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Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

WELLBEING
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Shooting in Springfield Leaves Three Dead

NEWS, PAGE 7

The police crime scene tape went around several cars at the house as well after a shooting in the Kings Park community in Springfield left three dead.

Sports Tourism May Be Next for Northern Virginia

NEWS, PAGE 3

Drive Thru Dining Gridlocks Backlick

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MARCH 7-13, 2019

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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The trail at Fountainhead could be part of a bigger ride.



Fountainhead's mountain bike trail is in the top ten across Virginia. See more about the Sports Tourism Task Force at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/sports-tourism-task-force

Sports Tourism May Be Next for Northern Virginia

Area sports facilities looked at for tournaments, tax revenue and expansion.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Creating an indoor ski slope out of the Lorton Landfill mountain of trash is just one idea that is part of a larger proposal involving “sports tourism,” that Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) supports so Fairfax County can take advantage of this possible financial gold mine.

“We could have ski teams in our schools,” Herry said, looking at the bigger question surrounding this notion of sports tourism. “Why haven’t we looked at this before?” he asked.

Herry noted that there are 60 indoor ski facilities in the world, but none in North America, so the Lorton Landfill site would be the first if it happens. “It’s got a significant vertical drop already,” he added.

Herry is leading a task force to look at the whole sports tourism idea which also includes mountain biking at the Fountainhead Mountain Bike Trails, more sports fields at Baron Cameron Park in Reston, more baseball diamonds at Patriot Park North and a Field House/Hard Court/Indoor Track facility, aquatic sports, ESports and more. The idea is to leverage private dollars in public-private partnerships to get these facilities built and then used for tournaments and other larger-scale events where people will come from all over the country, stay in area hotels, eat in local restaurants and feed the retail and tax base.

The Task Force was formed to better understand the potential economic impact of the \$10 billion and growing sports tourism market and how the county could take advantage of this market to diversify its tax base and develop facilities for county residents paid for in whole or part by sports tourism generated revenue, according to its interim report.

“It makes sense,” Herry said.



The wooded terrain at Fountainhead is part of the mystique. See more about the Sports Tourism Task Force at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/sports-tourism-task-force

The first step for the indoor ski facility is “to work towards a negotiated P3 agreement and investigate ways to run the P3 negotiation concurrently with the zoning process,” the report read.

On the Task Force

The task force – which consists of representatives from the parks, schools, Visit Fairfax, George Mason University and private developers – is looking at the value of potential sports/athletics tourism opportunities and partnerships and outline what investments the county may be expected to make to achieve these goals, the document states.

In South County, there are four of the top ten mountain bike courses in Virginia, said Paul Gilbert, the Director of Nova Regional Parks. He is working on the mountain bike part of the plan, which would use several of the areas top-rated trails in combination with other existing facilities. Instead of a race on one trail, he’s picturing “more out-

door adventure sports,” type of competition. The regional park at Occoquan could be linked to Fountainhead, and then to the track at Wakefield park via the Cross-County Trail. Some of this connections may need the approval of private landowners and “we’re seeing if we can get that connection,” he said.

The Mountain Bike subcommittee consists of Ernest Rodriguez president of MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiast) Chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association; Steve DonTigny, Executive Director, MORE; and Christine Morin, chief of staff for Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck. The River Rock bike event in Richmond “is a good example,” of this type of activity, said Gilbert.

River Rock is sponsored by Dominion Energy that incorporates kayaking, climbing, arts, mountain biking and other extreme-type sports that Gilbert mentioned as well. The MoCoEpic is a similar event that Rodriguez is involved with, and is part of his vision for the Fairfax County mountain

biking effort. Another example Rodriguez noted is the Patapsco Trail Fest in Maryland.

Seeking Sponsorship

Sponsorship is one element that is needed for funding, and the task force is reaching out to various organizations. The off-road bike magazine “Dirt Rag,” was mentioned as one possibility for the biking aspect. “We’re looking to find a long term or medium-term sponsor,” said Gilbert. “Any company that wants to have a positive outdoor image would be ideal,” he added.

Any parent that has children in school sports knows that transportation can be a problem when shuttling to various events, so the “Task Force recommends that where possible sports facilities be clustered.” In Lorton for example, there are several hotels and restaurants near the Lorton exit off I-95 and room for additional facilities near the landfill if needed.

They looked at several facilities nationwide that are already cashing in on sports tourism, including Prince George’s County Sports and Learning Center in Landover, Md. and the Maryland SoccerPlex in Germantown, Md. Fairfax County has had some success over the years in developing the sports market, the report stated, using the World Police and Fire Games in 2015 for an example. There are many more sports tourism opportunities looking to come to the county than the County has the facilities to handle, it stated.

The task force is in need of a consultant with experience in facilitating something as large as this and the advertisement has gone out to hire someone. “They hope to have someone on board by the end of March,” Herry said. “There’s really a lot of exciting stuff coming out of this,” he added.

See more about the Sports Tourism Task Force at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/sports-tourism-task-force

OPINION

2019

But this year is supposed to be an improvement.

Every year is election year in Virginia. Add in primaries and special elections, and there are many more elections every year, all with consequences.

Control of this year's Virginia General Assembly came down to pulling a name out of bowl (literally). In 2019, every seat in the House of Delegates and Virginia Senate will be on the ballot.

EDITORIAL While some good things did happen in this year's session of the General Assembly, (eviction protections, foster care reform, step towards menstrual equity, to name some), other important legislation stalled because of party politics and ideology, including reforming fines and effects on drivers licenses; seat belt laws and legislation on distracted driving.

A huge number of candidates will seek seats on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and School Board as well, with the direction and tone of the future hanging in the balance.

Results of 2019 Elections will matter in many ways.

Are you registered to vote? Check here: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

Upcoming Elections:
May 7, 2019 - Vienna Town Council
June 11, 2019 - Primary Elections
Nov. 5, 2019 - General & Special Elections

2019 Elections Include:

Filing deadline for parties, March 28
Primary if held: June 11
General Election Nov. 5
Virginia Senate (4-year term)
House of Delegates (2-year term)
Soil and Water Directors (4-year term)
Board of Supervisors
School Board
Counties: 4-year terms:
❖ Commonwealth's Attorney
❖ Sheriff
❖ Commissioner of Revenue
❖ Treasurer
Vienna Town Council

In case you wonder what will be on the bal-

lot next, here is a guide.

Virginia has a General Election every year on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.

❖ Federal offices are elected in even-numbered years.

❖ State and Local offices are elected in odd-numbered years.

❖ Clifton Mayor and Town Council are elected in even-number years on the first Tuesday in May.

❖ Herndon Mayor and Town Council are elected in even-number years on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.

❖ Vienna Mayor and 3 Town Council members are elected in even-numbered years on the first Tuesday in May.

❖ 3 Vienna Town Council members are elected in odd-numbered years on the first Tuesday in May.

❖ If primaries are called by the political parties, they are held on the second Tuesday in June.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

16 Bills on the Governor's Desk

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



COMMENTARY

The 2019 Session is now in the books. Notwithstanding the controversy generated by our statewide officials, it was one of the most personally successful sessions in the 10 years I have served in the General Assembly. This column focuses on my personal legislative agenda.

First, Governor Northam announced a deal to widen I-95 southbound between VA-123 and the Prince William County Parkway in three years using no taxpayer funds and no penalty payment to Transurban. I have been urging this solution for three years and it will save millions of drivers millions of hours per month when implemented.

Sixteen of my bills are on the Governor's desk. The most significant was my bipartisan bill to address Virginia's coal ash crisis. The legislation we ultimately passed will result in a \$3 billion plan to cleanup Dominion's 27 million cubic yards of coal ash in Virginia in an environmentally responsible way and represents the first time Virginia has exceeded EPA standards on environmental protection.

Late last week, the House of Delegates passed my legislation giving Fairfax County the ability to pass a \$1/mo. utility tax to raise \$30 million over 20 years to pay for electrical line undergrounding on U.S. 1 between Woodlawn and Hybla Valley. I also secured Verizon's commitment to place their wires underground at no cost if a duct bank is constructed large enough to handle their wires saving millions. Coupled with a \$15 million contribution from VDOT and legislation I passed last session making two additional funding streams avail-

able, there is now no excuse for Fairfax County to hold back on placing utilities underground on U.S. 1 and I am urging them to take action immediately.

My legislation to facilitate a legal pathway for undocumented abandoned, abused and neglected immigrant children passed the

House and Senate nearly unanimously and will help thousands of children escape tragic circumstances.

I also passed legislation requiring homeowner and condo association to publish their budgets and capital reserve shortfalls, and limited their ability to prohibit homebased childcare which is a critical need.

My legislation to create fines for government officials who destroy public records to avoid disclosing them in citizen requests passed along with a remedy to punish local governments who violate closed meeting rules while their counsel is present. Sunshine is the best disinfectant.

We passed my legislation requiring the Commonwealth to create model memorandum of understanding for school resource officers to be templated across the Commonwealth. Virginia leads the nation in student criminal referrals and this will help to stop the School to Prison Pipeline.

Elections for Dumfries Town Council will now occur in November saving taxpayer dollars and increasing voter participation.

I passed legislation allowing restricted driver's licenses for out-of-state drug offenses to prevent Virginians from losing their jobs passed, along with better due process for pro-

tective order proceedings, streamlining no-default divorce procedures and filing fee waivers for indigent divorcing parties.

My bill to allow parents to recover damages for wrongfully killed children who provide family support passed unanimously, along with legislation to make it easier for LGBT couples to become parents through surrogate mothers.

The failure of the House of Delegates to once again ratify the Equal Rights Amendment was a major disappointment to me and 160 million American women. Also, the hand's free (texting while driving) bill died in the House after passing the Senate. Governor Northam has a bill on his desk he could amend to achieve the same result and I am urging him to do so.

My predatory lending reform legislation died in the Senate even after passing last year 38-2. Loan sharks rejoiced, but I will be back next year. I was also disappointed that my bill to close a wage withholding loophole for child support deadbeats failed after passing the Senate and making it on to the House Floor, along with my bill to create a temporary driver's privilege card for taxpaying undocumented immigrants.

Next week, I will discuss the state budget. The following week I will discuss other major pieces of legislation that passed including re-districting reforms, early voting, Amazon and Micron incentives.

Please email me at scott@scottsuovell.org if you have any feedback. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ❖ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://www.facebook.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



LETTERS

Lusk Wins Straw Vote

To the Editor:

I live in Lee District and enjoyed the 11th Annual Mt Vernon Mardi Gras and Democratic Straw Vote on Saturday, Feb. 23. We had a great time and saw many neighbors from Lee District. We are thankful to have a good selection of people standing as candidates for public office.

With 41.4 percent of the vote, Rodney Lusk won the first 2019 straw vote in Fairfax County by earning 67 of the 162 votes cast.

Rodney Lusk shared his experience working in economic development bringing jobs to Fairfax County; he shared his commitment to public education and creating effective transportation solutions. He spoke about his experience representing Lee District on the Planning Commission; experience leading projects to increase access for persons with disabilities, and addressing significant human service needs including homelessness in Fairfax County.

The Lee District Supervisor represents us and serves over 1,148,000 residents of Fairfax County by working with a board of peers. The significant portfolio of needs they address includes public safety; public education; human services; healthcare; clean, abundant water; affordable housing; economic development; environmental stewardship; libraries, recreation centers and parks; transportation; land use; managing stormwater and preventing soil erosion; safeguarding the interests of government employees and retirees; justice; and tax policy.

All these priorities and more must be continuously addressed with a balanced budget.

Experience matters especially when the results of hard work are desirable. While recognizing we still have a lot of work to do, we can see our beloved Fairfax County leads the nation in health and wealth among communities with a population of at least one million persons.

US News & World Report lists Fairfax County as the healthiest community in the nation with a million plus residents and we have the highest median household income among communities with at least one million people. Of 3,142 counties in our nation, Fairfax County is one of only 46 counties earning the highest AAA credit ratings from all three major credit rating agencies.

There is a reason Sharon Bulova, the current chairman of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and her immediate predecessor, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, endorse Rodney Lusk for Lee District Supervisor. They both know and have worked with Rodney for decades.

There is a reason former Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman and former Virginia Deputy Secretary of Education David Temple endorse Rodney Lusk for Lee District Supervisor. They both know and have worked with Rodney for decades.

I appreciate all the candidates, especially persons standing for Lee District Supervisor and believe the choice is clear. Vote June 11.

Will Radle
Franconia

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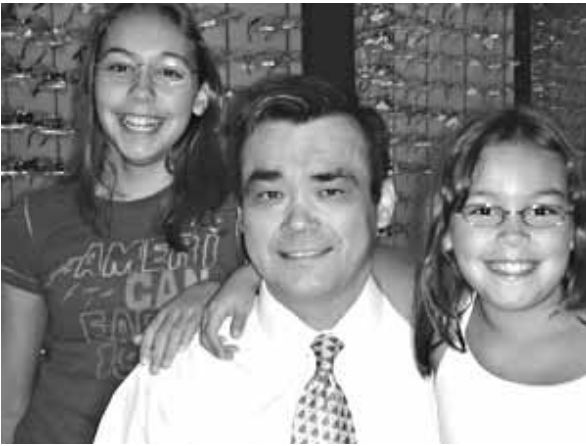
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WELLBEING



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A new study shows that even after one hour spent on electronic devices each day, children and teens may begin to have less emotional stability and a greater inability to finish tasks.

Managing Screen Time

Working collaboratively with one's child can decrease the struggle.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Julia Wires purchased an iPhone for her 12-year-old daughter in part she says, because many of the girls at her Potomac, Md. school have smartphones that they bring to campus daily. Wires and her husband were initially hesitant to make the purchase because their daughter was diagnosed with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Anxiety Disorder at the end of 2018.

"First, there's the social pressure she feels because all of her friends have iPhones. Then there's the issue of her dad and I being able to keep in touch with her now that she has more freedom to go places on her own," said Wires. "Both of those [factors] are juxtaposed against the fact that she has trouble staying focused and calming down when she needs to. That made the decision tough for us."

Too much time spent on gaming, smartphones and watching television could exacerbate symptoms in children who've been diagnosed with ADHD, according to a new study by researchers at San Diego State University and the University of Georgia. The report showed that even after one hour of screen time, children and teens may begin to have lower self-control, less emotional stability and a greater inability to finish tasks.

"Kids with ADHD have trouble keeping track of time, so they could spend hours on their tablet without realizing it. Screen time can make bedtime rou-

tines more difficult and parents might have an additional struggle getting their kids to fall asleep," said child psychologist Adele Schwartz, Ph.D, of McLean, who was not involved in the study. "Kids with ADHD also might be more likely to ignore parental guidelines and I would worry more about them engaging in risky behavior online."

Helping a child with ADHD transition from playing a video game to doing their homework could require special handling, advises Sarah Bryant, LCSW. "Instead of telling your child that they have to stop watching television at six o'clock or that they have five more minutes on a video game, try telling them that they have to stop at the next commercial break or at then end of the round in a video game," she said.

Working collaboratively with one's child will reduce the chance of a power struggle, says Bryant. "You and your child can work together to list all of

the things that need to get done, like homework, time spent outside, doing sports, chores and other activities and come up with a schedule," she said. "Figure out how much time is left for things like video games and television. Hang the schedule somewhere that's visible to both of you. Your child will see how little time is left for playing video games and since they were part of the process, they'll feel like they're part of a team rather than a subordinate with no control over their life."

"Parents of kids with ADHD should definitely make use of parental controls on tablets, smart phones and television, especially during school hours or when kids should be doing their homework," added Schwartz. "It's also important that children, especially those with ADHD not use electronics at least an hour before bedtime. And it almost goes without saying that parents should model the behavior that they want their children to have by limiting their own screen time."

"... parents should model the behavior that they want their children to have by limiting their own screen time."

— Adele Schwartz, child psychologist

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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



The police crime scene tape went around several cars at the house as well after a shooting in the Kings Park community in Springfield left three dead.



On Monday following the shootings that left three dead, the house in Kings Park was surrounded with police crime scene tape and two Fairfax County Police cars were parked out front.

Shooting in Springfield Leaves Three Dead

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

A shooting in the Kings Park community in Springfield left three dead after an argument at what police called “a gathering held at the home.”

There were approximately 10 people at the gathering including several children, according to police, and the three

adult victims were acquainted with each other.

Police have identified the dead as Santos Vladimir Ralda, 45, and his wife, Floridalma Youlanda Perez Diaz, 40, both of Springfield; and Nathanael Owen Cooper, 20, of Culloden, W.Va. Following the shooting, there was crime scene tape around all the vehicles as well, including a work van marked with “Gravett Ent., Catlett, VA.”

A nearby resident who was walking her dog past the house called it “very, very sad.” She had lived here as a child, attended Robinson Secondary School and moved back because of the neighborhood attraction. “We never have anything like that,” she said.

Detectives from Major Crimes Bureau are investigating the shooting. Preliminarily, detectives believe that there was an argument prior to the shooting. The husband is

believed to have shot his wife and Cooper before shooting himself, according to police.

The Kings Park neighborhood is on the corner of Rolling Road and Burke Lake Road and Braddock Road, and had gained some attention in previous years for the cut-through traffic that had plagued the neighborhood. To combat the cut-through traffic, the neighborhood streets now have a few traffic circles and speed bumps.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 9

Family Festival and Fun Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Good Shepherd Preschool, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. The Fun Fair is geared towards young children... games, prizes, moon bounces, affordable lunch, bake sale and raffle baskets. Volunteer opportunity for teens who need community service hours. Free admission. Email Ashley Bernardi at ashley@nardimedia.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 10

Game Day Fun. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host a Game Day for all ages and prizes as well. For the little ones there will be a Thomas the Tank Engine game. Older children will have a sticker scavenger hunt bingo game and there will even be a game for the grownups. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Artists Reception: Spring Marches

On. 1-5 p.m. at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill Street in Historic Occoquan. "Spring Marches On" features paintings by Jeanne and David Pacheco of Springfield. Contact the gallery at 703-494-0584 or at info@artistsundertaking.com.

Remembering "Old Lee Chapel"

Church. 6 p.m. at Burke United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. In addition to sharing the history of Lee Chapel, they will share plans for the future of Lee Chapel – which includes a small outdoor worship space in the footprint of the old church. The event includes a free soup and salad buffet; history of Lee Chapel and personal recollections; and vision for the future of Lee Chapel. RSVP at BUMC or email katiwebster@burkeumc.org.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY/MARCH 12-14

Shen Yun. Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., and Thursday at 2 p.m. at GMU Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. This epic production immerses you in stories reaching back to the most distant past. You'll explore realms even beyond our visible world. Featuring one of the world's oldest art forms—classical Chinese dance—along with patented scenographic effects and all-original orchestral works, Shen Yun opens a portal to a civilization of enchanting beauty and enlightening wisdom. Traditional Chinese culture, with its profoundly optimistic worldview and deep spiritual roots, was displaced by communism in China. Tickets are \$180, \$140, \$120, \$100, \$90, \$80. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Photography Club. 7-9 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Piedmont Road, Burke. Join photographers of all levels meeting monthly to share and instruct. Facilitated by Dale Scherfling, Teaching Artist at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. First Topic: You and Your Camera. Free. Call 703-644-7333 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4941315.

THURSDAY/MARCH 14

Grand Opening: Marshalls. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. at Marshalls, 6638 Loisdale

Archaeology Symposium

In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of forced migration of the first enslaved Africans to Virginia's shores, Exposing A Buried History: The Archaeology of Slave Life sheds light on the history of people enslaved in Virginia from the 17th through the 19th centuries. Renowned Archaeologists and speakers from some of Virginia's most recognizable historic sites share what they have learned through archaeological investigation. David Shonyo, staff archaeologist at Gunston Hall, will lead the morning with an exploration of Gunston Hall's recent discovery of quarters likely assigned to enslaved workers for the house. Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Advance tickets are available until 5 p.m. on March 15 and may be purchased online at www.gunstonhall.org, and over the phone at 703-550-9220. Tickets will be available at the door the day of the symposium and are \$55 full price (\$45 for members of Gunston Hall and Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology). Visit www.gunstonhall.org.



Road, Springfield. Enjoy the festivities including giveaways and more. Visit facebook.com/marshalls.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 14-17

Citrus Fruit Sale. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Blue and White Sales Van in Parking Lot, 3251 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Charity fund raiser selling Valencia Oranges and Ruby Red Grapefruit fresh from Florida. Also buy Virginia peanuts, Vermont maple syrup, or discounted carwash tickets. Visit fairfaxlions.org or call 703-745-9140.

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

Chorale Concert. 4 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. Join the Northern Virginia Chorale as it performs Beethoven's 9th Symphony ("Ode to Joy"), Morten Lauridsen's O Nata Lux from Lux Auterna and other choral works. Adults \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door), students with ID \$10, Children 12 and under are free. Order tickets online at www.northernvirginiachorale.org.

St. Paddy's Social on the Range. 7-10 p.m. at Burke Lake Golf Center, 6915 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Celebrate under the stars at the new double-decker driving range at Burke Lake Golf Center. Enjoy unlimited range balls, themed food buffet, soft drinks, music, games, prizes and drawings and one drink ticket. Limited to first 50 registered. \$30. Call 703-323-1641 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake/range-social/march2019.

KODO. 8 p.m. at GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Experience the electrifying wall of sound that completely fills the hall when the athletic artists of Kodo take the stage to perform the ancient Japanese art of taiko drumming. Audiences are captivated by the visually stunning performance, the astonishingly precise movements of the drummers, and the sheer beauty of the sounds created with these traditional instruments. A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the performance. \$30-\$50. For tickets, call 703-993-2787.

SUNDAY/MARCH 17

Animal Eggstravaganza. 1-3 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Come one come all for a spectacular spectacle of fun and eggitement. Meet and learn about all different types of critters near and far while exploring the pond and Nature Center. Come to a book reading, come in for a Clara's Animal Egg Mobile Craft, an animal talk, dance party and take a photo with a favorite animal friend. \$10.

Register at tinyurl.com/y9nz9q48 or email casey.riley@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-451-9588.

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

Danu. 7 p.m. at GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with an authentic Irish music experience the whole family will enjoy. Take a musical journey across the Emerald Isle with one of today's leading traditional Irish ensembles as they perform timeless Celtic works along with fascinating, powerful new melodies. The award-winning Danú features lush vocals and poetic lyrics sung in English and Gaelic and impressive virtuoso playing of traditional Irish instruments — flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, and bouzouki. \$30-\$50. A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the performance. For tickets, call 703-993-2787.

MONDAY/MARCH 18

Mother Daughter Sister. 7:30-9 p.m. at Merten Hall 1201, George Mason University, Fairfax. Screening and Q&A with filmmaker Jeanne Hallacy. Short documentary exposes the Burmese military's use of rape as a weapon of war, through interviews with Kachin and Rohingya women activists. Free. Email cfuchs@gmu.edu or visit fams.gmu.edu/events/9099.

FRIDAY/MARCH 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 or call 703-273-3638.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 22-24

Marvel Universe Live. At EagleBank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Marvel Universe LIVE is performing at EagleBank Arena. \$20. Show times Saturday, March 23 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 24 at 1 p.m., 5 p.m.; Saturday, March 30 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 31 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Visit www.marveluniverselive.com/tickets.



During lunch, an employee is out there taking orders.

Drive Thru Dining Gridlocks Backlick

Chick-fil-A at Backlick Shopping Center is magnet eatery.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The drive-up window at Chick-fil-A in the Backlick Shopping Center exasperates an area already plagued by traffic congestion and the other businesses in the center are feeling it. During lunch or dinner time, or anytime on Saturdays, it's not surprising to see a line of cars stretching from behind the stores, past the traffic signal, and out to Backlick Road.

On Saturdays, there is even a traffic policeman on hand to keep the traffic moving.

Next door at Spark Nail Spa, the line is nothing new. "The center is blocked," said manager Nhu Nguyen, while filing Carrie Millin's nails. Millin lives in Washington, D.C. but travels to Spark because she has gone there since she lived in Springfield a few years ago. "This parking lot is horrible," she said.

Springfield resident Kaitlyn Sexton was over at the next table getting her nails done as

well. "Even if you want to go to Chick-fil-A, you can't, the parking lot," she said. Saturdays are the worst, they all agreed.

The line forms right outside Taco Bamba and manager Jasmine Orozco realizes Chick-fil-A has a right to have a drive thru window, but has heard her customers complaining. "They usually get a pretty big line," she said, "all the way to the light sometimes."

The traffic complaints have also reached Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) who recognized the problem, but it is a "by-right," issue. There was previously a bank drive through window at that location so the site plans were already in place, but McKay did bring it up with the Board of Supervisors. "I raised some concerns, a bank drive through is a totally different animal," he said. He's been to the shopping center during meal times and "I've never seen a situation where internal circulation is this bad," he said.

SEE GRIDLOCK, PAGE 10



At the back of the building is the drive up window, with the ramps of the Springfield Interchange as a backdrop.

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[] Commonwealth of Virginia, in re.....
[x] CHRISTIAN STANLEY..... /v. KATHLEEN DOSSMAN.
The object of this suit is to:
DETERMINE CUSTODY AND VISITATION OF A MINOR CHILD BORN TO KATHLEEN DOSSMAN AND CHRISTIAN STANLEY ON OCTOBER 12, 2011.
It is ORDERED that [] the defendant [x] KATHLEEN DOSSMAN appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 05/06/2019 09:00 AM
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NEWS

Gridlock at Backlick

FROM PAGE 8

With the other businesses struggling in the center, Kimberly Clarke, President of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, has heard of the gridlock but she has not heard any resolutions for the situation. Attempts to contact Chick fil A have been unsuccessful.

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTIVITY STUDY

Although there has been much done to central Springfield over the last 30 years, that particular stretch of Backlick Road hasn't changed much. There are still strip mall shopping centers on each side of Backlick, and one traffic light at the 7-11 in Backlick Shopping Center. About 20 years ago, Veteran's Bridge was introduced just north of the shopping center and the four-way stop at Backlick and Old Keene Mill was eliminated, but at the same time, businesses came and went, houses and apartments were built and progress continued for central Springfield. Traffic on Backlick Road got more challenging.

Millin suggested routing the

Chick-fil-A line behind the stores, possibly stretching south past the Jiffy Lube, but nothing is planned as of yet. Sexton agreed though, "somehow it needs to be easier to get in and get out," she said. For this to happen, the private businesses in the center would have to initiate the action, McKay said.

Up the street, traces of old Backlick Road are being replaced by new though, in an attempt to renew the area. On the books, there was a Springfield Connectivity Study with that part of Backlick Road in it, and there was a second bridge over Old Keene Mill Road being looked at and that bridge is still on the comprehensive plan. The expense for something like that put it out of reach right now. McKay called it a "major, major project." The few traffic signals that are in the corridor are checked regularly, said VDOT spokesperson Jennifer McCord. "Our signal team regularly reviews and adjusts signal timings, particularly along major corridors, to optimize travel times. We have about 1,400 signals in northern Virginia," which is almost half of the signals in the state, McCord said. Ultimately it is un-

der the Fairfax County's Planning and Zoning Department though, and VDOT just acts as a reviewer in a situation like this at Backlick Road, McCord said.

Last summer, a plan was approved for a new Hampton Inn to be built on the corner of Backlick Road and Old Keene Mill Road, a few blocks north of the Chick-fil-A. Currently there is an old strip of stores is at this location that will be taken out for the hotel, which will be a six-story hotel with a three-story parking garage, according to the application. On the tax plans, this is called "Springfield Gateway," and will have good visibility from I-95 but the access for this new hotel could be challenging.

The Fairfax County Police Department did confirm a request from the Chick fil A store to provide an officer to direct traffic in and around the lot, "at the request of Chick fil A," said Lt. Lieb, a Fairfax County Police Department spokesperson. The department put out the assignment, an off-duty officer was dispatched at several different times, but Chick fil A withdrew that request recently, so no officers have been assigned lately.

Announcements

Announcements

Employment



Corps of Engineers announces rescheduled public info session for Decommissioning of Deactivated SM-1 Former Nuclear Power Plant at Fort Belvoir

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) is announcing that Tuesday March 12, 2019, is the rescheduled date for the public information session regarding decommissioning and dismantling of the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant at Fort Belvoir, Va. The public information session was originally scheduled for January 29, 2019, but had to be postponed due to inclement weather.

USACE is currently in the planning phase for the decommissioning and dismantling of the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant at Fort Belvoir, Va.

As part of that decommissioning planning, USACE is preparing an Environmental Assessment evaluating potential ecological, cultural, water, public health and safety, and waste management effects associated with the decommissioning of the SM-1 facility at Fort Belvoir.

USACE is also seeking consultation from members of the public (in addition to the state historic groups) to determine the cultural impacts of the decommissioning project and to mitigate any adverse effects identified in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

To aid in both of these aspects of the ongoing decommissioning planning for the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant and to gather feedback from the public, USACE is hosting its rescheduled public information session on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at the Fairfax County's South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, Va.). The session will be from 6:30pm to 9:00pm and will have the following schedule:

- 6:30pm: Open House period where the public can meet and interact with USACE and Fort Belvoir personnel working on the project
- 7:00pm: Formal presentation about the SM-1's history and ongoing decommissioning planning and a subsequent question and answer session
- 7:30pm: Another open house period
- 8:00pm: A second iteration of the formal presentation for those wishing to attend later in the evening
- 8:30pm: A final open house period for questions and answers

SM-1 Background: Completed in 1957, the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant at Fort Belvoir was the first nuclear power facility in the United States to be connected to a public utility grid. Over several years it provided power primarily to Fort Belvoir and served as a training facility for nuclear technicians from all military branches before being partially decommissioned in the early 1970s. The initial dismantlement and decommissioning involved the removal of a majority of the radioactivity from the site, including the removal of the nuclear fuel and control rods, decontamination work around the facility, radioactive waste removal, and the sealing of the Reactor Containment Vessel which hold the Reactor Pressure Vessel and other reactor components.

USACE is working to develop and finalize the various planning documents for the final decommissioning and dismantling of the facility. More information can be found on the SM-1 project web site: www.nab.usace.army.mil/SM-1/

Those wishing to provide written comments or questions regarding the SM-1 former nuclear power plant decommissioning can do so by e-mailing: CENAB-CC@usace.army.mil or sending written comments to the following mailing address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Corporate Communication Office, 10-F-23, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD. 21201. Comments and feedback received at this time will inform the ongoing decommissioning planning efforts.

Computer Systems Analyst to work in Springfield, VA. Must have a Bachelors Degree in Computer Engineering and 5 years experience in computer engineering. Send CV and references to: va-recruiting@live41.com or Five41 America, 8001 Forbes Place Suite 211 #110, N. Springfield, VA 22151

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Free Sober Rides. Sunday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Monday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on March 17 on www.SoberRide.com.

WINTER SHELTERS

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2019, are eligible to attend kindergarten. Find the correct neighborhood school by entering your address at boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/. Complete a packet of registration forms found at www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf or in the school office. Gather supporting documents: proof of residence in the school boundary, a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school, but is not required for registration. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent. Learn more at www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements.

Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2019-20 school year. Find registration forms in the Union Mill Elementary office or online at www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf. Call 703-322-8500 or email 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.

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Technology Fridays in March. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. Join the Parent Resource Center for this series of technology workshops presented by FCPS Assistive Technology Services. Register for one or all of the workshops. Explore a variety of technology tools to support student success and independence with reading and writing in the digital classroom and at home. Register at www.fcps.edu/index.php/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center. Call 703-204-3941 or email prc@fcps.edu for more.

- ❖ March 8 - Exploring Early Childhood AT Home: Assistive Technology for Preschool
- ❖ March 15 - Technology Tools to Support Executive Functioning
- ❖ March 22 - Assistive Technology to Support Communication

Paving and Restriping Meeting. 6:30 p.m. At Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is planning to host community meetings in every district of the county this spring with the Virginia Department of Transportation to discuss proposed 2019 paving and restriping projects. State and county agencies coordinate restriping efforts to address safety issues for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians through the creation of bike lanes, parking lanes, crosswalks and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2019-paving-and-restriping.

SATURDAY/MARCH 9

Green Breakfast. 8:30 a.m. At Brion's Grille, 10621 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Breakfast sponsored by Fairfax County Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District, the program speaker is Brandy Mueller, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, Fairfax County Land Development Services. Even the most well-intentioned conservation efforts can sometimes lead to unexpected challenges. A little planning ahead and a general understanding the rules and regulations that are in place and why they exist can help to make your projects great successes. Cost is \$10 at the door for the all-you-can-eat buffet. Contact Northern Virginia Soil & Water at conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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No Spring in My Future Step



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I wouldn't say I'm feeling any significant side effects yet from my immunotherapy treatment but, if I'm handwriting these columns to begin with – which I am, I have to do so while holding a pen with a rubber grip (just above the ballpoint). No longer am I able to manipulate without this extra assistance. My fingers simply can't sustain the grip otherwise.

Nor would I say my reaction to my wife, Dina's suggestion, as we walked to the car this morning – and looked around “Belly Acres” (our two acres of mostly trees) post wind storm, concerning what homeowner/landowner thing we should do in the spring: pick up sticks and miscellaneous other debris off the ground, was at all enthusiastic. It was quite the contrary. In fact, I can't think of anything I'm less physically able to do given the side effects I'm semi-experiencing:

Due to the chemotherapy I've infused – and pill'd, for 10 years, the neuropathy in my feet makes walking an enduring challenge and running – even in place, totally out of the question. Related to this difficulty walking is difficulty maintaining my balance, especially when walking on non-level ground like "Belly Acres." I'm not exactly a danger to myself – or others, but if those yellow caution signs were placed strategically around our property, there would be yellow every which way you looked.

• Because I'm semi overweight (a partial side effect) and definitely out of shape (sort of a side effect), bending over exacerbates the shortness-of-breath side effect I am most assuredly experiencing. Therefore, picking up sticks and stones off the ground may not exactly break any bones, but the names I may be called for being unable to perform this mundane task will not hurt me at all. It might amuse me actually.

❖ The preceding task runs directly into yet another side effect: musculoskeletal pain and weakness. My bones ache a little and my muscles quiver a lot.

Add up the deficits and you get the following: I can't walk. My balance is impaired. Bending over is exhausting and shortens my breath which all together limits my stick picking.

Moreover, carrying the weight I've gained is made more difficult by the weakness and pain I feel in my bones and muscles. This is the trifecta plus one.

I can do many things (activities of daily living, etc.), but the trifecta plus one, I can't. Other than adding a chainsaw ("the most trusted tool in the homeowner's arsenal") and being forced to wear those extremely heavy, metal-toe work boots to the equation, I can't imagine a less enticing spring activity as I gait around attempting to clean up and carry around a season's worth of ground clutter.

Having said all that, I think I deserve a certain amount of credit for knowing my limitations. Granted, such an admission is unlikely to garner any awards or "attaboyos," however; when one's life hangs in the balance (or lack thereof) knowing what not to do may be as important as knowing what to do.

And I know what to do indoors; it's more outdoors that presents the problem.

It seems that the side effects I'm beginning to feel, though not quite life changing, are nevertheless life-affecting.

But I'm one of the lucky ones: still alive and reasonably well. I can live, still work (sort of) and play (occasionally) and even walk upright (though my posture could use some straightening).

So I have a few side effects which prevent me from doing two acres worth of stick work. I couldn't have planned it any better.

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



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