testament to our inspirational history teachers who teach the children using lots of projects and hands-on activities to make history fun," said Ken Nysmith Head of School.

"This is my second year in a row making it to the Regional History Bee, and I am so excited. The teachers at Nysmith are so passionate about their subjects that it passes on to us students and motivates us to learn more about the subject on our own outside of school. The History Bee requires outside

history knowledge, and thanks to the incredible history teachers at Nysmith and all the diverse field trips we've had, most of us had that outside knowledge needed to qualify," said Vidhi Sharma, Grade 7, Oak Hill. Students who finish in the top half of the rankings after the preliminary rounds in the Bee qualify to attend the National Championships held in late April in Arlington and Washington, DC, based at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington. "I enjoyed participating in the History Bee and am happy I get to represent my school. Social Studies is one of my favorite classes. I find history interesting, and I enjoy visiting historical sites with my dad, who is especially interested in the Civil War," said Jack Greene, Grade 5 of Oak Hill. The Nysmith School is a private school. It serves pre-school through 8th-grade students throughout Fairfax and Loudoun counties and the Washington D.C. Metro area. It is located at 13625 EDS Drive, Herndon.



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