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# Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

Police 2nd Lt. Brendan Hooke  
discusses digital forensics.

## Cybercrime Sleuthing

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Presenting 'Annie Jr.'

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MARCH 27-APRIL 2, 2019

ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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## Reading at Primrose

U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-10) reads to the students at Primrose School of Chantilly, 3460 Historic Sully Way. The congresswoman read "Grace for President" and the Pre-K students asked her questions including, "What is her favorite dinosaur?" and "What is your favorite game to play?" and "How high can you count?" The morning concluded with the students performing a baby shark song which the congresswoman tweeted: <http://twitter.com/RepWexton/status/1108055141440258049>.

## CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Fair Oaks District Police Station.

**DANGEROUS DOG:** Hunter Mill Road/Mystic Meadow Way, March 22, 4:34 p.m. A woman was driving her car and saw three pit bull mix dogs standing in the road. She stepped out of her car and two of the dogs attacked her. The dogs bit her leg and arm, causing puncture wounds. The dog owner, of Oakton, left the dogs in the backyard unattended and they escaped through an open gate. The owner got in her car and picked up the loose dogs. The owner was charged with three unrestricted dog violations. The dogs who attacked the victim were impounded by the Animal Protection Police.

**SUSPICIOUS EVENT:** 3800 block of Highland Oaks Court, March 20, 6:32 a.m. A teenager, who attends Rachel Carson Middle School, was walking to a bus stop when a white van pulled up next to him and the driver said, "get in kid." The teenager told the driver he was going to take a picture of his license plate and report him. The van then circled around, and the driver opened the door briefly, but then pulled away. The driver was described as a Hispanic male in his early 30s.

**BURGLARY:** 13000 block of Avonmore Drive, Feb. 27, 3:15 p.m. Two men were seen by the homeowner smashing the glass door with a gun and attempting to open it. The homeowner screamed and the two men ran away on foot. Both suspects were black, 17 to 20 years-old, one wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and the other wearing a white hooded sweatshirt.

**DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY** (BIAS CRIME): Mclearen Road at West

Ox Road, Feb. 23, 5:37 p.m. A woman reported swastikas spray painted onto a drainage tunnel. The Virginia Department of Transportation was contacted to fix the damage.

**UNLAWFUL ENTRY:** 12000 block of Pinehurst Greens Court, Feb. 17, 7:09 a.m. Officers responded to the report of an unknown man inside of a home. A 59-year-old man from Fairfax was found inside of the home and arrested for unlawful entry.

**MARCH 22 LARCENIES**  
7500 block of Leesburg Pike, wallet from location

**STOLEN VEHICLES**  
3900 block of Tallow Tree Place, 2008 Hyundai Elantra

**MARCH 21 LARCENIES**

13000 block of Fair Lakes Shopping Center, trimmers from business

2900 block of Hunters Branch Road, airbags from vehicles

3300 block of Willow Crescent Drive, cash and documents from vehicle

**MARCH 20 LARCENIES**

5100 block of Gunpowder Road, tools and equipment from residence

13400 block of Launderers Street, scarf from residence

**MARCH 19 LARCENIES**

11400 block of Green Moor Lane, package from residence

9800 block of Sweet Mint Drive, property from residence

**MARCH 18 LARCENIES**

2900 block of Centreville Road, vacuum from residence

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# 'The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow'

**Liberty Middle School presents the musical, "Annie Jr."**

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**F**eaturing a cast and crew of 60, Liberty Middle School presents a junior version of the iconic musical, "Annie." It's set to burst upon the stage, Thursday-Saturday, April 4, 5 and 6, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 at the door or via <https://www.itickets.com/events/421534>.

"I have a very talented cast," said Director Jody Scott. "The kids have worked really hard and have looked out for, helped and supported each other. They take direction well and have learned to react to the words and actions around them, even when they're not the one speaking onstage. And there are lots of song-and-dance numbers, which will definitely be crowd-pleasers."

Annie is a strong, spunky orphan who believes her parents are coming back for her. She's eventually befriended by a stray dog and the secretary of millionaire Oliver Warbucks, who wants to adopt her. But first, he offers a \$50,000 reward to anyone who can prove they're Annie's parents — and trouble ensues.

The story takes place during the Depression in 1933 New York City, and the scenes unfold in an orphanage, a mansion, a radio show with an audience and on the streets of New York. There'll even be some vintage phones, plus an old-fashioned radio.

"Our Annie, Caitlyn Barnes, has a beautiful voice," said Scott. "Last year, she was the only seventh-grader from Liberty to make the All-State Chorus, so we're really blessed to have her in the show — and she's having a good time. And Katie Wood, our



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

**In Liberty Middle's musical, "Annie Jr.," are (back row) Evan Williams (Rooster) and Katie Wood (Lily) and (front row, from left) Gabriella Hernandez Rovegno, Sophia Puri, CeCe Witherspoon, Kaitlyn Briest and Jayden Vafier.**

dance captain, helped teach the dances to the actors and has been wonderful. She's also an outstanding dancer, herself."

Scott praised teacher Laura Bellis, too, for hand-sewing Annie's outfits, plus some of the other costumes. "She's elevated this show with the quality of her work," said Scott. "And our music director, teacher Gary Verhagen, pulls beautiful sounds out of everyone."

She's also excited that new Liberty Principal Adam Erbrecht will be coming to the show. "He's really looking forward to seeing his first musical production at Liberty," said Scott. "And we appreciate all his support of the theater program here."

One of her favorite songs is "It's a Hard

Knock Life" because it's a big, production number in which 25 orphans will be dancing with 25 mops while singing and cleaning the floor. But she said that's just one of many things to like about this show.

"We have great singers and dancers, and the actors are all doing a wonderful job and paying lots of attention to detail," said Scott. "The show also has a good message for today that 'The sun will come out tomorrow,' and it leaves the audience hopeful and happy."

Portraying Annie, 11, eighth-grader Caitlyn Barnes describes her character as "positive, full of hope, funny, happy and smart. Even though she's an orphan, she's like an older sister to the other kids and is

caring and sweet. And once she moves to the Warbucks mansion, she can be more like a carefree kid."

Caitlyn's enjoying her role because "Annie's happy like me and, even though she doesn't have any parents, she's still positive, which is really cool. Being the lead is kind of stressful, but also an awesome experience because everyone — my family, friends and people in the play — is so supportive."

She especially likes the number, "Maybe," sung by Annie and the orphans. "It's a really hopeful song about how, one day — maybe — they'll have families like other kids," said Caitlyn. "It's a pretty tune and really heartfelt."

Caitlyn said the audience will like the show's energy and "how everyone's into it — which makes a good play. The characters are really cool, and everyone plays them well. And they'll like the music, too."

Eighth-grader Noah Martineau plays Oliver Warbucks. "He's a wealthy, no-nonsense businessman," said Noah. "But once he meets Annie, you see the soft, fatherly side of him. And he's sad when it looks like he's going to lose her to other people."

He's fun to play, said Noah, because "I get to show both sides of him. He's almost two, completely different characters. I have to memorize a lot more lines, stage directions and songs, as one of the leads, but it's definitely worth it." Noah's favorite song is "You're Never Fully Dressed without a Smile" because "It's upbeat and fun to listen to. It's sung by all the orphans, except for Annie."

He said people will enjoy all the different characters, particularly the shady ones, as well as the orphans. "All the songs are catchy and will have you singing them in your head, for days, after seeing the show," said Noah. "And our director, Ms. Scott, is really

SEE 'ANNIE JR.' PAGE 6

## Police Officer Discusses Cybercrime Sleuthing

**Sully District CAC members learn about digital forensics.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**E**ach month, members of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee learn about a different facet of police work. And recently, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brendan Hooke told them about the field of digital forensics.

He supervises the Digital Forensics Section of the Fairfax County Police Department's Cyber and Forensics Bureau. And he explained that, about a-year-and-a-half ago, the department divided its Criminal Investigations Bureau into three bureaus: Major Crimes, Organized Crime and Intelligence, and Cyber and Forensics.

"We support other officers' investigations," said Hooke of his bureau. "We're

more like analysts and consultants on a case — the technicians. Over 20 years ago, when my unit was founded, we had three detectives. Now, we're primarily five detectives and myself."

He said his unit handled more than 250 cases in 2017 — and each is labor-intensive, but to varying degrees. "There could be 30 [electronic] devices for us to check from a child-porn case, or one from a robbery," said Hooke. "And the amount of data is crippling. The volume is so great that we're going to have to determine where to store all this stuff globally."

That's why he's glad to have his office in the new, public-safety building off Monument Drive in Fair Oaks. "The department built a state-of-the-art lab for us with all

the tools we need, including special devices to take phones apart," said Hooke. "And the people working for me are brilliant."

In 2018, his unit dealt with some 350 cases. He said their case backlog went back to that summer, but he prioritizes which electronic devices get examined and when. For example, said Hooke, homicides, rapes, robberies and child-porn cases go to the top of the list.

Discussing some of the current trends and challenges of digital crimes, he said, "People sometimes use the Internet for stalking. For example, one case involved a man who'd stalked his ex-girlfriend so much that he was able to see what she was doing on her phone



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

**Police 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brendan Hooke discusses digital forensics.**

SEE CYBERCRIME, PAGE 6

# OPINION

## Every Year Is Election Year; in 2019 Twice

Primary Election Day, June 11, will determine the outcome of many races in Fairfax County.

First, go to [vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation) and check that you are registered at your current address. Deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is Monday, May 20, 2019.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Primary Election Day for party candidates in Virginia, there will be an astonishing array of candidates on the ballot in Fairfax County. One reason is that many incumbents in local offices are retiring, and that causes a domino effect because incumbents in other offices will step down to run for something different. Change is coming. Voters must pay attention in the primary, so much will be determined.

### EDITORIAL

On the ballot: Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Sharon Bulova is retiring and there are four candidates in the Democratic primary. (We will miss Bulova, but that is a discussion for another day.)

All nine members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot, and in addition to Bulova, Cathy Hudgins, John Cook and Linda Smyth will be stepping down, and Jeff McKay will give up his seat as he is running for chairman. That is guaranteed change for five of nine seats, and more is possible.

All 12 members of Fairfax County School Board are on the ballot, three at-large and nine District members. Several school board mem-

bers will give up their seats to run for other offices. (4-year term)

All 40 seats in the Virginia Senate (4-year term) are on the ballot, nine in Fairfax County.

All 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates (2-year term) are on the ballot, 17 seats in Fairfax County.

There is a rare challenge to the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney on the primary ballot. (4-year term)

Fairfax County Sheriff is also on the ballot. (4-year term)

Parties control information on primary candidates. See Fairfax County Republican Committee at <https://fairfaxgop.org/voter-toolkit/>; Fairfax County Democratic Committee at <https://fairfaxdemocrats.org/2019/01/14/candidates-running-for-office-in-2019/>.

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Putting Brakes on New Tolls

By TIM HUGO  
DELEGATE (R-40)



### COMMENTARY

If you are a commuter in Northern Virginia, you are probably spending a significant amount of money on tolls. With tolls becoming more prevalent, they have become increasingly expensive. Tolls on I-66 have reached as much as \$47 for a one-way trip. I believe that is unacceptable.

I have a problem with families having to fork over thousands of dollars a year to drive on roads they already paid for with their tax dollars. Moreover, it is wholly unacceptable when government officials begin to look at tolling

roads that our communities use to access their homes.

After hearing constituent concerns about the possible imposition of tolls on Fairfax and Prince William County Parkways, I introduced HB 2527 to prohibit the implementation of tolls on both parkways unless there is majority approval from the Virginia General Assembly. Today, I am happy to report that HB 2527 is now law after being signed by the Governor on March 18.

While this a major victory for commuters and constituents, we must continue to stand strong

against the expansion of tolling in Northern Virginia. Our families cannot afford any further tolling, especially when we rely on these roads to access our homes.

As your delegate in Richmond, my position has been and will remain that Northern Virginians are already paying enough tolls. I will continue to work to ensure Northern Virginia gets its fair share of transportation dollars without higher taxes and fees on commuters and families.

I encourage you to learn more about HB 2527 by visiting [lis.virginia.gov](http://lis.virginia.gov) or by contacting my office directly at 703-815-1201 or [DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov). Whether it is on this issue or any other, I always appreciate hearing from you.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Progress after Vandalism of Mosque

To the Editor:

Jan. 29, 2019 marked seven years after Mubarak Mosque of Chantilly was vandalized with mostly all the windows shattered which were custom-made costing between \$3,000 and \$6,000 per window. The damages were estimated to be more than \$200,000. The members were in shock as to who could have done such a thing. The workers had left the site in good condition earlier in the day. In the eve of Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012 the Mosque was damaged. Due to this, the opening had to be delayed for a few months. They had hoped to open the Mosque in a few weeks prior to this event.

Nothing was stolen, leading to believe that this was specifically

targeted. Beer cans were left on the scene and it is believed that there was a small party as well. The Members had been trying to build this Mosque for decades and were so close to completing it. It had been said in one news article that the alcohol was enough for 20 people. This vandalism had made headlines in major news outlets.

An investigation led on for a few weeks finally leading to an arrest.

Mubarak Mosque was inaugurated by his Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and the fifth successor to the Promised Messiah. The Mosque was inaugurated on June 27, 2012.

The Mosque had been split into three phases. One was the Mosque itself, second was the Mission House where the Missionary resides, and which contains offices. The basement of the Mission House is being utilized for classrooms which were built to teach the



**Mubarak Mosque of Chantilly**

youth.

The third and current phase is building a Hall to complete the Mosque. The building process for the Hall is set to start in April of 2019. The Hall will include a bas-

ketball court/multi-purpose hall, classrooms, and a multi-functional kitchen among many other things.

**Rashid Yousaf**  
Centreville

## Chantilly CONNECTION

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## Green and Gold Banquet

Troop 7369 of Sully District, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 7369, held its annual Green and Gold banquet and Spring Court of Honor at the St. Timothy School Cafeteria. With more than 100 in attendance, the oldest Scout, Tristan V., and the youngest Scout, Marcus D., came up front for the tradition of cutting the cake, made by Committee Member Stacy Desrosier. They used Scoutmaster Mike Warsocki's hand axe. The troop celebrated its ninth year of existence. Above, Life Scout Tristan V. and new Scout Marcus D. cut the cake as Scoutmaster Mike Warsocki, and Emcees Alex H. and Christian C. look on.



The cake made by Committee Member Stacy Desrosier.



Inside of the cake.

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**News**

# Liberty Presents 'Annie Jr.'

FROM PAGE 3

good, so all the movements are fluid and there's always a specific reason why the actors are moving or reacting in a certain way."

Portraying Warbucks's private secretary, Grace Farrell, is eighth-grader Beth Buono. "She's proper, sophisticated, polite and very put-together," said Beth. "And once Annie comes into her life, she's loving and nurturing toward her. It's fun playing Grace because, once I get into costume — including a short, wavy wig — I 'become' her and feel more like her character as a secretary."

Beth especially likes the number, "I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here," sung by her, Annie and the servants. "It's when Grace is showing Annie around Warbucks's mansion," said Beth. "They tell Annie this is her new home now, and she feels like more of a normal kid, instead of a mistreated orphan."

She said audiences will like the show's storyline and the journey it takes them on. "They'll laugh at the funny characters and will love the songs and the whole experience. They'll enjoy themselves and feel like it's worth it to be here."

Eighth-grader Maddie LeBerre plays Miss Hannigan, who runs the orphanage. "She despises every part of her job — especially the little girls — and that's why she's so mean to them," said Maddie. "She's frustrated with her life because she's not where she wants to be, wealth-wise, so she tries to get the attention of rich men."

Maddie likes her role because "Miss Hannigan's personality is so different from my own. Most of the things she says and does, I wouldn't dream of doing, but it's so delightful to play her onstage. She's also different from the other characters in the show because she's one of the few adults who's under-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

**Starring in Liberty Middle's production of "Annie Jr." are (standing, from left) Beth Buono, Noah Martineau, Caitlyn Barnes and Maddie LeBerre, with Samin Haque as Sandy the dog.**

educated and rough around the edges."

Maddie's favorite song is "Easy Street," sung by her character, plus Lily and Rooster — who claim to be Annie's parents so they can get the reward money. "They're singing about their plot to use Annie to become rich and be on Easy Street," said Maddie. "Most of the time, Miss Hannigan is angry, mean and frustrated. But in this song, she's happy and excited — even if it is for malicious reasons."

She said the energy and hard work everyone has put in really shows through each character — "from their facial expressions to how they deliver their lines. We're all having so much fun with the show, and we love sharing it with people."

## Discussing Cybercrime Sleuthing

FROM PAGE 3

and computer. And my guys were able to obtain all that digital evidence."

However, said Hooke, encryption of mobile devices definitely poses a problem for law-enforcement personnel. "We access data with a search warrant," he said. "But it's a cat-and-mouse game. As we figure out a solution, Apple will come out with something else. But it just takes time and practice."

He also noted some current scams and warned people to be alert to them so they won't be fooled. "Some people pretend to be your real-estate or mortgage broker and have you wire money to them — and then it's gone," said Hooke. "So you should always call and verify that it was really them who called you."

In addition, he said police see a great deal of identity-theft crimes. "For example, someone working in a medical facility could be taking pictures of patient information and selling it to others," said Hooke. "Then those people will put it on the dark Web and also open up lines of credit in your name. So monitor your credit — you never know when it'll be compromised."

Another scam is the SIM card swap. "That's the chip allowing your phone to communicate with the network, and it IDs it as your phone," said Hooke. "And people will ask the phone company to port over your 'new' phone number onto your phone. Then they have your phone number on their phone, and they can get into your bank account and also get your two-factor authentication."

He said criminals can also lock people out of their bank accounts or pretend to have damaging information on them that they'll release unless the victims send them a certain amount of Bitcoin. They can also do the same thing with ransomware holding someone's data hostage until the required payment is received.

Furthermore, said Hooke, "They also try to create a sense of urgency, telling someone, 'I'm in the hospital with your grandson' or 'Your son is in jail' and then demanding money to remedy the situation. But when you get one of these emails, text messages or phone calls, take a deep breath and think it through before acting."

He also advised residents to call their phone company and say they want to put a pin number on their account. That way, said Hooke, "Anyone asking for your personal information from them would have to give them that number first." And he suggested using authentication apps, as well.

Attendees also learned that, in the world of cybercrime, no one is exempt — even police can be potential victims. MPO Sabrina Ruck, the Sully District Station's Crime Prevention Officer, related that she got an email from someone who had one of her passwords. But being savvy about these kinds of schemes, she didn't fall for it.

"I didn't reply because I knew they were trying to verify that there was a real person at the other end," she said. "The next day, they did it again and demanded money. But I still ignored them and changed my password, and I never heard from them again."



## ROUNDUPS

### Gabrielson Garden Bridge Meeting

Last year, the Gabrielson Garden Bridge, over the Difficult Run Stream Valley, was removed. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and Sully District Supervisor's Office are holding a follow-up meeting on Monday, April 1, 1 p.m. at Navy Elementary School, 3500 West Ox Road, to provide an update on the replacement of the bridge. FCPA will present the concept design plan for the bridge and an update on land rights and funding.

### Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Tuesday, April 2, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### 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/registration/general-registration-requirements](http://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](http://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf). Call 703-322-8500 or email [lrilla@fcps.edu](mailto:lrilla@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.

❖ **Brookfield Elementary School** will host a kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year on Friday, April 5, 9 a.m.-noon; parents may also call 571-522-6008 to schedule an appointment. Due to the time required to register a child, they request that only parents come to school for registration.

❖ **Colin Powell Elementary School** in Centreville will conduct their Kindergarten registration on Friday, April 5, 9 a.m.-noon; parents may also call 571-522-6008 to schedule an appointment. Due to the time required to register a child, they request that only parents come to school for registration.

❖ **Greenbriar East Elementary School** is now accepting registration paperwork for rising Kindergarteners. Visit [greenbriareast.fcps.edu](http://greenbriareast.fcps.edu) to make an appointment or call the school office at 703-633-6400. The Kindergarten information session is scheduled for Friday, April 5 from 10-11 a.m.

❖ **Greenbriar West Elementary School** is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Families within the school's boundaries should call the school office at 703-633-6700 as soon as possible.

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## Weight For It ... Wait ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't like interacting with artificial intelligence. Nor do I like interacting with artificially-intelligent emailers.

And I especially don't like when there's an attempt by these "a.i.s" to modify my behavior by suggesting a pre-programmed, presumptive course of action – or inaction on my part, based on some survey I may have completed or some list that I've recently been added to – without my consent, or most likely due to a purchase or service I likewise recently paid for.

To that end, which does not justify their means, today I received an email that goes above and beyond the "a.i.'s" purview. And how this particular email came my way is "curious," as Spock from the original "Star Trek" might say.

On March 1, moments before my last infusion, I stepped on a scale which registered my "overweight," which along with taking my blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels are part of the usual and customary vitals I provide each and every time I go for treatment. Other than my "overweight," my vitals are completely normal.

Treatment start-date to date, 10-plus years now, my "overweight" has never been a problem (truth be told, I'm hardly obese, just pleasantly plump), just a factor in determining how much medicine is dripped by my IV.

The oncologist and medical staff has seemed more concerned with a patient losing weight – which I rarely have. Although during the early days of six-plus hours of heavy-duty chemotherapy, I did lose weight and it was a concern and can portend a serious complication.

Fortunately for me, whatever weight I did lose did not portend anything other than I wasn't eating. Eventually, that lost weight – and more – was definitely found.

A few days later, I received an email from my health care provider; not my doctor, not a nurse and not personalized by any medical professional, but rather sent from some artificially-intelligent thing offering me information on varying diets and their respective benefits. At first I laughed at its location – in my inbox, and then I began to question its legitimacy and then I got mad at its presumptive intent.

Was this a coincidence? Was this merely a continuing outreach to the HMO's patients like its colon-rectal screening program, sent to patients of a certain age, seems to be? Or was it something more insidious like "Hal" nearly became in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey"?

The nerve. The bypassing of protocols. The attempt to circumvent the human element. Is this what medicine has become?

Not calls or personalized messages from your doctor/medical staff but instead an electronic missive emailed with the cold, insensitive precision of Pentium chips?

Putting aside the obvious fact that I do need to lose weight, even though as my brother Richard says so often when he sees me: "The weight looks good on you," I am not doing so because a computer told me to.

In fact, I may not do so at all just to spite that computer, and by association, the system that exists/was put in place (presumably by some human) that believes that communicating with its members electronically is the wave of the future rather than the bane of my present. I cannot, I will not be a pawn in this game of clones where the same messages get sent to millions of semi unsuspecting patients by uncensored non-professionals as a matter of some coarse level of routine.

If you want me to change my behavior, or at least consider changing my behavior, you have to try a little harder than by sending pre-programmed message to patients who meet/exceed a certain threshold.

And how did my personal information actually get known anyway? Is there a system in place that automatically reviews patient's private histories by cross-referencing who had appointments and what the new details were? Was the scale and blood pressure machine in on it? If so, is my medical care becoming more automated and less individualized?

I realize I'm just a number but I didn't think they'd take it literally.

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



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## THURSDAY/MARCH 28

**Who Left That Behind?** 1-2:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn park critters by the signs they leave behind. Join a naturalist on a hike to look for and identify these signs, and then complete a craft that helps you learn to identify different animal scat. Wear sturdy walking shoes. \$8 per person. Ages 4 and older. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 30

**Lecture: The Power of Objects.** 1 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Come for a discussion with Dr. Jennifer Van Horn on her book, "The Power of Objects in Eighteenth-Century British America." Reserve a seat by March 14. For reservations or for more information, call 703-437-1794 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/).

**Amphibians After Dark.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Assist naturalists at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park with a calling amphibian survey. Learn how to identify frogs and toads by their calls while exploring pools and ponds. \$7 per person. Ages 7 and older. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Learn about the "Tender Cars" on

**Trains.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about the "Tender Cars" a type of railroad car on trains. Story boards and a craft will begin the series of activities to learn about the different types of cars on trains. 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.

**Centreville CROP Walk.** 2 p.m. Meet at Centreville Presbyterian Church to register at 1:30, or register and donate online ([crophungerwalk.org/centrevilleva](http://crophungerwalk.org/centrevilleva)). A group of local churches, including Centreville Presbyterian Church, Wellspring United Church of Christ, and St. Andrew Lutheran Church, joined together with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries to encourage folks to take steps to end hunger.

## MONDAYS STARTING APRIL 1

**Program for Homeschoolers.** 1-2:30 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Flock to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park for Homeschool Biology-Birds where students receive hands-on instruction in wild bird identification, migration, habitats and conservation through citizen science. Instructors use preserved species, and wild birds to illustrate the concepts. All lessons are structured around the Virginia Standards of Learning. This program is geared for students ages 8-15. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

## THURSDAY/APRIL 4

**Explore "Spy Craft."** 1-2 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Spies don't exist just in the movies.

Some have been active in local parks. Learn about the lives of the men and women who passed along secrets and information in dangerous times. Participants can try their hand at a little spy craft to take home, too. Designed for participants age 7-adult. \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

**Program for Homeschoolers.** 2-3:30 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Take a page out of an old book and become a Homeschool Historian. Explore Fairfax County history with hands-on activities and games in this four-week course. Week 1: Textiles: Staying Warm and Cool. Week 2: Technology of food production for the Native Americans and Machens. Week 3: Life of a soldier. Week 4: Digging the Past. This program is appropriate for children ages 7-13. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

**Grand Re-opening.** 5-8 p.m. at Sheehy INFINITI of Chantilly, 4145 Auto Park Circle, Chantilly. The event is free and open to the public, and includes complimentary sushi, refreshments, premium giveaways and live music by Michael Huntly. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the new showroom, service lounge, updated amenities, two new service bays and three detail bays. Call 703-372-0381 or visit [www.sheehyinfinitichantilly.com](http://www.sheehyinfinitichantilly.com).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 5-6

**Genealogy Conference/Expo.** Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Fairfax Genealogical Society's two-day spring conference and expo. Lectures, workshops, individual

consultations, vendors with items/services of interest to family researchers. Topics include: Beginning and intermediate DNA; African American Research; Land Platting; Colonial Law and Religion; Southern Migration, and more. FxGS member, \$100; non-member, \$120. Details at [www.fxgs.org](http://www.fxgs.org).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 6

**Free Fishing Day for Kids.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Flatlick Stream Valley Park, Chantilly. A free fishing day for kids 2-18 years old will highlight the celebration of a Fairfax County stream restoration. There will be a welcome and check-in table located near the stream off Placid Lake Court. The stream will be stocked with rainbow trout. Limited fishing tackle will be available. Details of the restoration are online at <https://go.usa.gov/xEwEb>. While the event is free, teens age 16 and older must have appropriate state fishing licenses, and participants must register at [bit.ly/2VCNpUx](http://bit.ly/2VCNpUx).

**Music and More.** 10 a.m. at Kiddie Academy of Centreville, 14275 Braddock Road, Centreville. Families are invited to participate in age-appropriate dance, art and music activities at an indoor event with activities based on Kiddie Academy's Music & More curriculum, created in partnership with Kindermusik International, the world's leading provider of music-based education for children from birth through age 7. Call 703-349-3419 or email [centreville@kiddieacademy.net](mailto:centreville@kiddieacademy.net).

**Celebrate National Grilled Cheese Month.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Experience the cheesiest event of the year at Frying Pan Farm as the park celebrates National

Grilled Cheese month. "You Gouda Brie Kidding!" will feature cooks frying up sandwiches. Designed for participants age 3-adult. \$3 per person. Call 703-437-9101 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park).

**Entrepreneur Fair.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Holiday Inn Chantilly-Dulles Expo (Arpt), 4335 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Del. Karrie Delaney's (D-67) Entrepreneur Fair will give participants guidance on start-up basics and will spotlight the fundamentals needed to expand a small business. Free. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/delegate-karrie-delaneys-first-annual-entrepreneur-fair-tickets-57209831145](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/delegate-karrie-delaneys-first-annual-entrepreneur-fair-tickets-57209831145).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 7

**Author Event: Missy Sheldrake.** Noon-2 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes. Missy Sheldrake, of Centreville, is the author/illustrator of the "Keepers of the Wellsprings" young adult fantasy series and will be signing books. Visit [missysheldrake.com](http://missysheldrake.com).

**Casey's Car Show.** 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Casey's Automotive, 4260A Entre Court, Chantilly. Music, food, ice cream, and lots of cool cars and trucks. Proceeds from this event go directly to Ellie's Hats. Free admission. Call 703-802-6300 or visit [www.caseysautomotive.com/2019-car-show-spring-fest/](http://www.caseysautomotive.com/2019-car-show-spring-fest/).

**Caboose Day.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about the work of a train caboose while touring a real Southern Railroad caboose. 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.

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